

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S EGYPT

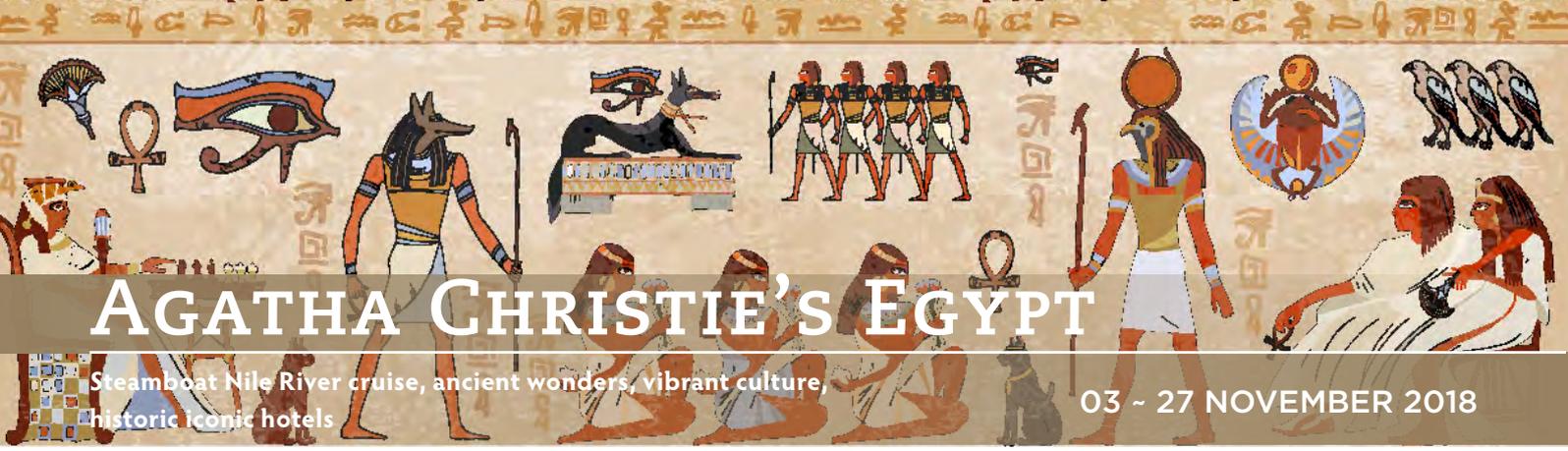


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Travel

Steamboat Nile River cruise,
ancient wonders, vibrant culture,
historic iconic hotels

03 ~ 27 NOVEMBER 2018



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We travel through Agatha Christie's Egypt with sights beyond imagination and history encapsulated at every turn, all done with the beauty, leisure and the glory of a bygone era. We enjoy a private charter of the SS Sudan, the same steamboat on which Agatha Christie cruised the Nile and was motivated to write *Death on the Nile*.

We pass temples, tombs and ruins of the mighty Pharaohs along this life-giving river. We wonder at the oldest and only surviving 'seventh wonder of the world', the Pyramids of Giza, which will be our backdrop when we stay in the historic Mena House Hotel. We trace the footsteps of many archaeologists as we visit the mighty Valley of Kings with its mysticism and mystery. We stay at the historic Old Cataract Hotel and the Winter Palace Hotel, where Agatha Christie stopped to write *Death on the Nile*.

Sue and John have recently travelled to Egypt to check out all facets of this tour and to ensure the country felt safe and suitable to include in our travel menu of great destinations. We were spellbound by the colour, the history, the grandeur, and the culture of Egypt, but best of all by the Egyptian people, who without fail are charming and hospitable and were united in showing us their most extraordinary land. We look forward to sharing that experience with you.



Nile River countryside



Philae Temple

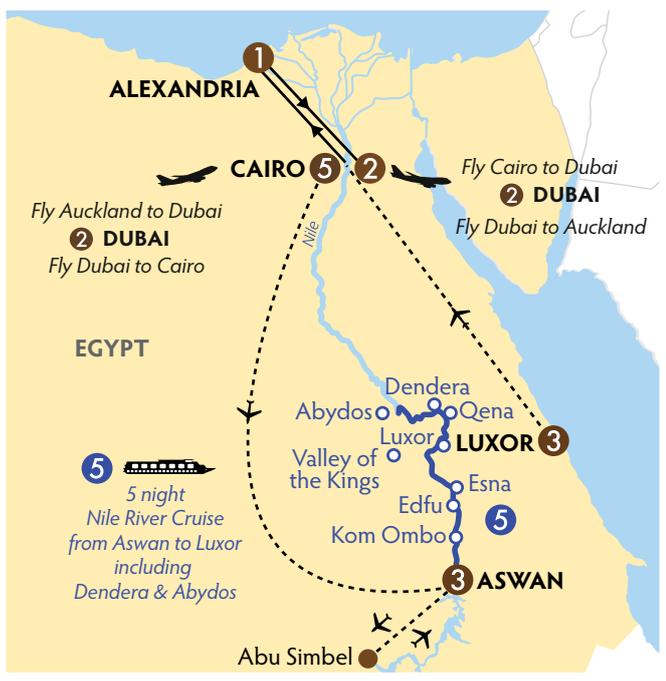
PLACES WE STAY

Mena House, Cairo. Situated on the site of an historic hunting lodge, is located right beside the pyramids and away from the busy bustle of Cairo. With stunning views of the Pyramids from many aspects you feel like you have really arrived in an ancient Egypt.

Sofitel Legend Old Cataract Hotel, Aswan. Located in the Nubian Desert on the banks of the Nile, opposite Elephantine Island, Sofitel Legend Old Cataract is based around a Victorian building with the pink granite facade and magnificent grounds and decor. It is considered the best hotel in Egypt.

SS Sudan, Cruise of the Nile. We enjoy a private charter of the SS Sudan. This fully restored steamboat was built in 1885, a gift for King Fouad, whose official title was King of All Egypt and Sudan, hence its name. It was subsequently bought by Thomas Cook and became one of the first boats to carry tourists down the eternal river. Agatha Christie came aboard in the 1930's and her famous novel, *Death on The Nile*, followed shortly after. The boat features in both versions of the film.

Sofitel Winter Palace, Luxor. Situated on the banks of the Nile and beside the Luxor Temple, Sofitel Winter Palace Luxor has a history of hosting royalty and celebrities throughout the years. The interior features grand staircases, high ceilings and lounge areas that are appointed with antique furniture and beautiful flower arrangements, as well as a magnificent pool and garden.



Mena House, Cairo



Sofitel Legend Old Cataract Hotel, Aswan



SS Sudan, Cruise of the Nile



Sofitel Winter Palace, Luxor

DUBAI (4 nights - stopovers return including early check in) ~ Sheraton Dubai Mall of the Emirates Hotel

We begin and end our tour with flights to and from Dubai on Emirates.

As we arrive into Dubai early in the morning we have arranged another night's accommodation so we can go to our rooms immediately. On return we arrive into Dubai late at night so we will again have access to our rooms immediately.

CAIRO (5 nights) ~ Mena House Hotel

Cairo is the capital and largest city of Egypt. The city's metropolitan area is the largest in the Middle East and the Arab world. It is a busy, vibrant city and is associated with ancient Egypt and the famous Pyramids.

HIGHLIGHTS in Cairo include:

- Staying at the Mena House Hotel, overlooking the Great Pyramids of Giza.
- Driving introductory tour of Cairo, including historical and iconic sights.
- Visit to Mosque of Muhammad Ali, Cairo's most visible mosque.
- Visit to bazaar with lunch at Oberoi's Naguib Mahfouz Restaurant within the bazaar.
- Visit to Cairo cotton shop to buy scarfs and cotton sheets, etc.
- Tour of Cairo Opera House, plus a show if available.

- Special welcome dinner at hotel with views of the iconic Pyramids of Giza.
- Tours to Memphis to see Ramses II statue and to Saqqara's necropolis which includes the Step Pyramid of Djoser.
- Tour and visit to Cairo's brand new Grand Egyptian Museum.
- Tour of Museum of Egyptian Antiquities in Cairo before High Tea at the Marriott Gezira Palace Hotel, where Agatha Christie stayed in Cairo.
- Sound and Light show at the Pyramids.
- Tour of the Pyramids of Giza and the Giza Solar boat museum.
- Visit to papyrus shop and perfume shop with refreshments, demonstrations and a chance to buy.
- Dinner cruise on the Nile with belly dancing and whirling tanoura dancers.



ASWAN (3 nights)

~ Sofitel Legend Old Cataract Hotel

Aswan, located on the Nile River, has been southern Egypt's strategic and commercial gateway since ancient times. It contains many significant archaeological sites like the Philae Temple Complex.

Today we fly to Aswan and transfer to Sofitel Legend Old Cataract Hotel, the best hotel in Egypt!

HIGHLIGHTS in Aswan include:

- ☞ Staying at our beautiful hotel, the best in Egypt.
- ☞ Return flight to Abu Simbel to see these amazing temples and statues.
- ☞ Tour of Aswan including Coptic Cathedral, Nubian Museum and the ancient unfinished obelisk.
- ☞ Boat ride through the cataracts with many sights including the Nubian Village and the Botanic Gardens.
- ☞ Free time to enjoy our lovely hotel, shop, explore or organise your own tours.
- ☞ Dinner on the terrace overlooking the Nile in the famous 1886 Restaurant.

SS SUDAN

~ Aswan – Luxor (6 days – 5 nights)

The Eternal River Cruise

We charter this elegant 5 star ship, so it will just be us on board as we cruise the Nile River and enjoy the sights of ancient Egypt combined with modern day life along the Nile. Built in 1885, this historic boat inspired Agatha Christie to write Death on the Nile and was also used in the movie of the same name.

HIGHLIGHTS on the SS Sudan

- ☞ Elegant paneled walls, timber decks and brass fittings, open verandahs, the best of small ship cruising, gourmet food, amazing crew and service and including all meals.

DAY 1: Aswan

On SS Sudan, Aswan

Transfer to the Steam Ship Sudan with time to settle into our cabins.

HIGHLIGHTS today include:

- ☞ Welcome and Lunch onboard.
- ☞ Afternoon visit of the Temple of Philae, which was moved block by block to make way for the Aswan Dam.
- ☞ Free time later in day with welcome dinner tonight.

DAY 2: Aswan – Kom Ombo – Edfu

HIGHLIGHTS today include:

- ☞ Early start sailing north from Aswan to Kom Ombo.
- ☞ Visit of the Temple of Kom Ombo, erected on the Nile banks, on one of the most seducing site of Upper-Egypt.
- ☞ Lunch on board while sailing north to Edfu.
- ☞ Late afternoon visit of the best preserved temple of the Ptolemaic Dynasty; the Temple of Edfu.
- ☞ Sail to Esna before staying overnight.

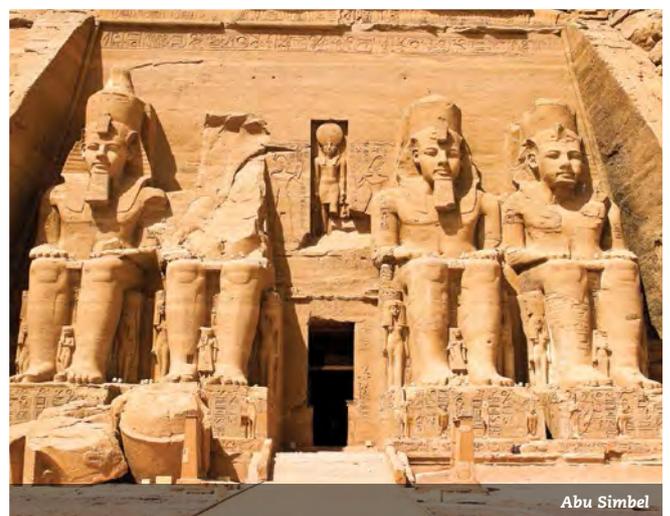
DAY 3: Esna – Luxor

HIGHLIGHTS today include:

- ☞ Passing through Esna lock.
- ☞ Sail through countryside on to Luxor, the ancient Egyptian city of Thebes.
- ☞ Afternoon visit of the majestic site of Karnak, dedicated to the god Amun.
- ☞ An evening visit of the Temple of Luxor with the evening light highlighting the perfection of Amenhotep III's columns.



Nubian Village, Aswan



Abu Simbel

DAY 4: Luxor – Qena – Dendera

HIGHLIGHTS today include:

- ☞ Sailing to Qena, north of Luxor. Only a few ships sail this splendid stretch of the River Nile and we will be able to enjoy a relaxing morning admiring both banks of the Nile.
- ☞ Visit the Temple of Dendera, one of the best preserved and most famous monuments in Egypt. The temple offers a splendid view of Upper Egypt countryside from the roof, and is dedicated to Hathor, goddess of love and joy.

DAY 5: Abydos – Luxor

HIGHLIGHTS today include:

- ☞ Drive to Abydos, a holy city and the cult centre of Osiris.
- ☞ Visit The Temple of Seti I.
- ☞ Relaxing afternoon sailing to Luxor.
- ☞ Final Dinner and overnight stay on board in Luxor.

DAY 6: Luxor

HIGHLIGHTS today include:

- ☞ Visit of the Valley of the Kings including Tutankhamen and Ramses V tombs.
- ☞ Visit the Valley of the Queens, the secret necropolis of the royal wives.
- ☞ Visit the Valley of the Nobles, the Tomb of Ramose.
- ☞ Visit to the Temple of Medinet Habu.



LUXOR (3 nights)

~ Sofitel Winter Palace, Luxor

After our tour today we transfer to the beautiful, historic hotel where Howard Carter announced he had found the Tomb of Tutankhamun and where he held his press conferences.

HIGHLIGHTS in Luxor include:

- ☞ The hotel where Agatha Christie visited and wrote some of her novel Death of the Nile.
- ☞ Horse and carriage ride to Luxor Museum, where we have a guided tour.
- ☞ Visit to the best book shop in Egypt and lunch at the cafe above the book shop, overlooking the Luxor Temple.
- ☞ Full day off for swimming and to visit bazaar.
- ☞ Dinner and sunset drinks on the hotel's open air verandah overlooking the Nile.
- ☞ Gourmet dinner in the hotel's historic 1902 Restaurant.



ALEXANDRIA (1 night)

Today we fly back to Cairo and transfer to Alexandria.

HIGHLIGHTS in Alexandria include:

- Explore the insides of the Catacombs of Kom El Shokafa, the largest Roman Cemetery with three levels cut in solid rock.
- Visit the sunken monuments of Alexandria which were discovered under the East harbour of Alexandria.
- Visit the Library of Alexandria; the biggest library in the world – now with 8 million books. Including its open court and the library's reading hall inside.
- Visit St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Cathedral, the oldest church in Africa, and El Nabi Daniel Mosque which is believed by many people to be related to Alexander the Great's tomb, plus the Abbo Elabbas Mosque.
- Stroll the gardens of Montaza and see Quaitbay Castle, which was built on the same site as the ancient Lighthouse of Alexandria; one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.



CAIRO RETURN VISIT (2 nights)

~ JW Marriott, Cairo

HIGHLIGHTS in Cairo include:

- Time for relaxing in this opulent hotel, enjoying the five pools situated here.
- Time for shopping including visit to Festival Shopping Centre.
- Final night Dinner.



