



5 days / 4 nights

Saturday: Luxor - Esna - El Hegz

You leave around 8.30am to visit the temple at Karnak. The god Amun reigned supreme over the Egyptian pantheon for nigh-on 2000 years and each ruler wanted to build their own temple at Karnak to glorify the god. The result is a plethora of constructions from different eras, a fabulous page of history. In late morning you drive in convoy to Esna, the *dahabiya's* home port, and settle in on board. After lunch you set sail for the first time and arrive in El Hegz in late afternoon.

Sunday: El Hegz - El Kaab - Edfu - El Serag

You sail to El Kaab, a town believed to have been founded during the Neolithic period and which is enclosed by a mud-brick wall dating from the period 747-332 BC. Take time out to discover the rock tombs carved into the mountain side. The tomb of Ahmose contains an interesting inscription explaining how the town of Avaris was taken and the Hyksos were driven out. The tomb of Paheri, chief priest of Nekhbet, governor prince and scribe, dates from 1570 BC and contains bas-reliefs depicting details of rural life: farming, hunting and fishing scenes plus a funerary banquet. You lunch on board while sailing, during which you will pass fishermen, cargo boats laden with sugar cane or stones, and feluccas. Stopover at Edfu to visit the temple to the god Horus of Behdet, who is represented as a sun disc with hawk's wings. This temple was begun in 237 BC by Ptolemy III Euergetes but not completed until nearly 200 years later. One of the largest temples in Egypt (26m high, 137m long and 79m wide), it is also one of the best preserved since it lay buried in sand until discovered by the Egyptologist Mariette in the 19th century. The bas-reliefs and inscriptions provide a wealth of information about religion, liturgy and religious ceremonies that included the annual Festival of the Beautiful Reunion when the goddess Hathor left her temple at Dendera to join her husband at Edfu. You sail on to the island of El Serag.

Monday: El Ramady - Djebel Silsileh - Maniha

You sail to the island of El Ramady where you visit an Egyptian village and enjoy a short walk around the island. Then you sail to Djebel Silsileh, which is protected by the god Hapy. On the river's west bank you can see a *speos*, a sanctuary carved out of the rock, dedicated to the god Horemheb and seven other divinities including the local god Sobek. Walking tour of the ancient quarry from which the sandstone to build the temples was extracted. You sail to Maniha.

Tuesday: Maniha - Kom Ombo - Daraw - El Koubaniya

You sail to Kom Ombo, a wonderfully romantic place built on a promontory and looking down onto the Nile. Its temple dedicated to two gods, Sobek the crocodile and Horus the hawk, is perfectly symmetrical in architecture. After visiting the site you return on board to lunch and sail to Daraw, home to an animal market, where you explore the local market in which the intermingling colours and smells of the Middle East and Africa create symphonies for the eyes and nose! Returning on board the *Flâneuse* you sail to El Koubaniya and visit its traditional Nubian village. The Nubians lived in Upper Egypt and were displaced *en masse* during the construction of the Aswan Dam and the creation of Lake Nasser.

Wednesday: El Koubaniya - Aswan

In the morning you sail to Aswan where the *Flâneuse* ties up on the west bank just after passing the Aswan bridge. Excursion to the temple of Philae. Since the lake was created by the dam, the island

of Agilka 5km south of Aswan has been home to the temple of Philae dedicated to Isis, universal mother and wife of Osiris. The temple's bas-reliefs, frescoes and capitals make it one of the loveliest sanctuaries in Egypt.

Practical information

Bring supple travel bags in preference to suitcases as they are easier to store in the cabins.

Pack indoor footwear for on the dahabiya as well as walking shoes for visiting the archaeological sites and disembarking on the river banks, some of which are very sandy!

Bottles of mineral water are provided in your cabin and are renewed every day.

Drinks are included in the cruise price but wines and alcohols are not available on board. If you wish you may bring your own champagne!

Excursion times are given for information only and are subject to change depending on the weather.

4 days / 3 nights

Wednesday: Aswan - Herdiab

You embark at Aswan and lunch on board.

Excursion to the temple of Philae. Since the lake was created by the dam, the island of Agilka 5km south of Aswan has been home to the temple of Philae dedicated to Isis, universal mother and wife of Osiris. The temple's bas-reliefs, frescoes and capitals make it one of the loveliest sanctuaries in Egypt.

You sail to Herdiab where you dine and spend the night.

Thursday: Herdiab - Djebel Silsileh - Fawza

You sail to Kom Ombo, a wonderfully romantic place built on a promontory and looking down onto the Nile. Its temple dedicated to two gods, Sobek the crocodile and Horus the hawk, is perfectly symmetrical in architecture. After visiting the site you return on board to lunch and sail to Djebel Silsileh. On the river's west bank you can see a *speos*, a sanctuary carved out of the rock, dedicated to the god Horemheb and seven other divinities including the local god Sobek. Walking tour of the ancient quarry from which the sandstone to build the temples was extracted.

You sail to Fawza where you dine and spend the night.

Friday: Fawza - Edfu - El Kaab - Esna

You sail to Edfu to visit the temple to the god Horus of Behdet, who is represented as a sun disc with hawk's wings. This temple was begun in 237 BC by Ptolemy III Euergetes but not completed until nearly 200 years later. One of the largest temples in Egypt (26m high, 137m long and 79m wide), it is also one of the best preserved since it lay buried in sand until discovered by the Egyptologist Mariette in the 19th century. The bas-reliefs and inscriptions provide a wealth of information about religion, liturgy and religious ceremonies that included the annual Festival of the Beautiful Reunion when the goddess Hathor left her temple at Dendera to join her husband at Edfu.

You lunch on board while sailing to El Kaab, a town believed to have been founded during the Neolithic period and which is enclosed by a mud-brick wall dating from the period 747-332 BC.

Take time out to discover the rock tombs carved into the mountain side. The tomb of Ahmose contains an interesting inscription explaining how the town of Avaris was taken and the Hyksos were driven out. The tomb of Paheri, chief priest of Nekhbet, governor prince and scribe, dates from 1570 BC and contains bas-reliefs depicting details of rural life: farming, hunting and fishing scenes plus a funerary banquet.

You sail to Esna where you dine and spend the night.

Saturday: Esna - Luxor

After breakfast you drive in convoy to Luxor.