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Born to Egyptian parents in Boston and now living in Bordeaux, I have always been fascinated by the architecture and history of ancient and contemporary worlds.

I grew up in Cairo, surrounded by the surreal landscape of ancient Egypt, in love with my city and its lively streets.

After receiving my degree from the American University in Cairo, another adventure awaited me when I moved to El Gouna, along the picturesque Red Sea, to work as a development manager.

But Cairo kept calling me back, and every time I returned, I ventured out and discovered new neighborhoods, learning more about the city's history each time. I was curious to discover more about this city and to share my knowledge with those around me.

When friends and family came to visit, I showed them the city below the surface. I wanted everyone to see the side of Cairo that so few know about, and that I had uncovered over the years.

My future as a guide in Egypt was put on hold when I moved to France. I started a guiding business in Bordeaux, and built my life around it, thus sharing the history of my adopted city with travelers from around the world. In my heart, however, I knew I would one day come back to Egypt to guide.

Becoming the first accredited female Egyptian guide in the Bordeaux region laid the groundwork to establish me as an independent businesswoman in France. Once this happened, I felt the time had come to rekindle my dream of guiding in my home country.

Today, I split my time between my homes in France and Egypt. Come winter, I discard my trench coat and rain boots and head to sunny and colorful Egypt. Refreshed by the Nile, I explore the hidden side of this ancient country.

You are invited to live a unique experience in Egypt, filled with unforgettable encounters and breathtaking sites, far from buzzing mass tourism. Anything is possible! Draw inspiration from my website's photos, picture yourself there and I will guide you across my ancestors' land.





DAY 1

Transport to Al Moudira hotel will be waiting for you at the Luxor Airport upon arrival. Built in the tradition of Arabian palaces, it is the West bank's only one. Multilingual owner and artist Zeina personally oversaw the three-year construction of her oriental baroque dream hotel.

Once you have settled in, we start the day off with a tour of the Coliseum of Memnon and Medinat Habu Temple, one of Luxor's most underrated monuments, with a substantial amount of the original paint still visible today.

Dinner at Al Moudira.





DAY 2

After breakfast at the hotel, we visit one of Egypt's most spectacular monuments: the mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut, followed by a tour of Deir El Medina, Valley of the Kings. Lunch at El Marsam restaurant before freshening up at Al Moudira. Sunset tour of Luxor Temple. Dinner at Sofra restaurant in downtown Luxor.





DAY 3

We start off the day with a tour of the temples of Karnak, dedicated to Amun-Ra and his wife, the goddess of creation Mut. We then begin our journey on the Dahabeya, a traditional two-masted sailboat and set our course for Elkab via the Esna lock. Lunch and dinner will be served on board.

* Optional Hot Air Balloon Ride at Sunrise over West Bank.





DAY 4

In the morning, we visit the Elkab Temple, dedicated to Nekhbet, the tutelary deity of Upper Egypt, depicted as a female vulture. We then set sail towards the Edfu Temple. Dedicated to Horus, its entrance is guarded by two granite statues of the falcon-headed god.

The day's three meals will be served on the Dahabeya.





DAY 5

We visit the sandstone quarry of Gebel El-Silsila in the morning and sail to Kom Ombo in the afternoon. Its temple is divided into two perfectly symmetrical halves, with two entrances, two corridors and two sanctuaries. One side is dedicated to Haroeris, Horus the Elder, and the other to Sobek, the crocodile god. All meals served on board. Overnight at Kom Ombo.

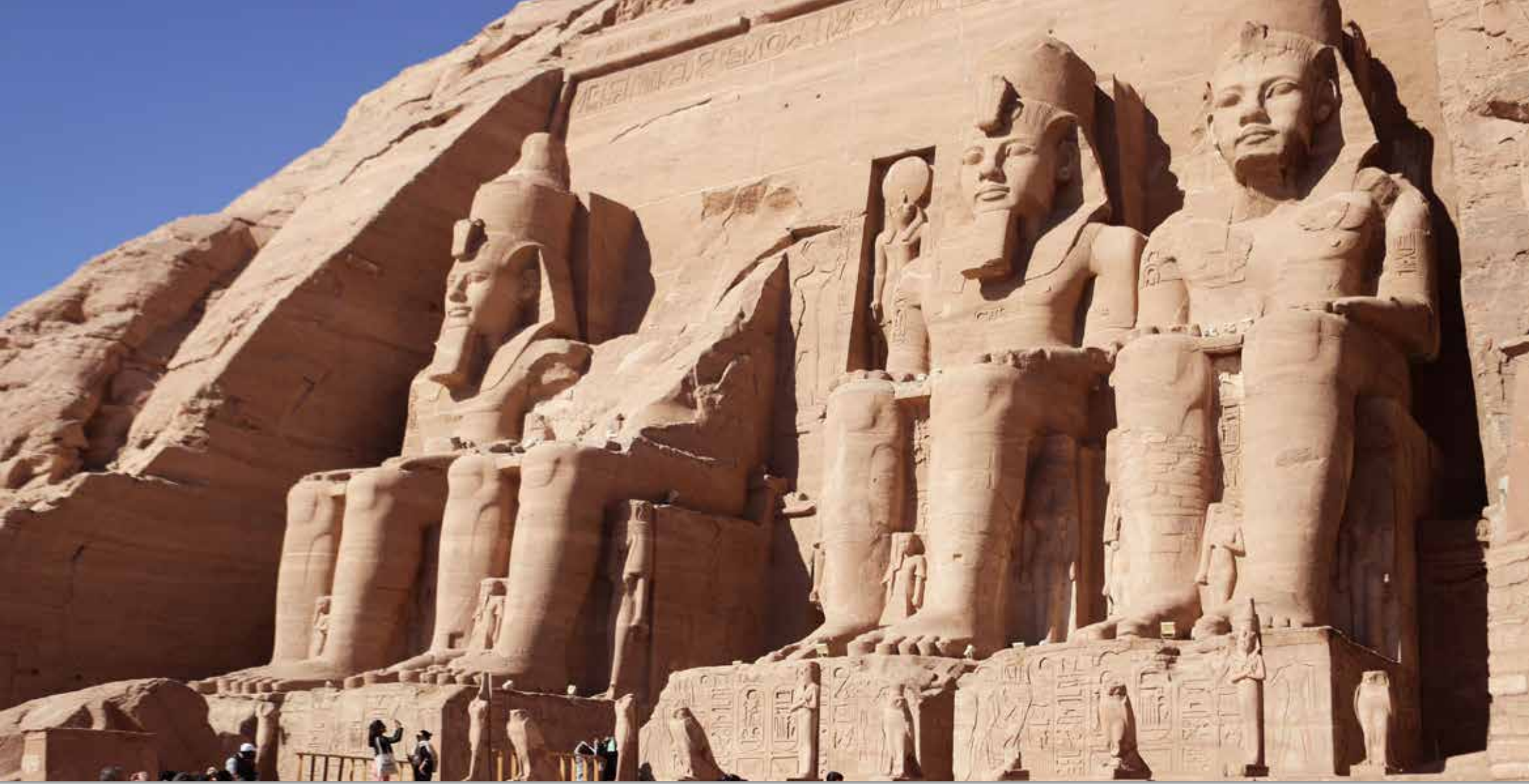




DAY 6

Breakfast and lunch on the Dahabeya as we sail towards Aswan. Our driver will pick us up to visit the granite quarry and the unfinished Obelisk. We'll then take a stroll in the vibrant Aswan Souk for a shopping tour of Egypt's finest herbs and spices. Dinner on the Dahabeya.





DAY 7

Transport from Aswan to Abu Simbel by plane after breakfast. Abu Simbel is the site of two temples built by Ramses II. The temples were originally located 200m from where they stand today: when the construction of the Aswan Dam threatened to destroy the temples, they were taken apart stone by stone and reassembled on higher ground, assuring their safety.

Return to Aswan and check in at the Old Cataract Legend Hotel. Picnic lunch on the romantic Felucca next to Elephantine Island. Gala Dinner at the Old Cataract.





DAY 8

After breakfast, we visit Egypt's most romantic temple: the Philae temple dedicated to the goddess Isis. Lunch at Heissa Island where we enjoy a traditional Nubian meal cooked by local women. Back to the hotel for free time before the Philae sound and light show.

Dinner on Bigeh Island overlooking Philae.





DAY 9

Breakfast before flight to Cairo. Visit of Old Cairo and the Coptic quarter on the Holy Family's Trail. Lunch en route to the Egyptian museum where we'll see the funerary mask of Tutankhamun.

Overnight in the stunning Marriott Mena House hotel at the foot of the Pyramids, built in 1869 for the Egyptian Khedive Isma'il Pasha.

Dinner served at the hotel.





DAY 10

Your accredited guide and driver will pick you up to visit the first Egyptian pyramid ever built, the step pyramid of Sakkara, designed by the Pharaoh Djoser's architect Imhotep. Lunch in a lovely restaurant under the shade of palm trees.

End your trip spectacularly on the Giza plateau with a visit of the Great Pyramids and the Sphinx.

Back to the hotel for dinner.





DAY 11

We part after breakfast at the hotel, where the concierge will have prepared your luggage. Until next time as when you drink from the Nile, you are destined to return.





Dahabeya

The Dahabeya is a luxury pleasure boat with 6 to 9 bedrooms that navigates on the Nile. Its name means the golden one. This work of art of a sailboat was built to transport royal families and celebrities along the enchanting Egyptian river, offering the experience of a lifetime. Relax on its sundeck, and immerse yourself in the beautiful views this magical journey has to offer. Learn about ancient Egyptian history and culture and enjoy exquisite Egyptian culinary delights. The Dahabeya's size allows her to access locations that other boats can't and to reach destinations outside of peak times, making for the best experience.





Services

Included

- Full board accommodation 3 meals daily
- Including dinner of first day ending by breakfast of last day
- Transfers to hotels and monuments
- Non alcoholic beverages on the Dahabeya
- 2 nights at Al Moudira Hotel - 4 star boutique hotel
- 4 nights on the Nile Dahabeya - luxury sailboat
- 2 nights Sofitel Legend Old Cataract - 5 star hotel
- 2 nights Marriott Mena House - 5 star hotel
- Visa
- Entrance fees for temples and monuments
- All local taxes
- Domestic flights:
 - Cairo-Luxor
 - Aswan-Cairo
 - Aswan-Abu Simbel-Aswan
- Tips for drivers and other personnel
- Guided visits mentioned in the program with our Local accredited guide
- Hela, accredited guide and founder of Hela on the Nile, accompanying you throughout your stay

Not included

- Services not mentioned in our program
- International flights
- Tips for Dahabeya personnel, hotel staff and accredited guide
- Optional excursions
- Personal expenses such as international calls, laundry service
- All beverages, alcoholic and non, extras with the exception of what is served on the Dahabeya
- Travel insurance and repatriation assistance



The excursions' order may vary according to sailing conditions.

Nota Bene

Alcohol

Although the consumption of alcohol is legal in Egypt, your Dahabeya, like most of these sailboats, may not have the required license to serve alcohol on board. The airport duty free is, however, at your disposal. You can purchase up to 4 bottles upon arrival at the airport. Alcoholic beverages are available at all the hotels.

Water

We recommend you bring your own reusable water bottle and fill it with mineral water. It is a more environmentally friendly option than buying plastic bottles.

Recommended attire

The hijab is not mandatory. It is, however, recommended that you respect Egyptian dress code when visiting the various cities and archeological sites (long trousers or skirts, tops covering your shoulders).

Although the days may be warm, nights are quite chilly. Here is what we suggest: clothes made of breathable fabric (cotton or linen), hats, sunglasses and scarves during the day and warmer options for nighttime.

Currency

The Egyptian pound (L.E. or EGP) is the local currency. Payment may be made to some vendors by US dollars or euro.

Tips & Bargaining

Egypt is a tipping culture. “Baksheesh” is the Egyptian term for tips. Feel free to bargain in the souk/market. Do not hesitate to consult your guide for help.

For more information, check our FAQ on our website.

