



# YEMEN

## THE LAND OF FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH

November 12 - November 20, 2025

Led by Tour Manager, Nancy Weber

*Arabia Felix was the name bestowed on the region by the Romans. It merited its name due to its fertile lands, distinguishing it from the barren north, the so-called Arabia Deserta. This enabled the people to prosper and grow into a dominant force controlling trade between the east and west. Yemen has been at the Middle East, Asia, and Africa crossroads 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 these 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 two 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 hospitable people.*

**Ihab Zaki**  
Managing Director

**Wednesday, November 12**

**Arrive in Cairo (EGYPT)**



Upon arrival in **Cairo**, meet and transfer to the *Hotel* for check-in, a free day at leisure, and overnight at the *Hotel*.  
**Note: Standard check in time is 3:00 pm. If you arrive on November 11 or in the early morning of November 12; an extra hotel night needs to be booked.**

**Thursday, November 13**

**Cairo - Seiyun (YEMEN)**



Transfer in the early morning to the airport for our 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 14**

**Hawta (Hood, Tarim & Aynat)**



Enjoy breakfast at the *Hotel*, and then begin the morning with a visit to the **Sultan Palace Museum**, built of clay and brick and decorated with gypsum. Initially, it was a fort, and then after many changes, it became the official residence of Sultan Al Kathiri. The palace dates back in its present state to the late 20s of this centuries. Part of it is now used as an archeological museum of traditions and customs and a public library. Drive and visit **Tarim town**, a historical Sufi town built from Mud and home to many noble families, including Al Kaf and Bin Yahya. The town of Tarim is widely recognized as a hub of religion, culture, and science, particularly an important center for theological and juridical studies. You can 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 building throughout Tarim and the tallest minaret in all of Yemen.

Enjoy lunch in the city, 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, an ancient Arab prophet said to be a descendant of Prophet Noah. The Holy Quran tells the story of the Prophet Hud, who traveled 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 for their ridicule, God sent a prolonged 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**, top at one of the most beautiful Historical Sufi Shrines in the Aynat area for a visit, then head back to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Saturday, November 15**

**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, drive towards **Wadi Doa'n** and top at one of the picturesque villages in the valley, **Al-Hajjrain**, Sif towns, then continue to **Haid Al-Jizil**, perched on a giant rock, and overlooks a long, primarily deserted valley in the Yemeni district of Dawan in Hadhramaut province. After the visit, transfer to *Haid Al-Jizil Hotel* for check-in, dinner, and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Sunday, November 16**

**Wadi Do'an**



After breakfast, drive for some time, and then we will start an easy, wonderful trek (one hour) from the top of the mountain down to **Hawfah village** in Wadi Do'an. Enjoy a beautiful panorama view of the Wadi, then drive

to visit **Buqshan village** (Colored Palaces), where we can see the palaces and get a glimpse into what aristocratic life among wealthy Hadhrami families was like. The palaces feature colorful outer walls, and some rooms have colorful and intricate ceiling paintings. Drive to another beautiful area in Wadi Doa'n, **the Budha area**. En route, 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** to enjoy the Sunset. Return to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Monday, November 17**

**Wadi Doa'n - Shibam - Seiyun**



Begin the day with a 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 rest. In the late afternoon, drive to Shibam Hadramout to enjoy the sunset and take photos. Drive back to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Tuesday, November 18**

**Seiyun - Cairo**



In the morning, transfer to the airport for our flight to Cairo, and upon arrival, meet and 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, & Contemporary modern times. Enjoy lunch, and in the afternoon, head for a walk in the medieval labyrinth alleyways of **Khan El Khalili Bazaar** and visit **El Muizz Street** displays the most excellent density of significant Islamic monuments anywhere in the world to this day. It is a living symbol of the city's medieval glory and has become the heart of Egypt's culture. Transfer to the *Hotel* for check-in & overnight. **(B,L)**

**Wednesday, November 19**

**Cairo - USA**



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

*"We reserve the right to change the order of activities/visits or sites due to unexpected events such as flight cancellations or changes of schedule, or any other reasons beyond our control. We will do our best to ensure that any necessary changes when/if needed to meet the needs of our clients".*

**Trip Remark:**

Due to the unique 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 8 participants. Given that very few companies nowadays promote Yemen, it is on the State Department's list of countries with warnings for tourists.

Travelers should be prepared for high altitudes (sometimes over 7,000 feet), some long, spectacular drives, and early morning 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.

The visa process takes between 15 - 21 business days. Therefore, we must start processing all Visas around one month before arrival. Once the Visa is issued, we will send you a scanned copy of the Visa to use for the airport and boarding your flights.

***To obtain a visa to this destination, your passport must be free of Israeli stamp or any evidence of previous travel to Israel.***



## Tour Cost (Land Only - Cairo / Seiyun / Cairo): \$7,995.00

Per person sharing in double occupancy

**Single Supplement: \$995.00**

Price based on group size minimum of 6 participants and maximum of 8 participants

**Trip Grade: III Lodging Level: \*\***

to see and experience Chechnya and Dagestan finally! Nancy has been managing a few of our tours, and she enjoys visiting off-the-beaten-track places the most, especially those countries that see very few tourists/travelers. She is thrilled to lead our groups to these beautiful parts of the world and is excited to introduce their fascinating culture, people, and unmatched hospitality. She has been rated so highly by our travelers as a kind and efficient coordinator and does a superb job ensuring the smoothness of these programs.

**About your Tour Manager...** Nancy loves to travel, learn languages, people, and sparkling wines! Nancy worked in the chemical industry in the US and Canada, and she lived in Jordan and Iraq for eight years, working as a training consultant and as Iraq's Country Director for an NGO. She speaks Arabic and a few other languages. Moreover, she loves the Middle East and genuinely appreciates the people and culture in that part of the world. Nancy also lived and worked in Russia for four years as a business training consultant. She speaks Russian, is passionate about Russia, and adores the people living there. She traveled on our first STS North Caucasus adventure in 2017 - she was so happy

### Tour Includes:

- Airport/Hotel/Airport transfers in Cairo.
- 2 nights' accommodation in Cairo based on 4\* hotel (pre and post Yemen) along with a one-day tour.
- Arrival/departure transfers & AC 4x4 vehicles throughout in Yemen.
- Cairo / Seiyun / Cairo flights.
- 5 nights' accommodation at best available hotels in Yemen.
- All meals as per itinerary (B: Breakfast, L: Lunch and D: Dinner).
- English-speaking guide throughout the tour.
- Escort of a tour manager (provided minimum number of travelers is reached).
- All activities described in the tour and entrance fees to all sites mentioned unless listed as optional.
- Visa approval letter.
- Unlimited bottled water per person in Yemen.
- Gratuities to guide, drivers, and porters (provided minimum number of travelers is reached).

### 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-styles need 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).
- Activities and sites not described in the itinerary.
- Any drinks with or without meals or meals not listed in the itinerary.
- Trip surcharge to operate below required minimum participants.
- Items of a personal nature (laundry, 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).

