



YEMEN

The Land of Frankincense and Myrrh

November 15 - November 23, 2022

Led by

Arabia Felix, was the name bestowed on the region by the Romans. It merited its name due to its fertile lands, distinguishing from the barren north, the so-called Arabia Deserta. This enabled the people to prosper and grow into a dominant force that controlled trade between the east and west. Yemen has been at the crossroads of the Middle East, Asia and Africa for thousands of years thanks to its position on the spice routes. Living at the height of the area's dominance were the Sabaeans, subjects of the Kingdom of Sheba. Little remains of this ancient civilization but traces of this enterprising people and their culture can be seen in the descendants who populate this rich historical land. We cannot visit everything in Yemen those days due to unrest in many parts but we are lucky to be able to explore the 2 safest parts: in/around Sana'a and the island of Socotra, a UNESCO World Heritage Natural site. Untouched and unique in its beauty, it is also home to an ancient culture of intact and very hospitable people.

Ihab Zaki

Managing Director, Spiekermann Travel

Tuesday, November 15

Arrive in Cairo (EGYPT)



Upon arrival in Cairo (depending on your arrival time), meet and transfer to *Hotel* for check-in, free day at leisure and overnight at the *Hotel*.

Wednesday, November 16

Cairo



Head to visit the **National Museum of Egyptian Civilization**, the first museum in the Arab world that focuses on the ancient Egyptian civilization across the times from pre-historical to Ancient Egyptian periods, Greco-Roman, Coptic, Islamic and Contemporary modern times. Enjoy lunch and in the after head for a walk in the medieval labyrinth alleyways of **Khan El Khalili Bazaar** and visit **El Muizz Street** displays the greatest density of significant Islamic monuments anywhere in the world to this day. It is a living symbol of the city's medieval glory and becomes the heart of Egypt's cultural. **(B,L)**

Thursday, November 17

Cairo - Seiyun (YEMEN)

Transfer in the early morning to the airport for your flight to **Seiyun**, the town at the edge of the magnificent table mountains. Upon arrival, meet and transfer to *Hawta Palace Hotel* for check-in, free afternoon at leisure and overnight at the *Hotel*. **(B,D)**

Friday, November 18

Hawta (Hood, Tarim & Aynat)



Enjoy breakfast at the hotel, and then begin your morning with a visit to **Sultan Palace museum**, built of clay and brick and decorated with gypsum. Originally, it was a fort, then after many changes, it became the official residence for Sultan Al Kathiri. The palace dates back in its present state to the late 20s of this century. Part of it is now used as an archeological museum of traditions and customs as well as a public Library. Then we drive and head to visit **Tarim town**, a Sufi historical town built from Mud and was home to a number of noble families including Al Kaf and Bin Yahya families. The town of Tarim is widely recognized as a hub of religion, culture, and science, and in particular an important center for theological and juridical studies. You will be able to visit the **Tarim tiny market** and **Al-Mihdar mosque** and take some photos.

The mosque is the centerpiece of the historic town and its prominent white minaret, the narrow, pointed tower from which Muslims are called to prayer, rises to a height of over 150 feet, making it the tallest tower throughout Tarim, and in fact the tallest minaret in all of Yemen

Enjoy lunch in the city and then continue the drive to **Hood Prophet Shrine** for a visit and take some photos. The shrine is believed to be the burial place of the Prophet Hud, who was an ancient Arab prophet, said to be a descendant of Prophet Noah. The Holy Quran tells the story of the Prophet Hud who travelled to Yemen to preach to the famously large and strong Aad tribe about the one true God. Worshippers of pre-Islamic idols, the tribe ridiculed the Prophet Hud, accusing him of madness. According to the story, in punishment of their ridicule, God sent a long drought followed by eight days and seven nights of terrible winds that all but exterminated the entire tribe, sparing only the lives of the faithful few who had followed the preaching of the Prophet.

Then on our way back to **Hawta**, we will stop at one of the most beautiful Historical Sufi Shrines in Aynat area for a visit then head back to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Saturday, November 19

Hawta - Shibam - Wadi Doa'n

Enjoy breakfast and then begin the day with a drive to visit the most beautiful town the Manhattan of Arabia Shibam **Hadramout**, an awe-inspiring town of ancient skyscrapers soaring out of the desert landscape and has been declared a protected world monument by UNESCO. Then, we will drive towards **Wadi Doa'n** and top at one of the picturesque villages in the valley, **Al-Hajjrain**, Sif towns then drive up to **Haid Al-Jizil**, perched on a giant rock and overlooks a long, mostly deserted valley in the Yemeni district of Dawan in Hadramaut province. After the visit transfer to *Haid Al-Jizil Hotel* for check-in, dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Sunday, November 20

Wadi Do'an

After breakfast, we will drive for some time, and then we will start an easy wonderful trekking (one hour) from the

top of the mountain down to **Hawfah village** in Wadi Do'an. You will have a beautiful panorama view of the Wadi, then drive to visit **Buqshan village**, (Colored Palaces), where you will be able to see the palaces and get a glimpse into what aristocratic life among wealthy Hadhrami families was like. The palaces features colorful outer walls, and some rooms have colorful and intricate ceiling paintings. We will drive to another beautiful area in Wadi Doa'n, which is **Budha area**. En route, we will stop at **Qarn Majed village** & other villages for some photos. Continue the drive to the **Budha area** and head to **Al-Khuraiba town** stop to take some photos of the Palace of O.B.L his father's house before driving back to **Haid Al-Jizil**. Where we will enjoy Sunset. Return to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Monday, November 21

Wadi Doa'n - Shibam - Seiyun



Today we will drive back to **Seiyun**, stopping en route at some of the villages in Wadi Do'an for some photos and onward to Shibam. Upon arrival in **Hawta town**, transfer to *Hawta Palace Hotel* for check-in and have some rest. In the late afternoon, we will drive back to Shibam Hadramout to enjoy sunset and take some photo. In the evening, Head to do the PCR test and then return to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Tuesday, November 22

Seiyun - Cairo



In the morning, transfer to airport for your flight to Cairo and upon arrival, meet and transfer to the *Hotel* for check-in, rests of the day free at leisure and overnight at the *Hotel*. **(B,D)**

Wednesday, November 23

Cairo - USA



Transfer to the airport in the early morning for your flight back to the US. **(B)**

"We (STS) reserve the right to change hotels, restaurants or the order of activities if/as needed, or flights used".



Trip Remark:

Due to the special nature of this tour, and as we want to keep our exploratory tour to Yemen intimate and personalized, we will only operate with a maximum of 12 participants. Given that there are very few companies' nowadays promoting Yemen, we must advise you that it is on the State Department list of countries with warnings for tourists.

We would like to remind people that Socotra is a protected island. The Archipelago is of universal importance because of its biodiversity with endemic rich and distinct flora and fauna: 37% of Socotra's 825 plant species, 90% of its reptile species and 95% of its land snail species do not exist anywhere else in the world. The site also supports globally significant populations of land and seabirds (192 bird species, 44 of which breed on the islands while 85 are regular migrants), including a number of threatened species. The marine life of Socotra is also very diverse, with 253 species of reef-building corals, 730 species of coastal fish and 300 species of crab, lobster and shrimp.

Travelers should be prepared for high altitudes (sometimes over 7,500 feet), some long though spectacular drives, and early mornings starts. The day-by-day itineraries are subject to change according to local conditions. The sequential order of the day-by-day itineraries may also change to avoid traffic congestion.

Visa processing takes between 5 - 7 business days. Therefore, we have to start around 2 weeks before arrival to process all Visas. Once Visa is issued, we send you a scanned copy of the Visa to use for airport and boarding your flights. Original Visa is received upon arrival and cost is \$75.00 per person. ***No Israeli Stamp is allowed in your passport in order to obtain the visa.***



**COST TO BE ADVISED WITHIN THE NEXT
COUPLE OF WEEKS**



Tour Includes:

- Cairo / Seiyun / Cairo flight.
- Airport/hotel/airport transfers in Cairo.
- Arrival/departure transfers & AC 4x4 vehicles throughout the tour in Yemen.
- 2 nights' accommodation in Cairo based on 4* hotel (pre and post Yemen).
- 5 nights' accommodation at best available hotels in Yemen.
- English-speaking guide throughout the tour.
- All meals as per itinerary (B: Breakfast, L: Lunch and D: Dinner).
- All activities described in the tour and entrance fees to all sites mentioned unless listed as optional.
- Visa approval letter for Yemen.
- Gratuities to guides, drivers and porters.
- Unlimited bottled water per person.

Trip Grade:

II Active – Some hikes, slightly more demanding walks at or to sites, few elevations, comfortable but busy schedule and some long rides.

Lodging Level:

★★ Delightful: Comfortable yet on the Spartan side, usually small but generally with private facilities. Some such lodges and motel-style are in need of repairs, added cleaning, and improvements but they are suitable for one-night stays even if they lack western style amenities. (2 or 3 stars)

Tour does not include:

- International airfare USA / Cairo / USA.
- Cairo Visa (obtainable upon arrival for \$30.00 per entry).
- Yemen Visa (Currently obtainable upon arrival for \$75.00 - subject to change).
- Activities and sites not described in the itinerary.
- Drinks during meals (soft or with alcohol) or meals not listed in the itinerary.
- Any required pre arrival and pre departure PCR tests.
- Trip surcharge to operate below required minimum participants.
- Items of a personal nature (laundry, phone calls, emails, excess luggage charges, etc.)
- Transfers if not arriving/departing on scheduled tour dates.
- Dayroom/overnights necessitated by changes in airline schedules or early arrival.
- Travel protection insurance (Highly recommended).