

A Coptic Prologue - Egypt

A brief family visit in San Francisco and a quick Southwest flight to LAX to board our Emirates Airbus A-380 Magic Carpet to Dubai with the final destination Cairo, Egypt.

Diane and I have learned from experience that flights 21 hours in duration require suitable accommodations to our physical endurance. We have secured our regular seating in Business Class to meet our senior needs.

In Egypt, to facilitate the photographic aspect of this odyssey, we have engaged a Coptic Guide for a private tour of the antiquities with cultural visits to villages on the Nile.

The humidity, along with the unrelenting temperature of the Cairo night, assaulted our 11:00 pm arrival at Cairo Airport International. After 21hrs, the 150 passengers from our Dubai to Cairo flight stoically endured the deplaning process, marching quietly into the silent terminal dragging their carry-on baggage as their "Red Badge of Courage." We were fortunate to have Hussien Abu El Ella, our Coptic Tour Coordinator, arrange for an escort to facilitate the bureaucratic immigration/customs procedures. We lost a day, but what's a lost day when your first destination is in the Land of the Pharaohs.

Absent the scrutiny and delays, we were cleared without incident and guided into the waiting Van by Mohamed Ali, our escort. Our driver, Magdi, welcomed us in Arabic with the formality reserved for cultural attaches without a portfolio.

Only twenty minutes from Cairo Airport International, Hussien Abu El Ella booked us into the Four Seasons Hotel on the Nile, located in Giza. Major street construction for Cairo's underground detoured our van to a reception corridor for hotel guests, where an elegantly dressed bellman greeted us, apologized for the construction delay, and immediately directed

his staff to attend to our luggage. He escorted us to the Foyer, where a guest server host offered a variety of refreshments. At the same time, Mohamed Ali facilitated the Registration Desk protocols, which only required a compliance signature for the room keys for Suite 1016. We were in Cairo/Giza.

It's 6:00 am, and there's a quiet peace that permeates the second-floor dining lounge of the Four Seasons. As an early morning witness to the hotel's daily preparation for its guests, staff members gathered in the hall outside the main dining area, exchanging morning pleasantries before starting their shift.

White noise moved through the second-floor halls offering melodic calm to all it touched. As the doors to the breakfast room opened, its early guests could select from a dazzling variety of epicurean patisserie. I took my morning cup of dark roast joe, a Pain Aux Raisins, and Pain Au Chocolat for Diane from the buffet table to our room.

As we sat on our balcony enjoying our pastries, the signs of sunrise rapidly approached the morning horizon. Accentuated with the ritual melodic Call for Prayer by the Muezzin, whose voice reverberated, the thoroughfares of Giza reminded its listeners to come to mandatory prayer and leave worldly matters behind. The faithful still follow the call and face southeast to mecca to begin their day of worship.

For a city that never sleeps, the encyclopedic drone of buses and taxis populate the city's already crowded avenues, displaying Cairo's true face of 10.3 million. As the sun rose higher in the morning sky, it focused on the firmament of the western horizon and the residences of the Giza Plateau; the Pyramid of Menkaure, the Pyramid of Khafre, and the Great Pyramid of Khufu. An eternal panorama only the Egyptian Gods could create.

Surfing the Sands of Giza

As we prepared for the morning getaway, a 9:00 am call from the Front Desk informed us that our Coptic Guide, Hossam Ahmed, and his Driver, Magdi, were in the lobby. They were casually dressed and spoke English with a notifiable accent that added a British tone to this excursion. Hossam Ahmed prefaced his introduction with his credentials as an Egyptologist Lecturer with a Masters Degree in Egyptian Antiquities. We started with a historical perspective of his agenda and an instruction in classical hieroglyphics. He was careful to point out that walking was a prerequisite in this tour covering the Pyramids of the Giza Plateau, the Steppe Pyramid @ Saqqara Necropolis, and the Alabaster Sphinx @ Memphis, the old Egyptian Capital and of course Lunch @ Heliopolis - [SACHI Restaurant](#).

With that, our Photographic Journey begins.

An Odyssey of Egyptian Discoveries

by
Ron Dizon





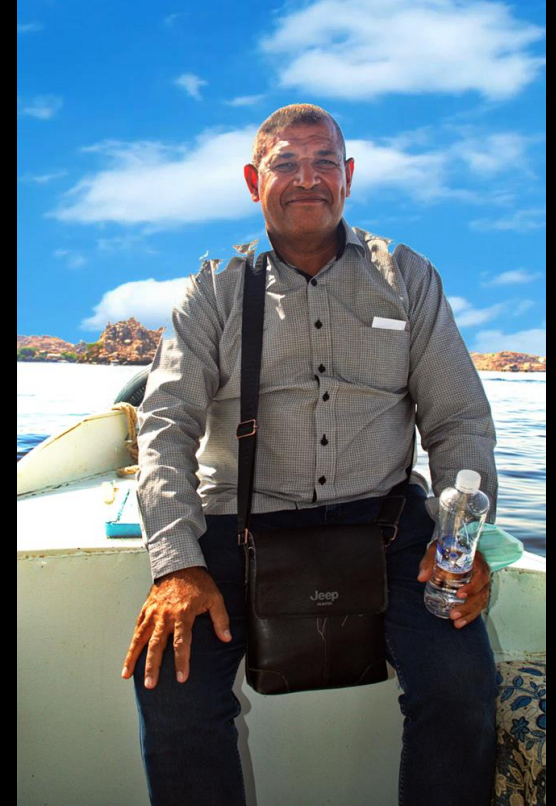
Hussien Abu El Ella
Egyptologist
Tour Coordinator
Cairo



Hossam Admed
Egyptologist
Guide
Giza & Cairo



Our Driver - Magdi



Momdouh Youssif
Egyptologist
Nile Guide
Aswan, Valley of the Kings
Karnack & Luxor







Sign in

✈ 3 hr 30 min
from \$297



**Lobby of the Four Seasons
Hotel on the Nile**







View from Our Room



View from Our Room @ Dusk



the Pyramid of Menkaure, the Pyramid of Khafre and the Great Pyramid of Khufu.



The Sphinx @ Giza.





Saqqara, Egypt

Entrance to
King Zoser's Step Pyramid



Steppe Pyramid
Entrance
@
Saqqara



King Zoser's
Steppe Pyramid
@
Saqqara



Steppe Pyramid
Ceremonial
Entrance
@
Saqqara



Valley of the Kings



Temple of Hatshepsut - Luxor





A new Dig @ Temple of Hatshepsut



Bust of Hatshepsut @ Cairo Egyptian Museum-

Memphis with Tour Vendor



**Ramses II -Memphis
Old Egyptian Capitol**





The Alabaster Sphinx @Memphis – Old Egyptian Capitol





The Citadel Saladin - Cairo



Citadel Lights

Gatekeeper

Al Rifai

Mosque, Cairo





Sun Goddess 5 Star Liner

Agatha Christie's Nile Cruise Aswan to Luxor



Sun Goddess Lounge



Sun Goddess Sitting Room



Our Portside Stateroom #410







Temple of Isis – Phila Island



**Nubia Captain
To
Phila Island
Home
Of
The Temple of Isis**





Nubian Drummer



Nubian Vocalist



Sufi Whirling Dervish Performer



Sufi Whirling Dervish Performer



Old Cataract Hotel – Death on the Nile Film Location



**Nubian
Captain
Felucca
Sailing to
Elephantine
Island**



**Felucca
Sailing to
Elephantine
Island**



Fishermen on the Nile



Horticulturist @ The Docks



Temple of Horus –Kom Ombo



Temple of Horus –Kom Ombo



Temple of Horus –Kom Ombo



LUXOR
THE SPHINX AVENUE

Ministry of Antiquities

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**Dr. Salah Ahmed
graciously outlines his role
in
Karnak's Renaissance**



















Tea with the Visionary in Karnak's Resurrection – Project Director



Sweeper @Karnak















Old Coptic Cairo – Grub Hub Delivery



**Shoe Maintenance Vendor
Old Cairo Market**

Πατριάρχης Ἀλεξανδρείας
Πορθοζοζος

بطيركية الأقباط الأرثوذكس

كنيسة المخارة والشهيدين سرجيوس وواخس
الشهيرة بكنيسة أبي سرجة

Cavern Church, and the martyrs Sergius and Bacchus

Known as Abu Serga















the Pyramid of Menkaure, the Pyramid of Khafre and the Great Pyramid of Khufu.