Day 1, Tuesday, February 15, 2022
Arrival to Cairo. Transfer to the hotel. Dinner, orientation, and overnight in Cairo.

Day 2, Wednesday, February 16, 2022
Early morning, we will travel to the desert oasis where several Coptic monasteries still stand. The names of the monastic colonies of Sketis, Kellia and Nitria are familiar to anyone who have read The Sayings of the Desert Fathers, Lausiac History by Palladius, or other writings from the earliest monks of Egypt. The remains of monastic hermitages at Kellia and Scetis, which once there were hundreds if not thousands, have been largely consumed by modern agricultural development. However, in Nitria, monastic presence can still be seen. Unlike in the days of old, modern monks live in large communities, but keep the traditions of their ancient ascetic predecessors. We are
Day 3, Thursday, February 17, 2022

Today we’ll explore the city of Alexandria—one of the capitals of the Ancient World. You’ll find this modernized city huge and bustling. At first glance it seems there’s is nothing left from its ancient glory; however, the observant traveler will find the signs of its venerable antiquity. On this day, we will visit Catacombs of Kom el-Shuqafa, a true wonder from the Ptolemaic period in Egyptian history that truly represents a melding of the Egyptian, Greek, and Roman cultural and artistic traditions. The Odeon at Kom el-Dikka is a smallish Roman theater that provided archeologists with a myriad of fascinating finds. Adjacent to the theater, there are remains of ancient houses and bath complex. We also will see the Pompei’ pillar and the Qaitbey’s Fort, built on the site of the famed Pharos, the Ancient lighthouse of Alexandria. As the Greco-Roman Museum is closed for the renovations, we will instead visit the Alexandria National Museum. Though smaller, it’s a fascinating location with great number of unique artifacts on display. For dinner and overnight we will transfer back to Cairo. Overnight: Cairo.

Day 4, Friday, February 18, 2022

This morning we will leave very early, as our road towards the Red Sea will take some time. Today we will visit the birthplace of Christian Monasticism. St. Anthony the Great is known as the Father of all monasticism, but he is not the first monk. During his lifetime he visited another monastic elder, his older brother in monastic profession, Paul of Thebes, who spent many decades in the cave close to the Red Sea. A new road from Cairo leads right Deir Anba Bola or Monastery of St. Paul the Hermit. After our visit to the monastery and lunch at a guest house close to the monastery, we will transfer to the

Monastery of St. Anthony the Great; still one of the largest and most important monasteries in the Coptic church.
When St. Anthony started living as an anchorite in cave high in the mountain, he had no disciples. However, toward the end of his life, other monks joined in the surrounding area. The community grew, and to this day, churches and vestiges of the earlier structures from different periods can be seen on a territory of a vast complex. The actual cave of St. Anthony is also available to those who are physically fit as you’ll need to climb some 2000 stairs in order to reach the cave. We will return to Cairo for overnight late in the evening. Overnight: Cairo.

Day 5, Saturday, February 19, 2022

Today will be our first dive into Egyptian Antiquities. We will start our day south of Cairo, exploring two vast Egyptian necropolises at Dahshur and Saqqara. Most people are familiar with the Egyptian pyramids on the Giza plateau in the suburbs of Cairo. But prior to Giza, dozens of pyramids were built, each one of them surrounded by vast complexes of residences, and subsequently tombs, of the workers. Contrary to long-held beliefs, the building of the pyramids involved a lot of skilled and not slave labor. Appearance of the pyramidal structure also came as a result of trial and error as we will witness on the example of step at Saqqara and bent Pyramid in Dahshur. We will finish our day with the exploration of Memphis, an open-air museum, created in order to preserve the ruins of Ancient Egyptian Capital. For dinner and overnight we will return to our hotel in Cairo. Overnight: Cairo.

Day 6, Sunday, February 20, 2022

After breakfast, we will visit the most famous site in all of Egypt, the Giza plateau with iconic Pyramids and the Sphynx. Mammoth New Museum that houses the best examples of 3,000-year-old ancient Egyptian Civilization, inclusive of the most splendid valuables from the Tutankhamun burial chamber, is supposed to be open in June of 2021. We will plan to visit this fantastic museum right after the Pyramids. Overnight: Cairo.

Day 7, Monday, February 21, 2022

Early in the morning we will begin our journey south. Our road for the first few hours will pass through the desert, as the modern highway that connects the capital city with the central part of the country lies on the outskirts of the densely populated communities of the Nile Valley. Just as in the days of old, most of Egypt’s 100 million population lives along the banks of the great river. By late morning we will arrive at Tel Amarna. Tel Amarna or Tall al-Amarna is the site of the ruins and tombs of the city of Akhenaten, the “heretic” ruler of Ancient Egypt. During his life he attempted to abandon Egypt’s traditional polytheism and to introduce the worship
of Aten, the sun disc. Akhenaten and his new capital built specifically for this new religion were lost in history until the excavations in the late 19th century that brought the ruins of his great capital back to light. Interest in him as a patron of art is great, even though he is overshadowed in the popular mind by the famed beauty of his queen Nefertiti and the treasures from the tomb of his son Tutankhamun. Before arriving to our hotel in Al Minya, we will visit the Monastery of the Virgin Mary at Gebel el-Teir. It is an ancient and important place of Christian pilgrimage, believed to be related to one of the stops made by the Holy Family during their stay in Egypt. Overnight: Al Minya.

Day 8, Tuesday, February 22, 2022.

In the morning we will continue our journey south. In about an hour we will reach Beni Hasan, the site of an ancient Egyptian cemetery with splendidly decorated stone carved tombs. Due to the distances from the river, the tombs were cut into the rocks on the eastern side of the Nile. The tombs belong mainly to the members of the provincial ruling elite. Among the varied scenes depicted on the walls of the tombs, the ones that are painted with scenes of daily life and warfare and have biographical inscriptions are of particular interest. From Beni Hasan we will transfer to Sohag where we will explore two ancient Coptic monasteries, known as the Red or White Monasteries. Next to nothing remains from the original foundations of St. Pachomius. However, the Red and White Monasteries, although not established by him personally, fit well into his concept of communal monastic living. An even more fascinating feature is preserved in the ancient structures of the monastic complexes themselves. A unique architectural chapel in the Red Monastery still contains great deal of sacred art that dates to late antiquity. Frescoes in the church were done sometime between the sixth and eighth centuries AD. For dinner and overnight we will arrive to Abydos. Overnight: Abydos (Sohag).

Day 9, Wednesday, February 23, 2022

Just outside our hotel, there is the Great Temple of Abydos, one of the most important historical sites in this area that once was the capital of the Egyptian kingdom. The temple of Seti I, known as the Great Temple, strikes us with its eerily modern appearance, despite the fact that it was built over 3000 years ago. This magnificent monument is known for the “Abydos graffiti,” a very rare example of an inscription in Aramaic, and also for the “Abydos King List” – the long list of the pharaohs of the principal dynasties. Their names are carved on a wall of the Temple Gallery. In about an hour’s drive time we will come to Dendera Temple complex, one of the best-preserved temple complexes in Egypt. The original complex was of gargantuan size and covers an area of approximately 40,000 square meters. The temples were of great
importance and active use throughout their history, and the complex has remains of the building activities of the Roman Emperors Trajan and Domitian. Hence, here we could see not only pharaonic, but also Ptolemaic art. In one of the temples, spectacular ceiling painting was exposed after the restoration, presenting some of the most vibrant and colorful paintings dating from antiquity. Later in the afternoon we will transfer to Luxor. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. Overnight: Luxor In the evening, you may be able to attend Sound & Light Show at Karnak Temple.

Day 10, Thursday, February 24, 2022
Luxor (Thebes of Antiquity) without a doubt is one of the most important, if not the most important place for all interested in the Pharaonic Egypt. Sheer volume, size, splendor, and importance of the Temples and funerary monuments in that area is hard to overestimate. Today we will visit two Egyptian sacred areas - Karnak and Luxor Temples. In reality, Karnak temple is a general name for a large area with several large temples dedicated to the funerary practices. The Luxor Temple that stands some distance away from the Karnak temple area is believed to be the only Temple that is dedicated to the rejuvenation of kingship. It is suggested that some of the Pharaohs may have been crowned there in a real or mystical way. Exploration of the sites will take most of the morning. After lunch, time permitting, we will visit the monastery of St. Pachomius, the father of the Cenobitic monasticism and the younger contemporary of St. Anthony. According to tradition, St. Pachomius was born in Thebes, and although his foundations were located some distance North of Thebes, his memory is greatly commemorated by the local Christians. Later in the day, we will visit the Luxor Museum of the Pharaonic Art and Sculpture. A fascinating collection of Ancient artifacts at the Luxor Museum is second best only to the collection in Cairo. Overnight: Luxor.

Day 11, Friday, February 25, 2022
Today will be dedicated to the exploration of the West Bank. We will visit the World-famous Valley of the Kings with many fascinating tombs of mighty Egyptian rulers. It is here that in November of 1922, Howard Carter found the tomb of Tutankhamun which would be considered one of the greatest archaeological discoveries ever. A short distance from the Valley of the Kings, there is the Temple of Hatshepsut. It is of great historical importance as it is considered the closest Egypt came to classical architecture. It is hard to enumerate all the fantastic sites in the West Bank, besides the valley with the countless tombs and dozens of temples. Perhaps Colossi of Memnon, temple of Seti and the funerary complex at Medinet...
Habu (The Temple of Ramesses III) are of the greatest interest. We will try to see as much as we can cover in a day without exhausting ourselves as tomorrow, we will have another fascinating and long day. For dinner and overnight we will remain at our hotel in Luxor.

Day 12, Saturday, February 26, 2022

This morning we will check out of the hotel and will travel South to Aswan, our final “base” for exploration along our journey. The drive will take about four and a half hours, but we will take breaks along the way. Conveniently, as if for tourist exploration, Ancient Egyptians created three magnificent sites along the way, which divide our journey almost perfectly into four parts. The first stop will be at a town of Esna or Ancient Latopolis in the Thebaid. The Egyptian temple in Esna is known for its beauty and impressive architectural features. Our next stop will be at a temple dedicated to the falcon-headed god, Horus—one of the most important deities in the pantheon of Ancient Egyptians. The temple itself is one of the best preserved ancient shrines in Egypt. Our last stop along the way will be at Kom Ombo. The temple here is not as well preserved as other monuments, but its features are very inspiring non-the-less. Next to the temple, a crocodile museum was recently opened. Time permitting, we will explore its eerie but fascinating collection that consists of statues, inscriptions, coffins, and the crocodile mummies themselves. For dinner and overnight we will arrive to our hotel in Aswan. Overnight: Aswan.

Day 13, Sunday, February 27, 2022

In the morning we will visit the Nubian Museum, which houses an important collection of Antiquities that help us understand the history and development of the region. From the museum we will depart for our last “long ride” during this trip will bring us almost to the Southern Border of Egypt. Here at Abu Simbel there are two iconic temples that are as well known via cultural reference just as the Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx. The Temple of Hathor and Nefertari, and nearby the mammoth Great Temple of Ramesses II, are carved from the rock. Four Colossal sitting statues greet visitors on their entry to the Great Temple. The temple serves as a living legacy of the Pharaoh Ramesses II. Inside the temple there are many hieroglyphic inscriptions commemorating his great deeds and achievements. Among them there is a description of the battle of Kadesh. In the 20th century, after the High Aswan dam was build,
important monuments were threatened with flooding from the artificial lake. Thus, in late 1960s, the monuments were carefully cut into pieces and relocated on a higher ground. That story itself is worth further exploration! The complex is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site is known as the "Nubian Monuments." For dinner and overnight we will return to Aswan. Overnight: Aswan.

Day 14, Monday, February 28, 2022
Today we will explore the magnificent sites in and around Aswan. High on our list is a visit to the Elephantine Island with its numerous monuments. Elephantine Island, in some intricate, way is related to Biblical history as here there was a Jewish temple built related to a Hebrew mercenary garrison station on the island. Philae temple with its monumental appearance is truly awe inspiring, but so is the Nilometer and gigantic unfinished obelisk. We will explore all these things, along with the Aswan dam, during an engaging and educational day. In the evening we will fly back to Cairo. Overnight in Cairo.

Day 15, Tuesday, March 1, 2022
Today we will explore the Old City of Cairo. Included in the visits we will make today, there will be stops at several ancient Coptic churches in Old Cairo, among them The Hanging church and Ben Ezra synagogue. The Synagogue is a former church that Coptic Christians needed to sell to pay taxes to the Islamic overlords. Another stop in the Old city will be the Coptic Museum. The museum is not huge, but incredibly important as it houses some of the most important and ancient Coptic Christian Art objects. Late afternoon and evening will be leisure time. In the evening we will have a farewell dinner and have some reflections on our experiences in the Land of the Pharaohs and Desert Fathers. Overnight in Cairo.

Day 16, Wednesday, March 2, 2022
Transfer to the airport. Departure back home.
PRICING AND INCLUSIONS:

**Price include:**
- Accommodations in "****/*****" hotels along the way*
- All breakfasts and daily dinners or lunches (at least two meals daily)
- Private bus transportation along the way
- Group transfers from the airport and from the hotel to the hotel in Cairo
- Domestic flight from Aswan to Cairo
- All admissions, according to the schedule
- Individual audio system aka “Whisper set”
- Professional English speaking [local] tour guides
- English speaking guide/escort during the entire tour
- No hidden fees, taxes or surcharges

**Price does not include:**
- Personal health/accident insurance
- International air tickets
- Transportation to and from the airport if traveling separately from the group
- Private activities: transfers, optional tours, tickets to shows or additional museums.
- Some newly introduced fees that may occur in certain places
- Drinks with meals (soft or alcohol drinks)
- Tips to bus drivers and tour guides (Minimal suggested amount per person is $3 per day for bus drivers and $5 for local tour guides. Your generosity will be always greatly appreciated)
- Anything that is not specifically mentioned in “Price includes”

**Financial arrangements:**
$2975 per person, in double occupancy in a group of 26 participants; Single supplement: $950 extra. Please factor that the final price may fluctuate due to the actual number of participants or due to significant difference in exchange rate of local currency vs US dollar at the time of the final payment. In case of need for financial adjustment you’ll be informed right away.

All payments should be made by check to: "Palomnik, LLC" and mailed to 1613 Campus Drive, Vestal, NY 13850. Any returned checks are subject to $25 fee. For payment with a Credit Card; domestic or international bank wires, please contact Fr. Ilya directly.

A deposit of $700 is required when you sign up for the trip. The deposit is non-refundable, unless pilgrimage is cancelled by the organizers due to lack of participation or for some other valid or unforeseen circumstance. To avoid any money loss, emergency/travel cancellation insurance strongly recommended.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: The deadline for signing up for the trip is November 15, 2022. The entire amount is due 91 days prior to departure,
November 15, 2022. Failure to pay in full by November 15, 2022 without written notice of explanation may lead to the cancellation of your participation, with no refund of any previously committed funds. If you would like to join us after the deadline, please check with the coordinator regarding availability.

CANCELLATION POLICY: If you need to cancel after you signed up, penalty is:
• 25% of the tour cost, 91 to 61 days prior to the departure
• 50% of the tour cost, 61 to 31 days prior to the departure
• 100% of the tour cost 31 or fewer days prior to the departure

All cancellations must be done in writing as well and sent directly to agent/coordinator - Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky and must be received for reimbursement by the dates shown in the cancellation schedule. We also have to add that should cancellation or alteration of the program occur due to COVID and associated emergencies, civil disturbances, acts of terrorism, war, natural disaster, and other events of force majeur or acts of God (including threat or fear of same), refunds will be made only to the extent that they are recoverable, and that such cancellation or alteration may result in the total loss of funds paid by participants. It is assumed each participant has reviewed the same with respect to their own comfort level of risk and personal safety. A decision to withdraw from the trip for these reasons or any others will be bound by the same terms of cancellation.

ALTERATIONS TO ITINERARY:
Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky reserves the right to alter, modify or withdraw the itinerary if air schedules and/or events beyond his control deem it necessary. In the event it becomes necessary for the comfort or well-being of the travelers to alter or modify the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the tour operator and are not grounds for cancellation with refund. Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky assumes no responsibility over any consequences as a result of any participant deviating from the group tour. Because of the difference in language and customs, it is expected that the traveler will follow the directions of the Tour Director at all times. Tour Director reserves the right to restrict a person’s participation in the group’s activities, including exclusion from the group, when, in the opinion of the Director, such action is necessary.

REQUIRED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:

A passport with validity for at least six months beyond end of stay
Entry visa for Egypt could be obtained online prior to travel: https://www.visa2egypt.gov.eg
A certificate of full vaccination is needed in order to travel through Egypt.

IT IS STRONGLY SUGGESTED THAT YOU:
- Obtain travel insurance with coverage of trip interruption/cancellation, coverage of personal property, and all medical needs, inclusive of COVID and associated emergencies (hospitalization and/or quarantine)
- Be aware that financial coverage for all emergency medical and other emergency needs will be your sole responsibility. We will provide all possible logistical and personal assistance, but the financial aspect is your responsibility.
- Act in a manner consistent with the surrounding environment
- Make arrangements to have access to sufficient funds to cover personal needs and unexpected events
- Be aware that the places that we will be visiting may not have the same amenities that you are accustomed to. Medical facilities in some areas may be limited. The financial coverage for all emergency medical and other emergency needs (including those related to COVID hospitalization, treatment, or quarantine) will be your sole responsibility. We will provide all possible logistical and personal assistance, but the financial aspect is your responsibility.

This agreement becomes effective upon acceptance into the tour by Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky

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1613 Campus Drive, Vestal, NY 13850
Telephone: 001-607-797-1058
Member of the International Association of Travel Agents Network (IATAN)
REGISTRATION FORM:
Journey through the land of the Pharaohs and the Desert Fathers
February 15 – March 2, 2022

To register: please complete this registration form and return it along with your deposit check ($700.00) made to PALOMNIK, LLC to the following address:
Palomnik, LLC, 1613 Campus Drive, Vestal, NY 13850.
Please write “EGYPT 2022” on the memo line.

Full Name (exactly as in your passport):

Date of Birth (day/month/year):

Nationality, Passport #:

Issue and expirations date (day/month/year):

Address:

City, State, Zip/Postal Code

Home phone:

Alt. phone and Email:

Emergency Contact Information (Name, Phone, Relation):

Medical restrictions:

Dietary restrictions:

Would you prefer single accommodations at additional costs specified in the itinerary?

Would you prefer to make your own flight reservations, or would you like us to help you to find the best airfare?

Please let us know if there is anything else that we should know in order to make your travel experience more comfortable and pleasant:

Your signature below confirms that you have read the itinerary and agree to abide by Terms and Conditions that accompany the itinerary.

NAME/SIGNATURE: DATE: