

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£200
PER PERSON

TIMELESS NILE

A fascinating journey along the Nile
from Aswan to Cairo aboard the SS Misr

September 2023; February, September & October 2024

NOBLE CALEDONIA

Join us aboard the SS Misr, a propeller steam vessel accommodating just 44 guests, and discover the many ancient wonders along the banks of the Nile. A cruise on a Nile steamer as a leisure pursuit was pioneered by British tourists in the late 19th century looking for a comfortable way to visit Egypt's sites and we are delighted to have chartered the lovingly restored SS Misr to offer our passengers the chance to discover the many wonders of this ancient land in a high degree of comfort.

Our cruise along a 600 mile stretch of the Nile between Aswan and Cairo is a passage through antiquity, an incomparable river voyage which brings to life the great monuments of the Pharaohs, the divine kings comprising thirty dynasties, who ruled Egypt during the 3000 years before Christ. Such a journey has only been made possible once again by the reopening of the lower Nile allowing the opportunity to visit some of the lesser known archaeological sites and temples, and experience the wonders of the great civilisation that flourished in the Nile Valley.

We will travel with local guides and will be joined on board by a Guest Speaker who will add immeasurably to our knowledge of this ancient land. We will visit Beni Hassan private tombs, Tel El Amarna, Abydos and Dendera temples, not forgetting of course some of the most famous sites in the country including the Great Pyramids, the Valley of the Kings and magnificent Karnak. We will cruise at a gentle speed which is essential to be able to drink in the rhythm of life on the banks of the river. From the spacious decks you can observe the dramatic division between the fertile flood-plain and the arid majesty of the deserts flanking the river and witness traditional village life. Although the Egypt of the Pharaohs came to an end almost two millennia ago, this cruise will leave you with a wealth of memories about its people, its monuments and its mysteries.



Guest Speakers

Ernest Rea



Ernest is a celebrated British broadcaster who specialises in the history of religions and the way that faith impacts on the contemporary world. His regular national radio programme, *Beyond Belief*, was awarded the prestigious Sony Gold Award for the Best Speech Programme on British Radio. He worked for the BBC for 22 years in a variety of production and editorial roles. From 1989 to 2001

he was Head of Religious Broadcasting for the BBC responsible for all religious television and radio programmes nationally and locally. He is in wide demand as a speaker at international inter faith conferences, literary festivals and academic symposia. In 1997 he was personally awarded the Gold Medal of the International Council of Christians and Jews for his contribution to Inter Faith Understanding. He has First Class Honours Degrees in Theology and in History and Politics which helped to fuel his passion for the study of world religions and the way in which they impact on the ancient and modern worlds.

Ernest will be joining our 27th February 2024 Departure

Christopher Joll



After Oxford University and the RMA Sandhurst, Christopher Joll spent six years as an officer in The Life Guards with whom he served four tours of duty in Northern Ireland. On leaving the Army, he worked for the next thirty-five years in the City. From his earliest days, Joll has written articles, features, short stories and reportage. In 2012 he wrote the text for *Uniquely British: A Year in the Life of the Household Cavalry*; with a Foreword by HM The Queen. Since 2018, Nine Elms Books have published his *Spoils of War: The Treasures, Trophies & Trivia of the British Empire* and *The Imperial Impresario: The Treasures, Trophies & Trivia of Napoleon's Theatre of Power*. He is also the author of the fifteen-volume military-historical/action-adventure series, *The Speedicut Saga*. When not writing or directing 'military theatre', Joll is a video podcaster and a Trustee of The Art Fund Prize for Museums, for whom he writes, directs and presents a series of short YouTube videos collectively titled: *Thinking Outside the Box*. He is also the Regimental Historian of the Household Cavalry.

Christopher will be joining our 23rd October 2024 Departure

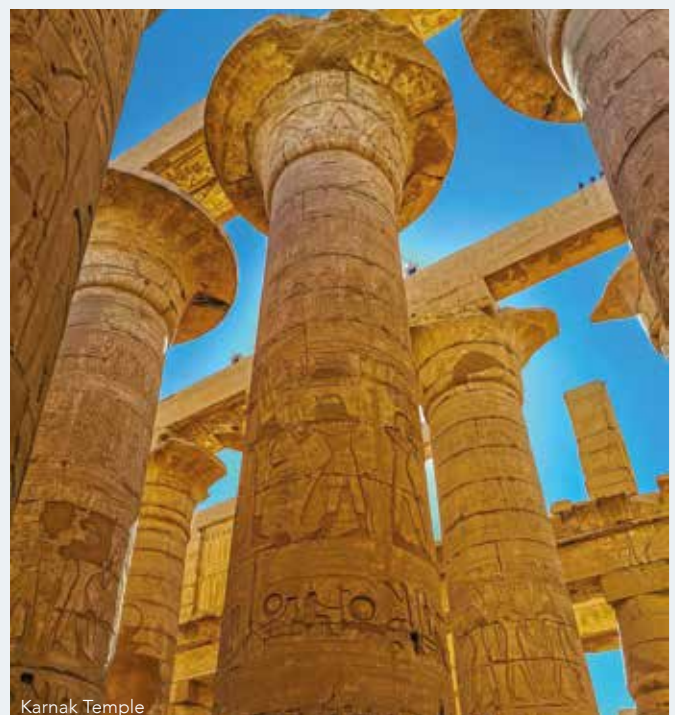
Tom Hardwick



Tom Hardwick is an Egyptologist and curator who has worked for museums in the United Kingdom, Egypt, and United States. His research focuses on ancient Egyptian material culture, particularly sculpture, and the history of collecting and dealing in Egyptian art in the 19th and 20th centuries. He writes for academic and popular journals, including *Apollo*, and recently worked on the renovation of

Howard Carter's house in Luxor for the centenary of the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun.

Tom will be joining our 27th September 2023 & 1st February 2024 Departures



Karnak Temple



The Sphinx and Pyramid of Khafre, Giza



Cairo



The Nile



Abu Simbel

The Itinerary

Day 1 London Heathrow to Aswan, Egypt. Fly by evening scheduled flight to Aswan via Cairo arriving just after midnight. Upon arrival transfer to the SS Misr and embark. Moor overnight this evening in Aswan.

Day 2 Aswan. This morning we will visit the Nubian Museum. Due to the materials recovered from tombs, temples and settlements, UNESCO was encouraged in the 1980s to plan a Nubian museum although it was not until 1997 that the museum opened its doors. The complex is 50,000 square metres and is enclosed by walls to evoke the traditional Nubian village architecture. After lunch we will visit the high Dam at Aswan, considered an engineering miracle when it was built in the 1960s with a huge impact on the economy and culture in Egypt. Today it provides electricity and irrigation for the whole of Egypt. We continue to the temple of Philae which is dedicated to the goddess Isis, wife of Osiris and mother of Horus. The story of Osiris is represented on the walls of the temple with two of its inner chambers which are rich in symbolic imagery. The temple was originally on Philae Island but due to high water levels was dismantled in 1977 and reconstructed on a nearby higher island called Algilkia. The main elements of the temple such as the two pylons, hypostyle halls and sanctuaries were built by the Ptolemaic kings. Later the Roman rulers added the colonnades in front of the temple as well as the ceremonial entrance to the island known as Trajan's Kiosk. We end our day with afternoon tea at the Sofitel Legend Old Cataract Hotel with its fine Nile views. Relax and enjoy magnificent views of the Nile while experiencing a sumptuous afternoon tea.

Day 3 Kom Ombo. Enjoy a leisurely morning on board or alternatively take the optional excursion to the temples of Abu Simbel (by road approximately four hours each way) which is without a doubt the most impressive of all Nubian antiquities. Not only can we admire the outstanding sculptures, culture and reliefs which embellished the temples of Ramesses the Great and Queen Nefertari, cut out of the sandstone cliff around 3300 years ago, we can also applaud the achievement of archaeologists, architects and engineers in the 20th century AD who organised the rescue of the monuments to their new site above Lake Nasser. We will set sail this afternoon to Kom Ombo and after lunch depart for a visit to the temple of Kom Ombo which was mainly built during the Ptolemaic dynasty and completed under the Roman Emperors. The temple is unique due to its 'double' design which meant that there were courts, halls, sanctuaries and rooms duplicated for the two gods that worshipped here. The southern half of the temple was dedicated to the crocodile god Sobek and the northern part of the temple was dedicated to the falcon god Haroeris. Among the carved reliefs along the inside of the outer wall are images thought to be connected with Egyptian medicine, including displays of birthing chairs and surgical instruments. Tonight enjoy a welcome cocktail party and dinner on board. This evening we sail north to Edfu where we moor overnight.

Day 4 Edfu & Luxor. Today we visit Edfu Temple, an ancient Egyptian temple which is set on the West Bank of the Nile and said to be one of the best preserved temples in Egypt. The temple is dedicated to the Falcon god Horus and built in the Ptolemaic period between 237 and 57 BC. After lunch enjoy a relaxing afternoon on board admiring the passing scenery as we cruise the Nile to Luxor via the Esna Lock. Upon arrival to Luxor this evening we will visit the Luxor temple, situated on the east bank of the river Nile.

Day 5 Luxor. This morning we visit the West Bank, one of the most famous and important archaeological sites in the world. See the Valley of the Kings, burial ground of the pharaohs for a period of 500 years. The tombs vividly depict the journey of the sun god and pharaoh through the dangers of the underworld. In the temple of Queen Hatshepsut we will discover scenes commemorating the reign of this exceptional monarch such as the ambitious voyage where she sent her ships to the Red Sea and the mysterious land of Punt. We stop at the Colossi of Memnon to witness the two imposing 18 metre high quartzite seated statues which marked the entrance to the now vanished memorial temple of the pharaoh Amenhotep III whose reign in the 14th century BC was one of the most opulent in Egyptian history. Return to the vessel for lunch and this afternoon we will visit the magnificent temples of Karnak. Here you will witness the unbelievably vast array of monuments dedicated to Amun-Ra, king of the gods, his wife Mut and their son Khonsu. Just two of the highlights we will see are the great hypostyle hall with over 130 columns, some 22 metres high, and the obelisk of the powerful Queen pharaoh Hatshepsut. Our tour will conclude with a visit to the Luxor Museum, an archaeological museum which was inaugurated in 1975. Whilst the range of artefacts on display is more restricted than the country's main collections in the Museum of Antiquities in Cairo; this was deliberate since the museum prides itself on the quality of the pieces it has.

Day 6 Dendera Temple & Naga Hammadi. Enjoy a leisurely morning on board as we sail towards Qena. After lunch, the afternoon will be dedicated to the goddess Hathor as we visit the Dendera Temple also known as the 'castle of the Sistrum'. Hathor was the goddess of love, joy and beauty. The Dendera Temple was associated with healing and patients who travelled there for cures could stay in special buildings so they could rest, sleep and commune with the gods in their dreams. We continue sailing towards Naga Hammadi passing the bridges and moor overnight.

Day 7 Sohag & Abydos Temple. Today we cruise towards Sohag, passing Abu Homar lock. We arrive in Balyana this morning where we visit the temple that the Greeks called the Memnonium in Abydos, dedicated to Seti, Osiris, Isis, Ptah, Ptah-Sokar, Nefertem, Re-Horakhty, Amun and Horus. Its structure, built of white limestone is one of the most impressive religious structures in Egypt.

Day 8 Cruising. Enjoy a day cruising along the Nile. Relax on deck and enjoy the passing scenery as we sail to Tel El Amarna via Asyut Lock and perhaps attend a lecture or two. We will moor overnight in Tel El Amarna.



The great Hypostyle Hall, Karnak



Temple of Isis, Philae



Rarnesses II and Karnak Temple, Luxor

Day 9 Tuna El Gebel, Ashmunein & Tel El Amarna. This morning we visit the tombs and catacombs of Tuna El Gebel, the necropolis of Khmun located in Al Minya and visit the Ashmunein open air museum. Afterwards we continue to Akhenaten's royal city, tomb and palace at Amarna; it is here we visit the tombs of Ahmose, Pentu, Meryrae and the Royal tomb of Akhenaten.

Day 10 Beni Hassan. Today we visit the Middle Kingdom tombs at Beni Hassan, an ancient Egyptian cemetery site, located south of Minya. The necropolis of Beni Hassan reflects the political differences between the province rulers and the Pharaoh Kings. Due to the layout and more complex decorations, the tombs mark a transition stage in the style of the tombs from the Old Kingdom to the New Kingdom. Return to the vessel for lunch and enjoy a relaxed afternoon sailing to Beni Suef.

Day 11 Beni Suef. We transfer this morning to Maydom pyramid which is dedicated to the King Snefru of the 4th dynasty. Return to the SS Misr for lunch and enjoy a leisurely afternoon on board as we sail to Cairo where we will moor overnight.

Day 12 Cairo. Today is dedicated to the capital city of Cairo and this morning we will visit the impressive Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx, the only survivor of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and the tombs of the great Pharaohs and their queens. Enjoy lunch with the view of the Pyramids before we continue to the Grand Egyptian Museum. This complex is a cultural hub and includes one of the largest museums in the world displaying the heritage of a single civilisation. The museum contains over 50,000 artefacts, reflecting

Egypt's past from prehistory until the Greek and Roman Periods. As you enter the museum, you cannot miss the colossal statue of King Ramses II, nor the 87 huge royal artefacts exhibited at the grand stairs. These stairs lead up to an impressive 28 metre high glass facade overlooking the pyramids of Giza. The museum also hosts over 5000 artefacts from the tomb of the golden Pharaoh Tutankhamun. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner on board.

Day 13 Cairo to London Heathrow. Disembark this morning and transfer to Cairo airport for your return scheduled flight to London Heathrow.



Queen Hatshepsut Temple, Luxor



Queen Hatshepsut Temple relief

DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £200 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Cat	Cabin Description	27 September 2023		1st, 27th February; 27th September & 23rd October 2024	
		Brochure Price	Special Offer Price	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
4	Twin/Double cabin on lower/main deck	£5695	£5495	£6395	£6195
3	Twin/Double cabin on upper deck	£6095	£5895	£6795	£6595
2	Suite on main/upper deck	£6395	£6195	£7295	£7095
1	Panorama suite on main deck	£6695	£6495	£7595	£7395
4	Twin/Double cabin on lower/main deck for sole use	£6895	£6695	£7695	£7495

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 12 nights aboard the SS Misr on a full board basis • Wine or beer & unlimited soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Shore excursions with local English speaking guides • Tour Manager • Guest Speaker • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, Egyptian visa, optional excursion to Abu Simbel.



SS MISR

For our journeys along the Nile, we are delighted to have chartered a very special and unique vessel, the SS Misr. Originally constructed in Preston by the Royal Navy in 1918, the SS Misr was purchased and later converted into a luxury Nile steamer for King Farouk. Now fully restored to a five-star deluxe propeller steam vessel she accommodates just 44 passengers in spacious, air-conditioned cabins and suites. Misr means 'the Kingdom of Egypt' and the décor throughout the vessel reflects the period.



Category 1 Suite

Your Cabin/Suite

Each cabin and suite has its own individual style and all feature a private balcony, air conditioning, en-suite bathroom with bathtub and shower, hairdryer, mini-bar, robes and television. The suites on the Upper Deck are almost 50% larger in size than the standard cabins. The 14 category 3 and 4 twin/double cabins measure 21 square metres and feature a sweeping window that opens up to a private terrace with chairs so that guests can enjoy the spectacular view of the Nile at all times. The category 2 suites are approximately 30 square metres. Spacious and welcoming, these exquisitely appointed suites offer the perfect refuge to unwind after a day of adventure and sightseeing. Luxuriously designed, each suite includes an elegant living area that contains a stylish loveseat and chairs, complemented by floor-to-ceiling windows that open to a private terrace so that guests can enjoy the spectacular view of the Nile. The category 1 panorama suites are approximately 35 square metres and are situated at the front of the vessel and offer impressive panoramic views. Unlike the other accommodations, these suites come with a private, furnished panoramic terrace that offers a spectacular 180-degree view of the Nile, so that guests can enjoy the inspiring view from every angle while cruising. This is the perfect spot to relax after a long day with a drink or book, or to watch the leisurely sail along the Nile to the next destination.



Saraya Lounge



Marasem Restaurant



Sun Deck



Category 2 Suite

Your Dining

The Marasem Restaurant, situated on the main deck serves international cuisine and seats all passengers in one open seating arrangement. Breakfast and lunch are buffet-style whilst dinner is seated waiter service. Tables seat six to eight people. Tea and coffee are served on a complimentary basis after all meals and there are tea and coffee amenities in the cabins. A complimentary bottle of water will be provided in your cabin.

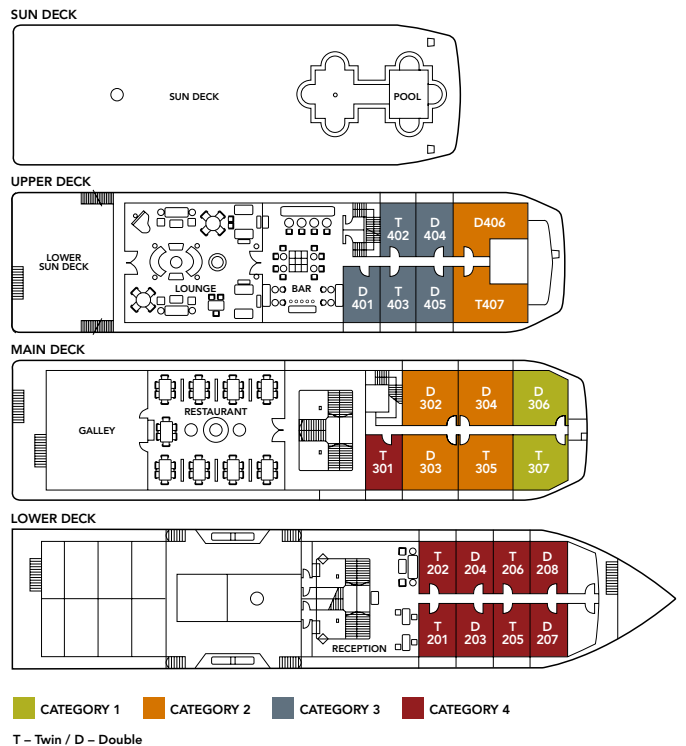
Your Space

The SS Misr is both elegantly furnished and spacious throughout. The Saraya Lounge and Dahabia Bar are located on the higher decks offering wonderful views of the Nile. The period-style restaurant accommodates all guests at one sitting. There is also a lower Sun Deck with comfortable wicker chairs and an upper Sun Deck with a pool and sun beds for relaxation. The onboard attentive staff are always available to offer a cool beverage whilst watching the ever changing passing scenery. The ship also has an onboard souvenir and gift shop selling jewellery and local handmade gifts.



Dahabia Bar

DECK PLAN



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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
 Cover image: Trajan's Kiosk at the Philae Temple of Isis, Algilkia Island, Aswan.