

Private Egypt and Jordan tour for Norman and Susan Dailey

Day 1 (21 April) – Cairo

Arrive in Cairo and transfer to your hotel. Overnight Steinberger Pyramids Hotel or similar.

Cairo

One of the world's great cities, Cairo is a seething mass of humanity, with over 20 million people living in high population density, and for some it can be rather a shock to the senses. Founded originally by the Romans, the city has been through various stages in its history, from the first Islamic capital of Egypt in the 8th century (known as Fustat) to the Ottoman and Mamluk reigns of later years. It's not a pretty city, it has to be said – there are few green spaces, and for the most part buildings are functional rather than beautiful, but Cairo's allure comes from its hustle and bustle, the way in which daily life is display among the street vendors and the shisha cafes, and the sheer vibrancy of its people.

That said, Cairo also has some incredible sites. The pyramids are of course the best known, and as well as the famous Pyramids of Giza there are many others dotted about the city's environs. But perhaps the most alluring part of the city is the area known as 'Islamic Cairo', the old medieval metropolis, full of imposing mosques and busy market streets, overlooked by the 12th century citadel.



Day 2 (22 April) – Cairo

A full day guided tour to the pyramids of Giza and Sphinx (including entry to the Pyramid of Cheops), as well as the Egyptian Museum (including the mummies room). Overnight Steinberger Pyramids Hotel or similar. (B)

Day 3 (23 April) – Alexandria

An early start to drive along the desert road to the coastal city of Alexandria. On arrival explore the city with its Greco-Roman and other monuments, including Pompey's Pillar, the catacombs, Qaitbey fortress and the Alexandria library. Return to Cairo for the evening. Overnight Steinberger Pyramids Hotel or similar. (B)

Alexandria

Alexandria is Egypt's second city, and with its position on the Mediterranean has a more cosmopolitan feel than Cairo. It was founded by Alexander the Great, and as such has its roots in Greco-Roman, rather than Pharaonic, heritage – of course, it was the site of the famous lighthouse of Alexandria, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Today the lighthouse is no more but the site is now occupied by the fortress of Sultan Qaitbey, dramatically perched on a promontory and dating back to the 15th century.



Day 4 (24 April) – Cairo

This morning head out of the city to the step pyramid at Saqqara, the oldest pyramid in Egypt and dating back to the 27th century BC. In the afternoon return to the city and explore the impressive citadel and Coptic Cairo, home to Egypt's Coptic Christians, to visit its churches. Overnight Steinberger Pyramids Hotel or similar. (B)

Day 5 (25 April) – Luxor

Transfer to the airport and fly to Luxor. After freshening up at the hotel, take a horse drawn carriage to the mighty temple of Karnak, as well as Luxor Temple, situated within the town itself. Overnight Steinberger Ashti Resort or similar. (B)

Luxor

Luxor and its surrounding area are home to Egypt's most impressive collection of sites from the time of the pharaohs, and for this reason it's perhaps the most popular destination in Egypt outside of the Red sea beaches. Situated on the east bank of the Nile lies the town, and right in the centre is the striking Luxor Temple, built in the 14th century BC. Further north you'll find Karnak Temple – this is larger than Luxor Temple and is probably the impressive site in Egypt outside of the Pyramids, covering over 100 acres – the Great Hypostyle Hall, with its many gigantic columns, is particularly notable, but the whole site is dotted with small temples and chapels.

The 'west bank' of Luxor is far less populated, and is more of a village suburb of the town, with farmers still riding to their fields on the backs of donkeys and mud brick houses surrounded by fields of crops. Here you'll find the Valleys of the Kings and Queens – a collection of burial chambers of the ancient pharaohs, many decorated with colourful murals that have lasted for thousands of years – as well as the Temple of Hatshepsut, hewn from the cliffs.



Day 6 (26 April) – Luxor

An early start to cross the Nile and head to the Valley of Kings. Explore some of the tombs here then continue to the Temple of Hatshepsut, Medinat Habu and the exquisitely decorated tombs of Deir al Medina. You'll have lunch in a local restaurant by the Nile before returning the east bank via the Colossi of Memnon. Later in the afternoon, board your cruise boat. Overnight on board. (BLD)

Day 7 (27 April) – Luxor – Esna

Morning drive north of Luxor to visit the well preserved temple at Dendara. By lunch, you'll be back on the boat and start sailing south towards Esna, where the boat will need to go through the lock on the river. Overnight on board. (BLD)

Day 8 (28 April) – Edfu – Kom Ombo

Continue sailing south. Your first stop will be the Temple of Horus at Edfu, one of the best preserved in Egypt. From here sail to Kom Ombo, the site of the Temple of Haroeris and Sobek, dramatically situated beside the Nile. Overnight on board. (BLD)

Day 9 (29 April) – Aswan

Arrive in Aswan, Egypt's southernmost city. This morning you'll visit the Temple of Philae, relocated from Lake Nasser and reconstructed on an island in the Nile, as well as the High Dam – one of the world's greatest feats of engineering. In the afternoon you'll take a felucca ride around the islands that dot this area of the river. Overnight on board. (BLD)



Aswan

Of all the towns and cities that line the banks of the Nile, Aswan has the best location. Situated at the first cataract of the Nile, the city looks over the water to a collection of lush islands, gigantic sand dunes that tumble down to the shore, and traditional sailing boats meandering from one side to the other. The city has a large Nubian population – these are the people of southern Egypt and northern Sudan, and many Nubians moved here from their riverside villages when the High Dam was built, creating Lake Nasser to the south and submerging their homes. Aswan doesn't have as many sites as Luxor to visit, but its charm is in its glorious scenery and more gentle pace of life, and it feels more traditional than most other places along the Nile.

Day 10 (30 April) – Cairo

Fly back to Cairo, and take the PCR test. In the afternoon explore the bustling Khan el Khalili bazaar, and the Sultan Hassan (14th century) and Al Rifai (19th century) mosques. Overnight Novotel Airport or similar. (B)

Day 11 (1 May) – Amman

Fly to Amman and transfer to your hotel. Overnight Amman Marriott Hotel or similar. (B)



**NATIVE
EYE**

Unit 3, Court Farm, Stutton Road, Brantham,
Suffolk, CO11 1PW

Email: info@nativeeyetravel.com

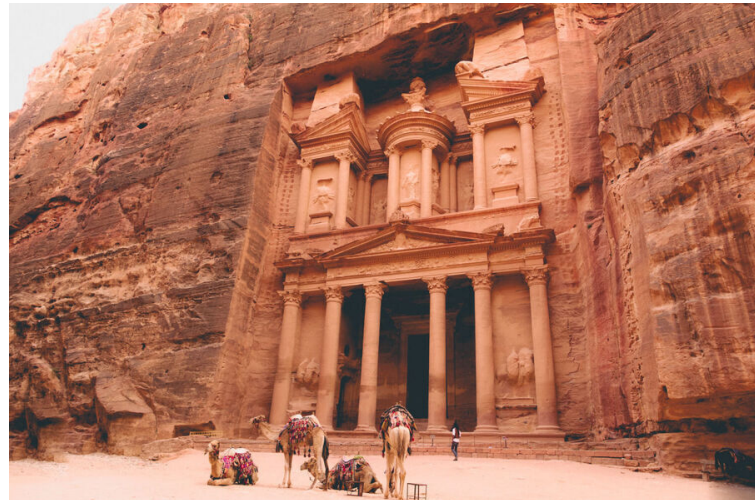
Tel: (+44) 01473 328546

Experts in the unusual

www.nativeeyetravel.com

Day 12 (2 May) Petra

Today we drive south to explore 'The Rose-Red City' that is Petra. We explore the siq, the treasury, the city centre, the royal tomb and the theatre, among other sites. Petra is an enormous site, dotted with pretty tombs and beautiful landscapes, and a delight to explore. Overnight Petra Marriott Hotel or similar. (B)

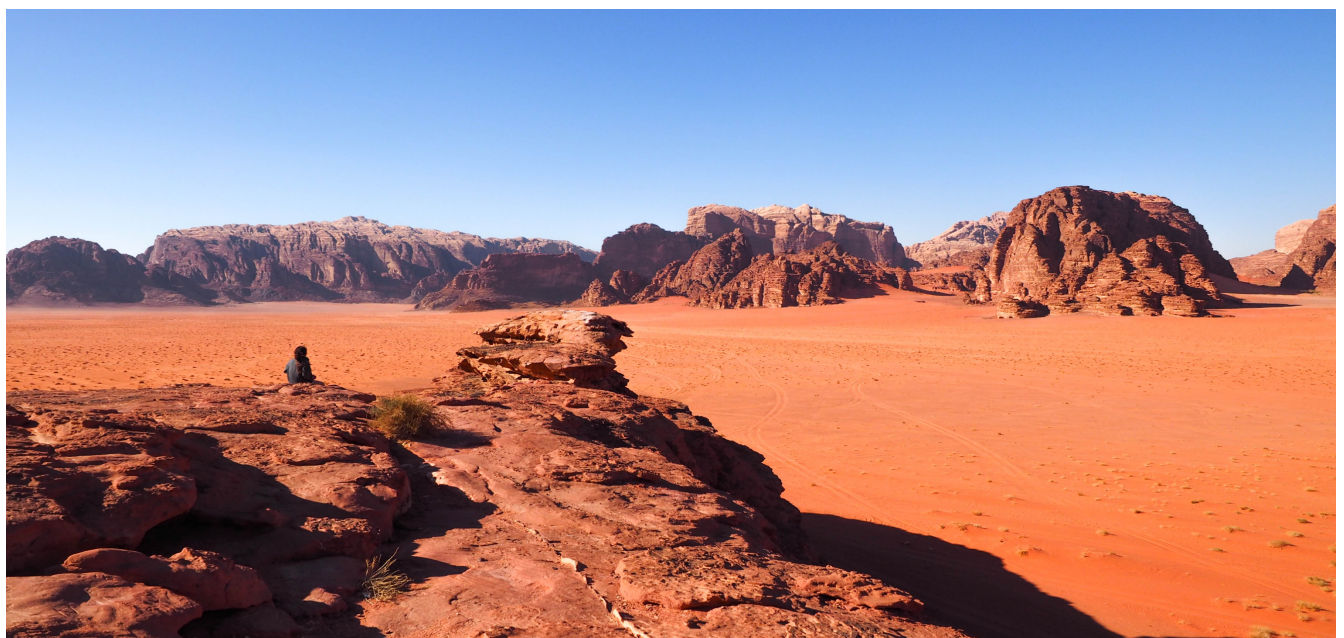


Petra

The ancient city of Petra was carved from the rocks of the Shara Mountains by the Nabatean civilisation, and was first mentioned in the Old Testament. Today it's one of the Middle East's most remarkable attractions – a collection of elegant tombs and temples, carved from the gentle pink rocks, known as the 'Rose Red City'. You approach the city through the siq – a winding narrow canyon about 1km in length, which suddenly opens up to give a view of Petra's most recognisable sight, the Treasury. The site itself is enormous, with numerous tombs to explore – the Monastery is well worth the climb (800 or so steps) as this is perhaps the best preserved tomb after the Treasury.

Day 13 (3 May) - Wadi Rum

Visit 'Little Petra', then drive to Wadi Rum, 'The Valley of the Moon'. Wadi Rum is a lunar-like landscape of ancient valleys and towering sandstone mountains rising out of white and pink coloured sands. We explore Lawrence's Road by jeep and visit the most spectacular sights of Wadi Rum, driving among sand dunes and canyons, and spend the night in a tented camp. Overnight Sun City camp or similar. (BD)



Wadi Rum

When you arrive at Wadi Rum, for some there is a sense of familiarity – it has been used as the location for a number of films, often being a stand in for the planet of Mars. The landscapes here are certainly other-worldly, with deep orange sands abutting eroded sandstone mountains, that have been sculpted by the wind and sand over the years. Visually, this is Jordan's most impressive region, with rock bridges, red dunes and canyons, and it was the former stomping ground of Lawrence of Arabia. The area today is home to the Bedouin – most of whom have adopted more modern ways of living but are still very much in touch with their old traditions. There are still some semi-nomadic Bedouin living in their goat hair tents in Rum though, as well as wildlife including oryx and gazelle.

Day 14 (4 May) – Kerak – Madaba – Mount Nebo – Amman

Head north to Kerak Castle, one of the finest examples of crusader military construction, with its rectangular towers, vaulted galleries and deep moat from the west which completely isolates the site. We continue driving via the desert highway to Madaba, famous as a land of mosaics. This town has a long history, having first been mentioned in the Bible and Mesha Stele when it was a Moabite town. We visit the St. George Orthodox Christian Church and the mosaic map of Jerusalem, Palestine, Jordan, Israel and Egypt. We then travel via the Kings' Highway - one of the oldest roads in Jordan – to Mount Nebo, supposedly the site where Moses first saw the Holy Land. We end up in Amman for the night. Overnight Amman Marriott Hotel or similar. (B)



Day 15 (5 May) – Jerash

Morning PCR test in preparation for your departure. This morning we explore the well-preserved Greco-Roman city of Jerash, also known as the Pompeii of the east. The history of Jerash is a unique blend of the Greco-Roman world of the Mediterranean and the ancient traditions of the Arab Orient. In the afternoon explore Amman including the citadel, Roman amphitheatre and markets. Later transfer to the airport for your flight. (B)



What's included:

Airport transfers – We include arrival and departure transfers regardless of whether you book flights yourself, or we book them for you. If you're booking them yourself, then please let us know the details so that we can arrange the transfers.

Accommodation – Accommodation as listed in the dossier. The nature of the destinations that we operate may sometimes mean that we need to change hotels, but we'll always endeavour to keep the same



Unit 3, Court Farm, Stutton Road, Brantham,
Suffolk, CO11 1PW

Email: info@nativeeyetravel.com

Tel: (+44) 01473 328546

Experts in the unusual

www.nativeeyetravel.com

standards. Please be aware that as we operate in many countries where tourism is in its infancy, hotel standards may not be the same as you're used to elsewhere.

Guides – Egypt: You will have separate guides for the Cairo sections, and for the Luxor to Aswan sections. We have allocated a guide to be with you while on the cruise so that you don't get pooled with all other English speakers by the cruise boat, for the excursions that they arrange.

Jordan: You will be accompanied by an English speaking driver and have the services of locally based English speaking guides at Petra and Jerash.

Meals – As listed within the itinerary / dossier (B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner). These will vary from trip to trip – in some areas it makes sense to include all meals while in others there is a good choice of restaurants and we feel people might like to 'do their own thing' now and again. Please note that when meals are included, sometimes these will be in hotels, as often these are the most appropriate option, and will sometimes be set menus. Local restaurants are often lacking in variety, as well as the capacity to cater for groups. Drinks are not included and are at your own expense.

Entrance fees – Entrance fees are listed for those sites that we mention within the itinerary. If there are any other sites that you'd like to see, these would be at your own expense.

Regional / domestic flights – Cairo to Luxor, Aswan to Cairo and Cairo to Amman.

What's not included:

Visas – We don't arrange visas for our travellers, but if an invitation letter is necessary then we will arrange this for you. If you need any advice with visas then just give us a call, or alternatively a visa agency such as Travcour (www.travcour.com) can assist.

Airport taxes – If there are any departure taxes to pay that are not included within the cost of your ticket, you'll need to pay these yourself.

International flights – Many of our travellers arrive from different destinations and so we don't include international flights in the cost of our tours. If, however you would like us to book flights for you, then just give us a call and we'll be happy to discuss your options.

Travel Insurance – If you need any assistance with this, then let us know – although we can't arrange it ourselves, we can point you in the direction of a reputable provider that can assist.

PCR tests – these are payable locally and currently cost 1500 – 2000 Egyptian pounds per person in Egypt (approx. US\$95-125) and \$40 per person, per test (you would need to take one on arrival and also on departure) in Jordan.