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### **Note from Shelia...**

As many of you know, Luminati, Inc. has had an ongoing affiliation with Quest Travel for over ten years. Quest Travel has been rated one of the top Tour Providers in Egypt for five years. One of many reasons that Quest is bestowed this award is its President, Mohamed Nazmy. Although Mohamed suffered a stroke this past spring, I recently returned from Egypt and am happy to say that he is well on his way to recovery. His commitment to providing quality service and ensuring each and every traveler has a trip of a lifetime is a motivating factor in his speedy recovery. This and the many 'get well soon' messages from past travelers were received with much gratitude. He and I thank you for these.

In addition, I am pleased to announce several upcoming trips that reflect Luminati's desire to experience Egypt in new and exciting ways. 2009 begins with two extraordinary journeys to include the [Holy Family Trail Tour](#) with Paul Perry (7-20 February, 2009). Based on his book, [Jesus in Egypt](#) and the documentary, *Jesus: The Lost Years*, join Paul as he retraces path that the Holy Family took through Egypt, seeing artifacts such as the footprint of Jesus, standing where many others have seen visions of Mary, and hearing the sacred oral traditions from Coptic Christian Leaders.

Just as exciting is our upcoming journey, which is highlighted in this issue, [Ancient Oracles of Egypt](#) with Dr. Raymond Moody. Known for his revolutionary work about Near Death Experiences and book, [Life After Life](#), best selling author, Dr. Moody will be joined by co-author Paul Perry on this exclusive journey. Both of these trips will take travelers to lesser known sites in Egypt such as the Oasis at Siwa. Due to this, also in this issue is an article in our Featured Destination Section about Siwa as well as related news from Egypt.

Closer to home, if you are in the Phoenix or surrounding area, it may interest you to know that the Tempe Angel Group is having a gathering regarding the 11-11-11 journey and event. (See our calendar below for details). *Enjoy the Fall Season!*

Love & Light,  
Shelia Reed  
President, Luminati, Inc.

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**Featured Destination**

## Siwa: Journey to an Ancient Oasis that Fills Your Senses

by Samone Myers



*Within an hour outside of Alexandria the traffic dwindles down to nothing. The noise from the city and conversations of the people on the bus slow naturally as the lush vegetation from the Nile River quickly diminishes into an occasional clump of brush and a few palm trees.*

*We are headed for Siwa, a place in the Western Desert of Egypt or better known as the Sahara Desert. Not many have dared to travel to this ancient oasis.*

*However, those who have set off on this journey hypnotically watch one sand dune after another shift and move under the waves of heat rising. Mirages form and fade. Some find it mesmerizing and invigorating, as if traveling to a different world.*

*We are on a 8-hour journey from Alexandria to Siwa in a comfortable air conditioned bus, and already it is clear that not much has changed since the time Alexander the Great made his trek there to visit the Oracle at the temple of Zeus Ammon in 331 B.C. Only in his day, the same journey took 8 days riding a camel, and was wrought with danger, such as from the Persian Army, insects and animals including scorpions and poisonous snakes, as well as the harsh elements. The expedition was often interrupted. Yet, according to historian Callisthenes in a series of divine interventions, the party would have their path cleared such as the time they was blessed with abundant rain just as they ran out of water. [1]*



In addition, sandstorms were known to virtually come out of nowhere. One of the most famous storms two centuries before had wiped out the advancing Persian Army. Similarly Alexander's journey was interrupted by a terrifying sandstorm, which swept up from the south to obliterate any recognizable landmarks. This made the trail indistinguishable and the landscape featureless as far as the eye could see. The guides employed for the journey were soon lost. Once again, fate was on their side when two ravens appeared and guided the way across the desert. It was even recorded that the ravens limited their flight to accommodate the party, even cawing loudly if the team deviated from the correct path. [2]



Some claim Alexander was unaffected by these incidents because the Oracle priest would later proclaim him as the Son of Zeus Ammon, and that he was destined to rule the world. [3] Due to this and the fact that he had also been deemed Pharaoh, Alexander was allowed to speak directly to 'God.'

He was led into to the heavily-scented darkness of the inner sanctuary of the temple to ask his questions personally. He emerged to his friends who were anxious to know exactly what had transpired. Alexander said only that he had been given 'the answer his heart desired'. [4]

Whatever his questions were, Alexander was so satisfied with the answers that over the remaining eight years of his life he was known to send frequent gifts to the priests at Siwa, together with more questions. Always eager to receive the answers, Alexander, with his unshakable trust in oracles, would act on their advice, whether it suited his purpose or not. [5]

**Alexander the Great after visiting the Oracle at Siwa is said "to have journeyed with one eye on the here and now and the other on eternity" [6]**

Several stories have been passed down through the ages about how the Oracle came to be at Siwa. One of them tells of two black priestesses from the Temple of Amun at Thebes (modern day Luxor) were banished to the desert. One priestess is said to have founded the Temple of Dodona in Greece, where she became the voice of the Oracle. The second, after spending time in Libya, came to Siwa where she became the Siwa Oracle's clairvoyant. Another legend indicates the Siwa temple existed as early as 1385 BC, and was built in honor of Ham, the son of Noah, by Danaus the Egyptian. Still another tale relates the founding of the temple to the Greek god Dionysus. While lost in the Western Desert, Dionysus was said to be dying of thirst when a man appeared and guided him to the spring at Aghurmi. In gratitude, Dionysus erected the temple. [7]

Various ancient sources, including Quintus Curtius and Diodorus, report that the original form of the Oracle at Siwa was the bezel of a ring, which was embellished with gems including rare Siwan emeralds. Today, the people of Siwa know of nearby mines where emeralds are still found. Sometime later, the emeralds were replaced with decorations of the head of a ram, which is a symbol of Ammon (Amun). This was so prevalent that after Alexander's visit to the temple, King Lysimachos of Thrace, one of Alexander's successors, created a coin in the name of Alexander the Great, featuring the portrait of the Macedonian king bearing the horns of Ammon on his head (See image). [8]



*As we near Siwa, the sun begins to set. The passengers on the bus begin to see changes on the horizon. Lush groves of date palms, thousands of olive trees, and lakes among a backdrop of mountains, sand dunes and architecture that has not changed*



*since the day Alexander visited await us. The intense violet blue sky begins to turn into a kaleidoscope of orange, yellow and red hues as the sun begins to sink behind the horizon. The shadows dance across the dunes. We stare out at scenes of men in traditional dress riding donkeys, young men singing around a campfire, and candlelight flickering from interior spaces. A passenger comments that it is like driving on to a Hollywood film set.*



*We exit the bus and breathe in the freshest air our lungs have experienced. We are shown our rooms at the Eco-lodge, then escorted to an outdoor eating area against a large sand dune. Our outside dining area consists of low tables arranged in a square, candlelight, and thick pillows as chairs. Everyone admires the view looking down on the town and the mountain that juts up from the buildings and palm trees. And as the last rays of the sun disappear, we hear a gasp as someone notices the blanket of stars so intense and close, one*

*person instinctively reaches up hoping to touch one.*

*Is it a mirage? No. It's Siwa.*

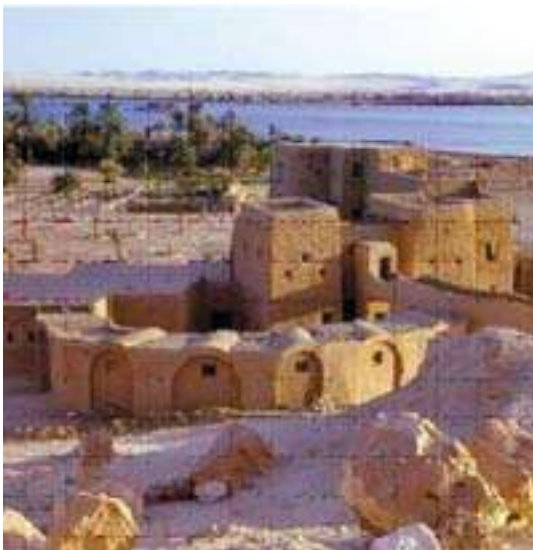
### **Siwa: Today**

Although tourism has drastically increased to Siwa in the past decade, travelers can still experience a rare Oasis and unique setting. The ancient Egyptian name of Siwa was Sekht-am "The Land of Palms" and from Berber Siwa means "prey bird"; protector of the sun god Amon Ra.

Called the 'secrets of Siwa' there are seven interesting antiquity monuments worth seeing within a few minutes drive or donkey ride from the villa. For starters, Shali, the old fortress town that overlooks the Siwa Villa is a must see. It is built of natural rock, made of salt, mud-brick and palm logs and known as the Shali Ghali 'remote city.' The Temple of Ammon and the sanctuary where Alexander visited the Oracle is still intact with ancient inscriptions and stone pillars.



In addition, the Gebel al-Mawta looks great from a distance, but it is even more impressive up close. The name translates to 'Mountain of the Dead.' It is the place where Siwans for over 2000 years buried their loved ones. Mummies can even be seen with hair intact. On the lighter side, many visitors enjoy taking a dip in Cleopatra's bath because of its known healing properties. Local brides swim before their wedding for good luck and fertility reasons. However, it is not known if Cleopatra actually visited the natural pool.



The seventh place to visit is Dacru Mountain. It is where the peace festival is held each year. It is there that Roman tombs by the hundreds can be seen as well as beautiful views of the lakes in the area. There are many other places to visit and activities to take part in locally. A leisurely stroll through the village or a ride on a donkey will allow you to see how the culture of the Berber people and their language, 'taSiwit' has not changed in hundreds of years.

A welcomed modern addition is that Siwa boasts being one of the top 50 Eco-tourism places in the world. Most of the lodging has been built with the use of green technology and concern for the environment. For instance, Adrère Amellal was built by local

tradesmen in the traditional style (see image). There is no electricity, much of the food is sourced from the hotel's organic garden and the pool is fed by an underground spring. Water is solar heated and all of the waste and water is recycled.

To further enhance an already exotic experience in Siwa, Luminati Egyptian Travel has an exciting journey coming up with NY Times Best Selling Authors, Raymond Moody and Paul Perry. Known for their work on Near Death Experiences, these researchers have turned their attention in the last several years to ancient oracles. Taking advantage of the best time of year to visit Siwa, their journey, "Ancient Oracles in Egypt" is 21 February – 1 March 2009. [9]

Siwa offers a rare combination, allowing travelers to glimpse other worldly landscapes, an ancient oasis in the Sahara Desert with lush vegetation, and multi-cultural architecture from ancient civilizations. It also is one of the few remaining places on Earth where pristine conditions exist. The air is fresh and the stars are the same as when our ancestors gazed upon them. In addition, authenticity abounds where rope is still woven from palm leaves and ink is still squeezed from pomegranates. At every turn, mysticism is in the eyes of the people, the stories of yesteryear are passed down and sung around campfires, and statues are said to speak. [10] To experience Siwa in this way is an opportunity to fill your senses, and be forever engrained on your soul.

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*About the Author: Samone Myers runs a nonprofit organization, [www.EarthCURE.org](http://www.EarthCURE.org) and is a Guest Lecturer at the University in Toulouse, France on Risk Management and Sustainability. She enjoys writing, traveling and researching ancient sites and structures.*

#### References

1. *Alexander in Egypt* by Alan M. Fildes & Dr. Joann Fletcher
2. Ibid
3. *Mysteries of the Oracles* By Philipp Vandenberg
4. *Alexander in Egypt* by Alan M. Fildes & Dr. Joann Fletcher
5. Ibid
6. *In the Footsteps of Alexander (Siwa)* [video](#) by BBC News
7. *The Temple of the Oracle at the Siwa Oasis in Egypt* By Jimmy Dunn. There is also a connection at Luxor Temple to Alexander the Great. A scene shows him as the King of two lands honoring the God, Amon.
8. [Article](#) on Alexander the Great in Siwa
9. For more information, pricing and registration details on the Ancient Oracles in Egypt Journey with Raymond Moody and Paul Perry, [click here](#). This exciting journey will include sites in Cairo, Alexandria, and Siwa (21 February to 1 March, 2009) with a Nile Cruise extension visiting temples in Luxor and Aswan (1-7 March, 2009).
10. [Mysteries of the Siwa Oasis](#) - Siwa once being ruled by a king called, Meneclush. "The king lived in a stone and granite palace, and assembled his people in a great square which had four different courts, and in each court there was a statue which caught the sun at different times of the day, and when the sun shone upon the statues they spoke."

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## Noteworthy

### Is Alexander the Great buried in Siwa?



In 1995 Liana Souvaltzi, head of the Greek team exploring the oasis of Siwa in Egypt's western desert discovered a concealed crypt at al-Maraqi, about 10 miles west of town. "As an archeologist you have to respect local legends -- they have a legend here about a famous king being buried with all his weapons and swords. They also have legends the place is holy," she said. She added that Alexander was revered as a deity in Siwa for 1,000 years after his death in 323 B.C.

Fellow male Archaeologists immediately scoffed at the idea and even revoked Souvaltzi's permit. When questioned by the authorities how it is she came upon this tomb, Souvaltzi indicated that she was divinely guided as well as knowledge that the name of the place 'Maraq' is neither Egyptian or Siwan, but Greek. It comes from the Greek word, 'mirakion', which refers to a man who died when he was still young. [1]

It is clear that Souvaltzi had several strikes against her. First, she is a woman. And second, she is metaphysically oriented. However, a key validation of Alexander being buried in Siwa comes from Alexander himself. According to historians, he asked on his deathbed to be buried at the Ammoneion of the Siwa Oasis. [2]

In addition, it is interesting to note that Alexander the Great and Jesus Christ died at the age of 33. They were both considered the 'Son of God,' and had 'miracles' occur post death. According to the historian Plutarch regarding Alexander, "The king's body had been lying in the coffin for six days while everybody's attention had been diverted from the obsequies to forming a government...when Alexander's friends eventually found time to attend to his corpse, the men who entered the tent saw that no decay had set into it and that there was not even the slightest discoloration." [3]

1. The Tomb of Alexander, Reuter's press release, Wednesday, Feb 1995

2. Historians Diodoros (18.3.5), Curtius Rufus (10.5.4), and Justin (12. 15.7) - In Search of Alexander's Tomb by Elizabeth Kosmetatou\

3. Hunting Alexander's Tomb by Robert S. Bianchi

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## News from Egypt

### Obama on the Nile

By THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

Published: June 11, 2008

I cannot tell a lie: Many Egyptians and other Arab Muslims really like him and hope that he wins the presidency. I have had a chance to observe several U.S. elections from abroad, but it has been unusually revealing to be in Egypt as Barack Hussein Obama became the Democrats' nominee for president of the United States. While Obama, who was raised a Christian, is constantly assuring Americans that he is not a Muslim, Egyptians are amazed, excited and agog that America might elect a black man whose father's family was of Muslim heritage. [Click here](#) for full article

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### The Oasis of Siwa, Egypt

By Sylvia Smith for CNN March 2006

A remote Egyptian oasis, one of the least polluted places on Earth, has introduced a leading proponent of organic farming to its unique ecosystem and to some of the problems that confront even the most environmentally aware communities. As part of the official royal visit to Egypt, Britain's Prince Charles and his wife, the Duchess of Cornwall, visited Siwa, a patch of green at the heart of the Sahara desert. What undoubtedly interested the prince most is that no pesticides or artificial fertilizer have ever been used in the oasis. It is that purity that is Siwa's chief advantage and its greatest problem. For full article, [click here](#).

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### Underwater Museum Planned for Egypt's Alexandria

Andrew Bosstone for National Geographic News

September 16, 2008

Cleopatra's palace sank long ago into the Mediterranean, but visitors to Alexandria, Egypt may eventually view the complex's remnants via the world's first underwater museum. A site for the museum has been proposed near the [New Library of Alexandria](#), where the famed queen of Egypt is believed to have sheltered herself with her lover Marc Antony before taking her own life.

In early September the United Nations cultural agency, UNESCO, announced it is funding a team to determine if such a museum would damage the submerged artifacts. If built, the museum could display treasures and monuments of her palace, which once stood on an island in one of the largest human-made bays in the world but were submerged by earthquakes from the fourth century A.D. onward. The bay is filled archaeological sunken treasures. In the 1990s archaeologist-divers found thousands of objects: 26 sphinxes, statues bearing gifts to the gods, blocks weighing up to 56 tons, and even Roman and Greek shipwrecks. For full article, [click here](#).

For other information about Alexandria, the famed city of Cleopatra and Mark Anthony and called the '**Pearl of the Mediterranean**,' [click here](#).

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### **Siwan Holistic Medicine**

There are many Siwans who are skilled in homeopathic medicine. Any kind of work that is for the community good is performed for free in Siwa, and most healers will refuse money unless healing is their only form of livelihood. Men and women healers specialize in mixing medicines, setting broken bones, Qur'anic healing and midwifery. Below are two examples.

Preventative Medicine: Onion and garlic are kinds of natural antibiotic and eating them in large amounts is an excellent way to fend off colds and illnesses year round. Eating them in large amounts, however, can also result in unpleasant odors, so Siwans prefer to spend one week every summer eating garlic and onion in the privacy of their garden. In winter, people drink a shot glass of olive oil and eat a few dates to strengthen the body and guard against the chill.

Rheumatism: Sand baths taken at the sand dunes near Dakrur Mountain are said to be very good for rheumatism. There are some who travel to Siwa every summer for the curative power of the sand baths alone. The pits are dug in the dry sun and must be ready before noon when the sun is hottest. The bather is buried up to the neck, naked, in hot sand, with an umbrella to protect his head from the broiling sun. The hot, dry sand sucks all the moisture from the body so that the sand turns cold and has to be replaced with fresh hot sand. The bather is then dug out of the sand, swaddled in a blanket, and taken to a tent. The tent is the most difficult part. There, he rolls around on the ground until he dries off and must drink lots of hot lemon juice and fenugreek tea – no cold drinks are allowed. From the tent he is transferred to a closed, airless room. He eats chicken or duck and lots of hot drinks. The next day, it begins all over again, and can continue for 3-7 days, depending on the stamina of the individual. After it's all over, bathers return home but are not allowed to wash for a week.

*To read more about other treatments used in Siwa concerning, pain relief, diarrhea, burns, colds and coughs, snake bites, scorpion stings, and many other holistic remedies, [click here](#).*

## ANCIENT ORACLES OF EGYPT

21 February to 1 March, 2009 (with Nile Cruise Extension 1-7 March)

Join NY Times Best Selling Authors, Raymond Moody and Paul Perry  
on this exclusive journey!



Best-Selling Author of eleven books including Life After Life—which has sold over 13 million copies world wide—and Reunions, Dr. Raymond Moody continues to capture enormous public interest and generate controversy with his work on the near-death experience and visionary encounters with departed loved ones. His recent work is modeled on the ancient Greek's Psychomanteum, or oracles of the dead.

Join Dr. Moody and Best Selling Co-Author, Paul Perry as they continue their research into visions and oracles in Ancient Egypt. Be a part of their ground-breaking work as they dig deeper into the realm of the paranormal. For more information on Dr. Moody visit

his web site at [www.lifeafterlife.com](http://www.lifeafterlife.com) and Paul Perry's site at [www.jesusinegypt.com](http://www.jesusinegypt.com).

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### 2008

**November 2** *Final date to Register* for Temple of Human Pilgrimage / Land Package Only Available

**November 8** **Egyptian 11-11-11 Gathering, Tempe Angel Group**, for information call Teryl at 480-491-0229

**December 3-13, 2008** - Tania Marie & Mykal Aubry, "Temple of Human"; Empower Your Being in Ancient Egypt - [Click here](#) to find out more information and to register.

### 2009

**Feb 7-20, 2009** - "Holy Family Trail Tour" with Paul Perry - [Click here](#) to find out more information & to register.

**Feb 21 - Mar 1, 2009** - "Siwa Oracle of Ancient Egypt" with Raymond Moody & Paul Perry - Nile Cruise Extension added to trip, March 1-7, 2009, [Click here](#) to find out more information & to register.

**Apr 22-May 6, 2009** - "Let's Play!"; Journey to Egypt with Dr. Kathy Kamin and Rose McCorkle. **NEW!!!** Information to be posted on the website soon.

**Nov 1-12, 2009** - "Enter the Doorway of 11-11-11"; Manifesting with Group Consciousness with Teryl D'SmithP & Loretta Greazzo. [Click here](#) to find out more information & to register.

**Nov 15-24, 2009** - "Manifest & Create from the Heart"; Return to Ancient Egypt with Karyn Diane. [Click here](#) to find out more information & to register.  
2010

**Spring, 2010** - "Through the Sacred Geometry of Golf" with Jaime Zimron - [Click here](#) to find out more information.

*Our 2009 Journeys are exciting and savings programs are available!  
2010 Journeys are right around the corner!*

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## Travel Tip

One of the ladies that will be traveling to Egypt with us in a couple of weeks has sent this travel tip to combat jet lag. She says that jet lag is caused by the number of hours you are not connected to the earth. For the eleven hour journey from New York to Cairo, you would turn to your right for eleven complete circles upon landing and when returning home you would turn to your left for eleven complete circles. The concept is that if you are standing on the North Pole and looking down at the earth and traveling to the left, you turn to the right. You always turn in the opposite direction you are traveling. Thank you for the tip. I will definitely do this and let you all know how well it works. If any of you have travel tips you would like to share, please let us know and we will share them in our newsletter. [Email me](#).

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## Coming in Next Issue

- Note from Shelia...
- Featured Destination
- Noteworthy
- News from Egypt
- Calendar of Events
- Travel Tip

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