

Egypt Open Team

Information Packet

Location: Cairo, Egypt

Project Dates: March 22 – April 2, 2017

Optional Excursion Dates: April 2 - 3, 2017

Participation Fee: \$750

Excursion Fee: \$400

Flight to Cairo is not included in the participation fee



Project Overview

Nile Union Academy has been providing quality Christian education in Cairo for more than 60 years. The secondary students who graduate are all able to translate between English and Arabic, and many go on to continue their education at English-speaking colleges and universities overseas. Located in a primarily Muslim country, Nile Union Academy also ministers to those around them, introducing people to the love of Jesus Christ.

Currently, Nile Union Academy offers a five-year program for high school students. There is also a small elementary school that has been started on the same campus, but there is a need for more classrooms. To address this growing need, the school has requested Maranatha's assistance in constructing three classrooms on campus. While it's still to be determined if the classrooms will house elementary or high school students, having the additional space will open up other classroom space for elementary and technology classes. The structures that Maranatha will build will have block walls on the bottom half, and the top half will be completed with insulated panel sheeting.

In addition to the construction, the group will also conduct some health education and/or children's ministry programs for the students on campus and community children, as well.

This project can only accommodate 15 volunteers, so we will be looking for skilled volunteers on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Accommodations

Volunteers will stay in a combination of guest rooms and staff homes right on the Nile Union Academy campus. The rooms are furnished with basic furniture. Volunteers will need to bring their own bedding (sleeping bag probably easiest) and towels. Washing machines are available on campus, and drying is done on lines outside. Air-conditioning is not widely available on campus; however, in March and early April, the weather cools down in the evenings, and the buildings generally don't heat up too much during the day.

Wi-Fi is available on campus, but it is not always reliable. SIM cards with data plans can be purchased very affordably if your phone is unlocked and you wish to have data on your phone.

The group will eat meals at the cafeteria where the food is vegetarian and quite delicious. Prepare yourself for local-style meals.

Project Schedule

Wednesday, March 22
Arrival in Cairo (CAI)

Thursday, March 23
Orientation and first work day

Friday, March 24
Work day

Saturday, March 25
Worship with the local congregation

Sunday, March 26 – Friday, March 31
Work days with midweek excursion

Saturday, April 1
Worship with the local congregation

Sunday, April 2
Departure from Cairo or Optional
Excursion to Luxor

Monday, April 3
Optional Excursion Departure

Excursions

During the project, volunteers will take a day to explore parts of ancient Egypt. The main attraction will be the Pyramids of Giza. These iconic structures were built as large burial complexes for the pharaohs. The area includes three large pyramids and three smaller ones, the massive sculpture known as the Great Sphinx, and other historic sites of interest, including cemeteries and remains of a workers' village. In addition to touring the pyramids, there are also several markets and museums in Cairo that the group will visit as time allows.

Optional Excursion: Luxor Day Tour - \$400

At the end of the project, join Maranatha on an excursion to Luxor, the site of the ancient Egyptian capital of Thebes. Luxor is considered the greatest outdoor museum in the world and contains nearly one third of the world's antiquities. On this one-day tour, volunteers will visit the Valley of the Kings, the Temple of Hatshepsut, the Colossi of Memnon, the halls and columns of Karnak, and the Luxor Temple. Throughout the visit, the group will be accompanied by a personal guide and an informative Egyptologist.



Volunteers will depart on the tour on the morning of April 2 and return that night to Cairo for their departures the following morning. The excursion fee of \$400 includes the extra night at Nile Union Academy in Cairo, domestic flights, airport transfers, ground transportation, a private lunch, entrance fees, and bilingual guides.

Leadership

Dwain and Nellie | Project Coordinators

Dwain and Nellie Ferguson join the group from British Columbia, Canada. They have joined several Maranatha projects as both volunteers and leaders, and their most recent travels have taken them to countries including Curaçao, Chad, Ghana, Panama, and the Dominican Republic. Dwain and Nellie will oversee all aspects of the trip as co project coordinators.



George Alder | Construction Superintendent

George Alder joins the group from Palmer, Alaska. He is a Maranatha veteran volunteer who has participated on and led many projects. When not on a Maranatha project, George enjoys spending time with his children and grandchildren. George will bring his expertise in construction as the construction superintendent. His wife Becky will also be on the project.



Expenses

The participation fee of \$750 covers housing, three vegetarian meals a day, ground transportation to and from the airport and project site, translators, local excursions, secondary accident insurance, a Maranatha t-shirt, and luggage tags.

Maranatha must receive all funds and forms by February 13 due to application processing time. Wait for confirmation of acceptance on the project before purchasing your airfare.

Maranatha participation fees are tax-deductible. For Canadian tax-deductible receipts, payments must be made by check to the Maranatha Association (address located at the end of this information packet). For U.S. tax-deductible receipts, payments can be made by cash, check, or credit/debit cards.

If you are fundraising or receiving donations please have them sent directly to you or work with your local church treasurer to collect funds and issue tax-deductible receipts, since it is difficult for Maranatha to track individual small checks. If your church will not

Daily Schedule

A typical day will look like the following:

7:00 a.m.	Breakfast
7:30 a.m.	Group worship
8:00 a.m.	Depart for construction
12:00 noon	Lunch
4:00 p.m.	Return from work
6:00 p.m.	Dinner
7:00 p.m.	Group worship

The key word for mission trips is FLEXIBILITY. The above schedule is our plan, but it may be adjusted due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

work with you, please wait until you have collected the full amount of your participation fee before submitting your participation fee to Maranatha.

Estimate of Additional Costs

- Flight to Cairo, Egypt \$650-1,000
- Passport \$130 or \$110 for renewal
- Visa (upon arrival): \$25

About Egypt

The country of Egypt has one of the longest histories of any modern country. Ancient Egypt was often the forefront of development in areas of writing and literature, architecture, agriculture, government, and organized religion.

The extreme aridity of the climate results in a country that is primarily made up of deserts with a few oases scattered about. The Nile River and Delta are the major sources of fresh water in the country, and approximately 99% of the country's population live in cities concentrated in the Nile Valley. The country is considered a transcontinental country in that the majority of the country is located on the continent of Africa, but the northeastern section of the country is located in Asia. Separating the two is the geographically important Suez Canal, which was opened in 1869; the canal provided a shorter and less perilous journey for trading ships between the Mediterranean and Red Seas and made it so that ships did not have to sail around the southern tip of Africa.

Egypt's population developed from hunter gatherer cultures living along the Nile then grew to epic dynasties led by Pharaohs, who built great pyramids and temples. The last Pharaoh was defeated in 343 BC by the Persians. Ownership of the land then passed to the Greek empire and later the Roman empire. During this time, learning thrived, and the region was one of the most developed in the known world.

Egypt was eventually conquered by the Ottoman empire and eventually became a British protectorate in the 1900's. The Arab Republic of Egypt was established in 1953, and since then the country has had a turbulent history of military rule, revolutions, elections, and religious skirmishes.

Today, Egypt has an economy based on agriculture, petroleum, and tourism. The majority of the population is urbanized, living in cities along the Nile. Egyptians are also very religious people with an estimated 90% of the country practicing the Muslim religion. Mosques and calls to prayer are common sights and sounds in most Egyptian cities. Egypt is also considered a cultural forerunner in the Arabic-speaking world. Much of the Middle-Eastern culture is heavily influenced by Egyptian literature and media.

Safety in Egypt

Travel to the Middle East has become more dangerous within the last 20 years. Some travel companies advise against traveling to some parts of Egypt due to terrorism threats, especially the northeastern region of the Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza and Libya borders. The U.S. Department of State has an updated travel warning for the country of Egypt.



Facts and Figures

Capital:
Cairo

Population:
94.67 million

Language:
Arabic. English and French understood by educated classes

Climate:
Desert; hot and dry

Religion:
Muslim 90%, Christian 10%

Currency:
Egyptian Pound

However, the Egyptian Government takes the safety of major tourist sites in the greater Cairo area very seriously as the economy depends greatly on tourism. In general, Egypt is a safe country to travel and opportunistic crimes such as pickpocketing are no more common than in large cities in the United States. You still should be cautious when traveling at night and take general safety precautions for international travel.

The campus where the group will stay is enclosed with a wall and gate. They have not had any issues with theft or violence from outside the walls in many years. Our local contact in Egypt says it is very safe. They have received several mission groups within the last three years without any incident.

Maranatha monitors several third-party travel advisory systems, and we work directly with local community and church leaders to determine safety issues. Maranatha would not knowingly send volunteers to a dangerous area. However, there are certain things outside our control, and we must ultimately put our lives in God's hands.

Travel Information

Volunteers will purchase their own plane tickets to the city of Cairo (see below). Please wait for confirmation from Maranatha before purchasing your airfare to ensure there is still space on the project. Please wear the provided Maranatha t-shirt when you travel to meet up with the group on March 22. Maranatha representatives will meet you at the airport and together you will travel by the bus to Nile Union Academy.

Flights

Arrival | Please plan to arrive in Cairo, Egypt (airport code CAI), in the afternoon or evening on Wednesday, March 22.

Departure (Project Only) | Please plan to depart from Cairo, Egypt (CAI), in the morning or afternoon of Sunday, April 2.

Departure (Optional Excursion) | Please plan to depart from Cairo, Egypt (CAI) in the morning or afternoon of Monday, April 3.

Arriving Early or Staying Late

Cairo has some beautiful and historical travel destinations. Some of you may choose to arrive earlier than March 22 or stay after the project to explore the country on your own. Please make your own hotel and transportation plans for any days outside of the Maranatha project dates. If you have any questions, feel free to call Maranatha at (916) 774-7700.

Travel Resources

Azumano Travel: 800-454-4099 or by email with Erle at edpenha@ciazumano.com

Butler Travel: 503-879-5005 or by email with Nathanael at nathan@butlertravel.com or with Ellen at ellen@butlertravel.com.

Kayak: www.kayak.com

When contacting the Azumano or Butler travel agencies, mention Maranatha to receive a discounted service charge.

Entry Requirements

Passport | All passports must be valid for at least six months from the dates of intended travel (October 7, 2017). If you do not have a passport, U.S. citizens can apply at any U.S. post office or online at <http://travel.state.gov>. Canadian citizens can apply online at www.passport.gc.ca. It can take up to two months to complete the entire process, so plan accordingly to give yourself enough time to receive your passport.

Tourist Visa | In addition to a passport, travelers must also have a valid tourist visa for Egypt. U.S., Canadian, and Australian citizens can purchase a single-entry visa upon arrival at the Cairo airport. The price is currently \$25 USD, but prices could increase without notice at any time. Please bring exact change in U.S. currency.

Before going to the immigration line, you will go to the visa upon arrival window and pay the fee. The official will give you a sticker to place in a blank visa page of your passport. Then you will proceed through immigration. The sticker will act as your visa for 30 days in the country.

Citizens of other countries, please consult the Egyptian embassy or consulate in your home country for entrance requirements.

Staying Healthy

Maranatha requires that every volunteer have a current tetanus vaccine (within the last 10 years). The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also recommends vaccines for hepatitis A and typhoid.

Some of these you may already have and some of them you may deem unnecessary for this trip. You should schedule a consultation with a travel clinic doctor to talk about the medical risks in Egypt and the ways to minimize them.

How to Register

To register, please complete the online registration and pay the full participation fee or an initial deposit of at least half the total participation fee. You can make this payment by credit card online or over the phone or with a check made out to Maranatha Volunteers International and sent to the address below. If for any reason you need to cancel your participation, Maranatha will do their best to refund your deposit up until one month before travel. After that point, \$150 is non-refundable and the remainder will depend on the reservations and the project arrangements already made.

Register online at Maranatha.org or over the phone.

Contact Information

Phone: (916) 774-7700

Fax: (916) 774-7701

Email: volunteer@maranatha.org

Website: www.maranatha.org

Mailing Address:

Maranatha Volunteers International
990 Reserve Drive
Suite 100
Roseville, CA 95678

Canadian Payments Only:

Maranatha Volunteers International
Association
c/o V06494C
PO Box 6494, Station Terminal
Vancouver, BC V6B 6R3

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2017 MARANATHA T-SHIRT \$10



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CAP \$12



All cotton and easy to pack, this cap is sure to keep the sun off your face on a mission project and at home.

HARD HAT \$11



This MSA V-Gard hard hat, with Staz-On suspension, ensures excellent shock absorption on the job site.

WATER BOTTLE \$15



The autospout water bottle by Contigo features a one-touch-button spout for convenient one-handed drinking. It also has a spout shield to protect the spout from debris and dirt when not in use—perfect for the project site.

MARANATHA.ORG

*All confirmed volunteers on an International Maranatha Open Team receive a Maranatha t-shirt as part of their participation fee.

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