

Jenny Bowker's Textiles Tour of Syria and Egypt



Join award-winning textile artist and aficionado of the Middle East, Jenny Bowker, on a small group tour through the Tantalising Textiles of Syria and Egypt in February 2010.

With Jenny's fabulous insights into the textiles of the Middle East, you will visit places other tourists would never hope to see, and meet with craftsmen practicing their centuries-old trades in the souks of Cairo and Damascus. Handle museum-quality textiles in the tiny traditional shops of both cities, and learn about Syrian striped fabric made of a cotton warp and a silk weft. Jenny will share with you her knowledge and passion for textiles as she leads you through the bustling bazaars and dusty streets of ancient civilizations. Bring your walking shoes and expect all the richness the Middle East can offer – including dirt, dust, colour and craft.



TOUR COST: \$5595.00

Per Person in Share Twin (land only)

Highlights include:

- The great Crusader Castle - Krak de Chevalier
- Omayed Mosque and the Tomb of Salahadin
- Palmyra and the Valley of Tombs
- Azem Palace Beit Nizam and Khan Azem Pasha
- Sacred Gorge of St Teqla
- Old City of Damascus and the Christian Quarter
- Qassioun Mountain
- The Egyptian Museum and the Mummy's Room
- Khan el Khalili Bazaar and Ibn Tulun Mosque
- The Geyer Anderson Museum
- Old Islamic Cairo and the Tentmakers' Khan
- Whirling Dervishes at Al Gouriya
- Sakkara and the Step Pyramid
- Ramses Wissa Wassef tapestry project
- The Pyramids and the Sphinx of Giza and the
- Solar Boat Museum

Why not join the Optional Extension at the end of the tour - A relaxing 4-night Nile cruise onboard the luxurious 4-star ship, *Amarco I*. See the Temples of Karnak and Luxor, the Valley of the Kings and Queens, the High Dam at Aswan, the Colossi of Memnon, and the extraordinary temples of Abu Simbel.



Tour arrangements by **IMPULSE TRAVEL**

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Tantalising Textiles Tour of Syria and Egypt with Jenny Bowker

19 February – 01 March 2010



Friday 19 February

DAMASCUS

Arrive Damascus and transfer to the hotel with the remainder of the day at leisure. Syria has held a unique position in history as the "cradle of civilization" and Damascus is said to be the oldest continuously occupied city in the world. Accommodation: Cham Palace Hotel Damascus

Saturday 20 February

DAMASCUS

Walking tour through Souk Hamidiyeh. Visit exclusive shops where you will find excellent collections of old and new textiles. Explore the Old City and its famous Houses, Beit Nizam, Bet Jabri, Khan Assad Pasha, Maktab Anbar. Accommodation: Cham Palace Hotel Damascus (B,L)

Sunday 21 February

DAMASCUS

Visit the ancient Aramaic village of Ma'alula, St Sergius, and the sacred Gorge of St Teqla. Explore the fortified ramparts of the Krak de Chevaliers, the greatest Crusader Castle in Syria. Return to the hotel in Damascus after the tour. Accommodation: Cham Palace Hotel Damascus (B,L)

Monday 22 February

DAMASCUS

Visit the National Museum of Damascus, housing a world-class archaeological and historical collection. Take a walking tour through the Old City to visit the Assad Pasha and the Azem Palace and gardens. Learn about Heike Weber's women's sewing project in the North of Syria. Explore the Christian Quarter, and visit the Anat Project, where Syrian embroidery projects are showcased. Accommodation: Cham Palace Hotel Damascus (B,L,D)

Tuesday 23 February

DAMASCUS

Visit the Omayed Mosque and the Tomb of Salahadin. Free time for shopping in Hamidiyeh Souq, Enjoy a Derwish folkloric show with dinner, then drive to Qassioun Mountain for panoramic views of Damascus by night. Accommodation: Cham Palace Hotel Damascus (B,L,D)

Wednesday 24 February

DAMASCUS – PALMYRA

Depart for Palmyra, and tour the Valley of Tombs, the Temple of Baal and Maani Castle. Visit the museum at Palmyra and see the old textiles used as mummy wrappings, and silks from the old Silk Route. Enjoy a Bedouin dinner tonight. Accommodation: Cham Palace Hotel Palmyra (B,L,D)

Thursday 25 February

PALMYRA – DAMASCUS – CAIRO

Return to Damascus airport and fly to Cairo. On arrival transfer to the hotel. Accommodation: Cairo Marriott Hotel (B)

Friday 26 February

CAIRO

Full-day tour to Sakkara to view the famous Step Pyramid, the world's oldest stone structure. Visit a carpet-making school, and the Ramses Wissa Wassef tapestry project, a unique weaving school dedicated to realising the creativity of young Egyptian villagers. See the Pyramids and the Sphinx at Giza, dating back to 2500BC. Entry to the Solar Boat Museum is also included. Accommodation: Cairo Marriott Hotel (B,L)

Saturday 27 February

CAIRO

Visit the world-famous Egyptian Museum, and see the riches of Tutankhamun and the celebrated Mummy Room. Visit the Ibn Tulun Mosque, the Geyer Anderson Museum, and the Khan el Khalili Bazaar. This evening see a spectacular performance of the Whirling Dervishes at Al Gouriya. Accommodation: Cairo Marriott Hotel (B,L)

Sunday 28 February

CAIRO

Visit Bab Zuweilah, the Dyer's Khan, and see the stunning appliqué work that has been practiced in the Tent-makers Khan for centuries. Enjoy a walking tour through the back streets of old Islamic Cairo, and see an exquisite mosque. Accommodation: Cairo Marriott Hotel (B,L)

Monday 01 March

CAIRO

The tour ends with a departure transfer to the airport. (B) **OR** take the optional Nile Cruise extension on the *Amarco I*.

Tour price : MAIN TOUR

Share Twin/Double \$5,595 per person

Single Supplement \$1,490

WHAT 'S INCLUDED?

- 10 nights accommodation in deluxe 5-Star Hotels as indicated in the Itinerary
- Economy class airfares Damascus-Cairo flying Egypt Air
- Fully escorted by award-winning quilter Jenny Bowker
- Services of a qualified Egyptologist Guide
- All sightseeing (with entrances fees) as indicated
- Meals as stipulated in the itinerary by B (breakfast), L (lunch), D (dinner)
- All transfers and sightseeing tours in private coach as per the Itinerary
- Bottled water on all excursions
- All tipping and gratuities

WHAT 'S NOT INCLUDED?

- International airfares (price on application)
- Beverages with included meals, and any meals not indicated
- Optional Ballooning in Luxor, Optional Nile Cruise and Abu Simbel
- Passport and visa fees, travel insurance
- Excess baggage charges, camera fees, room upgrades, telephone calls, laundry, items of a personal nature.

Optional Nile Cruise on the *AMARCO I* with Abu Simbel

Share Twin/Double \$2,775 per person

Single Supplement \$1,195

For the optional cruise, please contact Impulse Travel for a copy of the complete Itinerary and Inclusion Sheet.