



REGULAR FEATURE  
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Say the word Egypt and for many people it conjures up feelings of longing to go there to see and feel for themselves the majesty of the pyramids and the awesome mystery of the Sphinx.

In December 2005, I was one of a few lucky people who ventured inside the compound and actually touched the awesome Sphinx. This experience was one of many I had on a privately escorted fourteen-day tour of Egypt. Together with a small group of spiritually-minded people, we travelled through Egypt from the Old Kingdom through to the New Kingdom visiting all the usual sites plus a few that most people never get to see. Over the next two issues of *Your Stars*, I will be sharing some of my special journey with you and in particular, some very special metaphysical experiences that I had along the way.

Picture this for a moment: It is just before sunrise on a chilly winter's morning and you are standing in the sands of the Giza Plateau of Egypt between the gigantic paws of the majestic Sphinx gazing up at its awesome face as it is bathed in yellow lights. You can hear the sounds of Cairo waking up behind you and as the first shafts of sunlight appear on the horizon, the lights are turned off and the Sphinx greets the new day as the first rays of the sun light up its face.

For many years now this is an experience that has been reserved for Heads of State and the privileged few, because the Sphinx has been surrounded by a high excavation wall that protects it from



the ravages of tourism. Tourists are not allowed into the compound and have to content themselves with a view from afar. The wall still allows you a fantastic view of the Sphinx, but you can't walk around it or touch its ancient stones.

At the start of the journey at the fabulous Mena House Oberoi Hotel in Cairo, our tour guide asked us what brought us "home" to Egypt and what we wanted from the trip – any special things we wanted to do or see. We discovered that the itinerary was just a guide. Not only that, we learned that we would in the majority of cases have the sites completely to ourselves at times when they were not open to the public. We also learned of sites that we would see that are never open to the public. Another special part of our time in Egypt was going to be the lectures given by Dr Zahi Hawass, the head of Egyptian Antiquities (nothing happens in archaeological circles without Dr Hawass being involved), Dr Mark Lehner an expert on the Giza Plateau excavations and Robert Bauval author of several books namely *The Orion Mystery*, *Keeper*

*of Genesis and The Message of the Sphinx* to name a few.

For me it really did feel like going home to Egypt even though, until arriving in Egypt, I didn't realise I had such a strong connection to ancient Egypt. It all seemed a little unreal at first. The Mena House is near the gates to the entrance of the Giza Plateau excavation site that is home to the pyramids, the Sphinx plus a host of other temples. Also within the site, is a city that was home to the workers who built the pyramids. The pyramids loom up behind The Mena House and seeing them for the first time and the enormity of their size just took my breath away.

Robert Bauval started the round of lectures and we were fortunate to spend several days in his company gaining first hand knowledge about the links between the ancient monuments and the cosmos. It was interesting to hear about the alignment of the pyramids to the star system Orion and to hear his theory that the Sphinx was built around 11,500 years ago. This places the time