

VPR
VERMONT PUBLIC RADIO



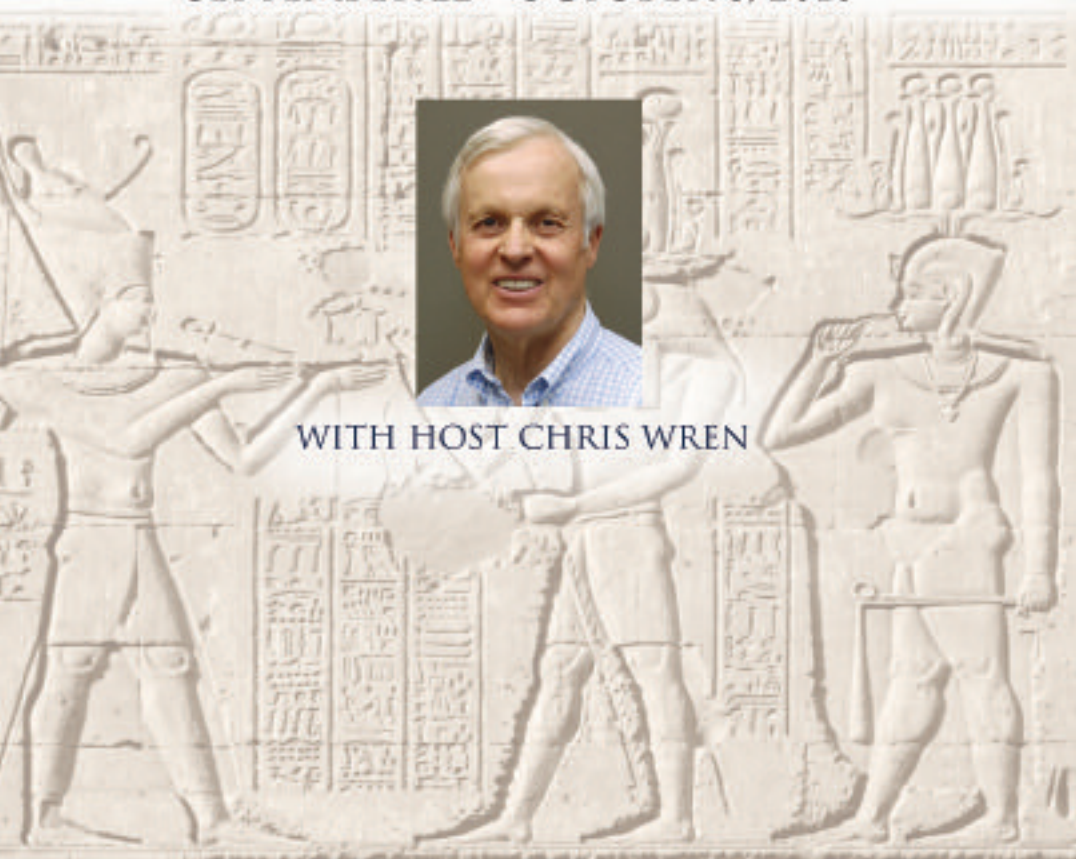
CITIZENS OF THE WORLD TOURS
PRESENTS

EGYPT

SEPTEMBER 22 - OCTOBER 6, 2010



WITH HOST CHRIS WREN



EGYPT

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- A lecture by Dr Zahi Hawass, Head of the Supreme Council of Antiquities
- We will get special permission from Dr. Hawass to open tombs at Sakkara not open to the public.
- We will have Dr Mark Lehner, a famous Egyptologist to guide us through his site (a discovery at the workers village) next to the pyramids. The workers were the builders of the Pyramids.
- We will meet with modern Egyptian artists who have won international prizes and will be visiting their galleries.
- We will visit the new ancient Egyptian Textile Museum which opened recently.
- We will also visit to the Museum of Islamic Ceramics at Zamalek.

INCLUDED:

- All hotels and cruise ship (All 5 star)
- All breakfasts, lunches while sightseeing and on the cruise, 8 dinners
- Bus transportation
- In-country flights
- Local guides
- All organized activities
- Airport taxes
- Gratuities in hotels, restaurants (as part of the itinerary), bus driver, guide and aboard the ship
- Water on buses while touring in Cairo and sightseeing during the cruise (water or drinks during meals not included)

Price per person for 12 days is \$6,560. Single room supplement \$1,150. Round trip airfare from Burlington add approximately \$1,200.

Register by phone (toll free 877-479-7040) or e-mail Carrie McDougal: carrie@culturalcrossroads.com.



EGYPT

Day 1 – Depart Boston for Cairo

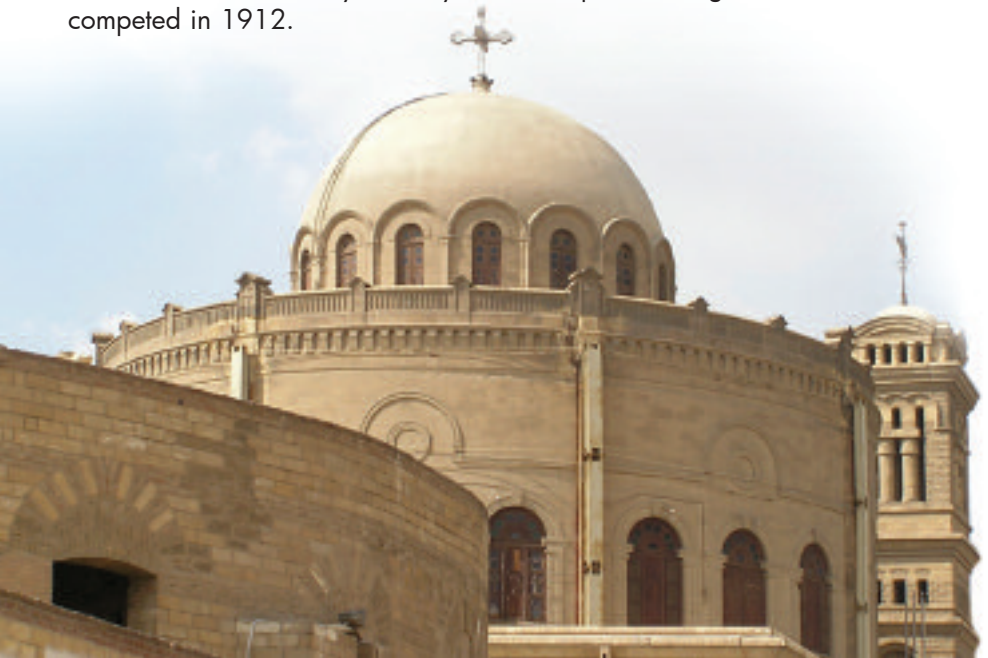
Day 2 - Cairo

Our VPR/Cultural Crossroads representative will meet and assist us through immigration and customs formalities including our entry visa, and transfer us to our hotel. Dinner is on our own.

DAY 3 – Old Islamic and Coptic Egypt

Today we have a full day tour to Old Cairo (Misr al Qadima), rich in the history of Christianity. The tour will include visits to major Islamic and Coptic sights including the Mosque of Ibn Tulon, built in 879 AD entirely of mud brick and one of the oldest and largest mosques in Egypt; The Hanging Church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, which got its name from the Arabic Al-Muallaqa meaning “suspended” as it was built over the Water gate of an old Roman fortress; The Coptic Museum, with rare collections of Coptic art, considered the best in the world, and the Ben Ezra Synagogue, Egypt’s oldest synagogue dating back to the time of the Old Testament.

Lunch will be at a local Egyptian restaurant followed by a tour to the most fascinating part of Cairo....The City of the Dead. Here we will meet a third generation glass blower in his narrow one room factory and storefront. On to the Al-Rifa'i Mosque. King Farouk, Egypt’s last king, was buried here along with members of the Royal family. The Mosque was begun in 1869 and completed in 1912.



DAY 4 – Cairo – Luxor – East Bank

Transfer from the hotel to the airport for a short flight to Luxor. We will be met and taken to our cruise ship which will be our home base for the next 7 nights. After lunch on board we will explore Luxor and have a tour of the Luxor Museum, a small museum of ancient Egyptian artwork, statues, and funerary pieces. We will visit the Temple of Luxor which sits along the banks of the Nile in the center of town. In the evening we will enjoy the Sound and Light Show at the Temple of Karnak, before returning to dinner and the night on board the ship



DAY 5 – Luxor – West Bank - Esna

Today we will have an early morning visit to the West Bank. As we enter the West Bank we will see the Colossi of Memnon, two large statues which are monuments that once protected the tomb of Amenhotep III (mid 1300's BC). We will also visit Hatshepsut Temple. The temple sits at the base of a mountain and was the mortuary temple for Queen Hatshepsut from the 18th dynasty. We will tour the Valley of the Kings and Queens, with over 60 tombs in just the Valley of the Kings alone. Built in the Theban Hills, pharaohs hoped that their hidden tombs would not be discovered by robbers and that all their possessions would go with them to the afterworld.

Returning to the cruise ship for lunch we will start sailing toward the small farming community of Esna. We will go through the Lock at Esna which is a highlight in itself! Continue to sail to Edfu where we will be on board for dinner and overnight.

DAY 6 – Edfu – Kom Ombo – Aswan

Our day begins in Edfu to visit the Edfu Temple, the best preserved of all the temples of the Pharaohs. It was begun in 237 B.C and took 200 years to complete. From there we continue sailing to Kom Ombo and visit the temple dedicated to Sobek, the crocodile God and Haroeris, the winged God. We return to the ship after an interesting day and have dinner and the night on board.



DAY 7 - Aswan

This morning we tour some of major sites in Aswan including the Unfinished Obelisk. This 125 foot long, 1,190 ton piece of granite lies in the quarry where it cracked while being cut. On to the High Dam which was completed in 1971. It created a 300 mile-long lake displacing many Nubians. From here we go to the Temple of Philae, once an important place of pilgrimage. When the High Dam was built, the temple was moved stone by stone to a higher spot so it would not be submerged. We will return to the cruise ship for lunch. In the afternoon we will visit the Nubian Museum where the Director of the Museum will give us a private tour and a talk about the history and heritage of Nubia. Nubia sits between Aswan in Egypt and Khartoum in Sudan. The Director will take us to visit a Nubian village where we will meet with the residents and will enjoy tea in one of their homes. Dinner and overnight will be on our ship.



DAY 8 – Aswan - Luxor

We spend today relaxing on the cruise ship enjoying the sites and sounds of the Nile river. We pass feluccas (traditional Egyptian sail boats), fishing boats and many villages and farms. Both lunch and dinner will be served on board.

DAY 9 – Luxor

We arrive in Luxor today and have free time to explore this city on our own. Fun places to explore are the Souks and the main Bazaar. You can also visit alabaster factories. Ancient Egyptian used alabaster to build their homes, tombs and temples. Our guide will help you with suggestions. Lunch and dinner will be served on our ship.

DAY 10 – Luxor – Dendera – Abydos

Today we leave early to visit the Temples of Dendera and Abydos. Dendera is from pre-dynastic times. It was buried under sand before being rediscovered in the 19th century and is very well preserved. The Temple of Abydos was built to honor Osiris, the God of the Dead. It was a pilgrimage place for all Egyptians who hoped to come here once during their lifetime. What can be seen today is a beautiful 19th Dynasty Temple of Seti I. Today we will have both lunch and dinner on board our ship.



DAY 11 – Luxor - Cairo

This morning we fly back to Cairo and transfer to our hotel. In the afternoon we will have a private tour to meet and visit with several well-known Egyptian artists, visit several art galleries and enjoy the Modern Art Museum.

DAY 12 – The Pyramids and Giza

Today we have a full day tour visiting the Great Pyramids, the Sphinx, Memphis, which was the ancient Egyptian capital and Saqqara, its necropolis which is over 3,000 years old and full of archeological sites. We will enjoy local food for lunch and have time in Cairo to explore and have dinner on our own.

DAY 13 – Cairo and the Khan El Khalili Bazaar

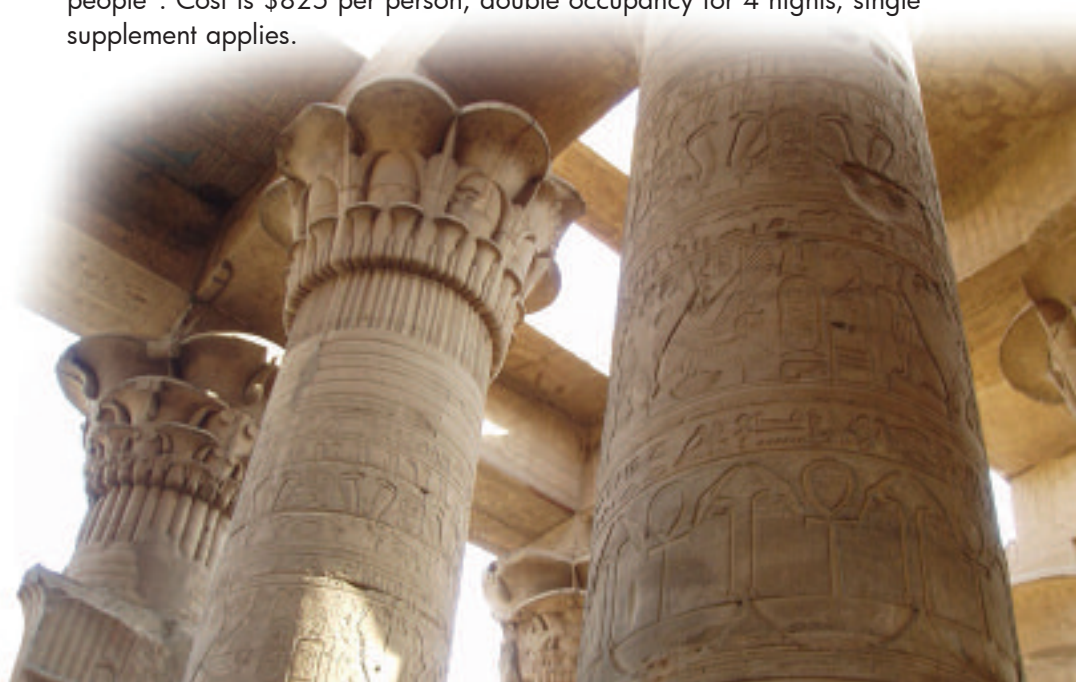
Our last tour day in Egypt begins with a visit to the Cairo Museum. From there we go to the Khan El Khalili Bazaar. We will have a wonderful opportunity to visit several small factories (often one small room) to see and learn about Egyptian handiwork and crafts from the artisans. These include mother of pearl boxes and picture frames and beautiful brass plates. We will learn the history of their crafts and how many traditions are passed down from generation to generation. Tonight we will have our Farewell Dinner.



DAY 14 – Transfer to the Airport for your return flight home or a post trip to the Red Sea.

Day 15 – Arrive in Boston

POST TRIP: The Red Sea and Sinai area is an ecotourism center, with beautiful beaches, excellent snorkeling and scuba diving, desert life and historic castles and monasteries. Our post tour for 4 days offers what the International Ecotourism Society defines as “responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and sustains or even improves the well-being and welfare of local people”. Cost is \$825 per person, double occupancy for 4 nights, single supplement applies.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Tour Administration

This tour of Egypt is designed by Vermont Public Radio and Cultural Crossroads to give an in-depth look into the culture of this rich ancient and modern civilization. VPR Journalist Christopher Wren will host the tour. A tour director will accompany the group throughout the program. A portion of the tour benefits Vermont Public Radio, but is not considered a tax-deductible contribution according to IRS regulations.

Air Travel Arrangements

Group flights are scheduled on Delta Airlines from Boston Logan Airport. A customized air itinerary can be also be arranged for those individuals traveling from other cities. During the tour, accommodations will be arranged in the best possible hotels in double occupancy rooms with private shower or bath. Single rooms can be arranged for a supplementary fee of \$1,150 and are based upon availability at the time of your request. The hotels are selected to provide a balance between central location, excellent service, character, amenities, and price. The hotels and ship are all 5 star.

Changes in the Itinerary

VPR and Cultural Crossroads reserve the right to alter the order of events or to make changes deemed necessary for the comfort, convenience, and safety of the participants. Every effort will be made to adhere to the printed itinerary, but weather conditions, transportation difficulties or other circumstances beyond the control of VPR and Cultural Crossroads, and the local suppliers could force the cancellation or substitution of events or specific services.

Reservation Procedure

You may register by phone (toll free 877-479-7040) or e-mail Carrie McDougal: carrie@culturalcrossroads.com. Registrations will be accepted in the order in which they are received. Please remember, space is limited.

Payment Policy & Schedule

Tour payments may be made by check, payable to Cultural Crossroads. After your initial deposit of \$1,500, the balance payment is due by June 22, 2010. Deposits and payments are refundable if written notice of cancellation is received 120 days or more in advance of departure, less a \$100 per person non-refundable administration fee. 90 days prior to departure: Full refund less \$1,000.00 per traveler. We regret that refunds cannot be made for cancellations less than sixty-five (65) days prior to the departure date. Travel insurance is highly recommended. Cancellation charges also apply to additional accommodations reserved prior to and after the tour. Vermont Public Radio and Cultural Crossroads, cannot assume responsibility for any fees relating to the issuance and/or cancellation of air tickets.

REGISTRATION

Please reserve _____ place(s) for the following individuals on VPR’s Tour of Egypt, September 22 – October 6, 2010. A tour deposit of \$1,500 payable to Vermont Public Radio is enclosed —balance due June 22, 2010.

NAME (as it appears on valid passport): _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone(days) _____ Email _____

Travel companion name(s) on passport: _____

Travel preferences (please check all that apply)

Double occupancy with traveling companion

I would like a single room

I (we) have read the itinerary and terms and conditions as found above and agree to abide by all the stipulations contained therein.

SIGNED _____ DATE _____

Please make tour checks payable to Cultural Crossroads and mail registration to:

Cultural Crossroads, 20 Meadowcrest Lane, Barre, VT 05641

For more information call: 1-800-639-2192 or email Ty Robertson: trobertson@vpr.net