

2008, February

21 night: checked in at midnight

22: woke late, went on a long walk on Nile. Spent several hours in the museum. Aggressive and creative Egyptian storewalls. Museum is enormous and has tons of artifacts. Not well designed for tourists. But large crowds.

Others arrived by 6pm. First group dinner. Dinner in a restaurant situated in a park. Great location but mediocre food.

23: pyramids of Giza in the morning, then to the Step Pyramid of Saqqara lunch and to Memphis. Lunch continues to be bad. Country side is poor, filthy and agrarian.

Night: light show at the Giza. Dinner at the Oberoi near Giza. Live Hindi music.

24: museum, Ibn-e-Mosque, boat ride.

25: 4:30 flight to Aswan and then to Abu Simbel. Morning Abu Simbel. Afternoon ride in a boat to Nubian village. Sugarcane juice.

26: morning to St. Simeon. Camel ride. After to the cruise checkin. Felucca ride.

27: visit Aswan in the morning: High Dam, Philae Temple and unfinished obelisk, sail to Kom Ombo (walk to the temple)

28: morning Edfu. Afternoon sail to Karnak.

29: morning to West Bank - which I missed. Afternoon to Karnak Temple. Also missed. Evening for light and sound show at Karnak.

1: checkout from cruise - moon goddess Sonesta. Visit Luxor and then Karnak Temple. Visit Luxor Museum - beautiful well maintained small. Rest in the afternoon. Then fly to Sharm el Sheikh.

2 at Sharm. Snorkelling at noon. Quiet walk in the mall in the evening.

3. Snorkelling in the morning. Flight to Amman at 2:30. Bag missing. Three hour trip to Petra. Bought local dress. Candle light Petra. Best item of the entire trip.

4. Petra.

5. Leave at 6 for Wadi. Trip through desert, to Dead Sea via Kera Castle. Mud bath. Overnight in Amman.

6: bus to Allenby or King Hussein Bridge. Walking tour of East Jerusalem. Terrorist attack on a Jewish seminary.

7. Pari leaves. Walking tour of Mount of Olives and 19th century Jerusalem. Sabbath. Meet Ibrahim. Bd leaves

8. Trip to Bethlehem - church of Nativity. Jericho: old Jericho, Greek Monastery - temptation and Masada (closed)

9. Museum

10: departure