



VCU Alumni

OCTOBER 5-17, 2025

with optional
Alexandria Pre-Tour and
Jordan Post-Tour

DISCOVER EGYPT AND THE NILE VALLEY



Orbridge



Temple of Luxor

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Join us for a historical and cultural immersion into Egypt's ancient treasures and timeless wonders. From iconic landmarks to architectural marvels, this land of pharaohs and pyramids is undeniably a crucial part of human history.

Stand in awe before the Great Pyramid of Giza and the enigmatic Sphinx before delving deep into the annals of history at the newly opened Grand Egyptian Museum, where treasures from Egypt's rich past come to life. Acquire unique souvenirs and savor local flavors in the vibrant tapestry of Egyptian culture amidst the bustling lanes of Khan El-Khalili bazaar.

Venture into the hallowed grounds of the Valley of the Kings. The Mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut will transport you to a bygone era of grandeur and opulence.

Among the countless highlights, you'll embark upon a private dahabiya sailing the tranquil Nile River, gaining rare access to ruins and temples during less occupied times. On land stay at five-star hotels, each a sanctuary of comfort and luxury.

This unhurried journey reveals Egypt's monumental history, staggering technological achievements, and compelling human stories. With significant savings of more than \$1,000 per couple, and with limited space available, we anticipate this tour will fill quickly.

To reserve, visit vcu.orbridge.com, call (866) 639-0079 or return the attached reservation form.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Bass

Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations
Virginia Commonwealth University

Itinerary and Highlights *(subject to change)*

Day 1: EN ROUTE FROM U.S.

Day 2: ARRIVE IN CAIRO, EGYPT Settle into your luxurious accommodations with time to refresh and unwind at leisure.
Overnight: Marriott Mena House

Day 3: CAIRO | GIZA Following breakfast view the iconic Great Pyramid and the Great Sphinx. Standing before these marvels for the first time is awe-inspiring. Afterward explore the newly opened Grand Egyptian Museum.
Overnight: Marriott Mena House (B,L,D)

Day 4: CAIRO Visit the Egyptian village of Sakkara and its necropolis. Ascend to the top of Mokattam Hill to reach the Citadel of Cairo for a relaxing lunch overlooking the city. Then visit some of Cairo's ancient Coptic churches.
Overnight: Marriott Mena House (B,L)

Day 5: CAIRO | FLIGHT TO LUXOR Enjoy guided touring of the sprawling Karnak Temple Complex and Luxor Temple. This evening is at leisure to enjoy the hotel's five-star amenities.
Overnight: Sofitel Winter Palace Luxor (B,L)

Day 6: LUXOR | ESNA – EMBARKATION | NILE RIVER Venture to the hallowed grounds of the Valley of the Kings followed by the Mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut. This afternoon embark upon your private dahabiya to sail the Nile.
Overnight: Dahabiya (B,L,D)

Day 7: EDFU | NILE Join your Egyptologist for a guided tour to the necropolis at El Kab. Continue to Edfu for a guided tour of the Ptolemaic Temple of Horus. The remainder of the day is at leisure aboard the dahabiya.
Overnight: Dahabiya (B,L,D)

Day 8: EDFU | NILE | KOM OMBO See the ancient quarry at Gebel el-Silsila. This evening enjoy a special barbecue dinner on a nearby island.
Overnight: Dahabiya (B,L,D)

Day 9: KOM OMBO | NILE Explore the fascinating temple of Kom Ombo. Return to the dahabiya for a final night of sailing, and partake in a special gala dinner on board.
Overnight: Dahabiya (B,L,D)



Day 10: NILE – DISEMBARKATION | ASWAN
Tour Aswan High Dam. Later, take a motorboat ride to Agilkia, site of the temples of Philae. Enjoy time at the hotel to refresh before setting out for Aswan's famous market, Sharia as-Souq.
Overnight: Sofitel Legend Cataract (B,L)

Day 11: ASWAN Visit Elephantine Island to explore its UNESCO World Heritage archaeological sites. The remainder of today is at leisure.
Overnight: Sofitel Legend Cataract (B,D)

Day 12: ASWAN | OPTIONAL ABU SIMBEL EXCURSION | FLIGHT TO CAIRO
Optional excursion guests fly round-trip between Aswan and Abu Simbel. Other guests enjoy a morning at leisure before the afternoon return flight to Cairo. Gather for a special farewell dinner.
Overnight: Le Méridien Cairo Airport (B,L,D)

Day 13: CAIRO | DEPART FOR U.S. (B)
(B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner)

What's Included

- 7 nights luxury hotel accommodations plus 4 nights aboard a stately dahabiya
- 11 breakfasts, 9 lunches and 7 dinners
- All excursions listed on the 13-day itinerary including admission to sites and venues
- Excursion transportation
- Internal airfare from Cairo to Luxor and Aswan to Cairo
- Gratuities to hotels, drivers, dahabiya staff, porters and guides
- Group airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times

Activity Level: Activities are generally not very strenuous. Guests should be able to climb stairs, stand for long periods of time, and be able to walk 1.5 miles over uneven surfaces, sometimes on gravel, sand or stone.

Hotel Accommodations *(subject to change)*

MARRIOTT MENA HOUSE – CAIRO

Originally built as a hunting lodge in 1869, Mena House served as a private residence until 1886, when it was opened to the public as a hotel. The property features 40 acres of lavish gardens, four restaurants and lounges, outdoor pool, heated indoor pool, health club and full service spa (additional fees for services).



SOFITEL WINTER PALACE LUXOR

Perched peacefully on the bank of the Nile River, Winter Palace's 5-star accommodations provide an alluring atmosphere for a regal respite. During leisure time, roam the manicured gardens, take a dip in the welcoming pool, or simply reflect on your time in Egypt while embracing the spectacular sights from your room.



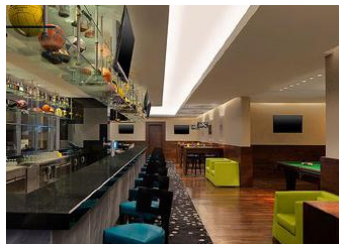
SOFITEL LEGEND CATARACT – ASWAN

Step back to the time of the pharaohs, surrounded by grandeur and opulence of this 5-star property. Walk the ravishing grounds, and feel a part of royalty that once frequented the hotel.



LE MÉRIDIEN CAIRO AIRPORT

This fully soundproofed luxury hotel is conveniently linked to Terminal 3 of Cairo International Airport by a pedestrian bridge. The property features an impressive sports bar, three restaurants serving Chinese, Lebanese or Mediterranean cuisine, a fitness center and a heated outdoor pool.



Onboard the dahabiya

With a capacity of just 14 guests per boat, our 155-foot dahabiyas are designed to provide the ultimate in comfort and adventure while sailing the Nile River.



Each stateroom provides spacious, fully air-conditioned accommodations with en suite facilities. Guests can savor healthy, fresh, and delicious international and Egyptian cuisine at every meal. Enjoy the large sun deck, dining and lounge areas, and the services of an enthusiastic crew who are committed to your comfort.

STATEROOM CATEGORIES

Standard: Features one king or two twin beds, view window, and private en suite bathroom. Approx. 205 sq.ft.

Suite: Features one queen bed, private balcony, view windows, and private en suite bathroom. Approx. 250 sq.ft.



Standard



Suite



Lounge



Dining



Deck



Outdoor Dining



Optional Pre-Tour Alexandria

This Mediterranean oasis was once a major intellectual center of the Greek and Roman empires, and home to the rulers of the Ptolemaic dynasty. Explore its mythic vestiges, and enjoy leisure time to experience the modern charms along the Corniche, Alexandria's waterfront promenade.

Day +1: EN ROUTE FROM U.S.

Day +2: **ARRIVE IN CAIRO, EGYPT** Settle into your five-star accommodations, and enjoy the first evening in Cairo at leisure.
Overnight: Marriott Mena House

Day +3: **CAIRO | ALEXANDRIA** After breakfast take a pleasant three-hour drive to Alexandria. Built under the reign of Alexander the Great, Alexandria is the playground for Egypt's elite, enriched with a spirit that is more Mediterranean than Middle Eastern. During a guided tour visit the Roman Amphitheatre, the famous Catacombs, and the Citadel of Qaitbay. The remainder of the day is free to explore the city.
Overnight: Steigenberger Cecil Hotel (B,L)

Day +4: **ALEXANDRIA** This morning visit the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization, featuring exhibits spanning from prehistoric times to the present, a vast archaeological display, and a royal mummies gallery. Afterward explore the architecturally stunning Bibliotheca Alexandrina, a recently constructed, modern interpretation of its ancient predecessor. The afternoon and evening are at leisure to relax at the property or venture into town.
Overnight: Steigenberger Cecil Hotel (B,L)

Day +5: **ALEXANDRIA | CAIRO | MAIN PROGRAM BEGINS** After breakfast return to Cairo to join fellow travelers on the main program. (B)

What's Included

- 3 nights luxury hotel accommodations
- 3 breakfasts and 2 lunches
- Touring by an English-speaking guide
- Admission to all sites listed in the itinerary
- Guided Alexandria city tour including the Roman Amphitheatre
- All gratuities and portorage
- All airport and hotel transfers





Optional Post-Tour Jordan

Journey to the ancient world of the Middle East, where impressive historic architecture towers over the present day. Discover the endless layers of spiritual and religious icons dotting this Holy Land, culminating with a once-in-a-lifetime visit to the Dead Sea.

Day 13: CAIRO | FLIGHT TO AMMAN Explore the region's history at the Jordan Museum, then ascend to the Amman Citadel for a spectacular view of the city.
Overnight: InterContinental Amman Hotel (L,D)

Day 14: AMMAN | JERASH Travel to Jerash, the city of 1,000 Pillars. Visit the Triple Arched Gate, the Hippodrome, and the Roman Amphitheatre.
Overnight: InterContinental Amman Hotel (B,L,D)

Day 15: AMMAN | MABADA | MOUNT NEBO | PETRA During guided church tours, view ancient floor mosaics and religious relics.
Overnight: Mövenpick Resort Petra (B,L,D)

Day 16: PETRA Spend today touring the archaeological wonders of this UNESCO World Heritage Site.
Overnight: Mövenpick Resort Petra (B,L,D)

Day 17: PETRA | LITTLE PETRA | DANA | DEAD SEA Visit Siq al-Barid, known as *Little Petra*, thought to have been an important "suburb" of Petra. Continue to the 15th-century stone village of Dana for lunch. The day concludes at the Dead Sea.
Overnight: Mövenpick Resort & Spa Dead Sea (B,L,D)

Day 18: DEAD SEA Today is at leisure to relax and rejuvenate at the Dead Sea. Or take advantage of the plentiful amenities at the hotel.
Overnight: Mövenpick Resort & Spa Dead Sea (B,L)

Day 19: DEPART FOR U.S. After breakfast take the complimentary group transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)

What's Included

- Internal airfare from Cairo to Amman
- 6 nights luxury accommodations
- 6 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 5 dinners
- Admission to all sites listed in the 6-day itinerary
- Touring by an English-speaking guide
- All gratuities and portorage
- Airport transfers for guests departing during the suggested times



DISCOVER EGYPT AND THE NILE VALLEY

OCTOBER 5-17, 2025

Alexandria Pre-Tour: October 2-6, 2025

Jordan Post-Tour: October 17-23, 2025

Reserve by Credit Card:

Online: vcu.orbridge.com

Phone: (866) 639-0079

Fax: (206) 452-5655

Reserve by Check:

Made payable to **Orbridge, LLC**

Mail to: Orbridge, P.O. Box 1376

Poulsbo, WA 98370

Stateroom Category	Standard Rate	Special Rate*
Classic	\$7,499	\$6,995
Suite	\$9,499	\$8,995
Single (Classic)	\$11,999	\$11,495
Alexandria Pre-Tour		
Category	Standard Rate	Special Rate*
Double	\$2,199	\$1,995
Single	\$3,199	\$2,995
Jordan Post-Tour		
Category	Standard Rate	Special Rate*
Double	\$5,199	\$4,995
Single	\$7,099	\$6,895

Rates are per person based on double occupancy except where noted as Single, in U.S. dollars.

GUEST INFORMATION:

Guest #1 Name (Title/Salutation): _____

Email: _____ Class Year: _____

Home Phone: _____ Alt. Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Guest #2 Name (Title/Salutation): _____

Email: _____ Class Year: _____

Home Phone: _____ Alt. Phone: _____

DEPOSIT PAYMENT:

☐ Check ☐ ACH (Automated Clearing House) ☐ MasterCard/Visa ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CVV: _____

Name (as printed on card): _____

Billing Address (if different from above): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

CATEGORY SELECTION & DEPOSIT:

Category Preference: 1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____


_____ guests joining pre-tour (\$500/person) +
_____ guests joining program (\$850/person) +
_____ guests joining post-tour (\$500/person) = **TOTAL DEPOSIT: \$** _____

ABU SIMBEL OPTIONAL EXCURSION (added to your final invoice):

_____ guests joining optional excursion (\$795/person)

I/we have read, understand, and agree to the full Terms & Conditions at terms.orbridge.com; and I/we agree that Orbridge, LLC is authorized to charge my credit card above and/or take my/our deposit for this program.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

 Orbridge takes seriously the responsibility to minimize our global environmental impact. Each year we plant 100,000 trees in U.S. State Forests with afforestation needs as an ongoing initiative among our evolving sustainability efforts. Learn more at orbridge.com/going-green.

*Special group rates; limited offer. Single availability limited. Internal airfare between Cairo, Luxor, Abu Simbel, and Aswan is included. Airfare otherwise not included. For the Post-Tour, internal airfare from Cairo to Amman is included. Airfare otherwise not included. **A complement to the educational component of this journey, Expedition Libraries are curated collections of useful resources and background reading tailored to this program. Place your deposit on or before the specified date, and one Expedition Library per household will be sent after receipt of final payment. Libraries may be purchased; please call for details.



VCU Alumni
P.O. Box 843044
Richmond, VA 23284-3044

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Special Alumni Rate:

Save more than **\$1,000** per couple

30-day refund guarantee

FREE EXPEDITION LIBRARY
AN EXCLUSIVE EARLY
RESERVATION BONUS

Reserve by
January 24, 2025**

What Guests Are Saying...

The trip was well planned. Accommodations and tours were very good, enjoyable and we all learned a great deal. Wonderful trip, a fun time, excellent accommodations and interesting places with well-versed explanations and descriptions. Our guides were knowledgeable and very approachable. I will seek out another Orbridge trip and I will relay the experience to my friends and fellow travelers.

~Patrick & Sue M., Houston, TX

The Dahabiya excursion was an incredible treat and something every tour should include. The crew was exceptional. The chef was also incredible, offering a huge variety of delicious meals. It was so clear that we were getting an amazing, unique experience, unlike most other people, when we saw the giant commercial riverboats flying past us on the Nile. Our experience was relaxed, personal and gave us time to soak up what we were seeing as we took our time along the river.

~Leslie & Paul F., Katy, TX

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