ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Egypt

Birding & Antiquities

20th April to 7th May 2023 (18 days)

Jordan: Petra Extension

7th May to 9th may 2023 (3 days)



Sphinx and Khafre Pyramid by Markus Lilje

Egypt has been the world's most desirable tourist destination since the innovation of tourism several thousand years ago. Marvelling at Egypt's antiquities will form a major aspect of our tour and we will visit all the important sites, from riding camels around the Sphinx and Great Pyramids of Giza, to being dazzled by the nocturnal Sound-and-Light show at the giant Abu Simbel statues of Ramses II. The birding and natural history aspect of Egypt will, of course not, be ignored, as our tour is timed to coincide with the peak of the impressive bird migration between Africa and Eurasia. Millions of storks, raptors, waders

and passerines passing through and resting in any areas of greenery make birding here easy and enjoyable. The pleasant and undemanding birding, combined with breath-taking antiquities, are further augmented by top-class hotels, great food, a 4-day cruise on the Nile, incredible snorkelling in the Red Sea and exciting shopping opportunities, all of which make this a thoroughly enjoyable tour for both birders and non-birders alike!

THE TOUR AT A GLANCE…

THE ITINERARY

Day 1	**Arrival in Cairo**
Day 2	**Day trip to the pyramids of Giza and Sakkara**
Day 3	**Abbassa Fish Ponds and Cairo Museum**
Day 4	**Cairo to Ain Sokhana via Wadi Hugul**
Day 5	**Ain Sokhana & St Paul's Monastery**
Day 6	**Ain Sokhana to Sharm El Sheikh via Ras Sudr**
Days 7 & 8	**Sharm El Sheikh and Ras Mohamed National Park**
Day 9	**Sharm El Shiekh to El Gouna via Hurghada**
Day 10	**Boat trip to Hurghada Islands**
Day 11	**Hurghada to Luxor**
Day 12	**Nile Cruise - West Bank (Valley of Kings and Queens)**
Day 13	**Nile Cruise - East Bank to Edfu (Karnack and Luxor Temples)**
Day 14	**Nile Cruise - Edfu (Edfu Temple) to Aswan via Kom Ombo**
Day 15	**Nile Cruise - Aswan area (High Dam, Philae Temple and Unfinished Obelisk)**
Day 16	**Aswan to Abu Simbel**
Day 17	**Lake Nasser and surrounds**
Day 18	**Abu Simbel to Cairo for departures or continue onto our Petra Extension**

PETRA EXTENSION

Day 1	**Arrivals in Amman, Jordan**
Day 2	**Amman to Petra via Wadi Al Seer and Dana**
Day 3	**Petra to Amman**

ROUTE MAP


West Bank
Amman
Gaza Strip
Israel
Dana
Jordan
Petra
Cairo
Ain Sokhna
Ras Sudr
Sharm El Sheikh
El Gouna
Egypt
Luxor
Aswan
Abu Simbel
US Dept of State Geographer
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image Landsat / Copernicus
Google Earth

Egypt: Birding & Antiquities



Birding the Great Pyramids by Markus Lilje

Day 1: Arrival in Cairo. Upon arrival in Egypt, you will be met by a Rockjumper representative and transferred to our hotel in Cairo. This afternoon we will take a casual walk around the hotel grounds, looking for some rather interesting resident and migrant birds as an introduction to the birds of the middle-east. Common birds that might be seen in Cairo include Common Kestrel, Laughing Dove, Eurasian Hoopoe, Pallid Swift, which nests on large buildings**,** Hooded Crow and the dainty White Wagtail. With a little bit of luck we could even find Eurasian Wryneck, Masked Shrike or any number of other migrants feeding in the garden's trees and shrubs.

A staggering sixteen million people live in the Cairo Metropolis, squeezed into the narrow Nile Valley, resulting in one of the world's highest population densities. Nevertheless, Cairo is a friendly city that retains a medieval aspect with donkey carts and herds of goats sometimes encountered on the streets!

Day 2: Day trip to the pyramids of Giza and Sakkara. This morning we may pay a visit to Dashour Lake looking for some of Egypt's commoner waterbirds before heading to Egypt's most famous attraction, the Great Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx. The Pyramids are the only survivors of the ancient Greek-listed Seven Wonders of the World and are certainly the world's oldest tourist site! Only once we are there, gazing in wonder at these vast relics will we realise why they have held the fascination of generations for thousands of years! The Sphinx, known in Arabic as 'Abu al-Hol' (Father of Terror), was named by the ancient Greeks for its resemblance to the mythical winged monster, with a women's head and lion's body, who proposed a riddle to the Thebans and killed all who were unable to answer. The Sphinx is 50m (125 ft) long and nearly 22m (50ft) high, and it's the Egyptians' belief in eternal life, and their desire to be one with the cosmos that led them to build such incredible mausoleums. The pharaoh was believed to be the 'Son of God', a receiver of 'ka' (life force) that he conducted to his people. A number of optional activities are available; including a visit to see the Solar Boat or 'barque' (a completely preserved mortuary boat that was buried with the dead Pharaoh in a tomb chamber, and believed to provide transport for the King to the next world), and for the more



Greater Painted-snipe by Markus Lilje



Greater Hoopoe-Lark by Adam Riley

adventurous, a walk through the narrow passageways to the very epicentre of the pyramids where the pharaohs were buried, or a camel ride led by a local Egyptian handler.

We will also visit the huge Pyramid of Djoser, constructed around BCE2700 and renowned as the world's oldest pyramid. Even more important for birders, it is also a site for the elusive Pharaoh's Eagle-Owl, although finding this bird amongst the rubble is easier said than done!

Day 3: Abbassa Fish Ponds and Cairo Museum. Today will be spent in and around Cairo, where we will first bird the Abbassa Fish ponds. This area is very rich in birds, both migrants and residents, and we will search for White-throated Kingfisher, a predominantly Asian species that occurs only at this one location in Africa - the uncommon Senegal Coucal - here at its most northern location. Greater Painted-snipe, Little Bittern, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, Streaked Weaver, European Goldfinch, Common Blackbird and possibly even White-tailed Lapwing can also be found here. The area is also alive with dragonflies and we will endeavour to identify at least some of those we encounter.

Thereafter we will visit the grand Egyptian Museum. This is one of the greatest tourist attractions of Egypt and holds over 100 000 relics and antiquities from every period of Egyptian history. If we spent just one minute at each exhibit it would take us up to nine months to see everything! We will, therefore, use the services of a local expert who will guide us to, and explain the particular highlights of the Museum, including the Tutankhamen Galleries, Akhenaten Rooms, Royal Tombs of Tanis, Animal Mummies, Ancient Egyptian Jewellery Room and the Old Kingdom Rooms. It must be mentioned that the Tutankhamen treasures are probably the most splendid historical artefacts ever produced.

For those who are less squeamish, an optional visit to the Royal Mummy Room is possible, where you can gaze at the faces of some of Egypt's most famous pharaohs and queens. After a history and antiquities packed day, we have the option to explore the grand Khan El Khalili Market, an immense area of markets and shops where it is possible to find everything and anything from books to precious stones and curios typical of Egypt. The merchants are some of the greatest salespeople and smooth talkers you will ever meet! Time permitting, we shall also visit the Zamalek Gardens to search for Rose-necked and Alexandrine



Cream-colored Courser by Adam Riley

Parakeets, Graceful Prinia and Indian Silverbill.



Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse by Markus Lilje

Day 4: Cairo to Ain Sokhana via Wadi Hugul. After breakfast and checking out of our hotel, we will set out towards Ain Sokhana. Along the way, we shall make strategic stops in the desert, primarily concentrating on Wadi Hugul. This is prime eastern desert birding territory, where short walks among the dry wadis or riverbeds will be spent investigating all bushes and thickets for migrants. We shall also scan the stony desert for a number of desert specialities including Hooded, Mourning and White-crowned Wheatear, Desert and Bar-tailed Larks, Cream-colored Courser and the star of the show, Greater Hoopoe-Lark, amongst many other desert species.

We can look forward to having lunch overlooking the mighty Suez Canal, a transit point for tankers, cargo vessels and yachts en route to, or from the Mediterranean. A short drive will take us to Ain Sokhana, situated on the African Red Sea coast and a well-known site for the raptor migration.

Day 5: Ain Sokhana & St Paul's Monastery. After breakfast, we will drive for a few hours to visit St Paul's Monastery just south of Zafarana. Built in the 4th century, it miraculously survived many attacks by the Bedouins, and today still has all its original contents. We will have time for a guided tour by one of the resident monks.

This area is particularly good for raptor watching, and if the weather conditions are favourable, we may find thousands of raptors here including Egyptian Vulture, Eastern Imperial, Lesser Spotted, Steppe, Short-toed Snake and Booted Eagles, Levant and Eurasian Sparrowhawks, European Honey, Common and Long-legged Buzzards as well as Black and White Storks. In the afternoon we will either bird the environs around Ain Sokhana or else further explore the Suez area to search for shorebirds, gulls and terns. Possible species here include Armenian Gull, Greater Crested and Lesser Crested Terns and Marsh and Curlew Sandpipers.



White-eyed Gull by Markus Lilje

Day 6: Ain Sokhana to Sharm El Sheikh via Ras Sudr. After an early breakfast, we shall check out of our hotel, and head towards Sharm El Sheikh, our destination for the next three nights. While mostly a travel day, we shall make the odd birding stop before spending a little time at Ras Sudr, a known



Pharaoh Eagle-Owl by Ignacio Yufera

Saunders's Tern breeding colony. After that, it is back to the road for the remaining drive to Sharm El Sheikh. (Please note that today will be a very long travel day, but the surrounding desert scenery and forthcoming birding and historical adventures will more than make up for it!)

Day 7 & 8: Sharm El Sheikh and Ras Mohamed National Park. Sharm El Sheikh is located at the southern end of the Sinai Peninsula, on the southern coast of the Gulf of Aqaba between Tiran Island in the Straits and Ras Mohammed National Park at the tip of Sinai. As Egypt's first declared National Park, it features some of the world's most remarkable and well-preserved underwater scenery. Crystal clear waters with large reefs hold an incredible variety of exotic fish darting in and out of the colourful corals. We have two full days to explore both the surrounds of Sharm El Sheikh and Ras Mohamed National Park.

On one morning we will depart after breakfast for Ras Mohammed NP, which protects some superb desert and coastal habitats. Typical desert birds that we will be on the lookout for include Crowned and Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse, Cream-colored Courser, Brown-necked Raven, Greater Hoopoe, Crested and Desert Larks, and Mourning, Desert and Black-eared Wheatears. Large migratory birds that we might see include Griffon Vulture, Short-toed Snake Eagle, Golden Eagle, Montagu's and Pallid Harriers, European Honey Buzzard and Black Stork. Dashing Sooty Falcon nest on sea cliffs, and can sometimes be found resting on the railing or radio mast on the headland. White-eyed and Sooty Gulls are also possible. With some degree of luck, we may even find the odd Brown Booby or two. Optional snorkelling in the park is easily accessible right from the beach, and is one of the highlights not to be missed!

We shall spend the afternoons at the local sewage ponds, where we will bird until dusk. Here we can search for Spotted, Lichtenstein's and Crowned Sandgrouse coming for an afternoon drink, Black-crowned Night Heron, Glossy Ibis, Eurasian Spoonbill, Common, Marsh, Wood and Curlew Sandpipers, Common Greenshank, Baillon's Crake, Little Stint, Common Ringed and Little Ringed Plovers, Common Redshank and a variety of ducks. Migrant raptors may be found roosting in a nearby plantation and could include Common Buzzard, Steppe and Eastern Imperial Eagles and both Black and Yellow-billed Kites.



Trumpeter Finch by Markus Lilje

Day 9: Sharm El Shiekh to El Gouna via Hurghada. We transfer this morning to Sharm El Sheikh Airport for a flight to Hurghada (depending on flight schedules, we may fly directly or via Cairo) from where we will transfer to El Gouna. We shall break for lunch at our hotel, before commencing our afternoon



Mortuary Temple of Queen Hatshepsut by Markus Lilje

birding at the El Gouna Golf Course for various migrants as well as Caspian Plover which is regularly found here at this time of year.

Day 10: Boat trip to Hurghada Islands. We shall make an early foray around the El Gouna Golf Course, if necessary, before heading to Hurghada for an all-day boat cruise on the Red Sea. Birds that we will be on the lookout for include White-eyed and Sooty Gulls, Brown Booby, Greater Crested, Bridled and White-cheeked Terns and Western Reef Heron. This area is also an important migration route and anything could happen to fly over the boat! Western Osprey is a common bird here and we will cross many territories and nesting birds. Lunch will be served onboard and we will also have the chance to snorkel at some incredibly rich coral reefs (Snorkelling equipment will be available free of charge). The variety of sea-life and fish to be found here is simply breath-taking! In the late afternoon, we shall head to the Hurghada sewage ponds to try our luck for Pharaoh's Eagle-Owl if we still need it, or we may spend the time birding around our hotel.

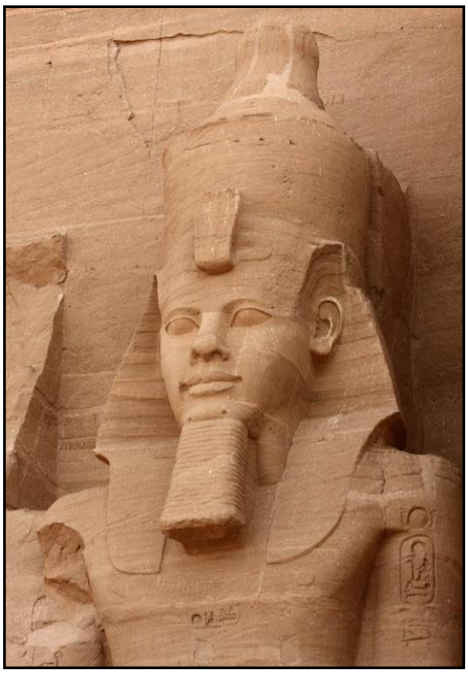


Nile Valley Sunbird by Markus Lilje

Day 11: Hurghada to Luxor. This morning we head to Luxor, birding en route along the Safaga-Qena Road. We shall spend the remainder of the day visiting the lush vegetated gardens and fields of Crocodile Island. Target species here include the beautiful Greater Painted-snipe, Nile Valley Sunbird, Red Avadavat, several species of wader, stunning Green Bee-eater, Tree, Tawny and Red-throated Pipits, Western Yellow Wagtail, Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin, Bluethroat, Black-eared Wheatear, Whinchat and Ortolan Bunting.

Day 12: Nile Cruise - West Bank (Valley of Kings and Queens). We leave our Luxor hotel this morning and cross to the West Bank of the Nile for one of the most fascinating days of ancient history exploration. The Valley of the Kings and Queens, the Queen Hatshepsut Temple and the Colossi of

Memnon are some of the world-famous archaeological sites we shall visit. All these sites are exceptional, and we will be spending a good amount of time in the Valley of the Kings in particular. Here we will descend into several tombs, intricately adorned with beautiful and colourful artworks representing the lives of the kings who were entombed here, as well as the more mystic aspects of life and death. Strange faces of crocodile-headed gods, beautiful concubines, tortured slaves and regal kings and queens almost speak to us from the walls where they were etched and painted thousands of years ago. During the course of our antiquity exploration, we may see Trumpeter Finch, which occurs regularly around the tombs, and we will constantly keep our eyes peeled for migrating raptors and storks. After a thoroughly engrossing morning, we shall board our luxury vessel for lunch and the start of our 4-day cruise.



Abu Simbel Statue by Markus Lilje

Day 13: Nile Cruise - East Bank to Edfu (Karnack and Luxor Temples). Today we will dock on the East Bank of the Nile to visit the Temple of Karnak, a marvel of ancient Egyptian engineering. Consisting of sanctuaries, obelisks and pylons dedicated to the Theban Gods and known as the 'the most perfect of places'. We will also visit the Luxor Temple; featuring a 900-year-old Mosque, built on a portion of the ancient building.

We will then sail to Edfu, a large and busy pottery and sugar trading centre, via Esna where we will cross the lock. Birds that we may encounter along the way could include Red-crested Pochard, Eurasian Teal, Tufted Duck, Garganey, Purple Heron, Glossy Ibis, Black, Yellow-billed and Black-winged Kites and Western Marsh Harrier. At Esna, our cruise ship will stop for several hours until it is our turn to navigate the lock, and we may have time to explore the thriving markets filled with Egyptian curios and trinkets. Esna also has its own ancient temple that can be visited, time permitting. For those in a 'cruise' mood, sun tanning around our ship's swimming pool is another option!



Green Bee-eater by Rich Lindie

Day 14: Nile Cruise - Edfu (Edfu Temple) to Aswan via Kom Ombo. In the morning we will have time to visit the Temple of Horus at Edfu, the largest completely preserved Ptolemaic, Greek-styled temple in Egypt. Back on board our ship, we will have lunch as we cruise down the Nile to Kom Ombo. We will keep an eye out for species such as Ferruginous Duck, Glossy Ibis, Greater Flamingo and various herons and waders. Raptors are a feature of this area, often using the Nile as a migratory route and we may see Barbary Falcon, Western Osprey, Western Marsh Harrier and Long-legged Buzzard. In the afternoon we will visit the Kom Ombo Temple, unusual in that it is dedicated to two different gods: Sobek, the Crocodile-

headed god, and Horus, the Falcon-headed sky god. Thereafter we will cruise to Aswan, birding from the deck.



Egyptian Nightjar by Clayton Burne

Day 15: Nile Cruise - Aswan area (High Dam, Philae Temple and Unfinished Obelisk). This morning we disembark our cruise boat and visit the Temple complex of Isis on the island of Philae, located on an island between the Old and New Dam Walls. Amazingly, this temple was disassembled and rebuilt on higher ground to save it from the flooding of the dam. Often said to be one of the most beautiful temples in Egypt, it is certainly a highlight of any visit to the country. Thereafter, we will visit the remarkable High Dam, 3.6km (2.2 miles) wide by 111m (360 feet) high and completed in 1971 after 11 years of work. Special birds we will watch out for include Egyptian Vulture and Gull-billed, Whiskered and Black Terns. In the surrounding trees, we will look for the beautiful Nile Valley Sunbird and Graceful Prinia.

In the afternoon, we will board a motorised 'felucca', and cruise a small part of the Nile. We will bird around the First Cataract and Elephantine Island looking for Great Cormorant, Glossy Ibis, Great Egret, Grey, Purple, Squacco and Striated Herons, African Swamphen and Little Bittern, amongst many others. The traditional Egyptian white-sailed feluccas will be in evidence around the Aswan area. After another incredible day around the Nile, we shall reach our luxury hotel in the late afternoon.

Day 16: Aswan to Abu Simbel. This morning after breakfast and check out, we can either visit the Nubian Museum or else do some final birding in the area. The Nubian people of southern Egypt and



Abu Simbel sound and light show by Markus Lilje



Hieroglyphics of birds by Markus Lilje

Sudan are the links between Africa and Egypt, and the museum showcases the history, art and culture of Nubia from Prehistoric times to the present. If we choose the birding option, it will allow us time to visit the nearby Aswan Fish Farm - a known location for the Three-banded Plover. After enjoying a packed lunch, this afternoon we will visit the Abu Simbel Temples with their huge statues built in honour of Ramses II and his beautiful wife Nefertari. These very impressive statues and their attached temples are even more wondrous to ponder when one realises that they were moved, in their entirety to higher ground, above the anticipated water level of Lake Nasser when the Aswan Dam Wall was constructed. We shall stay at the temples until nightfall, allowing us time to attend the well-known Sound and Light Show. If we are very fortunate we may see Pharaoh Eagle-Owl and Egyptian Nightjar.

Day 17: Lake Nasser and surrounds. We have the option of some pre-breakfast birding around the hotel grounds, after which we will embark on a full-day motor boat excursion on Lake Nasser. This huge lake was formed by the construction of the Aswan High Dam and is one of the largest man-made lakes in the world.



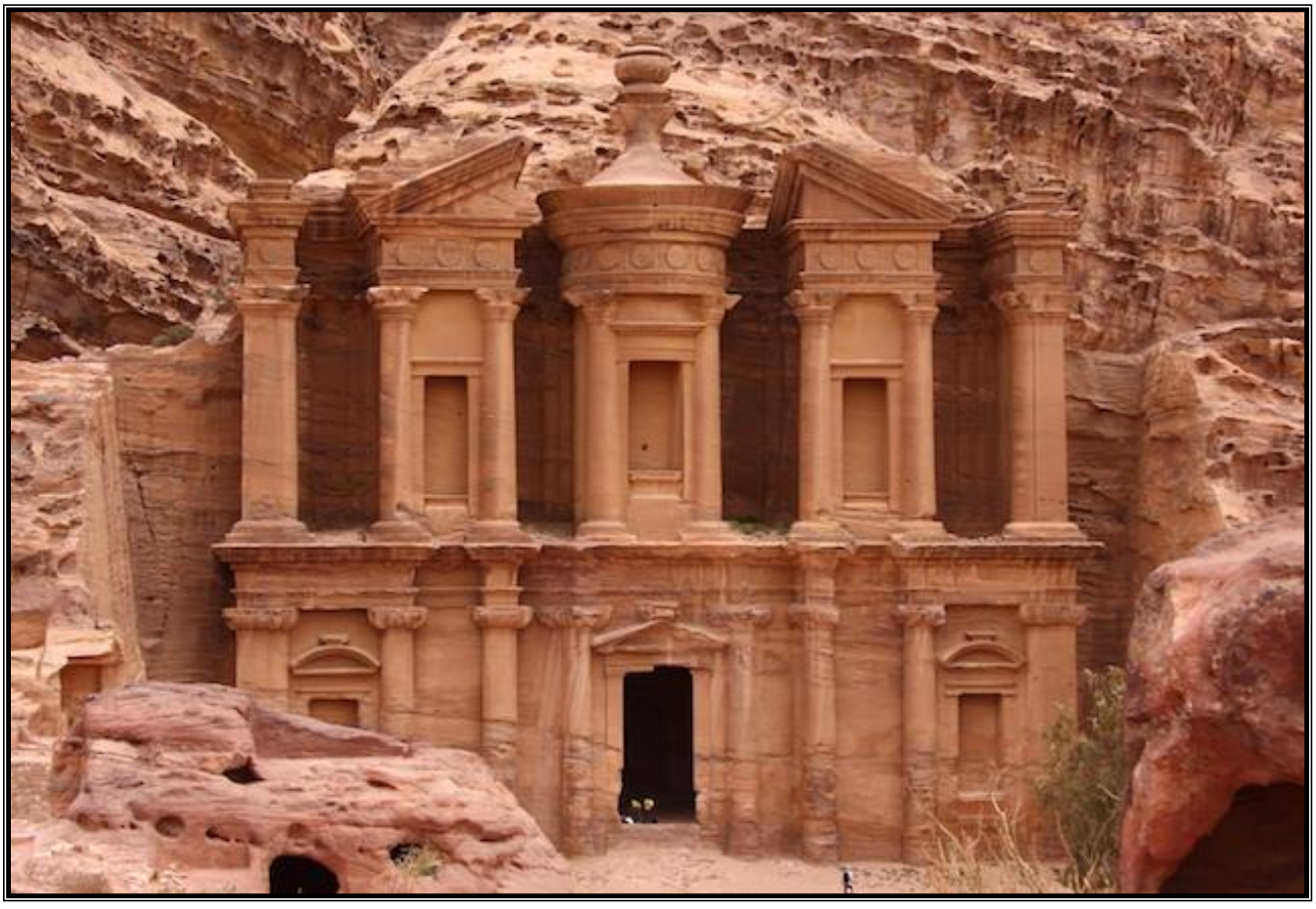
Desert Lark by Markus Lilje

Birds occurring here show a closer affinity to the Afrotropics (sub-Saharan Africa) than to the Palaearctic (North Africa, Europe and temperate Asia); and we will scan carefully for African Skimmer, Reed Cormorant, Pink-backed Pelican, Yellow-billed Stork, Goliath Heron, Eurasian Spoonbill, Senegal Thick-knee, Egyptian Goose, Kittlitz's Plover, African Collared Dove and African Pied Wagtail. Terns and gulls are another feature of the lake, and we will be on the lookout

for Caspian, Gull-billed and Whiskered Terns as well as Black-headed and Slender-billed Gulls. Winter visitors that we may find in the surrounding area include Pied Wheatear and Masked and Woodchat Shrikes. Trees and bushes are alive with migrant warblers including Eastern Olivaceous, Eastern Bonelli's, Willow, Eurasian Reed and Marsh Warblers, Common Chiffchaff, Lesser and Common Whitethroats, Clamorous and Great Reed Warblers, Eurasian Golden Oriole, Eurasian Wryneck, Spotted, Semicollared and European Pied Flycatchers, and flocks of Red-throated Pipits and Western Yellow Wagtail of several different races. In the afternoon we then visit the Nubian House, which illustrates the way these people lived in this area before they were all forced to migrate into either Sudan or the Aswan region when the High Dam was constructed. After dusk, we may return to an area where we can search again for the sought-after Egyptian Nightjar.

Day 18: Abu Simbel to Cairo. We have an early morning excursion to the Abu Simbel Temple to look forward to on our last morning in Egypt. After breakfast, we will transfer to Abu Simbel to catch an early flight to Cairo where the main tour will conclude. For those doing the extension, we will board our flight to Amman in the late afternoon.

Petra Extension



'El Deir' The Monastery, Petra by Markus Lilje

Petra's amazing and intricately carved, multi-storey temples and buildings became familiar to many people when it was used as a set for one of the films from the Indiana Jones series, as well as for the

cover of National Geographic Magazine. And rightfully so; as this is without a doubt, the most 'must-see' site in the entire Middle East!

This marvellous ancient city is set within a 20 000ha National Park and some special birds can also be seen during our short extension here. These include the monotypic Streaked Scrub Warbler, Sooty Falcon, Sand Partridge, Mourning Wheatear, Palestine Sunbird, Rock Sparrow, Sinai Rosefinch, Syrian Serin and Striolated Bunting. In addition, this region is situated within a strong raptor migration route, so we can expect to see good numbers of these passage migrants as they soar overhead.



Palestine Sunbird by Forrest Rowland

Day 1: Arrivals in Amman, Jordan. We arrive at Amman International Airport in the late afternoon where we will be transferred to our hotel for a night's rest before our short adventure to Petra starts in the morning.

Day 2: Amman to Petra via Wadi Al Seer and Dana. This morning, we will visit Wadi Al Seer on the western outskirts of Amman. The ridge tops consist of the remnants of original oak forest, pine plantations and olive orchards. In these areas, we will search for Syrian Woodpecker, Great Tit, Woodchat Shrike, Eurasian Jay and Cretzschmar's and Black-headed Buntings. At the bottom of the wadi, there is a perennial stream surrounded by vegetable crops and *Oleander* scrub. These areas attract White-throated Kingfisher, Spotted Flycatcher, Upcher's and Cetti's Warbler, European Goldfinch and Palestine Sunbird. The surrounding rocky slopes with low shrub hold Chukar Patridge, Long-billed Pipit, Blue Rock Thrush, Sardinian Warbler and Rock Sparrow.



Streaked Scrub Warbler by David Hoddinott

As we get closer to Petra, we shall visit the village of Dana perched on the edge of a large natural gorge - Wadi Dana. Situated near the city of Tafilah in central-western Jordan, it enjoys a spectacular view over Wadi Araba. Dana is one of Jordan's premier nature reserves and eco-tourism facilities, established by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature under the guidance of Queen Noor. Thereafter, we will make our way to Wadi Musa, the access point for the hidden city of Petra. We shall check into our comfortable hotel with amazing views

over the arid mountains, for a one night stay. For those who wish, we can go out after an early dinner to look for the elusive Hume's Owl.



Sinai Rosefinch by Markus Lilje

Day 3: Petra. Petra is one of the world's most remarkable antiquities and can be regarded as the most astounding ancient city left in the modern world. This ancient capital of the Nabataeans housed an estimated 30 000 people in its heydey and was manually hewn from the blood-red sandstone cliffs of the Sharah Mountains. Petra flourished as a vast trading city and controlled a large part of the 'Incense Route', thus profiting from the trade between the Greeks, Persians, Medes and Egyptians. The Nabataeans were at their peak from BCE3 to CE1, when Petra was annexed by the Romans. Several earthquakes and the rerouting of the main trade routes side-lined Petra. It was eventually abandoned, remaining hidden and forgotten for many centuries, until its dramatic rediscovery in the early 19th century by German explorer Johann Burkhardt. We have most of the day set aside to explore the Red Rose City, the very best of Petra. We will be accompanied by a local historian who will escort us around the highlights of Petra and enlighten us as to the history and culture of the site. It is rather incredible to stand in front of these ancient tombs and other buildings, knowing the amount of time it must have taken to carve these facades in the sandstone cliffs, top down! Today will undoubtedly be one of the great travel highlights of your life. In the afternoon, we head back to Amman International Airport for the conclusion of this short extension and your onward departures.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:

Tour dates, prices, single supplement rates, approximate flight costs and spaces available for this tour are displayed on our website. Please see under IMPORTANT INFORMATION below.

This includes:

- All meals from dinner on day 1 to lunch on day 18 for those on the main tour, and from dinner on day 1 to lunch on day 3 for those on the Petra extension;
- Bottled drinking water;
- All lodgings;
- Ground transportation;
- Nile cruise as per the itinerary;
- Boat trips on the Red Sea and Lake Nasser;
- Reserve entrance fees; and
- All guiding services (including tips for local guides and services).

The tour fee does not include:

- Passport and Visa fees;
- **ANY flights** (see above);
- All beverages;

- Extra excursions and/or activities not included in the itinerary;
- Special gratuities;
- Telephone calls; and
- Laundry and other items of a personal nature.

Single Supplement: The single supplement cost for this tour will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation. If RBL cannot provide you with a rooming partner for these nights although you choose to share, the single supplement will become applicable. We will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

IMPORTANT NOTES:
a) Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is however fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing (usually 4 months before the tour.) The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates, which are also quoted in the respective fixed currency.
b) Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient participants, a small party supplement will have to be charged.
c) Furthermore, these costs are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.
d) Lastly, we may be forced to change or alter the itinerary and / or the designated Rockjumper leader/s at short or no notice due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware that we will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.

Tipping: As noted above, gratuities (drivers, hotel staff, porters, restaurants etc) are included on this tour. However, this does not include your Rockjumper leader/s. If, therefore, you feel that he/they have given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them.

Special Notes:

- It is important for you to be aware that it can get very hot in the far south of the country, where temperatures could reach around 43 degrees Celsius (110 degrees Fahrenheit). Since we do not have any strenuous walks on this tour, it is, however, manageable.
- Most of the historic sites that we will visit on this tour are extremely popular tourist attractions and we will share the area with multitudes of other people, patience will be required at times.
- All historical sites will have tourist police clearly visible, we will also be escorted by armed guards during some parts of the tour.
- While this is a tour with a dual focus on birds as well as antiquities, we may not be able to provide alternative activities as options for non-birders on some days, when the focus is more on birding. On other days the focus is very much on antiquities, with very little birding possible. While we will have specialist bird tour leaders from Rockjumper on the tour, we will rely on local leaders for the historical aspects of the tour.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE DETAILS:
The tour will depart from Cairo International Airport on day 1, as this is an arrival day, you can arrive at any time. The tour will conclude in the mid afternoon at Cairo International Airport on day 18. For those participating on the Jordan, Petra extension - the tour will conclude in the early evening of day 3 at

Amman International Airport. **Please note that the flight to and from Amman is <u>not</u> included in the tour price for the extension.**

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your **Tour Confirmation** package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

<u>FLIGHTS:</u>

Cairo International Airport, Cairo (IATA: CAI) is the main port of entry for international flights into Egypt and is well serviced by most of the world's major airlines. We will book the flights for those participating on the Petra extension. Amman International Airport (IATA: AMM), Jordan is the main port of departure for the extension and is serviced well by international flights. **Please DO NOT book any flights until you have consulted the Rockjumper office for confirmation on the status of the tour.**