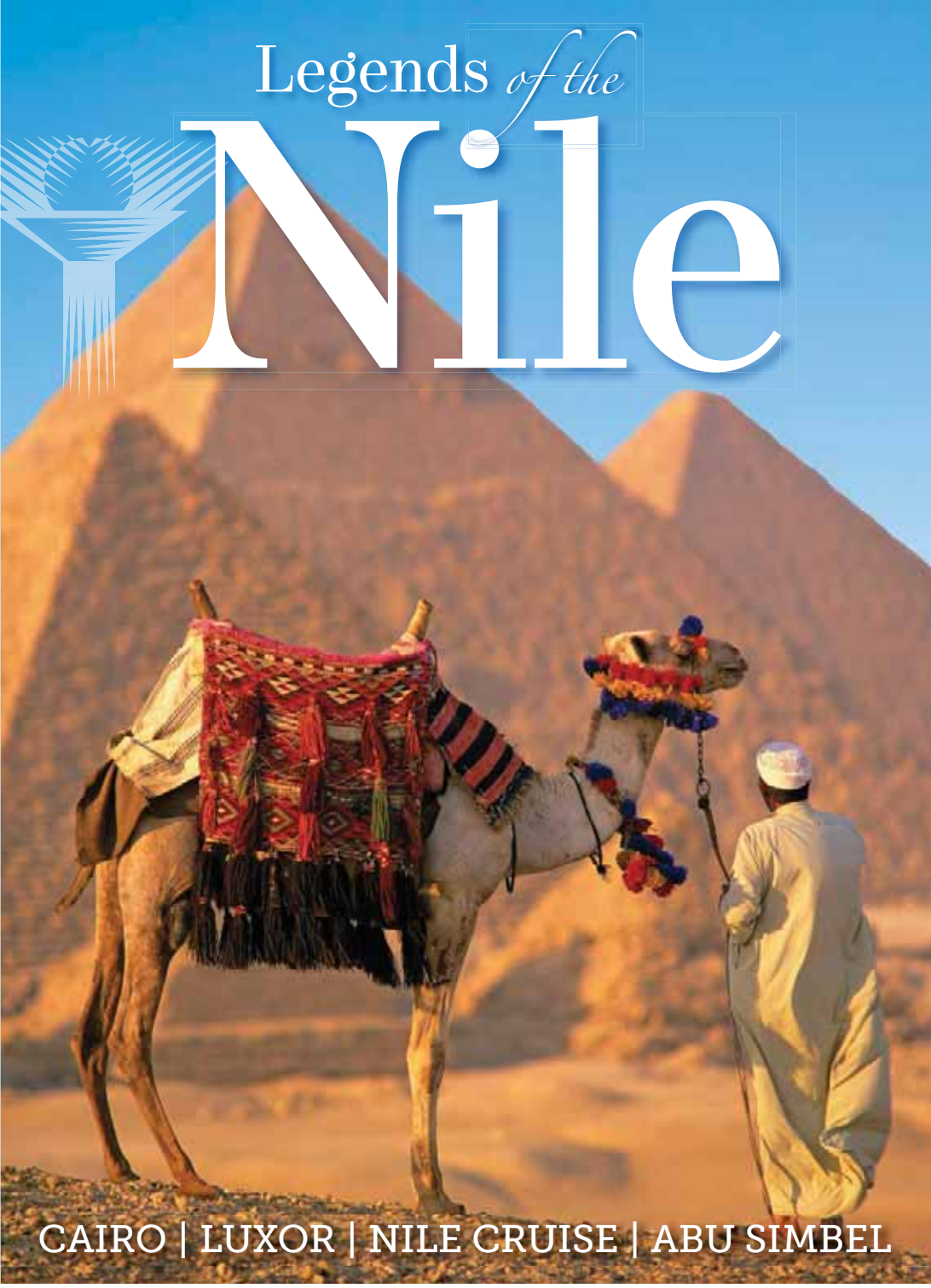
Legends *of the* Nile



CAIRO | LUXOR | NILE CRUISE | ABU SIMBEL

SPONSORED BY

ALUMNI

University of Illinois Alumni Association
March 11-22, 2026

ALUMNI

Dear EXPLORERS and Friends,

Astounding treasures await you on this spectacular journey to Egypt! From lively Cairo rich in antiquity to glorious monuments that dot the banks of the mighty Nile, marvel at breathtaking sites that have captivated humanity's collective imagination for thousands of years.

On this wonderful, 10-night experience, enjoy a four-night, deluxe Nile cruise, five nights in Cairo and one night in Luxor. Stroll through the majestic Temples of Luxor and Karnak, stand before the celebrated Great Pyramid of Giza and marvel at Ramses II's impressive temple carved out of a mountain in Abu Simbel. You'll also tour the new Grand Egyptian Museum, take in Cairo's venerable mosques and Coptic landmarks, and learn how antiquities are preserved with special access at The Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures of the University of Chicago (Chicago House).

Throughout your journey, a professional Travel Director will be on hand to manage all the details, while a licensed Egyptologist will accompany you on every excursion, offering an exceptional perspective of the history of this ancient land.

Space on this enriching experience of a lifetime is limited to 28 passengers and will fill very quickly, so make your reservation today!

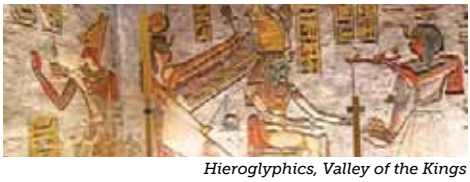
Sincerely,

David Bambrey
President

The EXPLORERS program is open to alumni of the University of Illinois, their families, and friends.

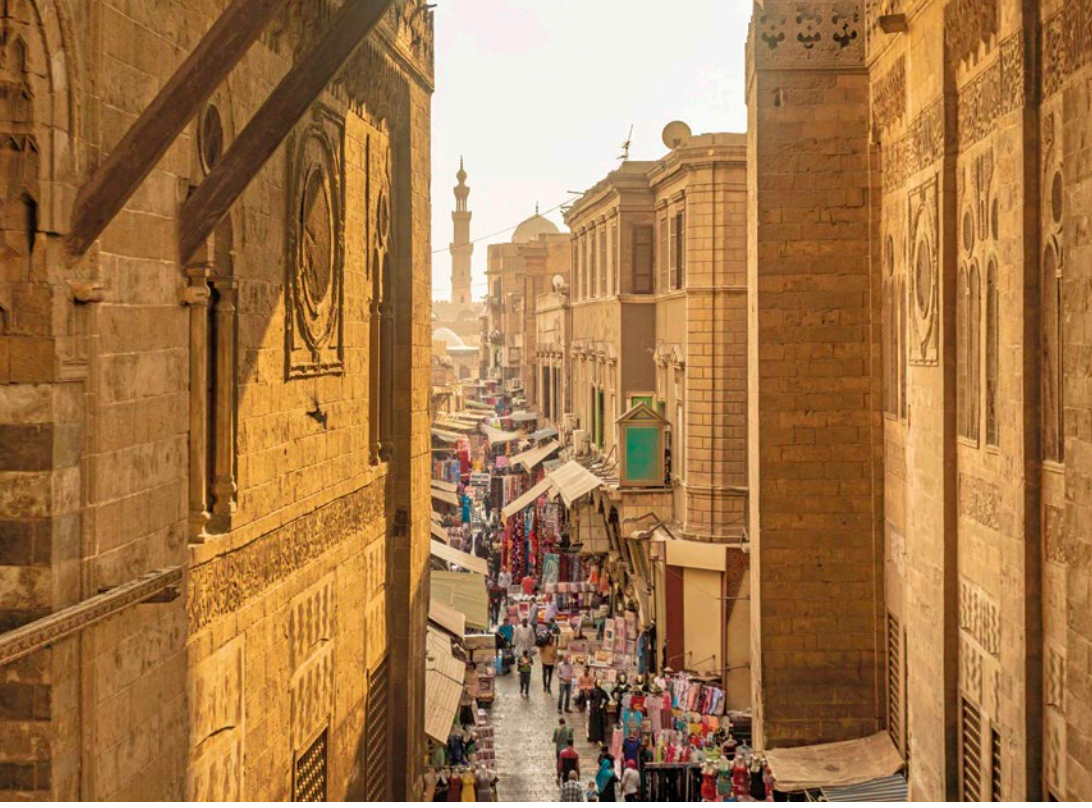
UNESCO World Heritage

1. **Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis** (Temples at Karnak and Luxor; the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens)
2. **Historic Cairo**
3. **Memphis and its Necropolis—the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur**
4. **Nubian Monuments from Abu Simbel to Philae**



Hieroglyphics, Valley of the Kings

Temple of Karnak



Discovery begins here

Your next adventure begins in exhilarating Egypt! Thrill to enlightening discoveries in Cairo, Luxor, Abu Simbel and along the Nile in the company of an expert Egyptologist who will guide you through the magnificence of ancient Egypt. Gain intriguing historical and cultural insights as you take in resplendent temples, tombs and treasures together.

Top: Al-Muizz Street, Cairo
Above: Egyptian man
Cover: Pyramids of Giza
Mail panel: Temple of Karnak | Sphinx, Giza
Right: Mask of Tutankhamen

Inspiring Moments

– Discuss what you are most curious about with your **Egyptologist** while exploring together at ancient sites.

– Gaze in wonder at the colossal statues of Ramses II at the **Great Temple in Abu Simbel.**

– Stand in awe of towering monuments and dazzling treasures in the new **Grand Egyptian Museum.**

– Ponder the magnificent **Great Pyramid of Giza,** the only remaining Wonder of the Ancient World.

– Admire Cairo's **Islamic and Coptic gems** and revel in its colorful **old bazaar.**

– Delight in the **natural beauty along the Nile's banks,** a contrast of fertile green valleys and desert beyond.

– Experience four **UNESCO World Heritage sites.**

Step Pyramid of Djoser

Day 1 | In Transit

Depart your gateway city for Cairo, Egypt.

Day 2 | Cairo, Egypt

Upon arrival, transfer to the Four Seasons Hotel Cairo at Nile Plaza.

Day 3 | Cairo

Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM). Tour this fascinating new museum, the largest dedicated to one civilization, packed with extraordinary, priceless relics from periods of ancient Egyptian history *(Anticipated grand opening July 2025)*.

Gather for a Welcome Reception at the hotel.

Day 4 | Saqqara | Giza

Saqqara. At this vast burial ground for the ancient capital of Memphis, visit the Mastaba of Mereruka, the Pyramid of Teti and the Step Pyramid of Djoser, considered the first pyramid.

Relish lunch afterward at a nearby restaurant.

Pyramids of Giza. Marvel at the legendary Great Pyramid, an ingenious masterpiece built for the pharaoh Khufu out of roughly 2.3 million massive blocks of stone, and the enigmatic, imposing Sphinx that crouches nearby.

Day 5 | Cairo

Al-Muizz Street & Islamic Cairo. Stroll along lively Al-Muizz, one of the city's oldest streets, lined with grand medieval mosques and Islamic landmarks. Visit the 13th-century Qalawun complex that contains a madrassa, historic hospital and a mausoleum, and then tour the beautiful, 17th-century Bayt Al-Suhaymi house.

Free Time: Explore the Khan el Khalili bazaar.

Savor lunch at a restaurant in the area.

Coptic Cairo. Step inside the Hanging Church, one of the oldest Coptic Orthodox churches in Egypt, known for its lovely icons. Head next to the splendid Church of Saints Sergius and Bacchus, said to have been built over a cave where the Holy Family sought shelter in exile.

Day 6 | Cairo | Luxor

Check out of the hotel and fly to Luxor.

Luxor Museum. Admire outstanding artifacts collected from the temples and necropolis of ancient Thebes at this informative museum.

Check in to the Hilton Luxor Resort & Spa.

Temple of Luxor. Sail along the Nile aboard a felucca to this sprawling complex originally constructed during the reign of Amenhotep III.

Day 7 | Luxor | Embark ship

After breakfast, check out of the hotel.

Hanging Church, Cairo

Hatshepsut Temple

Luxor's West Bank — The Valleys of the Kings & Queens. Explore this captivating region where New Kingdom pharaohs and their families awaited immortality. Go inside once-hidden burial places elaborately adorned with vibrant hieroglyphics, including the tombs of Tutankhamen, Seti I and others, and visit the colonnaded Temple of Queen Hatshepsut. After a stop at an alabaster workshop, see well-preserved murals in the tomb of Amun-her-Khepeshef and the Colossi of Memnon.

Embark the Sanctuary Nile Adventurer for your Nile River cruise and enjoy lunch on board.

The Epigraphic Survey, The Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures of the University of Chicago (Chicago House). Get an exclusive look at the Survey's efforts to preserve ancient cultural heritage through documentation, conservation and restoration.

Day 8 | Karnak | Cruising the Nile

Temple of Karnak. Tour this enormous religious center, which boasts an awe-inspiring hypostyle hall with 134 gigantic columns.

Free Time: Set your own agenda on board after lunch as the ship transits the Esna Lock.

Day 9 | Cruising | Edfu | Kom Ombo

Revel in the Nile scenery on your way to Edfu.

Temple of Horus at Edfu. Tour this finely preserved shrine with reliefs that offer valuable details about ancient religious rituals.

While cruising after lunch, delve into topics of interest at a discussion with an Egyptologist.

Temple of Sobek & Haroeris. Learn about crocodile-headed Sobek, the god of fertility, and falcon-headed Haroeris, the god of the sky, at this unusual double temple.

Attend a traditional galabeya party on the ship.

Day 10 | Aswan | Abu Simbel | Aswan

After docking in Aswan, fly to Abu Simbel.

Abu Simbel. Visit the stunning Great Temple of Ramses II, which commemorates triumphs over the Nubians, Hittites and Syrians, and the temple dedicated to the goddess Hathor.

Feluccas sailing on the Nile River near Aswan

Fly back to Aswan. The afternoon is at leisure.

This evening, enjoy a celebratory Farewell Reception and Dinner on the ship, followed by a Dervish show and belly dancer performance.

Day 11 | Disembark ship | Aswan | Cairo

After breakfast, disembark the ship in Aswan.

Philae Temple Complex & Aswan High Dam. Sail aboard a felucca to the island temple complex of Philae, dedicated to the goddess Isis, for a guided tour. After a stop at the Papyrus Institute, check out the 20th-century High Dam, an engineering feat.

Fly from Aswan to Cairo and check in to the InterContinental Citystars Cairo. Relax in your evening room before an early morning departure for return flights home.

Day 12 | In Transit

Very early this morning, transfer to the airport for your return flights home.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

Flights and transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

Elective experiences available at an additional cost.

Active Travel

This Active Program is designed for people who are in good health and can comfortably participate in a demanding daily schedule of physical activities. For more details, please call or visit our website.

Excursions on this program require:

- walking on unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches and boats
- climbing in and out of excursion boats
- tolerating various climatic conditions

Included Features

Accommodations {with baggage handling}

- **4 nights** in Cairo, Egypt, at the deluxe Four Seasons Hotel Cairo at Nile Plaza.
- **1 night** in Luxor at the first-class Hilton Luxor Resort & Spa.
- **4 nights** aboard the deluxe Sanctuary Nile Adventurer.
- **Evening Room** in Cairo at the first-class InterContinental Citystars Cairo.

Transfers {with baggage handling}

- All transfers in the Land | Cruise Program: flights and deluxe motor coaches.

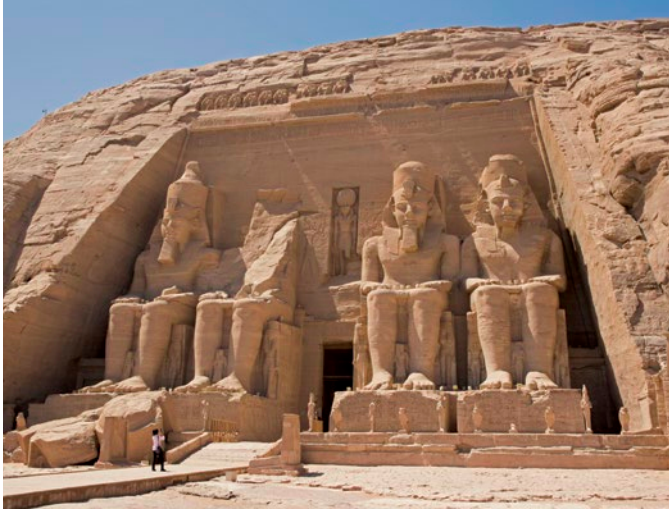
Extensive Meal Program

- 10 breakfasts, 8 lunches and 5 dinners, including a Farewell Dinner on board the ship; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **Small group:** Sized just right at 28 guests.
- **A licensed, professional Egyptologist** shares expert insights during your journey.
- **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- **Electives** and free time to pursue your individual interests.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of drivers and personnel at itinerary stops.
- Complimentary travel mementos.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.

Temple of Luxor



Temple of Ramses II, Abu Simbel

Grand Egyptian Museum

EXTEND YOUR STAY

Petra

Jordan | 3 Nights

{ Elective PRE-Trip Extension at an additional cost }

Witness the historic splendor of Jordan's ancient civilizations on this remarkable journey! Enjoy three nights at the first-class InterContinental Amman; daily breakfast, two lunches and one dinner; guided tours of Jerash, Madaba, Mount Nebo and Petra; the services of an AHI Travel Director and AHI Hospitality desk; a flight from Amman, Jordan, to Cairo, Egypt; departure transfer and baggage handling; gratuities for guides and drivers; and all taxes and service charges.

$1,995 per person, double occupancy | $2,390 single occupancy

2026 | Departure Details

Program Dates

Travel dates✈ **March 11-22, 2026**

✈Travel dates include any overnights required for international travel. These dates may vary depending on air schedules.

Tour dates* **March 12-22, 2026**

* Tour dates begin on the scheduled arrival date at your destination and end on the scheduled departure date from your destination.

Land | Cruise Program

Category-Deck	Full Price	Special Savings Price*
A-Promenade	$9,545	**$8,795**
B-Bridge	$9,045	**$8,295**
C-Main	$8,545	**$7,795**
D-Nile	$7,745	**$6,995**

***This Special Savings Price includes our $250 Early Booking and $500 Pay-in-Full discounts and is valid if you book by the date on the address panel and pay in full at booking.**

Deposit amount is $750 per person.
Final Payment is due at least 120 days prior to departure.

Price includes applicable program taxes (such as VAT and port charges).

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated). Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined.

Single accommodations are an additional $2,995 (limited availability).

Please note: Program-specific terms and conditions are available at https://il.ahitravel.com/destinations/1978A?schoolId=69.

AHI FlexAir

Let us arrange your flights

Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

– **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
– arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates
– **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservation before departure on most flights (Fees may apply.)
– **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays

AHI Travel Expertise

Travel Consultants assist with the reservation process.
Travel & Air Coordinators offer their personalized assistance with flights, electives and special requests.
Travel Information provides pre-departure details and enrichment about your destination.
Your Travel Director, a seasoned, multilingual professional, manages daily logistics so you enjoy a seamless experience.
Your Egyptologist, a handpicked, knowledgeable and licensed expert, opens your eyes to the depth and breadth of the country's history and brings ancient Egypt to life.

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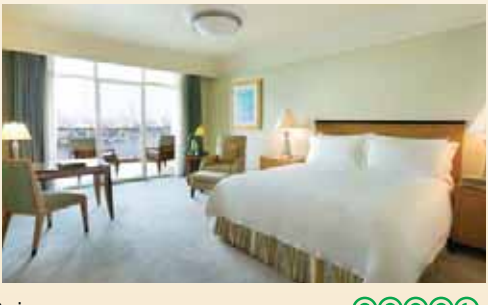
Accommodations

Sanctuary Nile Adventurer

Bask in the Nile's timeless beauty amid the luxurious comfort and relaxed ambience of this intimate, 30-cabin river ship. Staterooms and social spaces are stylishly appointed with chic, upscale furnishings, and each inviting cabin features stellar river views, an en-suite bathroom with bathtub and shower, fine Egyptian linens and individually controlled air-conditioning. Lounge poolside on the Sun Deck in curtained cabanas or shaded sitting areas. Beautifully prepared gourmet cuisine and impeccable service from the attentive staff elevate your onboard experience.



Four Seasons Hotel Cairo at Nile Plaza | Cairo

Hilton Luxor Resort & Spa | Luxor

Tripadvisor

Book your journey today!

844-414-0369 **https://uiaa.org/explorers/**

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Alumni Association
EXPLORERS Office
Alice Campbell Alumni Center
601 S. Lincoln Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801

EGYPT26 77

Explore the grandeur of Egypt on this unforgettable adventure!

Committed to connecting travelers to the people, places and cultures of the world for more than 62 years.

Please call or refer to our website for the most current program information, discounts and pricing.

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