

Discover Turkey & Egypt in 2010

Magical Mysteries of Turkey & Egypt: A Dream Tour

October 31 – November 13, 2010

Tour and Travel Arrangements by

Turquoise International Productions and Tours

“Our 30 years of experience in Turkey & Egypt will surely enhance yours!”

Turkey: Fascination with the Ancient and the Modern

Istanbul is bound on the north and the south by two seas, the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmara, respectively. The western half of the city lies in Europe while the eastern half is situated in Asia; in between the two halves flows the Bosphorus Strait. Istanbul, representing the Asian city nearest Europe and the European city closest to Asia, is a leading port whose importance is stressed by the age-old trade routes passing through the Bosphorus.

The **Blue Mosque**, one of Istanbul's most prominent symbols, immediately astounds every visitor to the city. It is located directly opposite the Hagia Sophia Museum. The mosque takes its name from Sultanahmet Square, and is the most important of the mosques to be built as an endowment to the city during the Ottoman Empire. It was the first mosque ever to be built with six minarets.

When one thinks of Sultanahmet, **Topkapi Palace** is one of the first of its famous museums to come to mind. It is one of the world's largest and oldest palaces still in existence today. Following its establishment in the 15th century, this magnificent and mysterious structure became the stage for every detail of the life of the Ottoman Dynasty, the rulers of the Ottoman Empire. After the declaration of the Turkish Republic, the palace was transformed into a museum. Today, a plethora of artifacts beyond all value, and without equal in the world, are still on display in its halls. Following the conquering of Istanbul, Fatih Sultan Mehmed declared the city the capital of the Empire and immediately moved the throne to the Historical Peninsula from Edirne. He commissioned the building of Topkapi Palace built on this spot in 1470. The palace is located on an area of approximately seven hundred thousand square metres, and surrounded by a wall five kilometres in length. At the time of its construction, it was the most magnificent palace ever built. Topkapi Palace functioned both as the residence of the Ottoman sultans and their families, and as the centre of the Ottoman government. All of the various Ministries of the government were located here. Additionally, the palace housed the imperial treasury, the imperial mint, the imperial archives, the advanced educational institutions of the Empire, and the special Harem of the Sultans. Topkapi Palace's most extravagant period lasted until 1853, when the Ottoman court was moved to Dolmabahçe Palace. After the establishment of the Republic, the palace was restored and turned into a museum.

The **Grand Bazaar** is one of the most interesting and authentic places in Istanbul. It was established by Fatih Sultan Mehmed immediately following the conquering of Istanbul in order to provide income for Hagia Sofia. When it was first founded, it consisted of two markets made of stone, equipped with display windows and benches. Later, the structure was capped with roofs, thereby creating the streets of the Grand Bazaar that still exist today. Its streets are covered with domed roofs; in total, it occupies an area of thirty-one-thousand square metres. Its ceilings are thirty metres high, and topped with hundreds of windowed domes. Several major consumer brands have recently opened outlets in the Grand Bazaar as well as a variety of boutique restaurants and cafes. In addition to the attraction it holds for visitors to Istanbul, the Grand Bazaar also continues to be a regular destination for residents of Istanbul themselves.

Egypt: The Birthplace of Cleopatra, Dance, & Music

What is it that makes Egypt so alluring? What magic emanates from time immemorial in Egypt? Most characteristic is the ease and friendliness in the land of friendship and love. Every visitor becomes a part of this culture and the history of its civilization. There is an ancient Egyptian proverb that says “Whoever gazes upon the waters of the Nile will return repeatedly.”

A starting place to appreciate the history of ancient Egypt is the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. There are scarabs—representative of the life cycle and the durability of the human soul. The royal cartouche of King Tutankhamun portrays a scarab. Jewelry, masks, and statuary are some of the treasures of the museum.

The Aram Road out of Cairo leads to the Pyramids and the statue of the Sphinx. Behind the pyramids is the great Sahara Desert. All are entranced by their enormity and begin to contemplate the significance of man, history, time, life—the transience of human existence in their world. The Sphinx and the Pyramids always have a profound effect upon people.

The Temple of Luxor occupies part of the ancient site of Thebes, the capital of Egypt at its zenith during the Middle and New Kingdoms. Today the magnificent papyrus and lotus flower columns are again resplendent. At Karnak Temple in Luxor, the great way is lined with sphinxes and can accommodate a crowd of 2,000 people. Also impressive are the obelisks at the Temple of Tutmosis I, carved from a single piece of rose granite in Aswan.

In the Valley of the Queens in the Temple of Hatshepsut are found very beautiful bas-relief paintings. In the Valley of the Kings, in the exquisitely decorated tombs, the vivid coloring has survived for thousands of years.

Egypt is the land of contrasts: of the ancient with the modern, of the Blue Nile at Aswan and the lush vegetation on its banks, with the seemingly interminable sands of the Great Sahara Arabian Desert. So it is with the blend of Bedouin tribes who inhabit the deserts and by contrast the Cairenes' and their city life. In the bazaars of Cairo all the people of Egypt come to buy and sell their wares.

The Khan-el-Khalili Bazaar has tiny winding streets, which glitter with gold, silver, and copper jewelry. Goods in the bazaar are not priced and one is expected to haggle over prices until a fair price is acceptable to both customer and merchant. Shopping is a wondrous delight and an opportunity to appreciate the people and the artifacts of their culture.

Cairo is a city of contrasts with no shortage of luxury accommodations. On El Zamalik Island in the midst of the river Nile, you leave behind you the dusty streets and enter the world of Orientale dance. Enjoy classes with Mahmoud Reda at the Balloon Theatre and tea at the top of the Cairo Tower overlooking the polo fields near the former Jezira Palace (now the Cairo Marriott Hotel).

Oriental dancers perform at hotels and nightclubs in Cairo. To observe a performance in a club in Cairo is to appreciate the symmetrical beauty of the dance that is an expression of the soul of Egypt. For a dancer, a trip to Cairo is like a pilgrimage to Mecca for the devotee; and an opportunity to shop for costuming at the Cairo costume designers studios.

One of the unforgettable sounds of Egypt is the voice of the muezzin at dawn and sunset, calling forth the people to prayer. A city of one thousand minarets, Cairo has a rich Islamic heritage displayed in very beautiful architecture. The call to prayers will be with you long after your return from your journey and will bring back memories of your special experience in Egypt.

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----- Magical Mysteries of Turkey & Egypt: A Dream Tour Itinerary*-----

(*Itinerary subject to change)

Day 1: Depart from JFK airport in New York for overnight non-stop flight to Istanbul – rest on flight and dream of Turkey while enjoying complimentary food and drink.

Day 2: Arrive in Istanbul before noon; our Turkish representative will meet and assist us at the airport. Take private bus to our hotel for check-in. Spend the rest of the day at the most magnificent shopping adventure in the world – The Grand Bazaar. We will have dinner in the area and then back to the hotel. (Trip to the bazaar is optional depending on how everyone feels after traveling.)

Day 3: After breakfast we journey to the glorious Topkapi Palace, one of the world's largest and oldest palaces still in existence today. We will lunch in the area and then visit the beautiful Blue Mosque. Dinner and shopping in the local area before returning to the hotel. Prepare for our departure in the morning.

Day 4: After breakfast, back to the Grand Bazaar for some serious shopping. Dinner in the area then back to the hotel to prepare for our departure in the morning.

Day 5: After breakfast, check out of the hotel and head to the airport. Short flight from Istanbul to Cairo, Egypt. Arrive Cairo Airport, our representative will meet and assist us for an expeditious transfer to our Hotel. After check-in we will visit Khan El Khalili bazaar to start your shopping.

Day 6: After breakfast, we meet our Tour Guide and start the day in a private air-conditioned coach by visiting one of the Seven Wonders of the World, **The Three Pyramids**, erected by Cheops, Chephren, and Mykerlonos. When you finish exploring the Great Pyramids our next stop is a visit the **Sphinx** Monument guarding the royal burial chambers and temple of Cheops. Our last stop will be visiting the ancient churches in Old **Coptic Cairo**. We start with the Hanging church (Al-Mullaka church) built on the wall of the Greek church of St. Sergio & St. Barbara church. Then we move on to the Jewish synagogue of Ben Ezra. Back to the Hotel.

Day 7: Breakfast at the Hotel. More sightseeing, we meet our Tour Guide, and start your day in private A/C coach by visiting **The Egyptian Museum**, housing the largest collection of ancient monuments in the world, including the golden treasures of King Tutankhamen. Then, you will drive to **The Citadel of Salah El Din**, which is one of the world's greatest monuments to medieval warfare, as well as a highly visible landmark on Cairo's eastern skyline.

At the end of your day tour, will go to **Khan El Khalili Bazaar**.

Back to the Hotel and prepare for short flight to Luxor in the morning.

Day 8: Breakfast at the Hotel then check out from the Hotel.

Our Representative will meet you at the Hotel & transfer you in Private A/C Coach to Cairo Airport to fly to Aswan. Upon Arrival to Aswan our Representative will meet you at the arrival Hall & transfer you in Private A/C Coach to your Nile Cruise. Embark on the Cruise; meet for an Orientation and Lunch.

Start your tour with the **Granite Quarries, The Temple of Philae**, which is dedicated to the goddess Isis, & **The High Dam**.

Sail to Komombo. Overnight on board. **Enjoy dinner and a possible show.**

Day 9: After Breakfast, you will visit the **Temple of Komombo**, shared by the **Two Gods Sobek & Haroeris**.

Then we set sail to Edfu, (don't miss the boat!).

Lunch on Board. **Enjoy dinner and a possible show.** Overnight on board.

Day 10: After Breakfast, you will visit the **Temple of Horus**. Sail to Luxor and enjoy viewing life along the Nile with lunch on Board.

In the afternoon, visit the East Bank: **The Temple of Karnak**, the largest religious complex in the world, and the **Temple of Luxor** with its elegant colonnaded hall. Dinner & overnight on board (Optional Sound & Light show).

Day 11: After Breakfast we disembark from the Cruise.

Start your tour of the West Bank to the Valley of Kings and Queens: **Necropolis of Thebes, Valley of the Kings, the Temple of Queen Hatshepust, and The Colossi of Memnon**. Many tombs and temples and lots of walking exercise.

Our Representative will meet you & transfer you in Private A/C Coach to Luxor Airport to fly back to Cairo.

On arrival at Cairo, our Representative will meet you & transfer you in Private A/C Coach to your Hotel.

Check in at our luxurious Hotel and rest. **Enjoy dinner and a show.**

Day 12: Breakfast at the Hotel. **The day and evening is free for your own scheduled activities.** This is the day to visit the costume designers to shop or order a **custom costume**. Or, perhaps a return visit to the Khan El Khalili bazaar, we are sure you will want to shop to collect more treasures! Or, schedule to take an optional **dance class**. Or, visit Mohammad Ali Street to purchase instruments. **Enjoy dinner and a show.**

Day 13: After breakfast at the Hotel **the day is free for your own scheduled activities, shopping, & dance classes.**

You may wish to revisit the sights of Cairo within walking distance of our hotel.

Back to the Hotel relax and get ready for **dinner and show**.

Day 14: Early departure breakfast. Be sure you have purchased more postcards – last chance to write and mail last minute postcards home from Cairo as you await your flight home at the airport. Check out from the Hotel. You will be transferred via private air-conditioned motor coach to Cairo International Airport for your Final Departure from Egypt. After our magical journey together we continue our journey via air from Egypt to Europe then home to America as you catch up on much needed rest and dream of magical moments in Turkey & Egypt.

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Egypt is a travel experience unlike any on earth. Experiencing Egypt is an enchanting journey through time eternal and a fascinating exploration of a civilization 5,000 years old. It is amazing, entrancing, and extraordinarily fantastic experience – to stand before the pyramids of Giza, to admire the grandeur of Karnak Temple, to absorb the subtle strength of the life-giving Nile River, explore ancient tombs of Kings and Queens of Egypt, and also behold the dazzling nightlife of modern day Cairo and take dance classes with Egypt’s finest choreographers and dances--these will be experiences you’ll cherish with a video and photographic chronicle of your journey by

Turquoise International has conjured up his latest itinerary just for you! A magical tour for you among ancient civilizations and modern-day Egyptian nightlife, Khan el Khalili bazaar, and costume shopping to provide you abundant wealth of new memories, rewarding experiences, and magical moments on an adventure of a lifetime with good friends and new friends. Every dancer must make the journey to Egypt, the mecca of dance Orientale Raqs Sharqi to experience the dance in its birthplace – Cairo and Ancient Egypt. This is a tour with arrangements for ALL dancers and non-dancers, photographers, and friends and relatives.

For the past 30 years, Ali has been creating the magic that dream tours are made off. He possesses the expertise and knowledge of touring Egypt that smoothes all problems and arranges for the finest accommodations that widens your appreciation. Ali has a genuine concern for all the special needs and interests of dancers and those who value Egyptian culture and history. Ali and the staff at Turquoise International take great pride in offering quality accommodations and a complete itinerary. Our reputation speaks for itself in that Ma*Shuqa and Carl have chosen again after 20 years to tour with Turquoise International. A tour with Turquoise International will continue to enhance the lives of many a dancer.

Your Price Includes All This And More

- **Round Trip Airfare** via international carrier from West, Midwest, and East U.S. airports to our European rendezvous point on to Cairo and return.
- **5 Star Hotel** Your accommodations will be 5-Star all the way! Breakfast provided daily.
- **Sightseeing** We will be accompanied by an English-speaking tour guide, with an academic degree in ancient antiquities, to all the great sights of Cairo and Luxor. Discover the Pyramids of Giza, the Sphinx, Mohammed Ali Mosque, The Cairo Museum, The Citadel, Coptic Cairo, Valley of the Kings and Queens, the Luxor Temple and famous Sound and Light Show, Temple of Philae, Steppe Pyramid, the Khan el Khalili Bazaar and much, much more!
- **Meals and Entertainment** Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner included every day. We will enjoy 3 dinner shows in Cairo featuring famous dance artists available; and more dinner shows and time to dance aboard the luxury Nile Cruise.
- **Nile Cruise** 4 days, 3 nights aboard a 5-Star luxury cruise with breakfast, lunch, and dinner included aboard ship. Relax and enjoy sunsets and watching life on the River Nile, visiting temples and tombs, a Nubian dance show and parties together onboard.
- **Domestic Travel** All domestic: Egypt Air from Cairo - Aswan – Luxor - Cairo and transportation in air conditioned motor coaches to and from the Cairo and Luxor airports and during our entire sightseeing throughout our tour.
- **Costume Shopping** We make this dance tour a complete dancers’ dream vacation with special shopping trips to visit our favorite costume designers. With appointments with our designers in their private studios and shops; why not have something created especially for you? We are sure you will find your dream costume among the finest in Raqs Sharqi costuming available.
- **Dance Classes & Shows** Among our contacts in Cairo are included the Top Choreographers and Artists of Egypt: Mahmoud Reda, Raia Hassan, and Lucy, to name a few. Please note that due to the reigning Egyptian philosophy of “Inshallah” and the nature of these artists’ bookings, they are not always available to teach, nor are they necessarily performing in Cairo at the time of our tour. Ali and Turquoise International refuse to make false promises, but can **guarantee that all that can be arranged will be arranged for you.**

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COST DOES NOT INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: --Passport, visa, liquor, mineral water, valet, laundry service, food not listed, camel rides, soft drinks during tours and purely person items (such as dance classes & shopping). Tips to tour guides and drivers NOT included.

CANCELLATION: Up to 40 days prior to departure a full refund. Between 40 and 15 days prior to departure minus \$1,500 value of airline ticket. After 15 days prior to departure an additional \$595.00 will be held unless a substitute passenger is found. If Turquoise International cancels, a full refund will be issued.

DOCUMENTS: Each passenger is responsible for having with him/her a valid United States passport valid 6 month beyond travel dates.

LUGGAGE: Each passenger on board the aircraft is limited by the airline regulations to 50 lbs per suitcase and should not take more than two suitcases (subject to change) and one small carry-on piece.

VISA: Turkey & Egypt require a visitor visa, which can be obtained upon arrival at the airport for \$20. USD (subject to change)

TERMS: A **\$1500.00 per person deposit** is required to secure your reservation and the **balance is due on or before October 1, 2010** prior to the scheduled tour departure. Send a check or money order. **Total cost per person double occupancy is \$4,495.00 from JFK, New York. Flights available from other cities by request.** (Prices subject to change based on current market value.) **Single room supplement \$1,400.00.**

RESPONSIBILITY: The sponsors and their representatives act only as agents in making arrangements for hotels, transportation, sightseeing, restaurants, or any other services in connection with the itinerary, and they will exercise all reasonable care in making such arrangements. However, they do not assume any liability whatsoever, for any injury, damage, loss, accident or delay to person or property due to any act of default of any hotel, carrier, restaurant, company or person rendering any of the services included in the tour. The tickets, coupons, tariffs, rules or contracts currently in use by any carrier, hotel, restaurant or other contractor rendering services shall constitute the sole contract between contractor and the tour member. The tour operator accepts no responsibility for any damage or delay due to sickness, pilferage, labor disputes, machinery breakdown, quarantine, government restraints, weather or any other cause beyond their control. No carrier will be responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are on board its own conveyance. In view of statutory or contractual limitations which may apply to person injury or property damage losses, the purchase of accident and baggage insurance is strongly recommended. The right is reserved to cancel or change itineraries or substitute services without notice – in the case of the unavailability of any of the artists, performances, etc., noted in the itinerary, care will be exercised to supply reasonable substitutes. Prices subject to change without notice; prices secured upon receipt of deposit.

Cut coupon and mail your \$1,500.00 deposit and check or money order with your reservation information to:

Turquoise International Productions and Tours
22830 Califa Street
Woodland Hills, CA USA 91364
(818) 999-5542

----- CUT HERE -----

Enclosed please find check # _____ for \$ _____ as a deposit for _____ number of persons. **\$1500.00 minimum deposit per person. Final payment is due October 1, 2010. Total cost per person double occupancy is \$4,495.00 from JFK, New York. Flights available from all other cities by request.** (Prices subject to change based on current market value.)

Full Name(s) _____

Street Address _____ City _____, State ____ Zipcode _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____ Mobile _____

Double room to be shared with _____ (single room supplement **\$1,400.00**)

Vegetarian meals _____ Email: _____

(*Tour price and itinerary are subject to change: pending availability of dance artists for dinner shows, and airline ticket pricing and luggage allowance regulation.)