



THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE
The University of Chicago
1155 East 58th Street
Chicago, IL 60637-1540

THE WONDERS OF ANCIENT EGYPT

MARCH 12 – 28, 2011

ESCORTED BY DR. ROBERT K. RITNER



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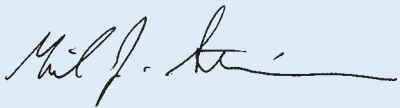
DR. ROBERT K. RITNER

Dear Members and Friends of the Oriental Institute,

For over a century, the Oriental Institute has been one of the foremost academic institutions working in Egypt. From James Henry Breasted's expeditions in the early 1900s, to the establishment of the Epigraphic Survey in 1924, and down to the present day, we have had a continuous and distinguished record of research in the Nile Valley. Our unparalleled scholarly expertise is the reason why you should travel to Egypt with an Oriental Institute Travel Program. Whether this will be your first visit to Egypt or a return, we have the experience and access to show you what really counts. Our programs go far beyond the usual tours, calling upon our own in-country staff and colleagues to give you up-to-date information about current research. Our specially designed itinerary includes the most important sites from all periods of Egyptian history and even some "off the beaten track" gems. One of the highlights of the tour is the visit to Chicago House, the headquarters of the Epigraphic Survey in Luxor, where you will meet our staff of Egyptologists and artists, and hear about their vital work documenting the reliefs and inscriptions of ancient Thebes.

Your tour leader, Dr. Robert K. Ritner, has been leading Oriental Institute tours to Egypt regularly for thirty years. Dr. Ritner's familiarity with the sites, his vast knowledge, and his enthusiasm for Egypt will make this trip the experience of a lifetime. Space is limited and our tours fill rapidly — I encourage you to join us!

Dr. Gil J. Stein



Director, Oriental Institute
Professor, Near Eastern Archaeology



COVER: Wooden face from a mummiform coffin, from the Ramesseum, Thebes. Dynasty 22, 946-735 BCE; from the collection of the Oriental Institute Museum (OIM E1316).



SATURDAY, MARCH 12:

Depart Chicago on Lufthansa Airlines.

SUNDAY, MARCH 13: CAIRO

Arrive into Cairo and transfer to Mena House Oberoi Hotel, located at the foot of the Great Pyramid. This evening we will meet with Dr. Ritner for dinner.

MENA HOUSE OBEROI HOTEL (D)

MONDAY, MARCH 14: CAIRO

We begin our touring with an exploration of Memphis, the first capital of a united Egypt, and Sakkara, the necropolis of Memphis. At Sakkara we will tour the Step Pyramid complex of Djoser which predates the Giza pyramids and is the world's first monumental building constructed entirely in stone. We will also visit the Sakkara Museum, the smaller Pyramid of Teti, a 6th Dynasty king whose burial chamber is covered with Pyramid Texts to ensure the survival of his soul, the tombs of the nobles Ti and Ptahhotep and Mereruka.

MENA HOUSE OBEROI HOTEL (B/L/D)

TUESDAY, MARCH 15: CAIRO

Our touring today brings us to the only surviving representatives of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx. We will have an opportunity to enter one of the pyramids and to visit the museum where the remarkably preserved remains of the Solar Boat of Cheops are displayed.

MENA HOUSE OBEROI HOTEL (B/L)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16: CAIRO

The focus of this day is the Egyptian Museum where we will view the highlights of its huge collection including the mummy room and the objects from the tomb of Tutankhamun. After visiting Beit El-Sennari, the first house of Egyptology, touring continues with a walking tour in Islamic Cairo. This warren of streets is lined with a multitude of fascinating architecture. We will visit Al-Azhar Mosque,

an accumulation of centuries of styles and influences. We end our walk in the renowned Suq Khan al-Khalili.

MENA HOUSE OBEROI HOTEL (B/L/D)

THURSDAY, MARCH 17: LUXOR

After a morning flight to Luxor, touring begins at the magnificent sanctuary of Amun-Re at Karnak with its maze of monumental gateways, obelisks, pillared halls and subsidiary shrines. We will also visit Karnak's open-air museum. The remainder of the day will be at leisure. This evening we have been invited to a reception at Chicago House, the home of the Oriental Institute Epigraphic Survey.

STEIGENBERGER HOTEL (B/D)

FRIDAY, MARCH 18: LUXOR

Today we will cross the Nile to visit the tombs of the Valleys of the Kings and Queens. Among the tombs to be visited are those of Tutankhamun and three other pharaohs selected from the tombs opened to the public today. We will also visit the Tomb of Roy as well as the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut at Deir el-Bahri, one of the most spectacular monuments in Egypt, and the Colossi of Memnon

STEIGENBERGER HOTEL (B/L/D)

SATURDAY, MARCH 19: LUXOR

Returning to the Nile's west bank, we tour some of the hundreds of tombs of the nobles, spread over two square miles including the tombs of Ramose, Snefer, Menna and Rekhmire. These tombs are of special interest for their naturalistic murals which give us an intimate view of life in ancient Egypt. We will also stop at the ancient village of the artisans, Deir el-Medina, one of the best-preserved town sites in Egypt and the subject of the television series "Ancient Lives."

STEIGENBERGER HOTEL (B/L/D)

OPTION: An early morning hot-air balloon ride over the spectacular monuments of Luxor.

RIGHT: Epigraphic Survey team members from Chicago House at work in the small Amun temple, Medinet Habu.

SUNDAY, MARCH 20: LUXOR

Drive north through villages of baked-mud houses and lush cultivated lands bordering the Nile to Dendera and visit the Temple of Hathor, goddess of love, music and wine. Although this temple was built largely in the first century BCE, it occupies the site of a much older building. On the roof of the temple is a plaster cast of the famous Zodiac of Dendera (original in Paris), one of three circular representations of the heavens found in Egypt. We continue to Abydos where we will tour the Temple of Seti I, viewing the famous List of Kings and some of the most beautifully painted reliefs surviving from Pharaonic times, and the nearby small temple of Ramesses II.

STEIGENBERGER HOTEL (B/L/D)

MONDAY, MARCH 21: CRUISE/LUXOR

This morning our luggage will be transferred to the Amarante Nile Cruise, our floating hotel for the next four nights. We will continue our touring on the west bank with the temples and chapels of Medinet Habu, the largest built by Ramesses III, and the Ramesseum, where the fallen statue of Ramesses II inspired Shelley's famous poem, "Ozymandias." The morning ends with the rarely visited tombs of Kheruef and Ankh-Hor. We will have our lunch on board the Amarante and, in the late afternoon, visit Luxor Temple beginning at the newly renovated "Avenue of Sphinxes," which originally linked Luxor and Karnak temples. We will examine the Roman fresco paintings restored jointly by Chicago House and the American Research Center in Egypt, as well as the open-air museum and blockyard, conserved by Chicago House.

AMARANTE NILE CRUISE (B/L/D)



TUESDAY, MARCH 22: CRUISE/EDFU

This morning we will drive to Esna to visit the half-buried Temple of Esna, dedicated to the ram-headed creator god Khnum-Re and dating to the Roman Period. After our visit, the Amarante ship will make a special stop to pick us up at the Esna dock. We sail on to Edfu for the night.

AMARANTE NILE CRUISE (B/L/D)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23: CRUISE/ASWAN

Touring begins at the Temple of Edfu, a well-preserved Ptolemaic temple of the falcon god Horus. We then sail on to Kom Ombo. Often called the Acropolis of Egypt for its spectacular site overlooking the Nile, Kom Ombo is unusual for its equal dedication to two gods, Horus the Elder and the crocodile god, Sobek. We will study the unique architectural features of this temple before sailing on to Aswan.

AMARANTE NILE CRUISE (B/L/D)

THURSDAY, MARCH 24: CRUISE/ASWAN

Today's touring includes the granite quarries where an unfinished obelisk remains embedded in its native stone. This immense monument would have been Egypt's tallest monolith, weighing over 2.3 million pounds at its completion. We continue to the High Dam, a project which forever changed the Nile's annual cycle. The morning ends with the Ptolemaic temple dedicated to Isis, known as Philae for the island on which it was originally built. This afternoon we sail by felucca to Elephantine Island to visit the excavations and Nilometer, an ancient means of measuring the height of the Nile River.

AMARANTE NILE CRUISE (B/L/D)

FRIDAY, MARCH 25: ASWAN

We disembark this morning and fly to Abu Simbel, where the rock-cut temples of Ramesses II and his favorite queen Nefertari have been saved from the rising waters of the Nile resulting from the Aswan High Dam.

The temples were built to honor the deified royal pair and to awe the Nubians, and that awesome feeling exists today no less than it did 3,200 years ago. Returning to Aswan, we spend the remainder of the day visiting the Museum of Nubian Civilization.

ASWAN MOVENPICK HOTEL (B/L/D)

SATURDAY, MARCH 26: CAIRO

Touring begins at the Kalabsha Temple built in the reign of Augustus on the site of an earlier sanctuary founded by Amenhotep II. The temple, which was later converted to a church, was originally dedicated to the Nubian god Mandulis, who was associated with Isis. In the same antiquities park we will visit the relocated Greco-Roman kiosk of Qertassi and the shrine of Ramesses II from Beit el-Wali. This afternoon we will fly back to Cairo.

HOTEL INTERCONTINENTAL SEMIRAMIS (B/L)

SUNDAY, MARCH 27: CAIRO

After a full day of leisure, we will gather for our farewell dinner.

OPTION: A morning Old Cairo tour, which includes the Coptic Museum and the Coptic Church of Abu Sarga.

HOTEL INTERCONTINENTAL SEMIRAMIS (B/D)

MONDAY, MARCH 28: CAIRO/CHICAGO

Transfer to the airport for our Lufthansa flights to Chicago.

(B)

ROBERT K. RITNER is a Professor of Egyptology at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago and was from 1991 to 1996 the first Marilyn M. Simpson Assistant Professor of Egyptology at Yale University. Dr. Ritner is the author of the books *The Libyan Anarchy: Inscriptions from Egypt's Third Intermediate Period* and *The Mechanics of Ancient Egyptian Magical Practice*, and over 100 publications on Egyptian social and political history, religion, magic, medicine, language and literature. In association with The Field Museum of Chicago, Dr. Ritner was the academic advisor for its current Egypt installation and for two British Museum exhibits. In addition, he served as consultant and lecturer for the traveling Cairo Museum exhibit *Quest for Immortality: Treasures of Ancient Egypt*. He has led Oriental Institute tours to Egypt regularly for thirty years.



THE WONDERS OF ANCIENT EGYPT

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Please make reservations for the following people:

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- Optional Old Cairo tour @ \$50 per person.
- I(We) have read the Tour Conditions and Responsibility clause and agree to all therein.

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New York, NY 10016

For additional information, please call Archaeological Tours at: (Toll free) 1-866-740-5130 or (e-mail) archtours@aol.com.



COST OF TOUR: \$7685
(includes group airfare from Chicago)

Single Supplement: \$1270

Land Only: \$6655
(Without group airfare)

THE TOUR RATE INCLUDES:

- Transatlantic group flights from Chicago on Lufthansa Airlines and flights within Egypt. Surface travel by air-conditioned motor coach as detailed in the itinerary.
- Accommodations in deluxe hotels/cruise ship based on two persons sharing a twin-bedded room with private bath as listed or similar.
- Meals as listed in the detailed itinerary, table d'hôte.
B – Breakfast L – Lunch D – Dinner
- Baggage handling for one suitcase per person.
- All gratuities to tour escorts, guides, drivers and porters.
- A \$400 contribution to The Oriental Institute.

NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR COST: Passport and visa fees, excess baggage charges, transfers to and from airports for tour participants arriving or departing on flights other than the group flights, insurance, beverages and items not on the menu.

TARIFFS: Based on foreign exchange rates in effect June 2010 and a minimum of 15 participants. Airfare is based on a group fare and includes all internal flights. All rates subject to change.

DEPOSITS & PAYMENTS: A \$1000 deposit is required to book. Final payment is due sixteen weeks before departure.

SINGLE ROOMS: For those traveling alone but who prefer to share with another, we will endeavor to work out congenial rooming arrangements. If impossible, or if a single room must be assigned due to the roommate's canceling or incompatibility, or for any other reason, even if at the last moment or while on tour, the single supplement or prorata thereof must be collected.

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