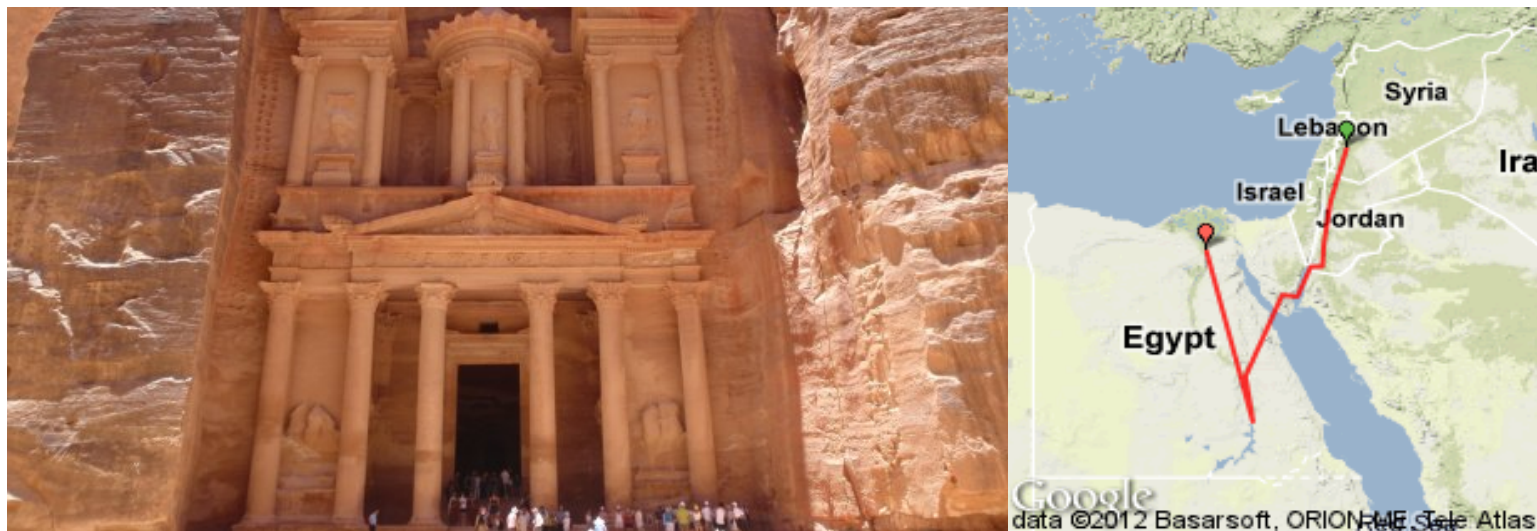


Kingdoms and Pharaohs

21 day - Damascus to Cairo

Syria - Jordan - Egypt



Ancient Persian, Ottoman and Egyptian cultures leave you wanting more on this trip from Damascus to Cairo. Chat with the friendly Syrians, be awed by Petra in Jordan, cover the Red Sea Coast and end with the Pyramids in Cairo. Awesome!

Top Destinations visited on this tour

Damascus - Mount Nebo - Petra - Wadi Rum Desert - Aqaba - Dahab - Mount Sinai - Luxor - Aswan

Tour Price

Price: GBP 525 + GBP 185

Local Payment: Local Payment is a portion of your total tour cost which is paid locally to your Crew, in cash, at the beginning of your tour.

Tour Length: 21 days

Crew: 2 crew
Vehicle: Overland Truck
Tour Code: DMC21-08

Tour Itinerary



Day 1 : Damascus. A chance today to explore the oldest inhabited city in the world.



Day 2 : Damascus to Damascus (via Beirut). A fantastic opportunity today to see a small part of another country and culture. Depending on the political situation in Lebanon there is the option of taking a one day guided tour via Baalbek Roman Temple to Beirut. Try the 'all you can eat' Lebanese lunch, take the city tour of Beirut and check out this vibrant city fast recovering from the civil war of the 80's and 90's.



Day 3 : Damascus to Mount Nebo. Crossing the border into Jordan we make our way to Mount Nebo for the night. Mt Nebo is a place of highly religious significance as it is believed to be where Moses got his first sight of the 'promised land' as well as where he was buried. On a clear day you can see all the way to Jerusalem and Jericho in Israel. A visit to the remains of the 4th century church will give you a glimpse of the stunning, detailed, and original mosaic floor.



Day 4 : Mount Nebo to Petra. The Dead Sea conjures images of ancient resort-style days. Here, therapeutic mud baths and not so therapeutic mud fights, are followed by an unusual swimming experience in this highly buoyant salt sea! After washing the salt off we continue to the town of Wadi Musa - the base camp for day trips to one of the highlights of the Middle East - the Rose Red City of Petra.



Day 5 : Petra. This 6th century BC Nabataean city was only rediscovered in the 1800's after being lost for over 1000 years. A walk through the Siq brings you to Petra's most famous site - The Treasury. The Nabataeans who carved this vast red city controlled the spice and slave caravans from Asia travelling to ancient Arabia. One of the most amazing highlights of any trip to the Middle East!



Day 6 : Petra to Wadi Rum Desert. Travelling further south we spend the night in the Wadi Rum Desert - the old stomping ground and headquarters of Lawrence of Arabia during the Arab Revolt of 1917-18. Here there is the option to take a 4WD jeep safari deep into the desert with your local Bedouin guide.



Day 7 : Wadi Rum Desert to Aqaba. The busy port of Aqaba is our base while we get through the tricky cross border procedures we need to leave Jordan and enter Egypt. Once the paperwork is finalised the ferry will take us to Taba and from there we drive the 100kms to Dahab where we spend the next few nights.



Day 8 to 9 : Aqaba to Dahab. We spend some time sorting out the complicated and sometimes time consuming process of leaving Jordan and entering Egypt. Depending on the ferry across this short stretch of the Red Sea we may have time to explore the duty free port of Aqaba before arriving on the Sinai peninsular.



Day 10 to 12 : Dahab. Laid back Dahab is a bit of a 'hippie village' that boasts warm water, great sunshine and fantastic scuba diving or snorkeling opportunities. Spectacular coral gardens and marine life is just metres from the shore. Try a camel trek, quad bike tour into the desert, visit St Catherine's Monastery, climb Mt Sinai or simply relax on the beach.



Day 13 : Dahab to Mount Sinai. Heading into the mountains we wind our way up to the hidden monastery of Saint Katharine. A couple of hours walking up hill is rewarded by a glorious sunrise over the Sinai ranges and Mount Sinai - Mose's Mountain.



Day 14 to 15 : Mount Sinai to Luxor (via Hurghada). Crossing from Asia to Africa we drive UNDER the Suez Canal and travel along the coast heading south and then west to reach Luxor - home of the Valley of the Kings and the massive Karnak Temple.



Day 16 : Luxor. The west bank of the Nile is where you will spend this morning. Visit the historic Valley of the Kings as well as the Valley of the Workers with our Guide and see the dramatic and quite amazing funerary glory of the ancient Pharaohs. We stop at the Colossi of Memnon and those who want to can have a ride on a trusty donkey through the local villages. A free afternoon to explore Luxor itself.



Day 17 : Luxor to Aswan. After a couple of days in busy Luxor it is nice to get back on the road. Travelling alongside the Nile we arrive in the quieter and more relaxed town of Aswan where feluccas seem to be the main source of transport! Visit a traditional Nubian Village, try a riverside cafe, and get ready for a early start tomorrow.



Day 18 : Aswan. An early start but well worth the trip - Abu Simbel awaits. Built by Ramses II, the Sun Temple now sits on the edge of Lake Nasser in the southern desert close to the Sudan border. Once back in Aswan check out the Temple at Philae, take a felucca to Elephantine Island or visit a proper Nubian village.



Day 19 to 20 : Aswan. The next two days and nights are spent sailing the Nile in a traditional Felucca - watching Egypt glide by, and sleeping under the stars.



Day 21 : Aswan to Cairo. A long (but not so bad) overnight train gets us to Cairo - home of the Pyramids, Sphinx and the amazing Egyptian Museum. A free afternoon allows time to get your bearings and absorb the atmosphere in this bustling city.

Included Highlights

These 4 highlight(s) are included in your tour cost.

- **Cairo Antiquities Museum**
- **Giza Pyramids**
- **Nile Felucca Excursion**
- **Sphinx**

Optional Highlights

These 21 highlight(s) are optional activities which you can do on your trip. We have supplied indicative prices so you can plan your spending money accordingly:

- **Abu Simbel Day Trip** - \$45
- **Aswan High Dam** - \$25
- **Dashour and Saqqara Pyramids Excursion** - \$40
- **Desert Quad Biking** - \$60
- **Edfu Temple** - \$10
- **Karnak Temple** - \$12
- **Kitchener Island Botanic Gardens** - \$8
- **Lebanon Day Trip from Damascus** - \$175
- **Luxor Temple** - \$10
- **Nubian Village Dinner** - \$8
- **PADI Advanced Open Water Course - Red Sea** - \$260
- **PADI Introductory Dive - Red Sea** - \$75
- **PADI Open Water Dive Course - Red Sea** - \$360
- **Petra Guided Tour** - \$84
- **Philae Temple** - \$10
- **Red Sea Guided Diving** - \$60
- **Refresher Dive** - \$65
- **Temple of Queen Hatshepsut** - \$10
- **Valley of the Kings & Queens Tour** - \$34
- **Wadi Rum Jeep Safari** - \$40

General Notes

Approx 50% of all meals are included. This itinerary is a rough guideline only and is subject to change on a trip by trip basis.

Departure Dates

Start - End

09 May 2013 - 29 May 2013
30 May 2013 - 19 Jun 2013
12 Sep 2013 - 02 Oct 2013
09 Oct 2013 - 29 Oct 2013
01 Dec 2013 - 21 Dec 2013

Before and After Your Trip

Your pre-departure meeting starts at 17h45pm on Day 1 of the trip at the Al Haramain Hotel Bahsa St Suq Saroujah Damascus Syria Ph: +963 (0)11 231 9489 Web: www.syrianmall.com/hotels/hotel-detail.php?hotelid=3.

Your trip departs from the Al Haramain Hotel Bahsa St Suq Saroujah Damascus Syria Ph: +963 (0)11 231 9489 Web: www.syrianmall.com/hotels/hotel-detail.php?hotelid=3 at 18h00pm on Day 1 of the trip. We suggest you get there 15 minutes before to avoid delays.

Your trip ends at/in Swiss Inn Cairo on late afternoon on the last day of the trip. Please note end times are approximated.

Contact us from information and prices for the pre and post tour accommodation, flights, transfer, car rental and activity bookings.

Visa Information - <http://www.overlandinafrica.com/before-you-go/visas-and-passports/>

Vaccinations - <http://www.overlandinafrica.com/health/>

Travel Insurance - <http://www.overlandinafrica.com/before-you-go/travel-insurance/>

Frequently Asked Questions - <http://www.overlandinafrica.com/faq/>

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Contact Us

SA: +27 (0)21 422 4644

UK: 0871 28 44 99 1

Email: info@overlandinafrica.com

Skype: overlandinafrica.com

Website: <http://www.overlandinafrica.com/>

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