

TRAVEL WITH FRIENDS IN 2016

The Great Sphinx and Pyramids of Giza © Tinao Bao/Flickr

From Akhenaten to Alexander

AN HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SURVEY OF EGYPT

with Christopher Hartney
04–20 November 2016 (17 days/16 nights)



From Akhenaten to Alexander

AN HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SURVEY OF EGYPT



TOUR LEADER

Dr Christopher Hartney (BA, PhD) is a lecturer in the Department of Studies in Religion at the University of Sydney where he teaches Art and Religion, The Politics of Terror in the Twentieth Century and The Cultural Dimensions of the Islamic World. Christopher has written over 50 research papers on culture, faith, and film and edited numerous scholarly works and academic journals. He has been delivering exciting lectures at the Art Gallery Society of New South Wales since 2005.

From the Mediterranean coast to the sub-Saharan desert, discover 5000 years of Egyptian history, archaeology and scenery during this magnificent 17 day journey.

Begin and end in Cairo, where you will gaze in awe at the pyramids and sphinx of Giza, visit the treasures of the Egyptian Museum, and wander through the famous Khan el-Khalili Bazaar and Islamic and Coptic areas of the old city. From Cairo travel south to the inspiring edifices of Abu Simbel, and cruise in comfort and luxury for 4 nights along the Nile. On the way, discover the opulence and majesty of Pharaonic Egypt in the magnificent temple complexes of Karnak and Luxor; the Ptolemaic temples of Kom Ombo and Edfu and explore the burial complexes in the Valleys of the Kings and of the Nobles.

Other highlights include Alexandria, where the great library has been spectacularly rebuilt, and the poignant for Australians, the World War II site of el-Alamein.

At a glance...

- Wander among the Pyramids of Giza and the Great Sphinx
- Discover the treasures of the Egyptian Museum, one of the world's great cultural institutions
- Visit the Valley of the Kings and the striking Temple of Hatshepsut
- Enjoy a 4 night cruise down the Nile on board the *Moon Goddess*
- Explore Luxor and Aswan. Two cities of ancient wonders
- Visit the World War II site of the battle of El-Alamein



Itinerary

Thu 03 November 2016

Depart Australia

Suggested departure from Australia on Emirates flights to Cairo via Dubai.

Fri 04 Nov

Arrive Cairo

Midday arrival in Cairo and check in to your hotel, located in the shadow of the Great Pyramids.

Located on the banks of the Nile River, Cairo is Africa's largest city, as well as the largest city in the Arab world. In the course of its thousands of years history, it has been the capital of the great Egyptian dynasties of the Middle Ages, a British colonial enclave, and a modern industrialised city. Today it is a teeming, vibrant national capital with one of the world's highest population densities per square mile. It dominates Egypt politically, economically, and culturally.

Tonight join Christopher and fellow travellers for a welcome dinner.

D

Sat 05 Nov

Cairo

Begin with a full day exploring Memphis, Saqqara and Dahshour.

Memphis, south of modern Cairo, served as the capital of the Old Kingdom and most of the Pharaonic period. Legend has it that it was founded in about 3100 BCE by King Menes, the ruler responsible for uniting Upper and Lower Egypt.

Continue to Saqqara one of the most exciting historical and archaeological areas in Egypt. The famous step pyramid of King Zoser dominates the site. It was the first pyramid to be built in ancient Egypt, preceding those at Giza by over a century. It is the work of the famous architect to the Pharaohs, Imhotep.

Following lunch, visit Dahshur which forms the southernmost area of the Memphite Necropolis. It is most noteworthy as the site that best demonstrates the change from the 'step' pyramid to the 'true' pyramid exemplified in the Bent Pyramid and the Red Pyramid.

B L



Step pyramid of King Zoser, Saqqara by Charlesjsharp Wikimedia CC

Sun 06 Nov

Cairo

Spend the day visiting the pyramids of Giza. These were constructed for Khufu, Khafre and Menkaure, and are one of the seven wonders of the ancient world – the only one to survive largely intact.

The Sphinx, the most renowned and largest portrait sculpture in Egypt, is the most compelling symbol of the transformation of a Pharaoh from man to god. **B L**

Mon 07 Nov

Cairo – Abu Simbel (Via Aswan)

Transfer to Cairo airport for an early morning flight to Abu Simbel.

In Abu Simbel visit two temples constructed by Ramesses II which were moved to this site in 1964-1968 to avoid being flooded by Lake Nasser. The transfer, which preserved the alignment of the temples and re-inserted them into a man-made cliff face at their new location, was a major engineering feat, as remarkable as the temples themselves. The larger of the two temples is dedicated to the deified Ramesses II. It's four great colossi spring out from the cliff face, dominating the temple facade. The smaller temple is dedicated to the goddess Hathor in the form of Ramesses' wife, Nefertari. **B L D**

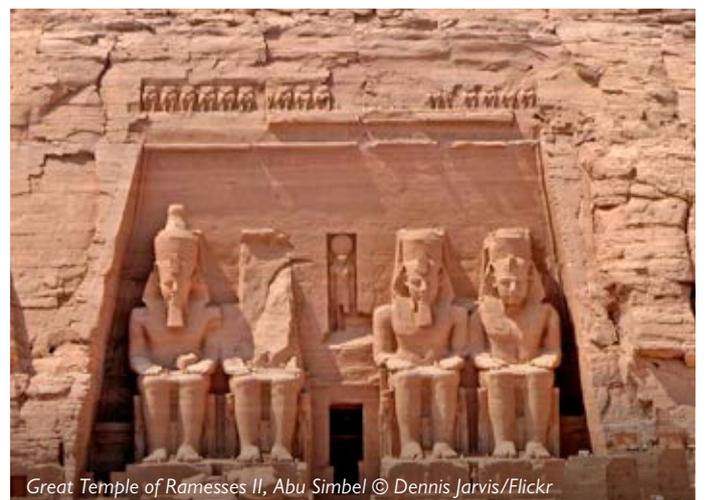
Embarkation

Tue 08 Nov

Abu Simbel – Aswan

Early rise if you wish to view the temples at sunrise. Transfer to Abu Simbel airport for a flight to Aswan. Aswan formed the southern frontier of Pharaonic Egypt and the gateway to sub-Saharan Africa. As such it was a land of garrisons and passing merchants where the cultures of the North and South blended and overlapped.

Begin your exploration of Aswan, with a visit to the Temple of Isis at Philae which was dismantled and reconstructed on the island of Agilkia during the construction of the Aswan High Dam, another of the 20th century greatest engineering achievements. The dam provides irrigation and electricity for the whole of Egypt. Continue to the great quarries south of Aswan, which provided the distinctive red granite used in Egypt and see the huge Unfinished Obelisk.



Great Temple of Ramesses II, Abu Simbel © Dennis Jarvis/Flickr

Transfer to the pier for embarkation on the *Sonesta Moon Goddess* to begin your 4 night Nile cruise.

Following lunch on-board, set sail by felucca, pass the marble mausoleum of the Agha Khan and Elephantine Island, site of the ancient city of Abu, Aswan's predecessor. At the southern end of the island is the Nilometer, steep steps descending into the river. The walls were calibrated to record the height of the annual flood and so indicate the likely crop yield.

Return for dinner and overnight on-board the Moon Goddess.

B L D

Wed 09 Nov Aswan – Kom Ombo – Edfu

Cruise to the riverside temple of Kom Ombo dedicated to two Gods, Sobek, the crocodile god, and Haroeris the falcon-headed god also known as Horus the Elder. The temple plan is similar to the plan of the temples at Edfu, although its dedication to two gods necessitated the division of the interior into Eastern and Western halves which mirror each other. The temple also has several small sanctuaries in the forecourt which contain crocodile mummies in clay coffins. **B L D**

Thu 10 Nov Edfu – Luxor

Today visit the Greco-Egyptian temple at Edfu. The Temple of Horus, was constructed in the third century BC by Ptolemy III. It is a huge and remarkably complete temple elaborately decorated throughout, preserving valuable information on ancient Egyptian religion.

Following lunch, sail to Luxor via the lock of Esna. The bustling town of Luxor is centred around the magnificent Luxor Temple, an enduring symbol of its glorious past. **B L D**

Fri 11 Nov Luxor

After breakfast, cross the Nile to visit the sites on the West bank of the river where the Pharaonic necropolis was located.

The decorated underground burial complexes in the Valley of the

Kings present a completely different style of funerary structure to the pyramids. Most are decorated with murals which chart the progress of a Pharaoh into the afterlife, the gods he would meet and the ceremonies he would undergo.

En route, pass the Colossi of Memnon, two huge seated figures which flanked the entrance to the mortuary temple of Amenhotep III. At Deir El Bahari, the partly rock-hewn Mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut is a breathtaking sight as it rises from the desert in a series of imposing terraces. The temple was designed by Queen Hatshepsut's architect Senenmut.

In the afternoon visit the two main temple sites on the East bank of the Nile, the Luxor Temple of Amun, and the main temple precinct of Amun at Karnak, which gives you your first taste of the enormous scale of Pharaonic temple architecture. Karnak is the largest religious enclosure in the world. Both structures are New Kingdom temples.

The Karnak precinct is an immense complex connected by an avenue lined with fantastic ram-headed sphinxes to the jetty from which the god's barge was launched to transfer him either to the Luxor temple or the west bank of the Nile. **B L D**

Sat 12 Nov Disembarkation Luxor

Following disembarkation, return to the Valley of the Kings and visit three tombs including the tomb of Tutankhamun and the house of Howard Carter, best known for discovering this tomb.

Visit the Ramesseum, a name given to the mortuary temple built by Ramesses II in the 13th century BCE, by Jean-François Champollion after he visited the site in 1829 and identified the hieroglyphs making up Ramesses' names and titles on the walls.

Travel to the south of the Valley of the Kings to the Tombs of the Nobles, made up of more than 400 tombs of Theban nobles and high officials. The tombs lie close to the surface of the hills overlooking the Nile. **B L D**



Temple of Isis at Philae, Agilkia Island by Jerome Bon Wikimedia CC



Hieroglyphs, Temple of Hatshepsut, Luxor by P. Idzkiewicz Wikimedia CC

Sun 13 Nov

Luxor

Morning visit to Medinet Habu, the mortuary temple of Ramesses III, second only to Karnak in size and detail. Continue to the Luxor Museum to view its unique collection of ancient artefacts.

Afternoon at leisure. **B L D**

Mon 14 Nov

Luxor – Cairo – Alexandria

Transfer to Luxor airport for a flight to Cairo.

On arrival travel by coach to Alexandria, stopping at one of the Coptic monasteries of Wadi Natrun – St Makkar, St Bishoi or Baramos y Syriens. The valley's isolation made it an ideal retreat for early Christians escaping Roman persecution. Over the years they built many monasteries of which only four remain today.

Alexandria, founded by Alexander the Great, became the capital of the country for 1000 years. It was also the cultural capital of the eastern Mediterranean and centre of Egyptian (Coptic) Christianity. It remains the seat of the Coptic patriarch. Little now is exposed of the ancient city, which is buried beneath Islamic and European-style developments. It is Egypt's second largest city and throughout its history Alexandria has had that certain glamour still evident today.

Arrive in Alexandria in the late afternoon. **B L D**

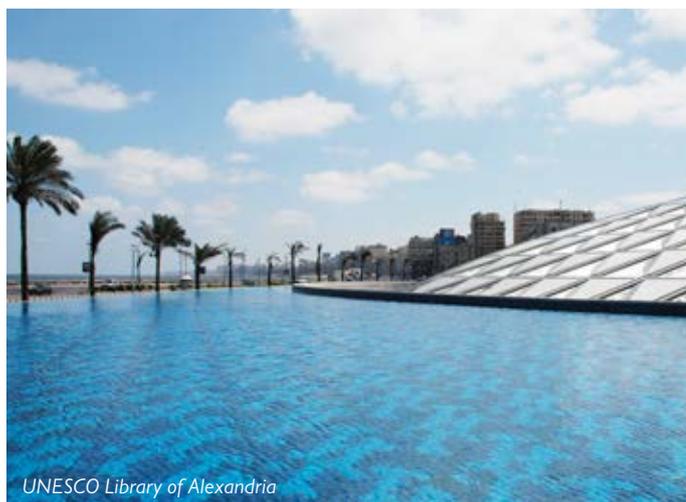
Tue 15 Nov

Alexandria

Begin today with a visit to the Roman amphitheatre at Kom al-Dikka and the nearby site known as the Pillar of Pompey.

After lunch, visit the Alexandria National Museum followed by the UNESCO Library of Alexandria. First founded in the 3rd century BCE, it was the greatest library in the ancient world. The new library is striking in its architecture and a major library and cultural centre aiming to attract researchers from all over the world.

B L



Wed 16 Nov

Alexandria

Today visit the Kom al-Shawqafa, a subterranean system of catacombs dating to the 2nd century CE which exhibit Egyptian, Greek and Roman elements in their decorative schema.

Following lunch, visit the El-Montaza Palace and Gardens, a 115 acre walled complex overlooking the Mediterranean Sea.

Stop at el-Alamein to visit the memorial to those who died in World War II, including the Australian memorial which takes the form of an obelisk. Following lunch return to Alexandria for an afternoon at leisure. **B L**

Thu 17 Nov

Alexandria – Cairo

Return to Cairo. On arrival in Cairo visit the Egyptian Museum which houses the most extensive and stunning collections of Pharaonic artefacts in the world. The lower floor of the museum contains monumental statuary from all over Egypt, with superb examples from every period, whilst the upper floors are dedicated to smaller items, including the museum's most famous exhibit, the contents of the tomb of Tutankhamun. The gold rooms contain a magnificent collection of jewellery and, of course, royal mummies.

B D

Fri 18 Nov

Cairo

Spend the day exploring Islamic Cairo. Following their conquest of Egypt in 641 BCE, the Muslims built their city, Al-Fustat, on what is now the southern border of modern Cairo. Successive dynasties established their own capital, each one further to the northeast than the old, until Salah ad-Din built the impressive Citadel, standing on a promontory overlooking the city. Visit a selection of mosques such as the Sultan Hassan and Ibn Tulun mosques and the Al-Azhar mosque which is one of Islamic Cairo's oldest mosques and the world's oldest operational university.

Continue to the Gayer-Anderson Museum founded by the British Major R.G. Gayer-Anderson. The museum is actually two houses built nearly a century apart: Beit el-Kiridiliya (1632) and Beit Amna Bent Salim (1540) both display an amazing patchwork of Islamic styles and artefacts.



In the afternoon visit Cairo's great souq, Khan el-Khalili, which was built in 1382 and was originally a hub for travelling traders in the Fatimid era. **B L**

Sat 19 Nov

Cairo

Following the decline of the Pharaonic religions and before the arrival of Islam, Egypt was a predominantly Christian country. Known today as Old Cairo, this ancient part of the city, known as Coptic Cairo, contains a bastion of Egyptian Christianity. Begin with a visit to the Coptic Museum and the Hanging Church, the most beautiful of Cairo's churches with an ornately decorated interior. Visit the oldest Christian church in Cairo, the Church of St Sergius, then the Church of St Barbara as well as the Ben Ezra Synagogue, which is testament to the presence of Jews in this region.

Afternoon at leisure.

Tonight join Christopher and fellow travellers for a farewell dinner.

B L D

Sun 20 Nov

Depart Cairo

Tour arrangements conclude after breakfast.

If returning to Australia today, we recommend a mid-afternoon departure on Emirates flight, via Dubai. Arrival in Australia, evening of Monday 21 November. **B**



Coptic Mural at the Hanging Church, Cairo © momo/Flickr



Example of cabin on The Sonesta Moon Goddess

Tour prices

Per person, twin-share	AUD 8,950
Single supplement*	AUD 2,350
Deposit per person	AUD 500
Final payment due	05 September 2016

*Single travellers may request to share. Please advise at time of booking.

Tour code AG1619

Fitness level Moderate

Please see booking conditions for fitness level definitions.

Airline

Please contact Renaissance Tours for current airfares and flight reservations.

Visa

Australian passport holders do require a visa for Egypt.

Tour price includes

- Accommodation in centrally located hotels with daily breakfast **(B)**
- Meals as per itinerary (**L**=Lunch, **D**=Dinner)
- 4 night luxury Nile cruise from Aswan to Luxor
- Transfers on arrival and departure if travelling on suggested group flights
- Domestic flights Cairo – Abu Simbel – Aswan / Luxor – Cairo (20KG luggage allowance)
- Comprehensive sightseeing, including local guides and entrance fees as per itinerary
- Lectures and talks with your tour leader throughout
- Camera and video fees
- Gratuities for local guides, drivers
- Visa for Egypt
- Hotel portorage (one piece per person)

Tour price does not include

- International airfares (please contact Renaissance Tours for assistance)
- Transfers on arrival/departure, if not travelling on suggested group flights
- Drinks with meals, except Welcome and Farewell dinners
- Items of a personal nature (e.g. telephone, laundry, mini-bar, taxis etc.)
- Travel insurance (recommended)

Your hotels

Cairo – Mena House ★★★★★
 Abu Simbel – Seti Abu Simbel ★★★★★
 Cruise – Sonesta Moon Goddess ★★★★★
 Luxor – Sheraton Achi resort Luxor ★★★★★
 Alexandria – Cecil Steigenberger ★★★★★
 Cairo – Marriott Cairo Hotel ★★★★★

NB. Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted

Terms & Conditions

HOW TO BOOK

Complete, sign and return the Booking Form available from Renaissance Tours with your deposit and page one of your passport.

DEPOSIT / FINAL PAYMENTS

Your deposit is due at the time of booking and is used to pay hotel, airline, performance tickets and/or other deposits. It is non-refundable in the event of your cancellation.

Final payment is due 60 days before departure. Failure to make the final payment by the due date may result in cancellation of your booking and loss of deposit.

Payment by cash, cheque, direct deposit, American Express, MasterCard and Visa is accepted. 1.5% service charge applies to payment made by MasterCard and Visa. 3% service charge applies to payment made by American Express.

Payments for some international airfares can be made by credit card without a service fee. Please check for details.

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

a) Cancellation by You – Cancellation charges will be applied as shown below, calculated from the day written notification is received by Renaissance Tours. In addition to cancellation fees for tours operated by Renaissance Tours as shown below, airlines, hotels and other third parties may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

60 days or more	Forfeit of deposit
59 – 45 days	25% of tour cost
44 – 31 days	50% of tour cost
30 – 15 days	75% of tour cost
Less than 15 days	100% of tour cost

The above cancellation charges include applicable GST.

In addition to the above, cancellation charges may apply for additional arrangements booked by Renaissance Tours, such as air tickets, hotels and travel insurance premium. If the reason for cancellation is covered by the insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

b) Cancellation by Us – We reserve the right to cancel a tour for any reason (such as failure to reach minimum tour participant numbers). Except for

force majeure, we will not cancel a tour less than 60 days before departure. No further compensation will be paid in the event of cancellation by Renaissance Tours. A full refund of monies paid for tour costs will be the full extent of our liability.

Cancellation and/or amendment fees may apply for additional travel arrangements booked by Renaissance Tours.

PASSPORTS, VISAS AND VACCINATIONS

All travellers must be in possession of a valid passport – most countries require a 6-month validity from your date of entry or exit. For some countries (e.g. China, Vietnam, India, Russia), visas are included in the tour cost and will be arranged by Renaissance Tours prior to travel. For other countries, it is your responsibility to ensure you have the appropriate visa(s).

You are also responsible for obtaining all necessary inoculations and preventative medicines as may be required for the duration of the tour.

TOUR PRICES

Prices quoted in our tour information are based on exchange rates, cost of services and applicable taxes at the time of publication. Prices may be subject to change in the event of significant currency fluctuations or the introduction of new taxes, up until final payment is received.

In the event of a price increase, whether because of a currency fluctuation, increase in taxes or a correction in advertised prices, we will advise you and you have the option of accepting the amended prices, inclusions and booking conditions or withdrawing from the tour and receiving a full refund of all monies paid.

Once final payment is received, all prices will be guaranteed and no surcharges will apply.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a condition of travel that you are covered by comprehensive travel insurance for international tours. Your travel insurance can be arranged by Renaissance Tours.

FITNESS AND PARTICIPATION

Most of our tours require a MODERATE level of fitness.

However, in certain destinations (e.g. Silk Road, Central Asia, Outback Australia, tropical destinations) or in certain seasons (e.g. mid-winter, mid-summer) or because of the nature of travel (e.g. remote rail), certain tours will require an ABOVE AVERAGE or CHALLENGING level of fitness.

If you (or we) have any doubts about your level of fitness, you may be required to have a doctor's appraisal. This would require your doctor to read the itinerary of your chosen tour, including the fitness level, and provide you (and us) with a written confirmation of your ability to participate.

MODERATE

For the overall benefit of the group, all tour members must possess a moderate level of mobility, including the ability to:

- negotiate airports and railway stations without wheelchair assistance
- use combined shower/bath facilities (it is impossible to guarantee walk-in shower facilities)
- undertake walking tour of 1–2 hours duration, including using stairs, walking over cobblestones and other uneven surfaces
- stand for long periods in museums and other sites
- embark / disembark coaches, trains and other methods of transportation without assistance
- handle your own luggage

ABOVE AVERAGE

In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

- undertake walking tours of 2–3 hours
- climb staircases of 100 or more steps

CHALLENGING

In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

- handle extremes of temperature (e.g. below 0 or above 35 degrees)
- handle extremes of altitudes (e.g. 4000 metres and above).

You can find the full terms & conditions at www.renaissance-tours.com.au/booking-conditions or we would be happy to post you a copy on request.



The Roman Amphitheatre of Alexandria © Dan Lundberg/Flickr



Obelisk and Colossus of Ramesses II Luxor Temple © Dan Lundberg/Flickr

Golden Mask of Tutankhamun in the Egyptian Museum by Carsten Frenzl Wikimedia CC



R
Renaissance
Tours

1300 727 095 (AU)
0800 403 621 (NZ)
call (+61 2) 9299 5801
fax (+61 2) 9299 5805
email info@renaissancetours.com.au
visit www.renaissancetours.com.au

Level 4, 47 York Street, Sydney NSW 2000
GPO Box 5068, Sydney NSW 2001
ABN 14 069 591 448

Travel agent

Booking form

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Renaissance
Tours

www.renaissancetours.com.au

Please return pages 1 and 2 to:

GPO Box 5068, Sydney NSW 2001, Australia or info@renaissancetours.com.au

Toll free AU 1300 727 095 or NZ 0800 403 621 | Tel: +61 2 9299 5801 | Fax: +61 2 9299 5805

- Please complete, sign and return this Booking Form, along with a copy of page one of your passport (international tours only and deposit).
NOTE: Flight bookings cannot proceed without passport copy. This is an airline security requirement.
- Complete credit card authority (if paying by credit card) OR forward a (deposit) cheque (made payable to Renaissance Tours).
- Upon receipt of your Booking Form and deposit, you will receive confirmation of your place on the tour(s) from Renaissance Tours.

Tour name

Tour code

Personal details – Passenger 1

Title (Ms, Mrs, Mr, Dr or Other)

Hon

Family name (as in passport)

Given names (as in passport)

Preferred name

DOB

Email

Mobile

Phone

Address

State

Postcode

Country

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS / ALLERGIES

Yes

No

MEDICAL DECLARATION

What medical conditions do you currently have and/or have you received treatment for in the past three years? (e.g. stroke, heart, respiratory and psychiatric conditions). **Attach extra pages, if necessary.**

The purpose of seeking this information is to assist Renaissance Tours in determining the suitability of a tour participant for a particular tour. The information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

FITNESS TO PARTICIPATE DECLARATION (Please tick)

I have read, understood and confirm that I meet the:

MODERATE

ABOVE AVERAGE

CHALLENGING

fitness level to participate on this tour.

Personal details – Passenger 2

Title (Ms, Mrs, Mr, Dr or Other)

Hon

Family name (as in passport)

Given names (as in passport)

Preferred name

DOB

Email

Mobile

Phone

Address

State

Postcode

Country

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS / ALLERGIES

Yes

No

MEDICAL DECLARATION

What medical conditions do you currently have and/or have you received treatment for in the past three years? (e.g. stroke, heart, respiratory and psychiatric conditions). **Attach extra pages, if necessary.**

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I have read, understood and confirm that I meet the:

MODERATE

ABOVE AVERAGE

CHALLENGING

fitness level to participate on this tour.

Booking conditions

- I have read, understood and accept the **Booking Conditions** on page 3. I have enclosed the deposit and understand that the balance of the tour cost must be paid at least 60 days prior to departure (45 days prior for domestic tours) or my reservation may be cancelled.

Sign here

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Sign here

Booking form

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Renaissance
Tours

Travel details – Passenger 1

AIRFARE – WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE A QUOTE FROM US?

Yes No

Economy Premium Economy Business Class First Class

CITY OF DEPARTURE

Sydney Melbourne Brisbane Perth Other

FREQUENT FLYER NUMBER

AIRLINE SEAT PREFERENCE

ACCOMMODATION

Double Twin Single If single, would you like us to arrange twin-share?

TRAVEL INSURANCE – WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A BROCHURE?

Yes No

PRE/POST TOUR ARRANGEMENTS

Please advise if you would like Renaissance Tours to organise any pre/post tour arrangements (e.g. earlier departure, later return, additional accommodation/flights, etc)

NEXT OF KIN (Emergency contact only)

Name

Relationship

Daytime contact ()

After hours contact

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS TOUR?

DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE OUR E-NEWSLETTER? Yes No

Travel details – Passenger 2 (only fill if different from Pax 1)

AIRFARE – WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE A QUOTE FROM US?

Yes No

Economy Premium Economy Business Class First Class

CITY OF DEPARTURE

Sydney Melbourne Brisbane Perth Other

FREQUENT FLYER NUMBER

AIRLINE SEAT PREFERENCE

ACCOMMODATION

Double Twin Single If single, would you like us to arrange twin-share?

TRAVEL INSURANCE – WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A BROCHURE?

Yes No

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Relationship

Daytime contact ()

After hours contact

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS TOUR?

DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE OUR E-NEWSLETTER? Yes No

Payment

Payment by cash, cheque, direct deposit, American Express, MasterCard and Visa is accepted. 1.5% service charge applies to payment made by MasterCard and Visa. 3% service charge applies to payment made by American Express. Payments for some international airfares can be made by credit card without a service fee. Please check for details.

AMOUNT CREDIT CARD CHEQUE CASH EFT

CREDIT CARD AUTHORITY

Cardholder's name

American Express MasterCard Visa

Cardholder's number

SIGN

Commonwealth Bank of Australia

Account name: Renaissance Tours

BSB: 062-032 / Account: 2800 4163

Swift code: CTBAU2S (use for transfers from overseas)

Expiry (month/year)

DATE

Travel agent

Booking form

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However, in certain destinations (e.g. Silk Road, Central Asia, Outback Australia, tropical destinations) or in certain seasons (e.g. mid-winter, mid-summer) or because of the nature of travel (eg. remote rail), certain tours will require an **ABOVE AVERAGE** or **CHALLENGING** level of fitness.

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MODERATE

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- undertake walking tour of 1–2 hours duration, including using stairs, walking over cobblestones and other uneven surfaces
- stand for long periods in museums and other sites
- embark / disembark coaches, trains and other methods of transportation without assistance
- handle your own luggage

ABOVE AVERAGE

In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

- Undertake walking tours of 2–3 hours
- climb staircases of 100 or more steps

CHALLENGING

In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

- Handle extremes of temperature (e.g. below 0 or above 35 degrees)
- handle extremes of altitudes (e.g. 4000 m and above).

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is highly recommended that you are covered by travel insurance for domestic tours.

However, it is a condition of travel that you are covered by comprehensive travel insurance for international tours. You can make your own arrangements or your travel insurance can be arranged by Renaissance Tours. In either case all participants must provide the following information no later than 60 days prior to commencement of travel:

- a copy of your travel insurance policy (or details of master policy)
- the emergency telephone number of your insurance company
- next of kin emergency contact.

1. TOUR PRICES

Prices quoted in our tour information are based on exchange rates, cost of services and applicable taxes at the time of publication. Prices may be subject to change in the event of significant currency fluctuations or the introduction of new taxes, up until final payment is received. In the event of a price increase, whether because of a currency fluctuation, increase in taxes or a correction in advertised prices, we will advise you and you have the option of accepting the amended prices, inclusions and booking conditions or withdrawing from the tour and receiving a full refund of all monies paid. Once final payment is received, all prices (excluding air taxes) will be guaranteed and no surcharges will apply.

2. PAYMENT

Your final payment is due 60 days before departure (45 days prior for domestic tours). Failure to make your final payment by the due date may result in cancellation of your booking and loss of deposit. We reserve the right to charge a late payment fee in the event of late booking and/or payment to cover additional communication and other expenses.

3. FLIGHT BOOKINGS AND FARES

Renaissance Tours will use its best endeavours to ensure that all flight prices are correct at the time that they are quoted. However, once a deposit is paid on an air fare, it guarantees that a booking is being held for you, it does not guarantee the fare and applicable taxes.

The fare and taxes can only be guaranteed when the flight booking has been paid in full and a ticket has been issued. Flight bookings cannot be transferred.

4. CHANGES

a) Changes by You – Because of additional communication and other expenses, we reserve the right to charge an appropriate administration fee per amendment to your original booking. While every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate changes and additional requests their availability cannot be guaranteed.

b) Changes by Us – While we will use our best endeavours to operate all tours as advertised, by entering into this contract the Client accepts that it may prove necessary or advisable to vary or modify a tour or its contents due to prevailing local conditions. We reserve the right at any time to cancel or change any of the facilities, services or prices described in the brochure (including flights, transport, accommodation or other arrangements) and to substitute alternative arrangements of comparable monetary value without compensation.

If a service or facility becomes unavailable due to circumstances beyond our control ('force majeure') and no alternative arrangement of comparable monetary value is available, we will substitute the best alternative available and will refund the Client for any cost saving or charge the Client for any additional costs incurred. 'Force majeure' includes any event which Renaissance Tours or its suppliers could not, even with all due care, foresee or avoid (e.g. advice against travel from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), war, threat of war, riot, civil strife, industrial dispute, epidemics, health risks, terrorist activity, natural or nuclear disaster, fire or adverse weather conditions, technical or maintenance problems with transport, changes imposed by cancellation or rescheduling of flights by an airline or main charterer, the alteration of airline or aircraft type). Renaissance Tours is not liable for any penalty charges associated with 'supersaver' type connecting rail or air fares, in the event of a change to a holiday departure time, date or airport.

5. SUBSTITUTION OF CLIENT

If any member of the party is prevented from travelling because of the death, injury or serious illness of the passenger, close relative or friend, redundancy or jury service, it may be possible to transfer the booking to another suitable person (acceptable to Renaissance Tours) provided that written notice is given at least one calendar month prior to departure. An administration fee of \$100 + GST per person will be levied plus any costs imposed by our suppliers. Airlines may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

6. CANCELLATION

a) Cancellation by You – Cancellation charges will be applied as shown below, calculated from the day written notification is received by Renaissance Tours. In addition to the charges shown below airlines may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

International Tours

60 days or more	Forfeit of deposit*
59 – 45 days	25% of tour cost
44 – 31 days	50% of tour cost
30 – 15 days	75% of tour cost
Less than 15 days	100% of tour cost

Domestic Tours

45 days or more	Forfeit of deposit*
44 – 31 days	50% of tour cost
30 – 15 days	75% of tour cost
Less than 15 days	100% of tour cost

* Includes any flight deposit paid.

The above cancellation charges include applicable GST.

In addition to the above cancellation charges, the full insurance premium together with any existing administration fees is also payable in the event of a cancellation by the Client. If the reason for cancellation is covered by the insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

b) Cancellation by Us – We reserve the right to cancel a tour for any reason (such as failure to reach minimum tour participant numbers). Except for *force majeure* (as outlined in clause 4b) or the Client's failure to pay the final balance, we will not cancel a tour less than 60 days before departure for international tours and 45 days before departure for domestic tours. Unless the Client fails to pay the final balance, we will return all monies paid, excluding payment for travel insurance and administration fees. No compensation will be paid in the event of cancellation by Renaissance Tours. A full refund of monies paid for tour costs will be the full extent of our liability. Airlines may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

7. PASSPORTS, VISAS AND VACCINATIONS

It is your responsibility to be in possession of a passport valid for 6 months after the date of your return to Australia. You are also responsible for obtaining all necessary visas, inoculations and preventative medicines as may be required for the duration of the tour. Information about these matters or related items is given in good faith but without responsibility on the part of Renaissance Tours.

8. ILLNESS OR DISABILITY

Anyone suffering from illness or disability or undergoing treatment for any physical or medical condition must declare the true nature of such condition at the time of booking and make arrangements for the provision of any medication or other treatment which may be required during the tour. Failure to make such disclosure will constitute a breach of these booking conditions and result in such persons being excluded from the tour in which case all monies paid will be forfeit.

9. LOCAL LAWS

All participants of the tours we operate are expected to obey the laws and regulations of the countries visited and any failure to do so will relieve Renaissance Tours of all obligations that they may otherwise have under these booking conditions.

10. IF YOU HAVE A COMPLAINT

If you have a complaint about any of the tour arrangements, you must bring it to the attention of the tour leader or other representative of Renaissance Tours at the time so that they may use their best endeavours to rectify the situation. It is only if we are made aware of any problems that there will be the opportunity to put things right. Any complaints must be made in writing to Renaissance Tours within 28 days of the completion of the tour.

11. OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

All bookings are accepted on the understanding that the Client appreciates that travel does involve some risk and that they undertake all tours of their own volition.

i) Renaissance Tours accepts liability should any part of the tour arrangements booked with us not be supplied as described in the brochure(s) and not be of reasonable standard. In such a case, we will pay reasonable compensation if the Client's enjoyment of the tour has been adversely affected but will pay no compensation if there has been no fault on the part of Renaissance Tours or our suppliers and the reason for the failure in the tour arrangements was the Client's fault, the actions of someone unconnected with the tour arrangements or could not have been foreseen or avoided by Renaissance Tours or its suppliers even if all due care had been exercised.

ii) Our acceptance of liability to pay compensation pursuant to clause 11(i) is limited, in the case of air travel, rail travel, sea travel or hotel accommodation, to the amount set out in the provisions of, respectively, the Warsaw Convention as amended by the Hague Protocol 1955, the 1961 Berne Convention, the 1974 Athens Convention and the 1962 Paris Convention.

iii) Our acceptance of liability in clauses 11(i) and 11(ii) above is subject to assignment by the Client to Renaissance Tours of the Client's rights against any agent, supplier or sub-contractor of Renaissance Tours which is in any way responsible for the unsatisfactory tour arrangements.



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