Cruise Details

Name:	Jordan & Egypt: Petra to the Pyramids
Reference:	TAUCKEP202717122027
Operator:	Tauck
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Classic
Ship:	Oberoi Zahra
Regions:	Nile
Departs On:	17 Dec 27
Departs From:	Amman
Arrives On:	29 Dec 27
Arrives At:	Cairo
Cruise Nights:	12
Total Vacation Days:	13

Itinerary

Day 1: Amman (Jordan)

Tour begins: 5:30 PM, Kempinski Hotel Ishtar Dead Sea. A transfer is included from Amman airport to the Kempinski Hotel Ishtar Dead Sea, a luxurious beachfront resort nestled on the shores of the ancient salt lake at the lowest point on Earth. Join us this evening for a welcome reception and dinner tonight.

Arrives On: 17 Dec 27

Day 2: Dead Sea (Jordan)

Set off on an excursion to Jerash, site of one of the best-preserved ancient Roman cities in the Middle East and a window to its past glory as an important imperial city. Your local guide shares expert insights about the sites you will see, including Roman temples, squares, arches, baths and theatres, often colonnaded and always astounding. See Hadrian's Arch, built in 129 AD, the ruins of the Temple of Zeus, the South Theatre, built to accommodate some 5,000 spectators, and the

meticulously restored North Theatre. Drive through Amman en route back to your resort hotel after lunch. Tonight, a Jordanian woman gives a lecture on the issues that her generation faces today that's followed by dinner at a choice of restaurants at the hotel.

Arrives On: 18 Dec 27

Day 3: Petra, Jordan (Jordan)

Thousands of years of biblical history reveal themselves today on a visit to Mt. Nebo where you will see what Moses saw when he looked out over the Promised Land. Continue to Madaba for a visit to St. George Greek Orthodox Church where the remains of the oldest known map of the Holy Land, painstakingly assembled from more than a million pieces of colored stone, cover the church floor. Enjoy a home-style lunch at a local family-run restaurant and drive to the ancient Nabataean city of Petra, carved out of sandstone cliffs around 6 BC, where your hotel is just steps away from the archaeological site. Tonight, you have a choice of two restaurants for dinner at your hotel.

Arrives On: 19 Dec 27

Day 4: Petra, Jordan (Jordan)

Travel to a magnificent red rose city dating back to the 1st century BC. Ancient master builders carved palaces, temples, tombs and more into the stone cliffs you will see here today. Picture yourself standing in awe at the 130-foot-high Khazneh, (The Treasury), intricately decorated with Corinthian capitals, friezes, statues and more. Discover Royal Tombs, celebrating the achievements of the dead long gone and built high on the mountain side, and marvel at the ancient amphitheatre capable of seating more than 8,000 spectators, along with numerous temples sculpted in sandstone. Have lunch at a local restaurant, before returning to your hotel for an afternoon at leisure. Join us tonight for a Tauck Exclusive private tented dinner in the desert (weather-permitting), enjoying a fruit-infused hubbly-bubbly smoke, music and dancing by a local troupe of sword dancers.

Arrives On: 20 Dec 27

Day 5: Luxor (Egypt)

Take a morning excursion to the landscapes of Wadi Rum, known as the Valley of the Moon for its lunar-like dunes and towering sandstone cliffs, on a 4x4 safari adventure.* Fly to Luxor this afternoon and enjoy an after-hours visit to the Valley of the Kings and stand before King Tutankhamun's tomb without the crowds. This evening, embark your Nile cruise aboard the Oberoi Zahra.

Arrives On: 21 Dec 27

Day 6: Port information not found

Visit the magnificent Karnak Temple, Egypt's largest ancient complex, before a visit to the Luxor Temple, where coronations were held. Your afternoon is free.

Arrives On: 22 Dec 27

Day 7: Edfu (Egypt)

This morning, visit the Temple of Horus at Edfu, considered one of the most beautiful and best-preserved temples in Egypt, with its roof still intact. It took 180 years to build, and during your guided visit, you'll discover why. Massive statues of Horus as a falcon guard the entrances, and the reliefs on its interior walls tell the story of the birth of Horus and depict Ptolemaic rulers making offerings to the gods and vanquishing their enemies. Return to your ship this afternoon for time at leisure, then disembark for a visit to the Kom Ombo Temple – just a short walk away from your ship. The temple's reliefs feature a unique engraving thought to depict the first known representation of medical and surgical instruments.

Arrives On: 23 Dec 27

Day 8: Aswan (Egypt)

A full day of Egyptian exploration includes a visit to the Aswan Dam, and a boat ride to Agilkia Island to see the sacred Temple of Isis at Philae, one of the last of the ancient temples constructed in the "classic" Egyptian style.

Arrives On: 24 Dec 27

Day 9: Cairo (Egypt)

A morning private chartered flight brings you to the Nubian village of Abu Simbel for a locally guided visit to its massive temples, carved into a solid rock cliff and created during the reign of Ramesses II in the 1200s BC. The Great Temple stands 98 feet high, with four seated colossi flanking the entrance and smaller statues depicting Ramesses' conquered enemies lined up below. The smaller temple, about 40 feet high, is adorned with four colossi depicting Ramesses and two of his queens, Nefertari, each standing 32 feet tall. Return to Aswan this evening.

Arrives On: 25 Dec 27

Day 10: Cairo (Egypt)

Fly to Cairo this morning, touching down in the late morning. Following lunch, visit the Grand Egyptian Museum, home to the world's largest collection of ancient Egyptian artifacts, including many of the treasures from King Tutankhamun's tomb. Marvel at monumental statues, intricate jewelry, and millennia-old relics that bring Egypt's storied past to life. Later, check into your room at the historic Marriott Mena House in Cairo, where the remainder of the day is at leisure.

Arrives On: 26 Dec 27

Day 11: Cairo (Egypt)

Drive to nearby Giza this morning for a guided tour of its storied pyramids, including the Great Pyramid of Giza, the last of the ancient Seven Wonders of the World, that have stood as defining symbols of Egypt for millennia. View the most instantly recognizable statue in the world, crafted in limestone with the body of a lion and the head of a king – the Great Sphinx has been mysteriously reclining atop its Giza plateau for more than 3,000 years, guarding still the unanswered secret of who built it and why. Next, visit the pyramids at Saqqara, the site of the necropolis (burial ground) for the ancient Egyptian capital of Memphis. The pyramid you will see here is the Step Pyramid, a magnificent reminder of the early architecture of the pharaohs of the Old Kingdom. Following lunch at a local restaurant, return to your hotel for an afternoon at leisure.

Arrives On: 27 Dec 27

Day 12: Cairo (Egypt)

Located on the right bank of the River Nile, the historic district of Old Coptic Cairo predates its modern-day processor with sites that date back to the 6th century BC, including ones allegedly visited by the holy family of Joseph, Mary and the baby Jesus. A guided tour includes Roman ruins, Ben Ezra Synagogue, ancient Coptic churches including St. Sergius and the Hanging Church, and your choice of the Al Rifai Mosque or the Sultan Hassan Mosque, a short drive away. Enjoy some free time to explore as you please before joining us for a farewell reception and dinner at the hotel this evening.

Arrives On: 28 Dec 27

Day 13: Cairo (Egypt)

Tour ends: Cairo. Fly home anytime. A transfer is included from Marriott Mena House to Cairo Airport. Allow three hours for flight check-in at the airport.

Arrives On: 29 Dec 27

For more information on this cruise, please call +44 (0)1202 767926.

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