



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 Cairo to Aswan : 15 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.

Cairo / Aswan- 15 days / 14 nights

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2017

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Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August to Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2017

### *Day 1 (Saturday): Cairo - Al Wasta*

Embark the Sudan at Al Maadi. When seen from the boat, Cairo takes on a whole new appearance as you leave the frenetic city behind.  
Dinner and overnight on board.

### *Day 2 (Sunday): Al Wasta - Faiyum - Beni Suef*

Whole day exploring the **region of Faiyum**, with visits to the pyramids of **Meidum** and **Hawara** (considered the last pyramid of Egypt). Lunch on the banks of **Lake Qarun**. 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.  
Dinner and overnight on board at Beni Suef.

### ***Day 3 (Monday): Beni Suef - Beni Mazar***

Enjoy a leisurely day on board. Take a cookery course, listen to a talk by your guide, or watch a classic film.

Dinner and overnight on board.

### ***Day 4 (Tuesday): Beni Mazar - Jebel el-Deir - Minya***

Minya is a pretty Middle Egyptian village whose relaxed way of life is played out in the picturesque cafes and old colonial streets.

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

Dinner and overnight on board.

### ***Day 5 (Wednesday): Minya - Beni Hasan - Tuna el-Gebel - Tell el-Amarna***

**Itinerary** – Visit the magnificent tombs of **Beni Hassan**, whose mural paintings are among the most remarkable in Egyptian art. Visit the catacombs of the sacred ibises of **Tuna el-Gebel** (including the tomb of Petosiris and its celebrated bas-reliefs inspired by Ancient Greek art). '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.

Dinner and overnight on board.

### ***Day 6 (Thursday): Tell el-Amarna - Deir el-Muharraq monastery - Asyut***

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. We then navigate the Ibrahimia Canal, a 320-km waterway that supplies water to Faiyum and Middle Egypt.

### ***Day 7 (Friday): Asyut - Sohag***

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): Sohag - Al Balyana***

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

Dinner and overnight on board.

### ***Day 9 (Sunday): Al Balyana - Abydos - Nag Hammadi***

**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 10 (Monday): Nag Hammadi - Denderah - Qena***

Visit **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.

Dinner and overnight on board.

### ***Day 11 (Tuesday): Qena - Luxor***

Depart in the morning for the mysterious **Theban Necropolis**, home of 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.

**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 12 (Wednesday): Luxor - Esna - Edfu***

**En route** – Visit the site of **Karnak**, dedicated to the god Amun, protector of the New Kingdom pharaohs.

Dinner and overnight on board.

### ***Day 13 (Thursday): Edfu - Kom Ombo***

Visit the **temple of Edfu** whose buildings, dedicated to the cult of Horus, are among the finest examples of Ancient Egyptian sacred architecture. Sail to **Kom Ombo** and visit its temple on the banks of the majestic river. The site is dedicated to two gods: Horus the Great and Sobek the crocodile-god. Dinner on board.

### ***Day 14 (Friday): Kom Ombo - Aswan***

Sail to Aswan, where the Nile Valley ends and Nubia begins. Cultivated fields give way to large sandy riverbanks.

**Itinerary** – Visit the Temple of Philae, presided over by the goddess Isis.  
Dinner and overnight on board.

### ***Day 15 (Saturday): Aswan***

Disembark at Aswan after breakfast.

Cruise guaranteed with a minimum of 10 passengers.

