



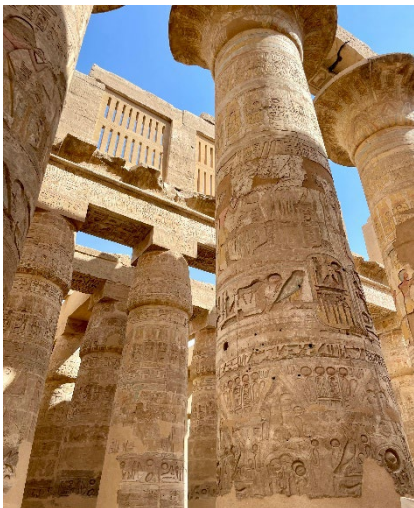
**GIPPSLAND
TRAVEL**

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EGYPT IN DEPTH & TURKIYE

18th March to 3rd April 2027

**Personally Escorted by
Jacquey Turner & Krystal McCallum**



One of our all-time favourites, our itinerary incorporates an extensive tour of Egypt, including a first-class Nile Cruise, before continuing to Turkiye to experience the culture, and iconic attractions of this extraordinary country.

Egypt in Depth & Turkiye -March/April 2027

Thursday 18 March

Melbourne - Cairo

(Inflight meal)

Today we will be transferred from Warragul to Melbourne Airport for our flight to Cairo, Egypt. Departures are also available from other Australian cities.

Friday 19 March

Cairo

(D)

On arrival into Cairo, we will be meet and transferred to our hotel **Hyatt Centric Cairo Hotel**, *or similar* for our three-night stay. Dinner tonight will be enjoyed at our hotel.

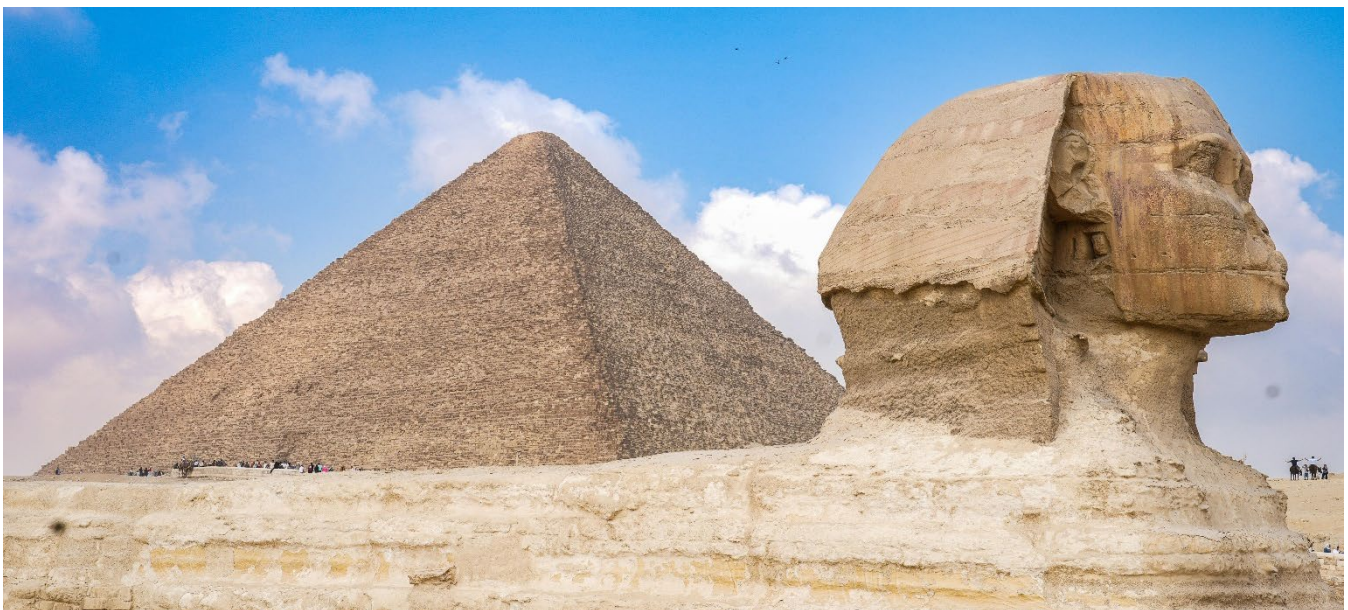
Cairo is Egypt's vibrant and bustling capital, where ancient wonders blend seamlessly with modern city life. Home to the iconic Pyramids of Giza, world-class museums, historic mosques, lively bazaars, and diverse neighbourhoods, Cairo offers a fascinating gateway to Egypt's rich history, culture, and cuisine.

Saturday 20 March

Cairo

(B L D)

After breakfast, we will visit the legendary Giza Pyramid Complex and the iconic Great Sphinx of Giza. Located on the west bank of the Nile, the Giza Plateau is home to Egypt's most famous ancient monuments, including the Great Pyramid of Khufu (Cheops), the Pyramid of Khafre (Chephren), and the Pyramid of Menkaure. Despite the passing of thousands of years, these incredible structures remain among the world's greatest architectural achievements.



We will also enjoy a special private visit to the feet of the Great Sphinx, an area not normally open to the public, where the famous Dream Stele of Thutmose IV is located. Carved from natural limestone over 4,500 years ago, the Sphinx, with its lion's body and human head, continues to stand as one of ancient Egypt's most enduring symbols. After some time for lunch, we will continue in the afternoon to the spectacular Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM). Home to the world's largest collection of Egyptian antiquities, the museum showcases extraordinary treasures including monumental statues, royal mummies, and the remarkable artifacts of Tutankhamun. Its state-of-the-art galleries combine innovative technology and modern storytelling to bring the history of ancient Egypt vividly to life. We will enjoy dinner together this evening.

Sunday 21 March

Cairo

(B L D)

Today, we will visit the remarkable restoration project at the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM), one of the world's most ambitious heritage conservation initiatives. Located near the Great Pyramids of Giza, the museum houses thousands of priceless ancient Egyptian artifacts that have undergone extensive scientific examination, conservation, and restoration. During our visit, we will gain insight into the museum's advanced conservation laboratories, state-of-the-art restoration techniques, and internationally recognized preservation methods used to protect treasures such as the complete collection of Tutankhamun artifacts. This pioneering project plays a vital role in safeguarding Egypt's cultural heritage while enhancing research, education, and public engagement in a modern museum environment.



After lunch, we will continue to the ancient sites of Memphis and Saqqara. At Saqqara, we will visit the famous Step Pyramid of Djoser, considered the world's first pyramid and one of ancient Egypt's most important architectural achievements. Designed by the renowned architect and physician Imhotep for Pharaoh Djoser during the Third Dynasty, the pyramid marked the beginning of pyramid construction in ancient Egypt.

We will also visit a local carpet school, where traditional weaving techniques are

preserved and taught. These schools provide valuable training and employment opportunities for local children and women, helping sustain one of Egypt's oldest traditional crafts. This evening dinner is included.

Monday 22 March

Cairo - Luxor

(B L D)

Today, we will fly from Cairo to Luxor, where we will embark on our four-night **Historia Nile Cruise**. We will explore Luxor's magnificent East Bank.

Our tour will include a visit to the spectacular Karnak Temple Complex, the largest religious complex ever built in ancient Egypt. Dedicated primarily to the god Amun, the vast temple complex features monumental pylons, towering columns, sacred halls, and the famous avenue of ram-headed sphinxes. Built and expanded over many dynasties, Karnak stands as one of Egypt's most extraordinary archaeological treasures.

We will then continue to Luxor Temple, beautifully located in the heart of the city near the Nile River. Constructed mainly during the reign of Amenhotep III, the temple was dedicated to Amun and is renowned for its grand colonnades, detailed inscriptions, and elegant columns crowned with lotus motifs.

Lunch will be served onboard the Nile cruise, followed by time at leisure to relax and enjoy the facilities on board. Dinner will be served onboard this evening, followed by the cruise entertainment program.



Tuesday 23 March

Nile Cruise

(B L D)

Breakfast will be served onboard the Nile cruise. Early this morning, there will be an optional hot air balloon ride over Luxor's West Bank, offering spectacular panoramic views of the Nile River, ancient temples, and dramatic desert landscapes at sunrise.

We will then explore Luxor's fascinating West Bank, beginning with a visit to the legendary Valley of the Kings, the royal burial site of Egypt's New Kingdom pharaohs for nearly 500 years. Hidden within the desert hills are beautifully decorated tombs carved deep into the limestone cliffs, including those of some of ancient Egypt's most powerful rulers. Included in our visit is the famous Tomb of Tutankhamun, discovered in 1922 and one of the most remarkable archaeological finds in history. The tomb still houses the young pharaoh's mummy and offers a fascinating glimpse into the life and burial traditions of ancient Egypt.

Egypt in Depth & Turkiye -March/April 2027

Included is a visit to the extraordinary Tomb of Seti I, one of the best-preserved and most beautifully decorated royal tombs in Egypt. Dating from 1279–1213 BCE, it is renowned for its intricate carvings, vibrant frescoes, and scenes depicting the pharaoh's journey through the afterlife, making it a masterpiece of ancient Egyptian artistry.

Our next stop will be the magnificent Mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut, dramatically set beneath towering limestone cliffs at Deir el-Bahari. Built for Queen Hatshepsut, one of Egypt's most successful female pharaohs, the temple is celebrated for its striking terraces, elegant design, and unique setting against the desert landscape.

We will also visit the famous Colossi of Memnon, two massive stone statues of Pharaoh Amenhotep III that have stood guarding the Theban necropolis for thousands of years.

Lunch will be served onboard the Nile cruise before we begin sailing towards Esna. Dinner will be served onboard this evening, followed by the cruise entertainment program.



Wednesday 24 March

Nile Cruise

(B L D)

Today, we will sail towards Edfu and visit the remarkably preserved Temple of Edfu, one of the best-preserved temples in ancient Egypt and the second largest after Karnak. Dedicated to the falcon god Horus, the temple is believed to stand on the site of the legendary battle between Horus and Seth and is renowned for its towering pylons, detailed carvings, and magnificent ancient architecture.

After our visit, we will return to the Nile cruise for lunch onboard as we continue sailing towards Kom Ombo. Here, we will explore the unique Temple of Kom Ombo, a fascinating double temple dedicated to the gods Sobek and Haroeris. Situated along the Nile, the temple is famous for its symmetrical design and its association with sacred crocodiles once worshipped in the area.

Dinner will be served onboard as we continue sailing towards Aswan, a beautiful Nile-side city known for its Nubian heritage, scenic river landscapes, and relaxed atmosphere. Often considered one of Egypt's most charming destinations, Aswan offers stunning views of the Nile, traditional feluccas, and access to some of the country's most important ancient temples.



Thursday 25 March

Nile Cruise

(B L D)

Breakfast will be served onboard the Nile cruise before we begin exploring the highlights of Aswan.

Our first stop will be the impressive Aswan High Dam, one of Egypt's most significant modern engineering achievements. Originally, the first dam was constructed by the British in the early 20th century using local granite,

while the larger High Dam was later completed by the Egyptian government in the 1960s, helping control the Nile's flooding and providing hydroelectric power to the country.



We will then visit the beautiful Philae Temple, dedicated to the goddess Isis. Originally located on Philae Island, the temple complex was carefully dismantled and relocated to Agilkia Island following the construction of the High Dam. Surrounded by the waters of the Nile, the temple is renowned for its elegant columns, detailed carvings, and peaceful island setting.

Lunch will be served onboard the Nile cruise before we continue to the colourful Nubian Village. Located along the banks of the Nile, the village offers a fascinating insight into Nubian culture and traditions, with its brightly painted homes, traditional architecture, local

handicrafts, music, and warm hospitality. Visitors can experience the rich heritage of the Nubian community while enjoying the relaxed and scenic atmosphere of this unique cultural destination.

Dinner will be served onboard this evening, we will also enjoy some fun entertainment onboard.

Friday 26 March

Nile Cruise - Cairo

(B L D)

After breakfast onboard the Nile cruise, we will check out and transfer to the airport for our flight to Abu Simbel. A lunch box will be provided from the cruise for the journey.

Upon arrival, we will visit the magnificent Abu Simbel Temples, among Egypt's most impressive ancient monuments. Built by Pharaoh Ramses II in the 13th century BCE, the Great Temple is famous for its four colossal statues carved into the mountainside and its remarkable solar alignment, where sunlight illuminates the inner sanctuary twice each year. Dedicated to the gods Amun-Ra, Ra-Horakhty, Ptah, and Ramses II himself, the temple stands as a masterpiece of ancient Egyptian engineering and artistry.

The temples are also renowned for one of the greatest preservation efforts in modern history. Threatened by rising waters following the construction of the Aswan High Dam, the entire complex was carefully dismantled and relocated with UNESCO's assistance between 1964 and 1968 to protect it from flooding.

Following our guided visit, including entrance fees and round-trip airport transfers, we will transfer back to Cairo. Upon arrival, we will transfer to our hotel and check in at the **Sofitel Cairo Downtown Nile Hotel**, or similar for a three-night stay. Dinner will be served at the hotel.



Saturday 27 March

Cairo

(B L D)

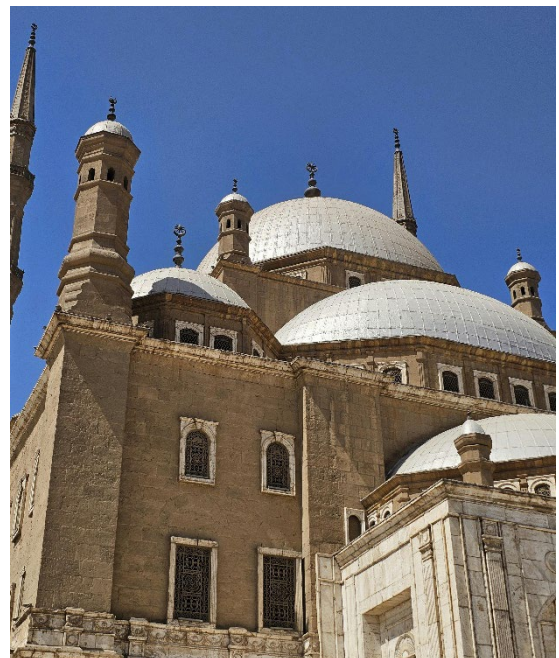
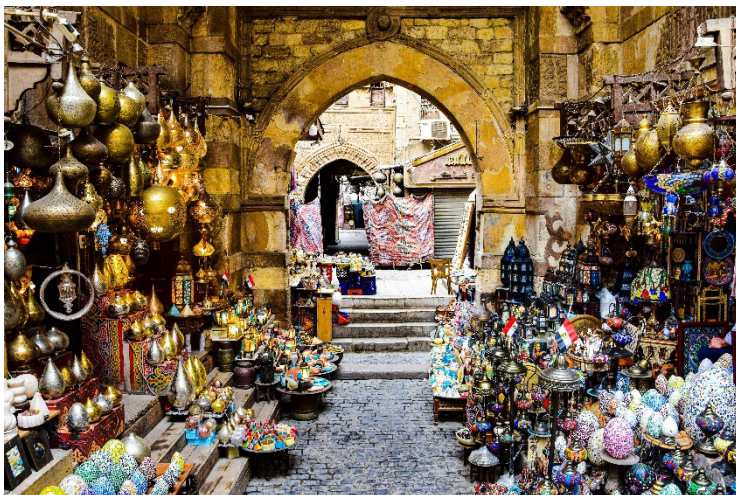
After breakfast at the hotel, we will begin our exploration of historic Cairo with a visit to the fascinating district of Old Cairo, home to some of Egypt's most important religious and cultural landmarks. Our tour will include the historic Ben Ezra Synagogue, renowned for its rich history and valuable collection of ancient manuscripts and documents. We will also visit the famous The Hanging Church, one of the oldest and most beautiful Coptic churches in Egypt, known for its elevated nave and remarkable religious artwork. Continuing through Old Cairo, we will explore Church of Saints Sergius and Bacchus (Abu Serga), traditionally believed to stand on the site where the Holy Family once rested during their journey into Egypt.

We will then visit the impressive National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC), located in historic Fustat. The museum showcases Egypt's rich heritage through a remarkable collection spanning prehistoric times to the modern era, with exhibitions exploring themes such as civilization, religion, society, writing, and the Nile's influence on Egyptian life.

Following lunch, we will continue to the historic Cairo Citadel, originally built by Salah El Din in the 12th century and once the seat of power in Egypt for nearly 700 years. Within the citadel stands the magnificent Mosque of Muhammad Ali, inspired by Istanbul's Blue Mosque and celebrated for its grand Ottoman-style architecture and sweeping views across Cairo.

We will also enjoy a visit to a natural perfume shop before continuing to the famous Khan el-Khalili, one of the Middle East's oldest and most vibrant bazaars. Dating back to the 14th century, the market is filled with winding alleys, traditional cafés, spices, jewellery, lanterns, handicrafts, and local treasures, offering a lively glimpse into Cairo's rich trading history and culture.

Dinner tonight will be at our hotel.



Sunday 28 March

Cairo

(B L D)

We will depart the hotel after breakfast and travel by bus for a full-day excursion to Faiyum, a beautiful oasis region southwest of Cairo known for its lush farmland, tranquil lakes, and dramatic desert scenery. This unique destination offers a perfect blend of nature, adventure, and ancient history away from the bustle of the city.

Our journey will include an exciting 4x4 desert safari through the stunning landscapes of Wadi El Rayan, a protected natural reserve famous for its serene lakes, sand dunes, and Egypt's only natural waterfalls. We will also visit the picturesque Magic Lake, renowned for its changing colours throughout the day depending on the sunlight and weather conditions.

Continuing deeper into the desert, we will explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Wadi Al-Hitan, also known as the Valley of the Whales. This extraordinary open-air museum contains remarkably preserved fossils of prehistoric whales dating back millions of years, offering fascinating insight into the evolution of marine life and the region's ancient ecosystem. We will also visit the Climate Change Museum, which highlights the environmental history and geological transformation of the area.

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A traditional Bedouin-style lunch will be served at Zowara Ecolodge, surrounded by spectacular desert landscapes. After lunch, we will continue our off-road adventure to discover the unique rock formations of Qousor Al Arab, enjoy an exhilarating dune-bashing experience, and try sandboarding across the golden desert dunes. At the end of the tour, we will transfer back to Cairo. Dinner will be served at the hotel.

Monday 29 March

Cairo – Istanbul, Turkiye

(B D)

Today we depart Egypt and start our Turkish adventure. Upon arrival in Istanbul Airport, we will be met and taken to the Topkapi Palace, the former residence of the Ottoman Sultans from the 15th to 19th centuries. Overlooking the Bosphorus, the palace showcases the grandeur of the Ottoman Empire through its lavish courtyards, imperial treasures, jewelled artifacts, silken caftans, and one of the world's finest collections of Chinese porcelain outside China. The palace also offers insight into the fascinating history of the Ottoman court and royal harem.

Upon conclusion of this tour we will be transferred to **The Ritus Hotel Istanbul Sultanahmet, Tapestry Collection by Hilton, or similar**, for a two-night stay.

Dinner will be served at a local restaurant.

Tuesday 30 March

Istanbul, Turkiye

(B D)

After breakfast, we will meet our guide in the lobby and depart for a full-day Istanbul city tour, exploring the city's most famous Byzantine and Ottoman landmarks. We will visit the magnificent Hagia Sophia, originally built as a cathedral in 537 A.D. and renowned for its grand dome, mosaics, and marble interiors, before continuing to the iconic Blue Mosque, famous for its beautiful blue Iznik tiles and unique six minarets.

We will also see the historic Hippodrome of Constantinople, once the centre of Byzantine public life and chariot races, before continuing to the vibrant Grand Bazaar, one of the world's oldest and largest covered markets, filled with jewellery, ceramics, carpets, spices, antiques, and local handicrafts.

Later, we will enjoy a scenic cruise along the Bosphorus, the stunning waterway separating Europe and Asia. Lined with historic mansions, mosques, palaces, waterfront restaurants, and wooded hillsides, the Bosphorus offers some of Istanbul's most breathtaking views. Dinner will be served at a local restaurant.



Wednesday 31 March

Istanbul - Gallipoli - Çanakkale

(B D)

We will depart very early in the morning for the Gallipoli Peninsula, the site of one of World War I's most significant campaigns. During our tour, we will explore the historic memorial sites and battlefields where the ANZAC troops fought during the 1915 campaign against the Ottoman Empire. We will learn about the courage and sacrifice of the Australian and New Zealand soldiers whose legacy is commemorated each year on ANZAC Day, while visiting important memorials, cemeteries, and key battlefield locations across the peninsula.

After Gallipoli, we will continue to the ancient city of Troy, famous for Homer's legendary Trojan War and the iconic wooden horse. Explore the archaeological ruins of this UNESCO World Heritage Site, which reveal layers of civilizations dating back thousands of years.

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Following the tour, we will continue to Çanakkale and transfer to our hotel. Dinner will be served at the hotel. Overnight in **Kolin Hotel, or similar**, for a one-night stay.



Thursday 1 April

Çanakkale - Istanbul

(B D)

After breakfast we will check out from our hotel and depart for Istanbul. We will arrive back to Istanbul in the evening and transfer back to our hotel **The Ritus Hotel Istanbul Sultanahmet, Tapestry Collection by Hilton, or similar**, for a one-night stay.

Farewell dinner will be served at a local restaurant.

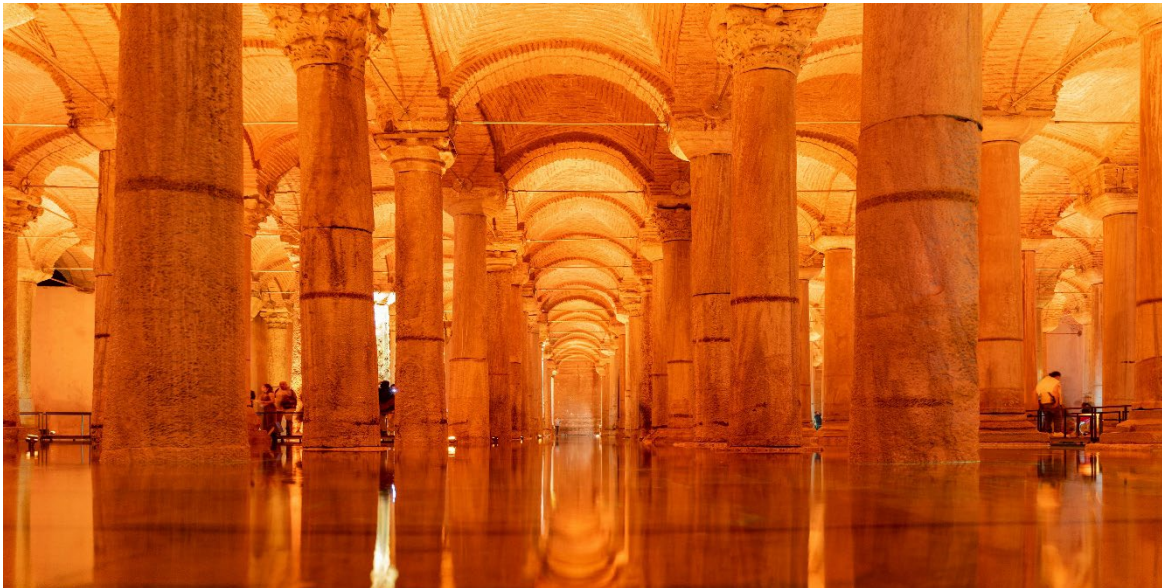
Friday 2 April

Istanbul - Melbourne

(B & Inflight meals)

After breakfast, we will visit the atmospheric Basilica Cistern, one of the most remarkable underground structures from the Byzantine era. Built during the days when Istanbul was Constantinople, this vast “Sunken Palace” is supported by 336 marble columns and once stored water for the Great Palace of Byzantium. Its dim lighting, reflective waters, and ancient architecture create a truly unique and memorable experience.

At the end of the tour, we shall be transferred to Istanbul International Airport for our flight back home.



Saturday 3 April

Melbourne

We shall arrive back in Melbourne and will be met and transferred by coach back to Warragul.



YOUR TOUR ESCORT: Jacquy Turner has over 40 years' experience as a highly successful travel consultant and tour escort. Jacquy has been fortunate enough to have travelled to Egypt on many occasions and still finds it one of the most fascinating places in the world.

"I thoroughly enjoy escorting tour members to so many wonderful places in the world. The sights, sounds and history all contribute to a fabulous experience but most importantly it is the people that you meet and have the privilege of travelling with that has the most lasting impression. We always have lots of fun and continue to enjoy the memories for many years."

— Jacquy Turner

YOUR TOUR ESCORT: Krystal McCallum has 20 years of experience as a travel consultant and is excited to be leading more escorted tours. She looks forward to sharing this incredible and unique part of the world with you while creating a memorable travel experience together.

— Krystal McCallum



INCLUSIONS

- Melbourne to Cairo and Istanbul to Melbourne economy airfares and taxes
- All internal flights - economy airfares and taxes
- Four-night Historia Nile Cruise based on a Luxury Cabin.
- All transfers including travel between Warragul and Melbourne Airport
- Fully escorted throughout our journey by Jacquy Turner & Krystal McCallum, as well as a local guide in Egypt & Turkiye.
In the unlikely event that Jacquy is not available to escort all or part of the tour, she will be replaced with a well-trained tour escort.
- Hotel accommodation in twin-bedded/double rooms with private facilities – ranging from 4 to 5-star hotels.
- Experienced drivers, and local guides
- Private, air-conditioned coach travel except on days when a minibus is required for easier access in local areas
- Complimentary bottled water is provided in all vehicles throughout the tour
- Non-alcoholic beverages with meals.
- 37 meals as per itinerary - 14 Breakfasts (B), 9 Lunches (L), 14 Dinners (D)
- Extensive sightseeing and entry fees as per itinerary
- Gippsland Travel hat, cap or beanie; luggage strap, luggage tags; hand gel
- End of tour Journal and USB with photos showcasing your time on the tour
- All local taxes, hotel service charges and portorage of one suitcase per person
- All Tipping of local guides, drivers, hotel and restaurant staff at included meals
- Minimum 15 tour participants, maximum of 20 tour participants

EXCLUSIONS

- Travel insurance
- Expenses of a personal nature like laundry, telephone calls, medical expenses
- Any meals & beverages not included.

GIPPSLAND TRAVEL ESCORTED TOURS - TERMS & CONDITIONS

INTRODUCTION:

This contract is governed by Gippsland Travel Centre Pty Ltd and all members of the travelling parties as listed on your itinerary. Gippsland Travel Centre acts as the agent selling and coordinating products on behalf of a third-party travel supplier/s. A separate contract with the supplier/s will apply and will be governed by the supplier's Terms and Conditions. Gippsland Travel cannot guarantee the performance of any third-party supplier/s. Gippsland Travel may receive fees, commissions, gifts or financial incentives from third party supplier/s under this contract.

LATE BOOKINGS

Higher deposit payments are required for late bookings. A guarantee of full payment is required at the time of booking for all bookings received within 12 weeks of departure.

PASSPORT and VISA

A valid passport is required for all international travel.

If you do not hold an Australian passport, you may require a resident return visa. Some countries require a visa to be issued before you depart Australia. Gippsland Travel will advise you of all passport and visa requirements for this tour.

The Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade regularly updates travel advice on various destinations. We recommend that you refer to www.smarttraveller.gov.au for the latest updates before choosing to travel and prior to departure.

HEALTH & FITNESS

A minimum level of fitness is required to be able to participate on a Gippsland Travel Tour, you are required to be able to:

- Walk at least 1 hour on uneven surfaces without the use of any walking aid (walking stick for stability is acceptable)
- Walk up flights of stairs and short, steep hills
- Stand for 20 minutes without needing to sit down, often in hot/humid climates
- Carry your own hand luggage / handle your own suitcase when portorage is not supplied eg. at airports.
- Get on and off various modes of transport without assistance, including small boats. Assistance will be offered when possible.

Passengers must inform us of any medical conditions which may affect their ability to participate in the tour.

At our discretion we can exclude you from a tour or any activity if we consider that you are unable to safely participate in that tour or activity or we consider your participation may place the safety of other guests at risk.

You will be requested to supply a letter from your doctor indicating your prescription medication and your reason for taking it, which shall be carried in the event of an emergency. This information will remain confidential and can be supplied in a sealed envelope.

BOOKINGS SOLD ON A SHARE BASIS

At their request, solo travellers may be matched to share a twin room with another traveller of the same gender. While every effort is made, we cannot guarantee a share will be possible. In the event that a share is not available at the time of final payment the single supplement will apply. If a share is not available and you choose to cancel, cancellation fees will apply.

UNUSED COMPONENTS OF THIS TOUR

We regret refunds will not be given for any unused component of this tour, such as meals, entry fees, accommodation or transfers.

GOVERNING LAW

These booking conditions are governed by the law in force in Victoria, Australia.

ITINERARY CHANGES and ITINERARY VARIATIONS

Gippsland Travel reserves the right to amend the hotels, itinerary and excursions if deemed advisable or necessary due to adverse weather conditions, road conditions or other unforeseen circumstances. Any necessary alternative arrangements will be made to a similar standard. Occasionally circumstances beyond the control of Gippsland Travel make it necessary to change airlines, hotels or amendments to daily activities. We will inform you of any changes as soon as they occur.

FLIGHT SCHEDULES

Airline schedules are subject to change without notice. Voluntary date changes will incur fees. Gippsland Travel is not liable for delays or disruption of air travel.

FORCE MAJEURE:

Force Majeure means the occurrence of an event that is beyond Gippsland Travel's reasonable control and which could not have been reasonably prevented by Gippsland Travel. Force majeure includes, but is not limited to: acts of God, accident, riots, war, terrorist act, epidemic, pandemic, quarantine, outbreaks of infectious disease or any other public health crisis, civil commotion, breakdown of communication facilities, natural catastrophes and natural disasters (including but not limited to flooding, fire, earthquake, landslide), adverse weather conditions, high or low water levels; government directed travel restrictions or omissions, changes in laws or regulations, national strikes, explosion, generalised lack of availability of raw materials or energy, nuclear or other industrial accident causing environmental pollution or contamination; change in law, meaning, enactment, amendment (including repeal) in the law or administration of any law in Australia or any jurisdiction or territory relevant to the booking contract, which includes changes in statute, regulation, determination, by-law, declaration, licence and the common law as applicable from time to time. For the avoidance of doubt, Force Majeure shall not include (a) financial distress nor inability of either party to make a profit or avoid a financial loss, (b) changes in market prices or conditions, or (c) a party's financial inability to perform its obligations hereunder. In the event that a Force Majeure is declared, the customer will be bound by the third-party supplier/s Terms and Conditions, if applicable.

TERMINATION OF BOOKING CONTRACT OR CHANGE OF TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS DUE TO FORCE MAJEURE

If Gippsland Travel, in its reasonable opinion, considers that any Force Majeure event prevents Gippsland Travel (whether directly or through its employees, contractors, subcontractors and agents) from lawfully or safely providing any products or services subject of the booking contract with you, Gippsland Travel may immediately by written notice; (a) terminate the booking contract (in whole or part of); or (b) change your travel arrangements as reasonably practicable to ensure your safety and invoice for any additional costs.

If you are eligible for a refund once a booking has been cancelled, the balance less any non-refundable amounts will be forwarded to you once received by Gippsland Travel from the third-party supplier/s.

Gippsland Travel is not responsible for any delays of refunds from the third-party supplier/s. Refunds from third party supplier/s can take in excess of 6 weeks. Refunds will be processed as per original form of payment.

Travel insurance policies may provide cover for cancellation fees subject to their terms and conditions.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY:

Subject to Australian Consumer Law, Gippsland Travel does not accept any liability in contract, tort or otherwise for any injury, damage, loss, delay, additional expense or inconvenience caused by a third-party supplier/s over who we have no direct control. Gippsland Travel is not liable for Force Majeure or any other event which is beyond our control or which is not preventable by us.

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