

C O D A ^

BEYOND THE PYRAMIDS

USA

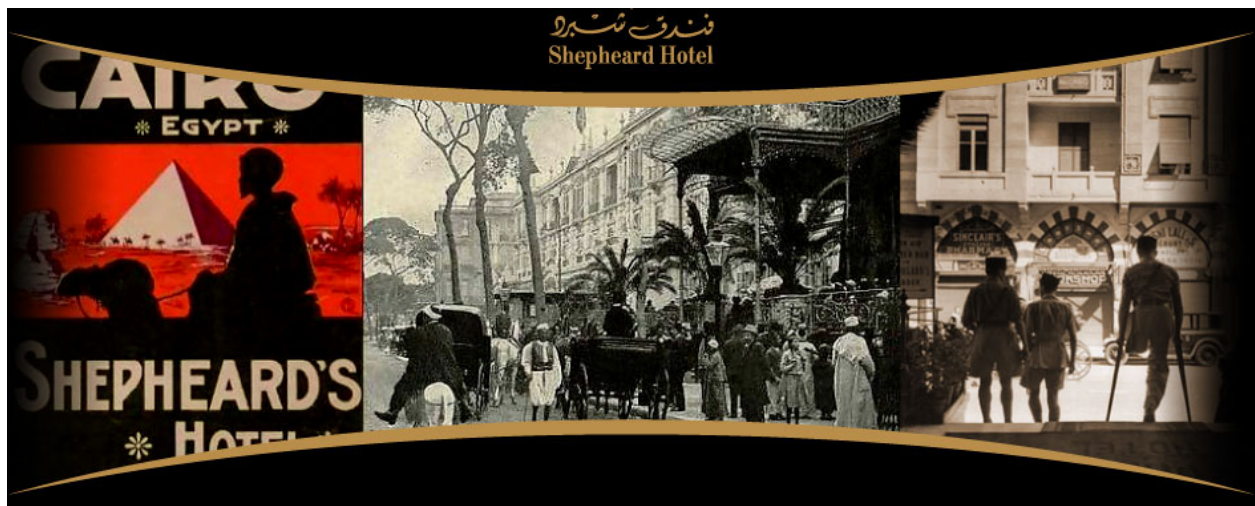
Dec 1, 2012

Depart the USA on any regularly schedule flight to Cairo.

CAIRO

Dec 2-4 & Dec 9-10, 2012

We begin our journey in Cairo. One day will be spent touring the city. On this "Beyond the Pyramids" journey, our intent is to emphasize the "other" Cairo, the Cairo that came after the ancient period. We will take a specially designed tour of 19th & early 20th century Cairo. This was a period of transition from the Mamluks to Napoleon's troops to the Ottomans to the British and finally to Independence in 1922.



Our hotel will be the famous Shepherd Hotel built in 1841. In the late 19th century, Cairo became a hub for international commerce, European tourists and travelers. The Shepherd Hotel became a focal point where its famous terrace, set with wicker chairs & tables, commanded a lofty & shaded view of the comings & goings on Ibrahim Pasha Street below. It became the playground for international aristocracy where every person of social standing made it a must to have tea, to see and be seen.

The hotel continued to be at the center of many events that took place in that century, being selected to be the headquarters of many armies during the Crimean war, the Indian Mutiny, the

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Boer War and the two World Wars. One of the less hostile events was the celebration of the Grand Opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, when the hotel hosted numerous international celebrates that were invited to attend the ceremony. One of the highlights was a banquet given in honor of the French Empress Eugénie.

ALEXANDRIA

Dec 4 - 6, 2012



Alexandria is Egypt's second largest city and extends along the coast of the Mediterranean sea. It was founded by Alexander the Great in 331 BC. It was the capital of Egypt for nearly a thousand years, until the Muslim conquest in 641 AD. It became famous for the Lighthouse of Alexandria, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, and for the library which was the largest in the ancient world. The beauty and cosmopolitanism of Alexandria inspired great authors such as the British novelist E.M. Forster, the Greek poet Constantine Cavafy who respectively lived in Alexandria in the early and late 19th century, and Lawrence Durrell who lived and wrote about the city during World War II.

See the pillar of Pompey, the catacombs, known as Kom al-Shoqafa and the new library of Alexandria. We will also explore a gayer side of Alexandria with a visit to the home of poet Constantine Cavafy.



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Our hotel is the Sofitel Cecil Hotel, built in 1929 by the French-Egyptian Jewish Metzger family as a romantic hotel. The Cecil Hotel was frequented by Somerset Maugham and Winston Churchill among many other illustrious guests. Today it is managed by Sofitel and is an elegant 4-star hotel.

SIWA OASIS

Dec 6 - 9, 2012



In 331 BC, Alexander the Great made a special detour to the Siwa Oasis, inspired by the reputation of a famous oracle to the god Amun. The name of Alexander the Great is forever linked to Siwa Oasis and the god Amun, who, according to legend, was declared his father in the oracle. Many excavations have been on-going here to find Alexander's tomb.

Until WWII marriages between men were common. For centuries only women, children and men over forty could live within the city walls which gave rise to homosexual relationships among the male-only population on the outside.

The young men, known as "Zaggalah" or "Club bearers," worked the fields and guarded them from attacks by hostile Bedouin. They earned a reputation for drunkenness and unashamed homoerotic relationships. As late as 1938, one horrified British army officer spoke with evident distaste of the oasis' "degenerate inhabitants."

Today, the Siwa Oasis has a population of approximately 23,000 people. During our 3-night stay in the Oasis, we will explore the surrounding desert as well as Cleopatra hot spring, a popular swimming hole for locals and visitors, Mountain of Death, rock cut tombs dating from the Ptolemaic & Romans periods, The Temple of the Oracle, built in the 6th century, dedicated to Amun (Zeus) and visited by Alexander the Great, the Temple of Amun, largely destroyed by an Ottoman governor in 1896, was erected in the 30th Dynasty by the Pharaoh Nectanebo.

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Our accommodations are at the rustic but charming Shali Lodge, featuring indigenous hand-made crafts, local culinary specialties and a warm and thoughtful staff. The construction of Shali Lodge uses kershef, a mixture of sun-dried salt, mud and sand that naturally insulates against the summer heat and the crisp desert night. There are plenty of electric outlets and even wireless.

RATES:

Per Person	DOUBLE	SINGLE
	\$3195	\$3695

INCLUSIONS:

- 03 nights at Shepard Hotel, on bed and breakfast basis.
- 02 nights at Sofitel Cecil Hotel "Alexandria" in standard room on bed & breakfast basis.
- 03 nights at Shali Lodge hotel "Siwa" in standard room on full board basis
- All transfers as mentioned in the itinerary
- All sightseeing as mentioned in the itinerary
- Coda tour manager with 6 participants

EXCLUSIONS:

- Visa entry (obtainable upon arrival at the Cairo airport)
- Departure tax if applicable
- Tips and gratuities for guide, tour coordinators, drivers, airport porters
- All items of a personal nature (telephone calls, laundry, room service, etc).
- All drinks, rather than what mentioned above, will be charged as per consumption.