



Another way of
cruising on the Nile

This June - discover Middle Egypt's hidden treasures aboard the Steam Ship Sudan

"Ladies and gentlemen...welcome aboard": it was almost a century ago that the first privileged travellers set sail on Thomas Cook & Son's steamboats. Today, the Steam Ship Sudan is the last survivor of this steam-powered fleet – the only one still gracing the Nile with her paddlewheels and oiled teak decks. Setting foot on her gangway, strolling along her broad passageways, falling asleep and dreaming in one of her 23 cabins will instantly transport you back in time to the days of Agatha Christie and Howard Carter. In late spring and in summer 2017, the ship will be taking passengers on two exceptional cruises along a section of the Nile that was closed to shipping for 20 years. From Aswan to Cairo: 14 magical days in Middle Egypt. A timeless voyage through Egyptian history and culture, enhanced by talks, films and videos, returning to dry land in modern day Cairo.

Aswan / Cairo - 14 days / 13 nights
Saturday 27th May to Friday 9th June 2017
&
Saturday 12th August to Friday 25th August 2017

Day 1 (Saturday): Embark at Aswan

Embark; lunch served on board. Afternoon visit to the Temple of Philae, the "Pearl of Egypt", dedicated to the cult of the goddess Isis of Nubia.

Free time in the evening to explore the souks of Aswan.
Dinner and overnight on board.

Day 2 (Sunday): Aswan - Kom Ombo - Edfu - Esna

Set sail at dawn to **Kom Ombo** followed by visit to its temple on the banks of the majestic river. The site is dedicated to two gods: Horus the Great and Sobek the crocodile-god. Short cruise to the **temple of Edfu**, whose buildings, dedicated to the cult of Horus, are among the finest examples of Ancient Egyptian sacred architecture.

Dinner on board and sail overnight to Esna.

Day 3 (Monday): Esna - Luxor

Continue sailing to Luxor, ancient Thebes.

En route – Visit the site of **Karnak**, dedicated to the god Amun, protector of the New Kingdom pharaohs. You will love exploring the **temple of Luxor** in the evening, when the light reveals the full beauty of the columns of Amenophis III.
Dinner and overnight on board.

Day 4 (Tuesday): Luxor - Qena

Depart in the morning for the mysterious **Theban Necropolis**, presided over by the god Osiris.

Itinerary for Luxor – Visit the **Valley of the Kings** (whose tombs evoke the passage of the deceased into the afterlife), the **Valley of the Queens** (the secret necropolis of the royal wives) and the **Valley of the Nobles**. Visit the temple of Medinet Habu, whose architecture recalls the fortresses of ancient Syria.
Set sail for Qena.

Dinner and overnight on board.

Day 5 (Wednesday): Qena - Denderah - Abydos - Al Balyana

Morning visit to **Denderah** and the temple of Hathor, protector of women: isolated on the edge of civilisation and the desert, the ancient complex of Denderah is among the best preserved in Egypt. Beyond the Nag Hammadi Bridge, we enter a rarely explored section of the Nile.

Itinerary – Visit the sacred city of **Abydos**, city of Osiris, ruler of the underworld and god of the resurrection. A pilgrimage destination since the days of the Old Kingdom, Abydos is famous for its temple whose exquisite bas-reliefs mark the birth of Ramessean Art.

Dinner and overnight on board.

Day 6 (Thursday): Al Balyana - Sohag

Spectacular day of sailing stopping at the **Red Monastery** (named for its burnt brick walls) and the **White Monastery**, founded by monks in the 4th century AD in the Christian town of **Atripe**.

Dinner and overnight on board.

Day 7 (Friday): Sohag - Asyut

Enjoy a leisurely day on board. Relax and gaze at the scenery as it floats past, take a cookery course with the chef, or watch a classic film. There will also be a talk organised by your guide.

Dinner and overnight on board.

Day 8 (Saturday): Asyut - Deir el-Muharraq monastery - Tell el-Amarna

We navigate the Ibrahimia Canal, a 320-km waterway that supplies water to Faiyum and Middle Egypt. Stop at the monastery of **Deir el-Muharraq**, built in the 4th century, which continues to be an important spiritual centre, and is one of the largest seminaries in Egypt.

Day 9 (Sunday): Tell el-Amarna - Tuna el-Gebel - Hermopolis - Minya

Early morning 'secret tour' of the **Tell el-Amarna** complex, dedicated to the god Aten and founded by the pharaoh **Akhenaten** in the majestic City of the Sun. The royal necropolis takes us back to a period of Pharaonic Egypt that remains shrouded in mystery.

Also on the itinerary – Catacombs of the sacred ibises of **Tuna el-Gebel** (including the tomb of Petosiris and its celebrated bas-reliefs inspired by the art of Ancient Greece) – **Hermopolis**, believed to be the "birthplace of the world" by the ancients (beautiful Pharaonic, Greek and Roman ruins).

Sail to **Minya**.

Dinner and overnight on board.

Day 10 (Monday): Minya - Beni Hasan – Jebel el-Deir - Minya

Located 250 km from Cairo, Minya is a pretty Middle Egyptian village whose relaxed way of life is played out in the picturesque cafes and old colonial streets.

Itinerary – Mural paintings in the tombs of **Beni Hasan**, and the **Jebel el-Deir monastery** (where the Holy Family is said to have stayed during their Flight into Egypt).

Dinner and overnight on board.

Day 11 (Tuesday): Minya - Beni Suef

Full day's sailing on board the boat. Take a siesta, sip tea, watch a film or listen to a talk by your guide.

Dinner and overnight on board.

Day 12 (Wednesday): Beni Suef - Faiyum - Al Wasta

Whole day exploring the **region of Faiyum**. The Faiyum oasis has been irrigated since Antiquity: orchards of oranges, pomegranates and prickly pears flourish on the banks of "Joseph's Canal", built by the Middle Kingdom pharaohs. This lush, green section of the Nile is also home to some important archaeological remains.

Lunch on the banks of **Lake Qarun** followed by visits to the pyramids of **Hawara, El-Lahun and Meidum**.

Dinner and overnight on board.

Day 13 (Thursday): Al Wasta - Cairo

Final day's cruise to Al Maadi in Cairo.

Dinner and overnight on board.

Day 14 (Friday): Cairo

Disembark the ship in the morning.

Cruise guaranteed with a minimum of 10 passengers.

