

Additional information for the Pilgrimage in Egypt

Payment:

\$500 deposit with registration

February 5, 2023 – 50% of remaining trip cost due to Holy Trinity

March 5, 2023 – Remaining porting due to Holy Trinity

Cancellation:

Any cancellations before March 15 will receive back 100% of the funds paid.

Any cancellations made up to April 3 will receive back 50% of the funds paid, minus the cost of the flights inside Egypt (as these are non-refundable).

Any cancellations made after April 3 will receive no money back.

I would strongly urge you to purchase your own trip insurance to cover the total cost of the time you will spend in Egypt.

Flights to and from Egypt:

There will be a group travel option for which you can opt in on the registration form. You may also make your own travel arrangements, however if your arrival and departure times do not align closely enough with the group travel, then you will incur additional fees for your private transfers. Our Guide will arrange the transfers for you. I strongly recommend purchasing insurance to cover the cost of your flight to and from Egypt.

Passports:

Your passport must be valid for at least six months past our return date to the U.S. If it is not, the authorities will not let you on the plane to leave the U.S. I have seen it happen in person.

Visas:

The cost of the Visas is included in the pilgrimage cost and our guide gets them for us.

Health Insurance:

Please speak with your health insurance representatives to learn whether or not your current insurance covers you while traveling in Egypt. You will likely need to purchase an additional rider for the pilgrimage.

Vaccinations:

Please visit the CDC website at this link and read carefully to make sure you are up to date on all required and recommended vaccines. Most are commonplace, but there are a couple that are specialized for Egypt.

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/egypt>

Reading List and Preparation:

I highly recommend reading the first five books of the Bible or at least the stories of Moses, the Exodus, and Mt. Sinai. Also read about Jesus' flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15).

Helpful for background on Christian monasticism in Egypt:

The Desert Fathers: Sayings of the Early Christian Monks (Penguin Classics)
Anything on Coptic Christianity

Helpful for background on Egypt today:

Shifting Sands: The Unraveling of the Old Order in the Middle East by Raja Shehadeh and Penny Johnson

The New Middle East: What Everyone Needs to Know by James L. Gelvin

If you really want to go deep into understanding the role of Western settler colonialism in shaping our understanding of all things Eastern, then the magisterial work of Edward Said, *Orientalism*, is where to start. This book is for those who want to see past the mystique of Lawrence of Arabia to understand the East as it truly is and not just how a Western perspective has taught us to see it.

Group Meetings Prior to Departure:

Wednesday, February 15 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
and
Wednesday, March 15 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom