GLORIES OF MODERN AND ANCIENT EGYPT ABOARD THE SUN BOAT III

February 21 to March 7, 2018
A cruise up the Nile is a journey of a lifetime, and with recent political changes and a subsequent lull in tourist crowds, there’s never been a better time to visit Egypt. From the great pyramids at Giza to the royal tombs in the Valley of the Kings and the gigantic temples of Karnak and Abu Simbel, no other destination has the wealth of history—or is as shrouded in mystery. Perennially popular faculty leader Ed Steidle joins forces with longtime Stanford favorite, Egyptologist Fetiche Posma-Zaalouk, to deliver a fascinating overview of Egypt’s historical and cultural milestones, both ancient and modern. Our Stanford connections give us access to leaders and historians as well as special entrée to sites not open to the public. I guarantee that this very special trip to Egypt is one you’ll not soon forget.

**Highlights**

**SAIL** up the Nile aboard the privately chartered *Sun Boat III*, which offers the highest standards of comfort, cuisine and service. **MEET** with art-and-architecture historian Dr. Tarek Swelim to hear firsthand about his research on Islamic Cairo. **VIEW** the temple of Abu Simbel, built by Ramesses II in the 13th century B.C.E. and relocated in the 1960s to protect it from the rising waters of Lake Nasser. **GAZE** upon some of the country’s most precious treasures during an exclusive tour of the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities in Cairo.

BRET S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY
EDWARD STEIDLE, since joining the Stanford faculty in 1984, has taught in the western culture program and in the literature and the arts track of the English department, for the graduate humanities program and for the Continuing Studies program. His area of study is focused on comparative literature of Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages. When considering themes to explore during our trip, Ed says, “Egypt is a wonderful treasure trove to all students of comparative culture. Not only is it one of the oldest civilizations on earth, but it is also one of the most influential. Its impact on North Africa, the Middle East and Western Europe is enormous. The Great Pyramid of Cheops, the legendary beauty of Queen Nefertiti, Ramesses II’s stunning temple at Abu Simbel, Saladin and Richard Lionheart’s chivalry during the Third Crusade, Egypt’s Mamluk victory over the Mongol juggernaut at Ain Jalut—all stand brightly in any history book. Likewise, in the fields of philosophy, ethics and religion, Egypt is a guiding star. Both Judaism and Christianity owe some of their most sacred tenets to Egypt’s immemorial metaphysical pursuits. Understanding Egypt’s rich legacy offers us a window into understanding our own cultural heritage.”

— BA, English and eastern philosophy, Franklin and Marshall College
— MAs, comparative literature, Johns Hopkins University and UC-Berkeley
— PhD, medieval comparative literature, UC-Berkeley

EGYPTOLOGIST

FETICHE POSMA-ZAALOUK specializes in the culture, history and architecture of ancient Egypt, as well as issues relating to women in the Middle East. After graduating from Helwan University in Cairo, Fetiche was appointed Official Guide of the Egyptian Parliament for its French- and English-speaking guests, including dignitaries such as French President François Mitterand, U.S. President Jimmy Carter, and Aristotle and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. Fetiche has been helping to lead programs with Travel/Study for more than 20 years.

GUEST LECTURER

DR. TAREK SWELIM is an art historian, whose expertise is in the fields of Egyptology, Roman architecture and Islamic architecture. After earning his PhD at Harvard University, he began his career as a guide in Egypt and later became a lecturer for academic groups throughout the Middle East and North Africa. He is currently an associate professor of Islamic art and architecture at Hamad Bin Khalifa University in Qatar. Tarek has been lecturing on Travel/Study programs for more than 30 years.
Itinerary

Please note that the sequence of site visits during the Nile portion of our itinerary is subject to change, depending on water levels. The following is a tentative cruise program, which our tour staff will confirm once we’re onboard.

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21 & 22
DEPART U.S. / CAIRO, EGYPT / GIZA
Board overnight flights to Cairo and transfer to our hotel in Giza upon arrival on Thursday. MENA HOUSE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23
GIZA / DAHSHUR / SAQQARA
After an orientation at our hotel, travel to Dahshur with its early-era Red and Bent pyramids that provide insights into the trial-and-error process of pyramid-building. After lunch, visit Saqqara, the necropolis of Memphis renowned for its 5,000-year-old-step pyramid and mastabas (tombs) that reveal the architectural origins of the pyramid. Enjoy a welcome reception and dinner this evening. MENA HOUSE (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24
GIZA
This morning enjoy a guest lecture by Dr. Tarek Swelim, noted art-and-architecture historian, then visit the awe-inspiring monuments of Giza: the Great Pyramids and the enigmatic Sphinx, the quintessential symbols of ancient Egypt. Our visit includes entry to the Cheops Boat Museum and special access to the area at the foot of the Sphinx. Enjoy dinner at a private home this evening. MENA HOUSE (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25
GIZA / CAIRO
Depart Cairo on a chartered flight to Luxor in the heart of the Nile Valley where we board our riverboat docked in front of the Karnak Temple. At Karnak’s temple complex, admire the 134 giant columns of Ramesses II’s magnificent hypostyle hall, the soaring obelisks and the enormous temple dedicated to Amun, god of the moon. Enjoy a special sunset visit to the Temple of Luxor, whose graceful papyrus cluster columns were built by Amenhotep III and later embellished by Ramesses II, Tutankhamun and Alexander the Great. SUN BOAT III (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27
LUXOR / DENDERA
Water levels permitting, cruise approximately 30 miles north of Luxor to visit the Dendera Temple complex, one of the best-preserved in Egypt. Return to Luxor this afternoon as our educational program continues onboard. SUN BOAT III (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28
LUXOR / VALLEY OF THE KINGS / DEIR EL-BAHRI
This morning travel to the west bank of the Nile to explore the Valley of the Kings with its stunning painted royal tombs and long corridors that lead down into deep burial chambers, symbolizing the journey from the world of the living to the world of the dead. Visit a variety of these tombs, including those of Seti I, Tutankhamun and Ramesses IV with a local archaeologist. Also visit Deir el-Bahri, whose highlight is the magnificent Temple of Hatshepsut—the queen who declared herself dead.
king. This afternoon enjoy a tour of the Luxor Museum, which provides an excellent overview of the temple complexes and burial sites of Upper Egypt.

SUN BOAT III (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, MARCH 1
LUXOR / VALLEY OF THE NOBLES / VALLEY OF THE QUEENS / MEDINET HABU
Return to the west bank of the Nile to visit its most beautiful tombs—those of the Nobles—set in the limestone cliffs that stretch far into the valleys of the western desert. Continue to the Valley of the Queens for a special visit to the tomb of Queen Nefertari, then visit the Mortuary Temple of Ramesses III at Medinet Habu with its impressive wall reliefs. Also stop to admire the Colossi of Memnon, two massive sandstone statues of Pharaoh Amenhotep III.

SUN BOAT III (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, MARCH 2
LUXOR / EDFU / ASWAN
After a relaxing morning of cruising, call at Edfu to visit one of the best-preserved temples of the ancient world, the 2,000-year-old Temple of Horus, dedicated to the falcon-headed god and lord of the sky. This afternoon continue cruising to Aswan. SUN BOAT III (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, MARCH 3
ASWAN
Start our full day at Aswan with a visit to the Temple of Isis, which was carefully moved to higher ground before the rising waters of Lake Nasser submerged its original location on Philae Island. Continue to the Aswan High Dam, which controls the Nile’s cycles of flood and drought, and to a granite quarry, where we learn how obelisks were carved. After lunch, board a felucca, a traditional Nile sailing vessel, for a cruise around Kitchener’s Island.

SUN BOAT III (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, MARCH 4
ASWAN / KOM OMBO / LUXOR
Begin our cruise back downriver to Luxor, stopping in Kom Ombo for a visit to the Temple of Sobek and Horus, built by the Ptolemaic rulers who governed Egypt after its conquest by Alexander the Great. Return to Luxor and enjoy our final dinner aboard our riverboat. SUN BOAT III (B,L,D)

MONDAY, MARCH 5
LUXOR / DISSMARCHMENT / ABU SIMBEL / CAIRO
This morning, disembark the Sun Boat III and board a chartered flight to Abu Simbel, one of the greatest temple precincts in ancient Egypt. Built by Ramesses II, the temples are famous for the colossal statues of the pharaoh and his favorite wife, Nefertari. As waters from the dam in Aswan rose toward the temples in the 1960s, an international team, in an extraordinary feat of engineering, raised the site 200 feet and relocated the statues more than 600 feet from the water’s edge. Fly to Cairo and enjoy an evening at leisure. FOUR SEASONS NILE PLAZA (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, MARCH 6
CAIRO
Early this morning enjoy a private opening of the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities with its more than 100,000 relics and artifacts, including the extraordinary gold treasures of Tutankhamun. Continue to Coptic Cairo for a visit to the Hanging Church and the Ben Ezra Synagogue. Visit the U.S. Embassy for insight into American foreign policy vis-à-vis Egypt (pending availability of Embassy personnel). Gather for a festive farewell reception and dinner this evening. FOUR SEASONS NILE PLAZA (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7
CAIRO / U.S.
Transfer to the airport for return flights to the U.S. (B)

Optional Post-trip Extension

MARCH 7 TO 13 (6 ADDITIONAL DAYS)
JORDAN
Journey to Amman, capital of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Explore the extensive Roman ruins of Jerash and the 2,000-year-old rose-red city of Petra, a magnificent assemblage of temples, tombs and elaborate buildings carved into solid rock. Visit the town of Madaba, known as the “City of Mosaics” for its spectacular 6th-century masterpieces, and Mt. Nebo. Experience the therapeutic waters of the Dead Sea, a biblical landmark and geographically the lowest point on earth. Additional details and rates will be provided to confirmed participants.
Sun Boat III

The elegant Sun Boat III accommodates up to 36 guests in 18 beautifully designed cabins. Sporting an opulent art deco decor, this graceful riverboat offers delicious gourmet meals in the restaurant, refreshing cocktails on the sun deck and afternoon tea in the stunning lounge. Two decks provide ample space for watching the passing Nile scenery as well as a heated pool and exercise machines. All cabins have Nile views, a mini-bar, safe deposit box, individual CD player and LCD television with satellite and in-house movies, private bathroom and air conditioning with individual controls.

Program Cost*

Rates are per person, based on double or single occupancy as specified.

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<th>SINGLE RATE**</th>
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<td>STANDARD CABIN</td>
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<td>King bed or twin beds (388 sq. ft.)</td>
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*Stanford Alumni Association nonmembers add $300 per person.

**Single accommodations are limited to as few as 3 cabins.
DATES
February 21 to March 7, 2018 (15 days)

SIZE
This program can accommodate 27 participants. Single accommodations are extremely limited; please call for availability.

INCLUDED
6 nights of deluxe accommodations • 7-night cruise aboard the Sun Boat III • 13 breakfasts, 12 lunches and 10 dinners • Welcome and farewell receptions • Internal Egypt flights on chartered aircraft: Cairo/Luxor, Luxor/Abu Simbel, Abu Simbel/Cairo • All tours and shore excursions as described in the itinerary • Gratuities to guides, drivers and ship crew for all group activities • Transfers and baggage handling for participants arriving in and departing from Cairo • Port fees and embarkation taxes • Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance • Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information • Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

NOT INCLUDED
International and U.S. domestic airfare • Passport and visa fees • Immunization costs • Meals and beverages other than those specified as included • Independent and private transfers • Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance • Excess-baggage charges • Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

AIR ARRANGEMENTS
You are responsible for booking and purchasing airfare to the start location of the program and from the end location of the program. These air purchases are NOT included in the program cost. To assist you in making these independent arrangements, we will send you information with your confirmation materials on when to arrive and depart.

WHAT TO EXPECT
We consider this program to be moderately strenuous and at times physically demanding and busy. We will have a very full schedule of excursions, lectures and special events and most days will require early-morning starts. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. Daily excursions in Cairo and from our riverboat are busy and involve one to three miles of walking, with tours lasting as long as three hours. Much of the walking takes place at ancient sites covering a large area, where paths can be rocky and uneven, and involving high thresholds and steps without handrails. Many buildings do not have elevators, and some sites and museums do not allow buses to pull up in front, thus requiring a walk of several minutes to reach the entrance. The air pollution in Cairo is particularly bad and can affect the respiratory system. Busy days are contrasted with the relaxed pace aboard our riverboat, where daily shore excursions are complemented by lectures and leisure time onboard. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.

Deposit & Final Payment
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold space for this program. A $200-per-person deposit is required to hold space for the optional post-trip extension. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?nile2018 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations & Refunds
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. Information will be provided to travelers with their welcome materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within 14 days of written confirmation of your participation on the trip.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Stanford Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $300 more than the members’ price. A person traveling as a paid guest of a current member will not be charged the nonmember fee. To purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and ship arrangements and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motor coach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. It is understood that the ship’s ticket, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the cruise company. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in May 2017 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.

TELEPHONE (650) 725-1093
EMAIL travelstudy@alumni.stanford.edu

California Seller of Travel Program Registration #2048 523-50
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Stanford Travel/Study
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326 Galvez Street
Stanford, CA 94305-6105
(650) 725-1093

alumni.stanford.edu/goto/travelstudy

“Best trip I have ever been on. Life-changing!”

MARILY WRIGHT ANTON, THE NILE, 2017