

Saturday, January 17th, 2026

Destination Experience & Excursions

7:00 am – 12:30 pm (Whisper) recommended

Visit to Aswan High Dam,
Unfinished Obelisk and Philae temple

Approx. 11:00 pm

S.S Sphinx arrives in Esna (overnight)

Photo opportunity

Amazing sunset during sailing

Information about Aswan High Dam

The Aswan High Dam is an embankment dam built across the Nile at Aswan, Egypt in 1960

Construction of the High Dam became a key objective of the Egyptian government following the Egyptian Revolution of 1952, as the ability to control floods, provide water for irrigation and generate hydroelectricity were seen as pivotal to Egypt's industrialization. The High Dam was constructed between 1960 and 1970, and has had a significant effect on the economy and culture of Egypt.

Before the dams were built, the Nile flooded every year during late summer, when water flowed down the valley from its East African drainage basin. These floods brought high water and natural nutrients and minerals that annually enriched the fertile soil along the floodplain and delta; this had made the Nile Valley ideal for farming since ancient times but because floods vary, in high-water years the whole crop might be wiped out, while in low-water years widespread drought and famine occasionally occurred. As Egypt's population grew and conditions changed, both a desire and ability developed to control the floods, and thus both protect and support farmland and the economically important cotton crop.

Onboard Service & Activities

5:30 – 7:00 am

Breakfast in the restaurant

12:30 pm

Lunch buffet in the restaurant

3:30 – 4:00 pm

Cooking demonstration with our Chef on the Sun Deck,
followed by tea time (weather permitting)

6:00 – 7:00 pm

Sip and sail hour in the lounge
Enjoy our Egyptian's selection

6:30 – 7:00 pm

Farewell reception, followed by daily talk with the
Egyptologist in the lounge

7:00 – 9:00 pm

Candle light dinner is served in the restaurant

All day movie on documentary channel

"Death on the Nile"

Egyptian's Happy hour cocktail

Egyptian quiet night

Vodka, mix berries juice, soda water and mint

Special attention to...

Docking Address: Aswan City (Marsa Misr travel)

All aboard Time

1:00 pm
S.S Sphinx sets sail for Esna (overnight)

Expected Weather

Today: Sunny
Temp. min. 6° C / 43° F – max. 26° C / 78° F

Practical Tips

Comfortable walking shoes are recommended

Wellness & Spa treatments

While onboard, unwind with a spa treatment at
The S.S Sphinx Spa and visit our fitness center

Gift shop opening times

12:30 – 9:30 pm

Aswan

Aswan Governorates one of the governorates of Egypt. It is the southernmost governorate in Upper Egypt. The capital of the governorate is Aswan. It borders Luxor Governorate to the north, Red Sea Governorate to the east, New Valley Governorate to the west, and Sudan to the south. The population of the governorate is 1,400,000 (2014). Its area is 34,608 sq. km. It stands on the east bank of the Nile at the first cataract and is a busy market and tourist center. The modern city has expanded and includes the formerly separate community on the island of Elephantine. Aswan is one of the driest inhabited places in the world; as of early 2001, the last rain there was seven years earlier. As of April 6, 2010, the last rainfall was a thunderstorm on May 13, 2006. In Nubian settlements, they generally do not bother to roof all the rooms in their houses. Aswan is the ancient city of Swenet, which in antiquity was the frontier town of Ancient Egypt to the south. The ancient name of the city also is said to be derived from the Egyptian symbol for trade. They furnished the colossal statues, obelisks, and monolithic shrines that are found throughout Egypt, including the pyramids—the traces of the quarrymen of 3,000 years ago are still visible in the native rock. They lie on either bank of the Nile, and a road, four miles in length, was cut beside them from Syene to Philae.

Highlights

Temple of Isis at Philae

Philae in Greek or Pilak in ancient Egyptian, meaning the end defined the southernmost limit of Egypt. It was begun by Ptolemy II and completed by the Roman emperors. The Temple was dedicated to the goddess Isis, the wife of Osiris and mother of Horus. These three characters dominate ancient Egyptian culture and their story possesses all the drama of a Shakespearian tragedy. The god Osiris is murdered and dismembered by his brother Seth. Isis searches for the fragments, collects them together and with her magic powers brings Osiris back to life. They then conceive the god Horus. Osiris becomes god of the underworld and judge of the dead – who must answer to him for their deeds on Earth. Meanwhile Isis gives birth to Horus and protects the young god. Later when Horus is grown he avenges his father by defeating Seth in combat. Isis is a very important figure in the ancient world. She is associated with funeral rites but as the enchantress who resurrected Osiris and gave birth to Horus she is also the giver of life, a healer and protector of kings. and was represented with a throne on her head. Fortunately the temple was rescued by a joint operation between the Egyptian government and UNESCO. In an engineering feat to rival the ancients the whole island was surrounded with a dam and the inside pumped dry. Then every stone block of the temple complex was labeled and removed later to be assembled, like a giant jigsaw puzzle, on the higher ground of Agilkaisland. The whole project took 10 years and has saved one of Egypt's most beautiful temples from certain destruction.

Local Specialties

Traditional eggplant with herbs

ETHNIC POINTS FOR EGYPT

GENERAL TIPS

Egyptians usually respect foreigners very much; however, you still have to earn it. If you know your job well and you show credibility and leadership, you will earn high marks and you can be sure you will be setting the tone. But if they discover that they know more than you, your credibility will be lost.

Showing openness and the ability to listen and understand will lead to a good relationship and will be key to your success in managing and leading them.

Politeness, respect, sincerity, and an easy manner, in the end, are what create a lasting and genuine relationship and willingness to work for someone.

Never embarrass a colleague in public; this will create an irreparable crack in the relationship. If you have a problem, yes, definitely you have to confront but in private. If they have a problem with you, they will make it obvious. Egyptians express their emotions easily and their behavior will clearly demonstrate to you their anger. If that happens, still the best thing is discussing it behind closed doors and with a friendly approach. Most of the time, this approach will enable you to resolve the problem