



Discovering EGYPT

Including
The Total Solar Eclipse
July 26 - August 7, 2027

A Special Expedition for Members
and Friends of **The Planetary
Society, AAAS, Sigma Xi, & ACS**



Dear Travelers:

Join astronomer Dr. Tyler Nordgren, as we discover the extraordinary antiquities and colossal monuments of Egypt, and see the Total Solar Eclipse in Luxor, the extraordinary historic city of Egyptian heritage.

This program will include exciting recent discoveries in Egypt in addition to the wonders of the pyramids and ancient Egypt. We will have a special day in Luxor to see the eclipse.

Learn about the great importance of Astronomy in ancient and modern Egypt with a visit to Helwan & Kottamia Observatories and Space City home to the Egyptian Space Agency. See the ancient ceiling reliefs



depict the path of the sun, moon, stars, Egyptian constellations, and the twelve signs of the zodiac at the Temple of Esna. Visit the Nubian Museum to learn about one of the oldest known stone circle sites, Nabta Playa, believed to have astronomical significance.

The expedition offers an excellent introduction from the

land and life of ancient Egypt to the Ultimate monuments of the Old Kingdom, the Great Pyramids and Sphinx!

Discover the great stone ramparts of the Temple of Ramses II at Abu Simbel, built during the New Kingdom, on the Abu Simbel extension.

Led by an excellent Egyptologist guide, learn about the history of ancient Egypt, including a 4-night cruise on the Nile. Explore the Valley of the Kings at Thebes, where tombs of more than 60 pharaohs have been discovered. On the opposite bank of the Nile at Luxor and Karnak, see the splendor and glory of Egypt during the finest hour of the New Kingdom. We will also learn about the ancient Egyptian knowledge of astronomy and eclipses.

There will also be opportunities to learn about contemporary Egyptian life to marvel at the grace and beauty of feluccas at sail on the Nile.

Join us!... for a treasured eclipse adventure in Egypt!

Sincerely,

Terri Stevens

Terri Stevens

*Expedition Manager, Betchart Expeditions Inc.
for The Planetary Society, AAAS, Sigma Xi, & ACS*



ITINERARY

Days 1/2 US to Cairo

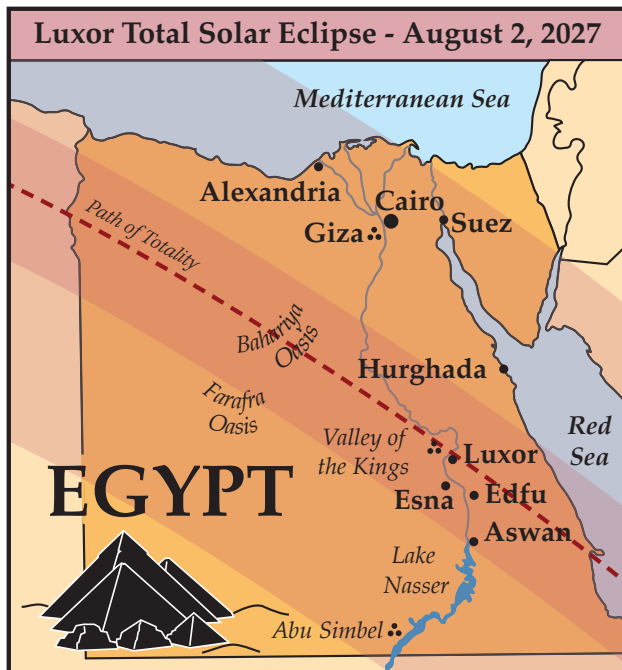
Fly from any US International Airport on overnight flights to Frankfurt, with a connection to Cairo. Arrive Cairo on the afternoon of Day 2. Transfer to the *Steinberger El Tahrir Hotel or similar (4 nights)*, situated in a wonderful location right by one of the superb museums. Afternoon for rest and leisure. Welcome social and trip orientation.

Day 3 – Ancient Sakkara, the Great Pyramids, Sphinx & Grand Egyptian Museum

This morning, explore Sakkara, the necropolis of the ancient Egyptian capital of Memphis. See the dramatic Step Pyramid and explore this fascinating site. Then return to Cairo to explore the most famous of the Egyptian sites: the Great Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx. The Great Pyramids were built during the Old Kingdom's 4th dynasty, about 2600 BC. The Sphinx guards the pyramidal tomb of Pharaoh Chephren. After lunch visit the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM), the world's largest museum dedicated to a single civilization. The GEM houses a magnificent collection of artifacts from the Old, Middle, and New Kingdoms, which flourished from 3000 to 1100 BC. The ancient statues, sarcophagi, engraved stonework, paintings, jewelry, and treasures give an excellent introduction to the glory and life in ancient Egypt. Of special interest will be the exhibit of King Tutankhamun's treasures, found intact in 1922 by archaeologist Howard Carter. B,L

Day 4 – Museum of Egyptian Civilization, Citadel & Egyptian Space Agency

Today we will explore the excellent National Egyptian Museum of Civilization



to see the Royal Mummies of ancient Egyptian Kings & Queens. Also visit the Citadel and Old Cairo. Sprawling over a limestone spur on the city's eastern edge started by Saladin in 1176 as a fortification against the Crusaders, and home to Egypt's rulers for 700 years.

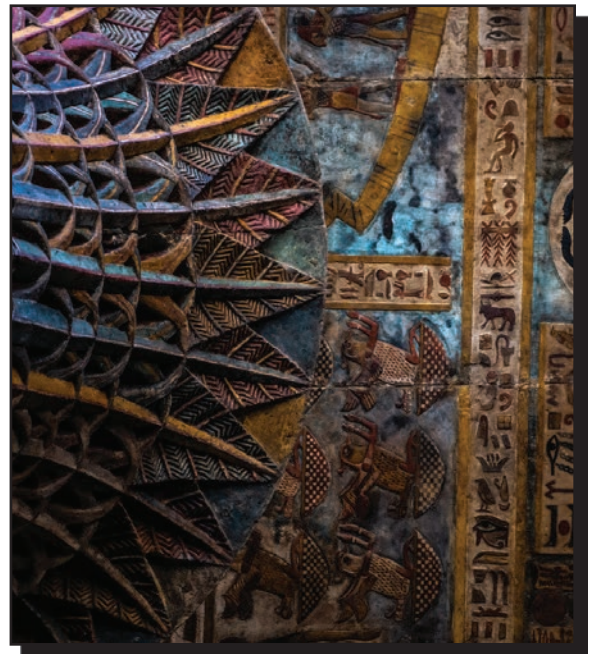
We plan to visit the Egyptian Space City located in New Cairo (*this arrangement is pending*) to learn about the Egyptian Space Agency (EGSA). Visits may include the Satellite Assembly, Integration and Test Center (AITC) with equipment used for the measurement and testing of Satellite Mass Properties, Satellite Mechanical and Space Environment Testing. Following a late lunch we will visit a Coptic Church in Old Cairo. B,L

Day 5 – Astronomical Egypt - Helwan & Kottamia Observatories

We plan to visit the Helwan & Kottamia Observatories today (*this arrangement is pending*). Helwan, located about 30 km south of Cairo, was built in 1903 to house one of the first large telescopes in Africa and the Middle East. Helwan was used by H. Knox-Shaw to obtain an early photograph of Halley's Comet on its perihelion passage in 1910. Run by Egypt's National Research Institute of Astronomy and Geophysics (NRIAG) it has been proposed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. From here, we will continue to Kottamia Astronomical Observatory (KAO) to see the largest telescope in the Arab world, the Middle East and North Africa. Established in 1964 as an extension of Helwan observatory, one of its most important achievements is its participation in the observations of the lunar surface to choose human landing sites on the moon in the late sixties. B,L

Day 6 – Cairo to Luxor & Esna Temple

Today, we fly from Cairo to Luxor in Upper Egypt, then transfer south to Esna by coach. Learn about the great importance of astronomy in ancient Egypt at the Temple of Esna. A six-year long cleaning and restoration project has recently revealed a magnificent astronomical ceiling, and colorful columns. The ceiling reliefs are divided into seven sections, each featuring a different theme including



the path of the sun and moon, stars used for keeping time, Egyptian constellations, and the twelve signs of the zodiac. Close to two hundred ink inscriptions were also uncovered that helped researchers identify many of the images depicted. Return to Luxor for lunch.

Luxor and Karnak were the center of Egyptian power and glory from 2100 to 750 BC. Late this afternoon we visit the excellent Luxor Museum. *Pyramisa ISIS Luxor Hotel or similar (2 nights)*. B,L,D

Day 7 – The Temples of Abydos & Dendara

This morning we travel north along the Nile to see the Dendara Temple which is dedicated to the goddess Hathor. Its construction began in the reign of Nectanebo I and continued into the Roman period. The temple has two decorated crypts, halls with ceilings supported by columns, and two funeral chapels. This is where the famous “zodiac” from the Louvre has come.

At Abydos you will see the famous temple constructed by Seti I in honor of Osiris. In this temple you can find important scenes from the life of Seti I and Ramses II, and also the famous Royal Lists with the names of the 77 kings of Egypt from Menes to Seti I himself. Abydos was the most important religious center and site of pilgrimage in ancient Egypt. Here there are representations of the Mysteries of Osiris, a ceremony which reproduced the death and resurrection of the God Osiris. Evening, enjoy a lecture on

the Total Solar Eclipse by your astronomer. B,L,D

Day 8 – The Total Solar Eclipse Luxor & Karnak Board our Nile cruise ship

Today the Total Solar Eclipse crosses over Egypt with a maximum of 6 minutes and 22 seconds of Totality near Luxor - the longest until 2114. The eclipse is at



midday, there is an excellent probability of successful eclipse viewing. However there could be clouds, so be prepared.

After the eclipse we explore the awe-inspiring Great Temple in Karnak, an immense complex of temples, sacred lakes, and sphinx-lined walkways which extend nearly two miles along the Nile, from Karnak to Luxor. The Great Hall includes 134 enormous columns, with original paint and decoration near the tops. Just south of the Great Temple is the sacred lake where solar barques were set afloat to symbolize the daily celestial journey of Amon-Ra, the sun god. Board our Nile cruise vessel *(4 nights)*. B,L,D

Day 9 – Valley of the Kings & Edfu

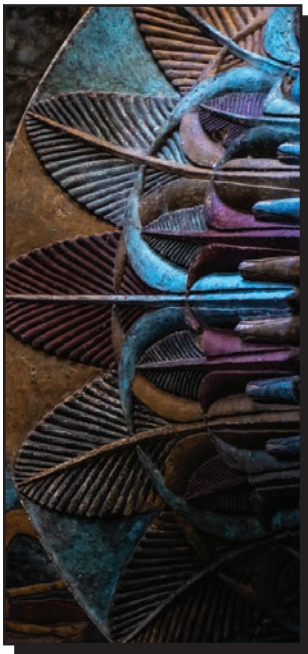
Our journey this morning will be to the Valley of the Kings on the opposite bank of the Nile from Luxor. We will see 3 tombs, the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut at Deir-el-Bahari, and the Colossi of Memnon. Sail to Edfu via the Esna Lock. This will be a wonderful opportunity to relax on the top deck and enjoy the desert landscape, and village life. B,L,D

Day 10 – Horus Temple at Edfu & Kom Ombo

Early this morning we will take horse carriages to visit the Temple of Horus, the god of the sun and planets. Intricate hieroglyphics cover the 38 immense columns, describing offerings to the god. Here we will again see the parade of souvenir vendors which will be a common sight during our Egyptian travels. This afternoon, we will cruise to Kom Ombo to visit the imposing Ptolemaic Temple shared by two gods, Sobek (the crocodile god of fertility) and Haroeris, the great winged solar disc. We will enjoy afternoon tea as we sail to Aswan. B,L,D

Day 11 – Aswan High Dam & Optional Abu Simbel

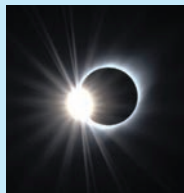
Today, we will visit the Aswan High Dam, built by a team of Soviet engineers and 35,000 Egyptian workers in the 1960's and completed in 1972, changing the local economy and way of life forever. Now curbing the annual floods which have nourished the floodplain of the Nile for millennia, the Aswan High Dam has created a lake which extends more than 500 kilometers to the south into Sudan. After lunch onboard, our tour will continue to the



famous Temples of Philae, which were partially submerged when the first Aswan Dam was built around 1900, then rescued from oblivion under Lake Nasser and reassembled on the island of Agilka, just 300 yards away. B,L,D

Day 12 – Aswan to Cairo & Nubian Museum

This morning, we disembark from our Nile cruise ship after breakfast. Visit the extraordinary Nubian Museum, dedicated to the Nubian culture of Upper Egypt and Sudan.



Discover Malta, Sicily & Capri by Yacht on our Total Solar Eclipse Expedition July 28 - August 7, 2027

We invite you to embark on a journey from Valetta, the captivating

capital of Malta to Naples, Italy for an enthralling exploration of Malta, Sicily and Southern Italy.

Visit the impressive sites, cities and beaches of Syracuse, Catania, Lipari and Capri with scenic cruising along the famed Amalfi Coast and the volcanic island of Stromboli to watch sparks of lava light up the dark sky!

On Monday, August 2, 2027 we will position the yacht in the center of the moon's shadow approximately 135 nm from Valetta to observe the Total Solar Eclipse with almost 6 minutes of Totality.

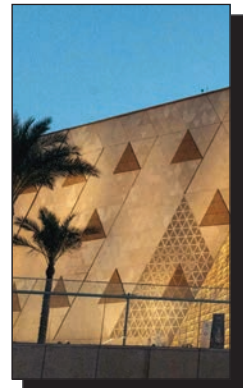


Ancient Egyptian antiquities representing various ages from prehistoric to Pharaonic, Coptic, Islamic, and Nubian are found in the museum. Learn about the Nabta Playa, one of the oldest known sites featuring stone circles, believed to have astronomical significance.

In the afternoon we will fly back to Cairo. Farewell dinner in celebration of our journey. *Steigenberger El Tahrir or similar (1 night)*. B,D

Day 13 – Cairo to Home

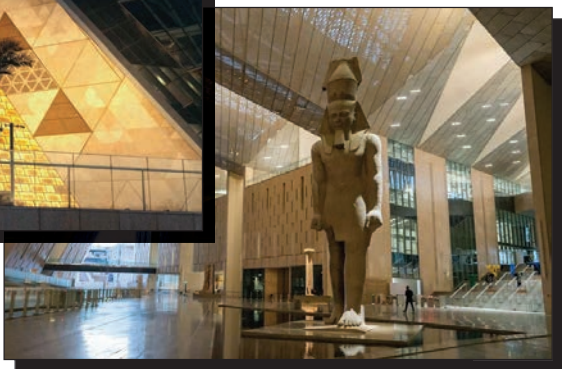
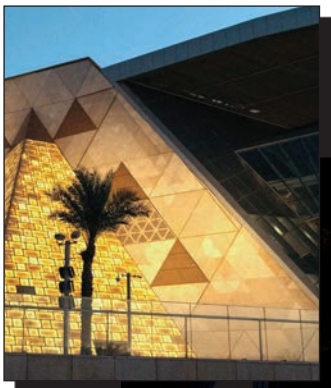
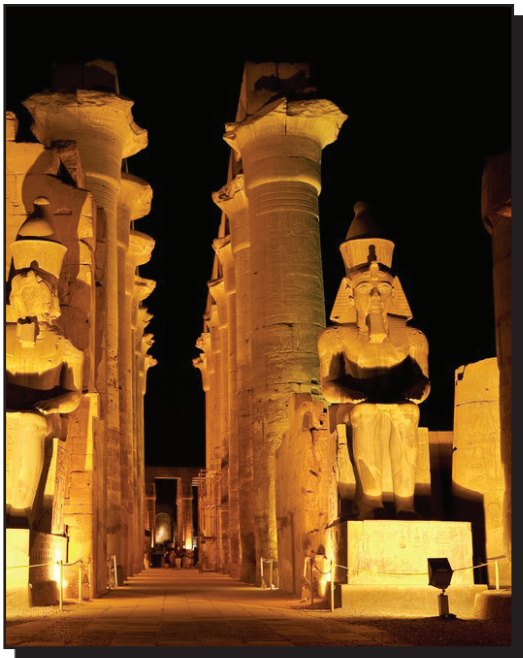
Group transfer to the airport for mid-morning return flights to Home. B



Optional Abu Simbel Extension August 5, 2027

Early in the morning we will transfer to the Aswan Airport and fly to Abu Simbel. Here are some of the grandest monuments of ancient Egypt, built by Ramses II during his long reign (1279-1213 BC) during the New Kingdom when Egypt was at the pinnacle of its splendor. The colossal figures of Ramses II received great international attention in the late 1960's when they were moved from a spot now beneath the waters of Lake Nasser to the present location. We will visit the Ramses II and Queen Nefertari temples. As you enter the temple of Ramses II, bas-reliefs describe the monarch's offerings to the gods and his triumphant military campaigns. Ramses II sits in state with gods to whom the temple is dedicated. An afternoon flight will take us back to Aswan to rejoin the group.

Fee: \$1,095 per person includes flights Aswan/ Abu Simbel roundtrip and tour (air fare subject to change).



RESPONSIBILITY

Betchart Expeditions Inc., the Planetary Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, the American Chemical Society (ACS), and other affiliates of Betchart Expeditions Inc act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels, and exercise every care possible. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, terrorism, acts of God, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise or reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. Eclipse viewing is not guaranteed, cloud cover or other conditions could obscure it. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The price of the program is based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. It is understood that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance.

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CST# 2036304-40

RESERVATIONS

#1816

Yes! I/we want to join the Discover Egypt Total Solar Eclipse, July 26 - August 7, 2027, offered by Betchart Expeditions Inc. and The Planetary Society. Please reserve _____ space(s) on the expedition _____ spaces on the **Abu Simbel Extension** August 7th. As a deposit, I/we enclose a check for \$ _____ (\$1,500 per person for Egypt, \$250 per person for the Abu Simbel Extension) payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s) _____ Age _____

_____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone: Home _____ (_____) _____

Work (_____) _____

Email Address _____

Membership:

☐ AAAS ☐ Sigma Xi ☐ ACS ☐ The Planetary Society

Accommodations Preference:

☐ Twin ☐ Single (If available)

☐ Share (with a friend) ☐ Share (assign a roommate)

☐ Nonsmoker ☐ Smoker

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

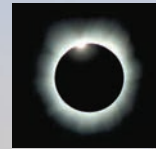
Please Mail To:

**Egypt Eclipse 2027
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014-5345**

**The Planetary Society,
AAAS travels, Sigma Xi, ACS**

BETCHART EXPEDITIONS Inc.

17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435



FIRST CLASS



***Discover Egypt &
the Total Solar Eclipse!***
July 27 - August 8, 2027

COSTS & CONDITIONS

Trip Fee: \$7,995 per person for 13 days (+ international air fare of approx. \$1,495 from New York to Egypt, round trip). In-tour flights Cairo to Luxor, Aswan to Cairo estimated \$995.

What to Expect: This Expedition is planned for the travel enthusiast who would enjoy discovering the spectacular antiquities and history of ancient Egypt and learning about modern Egyptian life today, including the Total Solar Eclipse, August 2, 2027. Travel by motorcoach, ship, and in-tour flights, with optional Abu Simbel Extension. There will be daily outings on foot of one-half to two miles over uneven terrain at archaeological sites, museums, and cities at a pace suitable for seeing the wonders of Egypt. Typically, it will be hot in the high 80s & 90s with temperatures at night dropping to the 70s. You will spend days outdoors in hot, sunny weather. You will spend days in hot, sunny weather. Vehicles and buildings are air conditioned, but you must be prepared for visiting archeological sites and to prioritize hydration by drinking water often, not just when thirsty. Heat exhaustion can lead to heat stroke or other serious heat-related illness. If concerned, please consult your physician before joining this program. This expedition is a tremendous experience for travelers with an appetite for adventure who have a keen interest in learning about ancient Egypt and seeing the Total Solar Eclipse, August 2, 2027. (No smoking in vehicles, during lectures, or meals, please.)

Expedition Fee Includes: Land transport; group airport transfers, accommodations in first class hotels, and comfortable Nile cruise ship twin share with bath; welcome social and meals as mentioned; entrance fees; tips for group activities and local guides; leadership, administration.

Expedition Fee Does Not Include: Air Fare (quoted separately); Abu Simbel flights and tour (optional extra); some meals; tips for Egyptologist guide, Astronomy Leader, on board ship and for

personal activities; Egyptian visa fee; personal items such as beverages as meals, alcoholic beverages, laundry, phone calls, snacks, or other items.

Air Fare & Airline Ticketing: Air fare (quoted separately) is estimated based on 2026 rates. All in-tour air bookings and ticketing will be handled by Betchart Expeditions Inc., (800) 252-4910. AIR FARES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Accommodations: Due to availability limits for this program, singles are waitlist only. If you do not have a roommate or we cannot assign one, you must pay the extra cost for a single of \$2,495. We encourage all singles to register as a share, or bring a travel companion.

Reservations, Deposits, & Payments: Please mail a deposit of \$1,500 per person plus \$250 per person for the Abu Simbel Extension with the completed reservation form to:

**Egypt Eclipse 2027
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014-5435**

The balance is due 270 days before departure (Oct. 29, 2026.)

Cancellations & Refunds: The initial deposit is refundable up to 360 days before departure less a handling fee of \$500 per person. There is no refund after the 360-day period unless your place is resold, then only the \$500 per person handling fee is withheld. There are no refunds for airfare, unused meals, accommodations, or other trip features. Trip cancellation insurance will be available.

Questions: Please contact Terri Stevens at:

Betchart Expeditions Inc.
Telephone: (800) 252 4910 Int'l
Telephone: (408) 252 4910 USA
Email: BetchartTerri@gmail.com