

The Nile Cruise Guide



“All you need to know about Nile Cruising”

www.Nile-Cruises-4u.co.uk

Contents:

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbour. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

- Mark Twain

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Introduction:



Nile Cruises 4u is owned and operated by **Barbara and Colin Maddocks** who, between them, have over 50 years experience of working within the travel industry both in travel sales and in travel education.

Barbara is a member of the prestigious Institute of Travel and Tourism and both she and Colin spent 10 years as Lecturer and Senior Lecturer in Travel and Tourism at City of Liverpool Community College.

Colin is also a winner of several travel industry technology awards.

Nile Cruises 4u is a part of **Future Travel Limited**, itself a division of **The Cooperative Travel**, the UK's largest retail travel company.

As part of **The Cooperative Travel** we have access to some of the best prices available within the UK and have strong partnerships with leading suppliers which we can then pass on to our customers.

We are fully **ABTA** bonded (Association of British Travel Agents) and **ATOL** licensed (Air Tour Operators Licence) and as such **your finances are fully protected**.

Both Barbara and Colin have cruised the Nile themselves and their enthusiasm for this wonderful country and for the whole concept of Nile cruising led them to create **Nile Cruises 4u** some three years ago.

2. What we do



We are able to arrange Nile Cruises on a wide range of [Nile Cruise ships](#) as well as offering you a "tailor-made" service which allows us to put together a "bespoke" package for you that meets your exact requirements.

That may include a few days in Cairo before or after your cruise so that you can experience the wonders of the Pyramids or the Sphinx.

Or it may include adding an extra week or part of a week to the end of your cruise in either Luxor, El Gouna, Hurghada or Sharm El Sheikh so that you can relax and enjoy the fabulous Red Sea resorts which boast unbeatable weather and some excellent 5 star resort hotels.

We can also arrange "**cruise only**" bookings for those travellers who may live overseas and who will make their own way to Luxor or Cairo. We have done this on many occasions for clients from various countries around the world.

You can check on the availability of "**Cruise Only**" prices on a number of Nile Cruise ships by visiting our "Accommodation Only" website, www.RoomsOnline4u.co.uk

We also offer 3, 4, and 5 day Nile cruises for those clients who are limited in time. However this normally requires clients to fly from London Heathrow on scheduled airlines.

In short we can offer you a range of choices and arrangements to suit your budget and schedule.

3. Why you should book with us



The
co-operative
travel

Financial Security for your Nile Cruise:

In the current climate of financial uncertainty we would like to re-emphasise that [Nile Cruises 4u](#) are part of **The Cooperative Travel**, the UK's largest individual retail travel company, which is itself a part of **The Cooperative Limited**, an organisation with assets **in the billions of pounds**.

During the recent failure of XL Airways, flights to Luxor and Egypt were especially badly hit but we are proud to say that none of our clients who were affected by the failure lost any money and they either had their flights re-arranged by ourselves with another airline or were offered a full refund by ourselves if the alternative was unsuitable.

Book with Confidence:

If you are going to book a Nile Cruise then we would recommend that you only book with an agent or supplier that can **prove** to you that they are a company of substance with strong financial backing who are **fully ABTA and ATOL licensed** and whose staff have a knowledge of the destination that you are planning to visit.

[Nile Cruises 4u](#) has all of those elements in place and our staff have cruised The Nile themselves and can advise you, from personal experience, on how to organise and enjoy your trip.

There are other companies who are selling Nile Cruises but in these times of economic uncertainty [Nile Cruises 4u](#) and our parent company, **The**

Cooperative Travel, are a solidly established company that can offer you true financial security and peace of mind.

If you would like to know more about why your money and holiday is totally secure with [Nile Cruises 4u](#) please feel free to call either Barbara or Colin on our dedicated **FREephone number 0808 1089 100**.

CHAPTER ONE

Why Take A Nile Cruise?

Overview

1. [Why take a Nile Cruise?](#)
2. [What are the ships like?](#)



1. Why take a Nile Cruise?

If, like me, you spend a lot of time on the Internet you will often read articles with headings such as "**My Top 10 Travel Destinations**", or "**50 Things To Do Before I Die**". More often than not, somewhere in

there, you will read the following... **"To Take a Nile Cruise"**.

Why is it that so many people are fascinated by the imagery, history and mystery of Ancient Egypt?

Is it because it's one of the oldest civilisations in the world?

Or is it because we have heard so much about the "boy king" Tutankhamen and seen so many images and artefacts from his tomb in the Valley Of The Kings?

Perhaps we have simply been fascinated since childhood by the images of the Sphinx or the Pyramids. Baffled by just what Egyptian hieroglyphics mean. Or simply caught up in the story of Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt.

Or is it that the very "sound" of the phrase "a Nile Cruise" conjures up images of Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, Napoleon, Kitchener and Montgomery? All came to Egypt.

Cleopatra and Florence Nightingale were also here and Verdi composed and conducted Aida at the opening celebrations of the Suez Canal in 1869

Or do the very names of the cities of Egypt such as Cairo, Alexandria, Luxor and Aswan have a ring of history and tradition tracing human civilisation for over 5000 years?

What of the mighty River Nile itself? The world's second longest river has shaped the character of the

country and its' people over the ages. It was the place where they first used the first tape to mark land claims and called the process Geometry and where they invented the solar calendar of 12 months of thirty days. Indeed the first recorded date in world history, 4241 BC, is Egyptian.

4241 BC!!!

Can you comprehend that date and how long ago it was?



In the 19th century it became fashionable for aristocrats from Europe to visit Egypt and they would cruise on their "**dahabiyyas**" - beautiful Arab sailing boats. We can still book you a wonderful Nile cruise on a dahabiyya

by the way. (Just call us on **Freephone 0808 1089 100** and we'll give you all the details).

Today the Upper Nile is one of the world's most visited destinations but it is a wondrous place to visit and a cruise will allow you to enjoy a journey of discovery and visit some of Egypt's finest ancient monuments along the banks of the Nile including those at Edfu, Kom Ombo, Aswan, The Valley Of The Kings and The Valley Of The Queens at Luxor.

So much to see, so much to experience, such a luxurious way to do it.

A Nile Cruise really is so much more than a conventional holiday.

2. What are the Nile Cruise ships like?

Well, there are various "levels" of Nile Cruise ships available to you and in Chapter 3 you will be able to read more about the various options open to you when you book your Nile Cruise.

Essentially most people will cruise on a 5 Star ship such as the "[Da Vinci](#)", the "[Domina Prestige](#)" or the "[MS. Stephanie](#)" the complete images and descriptions of which can be seen on the [Nile Cruise Ships](#) page on our main website.

You might, however, choose to cruise on one of the wonderful superior and deluxe Nile Cruise ships such as the 5 Star Superior "[Royal Viking](#)" or the 5 Star Deluxe "[Alexander The Great](#)" and we would be delighted to arrange for you to cruise The Nile on any of the many deluxe ships that are available.

To give you an overview of what you can expect from your Nile Cruise vessel we'll use the 5 Star Superior "[Royal Viking](#)" as a "typical" example.

The Royal Viking 5 Star Superior



This modern and elegant 5* Deluxe Nile Cruise ship offers excellent facilities and accommodation which make for a truly unforgettable cruise on the river Nile.

The main restaurant located on the lower deck offers a wonderful variety of international dishes whilst the lounge bar situated on the main deck is an ideal place to socialise and relax in the evening.

The spacious sun deck located on the upper deck with its wooden sun beds and rattan furniture provides a relaxing place to sit and enjoy the views of the Nile. There is a plunge pool and bar areas offering drinks for all to enjoy.

Facilities onboard include:

- Restaurant
- Lounge bar
- Gift shop
- Laundry service
- Sundeck
- Plunge pool
- Poolside bar
- Entertainment on Board (three nights)



Accommodation:

All of the spacious and modern 68 cabins and suites are located over three decks and are air-conditioned with a full length opening panoramic window and Juliette balcony.

The standard cabins measure approximately 23.5 square metres all with private bathroom and shower, hairdryer, complimentary toiletries, LCD Plasma TV plus an individual safe, mini-bar.



Dress Code:

Throughout the cruise: lightweight and informal summer clothes are the norm.

Evening Dining: Informal, smart/casual attire.

Dining:

Choice of International and Oriental cuisine offered buffet style.

The [Royal Viking](#) is a 5 Star Superior ship but we can offer you many other 5 Star Nile Cruise ships.

We can offer you, amongst others, the "[Da Vinci](#)", the "[Domina Prestige](#)", the "[MS. Stephanie](#)", the "[MS. Monica](#)" and the "[Jaz Royale](#)", just to mention a few.

If you are on a more restricted budget there are a range of 4 Star ships that can be booked too such as the [Fleurette](#), which offers a full board and 10 excursion package as well as the [Viking III](#) which is



an All Inclusive ship offering 10 excursions as well as all your drinks and refreshments (apart from spirits).

There are also several truly deluxe ships that we can offer you, including the

luxurious [Oberoi Philae](#).

We can let you have full details of all prices for the Oberoi Philae if you call us on **Freephone 0808 1089 100** but make sure your sitting down when you call as it's pretty expensive!!

However, we can still offer you some truly luxurious ships at much more reasonable prices including the "[Alexander The Great](#)".

Let's take a look at the 5 Star Deluxe facilities that it has to offer:

The Alexander The Great



The Oberoi Philae is a replica of an Edwardian paddle steamer and is amongst the best boats on the Nile, offering very high standards of service, accommodation and facilities.

The Oberoi Philae boasts elegant interiors with teak panelling, parquet floors, European antiques and Oriental carpets to create an ambience of luxury.

Impeccable service and a beautiful setting come together to make this a true Luxury Nile Cruise.

The **Oberoi Philae** also has a private docking area in Luxor and Aswan.

The Philae restaurant, where guests are expected to dress for dinner, provides a continental and Egyptian menu. The Lounge Bar serves a range of beverages, including soft drinks and cocktails.

In the evenings, the Lounge Bar is the venue for the discotheque.

On the deck of the Oberoi Philae, sun loungers and teak parasols surround a good-sized swimming pool and for the more active guest, state of the art gymnasium equipment is available.

Facilities onboard include:

- Restaurant
- Lounge bar
- Library
- In-door fitness centre
- Gift shop Laundry and valet service
- Sundeck
- Plunge pool
- Poolside bar

Accommodation

The Oberoi Philae features 58 elegant, air-conditioned cabins, including 4 suites, each featuring a mini bar, TV, radio, telephone, safe and private balcony.

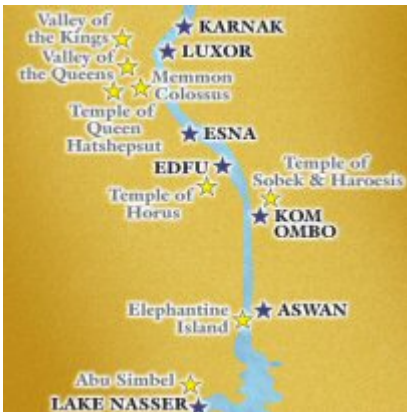
CHAPTER TWO

What to expect

Overview

1. [What will your Nile Cruise consist of?](#)
2. [Your Excursion Programme](#)
3. [Remember This Is A River Cruise](#)
4. [Entertainment](#)

1. What will your Nile Cruise consist of?



A "typical" Nile Cruise will consist of a week's cruise from Luxor to Aswan and return with a full programme of between 10 and 12 excursions where you will be accompanied by a fully qualified Egyptologist to explain the origins, history and significance of the sites, temples and monuments that you will visit.

On board ship you will be accommodated in your own, normally two berth cabin with full en-suite facilities. You will have your cabin serviced and cleaned by cabin boys assigned to your particular cabin.

There are normally 3 to 4 decks and according to the price you have paid for your cruise this will determine which deck you are on.

Nile Cruise ships normally have a minimum of a large reception area, restaurant, lounge bar and a sun deck with plunge or swimming pool.

Many boast other facilities such as gyms, spas, Jacuzzis, discos, wellness centres amongst other features.

To take a look at what you might expect from your Nile Cruise please take a look at this video from our main website. It's 11 minutes long and will give you a real feel for Nile Cruising.

Please click [here](#).

2. Your excursion programme



In [Chapter Six](#) you will see the full details of a "typical" Nile Cruise itinerary.

As mentioned above you will usually have a 10 or 12 excursion programme depending on the ship you are cruising on.

Morning cruises usually start quite early and you may leave the ship around 7.30 to 7.45am, after your breakfast, to ensure that you miss the heat of the mid-day sun.

On occasion you might combine two excursions in one morning if you are visiting two sites that are reasonably close.

There are usually a number of "optional" excursions that you can choose to take and you will pay for these as additional to the main excursions.

These include:

- Abu Simbel
- Karnak Temple Sound & Light Show
- Hot air balloon trip over The Nile at sunrise
- Camel and horse riding

NB. If you are thinking of taking the Hot air balloon excursion, which is great fun and a "one-off" experience, or the camel and horse riding please make sure that you have an insurance policy that covers you for these types of activities because not all policies do.

3. Remember this is a "River Cruise"



The reason we mention this is because you need to remember that you will not be cruising continually. You will be stopping frequently to be able to access the various sites and temples and so there will be times when your Nile cruise ship is moored up for periods.

It also means that there will also be times when there will be other ships berthed right next to you, often several vessels abreast and you may have to walk through the reception areas of the other ships to go ashore.

4. Entertainment



There are normally several evening's entertainments laid on during your cruise.

These may consist of a Nubian Dancers and Drummers Evening, Belly Dancing, Whirling Dervishes and a wonderful Arabian Evening or something similar when guests are encouraged to attend in full Egyptian costume.

We took part in this when we last cruised and bought our outfits from a typical Egyptian clothes shop in Luxor. Our whole outfits, including headdress cost about 8 British pounds and we're still wearing them for parties in the UK!! (Well not every party!).

Even if you don't take part you'll still enjoy the evening as its' great fun.

Most evenings we ended up sitting under the stars on the sundeck enjoying the warmth of the Egyptian nights in a truly wonderful location.

CHAPTER THREE

What Are Your Choices?

Overview

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2. [Take a "felucca" cruise](#)
3. [What's a "Jahabiyya"?](#)
4. [Steam Ship or Paddle Steamer](#)
5. [5 Star Nile Cruise Ship](#)

1. Introduction



What are your choices? By that we mean there are a myriad of ways you can enjoy a Nile Cruise.

You can take a cruise on a 4 or 5 star Nile Cruise ship such as the **King Tut 1**, the **El Fostate**, the **Domina Prestige**, etc, etc. You can take a more expensive cruise on a ship like the ultra-luxurious "**Oberoi Zahra**" or the "**Oberoi Philae**".

You can take a "**Nile Cruise & Stay**" which entails a Nile Cruise and perhaps a further week in a luxury Luxor hotel or a week on the Red Sea in places like **Hurghada**, **El Gouna** or **Sharm El Sheikh**.

You can also add a few days in Cairo to the beginning or the end of your Nile Cruise.

Or, you can vary the type of vessel you actually cruise on. There are a number of options...

You could cruise on a traditional "**felucca**".

Probably the most popular vessel on the Nile over the centuries and still widely used on the river today. Rigged with sails and with no motor it relies on a steady north wind.

Or you could cruise in an up-market "**jahabiyya**" with all the comforts you can imagine.

Or, you can cruise in a real, **old-world steam-ship** or **paddle-steamer** such as the "**Steam Ship Sudan**" or the "**SS Misr**".

So you can see that there really are many ways that you can enjoy your Nile Cruise experience and we can book almost all of them for you.

In the rest of this chapter I'm going to go into more detail about the various "out-of-the-ordinary" options detailed above.

2. Take a "felucca" cruise



If you're the type that really enjoys getting "into the moment" then a trip on a "**felucca**" might be just what you need.

A **felucca** is rigged with a tall lateen or triangular sail, is about 11m long and relies on the wind to power it. The fact that it depends on the wind means that cruising on a **felucca** has no fixed stops as it really depends on the elements.

You have a canvas canopy as a sunshade during the day and the same canvas canopy wards off the dew at night as you sleep on the deck on mattresses.

Food is bought at village markets and prepared Egyptian style by the crew onboard.

A typical day would see you sailing the Nile, occasionally stopping to walk through fields and villages or visiting one of the ancient sites. At lunchtime you would furl the sails and enjoy a buffet style meal while you drift down the river.

Sometimes a brisk wind gets up in the afternoon and you will make good progress. Sometimes the wind drops and you will moor up for a leisurely swim.

Overnight you will moor up, usually at one of the mid-river islands, before settling down for a three-course dinner. A relaxed evening around the camp fire follows when the Nubian crew might bring out their drums and sing and dance under a star-filled sky.

We can offer you a number of holidays that include "**felucca cruises**" including a 10 day trip that involving a 4 day **felucca** trip as well as 5 nights hotel accommodation and one overnight train journey.

We can also offer you a 15 day holiday that includes a 4 day **felucca** trip as well as visits to Aswan, Luxor and Hurghada on the Red Sea.

If you want to experience a taste of the "real Egypt" then a **felucca** trip would be ideal.

Please call us on our **Freephone** number **0808 1089 100** to ask us about these and other "**felucca**" cruise holidays.

3. What's A "Dahabiyya"?

A "**dahabiyya**" is a lot more luxurious than a "felucca".

In the late 19th century, aristocrats and sophisticated travellers loved to cruise the Nile in the style and comfort of their private '**dahabiyyas**', beautifully crafted wooden ships with from four to ten cabins and a host of servants. They rented the boats for many weeks at a time and made their way from temple to temple enjoying the river breeze. **Dahabiyyas** were popular amongst those who wished to enjoy Egypt at a leisurely pace, to drink in the landscapes, and peruse the monuments and villages on the riverbanks.

Traveling by **dahabiyya** is a unique, peaceful and relaxing experience. There are up to 10 crew for 12 passengers.

As an example the **dahabiyya** "**Nesma**" is a traditional '**dahabiyya**' and is outfitted in colonial style with oriental and Egyptian touches.



The interior boasts period furnishing and each cabin has its own individual decoration. It has six compact cabins measuring 5.75m x 2.50m; each with its private bathroom of 1.25m x 2.50m with a toilet, wash basin,

shower and hairdryer. Four cabins have two single beds

and two a double bed (triple cabins are not available) and the maximum capacity is twelve passengers.

The cabins are located towards the front of the boat on the starboard and port sides, separated by a central corridor. The communal lounge covers the width of the boat and is a lovely setting for serving meals. The kitchen is at the stern, while the staff cabin and sitting areas are located aft. The engine room lies beneath the kitchen and electricity is provided by generators. Both the public area and cabins are fully air-conditioned.

We can now offer you a choice of **Dahabiyas** and a choice of itinerary. For example a 12 day "Nostalgic Nile" Cruise with 3 nights' bed and breakfast in Cairo and a 7 day all inclusive cruise costs from £1,599 with flights. We can also book you an 8 day cruise on the **dahabiyya "Lazuli"**

Here's a description of the Lazuli:

The boat offers a luxurious atmosphere with the advantage of modern comforts and convenience.

Built at the end of the 19th century and was identical to the 'traditional' vessels. The boat is propelled by two Latin sails and has six cabins.

There is a large drawing room and a covered deck with tables and chairs, sun loungers and mattresses to relax on and contemplate the passing countryside. All cabins have a shower, wash basin and toilet. Four cabins have double beds and the other two have twin beds.

Please call either Barbara or myself on **Freephone 0808 1089** to find out more about cruising the Nile on a **dahabiyya**.

4. Steam Ship or Paddle Steamer?

If you would like to combine tradition with modern day luxury you would go a long way to beat a cruise on the "**Oberoi Philae**". Built as a replica of a 19th century **paddle-steamer** the **Oberoi Philae** is one of the most luxurious vessels cruising the Nile.



With high standards of comfort the Oberoi Philae offers you a journey that begins in Luxor or Aswan and travels through Pharonic dynasties that span thousands of years.

Elegant interiors with teak panelling, parquet floors, European antiques and Oriental carpets create an real atmosphere of luxury. Excellent recreational and dining facilities make the journey pleasurable and impeccable service and a beautiful setting come together to make this a really great choice.

It's a bit more expensive than some Nile cruises but you'll really enjoy your time on this "modern" paddle steamer.



Our choice for a Nile steam-ship must be the wonderful "**Steam Ship Sudan**". Built at the end of the 19th century, the "Steam Ship Sudan" is steeped in the memory of King Fouad who received it as a gift. Hercule Poirot walked up and down her deck in

Agatha Christie's book "Death On The Nile". You'll really enjoy its' beautiful cuisine and the intimacy of one of its' 23 cabins or suites.

With the feel of a private yacht you'll have a wonderfully unique experience.

To find out more about a Nile Cruise aboard the Steam Ship Sudan please call either Barbara and myself on Freephone 0808 1089 100 and we'll prepare a quote for you.

5. 5-Star Nile Cruise Ships

We've mentioned above some of the more unusual types of Nile Cruise vessels that you can sail on to cruise the Nile but most of us will probably take their first Nile cruise on board a 5 Star Nile cruise ship.

In the next chapter I'll tell you all about what to expect from your chosen ship.

CHAPTER FOUR

What's a Nile Cruise Really Like?

Overview

1. [Introduction](#)
2. [Client Reviews](#)
3. [Client Testimonials](#)

1. Introduction



Perhaps you've read a magazine or newspaper article about cruising the Nile.

Maybe you've seen a travel programme about Egypt and the Nile that intrigued you.

It may be that ever since you were told about Ancient Egypt in school you've been fascinated with the whole subject.

Or perhaps you've heard from a friend or colleague what a fantastic time they had on their Nile cruise and you promised yourself you'd find out more about it.

Well, what better way to find out what to expect from a Nile Cruise than to read some reviews and testimonials from some of our past clients who can give you, in their own words, a real feel for what its' like to take a Nile Cruise.

2. Client Reviews



King Tut 3

I had an absolutely wonderful time on the Nile cruise. I

was a little apprehensive about going on my own, but sat next to and made friends with two ladies on the plane who were going to the same boat and then the three of us chatted to two men on the bus from the airport. We all got on so well, that we were then a

group of five for the rest of the trip which was very useful for the dinner table and always having someone else to talk to!

The cabin was exactly the same as the picture on the web site, roomy, clean and well air conditioned. Some people complained that their TV's didn't work but I didn't even turn mine on: why would you want to sit in your cabin and watch TV when there are so many other things to do? The blackout curtains were very good, if I had an early call I would leave a small gap and wake up more naturally with a little sunlight coming in! Don't draw the curtains back completely as other ships are often docked next to you!

The waiters and other staff just couldn't do enough for you. All you had to remember was to order your bottles of water the night before for taking on the trips with you next morning. The fridge in the room kept them cold until the next day.

I didn't really like party games when I was a child and they haven't grown on me as I got older. (Perhaps I just wasn't drinking enough!) However the "Egyptian night" where nearly all of the English passengers (and only one German unfortunately) dressed up in their "Egyptian finest" was tremendous fun and I had a great time. I bought my beautiful pink galabeya from the

Nubian village for the princely sum of £5.00 and have actually worn it at home since returning!

On the second day when we had delicious jacket potatoes at lunch we asked the chef for some more on a different day and so he provided our table with "off menu" jacket potatoes on two separate occasions. Also

I discovered that the "Oriental Table" meant Egyptian food which was usually very good!

Be aware that the banks will not change coins and so there are often kids trying to change pound coins into Egyptian money. Unfortunately, if there is a small group of older children, they are not trying to change fake pound coins - one may be trying to distract you while another will be trying to steal your money from your bag!

Even as a blonde single woman on my own, I had no hassle at all from the traders. You have to have a "don't mess with me aura", say "la shokran" as you move swiftly around them if they stand in your way and be able to look at the stalls while walking past without slowing down! The traders are expert "people readers" and once your pace falters or your gaze fixes on an item for more than a second, you've had it and then they will follow you. Dark sunglasses are a must as they cannot see your eyes and if you are looking at their stall. Don't stop and look at something if you're really not interested as walking away is seen as part of the haggling process!

I had already decided before I went that I was going to do every tour available, this was not just a relaxing holiday week, I wanted to see as much as I could!

Tours are usually in the mornings and late afternoons/evenings which avoids the hottest part of the day and allows you to relax and sunbathe in the afternoons. Tip - Wear loose clothes, drink loads of water, just accept the heat and the fact that you're going to sweat profusely, but then will be showering and changing when you get back to the boat!

I found all the temples fascinating (no temple fatigue for me!) and the experience of being able to trace the hieroglyphics on the temple walls and columns with your fingers and imagining someone with a chisel 3000 years ago carving those images is just incredible. Our guide Karim was excellent. He explained the meanings of each part of the temples, the stories and the "trinity of gods" behind each temple and would often repeat the various tales and lore of the gods during the week so that we didn't feel that we were bombarded with information that we never heard again. He had a very useful small headset microphone which meant that we could hear him very clearly without needing to huddle together (as it was hot) and without him having to shout. He showed us the meanings of various hieroglyphics and how to recognise the names of the kings so that when I visited the museum at Luxor on the last morning, I was able to recognise many of the cartouches names, and then to check on the museum signs to see if I was right.

Abu Simbel, an early morning start but just marvellous once we got there. To hear the explanation of how and why they moved the entire two temples was

remarkable. The view over lake Nasser was outstanding and the temples themselves, truly awe inspiring. Our bus broke down on the way there and we had to share with another group which meant we were one of the last to arrive. Although a little inconvenient at the time, this actually was to our benefit as it meant that most of the tourists had moved on to Neferatari's temple as we were looking at the main temple, and then had gone back to their buses when we were looking at Neferatari's temple! I actually got photos of both temples without any tourists (except me of course!) Tip: take a pillow from your room with you on the bus and have a little nap as there isn't much to see except desert on the way there and back!

Kalesh ride through the streets (and market) - another fun experience (really!) Many people complained the horses were thin, but didn't seem to realise that in a country that hot, thin is better! A stocky horse from England would collapse in that kind of heat. The horses were well cared for and their coats and eyes were in good condition. It was very interesting to see the back streets of Luxor and the local market with their weird and wonderful fruits and spices.

Hot air balloon ride - very early morning start but well worth it. I had never been in a hot air balloon before and so was unsure as to what to expect. The noise and heat from the burners was a little scary at first but you got used to it very quickly, especially as the view as the sun came over the horizon was breathtaking. The skilled pilot turned the balloon around several times as we drifted slowly past (an empty) Hatchepsut's temple and along the green banks of the Nile so that everyone got a perfect 360 degrees of view. It was just a fantastic experience.

Valley of Kings/Hatchepsut's Temple - very very hot - 50 degree celcius by 11 am. For me the tombs were a little disappointing. Our guide, Karim first took us up to one of the less visited temples which was amazing, but then we had to go back down into the busier part of the valley. The tomb paintings were fabulous but unfortunately the hordes of people meant that you didn't feel that you were able to stop and take in the atmosphere. Hatchepsut's temple was also the same, magnificent but so crowded. When we were back on the bus, Karim explained that we could go to the Valley of the Queens, but the tomb of Nefertiti was closed a few years ago for renovation or we could go to the

Valley of the Artisans (Deir el Medina) as the tombs were open today. After a quick vote (very democratic) we went to the Valley of the Artisans which was much better than the Valley of the Kings! Our bus was the only bus there and we split into two groups as only 10 people were allowed down the steep narrow steps into the two small but beautifully painted tombs at a time. It made the hairs on your arms stand up as you just drank in the overwhelming atmosphere.

*Sound and Light at Karnak - although I read many reviews that it wasn't worth going to the Sound and Light event, as this was the last night before we left the ship it finished the week off wonderfully for me as this was the first temple was visited and then to see it again at night was great. Tip: this is the time to wear bug repellent if you have it as you sit still in the dark for the second half of the show and there are definitely biting insects around!***Lisa McNab**

The Nile Cruise, for me, was a fulfilment of a lifetime's ambition.

Upon arrival in Egypt I was immediately aware of the luxurious heat that greeted us as we stepped out of the plane.

We were met by our holiday representative, who then advised us on the entry visa and where to meet after we went through passport control. Outside the airport, all the passengers who were assigned to our particular boat congregated around our holiday Rep awaiting boarding of our coach for transfer to our cruise ship on the river Nile.

The transfer from airport to Ship took around twenty minutes. After collecting our baggage at the airport, that would be the last time we had to carry our baggage ourselves.

Our particular boat was called the King Tut 1, and she was all that was described in the itinerary. King Tut 1 was luxurious in its decor. Wood panelling, polished wooden floors and air conditioning greeted us upon our arrival.

There we met our guide or Egyptologist, to give him his official title, and he explained just what our week would entail.

Because our flight was delayed we immediately set sail.

Our suite was on the upper deck of the ship, and when we entered we were amazed to find it was more than ample for our needs, twin beds, en-suite bathroom with

shower and bath, settee beside a huge glass window and fitted wardrobes and fridge.

It was dark when we went to bed, and I remember lying in bed listening to the gentle throb of the engines as our boat headed south on the dark River Nile.

The next morning I opened the curtains to see one of the stars of the trip for me, the banks of the River Nile as we cruised down the river.

Just to sit on the settee in air conditioned comfort and watch Egyptian life on the banks of this mighty river unfold with each passing metre.

So smooth was the passage that only because one could see the landscape passing our window, we would have thought we weren't moving at all.

Breakfast was served in the luxurious dining room, and as with all meals, choices were wide and varied. Omelettes, croissants, fruit juices for breakfast, fish, chicken, steak and trimmings for the main meals of lunch and dinner were plentiful and delicious.

The sundeck on board ship was extremely well laid out. Half the deck was covered so if you were not a sun worshipper then you could relax in the shade. The pool on board, although not Olympic size, was adequate to cool off in and was clean.

Afternoon tea was served on the sun deck at around 4.30, and consisted of tea, coffee and cake.

I have left the excursions, which were included in the price, to last.

The treasures of Egypt as seen in her monuments and temples are simply stunning, and a "must" to see. "Awe inspiring", would not be too great a tribute.

The detailed carvings and stories, so wonderfully explained by our Egyptologist, brought the history of a fascinating people to life.

All in all, our Nile cruise was a truly wonderful experience.

We felt safe and were well looked after.

The crew aboard ship were warm and friendly and could not do enough to make our stay memorable.

Life on board was wonderful.

Let me offer a word of advice here. The best way to do this trip is to take the "all inclusive" option. This entails an unlimited supply of locally produced wines and beers, coca cola and sprite and the all important bottled water for the excursions the next day.

It is well worth the extra to get this, as it avoids a bar bill at the end of the week.

The dream of a Nile cruise was imaginative, but the reality was simply stunning. I can't wait to visit this remarkable country again. It was magic.

Eamonn Lafferty

We have just returned from the most marvellous two weeks in Luxor.

The first week we spent on the King Tut 111 cruising and sightseeing the most wonderful sights in Egypt.

We had a guide who was most informative and friendly and could not do enough for you and answered all questions knowledgeably.

The staff aboard the ship could not do enough for you and were very friendly too.

The food was varied and plentiful and after a long day sightseeing it was great just to sit on the sun deck in the evening with a few drinks and relax.

The second week we spent at the Sonesta San George in Luxor.

Talk about luxury!!

The hotel was the best I have ever stayed in and the rooms had a marvellous view over the Nile. The food was excellent as were the staff.

The Egyptian people are the friendliest I have ever met and I cant wait to go back again.

Outside the hotel I recommend "Snobs" for eating as the food is delicious and for a drink you should go to "Murphy's Irish Bar" or "John and Johns".

Shopping is great if you like to haggle. It is well worth it to get a bargain.

The only criticism that I would make is that there is not enough entertainment on the ship in the evening and the all inclusive does not start till 10 30 in the morning. so if you get up to go on the excursions and get back before then you have to pay for water etc which you really need when you get back on board.

Also after your evening meal there was no further food available such as a snack crisps nuts or even a sandwich later in the evening which I think would have been good but do go and try it you will enjoy it.

I would not hesitate to recommend this holiday to anyone.

Kay and Felix Pollard

On January, I set off on a journey of a lifetime, to cruise down the Nile from Luxor to Aswan. As my husband was unable to accompany me, I took my 29year old daughter Jill who has been blind for 10years.

As I had booked very late, and had not done much research, I left our fate entirely in the hands of our travel agent Barbara Maddocks of Nile Cruises 4u. Flying out from Manchester to Luxor, we had a very

comfortable flight lasting about 5 hours. We arrived just before sunset, taking in the glorious view of the

Nile meandering through the desert, with a thick lush strip of fertile green on either side of its banks. We met our Egyptologist guide, Reda who welcomed us onto the coach and gave a brief description of proceeding for the rest of the evening.

Arriving at the boat, (it should be described as a Floating Hotel), we were asked to check in, go to our accommodation and wait for our luggage to arrive. It all took about fifteen minutes before our cases arrived outside our bedroom.

I was thrilled to see our beautiful room, television, fridge, air-conditioning, very comfy twin beds and floor to ceiling French windows giving us panoramic views of the Nile. The bathroom was marble and we had a full size bath with shower and hairdryer. The room was spacious and allowed us a dressing table, two chairs by the window and a table. The boat is only a few years old, very elegant and liveried in blue and white.

Dinner that first evening allowed us to meet the other guests, and is served in buffet style with a wide range to suit all tastes, including an Egyptian dish which was on offer every night. Breakfast was equally sumptuous, fresh breads, fruit, yoghurts, cold meats and cheeses or if preferred, a hot breakfast consisting of everything except bacon, which I expected in a Muslim country, but the sausages made up for that, delicious!!

Lunch consisted of yet another hot and cold feast. Dressing for breakfast and lunch is casual, but it would

be advisable to take some evening wear for dinner. By that I do not mean black tie or ball gown but dressy trousers and tops or cocktail length dresses.

Most tours start early in the morning to avoid the heat of the day, giving guests all afternoon to relax on the sundeck. Reda our guide advised me that one or two tours would probably not suit Jill as the terrain would be difficult for her. One such temple involved a bit of a climb, and therefore I was confident that we would not be going anywhere that would prove difficult for Jill or me. We opted to sunbathe on the deck, while being served drinks and coffee from the ever smiling friendly staff, for whom nothing was too much trouble.

The rooms were thoroughly cleaned by the time breakfast was over with fresh sheets every day. In the evening they were cleaned again and the beds turned down. The efficiency of the Hotel Manager Hassan, was never ceasing and always with a smile.

It was wonderful to lie in bed with the window open at night and watch the Nile drift by, to the drone of prayers from the Hamams and followers, from the many mosques along its banks, which gave a haunting edge to the silhouette of palm trees and mud-brick villages against the moonlit skyline. Stars were in abundance and I really felt as though I was somewhere quite magical and ancient.

In Aswan, Jill and myself opted out of the tour as it was going to be a little difficult. I decided to take her for afternoon tea to the famous Cataract Hotel which overlooks the Agha Khan's tomb. It is the place that inspired Agatha Christie to write 'Murder on the Nile' it

was also filmed there, and many famous people have stayed at this luxurious watering hole, including Sir Winston Churchill, Princess Diana and The King of Jordan and so on. Now it had me and Jill!!

If you are not a guest you pay £8 pounds sterling on admission, but that is including afternoon tea. We then spent some time exploring the gardens. Reda, our Guide, had organised a taxi to take us there and back at a set price, and the driver was to pick us up on our return journey at 3.30pm. He was bang on time, and we paid him when we returned to the boat.

The 'Galabaya' night was a night to remember. During that day in Edfu, several long wooden boats with about four men in each, stockpiled with goods, started throwing plastic bags with Galabayas inside, up onto the deck. You had to choose one, and then bargain for it by shouting back to them. When a price is agreed, you put the money into one of the dress bags you don't want and throw it back to them. This continued for about half an hour or so and was such good fun.

Afternoon tea is served on the sun-deck most days at 4pm with biscuits. The sun-deck has a large canopied section with coffee bar, tables and chairs, and plenty of comfy sun-beds to lounge around. We had by this time met up with a group of people with whom we spent evenings after dinner with in the bar, I think we laughed solidly for the whole week and have promised all to meet up and do this again. Whether this will happen I would love to think so, but Jill and myself certainly will.

We went on the Valley of the Kings Tour and The Valley of the Queens with a running commentary on the history from Reda. The Tombs and Hieroglyphics rendered me speechless, the beauty and one-time opulence, the paintings and carvings, just to feel history is something you cannot achieve from a book, and will never forget. We also went on to a porcelain factory where we watched Egyptian artisans at work.

On our last morning we went on a camel ride. A small boat next to the Emilio, took us up river about 40 minutes away. Its advisable to take a light jacket or cardigan for early morning trips as the temperature doesn't rise until about 11am in January. I was a little apprehensive, but I needn't have been.

The camels were very young and not too high in stature. Every-one had a guide and two men guarded us throughout on Arabian horses. We trekked through several villages, children waving and singing us songs. At the end, we were taken to the owner's house and given a very welcome glass of Egyptian tea with a chunk of home made bread.

My summary of this holiday is simple. Absolutely Fabulous!!

The Egyptian people are friendly helpful, always smiling and so willing to make sure that you are enjoying yourself. It is an extremely poor and underdeveloped country and tourism is a lifeline. The Egyptians are a proud people, most speaking a little English and I must point out, that if you can learn one or two Egyptian phrases they are absolutely charmed with pleasure.

Security is First Class on the boat and at the Airport. Anyone infirm or disabled is shown priority for checking in luggage. No-one had to lift a case or a bag at any time, their service is immaculate. If a holiday in Dubai or the Costa del Sol is what you expect, then this is not the holiday for you, there are no Disney style walkways, coke or burgers, smart shopping malls or designer outlets. This holiday is for culture vultures, whether you want to relax and watch History drift by in the comfort of 5 surroundings and service, or step on shore to feel the History for yourself.*

The Domina Prestige 'Emilio' will not disappoint you.

One tip is to take with you hand wipes or 'Clear and Dry' for your bag. Egyptian notes can be quite grubby and it's not always easy to wash your hands when on a tour.

It was sunset as we took off from the runway, the skyline was a blend of red and ochre merging into a deep blue, once again we could see the Nile meandering, the moon sinking behind the sands, we had captured some of the essence and magic of the Nile, but not nearly enough.

I am not usually a creature of habit, but this is one holiday, one country and one Floating Hotel, The Domina Emilio Prestige, that will draw me back time and time again.

Karen and Jo Daley

3. Client Testimonials



Dear Mrs. Maddocks,

My wife and I would like to thank you and your husband for your help arranging our truly memorable Nile Cruise.

As your husband told me on the telephone, our lower-deck cabin would prove to be fine and paying more for a higher deck would be a waste of money.

*We had a good mix of people on the **Fleurette** who seemed to enjoy themselves as much as us. You will know how good the food is and what a pleasure the staff are.*

Yours sincerely,

Wing Commander John and Mrs. H. Wheeler
March 2009

Hi Barbara,

Just wanted to say thanks for organising a wonderful holiday.

All airport transfers and check-ins went without a hitch and all the local reps in Cairo and the cruise were always there to greet us at arrival and departure.

Hurghada was a bit of a surprise as we assumed a local rep would be there on arrival, but we didn't see him until the next day which was a bit useless.

Tips for other travellers:

"Pyramid View" room at the Sofitel Le Sphinx means very noisy as you are placed right beside a very major roundabout. Yes we had a view but changed after the first night as we couldn't sleep due to the noise. Sofitel kindly organised the swap, and as they didn't have any spare studios we got a free upgrade to a suite which was really good of them. After the swap we enjoyed our stay there.

I would suggest mentioning to anyone going to Hurghada that it is not a common English destination, the few English people we did meet on excursions also mentioned they saw very few other people.

*Other than that it was perfect. The cruise was by far the highlight, the staff on the **Esadora II** were great and our guide Ashraf was excellent apart from being a little shy, but that made it more fun to tease him.*

Grant & Claire Young
March 2009

Dear Barbara,

Many thanks for your card, received on our return.

Our Nile Cruise was fantastic thanks.

*The ship (**the Domina Prestige**) was really good with excellent food and accommodation. The organisation was outstanding, faultless in fact and our Egyptologist was very clued up. We also had a very nice group of people on our table which was a blessing.*

Our only moan was the high price of wine (we should have got the best French or South African wine for the 150 Euros a bottle, instead of the barely drinkable Egyptian plonk). The beer was also expensive and the cost of water a bit of a rip off, especially as we could buy five bottle on land for the price of one on board - and we needed to drink lots, plus use for cleaning teeth, etc.

Anyway our lasting impression is that it was one of our best holidays ever.

Thanks for your excellent service.

John and Ann Whitton
March 2009

Hi Barbara,

Just a little note to say THANK YOU again for helping us have a holiday of a lifetime. The Nile Cruise was just excellent (as you said it would be). The service, the people, the trips were all wonderful and the trip to Cairo and then on to the Red Sea were all just fab too. All the pickups at the airport went perfectly and we felt very well looked after.

So thank you again for helping us have such a great holiday. We'll definitely call you again when we have saved up for the next one!

With much thanks and kind regards, Jenni

Jenni and Dan Jones
January 2009

Hi Barbara,

I just wanted to thank you so much for all your hard work and the trouble you went to in making our holiday in Egypt run so smoothly. As you know, we booked very late in the day and although we weren't able to stay in the "brochure hotels", the substitutes you found for us were just as good, if not better, and suited our requirements much more.

Our boat, "Alexander The Great", was fabulous. Small

and intimate but you didn't live in each others pockets - your description of it was just perfect. The staff were

very helpful, food fantastic, but our overall thanks must go to "Yasser", our guide on board, who was fun, knowledgeable and so enthusiastic that it was infectious. We certainly didn't feel "temped-out" and "Angels" has come to have a special meaning to us.

We were also very well looked after in Cairo. "Hany", our guide there, ensured that we were well looked after and our day trip to The Pyramids, Saqqara and finally the Sound and Lights Show was very good value.

Thank you once again - it was a real pleasure "doing business" with you and will have no hesitation in recommending you to my friends.

Best wishes,

Lesley & Peter Davis
January 2009

Hi Barbara,

We have been back now for 2 weeks and I want to apologise for not contacting you before this but I have been very busy since we got home.

I just wanted to tell you what an amazing time we had and thank you for your help in the arrangements.

I am happy to say that everything went like clockwork,

the flights, transfers and all the excursions were spot on. It seemed to be everyone's aim to make our stay

absolutely trouble free and ensure we had a wonderful time which we certainly did.

Our guide on the boat, Ayman, was lovely and made things come alive for us. We managed to get to Cairo from El Gouna on the Saturday. We booked through the hotel (Movenpick) and it was well worth making the effort. Again our guide was very good indeed.

I have recommended your company to two people already since we have been home.

Thank you once again and we would not hesitate to book with you in the future.

**Christine and Martin Gerard.
6th November 2008**

Hi Barbara,

We have just returned from our cruise and stay on the Nile and I felt I had to write to you and thank you for organising such an amazing holiday for us. The organisation was exceptional, the trips and all the optional trips were fantastic (we did 'em all) and were well organised.

We needed the week in Luxor to relax after cramming everything in on the first week and the Nile Palace was a beautiful hotel.

*I can't thank you enough. **It was without doubt the best holiday experience of our lives.***

Best regards,

Adrian and Alison
28 May 2008

Hi Barbara

We have just returned from our holiday to Cairo and a Nile Cruise on the King Tut and wish to let you know that we had a wonderful time.

All the arrangements were excellent with all their representatives being on time to meet us from our flights and escort us to our hotel, boat and airports.

Our guide Mohamed was excellent and very, very informative. The boat facilities and food were also very good and the book you sent us before we left was very helpful indeed.

A big thank you to you and your company for an excellent holiday.

Stan & Wendy McGee - November 2006

Barbara,

I thought I would just write to tell you that we are all back and had a wonderful time. The agents in Egypt were more than helpful and all went very smoothly. We booked a private guide for 2 days through them in Cairo and that was fantastic. I don't think we would have seen 10% of what we did without her.

The cruise was also very good and the food was excellent. We managed to avoid "The Mummy's Tummy" till the last night when our son went down with it and had a horrible journey home. I think that was probably as a result of him being more "cavalier" than the rest of us over the use of hand gels, etc, rather than a result of anything he consumed.

Thanks again and we hope to deal with you again in the future.

Mrs.S. Sloan - January 2007

From: Truusje Broekhoff - Netherlands

Cruised on the King Tut 1 - May 2007

Hi there,

I just wanted to take the opportunity to let you know what an absolutely fantastic time we had on our Nile Cruise.

From the very start the service provided by Barbara on the telephone was superb and she even managed to organise our overnight train from Cairo to Luxor for us which was another weight off our back.

From the pick up at the train station to the drop-off back at the station we had a hassle-free, no-stress trip.

The King Tut 1 is wonderful with excellent cabins, wonderful food and the friendliest staff you have ever met. Because we ate at the same tables every meal we got to know some of the other travellers well and will definitely stay in touch.

Our guide, John, made our trip. He was so knowledgeable, funny and patient! He gave just the right amount of information and could answer all of our questions unlike some of the guides we had in Cairo, (we booked these ourselves on the Internet via another company).

All in all a marvellous trip that was relaxing, educational and entertaining. Fabulously organised and definitely highly recommended in every way.

Thank you very much.

Barbara

I am just writing to you to let you know how much my husband and I enjoyed our trip with you to Egypt.

Our stay on the King Tut the 1 from 17 - 24th September was the best experience either of us has

ever had. It is the most magical, mystical incredible place to go and I think we both fell in love with it.

All credit must go to you for the organization of the whole trip. Everything down to the last detail was taken care of and the people from Orbital who looked after us across there were excellent too?

Sailing down the Nile I had to keep pinching myself to tell myself I was not in a dream, nothing can compare to the beauty and tranquillity of the Nile and all its picture postcard scenes, from the sunrises to the sunsets every day saw something new and exciting.

The excursions to the temple's were humbling to say the least, the ancient Egyptians have to be the most fascinating incredibly clever race ever and their Legacy will always be a tribute to them.

I would and have strongly advised everyone I know to take this trip and in my opinion if they do to contact yourselves.

On the second week the Dana Beach in Hurghada itself was lovely and we have no complaints about that either, the facilities and the food and everything was wonderful, this too I would highly recommend. We were the only British speaking people in the hotel and though this was not a problem for us it was slightly

strange especially as we had no contact with the outside world. However this was a minor detail I guess and the trip and its memories will stay with me forever.

I thank you so much for this on behalf of my husband and myself. We had both been a bit apprehensive about going to Egypt but now cannot recommend this intriguing country highly enough. I don't know what we are going to do from now on as topping this is going to be extremely hard.

I am looking at a week away at Christmas time with the family and its proving difficult to even get up enough enthusiasm to go anywhere after this experience of a lifetime. However as there will be either 4 or 6 of us and mum and dad are paying then it will have to be somewhere less exciting I am afraid.

Anyway thank you so much for everything; I will not hesitate to contact you again though I don't know where our holiday plans will take us next year.

Thank you and my very best regards

Jackie Aitken
October 9 2007

Hi Barbara,

We arrived home last night from Egypt and I wanted to thank you for again finding us a wonderful holiday. The Ra 2 didn't disappoint us. The food, crew and decor were lovely.

Our cabin was on B deck at the bow of the boat and must have been one of the biggest with a balcony big enough to sit on (there were 2 chairs).

Our tour guide (Egyptologist) Osama was very informative and passionate about his subject. He opened up a new world.

It was a demanding week, physically, mentally and socially but incredibly stimulating.

Our second week at the Oberoi was a complete contrast, total rest and relaxation in luxurious surroundings...couldn't fault it, just what we were looking for. Although I wonder if it would have been cheaper to have gone half board as Hurghada itself was too far (30 minutes drive) to go for dinner every night.

We only went out of the hotel once which was enough really! Food and drink in the hotel was quite expensive but of a high standard.

Thanks again Barbara for your help in putting together our holiday. I will be in touch next year to arrange the next one and we still plan to go to Kenya/Mauritius in 2009.

Best Regards,

Donna Fleming
October 2007

Hi Barbara,

Nile Cruise & Movenpick Hotel

I had intended sending this email IMMEDIATELY after arriving home from our Egypt holiday but the bubble was burst by Christmas preparations!

What a wonderful holiday. So many sights, sites and sounds.

King Tut 1 - ship and crew great. We also had a group of 30-odd English who got on really well together. The tour guide, Hanaa (our own Nefertiti) was 1st class.

The trip across the desert was interesting but took 7 hours. We were the last couple to be dropped off. Having left people at 3 resorts, which were all south of Hurghada, we still had a considerable distance to travel, the guide left us at Hurghada and the 2 drivers didn't know where the Movenpick was. This meant that they needed to study every road junction, in complete darkness, to find the right road. However when we did arrive the journey had certainly been worth it.

Your choice of the Movenpick was spot on!

We intended relaxing for the second week and did just that. We have never been anywhere else for a week where we haven't moved outside of the resort...heaven.

Now we need to see the pyramids...I'm sure we'll be in touch with you.

Have a super Christmas and New Year,

Regards,

Sandy Hancock
13 December 2007

CHAPTER FIVE

Be Prepared

Overview

1. [Weather](#)
2. [Clothing](#)
3. [Health & Safety](#)
4. [Shopping](#)
5. [Security](#)
6. [Voltage](#)
7. [Passports & Visas](#)
8. [Currency](#)

1. Weather



Your choice of when to travel on your Nile Cruise will depend on many factors including when you can take your holidays, what your budget is and the availability of your chosen departure date and ship when you come to try and book it. So for many of us the date you can travel is pretty well pre-determined.

However, to give you some indication of what sort of weather you can expect here is a general guide.

December and January are mild and ideal for sightseeing but its' the High Season and so prices are at their peak.

July and August are counted as the Low Season months when the river is less crowded but it will be much hotter than in December and January. However prices are much lower and bargains can be had.

March and April and mid-September to mid-November are probably the most pleasant times to visit.

However no matter what date you travel you will be very unlucky to encounter rain and to feel the cold!!

Very different than here in the UK

2. Clothing

Egypt is mainly a Muslim country, so both men and women should dress modestly.

In general you should dress "smartly casual", especially when visiting mosques and churches where shorts and sleeveless shirts are not allowed. It is also a good idea for ladies to carry a scarf just in case.

Shorts and t-shirts may be suitable on some excursions but on some excursions it may be that short-sleeve shirts and lightweight trousers/slack may be more suitable. If in doubt your Egyptologist will advise you regarding clothing for the following day's excursions.

Comfortable walking shoes are much more comfortable than sandals as most sightseeing is done in hot, sandy places.

In resorts or onboard lightweight and informal summer clothes are the norm.

However you would expect to dress "smart-casual" for dinner in the restaurant but there is no need for suits or evening dress as might be required on some ocean-going cruise ships.

It's also advisable to take a hat/cap with you as the mid-day sun can be very hot.

3. Health and Safety

Egypt once had a reputation for travellers' diarrhoea or "**Pharaohs' Revenge**".

However standards of hygiene have improved tremendously and it is now much less of a problem.

However, you are advised not to drink the local water. Not because it is harmful but because our stomachs are used to drinking British water with all of its' treatments and processes. In Egypt their treatments are different and your stomach will not be used to them.

You should ensure that you drink only bottled water. If you purchase bottled water off the boat, perhaps from the mini-bus driver on the way to your excursion, you should ensure that the bottles are sealed.

If you do suffer from a "dicky tummy" you will usually find that the treatments offered on board will work much more quickly than any medicines you may have brought with you from the UK. This is because local medicines have been developed to deal with local bacteria. So in the first instance you should ask your Egyptologist for advice.

You should also take common sense precautions such as not putting your hands to your mouth after handling local currency. Dirty notes are believed to be one of the main ways that germs are passed.

There are currently no compulsory medical requirements for visits to Egypt but you can check on the website for up to date details.

4. Shopping



You will find that bartering is the order of the day and is expected when visiting the local bazaar or souq.

There you will find crafts, jewellery, spices, clothing and leather goods.

You will be asked again and again to buy and although this is frustrating at times you should remember that poverty is rife in Egypt and not much of the money you are spending on your cruise will make its way down to the ordinary people or shopkeepers so it is their chance to make a sale.



You will also be "visited" when on-board by local sellers in small boats who will throw their goods up on deck for you to try and buy. This is all great fun.

Colourful and good natured, it is all part of your Nile Cruise experience.

5. Security

Crime against tourists is rare, petty theft being the only thing to be aware of. Terrorism has been a bigger concern over recent times as in all parts of the world.

However you will notice the very visible presence of the Tourist Police wherever you travel on your Nile Cruise. The presence of the Tourist Police has greatly reduced the incidence of local crime as well as guarding against possible acts of terrorism.

However as with all world travel you should act sensibly and take all reasonable precautions and measures as and when requested to do so.

6. Voltage

The voltage in Egypt is 220v. Therefore a two-pin plug is required. We recommend that you should take a travel plug adaptor with you which can be purchased in most supermarkets in the UK or from your departure airport.

7. Passports & Visas

A full 10 year British passport is required if you are visiting Egypt and must be valid for at least 6 months beyond your return date.

For British passport holders an Egyptian Visa is required which is obtainable at most points of entry in Egypt at a cost of £13.

Holders of other passports should check their visa requirements before booking.

8. Currency

The local currency used in Egypt is the Egyptian Pound (LE). Credit Cards and Debit Cards are not accepted on board some Nile cruise ships but are widely accepted in hotels, local shops and restaurants.

You can change your sterling, dollars, euros and travellers cheques on board.

CHAPTER SIX

Your Nile Cruise Itinerary

Overview

1. [A Typical Nile Cruise Itinerary](#)

1. A Typical Nile Cruise Itinerary

As we have mentioned throughout this guide there are really so many ways you can cruise the Nile and many different types of itinerary. However to give you a "feel" for what a Nile Cruise Itinerary looks like here is a "typical" itinerary for the "El Fostate" or "King Tut" ships:

Day 1

Met and transfer from **Luxor** airport to your cruise vessel, dinner and overnight stay in Luxor.



Day 2

Enjoy your first Egyptian sunrise, followed by a visit to the West Bank to the **Valley of the Kings**, **Valley of the Queens**, the **Temple of Hatshepsut** and the **Colossi of Memnon**. Afternoon sailing and overnight stay at **Esna**.



Day 3

Morning departure to **Edfu** where you will visit the extraordinary **Temple of Horus**, the mythical son of **Isis** and **Osiris**. Here, according to myth, **Horus** avenged the murder of his father **Osiris** by defeating his father's brother **Seth** in combat.

Sail on to **Kom Ombu** to visit the **Temple of Sobek** and **Haroeris** and then onto **Aswan** for the night.



Day 4

Visit the **High Dam** - finished in 1971; it has ensured up to three harvests a year. **The Unfinished Obelisk** - still rooted to the bedrock of pink granite and the **Temple of Isis** on **Philae Island**, with an optional excursion to the ancient wonder of **Abu Simbel** by air, priced at £120pp or by road at £60pp. Overnight at **Aswan**. (Prices correct at publication).



Day 5

Relax and enjoy a trip in a traditional felluca around **Elephantine Island** which will lead you to the **Botanical Gardens** on **General Kitchener Island** given as a gift in 1890. Here, visitors enjoy the beautiful flowers imported from Africa, India and the Far East. Sail and overnight at **Esna**.



Day 6

Visit the partly excavated **Temple of Khnum** at **Esna**. Dedicated to the ram-headed god **Khnum**, who was the patron god of the cataracts, who is said to have fashioned mankind from Nile clay on his potter's wheel. Sail back to **Luxor** and overnight.

Day 7



Tour the **East Bank** with a visit to **Luxor Temple**, originally joined to **Karnak** by an avenue of sphinxes. Visit **Karnak** which covers a huge area and includes several temples, the largest being the **Temple of**

Amun. Overnight in **Luxor** with an optional **Karnak Sound and Light show** priced at £20.00pp.



Day 8 : Leisure time in Luxor before your transfer to **Luxor** airport for your return home or you may wish to extend your stay in Egypt for a further week.

CHAPTER SEVEN

Nile Cruise & Stay

Overview

1. [Cruise and Stay](#)
2. [Cruise and Stay in Luxor](#)
3. [Cruise and Stay in Aswan](#)
4. [Cruise and Stay on the Red Sea](#)

1. Cruise and Stay



Many callers ask us about seeing the **Pyramids** and the **Sphinx** on their Nile cruise not realising that their Nile cruise begins in **Luxor**, many, many miles from those iconic symbols of Ancient Egypt near **Cairo**.

However we can easily put together an arrangement that would allow you to spend time in Cairo enjoying the marvellous sights and sounds as well as visiting the Pyramids at Giza and the Sphinx.

Normally we suggest 3 nights at somewhere like the "**Sofitel Le Sphinx Hotel**", with views of the Pyramids from its' rooms. But we can offer accommodation at an array of excellent hotels in and around Cairo.

This would mean a flight from Heathrow on the Friday giving a 3 night stay in Cairo before flying down on the Monday to meet up with the cruise ship for the 7 night Nile cruise.

Taking 3 nights in Cairo gives a full two days that would enable you to take in visits to the **Egyptian Museum**, a **Nile River Evening Dinner Cruise**, the **Coptic Quarter**, the **Citadel and Bazaars** as well as the **Sphinx** and **Pyramids**.

A truly memorable 10 night holiday.

2. Cruise and Stay at Luxor

Another alternative is a one week cruise of the Nile with a further week at one of Luxor's excellent selection of first-class hotels.

Luxor, the former capital of Egypt is built on the site of ancient Thibes and as well as being the home of the Temples of Karnak and Luxor the whole area is dotted with interesting sites. You could easily spend a week and not see it all.

Several clients have told us that after an active week on their chosen cruise ship they really enjoyed the relaxation of a further week at leisure in the Luxor hotel.



One of the most famous hotels in Luxor is the "**Old Winter Palace**", built in 1886 which soon became the leading hotel in Luxor. But there are also such excellent hotels as the "New Winter Palace" the "Sonesta St. George" and the "Nile Palace" to choose from amongst others. Each of which will provide you with excellent accommodation and facilities in which to relax and enjoy your second week's holiday.

3. Cruise and Stay at Aswan



For many Aswan is the most beautiful city in the Nile Valley with sand dunes sweeping down to the Nile where the waters flow gently around the granite rocks and emerald islands.

Travellers fall for the relaxed atmosphere, Nubian culture and beautiful setting of this, Egypt's most southerly city.

Attractions include felucca trips, Elephantine Island and the seventh-century Monastery of St. Simeon. Plus the opportunity to take afternoon tea or a cocktail on the veranda of the historic **Cataract Hotel** which Barbara, Anna and I visited on our last trip.

Other excellent hotels in which to relax in Aswan include the **Basma Hotel** situated opposite the Nubian Museum on Aswan's highest hill at the edge of the city with commanding views of the Nile and the city of Aswan.

4. Cruise and Stay on the Red Sea



Possibly the most popular of the "Nile Cruise & Stay" options that we arrange is a week's Nile Cruise followed by a further week at one of the Red Sea resorts such as [El Gouna](#), [Hurghada](#) and [Sharm El Sheikh](#).

[El Gouna](#), which is situated 20 kilometres north of Hurghada offers hotels situated in idyllic settings between the majestic mountains of the desert and the clear blue waters of the Red Sea surrounded by natural and artificial lagoons designed to form the shape of a star.

One of Egypt's leading premier leisure destinations, El Gouna is a place with unique hotels varying from Oriental to Mediterranean, but all striving to achieve the highest levels of international standards. El Gouna is a unique resort because of its' beautiful and vibrant town, its' multi-cultural community and its' diverse cuisine.

Dining options and entertainment facilities are plentiful and varied and all within easy reach and, for night owls, there are nightclubs to dance the night away.

With an eighteen hole championship golf course El Gouna truly has something for everyone.

In El Gouna we can arrange 5 Star luxury accommodation in such well known hotels as the "[Movenpick Resort and Spa](#)", the "[Sheraton Miramar](#)", and the "[Steigenberger Golf Resort](#)" situated in the middle of El Gouna's championship golf course.



20 kilometres away from **El Gouna** is the Red Sea resort of **Hurghada**.

Originally a small fishing village, **Hurghada** has become one of the foremost resorts on the Red Sea and is a haven for holidaymakers and scuba divers alike.

With its' great mix of hotels, shops, restaurants and nightlife plus some excellent dive sites and access to the rest of the southern Red Sea Hurghada is an excellent choice for those wanting something as a complete contrast to their Nile Cruise.

The resort boasts all the facilities of a modern Egyptian city without losing its' timeless desert quality. With some of the finest underwater gardens in the world divers and snorkellers can experience the beautiful corals and spectacular marine life for which the Red Sea is renowned.



Again we can offer you some excellent hotels, such as the "**Movenpick Resort**", the "**Radisson SAS Resort**", the "**Intercontinental**" and the luxurious "**Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh**".

Finally, **Sharm El Sheikh**, possibly the most well-known of all the Red Sea resorts.

With its' crystal clear waters, beautiful beaches, superb dive sites, the beauty of the Sinai Desert and its' excellent facilities and amenities **Sharm El Sheikh** could be the ideal spot for you to relax after your Nile Cruise.



Famous for its' diving, snorkelling and water-sports Sharm is a stylish and cosmopolitan resort located at the most southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula.

Naama Bay is the main resort with hotels and dive centres overlooking the sandy, gently shelving beach with shops, cafes, bars and restaurants galore.



There are a myriad selection of excellent hotels including the excellent "[Hyatt Regency](#)" which Barbara and I stayed in recently, the "[Ritz-Carlton](#)", the "[Four Seasons](#)" and the "[Hilton Sharm Dreams Resort](#)" amongst them.

We can arrange a week's stay at any of these hotels to compliment your first week's Nile Cruise.

Please call either **Barbara** or myself, **Colin**, on our **Freephone number 0808 1089 100** to find out about prices for "**Nile Cruise and Stay**" arrangements.

CHAPTER EIGHT

Luxury Nile Cruises

Overview

1. [Luxury Nile Cruises](#)
2. [An Example of a Nile Luxury Cruise](#)
3. [The Oberoi Zahra](#)
4. [The Sun Boat III](#)
5. [The Sonesta Star Goddess](#)
6. [The Lazuli](#)
7. [The Sonesta St. George](#)
8. [In Conclusion](#)

1. Luxury Nile Cruises

Although a lot of our Nile cruises are enjoyed aboard excellent 5 Star Nile cruise ships with great facilities, food and service there are several ships that are truly luxurious.

They include the wonderful "**Oberoi Zahra**" and the "**Sun Boat III**", plus the "**Lazuli**", the "**Oberoi Philae**" and the "**Sonesta St. George**".

All of these ships offer excellent facilities and standards of service and are ideal choices for those with a bigger budget or those travellers looking for a truly memorable experience to perhaps celebrate a special occasion.

Below we detail just some of the luxury vessels currently sailing the Nile but this list is not exhaustive and there are other ships that would meet the "luxury" standard. If you know of other ships that you would recommend as "luxurious" we would be pleased to hear from you and we will add it to our list.

2. **An example of a Luxury Nile Cruise**

To give you an idea about some of the wonderful Nile cruises that you can enjoy here is an example of a "real" luxury cruise that we booked for someone earlier this year who will be travelling on the Oberoi Zahra in late August 2008 on a cruise called the "Nile Splendour".

It is deluxe all the way with a 3 night stay in Cairo at the Four Seasons Hotel, then a seven night Nile Cruise aboard the Oberoi Zahra, including an Abu Simbel excursion by air followed by 4 nights at the fabulous Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh Hotel in Hurghada in a deluxe suite. Sounds nice doesn't it?

Example:

"This could well be the most luxurious Nile cruise available and would be perfect for the special occasion. This beautiful vessel has 26 deluxe suites, tastefully appointed with elegant interiors. Fully air-conditioned, the range of facilities is excellent with an outdoor swimming pool and gymnasium. There are four massage suites, each with a private steam and shower room offering rejuvenating treatments with the finest natural products.

You will enjoy gourmet dining on board, where the chef and his team pride themselves on offering the finest international cuisine.

Each cabin has en-suite facilities with twin or double beds and a television with large windows offering panoramic views of the Nile".

The tour includes:

*Four Seasons Hotel, Cairo - 3 nights BB - Deluxe Rooms
Oberoi Zahra Nile Cruise - 7 nights FB - Luxury Cabin
Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh, Hurghada - 4 nights BB - Deluxe Suite*

Saturday 30th August:

*Day 1 to Day 4 Fly - London/Cairo
Depart Heathrow for Cairo on Saturday with EgyptAir arriving late evening. On arrival transfer to the Four Seasons Hotel Cairo, Giza's finest residence for three nights. During your stay a private car has been provided*

for your visit to the Cairo Museum and the Pyramids at Giza.

Tuesday 2nd September:

Day 4 Fly - Cairo/Aswan

Rise early on Tuesday morning to fly EgyptAir to Aswan and board The Oberoi Zahra. After lunch visit the Botanical Garden by felucca and after sunset enjoy the Sound and Light show at the Philae temple.

Wednesday 3rd September:

Day 5 Aswan/Abu Simbel

Fly to Abu Simbel to visit the temples built by Ramses II. Return to the boat and after lunch visit the High Dam, The Unfinished Obelisk and Philae Temple. Dinner on the Island.

Day 6 to Abu Simbel/Edfu

Sail north to Kom Ombo and visit the twin temples of the crocodile god Sobek and the falcon god Horus. Sail to Edfu and after lunch visit the temple dedicated to Horus the Falcon God, the best preserved temple of the ancient world.

Day 7 Edfu/Luxor

Sail to Luxor via Esna. After lunch visit Luxor Temple constructed by Amenophis III, Ramses II, Tutankhamun and Haremhab.

Day 8 Luxor

Journey to the West Bank to explore the Valley of the Kings, with its royal tombs, the Temple of Madinat Habu and on your return you stop at the Colossus of Memnon.

This evening enjoy the spectacular sound and light show at the Great Karnak Temple.

Day 9 Luxor/Dendara

Sail to Quina and after lunch travel to Dendara for a private visit to the Temple of Dendara, dedicated to Hathor, Goddess of music, love and joy. Later enjoy a farewell reception at the Temple.

Day 10 Dendara/Luxor

Sail to Luxor and after breakfast travel to the West Bank and visit the Nobles Tomb and Dair El Madina, the site of a workman's village whose craftsman built and decorated the tombs of the Pharaohs in the Valley of the Kings

Tuesday 9th September:

Road transfer to Hurghada. 4 nights stay at Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh Hotel, Deluxe Suite on Bed & Breakfast basis.

Saturday 13th September:

*Flight transfer from Hurghada to Cairo
Depart Cairo for Heathrow with EgyptAir arriving late afternoon.*

Total Price per person £2249

(Includes private transfers and all internal flights)

3. The Oberoi Zahra



The **Oberoi Zahra** has 26 Deluxe suites, which are tastefully appointed with elegant interiors. Fully air-conditioned the range of facilities is excellent with an outdoor swimming pool and gymnasium.

There are three massage suites, each with a private steam room, offering rejuvenating treatments with the finest natural products.

You will enjoy gourmet dining onboard, where the chef and his team pride themselves on offering the finest international cuisine.



Each cabin has en suite facilities with twin or double beds and a television and large windows which offer panoramic views of the Nile.

The **Oberoi Zahra** is truly a luxury cruise ship and at the time of writing an 11 day cruise, including full board and a full excursion programme begins at around £1800 per person.

The **Oberoi Zahra** is the choice for a really memorable Nile cruise.

4. The Sun Boat III



There are few ships on the Nile as good as the **Sun Boat III**.

With just 18 cabins including four suites, the **Sun Boat III** is an intimate, fully air-conditioned yacht. Fine dining on the promenade deck is a la carte, every day a choice of dishes including Egyptian delicacies.



Each cabin offers Nile views with en suite facilities, television, CD-player and minibar. A sundeck and pool offer

an oasis from which to enjoy the passing spectacles of the Nile.

Nile cabins are located on the lower deck, Promenade cabins on the middle deck and suites to the upper deck.

A 13 day "Nile Adventure" cruise on board the **Sun Boat III** begins at around £2300 per person.

5. The Sonesta Star Goddess

The **Sonesta Star Goddess** is an "all-suite" ship. With 33 suites, including 27 Beethoven Suites, 4 Mozart Suites and 2 Chopin Suites the Star Goddess is a luxurious vessel on which to cruise.



Cabins have private bathrooms with bathtub and hairdryer, satellite TV and music channel, telephone, mini-bar, safety deposit box and sitting area with "in-

room" dining option.

All cabins have an elegant terrace with river views

The ship has a one-sitting restaurant service serving all meals, sun deck with bar and barbeque facilities and the lounge serves light meals.

There is a swimming pool on the sun deck, a jogging track, massage room and sauna and there is nightly entertainment including a Galabeya Party, a Cocktail Party and Disco.



The **Sonesta Sun Goddess** will not disappoint if you are looking for something really special.

6. The Lazuli



The **Lazuli** offers you an entirely unique way of sailing on the Nile to explore the spectacular sites of Upper and Lower Egypt

The **Lazuli** offers a luxurious atmosphere with the advantage of modern comforts and convenience.

Built at the end of the 19th century it is identical to the 'traditional' vessels. The boat is propelled by two Latin sails and has six cabins.

There is a large drawing room and a covered deck with tables and chairs, sun loungers and mattresses to relax on and contemplate the passing countryside. All cabins have a shower, wash basin and toilet. Four cabins have double beds and the other two have twin beds.

The **Lazuli** cruise offers a full Nile itinerary whilst you experience a "unique" atmosphere. The itinerary can be extended to take in Cairo and also the Red Sea resorts if required.

7. The Sonesta St. George

An official 5 Star Deluxe ship, the Sonesta St. George is regarded as one of the most luxurious ships on the Nile and provides excellent levels of comfort and service.



It boasts 47 well-appointed cabins and 10 spacious suites, each offering 23" LCD screen TV, mini bar, tea & coffee making facilities, wireless internet access, hairdryer, safe, direct dial telephone and bath equipped with a spa unit including steam, Jacuzzi and water massage, plus a double glass panoramic French window.

The main lounge plays host to nightly live entertainment including a belly dance show, Captain's welcome cocktail party and fancy dress Galabeya



party. Live music is also provided in the piano bar.

There's a sizeable swimming pool and Jacuzzi situated on the spacious sun deck, plus table tennis and a fully equipped Spa and

Wellness Centre offering a range of treatments, gym, sauna and steam bath.

8. In Conclusion

As you can see above there are some wonderful Nile Cruise ships to choose from if you want to experience a truly memorable holiday and there are other ships in this category on which we can arrange cruises for you such as the "**Sonesta Sun and Moon Goddess**" and the "**Movenpick Lotus**".

We can book accommodation on any of these ships, subject to availability, and we can also tailor-make the trip to add in extra days at the beginning or the end of the cruise in Cairo, Luxor, Hurghada, El Gouna or Sharm El Sheikh. To find out more about these wonderful ships and about the possibility of tailor-making a "cruise and stay" to fit your requirements please call either Barbara or myself on **Freephone 0808 1089 100**.

CHAPTER NINE

The Nile Cruise Podcast

Overview

1. [What's a Podcast?](#)
2. [The Nile Cruise Podcast](#)
4. [How To Become A Podcast Guest](#)

1. What's a Podcast?



A **podcast** is like a radio show that you can download to your computer.

Once on your computer, you can play podcasts directly or transfer them to an mp3 player, such as an iPod or your iPhone.

The difference between a radio show and a podcast is that with podcasting you can listen to shows whenever and wherever you want.

Do I need an iPod To Listen To Podcasts?

No. It's simple. You can simply listen to a podcast directly on your computer.

Normally you would simply click on the podcast episode title and the show will begin playing through your computer's speakers.

However you can also "download" the podcast to any portable audio player, mobile phone or other gadget capable of playing mp3 audio files. You can then listen to the podcast whenever and wherever it's convenient.

You can "subscribe" to a podcast via iTunes and as each new episode is released it will be added to your iPod or player automatically.

The name "Podcasting" is a combination of "iPod" and "broadcasting", from the fact that the Apple iPod is a popular player for the mp3 audio files used in podcasting. However this is misleading as an iPod is not

necessary and no actual broadcasting takes place. Some people prefer the terms "Blogcasting" or "Audio Blogging" instead.

2. The Nile Cruise Podcast



The **Nile Cruise Podcast** has been created by ourselves in order that we can interview clients and other Nile cruise or Egypt experts for the interest and benefit of our clients and potential clients.

Each month we interview a guest who has just returned from a Nile Cruise or we will interview an expert in Egypt and Egyptology that we think would interest our listeners.

You can listen to the Nile Cruise Podcast episodes by visiting our podcast page on the [Nile Cruise Blog](#) and you can then simply play them to hear the chosen episode played through your computer's speakers.

Or, you can subscribe to the Nile Cruise Podcast at iTunes and the episodes will be automatically downloaded to your iPod or MP3 player.

3. How To Become a Podcast Guest

We are always looking for more guest interviewees for future episodes of the Nile Cruise Podcast.

If you think you would like to pass on your own experiences of Egypt and cruising the Nile we would love to invite you to become a guest on a future show.

We arrange our interviews at a mutually convenient time and conduct them over the telephone.

Please contact Colin on Freephone 0808 1089 100 or by email at colinm@tarsc.net

CHAPTER TEN

The Nile Cruise Blog

Overview

1. [What's a Blog?](#)
2. [The Nile Cruise Blog](#)
3. [Subscribe to The Nile Cruise Blog](#)

1. What's A Blog?



A **blog** is like a journal - but a journal that is published "online".

It can be a place to visit regularly for breaking-news, stories and articles of interest or simply a collection of useful links and posts.

It can be a place to read someone's thoughts and ideas. Or it can be a valuable website to visit and read about things that you find useful or interesting.

In simple terms, a blog is a web site, where people write things on an on-going basis.

New stuff shows up at the top of a blog, so you can read what's new.

You can comment on it and you can "subscribe" to the blog to have each new post or article emailed to you as it appears on the blog.

Since Blogs began to appear in the last 1990's, blogs have reshaped the web, impacted upon politics, shaken up journalism, and enabled millions of people to have a voice and connect with others.

They are also useful for companies like ourselves to add daily articles, news and information that we feel our clients might find useful and interesting.

2. The Nile Cruise Blog

We created the **Nile Cruise Blog** to allow us to add content, news and information that we feel will be of interest whether you are a new Nile cruiser or whether

you've cruised before and have become a lover of Egypt like ourselves.




The Blog is also the home of the **Nile Cruise Podcast** where you can find all of the episodes in which we interview clients who have recently returned from cruising the Nile and ask them about their experiences and impressions. That way you can hear descriptions and testimonials direct from

the "horse's mouth".

We have cruised the Nile ourselves and enjoyed a wonderful time and hope that the combination of the main Nile Cruises 4u website and the blog will give you an insight into what a great trip a Nile Cruise can be.

3.How to Subscribe To the Blog

You can subscribe to the **Nile Cruise Blog** by clicking on the green RSS icon at the bottom of the right hand column. 

You can also subscribe to receive the latest Blog posts by completing the form on the Blog in the top right-hand corner.

If you use a free news reader such as **Google Reader** or **Feedreader** or similar this will allow you to receive our new articles, videos, news and podcasts as soon as we publish them.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

Useful Egyptian Phrases

1. Some Useful Egyptian Phrases

Here are one or two useful Egyptian Phrases that you might enjoy trying your luck with when you are cruising.

At The Bar:

La Shokran - No thanks

Bari - Bar

Hamam - Bathroom

Akal - Food

Maasalaama - Bye

Sochen - Warm

Shukran - Thank you

Mayia - Water

Ah Lan - Hello

Birra - Beer

Cola - Coke

General Greetings:

Hello - Ahlan wa sahlan

Good bye - Salam

Good Morning - Sahab el-kheir
Good Evening - Masaa el-kheir
Good Night - Tisbah ala kheir
Peace be with you - Salam alekum
How are you? - Izayak(m) Izayek (f)
My name is - Ismi

What's your name? - Ismak (m)/Ismek (f) eih?
Welcome - Ahlan wa sahan
Yes - Aiwa
No - La
Thankyou - Shukran
No Thankyou -La shukran
Pardon/Excuse me - Afwan or ahlan
Sorry - Assif
Please - Min fadlak (m)/ fadlek (f)

In the Shop:

Please - Min tadlak
Can I see this? - Momken ashout da?
How much is this/ that....? - Bikam da....?
It costs too much - Da ghali awi.
Money - Felous
My last word - Aakhir Kalaam

Finally:

Good luck!!

CHAPTER TWELVE

Nile Cruise Tips

Here are a few tips we think you might find useful when preparing to take your Nile Cruise.

We are always grateful for other hints and tips and if you would like to suggest a tip for inclusion please email us at tips@nile-cruises-4u.co.uk

- You may have to walk through other cruise ships to reach your vessel as they are often moored close together whilst in port because of the numbers of vessels and direct access to your ship is not always available. This may also result in views from your cabin being obscured whilst docked.
- If you are thinking of taking the Hot air balloon excursion, which is great fun and a "one-off" experience, or the camel and horse riding **please make sure that you have an insurance policy** that covers you for these types of activities because not all policies do.
- Please take care using gang planks.
- Passengers with walking difficulties may find that they are less able to cope with some excursions which can be energetic and don't forget the boat has several decks! **Normally**

- we would not recommend that people with walking difficulties take a Nile Cruise.
- Excursions usually start quite early in the morning to avoid the extreme heat of the sun in the middle of the day.
- Do not drink the tap water. You can use it to wash and shower but you are not advised to drink it. You should only use bottled water to drink. You will find it cheaper to buy in the various shops, than buying at your hotel or cruise boat. You may not drink a lot of water at home, but make sure you do in Egypt. It is very easy to become dehydrated if you don't.
- If you are on an "All Inclusive" arrangement onboard be sure to order your bottled water for the next morning's excursion at dinner as if you order it at breakfast the next day, before the "all inclusive" arrangement starts, you will be charged.
- If you develop a tummy upset you should ask onboard for a suitable remedy. Tummy upsets are not normally caused by dirty conditions but by local bacteria that we are not used to. Often local remedies, normally available on board, will act much, much faster than Imodium as the local remedy had been developed to deal with local bacteria.

- We suggest you take some moist "wet wipes" to use after you have handled Egyptian money as it can be quite old and dirty and is a possible cause of tummy upsets.
- You should make up a small "medical-kit" including things like safety pins, plasters, antiseptic cream, diarrhoea tablets, headache tablets and sun cream (high factor advised).
- When we asked a local merchant whether we should give the local kids boxes of sweets that we had with us he suggested that it would be far better if we were able to give them ballpoint pens. You might want to a box of cheap ballpoint pens with you. The children (and many adults) will be very happy when you hand them out. (Their also handy for baksheesh!!).
- You should wear sensible footwear when visiting the various sites. High heels and open toe shoes are not advisable. The floors of most sites are either sand or rough-cut uneven stone. Inside many tombs, wooden floorboards have been installed, and thin heels could get caught in the gaps between the floorboards.
- Many monuments have signs that say "No Flash Photography". You should obey these signs as you can be ejected from the site if you ignore the sign! The very bright flash can cause serious damage to some of the ancient paintwork!

- Because of the worldwide threat of terrorism you may have your personal belongings (camera bags, carrier bags etc.) searched before gaining admittance. Though this is annoying, it is for your safety. Also, on some sites they do not allow video cameras to be used and they will ask you to leave your video equipment with them at the entrance. Don't worry you will get it back.
- If you are travelling by road to Abu Simbel on the day excursion you should, ask your Egyptologist if the ship can supply a "breakfast box". You should definitely take some food with you, as hunger will set in before you reach Abu Simbel (a 3 ½ - 4 hour trip, each way!) Also, make sure you take plenty of water with you; it tends to be hot there and you can dehydrate very quickly.
- Remember that Egypt is a 3rd world country, and has many poor people who think that all tourists are rich, no matter where they come from in the world. Learn the phrase "La Shukran" (No thank you!) and don't be afraid to say it to anyone who tries to sell you anything, or asks for "baksheesh". Believe it or not, it does work. Please do not say "Emshi" (as many tour books advise), this can be taken as an insult.

- If you are in Cairo and you intend visiting the inside of one of the pyramids ladies should wear trousers (or jeans) as you may have to ascend/descend ladders and/or crawl through narrow passages. For the same reasons men should avoid wearing short trousers.
- You should ignore any trader selling "papyrus" pictures, as the "papyrus" will probably be made from banana leaves and not be genuine papyrus! You should only buy from the established papyrus manufacturers factory shops.
- In Egypt, most of the banks are open from Sunday to Thursday; working hours being 0830 to 1400, though banks at the airports and the major entry ports are open 24 hours daily.
- Most of the major credit/debit cards, such as American Express, MasterCard, Visa, all Euro cards and JCB, are widely accepted in various hotels and shops. If you want to use an ATM machine, they mostly accept Visa, MasterCard and Cirrus cards.
- Don't take Scottish pounds or Irish punts as they are not accepted in Egypt.
- In Egypt, most of the banks are open from Sunday to Thursday; working hours being 0830 to 1400, though banks at the airports and the major entry ports are open 24 hours daily.

- Most of the major credit/debit cards, such as American Express, MasterCard, Visa, all Euro cards and JCB, are widely accepted in various hotels and shops. If you want to use an ATM machine, they mostly accept Visa, MasterCard and Cirrus cards.
- If you run out of money you still can get money wired to you from abroad. In Egypt, there are plenty of Western Union branches; it takes just a few minutes to get any sum of money sent you from abroad.
- The country code for Egypt if anyone needs to call you is 002.

Finally...

Thanks for reading our **Nile Cruise Guide**.

We hope that you have found it useful and that it has answered some of your questions.

If you have any other questions that remain unanswered about any aspect of Nile Cruising please feel free to call either **Barbara** or myself, **Colin**, on (UK Freephone) **0808 1089 100** and we'll do our best to help.

If you have any suggestions as to how the Guide might be improved or suggestions as to what you feel might be missing and would be good to include please email us at guide@nile-cruises-4u.co.uk

Please take a listen to the Nile Cruise Podcast and take a look at the Nile Cruise Blog.

We have also created a Nile Cruise Screensaver that you can download and use on your pc to keep you in the "Nile Cruise Mood". If you double left-click [here](#) a dialogue will open up and you can download the screen saver.

Finally...when you Cruise the Nile...have a wonderful time!!



Kind regards,

Colin & Barbara Maddocks
www.Nile-Cruises-4u.co.uk

FREEPHONE 0808 1089 100

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