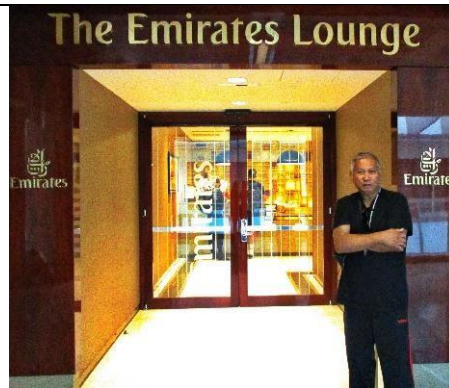


A Photographic Odyssey of Coptic Discoveries Egypt

A brief family visit in San Francisco and a quick flight to LAX to board our Emirates Airbus A380-800 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 for our physical endurance. As such 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 3 Coptic Guides through Hussien Abu El Ella for private tours of the antiquities with cultural visits to villages on the Nile.

The Arrival

The humidity along with the unrelenting temperature of the Cairo night assaulted our 11:00 pm arrival at CAI. 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 Mohamed Ali assigned to meet us at Baggage Claim and escort us thru the bureaucratic immigration/custom ritual. 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 waiting Van where our driver Magdi, welcomed us in Arabic with the formality of cultural attaches without portfolio.



Only forty minutes from CAI International Airport, Hussien Abu El Ella, our principal Coptic Guide had booked us into the Four Seasons Hotel, located in the City of Giza. Major street construction for Cairo’s underground detoured our van to a reception corridor for hotel guests where we were greeted by an elegant dress bellman who apologized for the construction delay and immediately directed his staff to attend to our luggage. He escorted us to the Foyer where we were served refreshments of anise or hibiscus, as 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 on November 2.



FOUR SEASONS
Hotels and Resorts



1 View of Giza from our Room



Day 2

A crimson sunrise was gradually approaching the city of Giza as the melodic Call for Prayer by the Maudham saturated the thoroughfares of Giza, reminding its listeners to come to mandatory prayer and leave worldly matters behind. For a city that never sleeps, the faithful still follows the call and face southeast to mecca to begin their day.



Hosssam Ahmed – Our Guide @ Giza, Saqqara & Cairo Museum



Entrance to the Pyramid @ Zoser

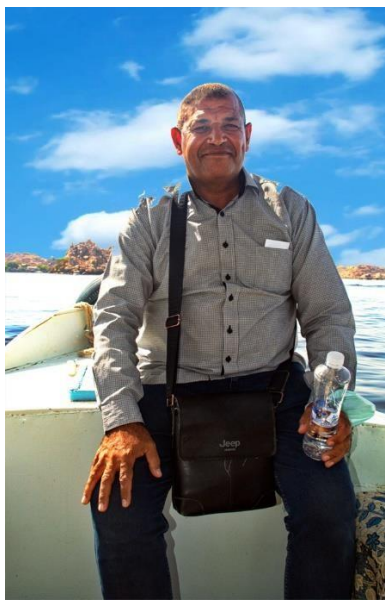
Aswan, Egypt

To begin our odyssey following Agatha Christies' "Death on the Nile" an excursion to Aswan required a morning flight to Aswan in Upper Egypt. A 4:00 am wake-up call from the Front Desk that our Driver Magdi was ready to take us to the Airport to catch our scheduled Egyptian Air flight. We left the Four Seasons with our Carbohydrate Box Breakfast as a reward for our early departure.

Airport security was pronounced, but with the right credentials, we sailed through Cairo Security only to be patted down before entering the plane.

We arrived at **Aswan International Airport at @10:00am greeted by our Local Coptic Guide Momdouh Youssif.**

With our bags loaded in the SUV, we were escorted to our ship the "The Sun Goddess" where Momdouh quickly began the registration process for our Stateroom; our home for the next 3 days. Unlike the "Old Cataract Hotel" where Death on the Nile was filmed, the amenities in our stateroom were diamond perfect; a vessel suitable to visit Luxor, Karnak, and the Valley of the Kings. Our accommodations would certainly have been approved by Agatha.



Momdouh Youssif, Our Guide Aswan, Luxor



Our Home for Days Aswan to Luxor