EGYPT & THE ETERNAL NILE
November 5-19, 2018

15 days for $4,497 total price from Houston
($3,995 air, land & cruise inclusive plus $502 airline taxes and fees)

This tour is provided by Odysseys Unlimited, six-time honoree Travel & Leisure's World's Best Tour Operators award.

An Exclusive Small Group Tour for Alumni, Parents, and Friends of Rice University
Featuring Associate Professor Lisa Balabanlilar, Department of History
Dear Rice alumni, parents, and friends,

Join us on an exciting 15-day journey to Egypt. Led by an expert Egyptian guide, witness thousands of years of history on a unique itinerary. We are pleased to have Lisa Balabanlilar, Associate Professor in the Department of History at Rice University, lead this compelling journey.

Begin in Egypt’s capital and largest city, Cairo, with its renowned ancient sites: the Egyptian Museum, the Sphinx, Sakkara, and the Pyramids of Giza. Relax during a three-night cruise on Lake Nasser, during which you visit ancient temples and monuments salvaged during the construction of the Aswan High Dam. Then, after a tour of the Aswan High Dam, a classic Nile voyage includes visits to Edfu’s Temple of Horus and Luxor’s acclaimed temples and tombs. Here, explore the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens; then visit Karnak, arguably the greatest temple complex of them all. Conclude your tour back in Cairo with a visit to the lively Khan el-Khalili bazaar and exploration of Old Cairo.

With space for only 25 Rice-affiliated guests in total, we expect this tour to fill quickly. Book today and secure your place on this remarkable journey!

Warm regards,

Dan Stypa
Associate Director of Alumni Programs
Office of Alumni Relations

RICE UNIVERSITY RESERVATION FORM: EGYPT & THE ETERNAL NILE

Enclosed is my/our deposit for $_____ ($500 per person) for ____ person(s) on Egypt & the Eternal Nile departing November 5, 2018. I/We understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, VISA, or by personal check. Please make check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., and send, with completed reservation form, to: Rice Alumni Traveling Owls – MS 520, Rice University, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, TX 77251-1892. You may also call the Rice Alumni Traveling Owls at 713-34-TRIPS, e-mail travelingowls@rice.edu, or fax your reservation to 713-348-5210.

Full Passport Name ____________________________________________ Date of Birth ______________ Gender ______
Full Passport Name ____________________________________________ Date of Birth ______________ Gender ______
Address ____________________________________________________________________________________________
City _____________________________________________ State ___________________________ ZIP _____________
Home Phone (______)_________ Cell Phone (______)_________
E-mail(s) ________________________________ Badge Name(s) __________________________________
Please book my/our air from __________________________________ I/We request a Business Class upgrade  
I will share a room with __________________________________ I request a single room (limited availability) 
Post-Tour “Jordan: Petra & Amman” Extension: Please sign me/us up  
Please Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for Egypt & the Eternal Nile, November 5-19, 2018, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms & Conditions.

Signature(s) _________________________________________________________________ Date _________________

Method of Payment  q Check  q American Express  q Discover  q MasterCard  q VISA
Account # __________________________________ Security Code _________ Exp. Date ______________
Name of Cardholder _______________________________________________________________
Signature ________________________________________________________________

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure, and is payable by check or credit card.
EGYPT & THE ETERNAL NILE

15 days for $4,497 total price from Houston
($3,995 air, land & cruise inclusive plus $502 airline taxes and fees)

Accompanied by an expert Egyptian guide, this singular small group journey through antiquity travels from vibrant Cairo and the Great Pyramids to Abu Simbel and the Upper Nile for a fascinating cruise on Lake Nasser. Next: a classic voyage along the Lower Nile from Aswan to Luxor before returning to Cairo.

Day 1: Depart U.S. for Cairo, Egypt

Day 2: Arrive Cairo We arrive in the Egyptian capital and transfer to our hotel. As guests’ arrival times may vary greatly, we have no group activities or meals planned.

Day 3: Cairo After a morning briefing, our full-day tour begins at the acclaimed Egyptian Museum, the world’s greatest repository of ancient relics. Then we tour the Citadel of Saladin housing the alabaster Mosque of Mohamed Ali. Tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. B,L,D

Day 4: Cairo Today’s tour starts at the open-air museum at Memphis, Egypt’s first capital (3100 BCE). We continue on to the necropolis at Sakkara then to the astounding Pyramids of Giza, the wonders of antiquity that have drawn visitors for millennia. Here, we encounter the enigmatic Sphinx, whose leonine body and human face were carved from a single piece of limestone. B,L

Day 5: Cairo/Abu Simbel/Embark Lake Nasser Cruise Early this morning we fly south to Aswan then continue by coach across the edge of the Sahara to Abu Simbel. We board our Lake Nasser ship in time for lunch, then visit the temples and colossal 65-foot-high statues of Ramses II and his wife Nefertari that were dismantled and moved to higher ground during the construction of the Aswan dam. Tonight we watch a dramatic sound-and-light show at Abu Simbel. B,L,D

Day 6: Lake Nasser Cruising – Kasr Ibrim/Amada/Wadi el-Seboua Early risers can watch the sun climb over the temples at Abu Simbel before we sail to Kasr Ibrim, the last remaining Nubian settlement in its original location. From the sun deck we learn about this ancient site (it’s forbidden to go ashore here), then sail to Amada, followed by Wadi el-Seboua. B,L,D

Day 7: Lake Nasser Cruising – Valley of the Lions/Aswan This morning we visit the striking avenue of sphinxes in Wadi el-Seboua’s “Valley of the Lions” then cruise to Aswan. B,L,D

Small Group Tour Highlights

Cairo’s intriguing ancient sites, including the Great Pyramids, Sphinx, Memphis, Sakkara • Old Cairo touring • Renowned Egyptian Museum • Abu Simbel’s dramatic temples • Sound-and-light show at Abu Simbel • Lake Nasser cruise through ancient Nubian homeland • Aswan’s temples at Kalabsha • Nile felucca sail • Deluxe Nile River cruise • Aswan Dam tour • Ancient temple complexes at Karnak and Luxor, including Valley of the Kings and Valley of the Queens • Egypt’s inestimable historic atmosphere

Day Itinerary Hotel Rating
1 Depart U.S. for Cairo
2-4 Cairo Fairmont Nile City Deluxe
5-7 Abu Simbel/Lake Nasser cruise M/S Prince Abbas Sup. First Class
8-11 Nile cruise M/S Sunray Deluxe
12 Luxor Steigenberger Nile Palace Sup. First Class
13-14 Cairo Fairmont Nile City Deluxe
15 Depart Cairo for U.S.

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.

Cover photo: On Day 4 we travel to the Giza plateau to see the legendary pyramids.
Day 8: Disembark/Aswan/Embark Nile Cruise Ship

We set out early this morning to visit New Kalabsha, site of the largest freestanding Nubian temple, which was relocated here for the construction of the Aswan Dam. We return to our ship for breakfast then bid farewell to the crew as we embark on a tour of the Aswan High Dam. Next we visit the imposing temple to Isis on Agilkia Island before boarding our Nile cruise ship. This afternoon we embark small feluccas, replicas of ancient Nile sailboats, for a relaxing sail. Back on board our ship tonight we enjoy the Captain’s welcome cocktail party.

B,L,D

Day 9: Nile Cruising – Kom Ombo/Edfu/Luxor

This morning we sail to the ancient trading town of Kom Ombo, with outstanding Nile views from the Temple of Sobek. After returning to our ship, we sail on to Edfu where we explore Edfu’s Temple of Horus, Egypt’s best-preserved temple (built between 237 BCE–57 BCE). We return to our ship for lunch as we sail to Luxor (our final sail), enjoying a quiet afternoon on the Nile. A belly dance performance accompanies dinner tonight. B,L,D

Day 10: Nile Cruising – Luxor/West Bank

Known in antiquity as Thebes, Luxor boasts vast temple complexes, tombs, and statues dating from 2755 BCE that represent the pinnacle of Egyptian architecture. Today we explore the West Bank, site of the haunting Valley of the Kings, where 34 royal tombs feature magnificent paintings; the Valley of the Queens; and the Temple of Hatshepsut honoring one of the few female pharaohs. We also see the massive Colossi of Memnon, two 64-foot-high statues of Amenhotep III that once guarded the gates of his mortuary temple. B,L,D

Day 11: Nile Cruising – Luxor/East Bank

Today we tour Luxor’s East Bank, home of Karnak, the greatest temple complex of them all, whose ruins stretch for more than a mile to connect with Luxor. Built over a period of 1,500 years, Karnak boasts a breadth and diversity of buildings not seen elsewhere. We also explore Luxor Temple, whose builders included both Tutankhamun and Alexander the Great. Here, at the Great Court of Ramses II, we see the ancient obelisk whose twin presides over Place de la Concorde in Paris. B,L,D
Day 12: Disembarck/Luxor  We have the choice to rise very early to see the West Bank from above on an optional hot air balloon ride. We disembark our ship later this morning and transfer to our hotel. This afternoon we tour the Luxor Museum, housing relics discovered at the site. Among the museum’s notable artifacts: items from the pharaoh Tutankhamun’s renowned tomb. Dinner tonight is on our own.  B,L

Day 13: Luxor/Cairo  We fly to Cairo today. After checking in at our hotel, we visit the lively Khan el-Khalil bazaar. This afternoon is free for independent exploration.  B

Day 14: Cairo  This morning we encounter Old Cairo, the district where early capital cities once stood and now only remnants remain. We visit 5th-century St. Sergius Church; the Coptic church of el-Mauallaqa, constructed over the bastions of a Roman gate; and Ben Ezra Synagogue, built in 882. We return to our hotel mid-day; this afternoon is at leisure. Tonight we enjoy a farewell dinner at our hotel. B,D

Day 15: Depart for U.S.  Early this morning we transfer to the airport for our return flight to the U.S.  B

Meet Your Faculty Host
Lisa Balabanlilar is an Associate Professor in the Department of History at Rice University, where she has taught since 2007. She is a scholar of medieval and early modern Islamic history and kingship. Her interest and expertise related to Egypt centers on the relationship between religion and power, from the years of the Arab Islamic conquest to the rise of Egypt’s extraordinary Fatimid and Mamluk empires. Balabanlilar’s book Imperial Identity in the Mughal Empire: Memory and Dynastic Politics in Early Modern South and Central Asia was published in 2012. She has published articles on the role of women in pre-modern politics, dynastic succession, as well as the gardens and literature of the Turco-Mongol royal courts. Dr. Balabanlilar has won several teaching awards at Rice, including the Phi Beta Kappa Sophie Meyer Farb Award, the George R. Brown Award for Superior Teaching, and most recently, the George R. Brown Award for Teaching Excellence. In recent years, she has led several Traveling Owls journeys, including those to Turkey, India, Morocco, and Spain, as well as the Silk Road.

Your Tour Price Includes
• Round-trip air transportation from listed cities; all flights within Egypt
• 13 nights’ accommodations: 6 nights in Deluxe and Superior First Class hotels; 7 nights aboard Deluxe and Superior First Class ships
• 32 meals: 13 breakfasts, 10 lunches, 9 dinners
• Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
• Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
• Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip, including shore excursions
• Luggage handling for one bag per person
• GRATUITIES FOR LOCAL GUIDES, DINING ROOM SERVERS, AIRPORT AND HOTEL PORTERS, AND ALL DRIVERS

Lake Nasser Cruise
M/S Prince Abbas

Nile Cruise
M/S Sunray

Tour Departs: November 5, 2018
Prices include int’l airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

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Land Only (transfers not included) $3,295

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of $502, which are subject to change until final payment is made.

Single travelers please add $995. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Business Class upgrade on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: $2,495 per person (upgrade subject to availability and pricing subject to change). Upgrade cost is in addition to the costs above.

Please note: This trip involves considerable walking on uneven terrain and at sites of ancient ruins. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to its fullest.

For reservations and information, please call the Rice Alumni Traveling Owls at 713-34-TRIPS, or fax your reservation to 713-348-5210
GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a $500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

Not Included in Tour Price: Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; communication charges; optional sightseeing; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and shipboard personnel, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: $10-$15 per traveler, per day); optional sightseeing or shore excursions; and travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Cancellations, Refunds, and Changes: If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.'s receipt of your written notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: cancel 95 days or more before departure: $200 charge; cancel 94-65 days before departure: 50% of tour price; cancel 64-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; cancel 29-0 days before departure: no refund. If you make any changes to your reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a $100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure.

Upon reservation, you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket’s reissue.

Responsibility: The liability of the Office of Alumni Relations and Rice University, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore we will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. The Office of Alumni Relations, Rice University, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including, without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise lines, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

Health and Medical Issues: We request that you be in good health to participate in this tour. There is a considerable amount of walking, and you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own. We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that all of our tour itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail us to inquire and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, the Office of Alumni Relations, Rice University, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

Air Transportation – Important Information: Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown, and contracts with those airlines the company feels provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments. Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including, but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., the Office of Alumni Relations, and Rice University shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.

JOIN US FOR AN EXCLUSIVE TRAVELING OWLS TOUR TO EGYPT!

Limited to 24 Guests