

DENVER BOTANIC
GARDENS

ANCIENT EGYPT & THE NILE

Hosted by Brian Vogt, CEO Denver Botanic Gardens

October 22 – November 2, 2022



DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS

Dear Members and Friends,

It is my great pleasure to be hosting this special trip to Egypt for Trustees, members and friends of Denver Botanic Gardens. As many of you know, my degree is in Classical Antiquity with a special emphasis in Egyptology. I even studied hieroglyphics for a year (though I'm certainly rusty now). In 1996, I spent an amazing 10 days in Egypt. It was truly a trip of a lifetime and I promised myself to return one day with a remarkable group of fellow adventurers.

Hosting a trip with Denver Botanic Gardens will be a special treat – not only due to the convivial company of travelers – but also because we will explore several of the most splendid gardens in Egypt which rise from the desert as oasis jewels. Among these are the Orman Botanical Gardens, which contain an impressive variety of cactus, succulents as well as rare species of ficus, palm, bamboo, and conifers; the Manial Palace, whose compound is surrounded by Persian gardens within an extensive English-landscaped park; and the Aswan Botanical Garden, which occupies an island on the Nile transformed into a vast garden with plants from the Far East, India and parts of Africa.

Our travels begin in Giza, site of the sole remaining Wonder of the Ancient World, the Pyramids of Giza. Here we also visit the great Sphinx and the Solar Boat Museum while enjoying accommodations at the elegant and fabled Mena House Hotel which, since its opening in 1886, has housed numerous dignitaries including King George V and Queen Mary and Winston Churchill, American presidents and others. A short drive away is Cairo, where we visit the acclaimed Egyptian Museum and other sites.

We then fly to Aswan to visit Elephantine Island and the site of ancient Abu, established at the beginning of the 1st dynasty (about 3000 BC). By air excursion, travel to Abu Simbel to see the immense statues of Ramses II and his wife Nefatari, before we embark the five-star Steigenberger Legacy for a three-night cruise on the Nile. The elegant river cruise ship, which features generous deck space and spacious exterior cabins, is the perfect venue for observing life along the banks of the Nile while enjoying time for relaxation or a dip in the small pool. The river is also the perfect place from which to see many of Egypt's most spectacular ancient monuments including the ruins of the temple of Kom Ombo and the beautifully preserved temple of Edfu.

Upon arrival at Luxor, the ship serves as our base for visiting the Temples of Karnak and Luxor and the avenue of sphinxes that connect them. We will also visit the Valley of the Kings, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1979, where Tutankhamun's tomb was unearthed along with many of the glittering finds now housed in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo; and the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, the only woman ever to reign over Egypt as pharaoh. Our last evening in Luxor will be at the sumptuous Winter Palace Hotel, overlooking the Nile and surrounded by elegant gardens. Formerly a 19th-century palace and winter home of the Egyptian royal family, it was here that Howard Carter announced he had discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun and Agatha Christie wrote her famed 1937 novel, *Death on the Nile*.

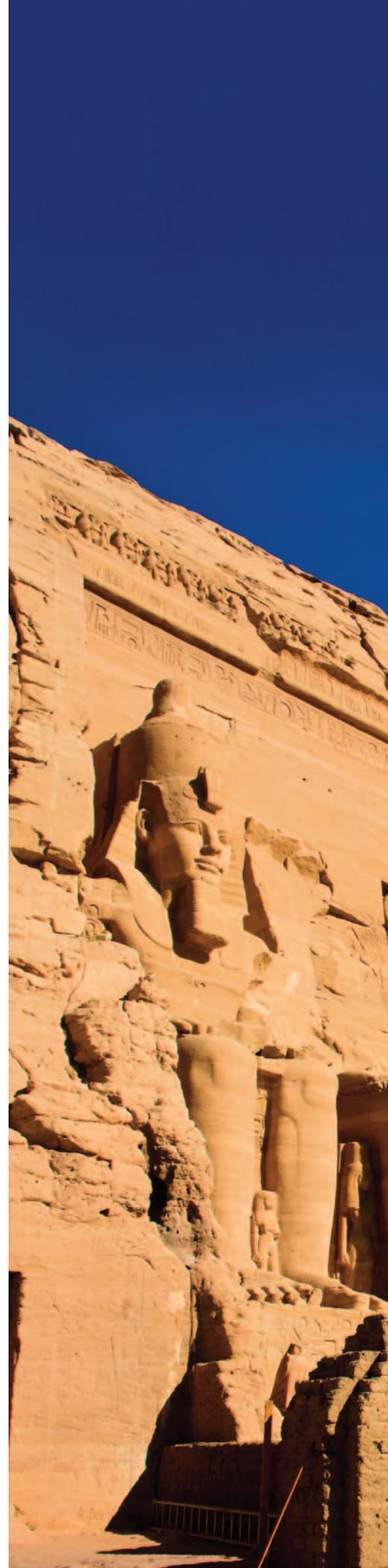
This splendid tour of Egypt has been designed to highlight its ancient past and explore its contemporary gardens. I invite you to peruse the itinerary in the following pages and hope you will join me and fellow members of the Denver Botanic Gardens on this rewarding travel experience.

Onward,



Brian Vogt, CEO
Denver Botanic Gardens

We have selected as our tour operator Thalassa Journeys, whose principals are from Greece and bring five decades of experience in serving America's leading cultural, educational and scientific institutions on high-quality educational travel programs. DBG's Panayoti Kelaidis served as the lecturer on a Thalassa Journeys trip in Greece and his enthusiasm for the experience led to our choice of this distinctive tour for our members. **Please call Thalassa Journeys at 866-633-3611 for information and reservations.**



Abu Simbel Temple



DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS HOST



Brian Vogt has been CEO of Denver Botanic Gardens since April 2007. In that time, attendance has grown to over 1.3 million per year, programs have been launched to address access to food in urban areas, a comprehensive diversity and inclusion project has been integrated into daily activity, the Center for Global Initiatives was launched focusing on plant research and crop genetics, and an exhibit program has curated works by legends such as Henry Moore, Dale Chihuly and Alexander Calder. Under his leadership, over \$116 million has been raised to take a Master Development Plan from concept to completion. The capstone project of the Plan, the \$40 million Freyer – Newman Center, was completed in the spring of 2020.

Previous professional experience includes three Cabinet positions for the State of Colorado and President of the South Metro Chamber of Commerce. Vogt serves as Past President of the Board of the American Public Gardens Association and as Board Treasurer for Plant Select. He was awarded the 2019 Cynthia Pratt Laughlin Medal for leadership in environmental protection and quality of life from the Garden Club of America.

He is an active participant with many civic organizations in the Denver area and speaks frequently on intentional culture, regeneration, adaptation and leadership. He holds a BA in Classical Antiquity, specializing in Egyptology, from the University of Colorado.





JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

Tour Egypt's finest gardens including the Orman Botanical Gardens (Giza Royal Palace Gardens), the Persian gardens at Manial Palace, and the Aswan Botanical Gardens with flora from Asia, India and parts of Africa.

From the comfort of our Nile River ship, cruise from Aswan to Luxor, visiting iconic ancient sites while observing village life along the river.

Enjoy the convivial company of our DBG group, limited to 30 travelers.

ITINERARY

Saturday, October 22, 2022

DEPART THE USA

Depart Denver for Cairo, Egypt.

Suggested flight: Lufthansa via Frankfurt, departing Denver at 5:35 pm / arriving Cairo on October 23 at 6:40 pm.

Sunday, October 23

CAIRO

Throughout history Egyptians have called their homeland – *Umm Ad Dunya* – “Mother of the World,” because of the country’s achievements in religion, culture and science. We start our journey of discovery in this remarkable land in Giza, Egypt’s most important city since 2000 BC. Our representative will meet you at the airport and assist through immigration and customs formalities, along with our experienced Thalassa Journeys Trip Director who will accompany the trip throughout. Transfer by deluxe coach to the renowned *Mena House Hotel*, located near the Pyramids at Giza, for our three-night stay.

Meals: D

Monday, October 24

GIZA & ORMAN BOTANICAL GARDENS

After breakfast, tour the sole remaining Wonder of the Ancient World, the Pyramids of Giza. Built as massive tombs on the orders of the pharaohs nearly 4000 years ago, the extraordinary shape, impeccable geometry and sheer bulk of the Giza Pyramids stand as tribute to the achievements of ancient Egypt. Beside the Great Pyramid of Cheops (the oldest and largest of the three pyramids) lies the Giza Solar Boat Museum. View the display of a graceful 143-foot-long boat taken from the site. Also take a close look at the Sphinx, a limestone statue of a mythical creature with the body of a lion and the head of a human, believed to have been built during the reign of

the pharaoh Khafre (c.2558–2532 BC).

Enjoy lunch at the *Cairo Marriot Hotel* before a visit to the Orman Botanical Gardens. These Gardens (Giza Royal Palace Gardens) were first established during the reign of Khedive Ismaiel (1830-1895) and contain an impressive variety of plant forms including cactus, succulents as well as rare species of ficus, palm, bamboo and conifers. There is a herbarium building; rock, rose and cactus gardens; and the notable lotus pond. Gather this evening with fellow travelers for a welcome cocktail reception and dinner.

Meals: B,L,D

Tuesday, October 25

EGYPTIAN MUSEUM & MANIAL PALACE BOTANICAL GARDEN

Start the day at the acclaimed Egyptian Museum, in downtown Cairo, on the north side of Tahrir Square (if the new Grand Egyptian Museum is opened to the public by the time of our visit, we will view the described ancient artifacts in this magnificent museum). One of the world’s most important collections of ancient artifacts including those of King

Tutankhamen. Other museum masterpieces include the Narmer Palette, a 5,000-year-old ceremonial engraving; the statue of Khafre, builder of the second pyramid at Giza; and the Tanis collection, a huge selection of glittering objects unearthed from six tombs in 1939.

After lunch at the nearby *Steigenberger El Tahrir Hotel*, proceed to the Manial Palace and Museum. The Palace interiors and architecture are a fascinating merging of Ottoman, Moorish, Persian and European rococo style. Situated on Rhoda Island on a small branch of the Nile, the compound is surrounded by Persian gardens within an extensive English-landscaped park.

Meals: B,L,D

Wednesday, October 26

CAIRO/ASWAN & ELEPHANTINE ISLAND

Transfer to Cairo’s domestic airport for a morning flight to Aswan. Upon arrival in Aswan, transfer to the *Movenpick Aswan Hotel* for two nights. After lunch at a local restaurant, visit the Aswan Botanical Garden that occupies an island on the Nile to the west of Elephantine Island. Kitchener’s Island, which it is now called, was given to Lord Kitchener in the



Elephantine Island

FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL TOLL-FREE 866-633-3611



Tutankhamun's Mask

1890s when he was commander of the Egyptian army. He transformed the island into a vast garden with plants from the Far East, India and parts of Africa, which are now filled with birds as well as hundreds of species of flora.

Also visit Elephantine Island by motorboat. Its southern end comprises the site of ancient Abu. At the beginning of the 1st dynasty (about 3000 BC) a fortress was built there to establish Egypt's southern frontier. Abu soon became an important customs point and trading center. It remained strategically significant throughout the Pharaonic period as a departure point for the military and commercial expeditions into Nubia (an ancient region in northeast Africa) and the south.
Meals: B,L,D

Thursday, October 27
ASWAN/ABU SIMBEL/ASWAN

Travel today via round trip air excursion to Abu Simbel to visit the immense statues of Ramses II and his wife Nefertari. The Great Temple stands 98 feet high and 115 feet long with four seated colossal statues flanking the entrance, depicting Ramesses II on his throne. Beneath these giant figures are smaller statues (still larger than life-sized) depicting Ramesses' conquered enemies: the Nubians, Libyans and Hittites. The structures were created, at least in part, to celebrate Ramesses' victory over the Hittites at the Battle of Kadesh in 1274 BC. Also noteworthy is that by means of complex engineering in the 1960s, the temples were salvaged from the rising waters of the Nile River caused by erection of the Aswan High Dam. Return to the *Movenpick Aswan Hotel* for lunch, dinner and overnight.
Meals: B,L,D

Friday, October 28
ASWAN & Embark the NILE RIVER CRUISE

After breakfast, visit the Aswan High Dam. After



Manial Palace lush garden

11 years of construction, the Aswan High Dam across the Nile River was completed on July 21, 1970. More than two miles long at its crest, the massive \$1 billion project ended the cycle of flood and drought in the Nile River region. The dam impounds the floodwaters, releasing them when needed to maximize their utility on irrigated land, to water hundreds of thousands of new acres, to improve navigation both above and below Aswan and to generate electric power. Originally backed by US and British financing until both nations withdrew from the project in 1956 because of a political dispute; Soviet loans and proceeds from Suez Canal tolls allowed the Egyptians to begin work on the Aswan High Dam in 1960. Afterwards, continue to Philae, by motorboat, to this ancient island temple dedicated to the goddess Isis. See the courts, colonnades, halls and learn about the temple's history. This afternoon embark the five-star *Steigenberger Legacy* for a three night cruise on the Nile.
Meals: B at hotel/ L & D on board.

Saturday, October 29
ASWAN/KOM OMBO/EDFU/LUXOR

Sail on the *Steigenberger Legacy* to Kom Ombo and visit ruins of a unique Egyptian

temple, unusual for the fact that it is a double temple dedicated to two different deities. Halls, courts and sanctuaries are almost identical on each side of this sacred complex. The southern half of the temple was dedicated to the crocodile god Sobek, god of fertility and creator of the world; while the northern part of the temple was dedicated to the falcon god Haroeris ("Horus the Elder").

Continue by ship to Edfu to visit one of the best preserved of all Egypt's temples. The inscriptions on its walls provide important information on language, myth and religion during the Greco-Roman period in ancient Egypt. Explore the temples and learn more about the most significant deities from ancient Egypt. Return to the ship and continue our journey to Luxor arriving in the evening.
Meals: B, L, D on the ship

Sunday, October 30
LUXOR

The modern town of Luxor is the site of the famous city of Thebes. It was the capital of Egypt from the twelfth dynasty and reached its zenith during the New Kingdom. This morning tour the Temples of Karnak and Luxor on the



Karnak Temple in Luxor

East Bank of Luxor. Karnak is the name for the ancient Temple of Amun at Thebes, believed to have been an observatory as well as a place of worship. The largest temple complex ever built represents the combined achievement of many generations of ancient builders. It consists of three main temples, smaller enclosed temples and several outer temples located about 2 miles north of Luxor.

Then move to Luxor Temple, dedicated to Amun, king of the gods. There is an avenue of sphinxes connecting it to the Temple of Amun at Karnak. Throughout history The Temple of Luxor has always been a sacred site. After Egypt's pagan period, a Christian church and monastery were located here, followed by the 13th-century Mosque of Abu el-Haggag that continues to be used today. Overnight on board docked in Luxor.

Meals: B, L, D on board.

Monday, October 31

LUXOR / Disembark

Disembark after breakfast and tour the West Bank of Luxor. First stop is the Valley of the Kings' Necropolis of Thebes. Visit several tombs of various dynasties, which were cut into the mountainside. One of the most famous archaeological sites in the world (a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1979), it was in this valley that the remains of King Tutankhamun were excavated.

After visiting the tombs continue to the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, the only woman ever to reign over Egypt as pharaoh after the death of her husband, Thutmose II. Hatshepsut died in 1458 BC and was buried in the Valley of the Kings. Our last stop on the West Bank will be to view the Colossi of Memnon, two monumental statues representing Amenhotep III (1386-1353 BC) of the 18th Dynasty. Later, check in at the *Sofitel Winter Palace Hotel*.

Meals: B on the ship/ L & D at the hotel

Tuesday, November 1

LUXOR/CAIRO

Enjoy a relaxing morning in Luxor with time at leisure. Fly in the late afternoon from Luxor to Cairo and transfer to a *Le Meridien Airport Cairo Hotel* where we will enjoy a festive farewell dinner. Shortly before midnight, transfer to the international airport for your return flight to the USA.

Meals: B, D

Wednesday, November 2

CAIRO/USA

Suggested flight: Depart Cairo at 1:55 AM on our suggested Lufthansa flight to Denver via Frankfurt, arriving in Denver the same day (November 2) at 3:45PM.



STEIGENBERGER LEGACY

The elegant river cruise ship *Steigenberger Legacy* has 74 spacious cabins with two lower beds. Each cabin measures 205 square feet. All cabins face outside and feature large windows allowing views of the river, as well as private bathroom with shower, individually controlled air-conditioning, mini-bar, safe, internet access, satellite TV, phone for international calls, and other amenities. While aboard the *Legacy* relax on the spacious sun deck and view the unique panorama of life along the Nile; take a dip in a small pool; exercise in the fitness room; or refresh yourself in the beauty salon. Comfortable public rooms, warm and friendly service staff, and a great restaurant, will complement our Egyptian experience.



Cruising the Nile river



Aswan Botanical Gardens



Temple Kom Ombo

FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL TOLL-FREE 866-633-3611

RATE

\$6,890 per person, double occupancy
\$1,030 single room & cabin supplement

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Luxury hotel accommodations at the *Marriott Mena House Hotel in Cairo* (3 nights), *Movenpick Aswan Hotel* (2 nights), *Sofitel Winter Palace Hotel in Luxor* (1 night), *Le Meridien Cairo Airport Hotel* (day room).
- Three nights' Nile Cruise from Aswan to Luxor onboard the *M/S Steigenberger Legacy*.
- American breakfast each morning and dinner each evening at the hotel or on board the cruise.
- Lunch every day except for October 23 and November 1.
- Mineral water, wine or beer with lunch and dinner.
- Discussions and lectures by Brian Vogt, CEO, Denver Botanic Gardens.
- Domestic airfare – Cairo to Aswan; Aswan to Abu Simbel (round trip); Luxor to Cairo.
- Sightseeing tours including transportation by deluxe coach, entrance fees and expert English-speaking guide.
- Services of Thalassa Journeys Trip Director throughout the trip.
- Group airport transfers at designated times for guests arriving in Cairo on October 23 and departing Cairo on November 1.
- Gratuities to hotel staff, ship's crew, porters, drivers and guides.
- Egyptian entry visa fee.
- All local taxes, including port dues and embarkation taxes.
- Complete pre-departure material.

NOT INCLUDED: International airfare; travel insurance; expenses of personal nature; any items not specified in the itinerary or in the Program Inclusions.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The Nile cruise program can be amended without prior notice due to navigational restrictions or may change in sequence but not in visits.



Solar boat

REGISTRATION

Enclosed is my check or credit card no. for \$ _____ (\$ 1,000 per person) as a deposit to hold _____ place(s) on ***Ancient Egypt and the Nile***, October 22 - November 2, 2022, with Denver Botanic Gardens. I understand that final payment is due ninety (90) days prior to departure and is payable by check or credit card.

Please make check payable to and mail with this registration form to:
Thalassa Journeys 8815 Conroy-Windermere Rd., Suite 406, Orlando, FL 32835
Phone Toll-Free: (866) 633-3611

AmEx Discover Visa MasterCard

No. _____

Exp. _____ 3- or 4-Digit Security Code _____

Double accommodation Single accommodation Share with _____

FIRST MIDDLE LAST (AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR PASSPORT)

FIRST MIDDLE LAST (AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR PASSPORT)

ADDRESS _____

Each participant must sign below: I/We have read the "General Information" section and agree to its terms.

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (HOME) _____ (CELL) _____ SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

E-MAIL _____ SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

GENERAL INFORMATION

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Payment can be made by personal check or charged to a credit card.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: All cancellations are subject to a \$300 per person administrative fee. Cancellations received 61-90 days prior to departure will be assessed a penalty equal to 50% of the total program cost per person. Cancellations received within 60 days of departure are subject to 100% cancellation penalties. Requests for cancellations must be made in writing. No refunds will be made for any part of this program in which you choose not to participate.

INSURANCE: We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

ITINERARY: The itinerary, accommodations and arrangements are subject to change at the discretion of Thalassa Journeys.

RESPONSIBILITY: Please read carefully the following terms and conditions, which constitute the sole, legally enforceable agreements between the traveler and Thalassa Journeys and the tour's sponsoring organization. Thalassa Journeys and the tour's sponsoring organization act solely as agents for the traveler with respect to all transportation, hotel and other tour arrangements. In that capacity, we exercise all reasonable care possible to ensure the traveler's safety and satisfaction, but, we neither assume nor bear any responsibility or liability for any injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity arising in connection with the services of any ship, airplane, train, automobile, motor coach, carriage or other conveyance, or the actions of any third-party, involved in carrying the traveler or in affecting these tours. We are not responsible for damages, additional expenses, or any other losses due to cancellation, delay or other changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, civil disturbances, acts or threats of terrorism, travel warnings or bans, termination or suspension of war risks or other carrier insurance, quarantine, acts of God or other causes beyond our control. All such losses must be borne by the traveler, and tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. In the event of cancellation, delay or rescheduling mandated by any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by us, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as we are able to recover on the traveler's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc., but, we shall not have any obligation or liability to the traveler beyond the foregoing. We reserve the right to make alterations to the tour's itinerary and to substitute hotels, transportation methods, or lecturers if this is required. We reserve the right to cancel, delay, or reschedule any tour prior to departure, and, so long as this is not due to any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall be entitled to a full refund of all monies paid to that point if he/she so desires. No refund shall be made for any unused portion of any tour. By forwarding their deposit(s), the traveler certifies that he/she and/or their dependents, minors or others covered thereby do not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that could create a hazard for them or other travelers. We reserve the right to decline to accept or to decline to retain any person as a member of any tour should such person's health, condition or actions adversely affect or threaten the welfare or safety of other travelers or impede the tour. Baggage or valuables brought on the tour shall be transported, handled or stored at the traveler's risk entirely, and, we shall bear no liability or responsibility for any damage or other loss thereto. Resolution of any disputes arising hereunder shall be affected exclusively in the State or Federal courts presiding in the State of Florida, pursuant to applicable Florida law.

RATES: Tour costs are based upon current airfares, tariffs, and currency values. While we do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change.

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**Join Denver Botanic Garden CEO, Brian Vogt, on a custom journey
to Ancient Egypt & the Nile.**

October 22 – November 2, 2022

Botanical garden on Kitchener's Island

