



## What's Included

- Dr Theodore Hiebert will be our tour host throughout the pilgrimage
  - International roundtrip airfare from Chicago to Cairo
  - Accommodation for (7) nights in Cairo at 5\* hotel
  - Accommodation for (3) nights in Luxor at 5\* hotel
  - Breakfast each day
  - 18 lunch and dinner meals as outlined in the program at local restaurants/hotels in Cairo and Luxor
  - Admission fees for all the sights mentioned in the program in Cairo and Luxor
  - Service of English-speaking Egyptologist guide and English speaking assistant throughout the pilgrimage
  - All transfers and sightseeing in private, air-conditioned coach
  - All service charges, applicable taxes & VAT
  - Entry visa cost
  - Domestic flights Cairo>Luxor>Cairo
- ◇ Price is for double occupancy - single supplement is \$1,200.
- ◇ \$200 discount for check or Zelle payment (*all payments must be check or Zelle, otherwise full price applies*)



# Dr Theodore Hiebert Pilgrimage to Egypt



**\$6,195/person\***

**March 3 - 14, 2025**



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# Pilgrimage to Egypt w/ Dr Theodore Hiebert

**Monday, March 3 & March 4: Depart Chicago for Cairo** - Upon arrival, we will be met by our tour manager who will assist us through airport arrival formalities including visa handling, passport control, luggage gathering, and customs control. We will then be transferred by coach to our hotel for dinner and overnight. D

**Wednesday, March 5: The Pyramids, Sphinx & Grand Egyptian Museum** – Constructed by the Pharaohs of the 3rd and 4th Dynasties of the Old Kingdom (c. 2700-2500 BC) as monuments to their rule and to their life after death, the Pyramids of Giza stood in all of their glory for a thousand years before biblical history began. The Great Sphinx of Giza, the oldest known monumental sculpture in Egypt and one of the most recognizable statues in the world. The archaeological evidence suggests that it was created by ancient Egyptians of the Old Kingdom during the reign of Khafre (c. 2558–2532 BC). After lunch at a local restaurant, we're off the incomparable Grand Egyptian Museum where we will see the great artifacts of ancient Egypt. Dinner at local restaurant. B|L|D

**Thursday, March 6: The Coptic Church in Egypt** - Tracing its beginning to the Apostle Mark in AD 64, the Coptic Orthodox Church goes back to the very origins of Christianity. First, we'll visit Saint Mark's Coptic Cathedral, the Seat of the Coptic Orthodox Pope Tawadros II, and learn about the Coptic Orthodox Church in Egypt. After lunch, we visit Old Coptic Cairo, sit in the pews and smell the incense in some of Egypt's oldest churches, including the Hanging Church and the Abou Serge church that date back to the 3rd and 4th centuries. After a brief visit to Ben Ezra Synagogue, time permitting, we will visit nearby shops for Christian symbols, icons, etc. Dinner at the hotel. B|L|D

**Friday, March 7: The Evangelical Theological Seminary** - Begun as a mission of the United Presbyterian Church of North America in the late nineteenth century, the Evangelical Church of Egypt (Synod of the Nile) became independent in 1958 and flourishes throughout Egypt. We'll pay an extended visit to its seminary, the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, the country's oldest Protestant seminary, to speak with its faculty, students, and future church leaders, and to learn about the mission and work of the Protestant church in Egypt today. After lunch at the Seminary, the afternoon is free to enjoy shopping in Cairo. Back to the hotel for dinner. B|L|D

**Saturday, March 8: Islam in Egypt** - For fifteen centuries the church has lived in Egypt under Muslim rule and in a Muslim culture. This morning we visit Mohamed Ali Mosque and Citadel of Saladin. After lunch at a local restaurant, we visit with a scholar from Al Azhar University, the world's second oldest degree granting university and the most prestigious university for Islamic learning. The afternoon will be spent exploring and shopping in Cairo's great traditional outdoor market, the Khan el-Khalili. Dinner at the hotel. (B, L, D)

**Sunday, March 9: St Macarius Monastery and The National Museum** – After breakfast,

we worship in a local church before our journey into the desert and a visit to Wadi El Natrun where we will experience life inside the St Macarius Monastery. Established by the Desert Fathers during the 4th to the 7th centuries, it is still thriving as monastic community today. After lunch at a local restaurant we return to Cairo for a visit to the National Museum in Tahrir Square, which houses some of Egypt's most important artifacts of Egypt's history. Dinner in a local restaurant. (B, L, D)

**Monday, March 10: The Holy Family in Egypt and Luxor** - This morning we check out of our hotel in Cairo and visit the Church of The Blessed Virgin Mary in Maadi, aka the Floating Church, where the Holy Family began their journey south. After lunch at a local restaurant, we visit the Virgin Mary Church in Mostorod where tradition tells us the Holy Family stayed and The Virgin Mary bathed Jesus. We then go to the Cairo airport for our short flight to Luxor. Check-in at the hotel. Dinner will be followed by a horse and carriage ride along the Corniche and beautiful views of Luxor by night. Back to the hotel for overnight. (B, L, D)

**Tuesday, March 11: The West Bank of the Nile** - The Pharaohs of the New Kingdom built their tombs and mortuary temples on the Nile's West Bank, the direction of the setting sun and the gateway to the kingdom of the west where Osiris admitted them to the day of judgment and renewal of life. We'll descend into the dark tombs in the Valley of the Kings, walk up the broad ascent to the Temple of Hatshepsut—one of the world's most perfect architectural achievements, explore Medinet Habu with its reliefs of the ancient Philistines, and stop to see the original site of the Merenptah Stele at Merenptah's mortuary temple. Lunch at local restaurant on the West Bank, before we enjoy a relaxing Felucca boat ride back to our hotel. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. (B, L, D)

**Wednesday, March 12: The Great Temples on the Nile's East Bank** - In the morning we'll visit the Luxor Temple, where we will meet a member of the Epigraphic Survey of the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures of the University of Chicago. We will learn about the work the University of Chicago is doing to preserve the temple and record its inscriptions. After lunch, we visit the Karnak Temple, Egypt's largest temple. Dr Ted Hiebert will discuss two inscriptions at the Karnak Temple of particular importance for biblical history. Dinner at a local restaurant. (B, L, D)

**Thursday, March 13: Luxor to Cairo** - This morning we check out of our hotel in Luxor and fly back to Cairo. Upon arrival, we will visit Church of the Virgin Mary at Zeitoun (Church of the Apparition). The rest of the afternoon is ours to relax, debrief our pilgrimage and to end our trip with an evening Farewell Dinner. We return to the hotel for shower, refreshment and preparation for our late evening departure to the airport. (B, D)

**Friday, March 14: Depart Cairo for Chicago**