



## **FAITH OVER FEAR 2024**

### **EGYPT Pre-Tour – The Beginning of the Exodus**

**June 3 - 8, 2022**

**(Note: Egypt is a 4-night pre-tour that must be combined with the Israel HIKE or Jordan tour before the Israel tour.)**

**Day 1: Saturday June 3, 2024 – DEPART US FOR CAIRO, EGYPT**

**Day 2: Sunday June 4, 2024 – ARRIVE IN CAIRO, EGYPT**

- Upon arrival in **Cairo** and after passport control, you will be met by our Cairo representative. A private transfer is included from the airport to your hotel. Our hotel is conveniently located only 1.5 miles away from one of the Wonders of the Ancient World, the Great Pyramid of Giza.
  - Check in at the hotel, unpack and rest. Dinner at the hotel.
- Check in at the hotel, unpack, and rest. Dinner at the hotel.
- **HOTEL: Steinberger Pyramids Cairo** <https://www.steigenberger.com/en/hotels/all-hotels/egypt/cairo/steigenberger-pyramids-cairo>

**Day 3: Monday June 5, 2022– MEMPHIS AND SAKKARA**

- Tour the old cities of **Memphis** and **Sakkara**, learning the story of Egypt, its rulers, and history – amazing!
- **HOTEL: Steinberger Pyramids Cairo** <https://www.steigenberger.com/en/hotels/all-hotels/egypt/cairo/steigenberger-pyramids-cairo>

**Day 4: Tuesday June 6, 2024 – DISCOVERING EGYPT’S ANCIENT CIVILIZATION: PYRAMIDS / SPHINX / ENTER INSIDE THE GREAT PYRAMID / CAMEL RIDE / EGYPTIAN MUSEUM / OLD CAIRO / COPTIC CAIRO**

- Our first stop will be at the **Pyramids of Giza**. A visit to the three Giza Pyramids is on every world traveler’s must-see list. Cheops Pyramid, the largest of the three, 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 will find the colossal statue of the **Great Sphinx**, which has stood guard over the pyramids for more than 4,500 years. The Sphinx is carved from a single piece of stone. It is a lion with a Pharaoh’s head and is thought to be a portrait of the Pharaoh Chephren. We will have the privilege to go inside the Great Pyramid to discover the burial chamber. The burial chamber consists of an empty Sarcophagus (7.3 ft by 3.75 ft) with smooth walls and a polished ceiling. The floor is made with blocks of pink granite, which cover 50 sq meters. During our Pyramids visit you will have a

chance to ride a camel near the pyramids (complimentary by AIT). This is your opportunity to have your postcard photo riding a camel with the pyramids on the background.

- Next, we will drive into **Old Cairo** to explore the city's cultural landmarks that span three millennium of Egyptian history. Discover the greatest collection of Pharaonic treasures in the world at the famous **Egyptian Museum**. See the unique collection of Pharaonic art, starting with the Old Kingdom Collection, on to the Middle and New Kingdom galleries and Greco-Roman periods as well as the famous Tutankhamun treasures.
- We will continue to **Coptic Cairo**, where we will visit the famous Suspended Church (Hanging Church), dating to the late 4th and early 5th century. This basilica was named "Al-Mu'allaqah" because it was built atop the south gate of the Fortress of Babylon.
- We will continue to the **Church of St. Sergius**, a 5th century Coptic Church. This basilica is built on the cave in which the Holy Family stayed and is regarded by visitors as a source of blessing. As we stroll along, we will come to the recently restored **Synagogue of Ben Ezra**, which marks the place where Moses was saved by the water girl of Pharaoh. This is the oldest Jewish synagogue in Egypt, built in 882 AD. We will return to our hotel for dinner.
- **HOTEL: Steinberger Pyramids Cairo** <https://www.steigenberger.com/en/hotels/all-hotels/egypt/cairo/steigenberger-pyramids-cairo>

## **Day 5: Wednesday June 7, 2024 – INTO THE WILDERNESS / TRACING THE ROUTE OF THE EXODUS: SINAI DSERT / MARAH BY THE RED SEA / ELIM / REPHIDIM / MT. SINAI / DINNER IN A BEDOUIN TENT**

- After breakfast we will travel east, heading towards the wilderness of the **Sinai Peninsula** and the **Land of Goshen** tracing the **Route of the Biblical Exodus** (Genesis16-18). We will drive via the tunnel underneath the **Suez Canal** to the west branch of the **Red Sea**. Our first stop will be **Marah by the Red Sea**, the desert springs along the shore of the Red Sea, where the children of Israel found the waters bitter.
- We will continue to **Elim** and visit the desert oasis and the possible sites where the 12 wells and 70 Palm Trees were found during the Children of Israel's journey to the **Promised Land**.
- We will then travel along the western Sinai coast to **Wadi Feiran (Rephidim)**, the desert valley where the Children of Israel fought against the Amalekites. From here we can see **Mount Serbal**, the possible site where Moses held his arms up for victory.
- We will head inland towards the granite mountains of **Mt. Sinai and Wadi el Raha**. In Arabic, Raha means "rest" and, according to tradition, this is the area where the Israelites camped and the golden calf was forged (Exodus 32).
- In the afternoon we will arrive at our hotel near **Mt. Sinai and St. Catherine's Monastery**.
- We will visit the Monastery of St. Catherine, constructed by the Roman Emperor Justinian (527 and 565 AD)
- This evening we will enjoy an authentic Bedouin dinner in a Bedouin tent.
- Those who desire and are physically capable will depart for a memorable midnight ascent to Mt. Sinai, where they will walk in the footsteps of Moses and the devoted pilgrims who traveled this route centuries earlier. You may choose to ride a camel part way, stopping at one of the stations to take in the scenery along the climb to the summit. We should reach the summit just before dawn in time to witness its incredible sunrise and splendid views. We will enjoy a time of praise and unforgettable, breathtaking views of the Sinai Wilderness. As we read from the Book of Genesis, we remember that this is the place where Moses met the Lord in the Burning Bush and where he received the Ten Commandments.
- Descending the mountain, we will return to the hotel to rejoin the rest of our group for breakfast.

- **HOTEL: Morgenland, St. Catherine's** <http://morgenland-village.net/> (Note: Morgenland is the only place of accommodations in this area. It is clean, comfortable, and welcome but rooms are simple and austere. Each room has its own bathroom/shower.)

**Day 6: Thursday June 8, 2022 WEDNESDAY – FROM MT. SINAI TO THE RED SEA AND THE MOUNTAINS OF EDOM - DRIVE TO THE TABA BORDER WITH ISRAEL, TRANSFER TO TEL AVIV VIA FLIGHT OR BUS**

- We will head towards the eastern shores of the Sinai Peninsula and the Red Sea on our way north to the **Taba Border** (Egypt / Israel border).
- If you are going to Jordan, you will transfer at Taba to the Jordan tour.
- If you are going on the Israel HIKE, you will meet the group at Taba to begin that tour.

**OPTIONS:**

Camel ride at Pyramids - \$10-\$25 payable to camel crew

Mt. Sinai - \$25 payable to Bedouin guide

NEW Cairo Museum (if open) - \$35 per person payable to guide