Nile College
Land of Pyramids and Pharaohs Aboard the Nile Adventurer
February 17 to March 3, 2011

a program of the stanford alumni association
A trip down the Nile is a journey of a lifetime. From the great pyramids at Giza to the royal tombs at the Valley of the Kings and the gigantic temples of Karnak and Abu Simbel, no other destination has the wealth of history – or is as shrouded in mystery – as Egypt. Stanford professor Grant Parker joins forces with Egyptologists and longtime Stanford favorites Tarek Swelim and Fetiche Posma-Zaalouk to deliver a fascinating overview of Egypt’s highlights. Our Stanford connections give us access to political leaders and archaeologists and provide special entry to sites and tombs not open to the public. I guarantee this is a trip you’ll not soon forget.

**Highlights**

**Travel** along the Nile aboard the privately chartered *Nile Adventurer*, which offers the highest standards of comfort and service on the river.

**Venture** below the Valley of the Kings to tour a tomb – not open to the public – in the company of a local archaeologist.

**Stand** in awe before the temple of Abu Simbel, a marvel of ancient and modern engineering.

**Discover** some of the country’s most precious treasures during a private, before-hours tour of the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities in Cairo.
DEPART U.S. / CAIRO, EGYPT
Board overnight flights to Cairo. Upon arrival on Friday, transfer to our hotel. FOUR SEASONS NILE PLAZA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19
CAIRO / SAQQARA / DAHSUR
After a brief orientation, travel to Saqqara, the necropolis of Memphis renowned for its 5,000-year-old step pyramid and mastabas (tombs) that reveal the architectural origins of the pyramid. After lunch, visit Dahshur with its early-era Red and Bent pyramids that provide insight into the trial-and-error process of pyramid building. This evening enjoy a welcome reception and dinner at the hotel. FOUR SEASONS NILE PLAZA (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20
CAIRO / GIZA
Visit the awe-inspiring monuments of Giza – the Great Pyramids and the enigmatic Sphinx, the quintessential symbol of ancient Egypt. Our visit includes special access to the area at the foot of the Sphinx and entrance to the Cheops Boat Museum. After lunch, the remainder of the day is free for independent exploration. FOUR SEASONS NILE PLAZA (B,L)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21
CAIRO / LUXOR
Depart Cairo on a chartered flight to Luxor, the heart of the Nile Valley, and embark the Nile Adventurer, exclusively chartered for our group. In the early evening, visit the Temple of Luxor, whose graceful papyrus cluster columns were built by Amenhotep III and later embellished by Ramses II, Tutankhamen and Alexander the Great. Set sail this evening and begin our seven-night cruise on the Nile. NILE ADVENTURER (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22
ABYDOS / LUXOR
Admire the beautiful Nile scenery as the Nile Adventurer sails toward Nagaa Hamadi, where we disembark and drive to Abydos, once the center of a holy city dedicated to Osiris, lord of the netherworld. The temples at Abydos were reserved by several Egyptian dynasties as burial sites and were important pilgrimage destinations. NILE ADVENTURER (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23
LUXOR / VALLEY OF THE QUEENS
Begin the day with an optional early-morning hot-air balloon ride over the East and West Banks of the Nile. Later, in Deir-el-Bahri on the West Bank, view the magnificent mortuary temple of Queen Hatshepsut — the queen who declared herself king and whose remains were identified in June 2007. Continue to the Valley of the Nobles and the colossal statues of Memnon in the Theban necropolis. This afternoon, tour the Luxor Museum of Ancient Egyptian Art. NILE ADVENTURER (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24
LUXOR / KARNAK / VALLEY OF THE KINGS
This morning explore the temple precincts of Karnak and admire the 134 giant columns of Ramses II’s magnificent hypostyle hall, the...
soaring obelisks and the enormous temple dedicated to Amun, god of the moon. After lunch, continue to the West Bank to the necropolis of Thebes, set in the limestone cliffs that stretch far into the valleys of the western desert. Visit the Valley of the Kings with its stunning painted royal tombs and long corridors leading into deep burial chambers, symbolizing the journey from the world of the living to the world of the dead. *NILE ADVENTURER (B,L,D)*

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

**LUXOR / EDFU / ASWAN**

After a relaxing morning of cruising, call at Edfu to visit one of the best-preserved temples of the ancient world, the 2,000-year-old Temple of Horus, dedicated to the falcon-headed god and lord of the sky. This afternoon continue cruising to Aswan. *NILE ADVENTURER (B,L,D)*

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

**ASWAN**

Enjoy a full day exploring charming Aswan, beginning with a visit to the Temple of Philae, which was carefully moved to higher ground when the rising waters of Lake Nasser threatened to submerge it permanently. After lunch, board a felucca, a traditional Nile sailing vessel, for a cruise around Kitchener's Island. *NILE ADVENTURER (B,L,D)*

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27**

**ASWAN / KOM OMBO / LUXOR**

Begin our cruise back downriver to Luxor, stopping in Kom Ombo for a visit to the Temple of Sobek and Horus, built by the Ptolemaic rulers who governed Egypt after its conquest by Alexander the Great. Return to Luxor and enjoy our final dinner on board. *NILE ADVENTURER (B,L,D)*

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28**

**LUXOR / ABU SIMBEL / CAIRO**

This morning, disembark the Nile Adventurer and board a chartered flight to Abu Simbel, one of the greatest temple precincts in ancient Egypt. Built by Ramses II, the temples are famous for the colossal statues of the pharaoh and his favorite wife, Nefertari. As waters from the dam in Aswan rose toward the temples in the 1960s, an international team, in an extraordinary feat of engineering, raised the site 200 feet and relocated the statues more than 600 feet from the water's edge. After our visit, fly to Cairo and enjoy an evening at leisure. *FOUR SEASONS NILE PLAZA (B,L,D)*

**TUESDAY, MARCH 1**

**CAIRO**

This morning tour two of Cairo’s important Islamic mosques: Ibn Tulun and Sultan Hassan. Enjoy lunch in the bustling Khan el-Khalili bazaar and free time to explore the bazaar’s shops. *FOUR SEASONS NILE PLAZA (B,L)*

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2**

**CAIRO**

Early this morning, enjoy a private tour of the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities before it opens to the public. Admire the museum’s more than 100,000 relics and artifacts, including the golden treasures of Tutankhamen. Continue on to visit the key highlights of Coptic Cairo, including the Hanging Church and the Synagogue of Ben Ezra. After lunch at a local restaurant, the afternoon is free for independent exploration, followed by a festive farewell reception and dinner. *FOUR SEASONS NILE PLAZA (B,L,D)*

**THURSDAY, MARCH 3**

**CAIRO / U.S.**

Transfer to the airport for return flights to the U.S. *B*

**Jordan Post-Trip Extension**

**MARCH 3 TO 9, 2011**

(6 additional days)

Journey to the 3,000-year-old city of Amman, capital of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Explore the 2,000-year-old rose-red city of Petra, a magnificent assemblage of temples, tombs and elaborate buildings carved from solid rock. For centuries, the city’s existence was known only to local Bedouin and Arab tradesmen. Visit the town of Madaba, known as the “City of Mosaics” for its spectacular 6th-century tile masterpieces, and Mt. Nebo. Experience the therapeutic waters of the Dead Sea, a biblical landmark and geographically the lowest point of land on Earth.

Additional details and rates will be provided to confirmed participants.
Nile Adventurer

The Nile Adventurer is Stanford’s private riverboat during our week on the Nile. Originally launched in 1990 and completely renovated in 2009, the magnificent Nile Adventurer offers 34 spacious outside cabins with individual climate control, large windows, en suite bathrooms with hairdryer, color satellite TV, safety deposit box and mini-bar. Onboard amenities include a fine restaurant with picture windows, elegant bar and lounge area, boutique, laundry service, fully equipped gymnasium, swimming pool, two spacious sun decks and in-room dining. Secure and well-located docking facilities in Luxor and Aswan ensure convenient and easy disembarking and boarding.

Program Costs*

Rates are per person, based on double occupancy

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*Association nonmembers add $200 per person
**Limited availability
Information

DATES
February 17 to March 3, 2011 (15 days)

SIZE
Limited to 58 participants

INCLUDED
6 nights at the Four Seasons Nile Plaza in Cairo
7-night cruise aboard the Nile Adventurer
13 breakfasts, 12 lunches, 9 dinners
Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions
Internal flights: Cairo/Luxor, Luxor/Abu Simbel, Abu Simbel/Cairo
All tours and shore excursions as described in the itinerary
Bottled water on excursions
Wine at welcome and farewell dinners
Gratuities to porters, guides, drivers and ship crew for all group activities
Visas (for U.S. citizens), transfers and baggage handling for participants arriving in and departing from Cairo (or from Amman for participants on the post-trip extension)
Port fees and embarkation taxes
Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance
Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information
Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

NOT INCLUDED
International and U.S. domestic airfare
Passport fees
Immunization costs
Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
Optional hot-air balloon ride in Luxor
Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance
Excess-baggage charges
Personal items such as email, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for non-group services

AIR ARRANGEMENTS
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare on British Airways between San Francisco and Cairo is approximately $1,296 as of April 2010 and is subject to change without notice. Information on recommended flight itineraries will be sent by our designated agent.

FUEL COSTS
In the uncertain, often volatile oil market of late, it is difficult to predict fuel costs over the long term and, more specifically, at the time of operation of this voyage. Our prices are based upon the prevailing fuel rates at the time of brochure printing. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, if the fuel rates increase significantly, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge.

WHAT TO EXPECT
We consider this to be a moderately strenuous program that is at times physically demanding and busy. Daily excursions in Cairo and off the riverboat involve one to three miles of walking with tours lasting as long as three hours. Much of the walking takes place at ancient sites covering a large area, where paths can be rocky and uneven. In some instances, such as ruins, stairs are unavailable or do not have handrails. Many buildings do not have elevators, and some sites and museums do not allow buses to pull up in front, thus requiring a walk of several minutes to reach the entrance. Busy days are contrasted with the relaxed pace aboard our riverboat, where daily shore excursions are complemented by lectures and leisure time aboard. Participants must be physically fit and in active good health. We welcome travelers over the age of 15 on this program.

Deposit & Final Payment
A $1,000 deposit is required to hold space for the Nile College. An additional $200 deposit is required to hold space for the Optional Post-Trip Extension. Complete and return the attached reservation form or sign up online. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure.

Cancellations & Refunds
Deposits and any payments are fully refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply. We recommend trip-cancellation insurance; applications will be sent to you.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. We strongly recommend that you subscribe to optional baggage and trip-cancellation insurance. A brochure offering such insurance will be mailed with your confirmation about one week after we receive your deposit. The product offered in this brochure includes a special Waiver of Pre-Existing Conditions and coverage for Financial Insolvency and Terrorist Acts if you postmark your insurance payment within 15 days of the date listed on the confirmation letter.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $200 more than the members’ price. Stanford alumni may become Annual ($75) or Life ($495) Members. Stanford parents, faculty, staff, interns, residents and fellows may become Installment Members ($90 down, $115/year for four years) or Life Members ($495). Nonalumni may become Life Affiliates (one-time fee, $650). Parents and their children under 21 may travel on one membership. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit www.stanfordalumni.org/member-ship or call (650) 725-0692.

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GRANT PARKER, an associate professor of classics at Stanford, has pursued a wide array of interests centering on travel writing and Roman imperial culture. He first became intrigued by ancient Egypt after studying the geographers Strabo and Pliny. Their texts provided key material for his dissertation on Roman ideas about India, which came via Egypt. Explains Professor Parker, “Texts about the Nile valley – ancient, medieval, modern and contemporary – will allow us to bring earlier travelers along with us, sharing their perspectives on landscapes that may or may not have changed in the interim.” During our program, he will lecture on the related themes of memory, monument and empire in ancient Egypt.

Egyptologists

TAREK SWELIM is an expert on the art, architecture and history of the Middle East. He earned his BS and MA in Egyptology at the American University in Cairo and his PhD at Harvard University. In 1979, Dr. Swelim started his career by guiding and lecturing to academic groups in Egypt and, in 1994, began leading tours throughout the Middle East. He has served as a lecturer/guide on dozens of Stanford Travel/Study trips.

FETICHE POSMA-ZAALOUK studied Egyptology at Helwan University in Cairo and started guiding tours after she received her BS in 1972. In 1975, she was appointed “Official Guide” of the Egyptian Parliament for its French- and English-speaking guests, including dignitaries such as French President Francois Mitterand and U.S. President Jimmy Carter. She also lectures on the modern history of the Middle East. Ms. Posma-Zaalouk has led tours in Egypt for American organizations, including Stanford Travel/Study, for the past 10 years.
“The sights, sounds, encounters and discussions gave me an amazing insight into the religions, culture, topography and politics of the Middle East. Sharing this amazing trip with so many wonderful people was a deeply enriching experience that I shall never forget.”

JOAN S. KELLY, MA ’66 | NILE COLLEGE, 2009