

FACTS ABOUT EGYPT

The Great Pyramid covers an area of 13 acres. Its apex at the top is a staggering 481 feet tall. It is the oldest of the Seven Wonders of the World. It is the largest human construction of anything in the world. It is part of pyramid complex at Gize that has three pyramids (Cheops, Khufu and Menkaure). They were grandfather, son and grandson. The Sphinx is located by the Khufu Pyramid.

The new Cairo Museum is a \$1 billion dollar museum and its construction will be completed by the Spring of 2010. It is home to the largest collection of Egyptian artifacts in the world. For the first time the entire King Tutakhamen treasures and artifacts will be able to be displayed. It has been built at the Pyramid Complex at Giza. It will replace the Cairo Museum in the city which is over one century old.

Nile River: the longest river in Africa is 4,132 miles long. It is the only major river in the world which flows north. The only arable land in the country of Egypt is along the banks of the Nile River.

Luxor, in antiquity known as Thebes, is 600 miles south of Cairo on the Nile River. Located there are the two giant temple complexes of Luxor and Karnak. Across the river is located the Temple of Hatshepsut, the only female pharaoh in Egyptian history. Also across the Nile is the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens. King Tut's tomb is in the Valley of the Kings and was discovered in 1922 by Howard Carter. We will visit that tomb. The tombs of many of the Ramses kings are there also. We will visit the tomb of Ramses VI.

We arrive in Cairo, Egypt's bustling capital city. We will visit the Giza pyramids, built some 4,500 years ago and guarded by the mysterious Sphinx. The pyramids of perfectly symmetrical structures designed as gateways to the afterlife for Egypt's ruling elite. There we will visit the Solar Museum where archaeologists have reconstructed a restored cedar wood vessel which was built to transport the Pharaoh's body to its burial place.

Saqqara: oldest pyramid in the world built by Djoser. It is located close to the ancient city of Memphis which we will visit.

Our four-day cruise south on the Nile River we will enjoy a leisurely sailing where we will visit the magnificent Temple of Horus and the Temples at Philae and the Temple at Kom Ombo. We will visit the Aswan Dam and Lake Nasser.

We will visit the granite quarries where so many Egyptian obelisks and monument were mined.

After a short flight to Abu Simbel in Southern Egypt we will visit the awe-inspiring site of Ramses II's most impressive building achievement. Four nearly 70-foot-tall statues of the pharaoh grace the entrance of the main temple, carved out of a dramatic sandstone cliff.