THE EXODUS EGYPT & JORDAN
WITH OPTIONAL NILE CRUISE

DAY 1 -- Saturday: USA / CAIRO
Depart USA arriving in Cairo the next day. Meals served on board.

DAY 2 -- Sunday: CAIRO / LUXOR
Upon arrival we are met by our representative and taken to our flight to Luxor. Upon arrival we will be met and taken to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

DAY 3 -- Monday: LUXOR / KARNAK / NILE CRUISE
This morning we will be taken to the airport for our flight to Luxor. Upon arrival we will transfer to our cruise ship where we will check in. This afternoon we will visit the Luxor Temple on the bank of the Nile as well as the complex of temples at Karnak -- including Amun Temple, the largest columnar structure ever raised. Continue our exploration amid massive columns and inscrutable statues at Luxor's fertility shrine of the sun god. Then horse-drawn calches continue to the Avenue of the Sphinxes and Karnak's colossal wonders. Dine aboard as the felucca sails zigzag across the sunset.

DAY 4 -- Tuesday: LUXOR / ESNA / EDFU - NILE CRUISE
After breakfast, a ferry boat takes us across the river to the West Bank of the Nile, to visit the fabled Colossi of Memnon. We then continue to the mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut, Egypt's only female pharaoh, and the Valley of the Kings, where we step from a dramatic landscape of sun, sand and rugged mountain peaks into the dark silence of some of the sixty-four tombs discovered here to date. Return to our cruise for lunch. Threading through the Esna Locks, we arrive at Esna an hour later. We go ashore to visit the ornately hewn Temple of Khnum with its gracious, colonnaded vestibule. Return to the ship where we enjoy dinner as we sail to Edfu.

DAY 5 -- Wednesday: EDFU / KOMombo - NILE CRUISE
This morning we explore the birth house at the Temple of Horus and other engaging sights. This afternoon we cruise the Nile, enjoying the splendid poolside facilities of our luxurious barge en route to Kom Ombo. In Kom Ombo see its unique and spectacular temple, dedicated to two gods: Horus, the sun god and Sobek, the crocodile god. Tonight we enjoy dinner aboard, followed by a lively Galabeya Party with a display of oriental dancing.

DAY 6 -- Thursday: KOMombo / ASWAN - NILE CRUISE
This morning we sail to Aswan where we see the Aswan High Dam. We then head for the quarries of ancient Thebes and a chance to walk on the Unfinished Obelisk. After a relaxing lunch on board, we take a sailboat cruise to Elephantine Island and the Aga Khan's mausoleum. Here the tombs reveal the colossal space concepts of the early Memphis architects. Dinner on board the ship.

DAY 7 -- Friday: ASWAN / CAIRO
This morning we will be at leisure before we leave our cruise ship and be taken to the airport for our flight to Cairo. This afternoon we will board our flight to Cairo. Continue our hotel for dinner and overnight.

*Tomorrow you will join the passengers for DAY 4 and be with them throughout the remainder of the trip.

GO A DAY EARLY & VISIT LUXOR:
COST: $532 PER PERSON

DAY 1 -- Wednesday: NEW YORK / ISTANBUL / CAIRO
Depart USA arriving in Amman the next day. Meals served on board.

DAY 2 -- Thursday: ISTANBUL / CAIRO
Upon arrival we are met by our escort and board our bus for a transfer to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

DAY 3 -- Friday CAIRO / LUXOR / THEBES / VALLEY OF THE QUEENS CAIRO
This morning we transfer to the Cairo International airport to take an early flight to Luxor. Upon arrival we will visit Luxor (Thebes) capital of ancient Egypt, here we find the spectacular temple complex dedicated to the God triad - Amun, Mut and Chons. We see the remains of the avenue of sphinxes which originally connect the temple of Luxor to the temple of Karnak and we won't leave Luxor without visiting the ruins of Karnak. The Karnak temple complex is overwhelmingly huge in all dimensions. It's the second most popular site in Egypt after the pyramids of Giza. The utter vastness of its sprawling size and its enormous structures, make it unique in the ancient world. We explore the precinct of Amon-Re, by far the largest of all Egypt's temple halls. This afternoon we will visit the opposite banks of the Nile, the Valley of the Kings where Egypt's Pharaohs and royalty were entombed. We explore at least one of the major tombs that are open to the public (where tombs are opened at the discretion of the authorities, depending on ongoing excavations). We also visit the Valley of the Queens where the various pharaoh's wives and close relations were entombed in decorative burial chambers. We return to the airport for our return flight back to Cairo and overnight at our hotel.
DAY 1 – Thursday: NEW YORK / ISTANBUL / CAIRO
Depart USA arriving in Amman the next day. Meals served on board.

DAY 2 – Friday: ISTANBUL / CAIRO
Upon arrival we are met by our escort and board our bus for a transfer to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

DAY 3 – Saturday: PYRAMIDS / EGYPTIAN MUSEUM
After breakfast, we begin our tour visiting the Pyramids of Giza. Cheops Pyramid, the largest of the three which was built in the 3rd dynasty about 2690 B.C. and is one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. In front of the Pyramids of Chephren. We find the Sphinx carved from a single piece of stone, it incorporates a lion with a Pharaoh’s head, thought to be a portrait of the Pharaoh Chephren son of Cheops. You take a camel ride by the Pyramids area and visit the Papyrus Institute. In the afternoon, drive to the Egyptian Museum famous for its antiquities from Egypt’s Pharaonic period, which dates back some 50 centuries and includes the fabulous treasures of king Tut –Ankh-Amon (Tutankhamen), followed by a visit to the medieval bazaars of Khan El-Khalili. Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

DAY 4 – Sunday: CAIRO / SUEZ CANAL / ST. CATHERINES
Starting early from Cairo, we board our bus and drive towards Sinai crossing over the Suez Canal we drive through Sinai Peninsula enjoying the desert landscape, retelling the story of the Exodus and the delivery of the Israelites from the Pharaoh of Egypt. From here we head straight to the towering red granite mountains of the high range where both St. Catherine’s monastery and Mt. Sinai are found. Check into our hotel for our evening meal and overnight.

DAY 5 Monday: RAS SADR / TABAH / AQABA / PETRA
This morning we will board our ferry for our Red Sea crossing to Aqaba, Jordan. Board our bus and head north to Petra. We will check into our hotel for dinner and overnight.

ADD AN ADDITIONAL $100 PER PERSON

DAY 6 – Tuesday: PETRA
Today we will spend time in one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Start the tour of Petra; you are in the heart of the rose red Seir mountains as mentioned in the Biblical Book of Genesis. This mountain range houses the Aaron Peak, which is the highest locality in Petra and the burial place of Aaron brother of Moses. A walk down through the narrow ‘Siq’ passage, being the main entrance to Petra, along 1250 meters brings you to the first monument Treasure "the same as the one seen in the Indiana Jones’ movie". A walk further down through the outer ‘Siq’ encompassed by tombs and burial chambers brings you to one of the largest theaters in Jordan. This theater is carved into the sand stone mountains of Petra at the bottom of the High place of Sacrifice Mountain. Apparently some sacrificial rituals used to take place here. Now, it is time to walk up hill to the Royal Tombs. You will have a great view of the lower part of Petra with all its Roman remains. These tombs are: The Urn- Corinthian- Silk- and Palace tombs. We retrace our steps to the entrance and return to our hotel in Petra for Dinner and Overnight.

DAY 7 – Wednesday: MADABA / MT NEBO / BAPTISM / TIBERIAS
This afternoon we will board our bus and drive along the Exodus route north along the famed historical King’s Highway, passing by the well conserved Crusader city of Kerak. Continuing northwards on the King’s Highway we drive through Wadi Mujib the “Jordanian Grand Canyon” a wildlife reserve. Arriving at Madaba, to St George’s Church with its 6th century mosaic floor showing a map of the Holy Land as Christian pilgrims knew it in that period. Continue to Mt. Nebo, from where God showed Moses the Promised Land.

This afternoon we take a short drive to the recently discovered baptismal site of “Bethany beyond the Jordan”. For us Christians, the most significant event associated with the River Jordan is undoubtedly the baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ by John the Baptist. It is strongly suggested that this took place very close to Beit Abara, where Joshua, Elijah and Elisha crossed the river. In the New Testament times, it became known as Bethany, the village of John the Baptist. (This Bethany is not to be confused with the village of Bethany near Jerusalem, where the Bible says Lazarus was raised from the dead) “The Bible clearly records that Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist (Matthew 3: 13-17), and that John the Baptist lived, preached and baptized in the village of Bethany, on “the other side of the Jordan” (John 1: 28). The baptism site, known in Arabic as al-Maghlas, is located at the head of a lush valley just east of the Jordan River. It is now protected and since 1999 it is accessible to visitors. After Jesus’ baptism at Bethany, he spent forty days in the wilderness west of the River Jordan, where he fasted and resisted the temptations of Satan (Mark 1: 13, Matthew 4: 1-11),” Continue to Amman where we check into our hotel for dinner and overnight.

DAY 8 – Thursday: AMMAN / NEW YORK
This morning we go to the airport for our flight home.

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