Day 1, Monday, February 14, 2022
Arrival to Alexandria. Transfer to the hotel. Dinner, orientation, and overnight.

Day 2, Tuesday, February 15, 2022
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-Shoqafa, 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 Pompeii 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 return to our hotel in Alexandria.

Day 3, Wednesday, February 16, 2022

Early morning, we will travel to St. Mina’s monastery. St. Mina is one of the most famous warrior martyr saints from the earliest period of Church history. His shrine was once one of the most important pilgrim destinations in the entire Mediterranean. Nearly all of the significant collection of Christian Antiquities contains flasks or bottles that once contained oil or water sanctified on the tomb of the saint. The image often seen on the containers is a depiction of a saint praying in orant position amidst two camels. We will see the archeological remains of the ancient holy site as well as a modern monastery nearby. Our next stop will be at 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 planning to visit monastery of the Syrians (Aby Suriani) and St. Makarios. For dinner and overnight we will arrive in Cairo.

Day 4, Thursday, February 17, 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.
Day 5, 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 to 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 period 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.

Day 6, Saturday, February 19, 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.

Day 7, Sunday, February 20, 2022

This morning we will start with Divine Liturgy at the local Orthodox Church (subject to confirmation). After a late breakfast, we will visit the most famous site in all of Egypt, the Giza plateau with iconic Pyramids and the Sphinx. 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 and just before our flight to Luxor. Arrival to Luxor. Transfer to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

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. In the evening, you may be able to attend Sound & Light Show at Karnak Temple.

Day 9, Tuesday, February 22, 2022

Today we will have a longer day, perhaps the longest on our itinerary! The newly built desert highway will take us some distance north of Luxor to the city of Sohag. Here we will explore two Ancient Coptic monasteries, known as Red and White Monasteries. Next to nothing remains from the original foundations of St. Pachomius. However, Red and White Monasteries, although not established by him personally, fit well into his concept of the communal monastic living. An even more fascinating feature is preserved ancient structures of the monastic complexes themselves. A unique architectural chapel in the Red Monastery still contains a great deal of sacred art that dates to late antiquity. Frescoes in the church were done some time between the sixth and eighth centuries AD. Before returning to Luxor, we will visit a Pharaonic Temple in Abydos. The Great Temple of Abydos is one of the most important historical sites in this area that once was the capital of the Egyptian kingdom. Late in the evening we will return to our hotel in Luxor.

Day 10, Wednesday, February 23, 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 at 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 11, Thursday, February 24, 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 nonetheless. 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.

Day 12, Friday, February 25, 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. Those who would like, can attend the evening Sound and Light show at Philae temple that brings that magical place back to life. Overnight in Aswan.
Day 13, Saturday, February 26, 2022
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.

Day 14, Sunday, February 27, 2022
During our last day in Egypt, we will visit the Nubian Museum, which houses an important collection of Antiquities that help us understand the history and development of the region. Near Aswan there were many Coptic monasteries at one time. Most of them are in a ruinous state, but they still preserve their historical value. We will try to visit one of them, likely the one dedicated to St. Simeon, but known among the local Christians by the name of its founder Anba Hatre. There is a modern Coptic Cathedral dedicated to the Archangel Michael. We will try to visit it as well, witnessing the living tradition of the Christian Faith in that Southernmost Egyptian region. Near Aswan there is a colorful Nubian village. For the most part it just a tourist destination, but it has many souvenir shops and good places to arrange for a meal of an authentic local cuisine. In the evening we will transfer to the airport for our flight back to Cairo. Dinner and overnight in Cairo.

Day 15, Monday, February 28, 2022
Transfer to the airport. Departure back home.
PRICING AND INCLUSIONS:

Price include:
• Accommodations in "*****" hotels along the way
• All breakfasts and most dinners, several 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 Alexandria and Cairo
• Domestic flight or train ticket from Cairo to Luxor
• 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
• Entry visa to Egypt ($25 as of 5/15/2021)
• 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:
$2950 per person, in double occupancy in a group of 26 participants; Single supplement: $600 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 1, 2022. The entire amount is due 91 days prior to departure, November 12, 2022. Failure to pay in full by November 12, 2021 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
Turkish visa to be obtained online prior to travel: https://www.evisa.gov.tr/en/
A certificate of a negative COVID test performed not more than 72 hours before arrival to Turkey or a recognized vaccination passport. Request for a vaccination passport may become a mandatory request by the time of travel.

IT IS STRONGLY SUGGESTED THAT YOU:
- Obtain insurance covering medical needs and coverage of personal property
- 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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Telephone: 001-607-797-1058
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REGISTRATION FORM:
Journey through the land of the Pharaohs and the Desert Fathers
February 14-28, 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: ____________