



SEE YOU THERE

January 2026

The first question clients ask me is Egypt safe? The trusted suppliers I work with only operate in countries, and more specifically, regions where they deem safe for luxury travel. Anything can happen anywhere, but I can share that I felt completely safe traveling around Egypt, especially with my Egyptologist and escorts when needed. I had a friendly coordinator from the moment I stepped off the plane who assisted me through immigration formalities and remained with me through customs and all the way back again ensuring there were never any uncomfortable moments. This is exactly how I plan it for clients!

If you're wondering if you should wait or how old your kids should be, I would suggest ages 12yrs + so every traveler can appreciate the vast significance that Egypt has had on the world. I would not say there is a maximum age, though visiting Egypt sooner rather than later is definitely a good idea. Some sites have uneven terrain, stairs and smaller spaces so being mobile is an advantage. Saying that, it is never too late. We can always figure something out! Clients know how creative I can get :)



Papyrus - how it is made.

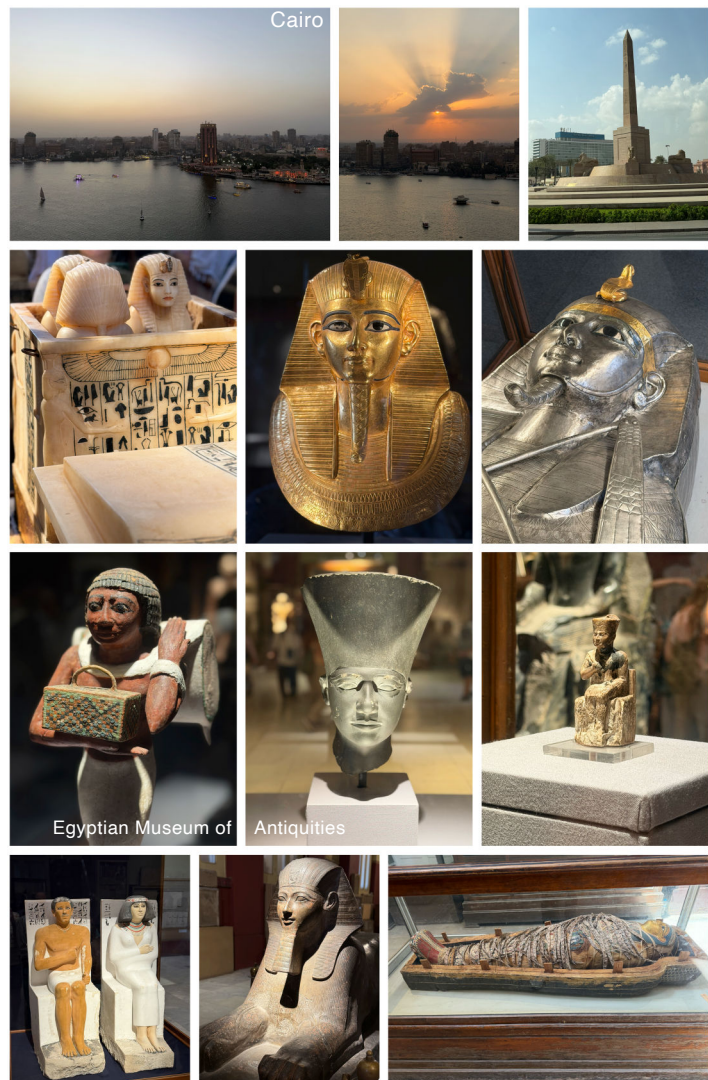
We were able to purchase something special knowing that in dry conditions, it will likely last 4000 years!

It was a longtime dream to visit Egypt to truly learn about where so many things started.

It was the experience of a lifetime with so much education, fun and culture. Come with me on a brief recap to paint the vision of things you too could experience with your friends and loved ones.

I visited Cairo, Giza, Luxor, Aswan, Abu Simbel and cruised the Nile.

As one would expect, it was a deep dive into history! You think a couple of 100 years is old... talk about 4000 + years old!



Conde Nast Traveler's 2023 - 2025 Top Travel Specialist

Melissa James | 408.775.9506 | melissa.james@vwti.com

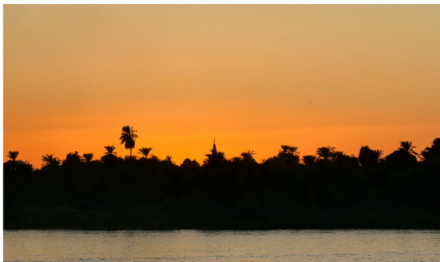
www.seeyoutherellc.com

SEE YOU THERE | January 2026

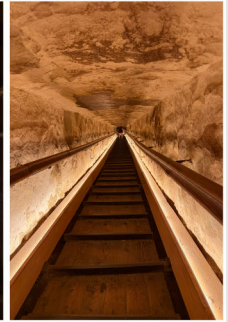
About Egypt

Life is short so we all try living in the moment but one thing I didn't quite grasp until visiting was to encourage clients to plan this trip now – I was amazed at how close you can get and touch (even though they ask not to for preservation) all of these incredible sites, hieroglyphics, temples, pyramids and sarcophagi. This is not going to last much longer and soon visitors will be further away with barriers and covers making it a little less up close and personal. Do not wait!

I had so many highlights that I don't have space to get into major detail but experiencing the pyramids is honestly spectacular and to be able to go inside the structures or see them from the plane feels like a 'pinch me' moment. Sailing the Nile could not be dreamier! The Sphinx!!! Seeing mummies – kind of gross but genius. Abu Simbel was so detailed and interesting. The cherry on the cake was seeing the brand new Grand Egyptian Museum that just opened. I was blown away by this state-of-the-art museum with modern design and so much thought out detail to showcase these artifacts in the best possible way with lighting, layout and flow. This entire area will eventually link up to the pyramids of Giza via a walkway currently under construction. The GEM itself showcases over 15,000 artifacts spanning Egypt's history.



Pyramids of Giza



Allow me to share some of my experiences starting in Cairo! Bam – Pyramids spotted from the sky before even landing! Cairo is the bustling capital of Egypt and Giza is a city bordering that is famous for the Pyramids, Sphinx and now the brand new Grand Egyptian Museum.

The Egyptian Museum of Antiquities has a huge collection of ancient Egyptian artifacts, including the treasures of King Tut's tomb! The storytelling begins...

Pyramids!!! We learned about how the concept started, what they originally looked like – smooth and covered in Limestone shining bright with the sun and moon. Over the years, the outer casing was destroyed between earthquakes, stripping, repurposing etc. You can still spot remanence of the smooth surface at the top.

[Conde Nast Traveler's 2023 - 2025 Top Travel Specialist](#)

Melissa James | 408.775.9506 | melissa.james@vwti.com

 [@melissajamesic](https://www.instagram.com/melissajamesic)

www.seeyouthere LLC.com

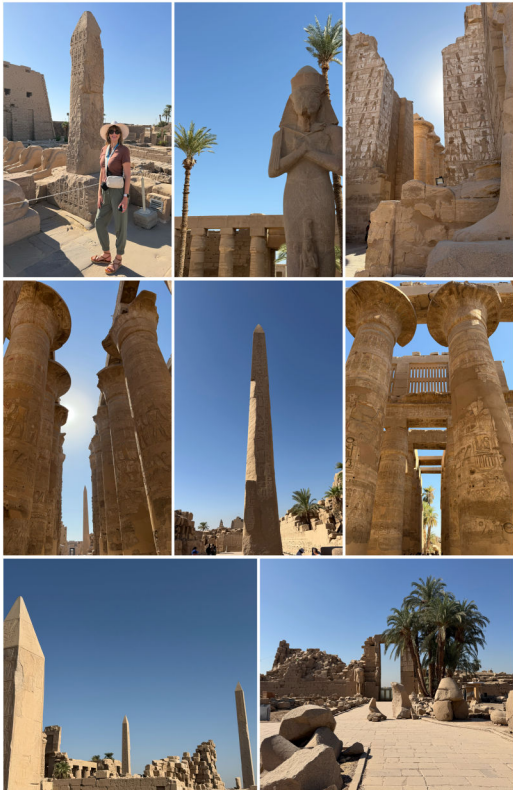
SEE YOU THERE | January 2026



Conde Nast Traveler's 2023 - 2025 Top Travel Specialist

 @melissajamesic www.seeyouthere LLC.com SEE YOU THERE | January 2026

Temple of Karnak - a vast complex where generations of pharaohs left their mark. Great Hypostyle Hall, surrounded by towering columns!

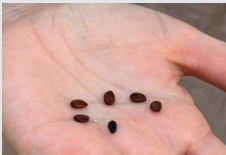


Temple of Luxor - statues of Ramses II



Best Egyptologist EVER!!!

More of Egypt



The origin of "carat" is tied to Egypt using carob seeds as a consistent weight for trade. These small uniform seeds are naturally consistent in weight making them ideal for balancing scales!

Philae Temple, dedicated to the goddess Isis. This sacred site was carefully relocated to Agilika Island to save it from the rising waters of the Nile.



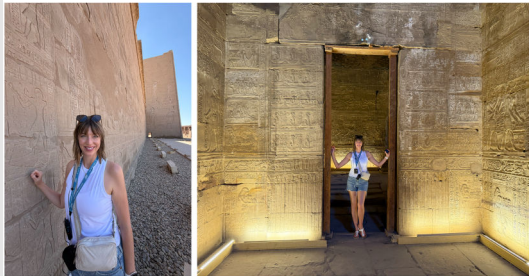
Aswan's granite quarries and the Unfinished Obelisk showing Egypt's ancient stonemasons.



Kom Ombo is the unique twin temple dedicated to Sobek, the crocodile god, and Haroeris, the sun god. Fascinating seeing mummified crocodiles that once basked along the Nile's shores!



The temple of Horus in Edfu, one of the best-preserved temples in Egypt.



Conde Nast Traveler's 2023 - 2025 Top Travel Specialist

Melissa James | 408.775.9506 | melissa.james@vwti.com

 @melissajamesic

www.seeyouthere LLC.com

SEE YOU THERE | January 2026

The Valley of the Kings and Queens



A short buggy ride whisks you to the Valley of the Kings which is essentially a cemetery for high profile leaders and pharaohs. So many points to touch on here... they are STILL discovering more tombs in this region. 2005 a new chamber was discovered and in 2008, another two. There are currently 65 tombs and chambers ranging in size from a simple pit to a complex tomb which has over 120 chambers for the sons of Ramesses II.

Sadly, all of the tombs seem to have been opened and robbed in antiquity, but they still give you an idea of the opulence and power of Egypt's pharaohs. The earliest ones had cartouche-shaped burial chambers (a cartouche is an oval shape often containing hieroglyphics representing a royal name).

The deepest and longest tomb in the Valley of the Kings is the tomb of Pharaoh Seti I (father of Ramesses II). The Valley of the Kings tombs varied greatly in depth with longer reigns often allowing for more extensive, deeper and more complex designs with Seti I's being exceptionally long and deep for his significant reign.



His tomb features elaborate corridors and burial chambers descending far into the rock, while earlier or shorter reigns sometimes resulted in simpler or unfinished tombs, though the trend was generally for deeper, hidden tombs reflecting the sun god's journey, with depths exceeding 100 meters in many cases.

Hatshepsut's tomb is nearly 700 feet long and descends 320 feet (100 meters) into the rock. Amenhotep II is known as one of the deepest with over 90 steps leading down to its lower chambers. It might make sense now why I mentioned earlier to visit Egypt sooner rather than later if you are interested in visiting the more complex tombs.

Fun fact, our incredible Egyptologist helped me remember so many details by adding a fun twist... I will never forget Hatshepsut's name for example after he shared a "hat" with a "cheap suit". Clever right?! You deserve the best when you're traveling!



Temple of Hatshepsut, a tribute to Egypt's first female pharaoh



The Valley of the Queens

[Conde Nast Traveler's 2023 - 2025 Top Travel Specialist](#)

Melissa James | 408.775.9506 | melissa.james@vwti.com

[@melissajamesic](https://www.instagram.com/melissajamesic)

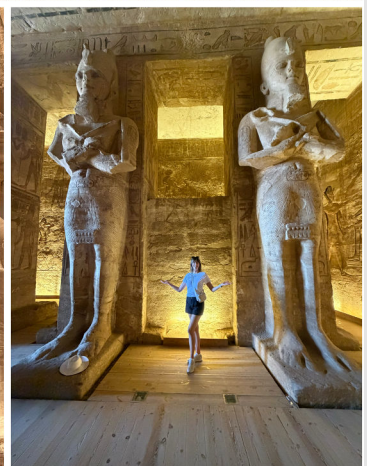
www.seeyoutherellc.com

SEE YOU THERE | January 2026

Abu Simbel



Abu Simbel is home to the awe-inspiring temples of Ramses II, the Great Temple of Ra-Harakhte and the Temple of Hathor, the latter dedicated to Ramses' beloved wife Queen Nefertari. These massive monuments were carefully relocated in the 1960s to prevent submersion by the rising waters of Lake Nasser.

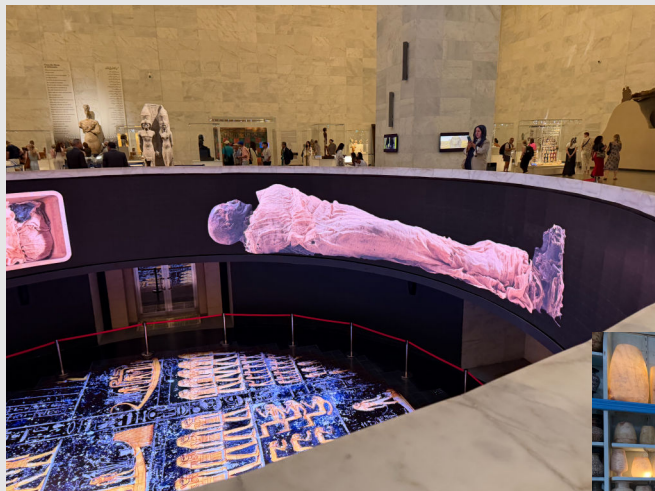


Conde Nast Traveler's 2023 - 2025 Top Travel Specialist

Melissa James | 408.775.9506 | melissa.james@vwti.com

 [@melissajamesic](https://www.instagram.com/melissajamesic) www.seeyouthere LLC.com SEE YOU THERE | January 2026

Wrapping up with some final bits



National Museum of Egyptian Civilization where the Royal Mummies Hall showcases the remains of Egypt's greatest rulers. No photos or videos allowed in here so you have to see the mummies for yourself, hopefully soon.



Limestone Lamps and Pots



Making Tapestry

Saqqara, the ancient burial ground home to the Step Pyramid - ancient Egypt's first pyramid as well as numerous tombs. A revolutionary stone structure built in the 27th century BC for Pharaoh Djoser, designed by the architect Imhotep. It started out as stacked mastabas (flat-topped tombs), through trial and error resulting in a six-tiered, 200-foot-tall monument, marking the beginning of pyramid building and serving as the centerpiece of a vast funerary complex. Not only that but it is also the oldest large-scale cut-stone building in the world (about 4700 years!).

There are many pyramids across Egypt and as you can see... if you don't succeed, try, try again!




VIRTUOSO[®]
MEMBER


INDEPENDENT TRAVEL ADVISOR

Conde Nast Traveler's 2023 - 2025 Top Travel Specialist

Melissa James | 408.775.9506 | melissa.james@vwti.com

 @melissajamesic

www.seeyouthereinc.com

SEE YOU THERE | January 2026