2027 Solar Eclipse & Ancient Splenders on the Nile River

with Dr. Kate Liszka

July 29–August 7, 2027



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Embark on an extraordinary journey through Egypt, where ancient wonders meet celestial marvels. This immersive expedition is guided by your Great Courses Journeys Expert Dr. Kate Liszka, and seasoned local Egyptologists, offering rich historical context and scholarly insight at every turn.

From the timeless majesty of the Pyramids of Giza to the sacred temples of Luxor and Aswan, you will explore the heart of pharaonic civilization. Experience six-and-a-half minutes of darkness during a total solar eclipse from the deck of a luxury Nile cruise ship—an awe-inspiring event that echoes the sky-watching traditions of ancient priests and astronomers. Along the way, delve into the astronomical alignments of temples, the mythologies of sun gods, and the role of celestial events in Egyptian culture. Whether you're a history enthusiast, a stargazer, or a lifelong learner, this journey offers a once-in-a-lifetime blend of science, story, and spectacle.

Your Journey Expert



Dr. Kate Liszka brings ancient Egypt to life through the lens of social history, identity, and desert archaeology. As Director of the Wadi el-Hudi Expedition, she leads groundbreaking research into ancient Egyptian mining communities and their interactions with Nubian populations. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Liszka combines rigorous scholarship with a passion for storytelling, revealing the human side of ancient civilizations. Her work has uncovered previously unexplored settlements and inscriptions, offering fresh insights into the lives of workers, immigrants, and officials in Egypt's Eastern Desert. She has also served as a consultant for Disney's *Under Wraps* films and cohosted Wondrium's *The Real Ancient Egypt*, making her a dynamic voice in both academic and public history. With every excavation and lecture, Dr. Liszka invites learners to journey beyond the pyramids and into the vibrant, complex world of ancient Egyptian society.

Highlights

- **Experience a Total Solar Eclipse** on August 2, 2027, from the deck of a luxury Nile cruise—over six minutes of totality in the path of the eclipse, surrounded by Egypt's timeless landscape.
- **Explore Cairo's Cultural Icons,** including the Pyramids of Giza, the Great Sphinx, and the muchanticipated new Grand Egyptian Museum, home to the full Tutankhamun collection and thousands of ancient artifacts.
- Travel with Dr. Kate Liszka, your Great Courses Journeys Expert, whose expertise in desert archaeology, social history, and ancient Egyptian culture will bring ancient Egypt's history, astronomy, and mythology vividly to life and offer a deeper understanding of the civilization beyond its monuments.
- Cruise the Nile in Style, visiting legendary temples in Luxor, Edfu, Kom Ombo, and Aswan, with expert Egyptologists guiding you through their celestial alignments and sacred symbolism.
- **Delve into Ancient Astronomy,** uncovering how the stars, sun, and moon shaped Egyptian religion, architecture, and royal power—from temple design to astronomical ceilings in temples and tombs.







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Itinerary





Day 1: Nile Nights Begin

Depart from the United States and arrive in Cairo, where the shimmering Nile welcomes you to Egypt's vibrant capital. Transfer to your elegant hotel, which offers panoramic views of the river and city skyline. Unwind and meet your fellow travelers and Professor Liszka over a warm welcome dinner as you prepare for the journey ahead. Learn about the pyramids, sphinx, and King Tut to prepare for the adventures of days to come.

Included Meal: Dinner

Accommodation: Sofitel Cairo Downtown Nile



Day 2: Pyramids and Pharaohs

Step into antiquity as you explore the Pyramids of Giza, marveling at their scale and precision. Stand before the Great Sphinx, whose gaze has captivated visitors for millennia. Enjoy a scenic lunch with views of these ancient wonders. In the afternoon, delve into the newly opened Grand Egyptian Museum, home to over 100,000 artifacts, including the full Tutankhamun collection, presented with immersive modern displays. Return to your hotel for a relaxing evening.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodations: Sofitel Cairo Downtown Nile



Day 3: Bazaars and Boarding

This morning, wander through the lively Khan El Khalili Bazaar, where scents of spices and sounds of haggling fill the air. In the afternoon, fly south on a chartered flight to Luxor and board the luxurious M/S TAMR, your floating home for the week. Following a safety briefing, settle into your stateroom and enjoy dinner on board as the Nile glides past.

Including Meals: Breakfast, Dinner Accommodations: M/S Tamr



Day 4: Temples of Time

Experience the vast Karnak Temple complex, a monumental tribute to Thebes' ancient glory. Walk among its towering columns and sacred pools, guided by the insights of an Egyptologist. Return to the ship for a lecture from Professor Liszka, who will offer unique insight into how temple spaces reflected social hierarchies and religious practices. This evening, visit Luxor Temple under the stars, where dramatic lighting brings its ancient carvings to life.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: M/S Tamr



Day 5: Lights over Luxor

Witness a rare celestial event as the total solar eclipse unfolds above the Nile. Positioned in the path of totality, experience nearly six-and-a-half minutes of awe



as day turns to twilight. Celebrate this once-in-a-lifetime event with a festive lunch. Throughout the day, there will be opportunities to hear from Professor Liszka and other Egyptologists as you explore the eclipse's astronomical significance and learn about the myths and rituals connected with the stars in ancient Egypt.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: M/S Tamr

Day 6: Visit to the Valley of the Kings

Cross to the West Bank to explore the Valley of the Kings, final resting place of Egypt's most iconic rulers. Visit the Temple of Hatshepsut, a striking tribute to Egypt's trailblazing female pharaoh. Pause at the Colossi of Memnon before returning to the ship for lunch and a discussion on women in ancient Egypt. Enjoy afternoon tea, sail through the Esna Lock, and unwind with a movie under the stars.



Accommodations: M/S Tamr



Journey south to Edfu to explore its remarkably preserved temple, dedicated to Horus and rich with Hellenistic symbolism. Cruise onward to Kom Ombo, where a rare double temple honors both Sobek and Horus the Elder. As the sun sets, enjoy a festive dinner on board while sailing toward Aswan.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: M/S Tamr



Visit the Aswan High Dam, a modern marvel of engineering, designed to control flooding on the Nile. Then, explore the ancient Unfinished Obelisk, revealing secrets of ancient stonework. Those who choose can instead join an Egyptologist for an optional excursion to Abu Simbel (for an additional cost) to see Ramses II's colossal temples. All travelers will sail a traditional felucca along the Nile this afternoon and enjoy high tea at the historic Old Cataract Hotel, where Agatha Christie penned *Death on the Nile*.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: M/S Tamr

Day 9: Isis and Indigenous Insights

Visit the island sanctuary of Philae Temple, dedicated to the goddess Isis and rescued from rising waters. Explore the Nubian Museum to learn about the region's rich, pre-dynastic culture. Hear about Professor Liszka's research on Nubians in Egypt and Aswan's unique role controlling the border. Then, enjoy a final evening in Aswan with a farewell dinner and live entertainment aboard the ship. Those who choose can visit Aswan's colorful spice market this evening.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: M/S Tamr

Day 10: Departure

Return on a chartered flight to Cairo late this morning and connect independently to your international flight home, carrying with you memories of ancient wonders and celestial marvels.

Included Meal: Breakfast







Accommodations



Luxury Ship M/S Tamr

The M/S Tamr is a deluxe Nile cruise ship offering an elegant way to explore Egypt's wonders. With spacious cabins, gourmet dining, and panoramic sundecks, it blends modern luxury with traditional charm. Onboard amenities include a pool, spa, and evening entertainment, ensuring relaxation between excursions. The ship's intimate atmosphere and attentive service create a personalized experience ideal for travelers seeking cultural enrichment and comfort.

As part of your trip, you will also spend two days on land in Cairo, staying in the Sofitel Cairo Downtown Nile hotel. This 24-story, five-star hotel offers sweeping river views and easy access to Cairo's cultural treasures. Guests enjoy the Sofitel Spa, rooftop infinity pool, fitness center, and five restaurants, including Jayda Nile Terrace. Whether on land or on the water, your accommodations will be some of the best Egypt has to offer.







RESTAURANT



LOUNGE



DELUXE CABIN



DELUXE SUITE



FAMILY SUITE

M/S Tamr Deck Plan Pricing

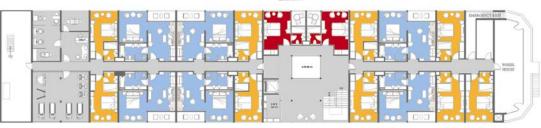
Deck B

Deluxe Cabin: \$14,695 Deluxe Suite: \$16,995



Deck C

Deluxe Cabin: \$15,495 Junior Suite: \$16,495 Deluxe Suite \$17,995



Deck D

Deluxe Cabin \$16,295 Junior Suite \$17,295 Deluxe Suite: \$18,795 Family Suite \$19,295



Departure: July 29-August 7, 2027

Deposit: \$2,000

BOOK NOW

Single and triple rates are available on request. You will be allocated a cabin within The Great Courses Journey's allotment, specific cabin requests cannot be guaranteed.

What's Included:

- All accommodations for the duration of the cruise
- Meals as noted in the itinerary
- Unlimited drinks on board the ship, including coffee, house wine, and domestic beer
- All sightseeing and guided visits as noted in the itinerary
- Staffing: Expertise of a subject matter expert, travel director, and local guides throughout the tour
- All gratuities except for the crew on the ship.
 Recommended guidelines will be provided for tipping the ship crew.

- All on-tour transportation, unless otherwise noted
- Listening devices to facilitate audible accessibility on tour
- The assistance of an ATA professional travel team to assist with pre-trip questions and, travel arrangements, including flights and other services
- Comprehensive pre-departure mailings and materials with information about the destination and what to expect on tour, including a suggested reading list
- Emergency evacuation insurance