SPECIALIST
JOURNEYS



Cairo

Egypt - New Museums & Discoveries at New Year

Recently excavated tombs and new museums in Cairo and Alexandria

Archaeology in Egypt is seeing another Golden Age, this time led by local Egyptians themselves. This tour focuses on these new discoveries, from the recently excavated tombs in Saqqara to the newly renovated Greco Romano Museum in Alexandria and the long-awaited Grand Egyptian Museum at Giza. Returning to these sites in the engaging company of our experienced excavators and Egyptologists is a treat not to be missed.

Key highlights

- Visit the long awaited and much anticipated Grand Egyptian Museum at Giza
- In expert company, explore the Imhotep Museum at Saqqara and Greco Roman Museum in Alexandra, both recently opened
- New tomb discoveries in Saqqara, including the Tomb of Mehu and the Tomb of Maia
- Spend two days in Alexandria, the capital of the Ptolemies, one of the greatest cities of the Hellenistic and Roman world

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Day 1: London - Cairo
Arrive into Cairo and meet your expert Guide Lecturer and fellow travellers at your hotel.

Meals: Dinner

Day 2: Saqqara
We dedicate today to one of the most archaeologically important sites in Egypt — the sprawling necropolis of **Saqqara**. Here were buried some of the most important officials of Memphis and it was also the place of Egypt's first pyramid. Here we see the **Tombs of Maya** and **Horemheb** and the recently opened Old Kingdom **Tomb of Mehu**, subject of the excellent 2020 documentary, The Secrets of Saqqara. In the afternoon, we explore the **Imhotep Museum**, which has re-opened following renovation. Our day at Saqqara completes with the Tomb of Maia, who was wet-nurse to Tutankhamun, and the **Tomb of Nemtymes**, both re-opened to the public in the last decade.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3: Giza & Alexandria
Our day starts at the **National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation**. The NMEC opened in 2017 and is the first of its kind to display the richness and diversity of Egyptian civilisation throughout the ages, from prehistoric times to the present day. The museum's exceptional collection includes the royal mummies, which are exhibited in a new interactive display using 21st-century cutting-edge technology to go beneath the wrappings and reveal their secrets, in addition to shedding light on the rituals and religious beliefs surrounding mummification in ancient Egypt. After lunch, we leave Cairo on the desert road and travel to Alexandria.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4: Alexandria
Our focus this morning is the fabulous **Graeco-Roman Museum**, which re-opened its doors to the public in 2023 after 18 years of renovation work. Dedicated to the Greek and Roman eras of Egypt, exhibiting artefacts are from Alexander the Great's occupation, the subsequent Ptolemaic Dynasty and the period of Roman rule to province up to the Muslim conquest. Among the thousands of artefacts on display are several discovered during underwater excavations in the sunken cities of Thonis-Heracleion and Canopus as well as in the ancient Portus Magnus of Alexandria. In the afternoon, we visit the **Bibliotheca Alexandrina**. Here we see superb mosaics recovered from the royal palace of the Ptolemies and the excellent Manuscripts Museum. There is so much more to see here than most people realise.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5: Alexandria - Abu Sir - Cairo
We leave the city centre and drive to **Abu Sir**, ancient Tapaposiris, where the Ptolemaic temple and a funerary monument modelled on the Pharos were built on a ridge between Lake Mareotis and the Mediterranean. Recently, there has been much speculation that it may contain Cleopatra's tomb which as yet, remains undiscovered. After lunch, we return south to Cairo.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6: Giza
Spend a full day devoted to the **Grand Egyptian Museum**, which sits on the edge of the Giza plateau with the pyramids within view. A huge undertaking which started over 20 years ago, the museum boasts over 750,000 sqm in floor size, 12 exhibition halls and thousands on thousands of artefacts. At 45m long, the cedarwood Solar Boat of King Khufu, once housed in a cramped exhibition hall at Giza, now fits easily within the vast space of the GEM and two exhibition halls are entirely devoted to Egypt's most famous pharaoh, Tutankhamun, alone. For the first time, almost all of the 5,000 objects discovered in his tomb are on display. Costing nearly a billion dollars in its creation, this is the biggest museum in the world and it's a truly fascinating end to our tour.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7: Cairo - London
Depart for the airport or continue your trip at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast

Activity level - **Light** ●○○

Your Expert Guide Lecturer

Tony O'Connor



Tony O'Connor graduated in Ancient History and Archaeology from Manchester University, specialising in the Roman Empire and the Phoenicians. He spent several years excavating as a field archaeologist in the Mediterranean, UK and North Africa before becoming a Museum Curator and subsequently Museum Service Director. Leading tours for Andante for over 20 years to Syria, Northern Egypt, Libya, Lebanon, Italy, Pompeii, Algeria & Provence, his experience is extensive, and he is one of our most experienced and popular Guide Lecturers. Tony is also interested in the study of Roman coinage — and in numismatics, more widely — using his skills in coin analysis as his ongoing role as a museum archaeologist.

Your tour includes

- Expert Guide Lecturer & professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Andante Field Notes
- All taxes & gratuities to local staff *(drivers, waiters, site custodians)*
- All local transport aboard a private air-conditioned coach
- 4 nights at the Sofitel Cairo Nile El Gezirah, Cairo & 2 nights Rixos Montaza Hotel, Alexandria *(or similar)*
- 6 breakfasts, 5 lunches & 5 dinners plus 1 snack in hotel room due to late arrival
- Water with all meals, soft drinks at lunch & tea or coffee with dinner