

Sunday, May 31st, 2026

Destination Experience & Excursions

8:00 – 9:00 am (Whisper) recommended

Visit to Esna temple

All morning

S.S Sphinx cruises along the Nile River

Approx. 3:00 pm

S.S Sphinx arrives in Luxor (overnight)

Esna Temple

The name "Latopolis" is in honor of the Nile perch, Latesniloticus, the largest of the 52 species which inhabit the Nile and which was abundant in these stretches of the river in ancient times. It appears in sculptures as one of the symbols of the goddess Neith, associated by the ancient Greeks with Pallas-Athene, surrounded by the oval shield or ring indicative of royalty or divinity. Held sacred, the Latesniloticus was buried in a cemetery west of the town. The tutelary deities of Latopolis seem to have been the triad – Khnum and Neith, and Hak their offspring. The temple of Esna, dedicated to this triad, was remarkable for the beauty of its site and the magnificence of its architecture. It was built of red sandstone, and its portico consisted of six rows of four columns each, with lotus-leaf capitals, all of which however differ from each other.

The two main points of interest in Esna are its lively tourist-oriented market, which fills a couple of streets leading inland from the corniche. The other is the temple of Esna. The temple, which has only been partially excavated, is about 200 meters from the river and some 9 meters below street level.

Onboard Service & Activities

7:00 – 8:00 am

Breakfast buffet in the restaurant

9:30 am

Disembarkation briefing with cruise Manager and Hotel Manager in the lounge bar

12:30 – 2:00 pm

Lunch buffet in the restaurant

6:00 – 7:00 pm

Happy hour in the lounge
Enjoy our Egyptian's selection

6:00 – 6:30 pm

Folklore show in the lounge bar

7:00 pm

Arabian buffet in the restaurant

Egyptian's Happy hour cocktail

Great Sphinx

Vodka, soda, pomegranate juice

Special attention to....

Docking Address: Marsa Spring Tours,
Gazerat Al Awamyia Near to Qasr El Thaqafa

All aboard Time:

9:00 am

S.S Sphinx sets sail for Luxor (overnight)

Expected Weather

Today: Sunny

Temp. min. 23° C / 74° F – max. 39° C / 101° F

Practical Tips

Comfortable walking shoes are recommended

Luxor

The Story of Osiris, Isis and Horus

From Geb, the earth god, and Nut, the sky goddess came four children: Osiris, Isis, Seth and Nephthys. Osiris was the oldest and so became king of Egypt, and he married his sister Isis. Osiris was a good king and commanded the respect of all who lived on the earth and the gods who dwelled in the netherworld. However, Seth was always jealous of Osiris, because he did not command the respect of those on earth or those in the netherworld. One day, Seth transformed himself into a vicious monster and attacked Osiris, killing him. Seth then cut Osiris into pieces and distributed them throughout the length and breadth of Egypt. With Osiris dead, Seth became king of Egypt, with his sister Nephthys as his wife. Nephthys, however, felt sorry for her sister Isis, who wept endlessly over her lost husband. Isis, who had great magical powers, decided to find her husband and bring him back to life long enough so that they could have a child. Together with Nephthys, Isis roamed the country, collecting the pieces of her husband's body and reassembling them. Once she completed this task, she breathed the breath of life into his body and resurrected him. They were together again, and Isis became pregnant soon after. Osiris was able to descend into the underworld, where he became the lord of that domain. The child born to Isis was named Horus, the hawk-god. When he became an adult, Horus decided to make a case before the court of gods that he, not Seth, was the rightful king of Egypt. A long period of argument followed, and Seth challenged Horus to a contest. The winner would become king.

Highlights

The Egyptian Myth of Creation

Horus' mother, Isis, decided to help her son and set a trap for Seth. She snared him, but Seth begged for his life, and Isis let him go. When Horus found out that she had let his enemy live, He became angry with his mother, and rages against her, earning contempt of the other gods.

They decided that there would be one more match, and Seth would get to choose what it would be. Seth decided that the final round of the contest would be a boat race. However, to make the contest a challenge, Seth decided that he and Horus should race boats made of stone. Horus was tricky and built a boat made of wood, covered with limestone plaster, which looked like stone. As the gods assembled for the race, Seth cut the top off a mountain to serve as his boat and set it in the water. His boat sank right away, and all the other gods laughed at him.

The other gods decided that the match was a tie. Many of the gods were sympathetic to Horus, but remembered his anger toward his mother for being lenient to Seth, and were unwilling to support him completely. The gods who formed the court decided to write a letter to Osiris and ask for his advice. Osiris responded with a definite answer: His son was the rightful king, and should be placed upon the throne.

No one should take the throne of Egypt through an act of murder, as Seth had done. Seth had killed Osiris, but Horus had not killed anyone, and was the better candidate. The sun and the stars, who were Osiris' allies, descended into the underworld, leaving the world in darkness. Finally, the gods agreed that Horus should claim his birth right as king of Egypt.

Local Specialties

FALAFEL

Made of a mixture of fava beans, fresh herbs, and spices formed into a small patties or balls

ETHNIC POINTS FOR EGYPT

Social Class

Social class is very important in Egypt since it determines your access to power and position. The social class an Egyptian is born into dictates their everyday life and the opportunities they will have.

There are three social classes: upper, middle, and lower. Status is defined more by family background than by absolute wealth.

There is little social mobility.

Gift giving Etiquette

If you are invited to an Egyptian's home for dinner, bring good quality chocolates, sweets or pastries to the hostess.

Do not give flowers, which are usually reserved for weddings or the ill,

Unless you know that the hosts would appreciate them.

A small gift for the children shows affection.

Always give gifts with the right hand or both hands if the gift is heavy.

Gifts are not opened when received