

Modern Tours of Ancient Civilizations

Insight Vacations shows travelers the best of Jordan, Egypt and the Eastern Mediterranean

By Michelle White

What better way to gain perspective than by sizing up the Sphinx? Sheer size aside, the vastness of time evident in the ancient surroundings lends an almost mystical power to such majestic sights. From classical Greek ruins to the astounding Egyptian pyramids, countless travelers have been humbled by the scale of these extraordinary monuments.

Insight Vacations offers several itineraries that explore some of the world's most exotic wonders. This year, Insight is expanding its Ancient Civilizations collection to unveil four new tour packages.

The **Jordan Experience** is a six-day adventure featuring the country's major attractions and dramatic landscapes. Traverse the Siq, a narrow gorge, to access the spectacular "lost city" of Petra, whose towering rose-colored sandstone cliffs display ornate carvings. Visit Jerash, the finest surviving example of a Greco-Roman city, and Mount Nebo, where Moses viewed the Promised Land. Land-only prices start at \$850 per person.

Discover Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania and Greece with the 13-day **Aegean, Danube & Black Sea Explorer** vacation. Soak up the sights — from the wondrous Topkapi Palace in Turkey, where the former homes of sultans have been converted into a series of museums, to Bulgaria's Nesebar with its wooden fishing villages, cobbled streets and ancient churches. Roam the striking Romanian alpine scenery surrounding the fortified Bran Castle, known also as Dracula's Castle. Absorb the mythical atmosphere of the Temple of Apollo at Delphi and the singular Parthenon. Land-only prices start at \$2,050 per person.

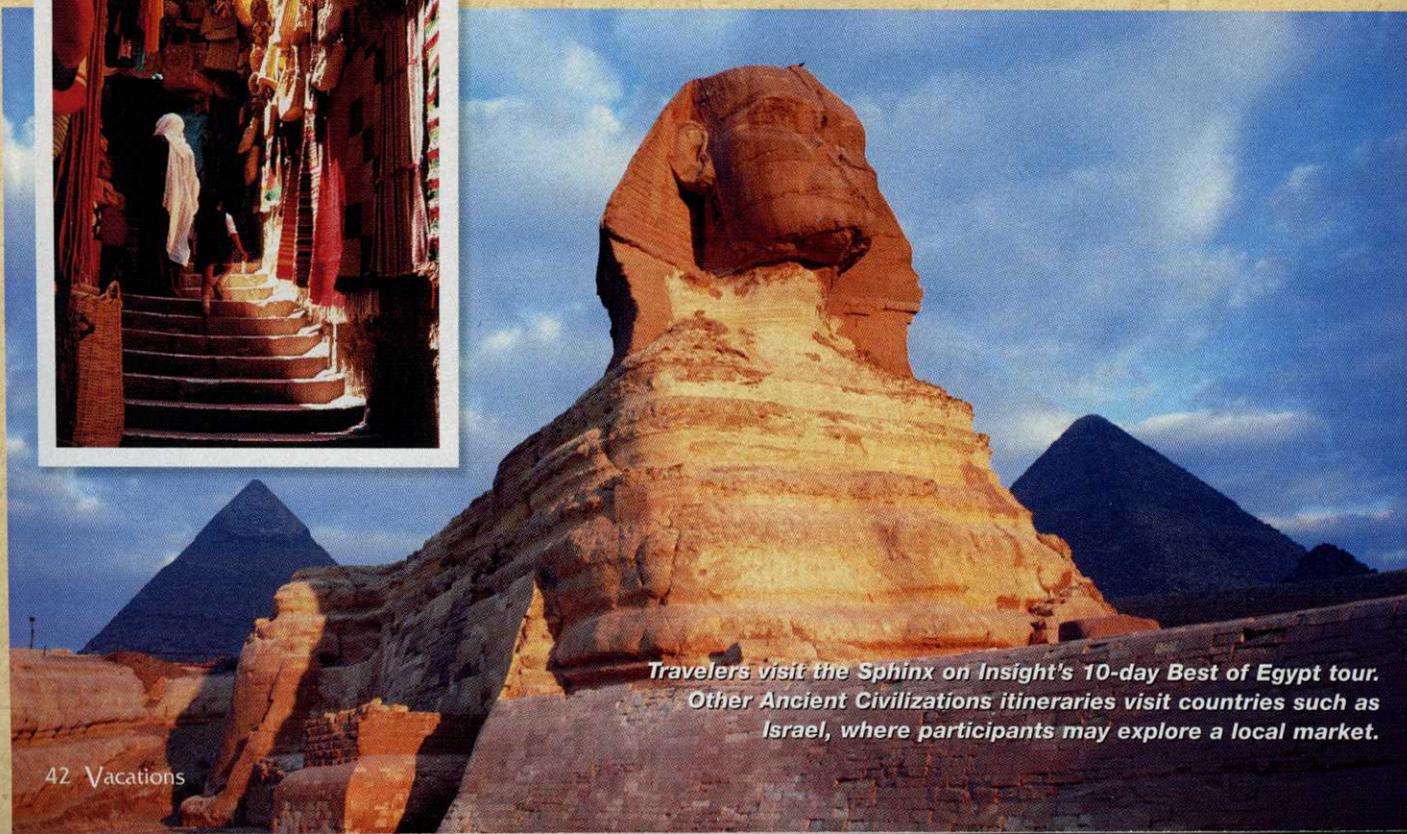
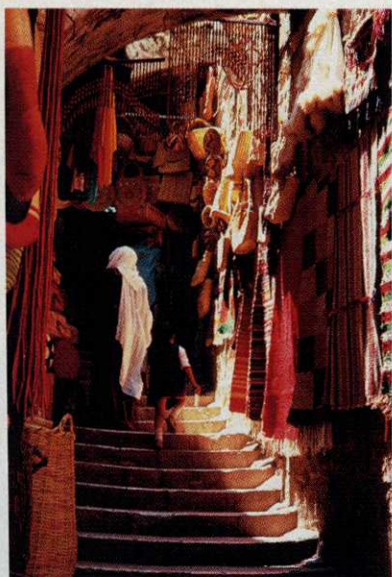
The 10-day **Best of Egypt** tour features varied modes of transport through ever-changing scenery. Board an overnight sleeper train for the journey between Cairo and Aswan. Sail in a traditional felucca around Aswan's Botanical Gardens. Cruise for three nights on the Nile aboard a luxury midsized ship. The remainder of the time, you'll sight-see by air-conditioned motor coach. Marvel at one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, the Sphinx and the pyramids at Giza. Behold the world's oldest pyramid at Sakkara, and the world's largest temple complex at Karnak. Prices for the land/cruise portion start at \$1,299 per person.

For a comprehensive odyssey in Egypt, opt

for the 18-day **Grand Tour of Egypt**. In-depth sightseeing in Alexandria includes the Roman Amphitheatre and the Roman Catacombs, and Cairo boasts the Egyptian Museum, home to treasure recovered from the tomb of Tutankhamen. Early risers can join the optional three-hour ascent of Mount Sinai for an unforgettable sunrise. Then you'll enjoy a seven-night Nile cruise aboard a luxury vessel. You'll visit the Temple of Hathor, one of the best-preserved temples in Egypt, and enjoy a spectacular sound and light show at Karnak. Prices for the land/cruise portion start at \$2,625 per person.

Insight assures personalized service, first-class accommodations and unrivaled comfort. Each tour allows for a maximum of 40 guests. Motor coaches have been reconfigured to give travelers the luxury of up to 100 percent more legroom than on standard touring coaches. Guests will enjoy accommodations in the most desirable locations, whether in first-class or deluxe hotels. Each Insight tour includes gourmet meals and a special high-light dinner with wine and local entertainment.

Penetrate the mysteries of awe-inspiring ancient civilizations worldwide with Insight. For more information, call Vacations To Go, (800) 680-2858, or visit www.TourVacationsToGo.com/Insight. ▲



Travelers visit the Sphinx on Insight's 10-day Best of Egypt tour. Other Ancient Civilizations itineraries visit countries such as Israel, where participants may explore a local market.