EGYPT & JORDAN

Featuring 3-night Nile River Cruise

November 13, 2020 ~ 20 Days

WELLS GRAY TOURS

a world to experience

Fares Per Person:

$9,760 double/twin

$11,430 single

tour 25 a more intimate travel experience

> Please add 0.4% GST.

> **Experience Points:** Earn 187 points from this tour.
Redeem **187 points** if you book by **August 6**.

Includes

- Coach transportation to Vancouver Airport
- Flight from Vancouver to Cairo, Egypt
- Egyptian and Jordanian visas
- 14 nights hotel accommodation and taxes
- Coach transportation through Egypt & Jordan
- Egyptologist guide for 10 days in Egypt
- Egyptian Museum
- Visits to an orphanage and a grand mosque
- Khan El Khalili Bazaar & Coptic Church
- Pyramids of Giza and The Sphinx
- Flight from Cairo to Abu Simbel
- Temples of Abu Simbel
- Evening sound & light show at Abu Simbel
- Flight from Abu Simbel to Aswan
- Aswan High Dam
- Tour of Granite Quarry
- Motorboat tour of the Aswan islands
- Nubian Museum
- Camel ride to St. Simeon Monastery
- Classical High Tea at Old Cataract Hotel
- Sailing tour with a classical felucca boat
- Botanical Garden at Kitchener Island
- Nile River cruise from Aswan to Luxor for 3 nights on *MS Acamar*
- Temple of Kom Ombo & Temple of Horus in Edfu
- Valley of the Kings
- Deir el Medine Village of ancient tomb workers
- House of Howard Carter, discoverer of the tomb of Tutankhamun
- Karnak Temple
- Evening tour of illuminated Temple of Luxor
- Flight from Luxor to Cairo to Amman, Jordan
- Jordanian guide throughout Jordan
- St. George Church in Madaba with map mosaic
- Guided tour of Petra
- Wadi Rum excursion with the Bedouin
- Dead Sea
- Jeep transportation to/from Feynan Eco Lodge
- Jordanian cooking class
- City tour of Amman
- Tour of Jerash with Oval Plaza, Temple of Aphrodite, Roman Theatre and Ajloun Citadel
- Flight from Amman to Vancouver
- Flights from Vancouver to BC interior
- Luggage handling at hotels, Nile ship and airline
- Gratuities to Egypt & Jordan guides and drivers
- Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director
- **46 meals:** 17 breakfasts, 13 lunches, 16 dinners

Kamloops > 250-374-0831
Kelowna > 250-762-3435
www.wellsgraytours.com

Penticton > 250-493-1255
Vernon > 250-545-9197
Toll Free > 800-667-9552

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Golden Relics and Ancient Cultures

The ancient lands of Egypt and Jordan are a world of wonder, a window to a long past age of extravagance, massive wealth, and ample acts of tribute. The stunning, colossal monuments of Ancient Egypt never fail to astonish. The heat, sight and the light of the desert invigorate. A romantic cruise on part of the world's longest river dazzles the senses. The people are intriguing as they create a modern future while embracing the traditions and lessons of the past. No place has the magic, mystery and pleasures of Egypt. In Jordan, where tradition and modernism colourfully collide, stories of long ago emerge from preserved ruins like awe-inspiring Petra or the extraordinary Roman settlement at Jerash. The vitality of the people, secure in their leadership and surrounded by change, is inspiring. With the political upheavals a few years ago, tourism to these destinations has slowed, and so to attract more travellers, prices have been slashed and there is tremendous value now available. Our local partner, Galaxia Tours, explains that all of Egypt highly values its visitors, a major economic contributor to the country, and travellers are insulated from these changes by the citizens themselves. Wells Gray Tours has also sent staff to the destinations to reconfirm first hand the quality of the tour product and the stability of the regions where the tour visits. They are very confident in the value and safety of the tour experiences and are happy to speak with you directly about their experience. Embrace the wonder — experience Egypt & Jordan.

Tour Notes:

Currency & Expenses: Two currencies are used on this tour. In Egypt, the Egyptian pound is the currency and, as of January 2020, the exchange rate is approximately $1 CDN = 12 EGP. In Jordan, the currency is the dinar and $1 CDN = 0.5 JOD. Visa and Mastercard are accepted most places, but expect to pay cash in markets and smaller towns. ATMs are common and you will need a 4 digit PIN. Gratuities have been included for all meals, and for guides and drivers in Egypt and Jordan.

Changes: Pricing with our Egypt and Jordan ground operators is in US dollars. As this tour has been planned and priced 11 months before departure, it is possible that exchange fluctuations could affect the fare, in which case you will be notified of the increase or decrease. The flight cannot be booked until late January 2020 and cost has been estimated based on current prices and taxes. Changes in these could result in a fare adjustment until departure.

Documentation: A passport is required, valid 6 months after return date. Visas are required for both countries. The Egyptian visa is handled by the local tour operator on our behalf and the cost is included in the tour fare; we will notify you in ample time if this procedure changes. The Jordanian visa is obtained at Amman airport upon arrival for the whole group and the cost is included.

Weather: November is one of the best times to be in Egypt and Jordan as it is fall. Expect temperatures to be warm or hot and dry, around 20-30°C, although it will be cooler in the northern areas and always cool at night in the desert.

Beverages: It is not standard practice to include beverages with meals outside Canada. Beverages can be purchased and prices are reasonable.

Flight upgrades: Please enquire about current prices for upgrades on the flights from Vancouver to Cairo and return from Amman. Premium economy and business class may be available.

Triples: Triples are not available on this tour.

Activity: Due to the historic nature of many attractions, it will be necessary to climb stairs, walk on uneven surfaces, and walk 1-2 km without difficulty, plus stand for an extended time on walking tours. The walk to Petra is 2 km each way which takes most people 20-30 mins. You can opt out of the camel ride and some attractions, but there is no fare reduction. This tour is not appropriate for people who require the use of a walker. Some days are long or have early departures. There are many stops during this tour and you must be able to get on and off the coach by yourself without delaying your fellow travellers. Seeing everything on this tour requires active participation. The tour director, drivers and local guides have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance. If you are not capable of keeping up with the group or require frequent assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or some days of the tour. In extreme situations, you may be asked to leave the tour and travel home at your own expense; travel insurance will probably not cover you. Prior to Wells Gray accepting your booking, you will be required to sign a declaration that you are capable of travelling on an Activity Level 3 tour.

Itinerary

Friday, November 13: *Meals: L,D*
We depart from the Okanagan, Kamloops and Salmon Arm, drive to Vancouver, and stay overnight at the Inn at Westminster Quay. A get-acquainted dinner is planned.

Saturday, November 14: *Meals: B*
We drive to Vancouver airport, and our flight on Lufthansa to Frankfurt leaves about 1 pm.

Sunday, November 15: *Meals: D*
We change planes in Frankfurt, then continue to **Cairo, Egypt,** arriving in early evening. Local time is 10 hours ahead of Pacific Time. A greeter assists us to our coach where we meet our Egyptologist guide. We get a short introduction to our program as we drive to our hotel just outside of Cairo, the Meridien Pyramids, for our three night stay. This fabulous hotel, with two pools, a full spa and multiple restaurants, overlooks the famous Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx. A **Welcome to Egypt** dinner is included.

Monday, November 16: *Meals: B,L*
The morning is free to recoup after the long flight. The afternoon is devoted to touring **Cairo**, the capital of Egypt and the largest city in Africa and the Arab world. We begin with a guided tour at the renowned **Egyptian Museum**, learning through the artifacts the history of Egypt's pharaohs, from Narmer to Akhenaton and Ramses. One of the most impressive galleries is that of the treasures of Tutankhamen, notable because the tomb was discovered intact and unraided in 1922. Lunch is in Al Azhar Park on a hill overlooking medieval Cairo. We hear more about Islam through a visit to a magnificent mosque. Later, we tour the Oriental bazaar district of **Khan El Khalili,** with its busy shops and cafes.

Tuesday, November 17: *Meals: B,L*
First is a visit in small groups to an **orphanage**. We meet some of the children and the people working with them, and talk about why kids end up in the streets and what the orphanage is doing to help them. We may be able to get a list of orphanage needs in advance, in case you wish to bring a donation. After lunch, we head to Egypt's most famous site, the **Pyramids of Giza.** They date back to 2500 BC and are considered one of the Seven Ancient Wonders of the World. We travel to a high point for a panoramic view of the three pyramids, Cheops, Chephren, and Mycerinos, then have a close-up visit to one of them. We also stop at the greatest monumental structure in the ancient world, the **Sphinx**, a 73-metre long artifact carved from a single stone whose age and origin remain a mystery.

Wednesday, November 18: *Meals: B,L,D*
We take an early flight today to the southern city of **Abu Simbel**, famous for the giant statues of Ramses II. With the damming of the Nile in the early 1960s, the rising waters of Lake Nasser threatened the site, so a massive international rescue operation moved the temples to higher ground. We tour the twin temples this afternoon, then return this evening for the beautiful **sound and light show**, with seating in front of Ramses and his wife Nefertari. Overnight is at the Hotel Seti.

Thursday, November 19: *Meals: B, tea, D*
We fly to **Aswan** in the morning, located at the first cataract of the Nile. We visit the **High Dam**, considered an engineering marvel of the modern world. Because so much of Egyptian lifestyle and culture revolved around the annual flooding of the Nile River, the ability to control this had a dramatic effect on the country. Next, we tour the Granite Quarry to understand the stone masonry during pharaonic time. The **Unfinished Obelisk** is here, partly carved out of the stone about 1500 BC when it cracked and was abandoned. In the afternoon, we take a motorboat tour among the Aswan islands, piloted by a Nubian resident. We enjoy some birdwatching, walk through the village, and explore the small museum to learn about Nubian traditions, crafts, and beliefs. If children are still in the school, we may be able to visit them. A **classic afternoon tea** is served at the famed Old Cataract Hotel. We check in to our fabulous hotel, the Movenpick Aswan**,** located on Elephantine Island in the middle of the Nile. Relax by the pool, or look for unusual birds in the garden.

Friday, November 20: *Meals: B,L,D*
We take a boat to the western side of the river where our "ships of the desert" are waiting. Each person gets a **camel** and a camel keeper. Our tour takes us through the golden sands of the Nubian Desert (Nub was the pharaonic name for gold), and the view from atop the hump is enticing covering the desert, the Nile, the islands of Aswan, and the Mausoleum of Agha Khan. We ride to the old monastery and learn about the life of the monks. Back in Aswan, we board the cruise ship ***MS Acamar*** and settle in to our cabins, home for the next three nights. All staterooms have river views. Facilities include library, swimming pool,

lounge, boutique, jewelry shop, spa center, fitness machines, free internet in the lounge, laundry, medical clinic, and two elevators. Visit the website www.nilecruising.com, then choose *MS Acamar* from the list of deluxe cruises. After our first lunch in the dining room, we board felucca sailing boats for a trip around the islands. A stop is made at the **Botanical Garden** on Kitchener Island for a walk among ancient trees.

Saturday, November 21: *Meals: B,L,D*
The ship leaves Aswan during the night and we awaken at **Kom Ombo**. We walk from the harbour to the beautifully situated double temple dedicated to the gods of Haroreris and Sobek. Back on board, we cruise through the Nile River Valley, watching farmers working in the green fields as they have done for thousands of years. Our next excursion is the **Temple of Horus** at Edfu, one of the best preserved temples in Egypt. Dedicated to the falcon god Horus, the temple was built between 237 and 57 BC, and the inscriptions provide important information on language, myth and religion during the Greco-Roman period in ancient Egypt. Continuing through the locks at Esna, we arrive in Luxor in late evening.

Sunday, November 22: *Meals: B,L,D*
The city of **Luxor**, built on and around the ancient city of Thebes, is known as the world's largest open air museum and one of the world's most impressive tourism destinations. There are three separate areas of the city, and we begin today with the western bank of the Nile, the ancient necropolis of **Thebes,** and the gateway to the Valley of the Dead. First we stop at **Colossus of Memnon** with its two huge statues standing outside the mortuary temple of Amunhotep III. The **Valley of the Queens** is the burial place not only for queens but for beloved princes and princesses, and here we see elaborately decorated tombs with light colours. A fascinating stop is **Deir el Medine**, the village of the workers of Pharaoh, with its preserved narrow lanes and tombs with vivid colours. We also visit Howard Carter's house, the man who discovered the intact tomb of Tutankhamun in 1922. Then we enter the **Valley of the Kings**, resting place of the Pharaohs. The texts and pictures on the walls describe the transformation from life to death and are still being deciphered. There are 60 tombs here, and we visit three of the ten that are open to the public. Back in Luxor, we enjoy a final night on board the ship with entertainment.

Monday, November 23: *Meals: B,D*
After breakfast, we disembark the *Acamar*, then continue our exploration of Luxor. The amazing **Temple of Karnak** is the Vatican of the Pharaonic era, built over a 2000 year period. Here, everything is large: the monumental gates, the enormous halls of pillars, the statues, and the massive columns. This evening, join your Egyptologist guide for a walk through the illuminated **Luxor Temple.** Then we board a flight to Cairo and stay overnight near the airport.

Tuesday, November 24: *Meals: B,D*
Bidding a reluctant farewell to Egypt, we fly from Cairo to Amman, Jordan, where we are met by our local Jordanian guide. **Jordan** is a destination with a great deal of variety, including fascinating historical and Biblical sites, vast desert landscapes, the Dead Sea, the ancient city of Petra, and the famously warm Jordan hospitality. Jordanians are a passionate and proud people and the country truly welcomes visitors with open arms. Despite being squeezed between the hotspots of Iraq, Syria, Israel and the Palestinian Territories, Jordan is probably the safest and most stable country in the region. Our accommodation is at the superb Millenium Hotel.

Wednesday, November 25: *Meals: B,L,D*
South of Amman, we stop in **Madaba** to admire the fabulous mosaic map in St. George Church depicting the Holy Land in 600 AD. It is the oldest known geographic floor mosaic in art history and originally contained over two million tesserae. The next part of the journey is on the scenic **Kings Highway,** an ancient trade route that is referenced in the Bible. Upon arrival in Petra, we stay overnight in Nabatean Castle Hotel.

Thursday, November 26: *Meals: B,L,D*
The legacy of the Nabateans, an industrious Arab people that existed 2000 years ago, **Petra** is known as the pink city and is one of the new seven wonders of the world. We approach through a cool, narrow, one kilometre gorge which suddenly opens into a natural square, dominated by Petra's most famous monument shining in the dazzling sun, the Treasury. There are over 800 individual monuments here, and our visit focuses on the most impressive: the coloured tombs, baths, funerary halls, colonnaded streets, and the theatre. Lunch is in Petra. If you want some extra exercise, consider doing the climb up to see the Monastery. In mid-afternoon, we drive to **Wadi Rum** which is like a moon landscape of ancient valleys and towering, weathered sandstone mountains rising out of the white and pink coloured sands. We stay in this amazing setting at **Al Sultana Luxury Camp**. The individual tents (actually more like 5-star huts) have full bathrooms and showers. Admire this en-

chanted setting, surrounded by rugged mountains, the silent desert with no traffic, and a star-filled night sky overhead. Savour a traditional Bedouin dinner.

Friday, November 27: *Meals: B,L,D*
We are met by Bedouin drivers who take us on a tour through this magical valley. *Lawrence of Arabia* was filmed here in 1962. During this safari, we stop and enjoy tea with the Bedouins. During the rest of the morning, you could take a walk in the desert, swim in the pool, or ride a camel (extra cost). Returning north, we stop to admire the panoramic view of the Valley of Jordan and the Dead Sea from **Mount Nebo**, the last place visited by Moses where he described the Promised Land. We stay two nights at the luxurious Movenpick Resort at the north end of the legendary **Dead Sea.**

Saturday, November 28: *Meals: B,D*
The Dead Sea is a remarkable geographical phenomenon. The surface is 430 metres below sea level, the lowest land point on Earth. Yes, it is true that you can **float in the Dead Sea** while reading a newspaper and not get it wet. The salinity is about 32% which is 10 times saltier than the ocean. This is a leisure day — float on the healing waters, roll in the black mud, or lie in the sun. You can also contemplate who has been here before you since the days of Sodom and Gomora through Moses, Jesus and other Biblical people. Enjoy all the wonderful amenities of this resort; you may want to book an appointment in the Zara Spa.

Sunday, November 29: *Meals: B,L,D*
We leave the Dead Sea at midday. After an hour's drive, we switch to jeeps for the rough road into the mountainous Dana Biosphere Reserve where the **Feynan Eco Lodge** is located. Enter an enchanting world of authentic Bedouin hospitality and the natural beauty of the magnificent Wadi Feynan. This idyllic lodge is lighted by solar panels and candles, and has been hailed as one of the best 25 eco-lodges in the world by National Geographic. In late afternoon, we take a short walk to enjoy the sunset from a panoramic viewpoint. As dusk falls, you can help the staff light all the candles. After a unique dinner, there is star-gazing from the hotel roof.

Monday, November 30: *Meals: B,L,D*
We leave Feynan after lunch and return to "civilization" in Amman. We stay again at the Millenium Hotel. This evening, we learn about traditional Jordanian cuisine during a **cooking class,** and dinner is the delicious result of our prowess.

Tuesday, December 1: *Meals: B,L,D*
Our day starts with a brief city tour of **Amman**, the political and cultural capital of the country. Thought to be the most western-oriented of the major Arab cities, it is also one of the richest and oldest. Leaving the city, we drive through the hills of Gilead to the ancient Roman city of **Jerash**. One of the most complete remains of a provincial Roman city in existence, Jerash was buried under sand and rubble for centuries, until 1806, when a German traveller discovered the site. We visit the **Arc of Triumph**, the oval plaza, the thistle, the columns, the Temple of Aphrodite, and the Roman Theatre to experience its outstanding acoustics. After lunch, we visit the **Ajloun Citadel** which dates to the 12th century. A "Farewell to Jordan" dinner is planned. We have arranged to keep your Millenium rooms until midnight, then we go to the airport and our flight on Lufthansa leaves about 3 am.

Wednesday, December 2:
We change planes in Frankfurt, arrive in Vancouver at noon, then take connecting flights to BC interior cities.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of $800 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due August 6, 2020. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Cancellation Policy: Up to July 6, 2020, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of $100 per person. From July 7 to August 6, the cancellation charge is $800 per person (your deposit). From August 7 to September 4, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. From September 5 to October 6, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After October 6, there is no refund.

Fare Changes: Changes to currency exchange rates or taxes and surcharges from airlines, the cruise line, and other tour suppliers can occur at any time and are beyond the control of Wells Gray Tours, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up until the time of departure.

Travel Insurance: A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

Tour 25: This is a Tour 25 departure, meaning the tour is limited to 25 participants, a more intimate travel experience.

Photo Credit: Galaxia Tours

e-points: This tour earns 187 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points, or e-points. One e-point equals $1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until August 6.

Consumer Protection BC Licences: Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924, Victoria 65842

EGYPT & JORDAN — November 13, 2020

This tour is rated "Activity Level 3" by the tour planners at Wells Gray Tours. This rating is the highest activity level assigned to a tour, meaning that there is a lot of activity which could include (but is not limited to) the following:

- **You can walk 3 kilometres in 1 hour.**
- **You can walk on desert sand or uneven rocky surfaces, and use steep stairs in ancient ruins.**
- **You can access boat docks or use a ship gangway that may have a steep walkway.**
- **You can handle some long travel days with evening activities.**
- **You can walk long distances in big airports without assistance and carry your hand luggage.**
- **You can climb into a jeep and handle a possibly rough ride.**

Since a few people who are not capable of doing the above activities can hold up the entire group, Wells Gray Tours expects everybody booking a tour with "Activity Level 3" to be reasonably fit. You must be able to participate in activities without the assistance of the tour director, guide or other travellers.

Please read the following and sign acknowledging that these statements are true. The tour deposit will be due after you have signed this statement.

- **I want to travel on a Wells Gray tour with a rating of "Activity Level 3".**

- **I have read the brochure with the full itinerary and description of the activities that are typical on this tour.**

- **I understand that this is the highest activity level that a Wells Gray tour can be rated.**

- **I am confident that I can participate in tour activities at this level and I will not hold up or delay the other members of the tour.**

- **I do not require the use of a wheelchair or a walker.**

- **If my physical condition changes between booking and departure date such that I can no longer do this level of activity, I will notify the Wells Gray office or agent. The specified penalties will apply for cancelling and your travel insurance may cover this.**

- **If I am not capable of keeping up with the group or I require frequent assistance, I understand that the tour director has the right to stop me from participating in some activities or some days of the tour. In extreme situations, I acknowledge that I may be required to leave the tour and travel home at my own expense, and that travel insurance will probably not cover me.**

This statement has been implemented by Wells Gray Tours to maintain high quality itineraries, accurate timing, and the enjoyment of all tour participants. Each person booking this tour must sign this statement. Thank you for your understanding.

Signature_____ **Name** _____ **Date**_____