An Exclusive Small Group Tour for Alumni and Friends of Brandeis University

Featuring Jonathan Decter, Edmond J. Safra Professor of Sephardic Studies in the Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies

Egypt & the Eternal Nile
December 6-20, 2024

15 days from $6,497 total price from Boston, New York
($5,795 air, land & cruise inclusive plus $702 airline taxes and fees)

This tour is provided by Odysseys Unlimited, seven-time honoree Travel + Leisure’s World’s Best Tour Operators award.
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Join Brandeis Travelers on a spectacular 15-day journey to experience the ancient wonders of Egypt. Discover thousands of years of history, art, and culture as you explore storied lands and cruise the legendary Nile River.

Begin your journey in Cairo with a visit to Memphis, Egypt's first capital. Next, visit Sakkara, a 3,000-year-old burial site and the astounding Giza Pyramids guarded by the Great Sphinx. After touring Aswan’s massive dam, embark upon a four-night Lake Nasser cruise through ancient Nubia. Return to Aswan for a three-night Nile voyage aboard a felucca — a traditional wooden sailboat. Discover Kom Ombo’s unusual temple and Edfu’s remarkably preserved Temple of Horus. In Luxor, experience awe-inspiring temple complexes. Conclude in Cairo with a tour of the exotic Khan el-Khalili bazaar, historic Old Cairo, and the acclaimed Egyptian Museum, the world’s largest repository of Pharaonic relics.

In partnership with local guides and experts our tour will be led by Jonathan Decter, Edmond J. Safra Professor of Sephardic Studies in the Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies at Brandeis, who will enrich and inform the journey with his knowledge of Egypt and Jews of the Islamic world.

Join us for a uniquely Brandeisan experience — one that offers stimulating conversation, camaraderie, and connection with other intellectually-curious alumni and friends.

Make your reservation today as space is limited and we expect this small-group tour will fill quickly.

Sincerely,

F. Patricia Fisher
Vice President, Alumni Relations
Brandeis University

BRANDEIS RESERVATION FORM: EGYPT & THE ETERNAL NILE

To reserve your place on tour, please call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765. Please have the information outlined below available to share with an Odysseys Unlimited Travel Counselor.

If you prefer, you may also complete this Reservation Form and submit it to Odysseys Unlimited’s office. Once this request is received, a Travel Counselor from Odysseys Unlimited will contact you within two business days to securely take your credit card information for the deposit. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA, or by personal check. If paying by check, please make check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and include with the form. Final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure.

Send to: Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.
Attn: Special Interest Groups
One Newton Place
275 Washington Street, Suite 300
Newton, MA 02458

EGYPT & THE ETERNAL NILE • DECEMBER 6-20, 2024

I/We would like to request __________ place(s). (Deposit amount is $500 per person.)

Full Passport Name ____________________________ Date of Birth __________ Gender ____ Class Year ______

Full Passport Name ____________________________ Date of Birth __________ Gender ____ Class Year ______

Address ______________________________________________________________________________________

City __________________________________________ State ___________________ ZIP ____________________

Home Phone (______)____________________________ Cell Phone (______)_____________________________

E-mail(s) ______________________________________ Badge Name(s) __________________________________

Please book my/our air from _________________________________ I/We request a Business Class upgrade ❑

I will share a room with __________________________________ I request a single room (limited availability) ❑

Post-Tour “Jordan: Petra & Amman” Extension: Please sign me/us up ❑
Day 1: Depart U.S. for Cairo, Egypt

We arrive in the Egyptian capital and transfer to our hotel. As guests’ arrival times may vary greatly, we have no group activities or meals planned.

Day 2: Arrive Cairo

We arrive in the Egyptian capital and transfer to our hotel. As guests’ arrival times may vary greatly, we have no group activities or meals planned.

Day 3: Cairo

After a morning briefing, our full-day tour begins at the open-air museum at Memphis, Egypt’s first capital (3100 BCE). We continue on to the necropolis at Sakkara then to the astounding Pyramids of Giza, the wonders of antiquity that have drawn visitors for millennia. Tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. B, L, D

Day 4: Cairo/Aswan/Embark Lake Nasser Cruise

Early this morning we fly to Aswan. Upon arrival we visit the Aswan High Dam, considered a marvel of engineering when completed in 1965. Then we visit the Nubia Museum, an acclaimed showcase of Nubian art and architecture with more than 3,000 ancient relics and 90 monumental pieces. From here we board our Lake Nasser ship in time for lunch then disembark to explore the ruins of the acclaimed Temples of Philae. Tonight we dine on board as we overnight in Aswan. B, L, D

Day 5: Lake Nasser Cruising – Kalabsha Temples/Wadi el-Seboua

This morning we see two important New Kingdom temples that, like Kalabsha, were dismantled and relocated to make way for Lake Nasser. We explore Wadi el-Seboua, the next largest of all the pharaonic temples after Abu Simbel, and see the Temple of Dakka, with its huge, well-preserved pylon. Returning

Accompanied by an expert Egyptian guide, this singular small group journey through antiquity travels from vibrant Cairo and the Great Pyramids to Abu Simbel and the Upper Nile for a fascinating cruise on Lake Nasser. Then: a classic voyage along the Lower Nile from Aswan to Luxor before returning to Cairo.

Small Group Tour Highlights

Cairo’s intriguing ancient sites, including the Great Pyramids, Sphinx, Memphis, Sakkara • Old Cairo touring • Renowned Egyptian Museum • Abu Simbel’s dramatic temples • Sound & Light show at Abu Simbel • Lake Nasser cruise through ancient Nubian homeland • Aswan’s temples at Kalabsha • Nile felucca sail • Nile River cruise • Aswan Dam visit • Ancient temple complexes at Karnak and Luxor • Valley of the Kings and Valley of the Queens • Egypt’s inestimable historic atmosphere

Day Itinerary Hotel Rating
1 Depart U.S. for Cairo
2-3 Cairo Kempinski Nile Garden City Deluxe
4-7 Aswan/Lake Nasser cruise M/S Steigenberger Omar el Khayam Sup. First Class
8-10 Nile cruise M/S Premium Deluxe
11 Luxor Steigenberger Nile Palace Sup. First Class
12-14 Cairo Kempinski Nile Garden City Deluxe
15 Depart Cairo for U.S.

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.

Day 1: Depart U.S. for Cairo, Egypt

Day 2: Arrive Cairo

Day 3: Cairo

Day 4: Cairo/Aswan/Embark Lake Nasser Cruise

Day 5: Lake Nasser Cruising – Kalabsha Temples/Wadi el-Seboua

Day 6: Lake Nasser Cruising – Wadi el-Seboua/Amada

Cover photo: We travel to the Giza plateau to see the legendary pyramids, built 5,000 years ago as royal tombs.
to our ship, we sail on to Amada, where we encounter the oldest of Nubia’s Egyptian temples, the 18th-dynasty Temple of Amada. \textbf{B,L,D}

**Day 7: Lake Nasser Cruising – Amada/Kasr Ibrim/Abu Simbel**

We sail this morning to Kasr Ibrim, the last remaining Nubian settlement in its original location. As it is forbidden to go ashore here, we learn about this ancient site while overlooking it from the ship’s sun deck. Then we continue on to Abu Simbel’s massive complex of temples guarded by statues of Ramses II and his wife Nefertari, with well-preserved murals inside. \textbf{B,L,D}

**Day 8: Disembark/Abu Simbel/Aswan/Embark Nile Cruise Ship**

We disembark then travel by coach to Aswan, where we board our Nile ship. This afternoon we take a relaxing sail aboard small 	extit{feluccas}, replicas of ancient Nile sailboats. \textbf{B,L,D}

**Day 9: Nile Cruising – Aswan/Kom Ombo/Edfu**

We cruise today to the site of the ancient trading town at Kom Ombo, with its unusual double temple and outstanding Nile views. Then we sail on to Edfu, where tonight we attend a shipboard party. \textbf{B,L,D}

**Day 10: Nile Cruising – Edfu/Luxor/East Bank**

This morning we visit Edfu’s Temple of Horus, Egypt’s best preserved ancient temple. Then we cruise to Luxor, the world’s “greatest open-air museum,” whose vast temple complexes, tombs, and statues dating from 2755 BCE represent the pinnacle of Egyptian architecture. Today we explore the East Bank, home of Karnak, the greatest temple complex of them all, whose ruins stretch for more than a mile. We also visit Luxor Temple, whose builders included both Tutankhamun and Alexander the Great. Back on board, tonight we enjoy a show of Middle Eastern belly dancing. \textbf{B,L,D}

**Day 11: Disembark/Luxor/West Bank**

We have the choice to rise very early to see the West Bank from above on an optional hot air balloon ride. After we disembark our ship later this morning, we tour the haunting Valley of the Kings, where 34 royal tombs feature magnificent paintings; the Valley of the Queens; and the dramatic Temple of Hatshepsut honoring one of the few female pharaohs. We also see the massive Colossi of Memnon, two 64-foot-high statues of Amenhotep III that once guarded the gates of his own tomb. \textbf{B,L}

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**Post-Tour Extension**

December 20-24, 2024

**Jordan: Petra & Amman**

5 days/4 nights for $1,795 total price

Single Supplement: $435

Discover the fabled “rose-red city, half as old as time” on this exciting exploration. Plus: ancient Jerash and the capital of Amman.

Your Tour Price Includes

- Air transportation Cairo/Amman
- 4 nights’ accommodations: 2 nights in Petra at Mövenpick Resort Petra (Sup. First Class), 2 nights in Amman at Grand Hyatt Amman (Deluxe)
- 9 meals: 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners
- Extensive included sightseeing: Madaba (City of Mosaics), Mt. Nebo pilgrimage site, full day at Petra, Amman’s Roman theatre and Citadel, Roman ruins of Jerash
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation
- Gratuities for dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

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The magnificent temples at Abu Simbel commemorate Ramses II and his queen, Nefertari.
Day 12: Luxor/Cairo  We fly to Cairo today, where this afternoon we visit the Khan el-Khalili bazaar.  

Day 13: Cairo  Our touring today begins at the acclaimed Egyptian Museum, the world's greatest repository of ancient relics. Then we tour the Citadel of Saladin housing the alabaster Mosque of Mohamed Ali.  

Day 14: Cairo  This morning we encounter Old Cairo, the district where early capital cities once stood. We visit 5th-century St. Sergius Church, the Coptic church of el-Muallaqa, and the active 10th-century St. George's church. Mid-day we return to our hotel where tonight we enjoy a farewell dinner.  

Day 15: Depart for U.S. Very early this morning we transfer to the airport for our return flight to the U.S.  

Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities; all flights within Egypt
- 13 nights’ accommodations: 6 nights in Deluxe and Superior First Class hotels; 7 nights aboard Deluxe and Superior First Class ships
- 32 meals: 13 breakfasts, 10 lunches, 9 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip, including shore excursions
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

Tour Departs: December 6, 2024

Prices include int’l airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

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Land Only (transfers not included) $5,395

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy in an outside cabin on both cruises and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of $702, which are subject to change until final payment is made. Single travelers please add $1,395. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Airline upgrades on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight:
- Business Class – $4,995 per person; Premium Economy – $1,695 per person in addition to the above costs (upgrades are subject to availability and pricing is subject to change).

Please note: This trip involves considerable walking on uneven terrain and at sites of ancient ruins. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to its fullest.

For questions about the tour or to make a booking, call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765 Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–7:00 PM, Eastern Time

One must travel, to learn.”
– Mark Twain

Faculty Lecturer

Jonathan Decter is the Edmond J. Safra Professor of Sephardic Studies in the Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies at Brandeis University. He is a specialist in the Jews of the Islamic world (including Egypt) during the medieval period and in the Jews of medieval Spain. His research focuses on the literature, thought, and social history of Arabic-speaking Jewry, and on the interplay of Islamic and Jewish traditions throughout the medieval Mediterranean. His most recent book, *Dominion Built of Praise: Panegyric and Legitimacy Among Jews in the Medieval Mediterranean* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018) won the National Jewish Book Award in Sephardic Culture and was a finalist for the Jordan Schnitzer Book Award. His first book, *Iberian Jewish Literature: Between al-Andalus and Christian Europe* (Indiana University Press, 2007), was awarded the 2008 Salo W. Baron Prize for best first book in Jewish Studies.
GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a $500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

Not Included in Tour Price: Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package; costs of passports and visas, if required; immunizations and inoculations; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; communication charges; optional sightseeing or shore excursions; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and shipboard personnel, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: $10-$15 per traveler, per day); and travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Cancellations, Refunds, and Changes: If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.’s receipt of your notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: cancel 95 days or more before departure: $200 charge; cancel 94-65 days before departure: 50% of tour price; cancel 64-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; cancel 29-0 days before departure: no refund. If you make any changes to your reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a $100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure.

Upon reservation, you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth. Your name as it appears on your passport will be imprinted on your ticket(s). You must provide all necessary identification to the airline(s) prior to departure, including all visas, passports, and/or immunizations required. You must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own. We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our tour itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail us to inquire and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, Brandeis University and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

Health and Medical Issues: We request that you be in good health to participate in this tour. There is a considerable amount of walking, and you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own. We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our tour itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail us to inquire and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, Brandeis University and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

Air Transportation – Important Information: Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown, and contracts with those airlines the company feels provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments. Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including, but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase nonrefundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.

Please Note: The professor’s participation is contingent on a minimum number of booked guests.