Few places arouse more fascination and curiosity than Egypt, one of the world’s oldest civilizations, with a recorded history of more than 5,000 years. Flowing through the country’s desert, the great Nile River has supported large populations along its lush, fertile banks since the beginning of time. Greek historian Herodotus wrote nearly 2,500 years ago that Egypt is “the gift of the Nile” — its existence depending solely upon the mighty waters.

Despite its distinction as the kingdom of the Pharaohs, Egypt also conceals a remarkable Christian heritage; discover it firsthand when we visit St. Catherine’s Monastery in the Sinai Desert. Then delve deeper into antiquity at Jordan’s Petra, the rose-red rock city that lay hidden from the world for more than 1,000 years. Our journey concludes with a relaxing stay along the scenic shores of the Dead Sea, which includes a visit to ancient Jerash — a remarkably preserved city often labeled the “Pompeii of the East.”

Explore it all — Egypt and to Jordan — by private chartered plane!

For reservations or more information please call Columbia Alumni Travel Study Program toll free at 866-325-8664. New York residents may call 212-472-4365 or e-mail: travelstudy@columbia.edu.
WINGS OVER THE NILE® BY PRIVATE PLANE
February 28—March 14*, 2006
*The cruise portion of the itinerary for the above departure date, operates in reverse of what is shown below, from Aswan to Luxor.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

1  Depart U.S.A.
2–4  Cairo/Giza, Egypt
5  Private chartered flights to St. Catherine’s Monastery and Luxor (Embark the Oberoi Philae)
6  Luxor/Cruising the Nile
7  Edfu/Cruising the Nile/Kom Ombo
8  Cruising the Nile/Aswan
9  Aswan (Disembark)/Private chartered flights to Abu Simbel and Cairo
10  Cairo
11  Private chartered flight to Al `Aqabah, Jordan/Transfer to Petra
12  Petra, Jordan
13  Scenic drive along Desert Highway through Madaba to the Dead Sea, Jordan
14  Dead Sea (for Jerash, Jordan)
15  Return to U.S.A.

DUBAI OPTIONAL PRETRIP EXTENSION
Hyatt Regency Dubai • 5 Days/3 Hotel Nights
Discover Egypt’s storied archaeological sites — the Giza Pyramids, the last remaining of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World; the famous Sphinx, facing east in stony silence; St. Catherine’s Monastery, the foremost embodiment of Egypt’s Christian heritage; and the magnificent Temple of Abu Simbel, carved from the side of a sandstone cliff more than 3,000 years ago in honor of Pharaoh Ramses II. Explore Jordan’s Petra, ancient Jerash, and the scenic beauty along the shores of the Dead Sea.

Special air excursions allow us to visit remote sites like St. Catherine’s Monastery and Abu Simbel. Our plane lands just minutes from these attractions, saving hours of driving and offering more time for sightseeing. Convenient departure times and a friendly and efficient crew ensure fine comfort and service for just 38 guests.

A four-night Nile River cruise aboard the deluxe Oberoi Philae, specifically built for navigating the Nile, will allow you to enjoy some of the most spectacular scenery Egypt has to offer from the air-conditioned comfort of your private cabin. While cruising, you’ll also have opportunities to join shore excursions that explore places like Edfu’s Temple of Horus, the Valley of the Kings, the Valley of the Nobles, and the Colossi of Memnon.
DAY 1  Depart U.S.A.

DAY 2  Cairo/Giza, Egypt  Evening brings you to Cairo, located at the mouth of the Nile River delta. Upon arrival, transfer to Giza and the Mena House Oberoi Hotel, where you’ll have dramatic views of the Great Pyramid of Cheops.

DAY 3  Cairo/Giza  The last remaining of the original Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Giza Pyramids are the only vestiges from that time to survive in their original form. Also view the Sun Boat, the well-preserved, wooden funeral boat that carried Cheops’ body from Memphis to Giza. If you choose, even ride a camel during the tour. Tonight, gather for a welcome reception, dinner, and folkloric show at Rubayyat Restaurant.

DAY 4  Cairo/Giza  Journey to Egypt’s ancient capital of Memphis — site of the enormous, limestone colossus of a young Pharaoh Ramses II and the alabaster sphinx. Continue to Sakkara to see the Step Pyramid Complex of King Zoser. After a barbecue lunch and relaxing afternoon, join us under the star-filled Egyptian sky for a sound and laser light show at the Pyramids.

DAY 5  St. Catherine’s Monastery/Luxor (Embark)  A chartered private plane takes you to the heart of the Sinai Desert and St. Catherine’s Monastery. According to religious tradition, it was here that Moses saw the Burning Bush and received the Ten Commandments. Examine the collection of priceless icons and hanging lamps in the Chapel of the Burning Bush. This afternoon, transfer to Luxor, on the Nile’s East Bank at the site of ancient Thebes. Here, explore the massive temples of Karnak and Luxor, surprisingly well-preserved. Enter the Hypostyle Hall, reputedly the largest hall of any temple in the world, before reaching nearby Luxor Temple. Continue to the deluxe Nile river ship — the Oberoi Philae — for your four-night cruise.

DAY 6  Luxor/Cruising the Nile  A morning West Bank tour takes you across the Nile to the remote Valley of the Kings, site of the Tomb of King Tutankhamen. Sixty-four of Egypt’s rulers were buried here in ornate subterranean tombs. Also visit the Valley of the Nobles. Finally, marvel at the Colossi of Memnon, two giant statues that once stood watch over the funerary temple of Amenophis III.

DAY 7  Edfu/Cruising the Nile/Kom Ombo  This morning, sail a bit farther upstream to Edfu — a site the ancient Greeks called “Apolloonopolis,” after Apollo (or Horus, the Egyptian god of light). The nearly intact Temple of Horus is one of Egypt’s finest examples of Ptolemaic art.
Later this afternoon, cruise to Kom Ombo — the strategic point on the ancient desert route to Nubia and Ethiopia. Though much of the town’s Greco-Roman temple has fallen, its aesthetic proportions are still quite evident today. Enjoy an Egyptian dinner and costumed galabia (a long, loose Egyptian garment) party this evening.

DAY 8 Cruising the Nile/Aswan  Cruise to Aswan — gateway to the Nubian Desert and the Sudan, and site of the great High Dam constructed to harness the power of the mighty Nile.

Upon arrival, see the High Dam and visit the Temple of Isis at Philae. At the nearby granite quarry, where the Pyramids’ building blocks were produced, also view the 1,320-ton, 137-foot-high unfinished obelisk. Late this afternoon, enjoy a short jaunt aboard an Egyptian felucca.

DAY 9 Aswan (Disembark)/Abu Simbel/Cairo  Disembark the Oberoi Philae for your flight by chartered private plane to the magnificent Temple of Abu Simbel, carved from the side of a sandstone cliff more than 3,000 years ago in honor of Ramses II. Also visit the site’s smaller temple, dedicated to Nefertari, Ramses II’s favorite wife.

Reboard the private plane and continue to Cairo, where you’ll enjoy a Nile-view room at the Conrad Cairo, nearby the Egyptian Antiquities Museum.

DAY 10 Cairo  Discover Old Cairo during a tour that includes the Muhammad Ali Mosque, which commands a complete view of Cairo, the Nile and, in the far distance, the Giza Pyramids. Continue to colorful Khan el-Khalili Bazaar and enjoy a lunch of local specialties at Naguib Mahfouz Restaurant.

Later, visit the renowned Egyptian Antiquities Museum. Included as part of your guided tour are the treasures from the tomb of the boy-king Tutankhamen and entrance into the Royal Mummies Room.

DAY 11 Petra, Jordan  Fly by chartered private plane to Al ‘Aqabah, Jordan, and drive to Petra — the fabled city that lay hidden to the world until its 1812 discovery. Stay at the Petra Movenpick Hotel.

DAY 12 Petra  Time appears frozen in Petra, the abandoned capital of the Nabataeans — Arabs who dominated this area in the pre-Roman era. Follow the Siq, a narrow gorge winding through the region’s rock, on a walking tour that includes the impressive Treasury, royal tombs, colonnaded street, and amphitheater. Monumental in both size and scope, Petra’s architecture is astonishing, yet her colors — deep rust, banded with grays, yellows, and every hue in between — are sure to captivate as well.

DAY 13 Dead Sea, Jordan  Drive through countryside along the Desert Highway to Madaba, where you’ll marvel at the town’s Byzantine mosaics, including a sixth-century map of the Christian holy lands, made from 2 million pieces.

Continue to the Jordan Valley Marriott Resort & Spa, located directly on the Dead Sea’s eastern shore. You’ll have the afternoon and evening to relax and, perhaps, take a swim.
DAY 14  Dead Sea (for Jerash, Jordan)  Today, tour ancient Jerash, a vast Greco-Roman city that flourished in the time around the Christian era. See its well-preserved walls, colonnaded streets, temples, public baths, plazas, and theaters decorated with ornate sculptures and fountains.

Enjoy the rest of the afternoon at your Dead Sea resort. This evening, join us for a festive farewell dinner.

DAY 15  Return to U.S.A.

DUBAI OPTIONAL PRETRIP EXTENSION*
Hyatt Regency Dubai  •  5 Days/3 Hotel Nights

Enhance your travels with a fascinating journey of discovery that focuses on the lifestyles, traditions, and culture of Dubai — second-largest member-state of the United Arab Emirates. Although thoroughly modern, cosmopolitan Dubai — one of the world’s fastest-growing tourist destinations — still exudes old-Arabian mystique in its tiny souks and ancient mosques.

$1,495 per person, double occupancy
$2,095 single occupancy

*Minimum number of passengers required to operate.

Enhance your trip with this exciting and worthwhile extension.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS: Final payment for all tours is due 90 days prior to departure. All cancellations, for any reason whatsoever, are subject to a $100 per-person administrative fee, which can be applied toward a future INTRAV trip within three years of the date of cancellation. In addition, cancellations made from 89 to 60 days prior to departure are subject to a ten percent (10%) of total trip cost cancellation fee; cancellations made within 59 days of departure or nonappearance will result in forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. Airlines are subject to applicable airline cancellation fees, are subject to change without notice, and are not included in the trip cancellation fee above. All cancellations or claims for refund must be submitted in writing to INTRAV. RESPONSIBILITY: TOUR PARTICIPANT CONTRACT — IMPORTANT! Intrav, Inc., its affiliated subsidiary companies, agents, and sponsoring organizations (collectively, INTRAV) act only as agent for the suppliers of transportation, accommodations, food, and other goods and services provided to the tour participant and assume no liability for acts beyond its control. INTRAV has no responsibility or liability for the acts, omission, or negligence of any of its suppliers of services and the tour participant hereby waives any such claim. INTRAV reserves the right to change the itinerary without prior notice. If the tour is cancelled by INTRAV for any reason, INTRAV shall have no liability beyond the refund of all tour participants’ deposits received by it. INTRAV may increase the tour price in the event of cost increases, including tariffs.
The Five-Star Oberoi Philae

Distinguished from other river vessels by its spaciousness and refined elegance, the Oberoi Philae sets the standard of luxury and comfort in Nile River cruising. The ship has five passenger decks, as well as a beautiful reception area and comfortable lounge, European antiques, and Oriental carpets. Large picture windows create a light, open atmosphere. Each air-conditioned cabin is outside and features a floor-to-ceiling sliding glass door that leads to its own private balcony; two lower twin beds that convert to queen-size; private bath facilities with shower and hair dryer; individual temperature controls; a minibar; color television; radio; and individual safe-deposit box. Three meals are served daily at single leisurely seatings. Other amenities include a gift shop, laundry, and large sun deck with swimming pool and bar.

The Dash-7, DeHaviland of Canada

Our privately chartered 50-seater Dash-7 enables us to reach each destination within Egypt and to Jordan with ease. Her experienced crew of four includes two pilots and two crew members. Our special, private air excursions allow us to visit remote sites not included on most itineraries, such as Abu Simbel, a prime example of Egypt’s Pharaonic history; and St. Catherine’s Monastery, the foremost embodiment of Egypt’s Christian heritage. We land just minutes from these attractions, saving hours of driving and allowing more time for sightseeing and discovery.

RATES PER PERSON are in U.S. dollars, based on double occupancy, and include all sightseeing and shore excursions. Airfare is not included.

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Port Charges Included

Limited availability for singles. Single Supplement: $1,000

Triples not available on the Oberoi Philae.

Reservations: A deposit of $500 per person is required to confirm reservations. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure.

Optional Cancel-For-Any-Reason Protection Plan and insurance coverage for baggage, accident, and trip cancellation/interruption are available.

INTRAV-Air offers a comprehensive air program. Below are sample round-trip economy airfares to Cairo, returning from Amman. Business/First-class upgrades and fares from other cities are provided upon request.

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