Tuesday, October 19  
USA – CAIRO

Depart New York City for your non-stop flight to Cairo.

Wednesday, October 20  
CAIRO

Arrive in Cairo and transfer to your hotel. Depending on your arrival time, you will have lunch at the hotel. If time allows, those who wish to visit the Egyptian Museum on their own will be taken there and returned in time for our welcome cocktail reception and dinner. Fairmont Towers Hotel

Thursday, October 21  
CAIRO – LUXOR

Begin the day with a guided tour of the Egyptian Museum, the most important repository of Egyptian antiquities in the world. Over 250,000 artifacts are on display, including an exhibit dedicated to the Tut-Ankh-Amon collection of treasures, gold, and jewelry. The collection had been enclosed in his tomb for over 3,500 years before its discovery in the 1920s when his tomb was finally excavated. After the tour, we will have lunch at a local restaurant and then fly to Luxor in time for dinner. Sofitel Old Winter Palace Hotel

Friday, October 22  
LUXOR

Today, enjoy a full day tour of Luxor. On the West Bank of the Nile River, visit the Valley of the Kings, the Valley of the Queens, the Hatshepsut Temple honoring Egypt's single ruling queen and the Valley of the Nobles to visit the Mortuary Temple of Ramses II. If re-opened for tourists, continue to view the tombs of Nefertari and Tyti. Tonight, after dinner, depart your hotel to enjoy a spectacular Sound & Light Show at the Temple of Karnak. The show is renowned for its extravagant portrayal of the lives of the Thebian Pharaohs.

Saturday, October 23  
LUXOR

This morning around 8:00 AM, we board a motorboat to transfer again to the West Bank to enjoy a farm breakfast and gain insight into what life is like in Egypt's rural villages. We hear a talk about village life and then tour a nearby farm. Afterword, we continue to the Karnak Temple complex, the largest religious site in the world. Here, we will see the Temple’s main entrance, the famed Colossi of Memnon and the largest obelisk in the world. After lunch, we will visit the Luxor Temple and Museum. Later, we board our luxury Nile cruise ship for our two day/three night journey to Aswan. Movenpick Royal Lotus

Sunday, October 24  
LUXOR – KOMombo

Today, we sail to Edfu to explore the Temple of Horus. Almost entirely intact with its decorated hieroglyphs and bas-reliefs, this is the best-preserved temple in Egypt. Ancient Egyptians believed that the temple was
inhabited by the falcon-headed god, Horus, their divine protector. Annual coronation festivals were held to re-crown Horus during which a falcon was released in his honor. After lunch on board, we will sail to Kom Ombo. Once called Nubt or “City of Gold” for its location on the caravan routes of gold miners, Kom Ombo remains a Nubian-style village with brightly colored houses, sugarcane fields and orange groves.

**Monday, October 25**

**KOM OMBO – ASWAN**

This morning, we visit the temple at Kom Ombo, dramatically set on the riverbank at a bend on the Nile. This is Egypt’s only double temple with one side dedicated to the crocodile god, Sobek, and the other side to the falcon god, Haroeris. In the afternoon, the ship arrives in Aswan. Later this afternoon, gather for some sailing on a felucca, a traditional broadsail boat used for thousands of years on the Nile. Sail within view of the Mausoleum of Mohammed Shah Aga Khan, the 48th Imam of the Ismaili sect of Islam, and also stop at the famous 19th-century Botanical Gardens on Kitchener's Island. We return to our ship for our last dinner on board and spend the night moored in Aswan.

**Tuesday, October 26**

**ASWAN**

After breakfast, we disembark the ship and enjoy a tour of Aswan and the Philae Temples whose survival is one of the great archaeological stories of the 20th century. Next, visit the unfinished Obelisk of Aswan that was abandoned when it cracked while being worked on. Proceed to the Old Dam at Aswan that routinely caused the Philae Temple of Isis and several smaller temples to be submerged six months of every year and the High Dam that threatened to bury them forever. To preserve the temples, the Egyptian government spearheaded an effort to save them. A spectacular international rescue operation, sponsored by UNESCO, was undertaken to dismantle these structures and ferry them to Agilkia Island where they were reassembled in their entirety between 1972 and 1980. The Temple of Isis features courtyards flanked by granite lions and walls covered with depictions of ancient gods and goddesses. The island’s most recognizable sight is Trajan’s Kiosk with its 14 majestic stone pillars. Once subject to devastating Nile floods, Egyptian farmers looked to the Aswan High Dam as a way of improving their ability to control their crops. After, we visit the Nubian Museum. Remainder of the day is at leisure to wander around Aswan.

**Movenpick Aswan Resort**

**Wednesday, October 27**

**ASWAN - ABU SIMBEL – ASWAN**

Depart for the airport for your short flight to the archaeological complex of Abu Simbel, an UNESCO World Heritage Site. Here, we will enjoy a tour of the Nubian Monuments, the twin temples carved from the mountainside during the reign of Pharaoh Ramses II and their four monumental 60 foot high statues. Following our tour of one Egypt’s most popular attractions, enjoy time at leisure to walk the temple grounds before returning to Aswan. This afternoon, we board a motorboat to begin our way to the Monastery of St. Simeon. Built in the sixth century, this fortress like structure is surrounded by the vast desert sands and is one of the best-preserved early Christian sites in all of Egypt. Our final approach to the monastery is by camel, the age old method of transportation in Egypt!

**Thursday, October 28**

**ASWAN - CAIRO - SHARM EL SHEIKH**

This morning, we transfer to the airport for the flight to Cairo. Upon arrival, we will take an enlightening journey through the spiritual heart of the city. We drive through Cairo’s most traditional Islamic quarter and ascend to The Citadel, a spectacular hilltop medieval fortress built in the twelfth century by Salah ad-Din (Saladin). Here, we’ll see the Alabaster Mosque of Mohammed Ali. From the side of The Citadel, we’ll have a sweeping view of the entire old section of Cairo with its mosques, minarets and densely packed bazaars, and on a clear day we should see the River Nile and perhaps even the Great Pyramids in the distance. Next, we see the outside of the Mosque of Sultan Hassan, built in the 14th century during the Mamluk era. We will also be able to visit old Cairo churches and a synagogue. Enjoy an early dinner at a local Cairo restaurant before flying to Sharm El Sheikh. Upon arrival, we will be transferred to our hotel. **The Ritz Carlton Hotel**
Friday, October 29

SHARM EL SHEIKH

Enjoy a full day relaxing, snorkeling or sitting by the pool. At additional cost, there are many world class sites at which to snorkel near Sharm like Ras (reef) Mohamed, Tiran Island and Naama Bay. Our tour manager can help arrange 4x4 Jeep excursions, and more.

Saturday, October 30

SHARM EL SHEIKH

OPTIONAL DAY TRIP TO ST CATHERINE’S MONESTARY

Today, you can continue to relax in Sharm, or leave the hotel around 6 a.m. for an optional tour to Mount Sinai and St. Catherine's Monastery in the Sinai Peninsula, approximately a 3 hour drive. Built in the 3rd Century CE, the Monastery is situated 5,020 feet above sea level in a valley bordered by granite mountains and isolated from its surroundings by a wide desert. You will see a magnificent collection of more than 200 icons, ancient manuscripts, frescoes and other treasures plus Emperor Joseph’s 6th century church, the Mosaic of Transfiguration, the Chapel of the Burning Bush and Jethro’s Well. Arrive back at your hotel in Sharm el Sheikh before 6 p.m.

Sunday, October 31

SHARM EL SHEIKH – ALEXANDRIA

Transfer to the airport in Sharm for our departure to Alexandria via Cairo. Upon arrival in Cairo, we will board our coach and travel north on the Green Road to Alexandria. This is a local road along the Nile that takes us through the river's delta and provides a unique view of villages, farming communities and local folk living in Egypt. The drive to Alexandria will take approximately 3 hours. Founded by Alexander the Great in 331 B.C., Alexandria is Egypt's center of culture, learning and science. No longer there, its lighthouse, the world's first, was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Helnan Palestine Hotel

Monday, November 1

ALEXANDRIA

Drive via the Corniche and its many beaches to the Montazah Palace and Gardens. Next, experience the Greco-Roman Museum. Visit the Catacombs of Kom El-Shuggaffah dating to the 2nd century CE and Pompey's Pillar, built in honor of the Emperor Diocletian. Finish our tour of Alexandria with a visit to the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (New Library) created to commemorate the ancient Library of Alexandria and rekindle the spirit of this original center of knowledge.

Tuesday, November 2

ALEXANDRIA – CAIRO

This morning, leave around 7:45 a.m. and drive along the desert road back to Cairo. This road ends right at the site of the Pyramids where, upon arrival, we will proceed on a day of sightseeing that includes an up-close panoramic view of the Pyramids of Cheops, Khefren, and Mycerinus, a visit to the Sphinx, the Valley Temple and the Solar Boat Museum, that contains the Solar Boat of the great King Cheops, discovered in 1954.

Oberoi Mena House Hotel

Wednesday, November 3

CAIRO

Begin the day with a drive to Memphis, the oldest capital of Egypt, to see the colossal statue of Ramses II and the alabaster sphinx of King Tutmosis III. Then, visit the Sakkara step pyramids including the famous Step Pyramid of Zoser, built by Imhotep, the first named architect in recorded history. Next, proceed to the fascinating Khan El-Khalili Bazaar, reputed to be the largest bazaar in the Middle East. Originally founded as a watering stop for caravanserai in the 14th century, the bazaar has now grown to vast proportions. Shop as long as you wish before meeting our tour manager and returning to our hotel. This evening, gather for a farewell reception followed by dinner at the hotel.

Thursday, November 4

CAIRO – USA

This morning, transfer to the airport for your non-stop departure flight to New York City. Arrive back the same day.