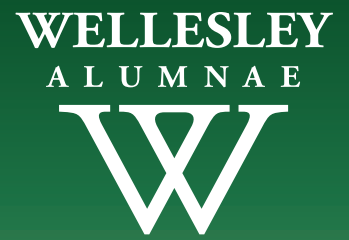


Join **ALEXANDER BREY**,
Assistant Professor of Art,
Wellesley College

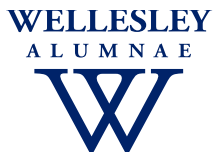


EGYPT AND THE NILE

January 13 - 24, 2024



Sphinx and the Giza pyramids



Dear Wellesley Alumna,

The Egypt of the Pharaohs has been the object of endless fascination in the Western World ever since Herodotus traveled there in the middle of the 5th-century BC and recorded what he could gather of Egyptian customs, traditions, and religion—an account that we now know to be full of inaccuracies and misunderstandings, but which nevertheless remains a delight to read. This journey, specially curated for Wellesley College alumnae, includes visits to most of the sights Herodotus would have encountered, as well as to many he could not possibly have seen because they had been buried beneath desert sands long before he arrived.

Just outside Cairo, in Giza, marvel at the sole remaining Wonder of the Ancient World, the Pyramids of Giza and the great Sphinx, and in Cairo proper, explore the acclaimed Egyptian Museum. Also visit the al-Aqmar Mosque, the Qalawun Complex, and the Salihiyya Madrasa/Mausoleum, the latter commissioned by a female patron. Together these Islamic monuments give a great sense of what life in medieval Cairo was like.

From Aswan, near the massive dam that finally in 1970 allowed authorities to control the flow of the Nile, visit Abu Simbel, whose Great Temple is dominated by immense statues of Ramses II and his wife Nefertari. Also discover Elephantine Island and the ruins of ancient Abu, dating to about 3,000 BC. After boarding the elegant riverboat, *M/S Regent*, sail north on a 3-night voyage that includes the temples at Kom Ombo and Edfu before docking in Luxor for two days. From Luxor (ancient Thebes), explore both banks of the Nile: the temples dedicated to Amun at Luxor and Karnak on the East Bank, and the tombs of the Valley of the Kings on the West Bank where King Tutankhamun's remains were discovered.

Also distinguishing this trip are visits to two magnificent gardens, the Persian gardens at the Manial Palace and Museum in Cairo, and the Aswan Botanical Gardens on Kitchener's Island.

We are privileged to have as our Wellesley lecturer on this journey Alexander Brey, Assistant Professor of Art, whose expertise in Islamic art and culture will lend a fascinating dimension to your learning experience.

This truly is a beautifully designed introduction to the glories of Egypt through the ages. I hope you will be able to join Professor Brey and fellow Wellesley alumnae and friends this winter to explore the wonders of Egypt and the Nile.

Warm regards,

Kathryn Mackintosh '03
Executive Director
Wellesley College Alumnae Association

WELLESLEY FACULTY

ALEXANDER BREY

Assistant Professor of Art



Alexander Brey is a historian of art and architecture focusing on the medieval Islamic world. His interests include cross-cultural transmission, landscape studies, and digital art history.

His teaching introduces students to the art and architecture of the Islamic world, situating

objects and monuments in the context of historical global developments and contemporary debates. These include a seminar about the ways that iconoclasm and debates about figural imagery have shaped the religious art and architecture of Islam, a lecture on the art and architecture of the Mediterranean in the later Middle Ages, and a survey of Islamic art.

Alexander also researches digital methods for art history, focusing on new approaches to documentation and analysis. His digital projects include investigations of medieval Qur'an manuscripts from Iran and the Maghreb, as well as a collaboration focused on medieval French, English, and Flemish manuscripts.

He received his undergraduate degree from Vassar College and his Ph.D from Bryn Mawr College.



Tutankhamun's Mask



Abu Simbel Temple



Botanical garden on Kitchener's Island

ITINERARY



Saturday, January 13, 2024
DEPART THE UNITED STATES

Sunday, January 14
CAIRO, Egypt

Throughout history, Egyptians have referred to their country as Umm Ad Dunya, "Mother of the World," because of their homeland's remarkable achievements in religion, culture and science. We start our discovery of this fabled land in Cairo, Egypt's most important city. Our representative will meet you at the airport and assist you through immigration and customs formalities. You will also be joined by our experienced Thalassa Journeys Trip Director, who will accompany you throughout your time in Egypt. Transfer by coach to the *Steigenberger Pyramids Hotel*, located near the Pyramids at Giza, home for the next three nights. (D)



Temple Kom Ombo

Monday, January 15
GIZA AND MEMPHIS

After breakfast, tour the sole remaining Wonder of the Ancient World, the Pyramids of Giza. Built as massive tombs on the orders of the pharaohs nearly 4,000 years ago, their extraordinary shape, impeccable geometry, and sheer bulk stand as tributes to the achievements of ancient Egypt. Ponder the Sphinx, a limestone statue of a mythical creature with the body of a lion and the head of a human, believed to have been built during the reign of pharaoh Khafre. After lunch at the *Marriott Mena House Hotel*, travel the short distance to Memphis, capital of the Old Kingdom of Egypt during the period when most of the pyramids were built. Also visit the Necropolis of Saqqara, site of the famous Step Pyramid, designed by Imhotep and believed to be the oldest stone-hewn building complex ever constructed. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, January 16
EGYPTIAN MUSEUM AND MANIAL PALACE

Start the day at the acclaimed Egyptian Museum in downtown Cairo, one of the world's most important collections of ancient artifacts, including those of King Tutankhamen. Other masterpieces in the museum include the Narmer Palette, a 5,000-year-old ceremonial engraving; the statue of Khafre, builder of the second pyramid at Giza; and the Tanis collection, an extensive selection of glittering objects unearthed from six tombs in 1939. Lunch at the *Steigenberger El Tahrir Hotel* is followed by a visit to the Manial Palace and Museum, a fascinating blend of architectural styles—Ottoman, Moorish, Persian, and European Rococo. Located on Rhoda Island in a minor branch of the Nile, the compound is surrounded by Persian gardens, themselves ensconced within an extensive English-landscaped park. Dinner this evening is at the hotel. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, January 17
CAIRO/ASWAN/ELEPHANTINE ISLAND

After breakfast at the hotel, an early morning flight brings you to Aswan. Check in to the *Sofitel Legend Old Cataract Hotel*, your home for the next two nights. Lunch is followed by an excursion to the Aswan Botanical Gardens on Kitchener's Island, named after the late-19th-century army commander who transformed it into a vast garden of flora from East Asia, India, and Africa. The island now abounds with birdlife as well as hundreds of species of plants. From Kitchener's Island, it is a short boat ride to Elephantine Island, whose southern end is the site of ancient Abu. Founded at the beginning of the 1st dynasty as a fort to guard Egypt's southern frontier, Abu quickly became a busy trading center, and remained strategically important throughout the Pharaonic period as a point of departure for military and commercial expeditions into Nubia and further south. Dinner is at the hotel in Aswan. (B,L,D)

Thursday, January 18
ASWAN/ABU SIMBEL/ASWAN

Travel today via round trip air excursion to Abu Simbel, home to the immense statues of Ramses II and his wife Nefertari. Abu Simbel's Great Temple is 98 feet high and 115 feet long, with four colossal statues depicting Ramesses II on his throne at the



Aswan Botanical Gardens

entrance. Beneath these giant figures are smaller statues depicting Ramesses' conquered enemies: the Nubians, Libyans, and Hittites. The structures were created, at least in part, to celebrate Ramesses' victory over the Hittites at the Battle of Kadesh in 1274 BC. In the 1960s some remarkable creative engineering saved the temple complex from the rising waters of the Nile caused by the erection of the Aswan High Dam. Return to Aswan for an afternoon at leisure, with lunch and dinner served at the hotel. (B,L,D)

Friday, January 19

ASWAN/EMBARK

Breakfast at the hotel and check out before joining an excursion to the Aswan High Dam. After 11 long years of construction, the dam was finally completed in 1970. More than two miles long at its crest, the massive \$1 billion project ended the cycle of flood and drought that had plagued the Nile River basin for millennia. Its control of the flow of the river helps keep agricultural land irrigated, improves navigation, and generates electric power. From the dam, continue

via motorboat to Philae, an island downstream from the Aswan Dam that is home to a temple dedicated to the goddess Isis. Learn about Philae's history on a guided tour that includes its courts, colonnades, and halls. In the afternoon, embark the five-star *M/S Regent* for a three-night cruise on the Nile. Lunch and dinner are aboard the ship. (B,L,D)

Saturday, January 20

ASWAN/KOM OMBO/EDFU/LUXOR

This morning, Regent calls at Kom Ombo for a visit to a temple that is unique in Egypt for the fact that it is dedicated to two different deities. Two nearly identical sets of halls, courts and sanctuaries line each side of the complex. The southern half of the temple was dedicated to the crocodile god Sobek, god of fertility and creator of the world, while the northern part of the temple was dedicated to the falcon god Haroeris. Over lunch, sail to Edfu to visit one of the best preserved of all Egyptian temples. The inscriptions on its walls provide important information on language, myth and religion



Traditional felucca boats on Nile in Aswan



Ancient egyptian hieroglyphs carved on the stone wall in the Karnak Temple, Luxor

during the Greco-Roman period. Explore the temples and learn more about ancient Egypt's most significant deities. Return to the ship and set sail for Luxor. (B,L,D)

Sunday, January 21

LUXOR

The modern town of Luxor is the site of ancient Thebes, the capital of Egypt beginning in the twelfth dynasty and reaching its zenith during the New Kingdom. This morning tour the Temples of Karnak and Luxor on the town's East Bank. Karnak is the name of the ancient Temple of Amun at Thebes, believed to have been an observatory as well as a place of worship. The largest temple complex ever built, this site represents the combined achievement of many generations of architects and craftsmen. It consists of three main temples, smaller enclosed temples, and several outer temples located about 2 miles north of the main complex. Then move on to Luxor Temple, also dedicated to Amun, king of the gods. An avenue of sphinxes connects it to the Temple of Amun at Karnak. The Temple of Luxor has been a sacred site throughout history. After Egypt's pagan period, a Christian church and monastery were located here, followed by the 13th-century Mosque of Abu el-Haggag, which continues in use today. Overnight aboard *Regent* docked in Luxor. (B,L,D)

Monday, January 22

LUXOR/DISEMBARK/CAIRO

Disembark after breakfast and tour Luxor's West Bank. Your first stop is the Valley of the Kings, the Necropolis of Thebes, where you visit tombs from various dynasties, cut into the mountainside. One of the most famous archaeological sites in the world (a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1979), this valley is where the remains of King Tutankhamun were excavated. Continue to the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, the only woman ever to reign over Egypt as pharaoh. Hatshepsut died in 1458 BC, and she is buried, like her male counterparts, in the Valley of the Kings. The last stop on the West Bank is the Colossi of Memnon, two monumental statues representing Amenhotep III (1386-1353 BC) of the 18th Dynasty.

Transfer to the airport for a late afternoon flight to Cairo, where you will enjoy dinner and overnight at the *Intercontinental City Stars Hotel*. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, January 23

CAIRO

Today we continue exploring Cairo including the new National Museum of Egyptian Civilization, if it has opened by the time of our trip. This evening, gather with fellow travelers for a farewell dinner at the hotel. (B,D)

Wednesday, January 24

CAIRO/USA

Check out after breakfast and transfer to Cairo International Airport for flights homeward. (B)



Hallway of Al Aqmar Mosque

RATE PER PERSON

Category 1

- In Double room at hotels and aboard ship: \$7,290
- In Single room at hotels and aboard ship: \$8,880

Category 2

- In Double room at hotels and Suite at Aswan hotel and aboard ship: \$8,190
- In Single room at hotels and Suite at Aswan hotel and aboard ship: \$10,180

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Luxury hotel accommodations at the *Steigenberger Pyramids Hotel* in Cairo (3 nights), *Sofitel Legend Old Cataract Hotel* in Aswan (2 nights), *Intercontinental City Stars Hotel* in Cairo (2 nights).
- Three night Nile cruise from Aswan to Luxor on board the elegant riverboat *M/S Regent*.
- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily. Mineral water, wine or beer with lunch and dinner.
- Meet and transfer from Cairo airport to the hotel on January 14 and from Cairo hotel to the airport on January 24.
- Discussions and lectures by Wellesley Assistant Professor, Alexander Brey.
- Domestic airfare - Cairo to Aswan; Aswan to Abu Simbel (round trip); Luxor to Cairo.
- Sightseeing tours including transportation by deluxe coach, entrance fees, whisper devices and expert English-speaking Egyptologist guide.
- Services of an experienced Thalassa Journeys Trip Director throughout the trip.
- Group transfers and handling of luggage overseas at designated times from the airport to the hotel and hotel to the airport, and if applicable, hotel/pier transfers.
- Gratuities to hotel staff, ship's crew, porters, drivers, and guides.
- Egyptian entry visa fee.
- All local taxes, including port dues and embarkation taxes.
- Complete pre-departure material.

NOT INCLUDED: International airfare; travel insurance; expenses of a personal nature; any items not mentioned in the itinerary or the above inclusions.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The Nile cruise program can be amended without prior notice due to navigational restrictions or may change in sequence but not in visits.



REGISTRATION

WELL 24L-0113

Enclosed is my check or credit card no. for \$ _____ (\$ 1,000 per person) as a deposit to hold _____ place(s) on ***Egypt and the Nile*** January 13 - 24, 2024, with Wellesley College. I understand that final payment is due ninety (90) days prior to departure and is payable by check or credit card.

For reservations, please call Thalassa Journeys at: (866) 633-3611

or make a check payable and mail with this registration forms to:

Thalassa Journeys: 8815 Conroy-Windermere Rd., Suite 406, Orlando, FL 32835

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☐ Discover

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Preference at hotels and aboard *M/S Regent*:

☐ I prefer Double accommodation in Category 1

☐ Single accommodation in Category 1

☐ I prefer Double accommodation in Category 2

☐ Single accommodation in Category 2

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FIRST	MIDDLE	LAST (AS ON YOUR PASSPORT)	CLASS OF
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ADDRESS _____

Each participant must sign below: I/We have read the "General Information" section and agree to its terms.

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TELEPHONE (HOME) _____

(CELL) _____

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

EMAIL _____

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

GENERAL INFORMATION

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Payment can be made by personal check or charged to a credit card.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: All cancellations are subject to a \$300 per person administrative fee. Cancellations received 61-90 days prior to departure will be assessed a penalty equal to 50% of the total program cost per person. Cancellations received within 60 days of departure are subject to 100% cancellation penalties. Requests for cancellations must be made in writing. No refunds will be made for any part of this program in which you choose not to participate.

INSURANCE: We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

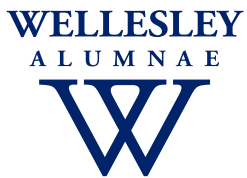
ITINERARY: The itinerary, accommodations and arrangements are subject to change at the discretion of Thalassa Journeys.

RESPONSIBILITY: Please read carefully the following terms and conditions, which constitute the sole, legally enforceable agreements between the traveler and Thalassa Journeys. Thalassa Journeys acts solely as agents for the traveler with respect to all transportation, hotel and other tour arrangements. In that capacity, we exercise all reasonable care possible to ensure the traveler's safety and satisfaction, but, we neither assume nor bear any responsibility or liability for any injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity arising in connection with the services of any ship, airplane, train, automobile, motor coach, carriage or other conveyance, or the actions of any third-party, involved in carrying the traveler or in affecting these tours. We are not responsible for damages, additional expenses, or any other losses due to cancellation, delay or other changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, civil disturbances, acts or threats of terrorism, travel warnings or bans, termination or suspension of war risks or other carrier insurance, quarantine, acts of God or other causes beyond our control. All such losses must be borne by the traveler, and tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. In the event of cancellation, delay or rescheduling mandated by any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by us, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as we are able to recover on the traveler's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc., but, we shall not have any obligation or liability to the traveler beyond the foregoing. We reserve the right to make alterations to the tour's itinerary and to substitute hotels, transportation methods, or lecturers of equal value if this is required. We reserve the right to cancel, delay, or reschedule any tour prior to departure, and, so long as this is not due to any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall be entitled to a full refund of all monies paid to that point if he/she so desires. No refund shall be made for any unused portion of any tour. By forwarding their deposit(s), the traveler certifies that he/she and/or their dependents, minors or others covered thereby do not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that could create a hazard for them or other travelers. We reserve the right to decline to accept or to decline to retain any person as a member of any tour should such person's health, condition or actions adversely affect or threaten the welfare or safety of other travelers or impede the tour. Baggage or valuables brought on the tour shall be transported, handled or stored at the traveler's risk entirely, and, we shall bear no liability or responsibility for any damage or other loss thereto. Resolution of any disputes arising hereunder shall be affected exclusively in the state or federal courts presiding in Florida, pursuant to applicable Florida law.

RATES: Tour costs are based upon current airfares, tariffs, and currency values. While we do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change.

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Join ALEXANDER BREY, Assistant Professor of Art on EGYPT AND THE NILE | January 13 - 24, 2024

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PLEASE CALL 866-633-3611**

Karnak Temple in Luxor



EGYPT AND THE NILE | January 13 - 24, 2024