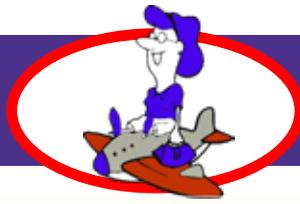


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TRAVELLING PLACES

with Gina

In February this year I was fortunate enough to experience two wonderful opportunities. The first was to travel to the conundrum that is Egypt, peppered with tales of gods, pharaohs, intrigue and romance; the second was to travel with Peregrine, a proud member of the Intrepid Group.

The group's focus is on trips with immersive local experiences. They offer sustainable itineraries with award-winning local guides, hand-picked accommodation and small private vehicles, and they are a global leader at empowering travellers to make a positive impact in the places they visit.

Egypt is extraordinary. From frenetic Cairo to the lush landscape of Aswan, with millennia-old monuments dotted along the fertile Nile River Valley between the two - it's a mystical and magical destination full of contrast.

The newly built Grand Egyptian Museum, opening in 2020, will overlook The Great Pyramid of Giza, which is not only iconic but also the only surviving wonder of the ancient world. Visiting the existing museum during our stay in the city, it was great to find out that change like this is under way to better showcase the great wealth of treasure which has emerged from the sand over time.

Leaving Cairo, we caught an overnight train to Luxor, arriving pre-dawn at the impressive

entry of Karnak Temple, flanked on both sides by ram-headed sphinxes. Watching the sun rise over this most revered sanctuary was a truly memorable experience.

After visiting the market and Luxor Temple in the evening we set sail in our comfortably appointed riverboat, home for the next four nights. This was fantastic. Early morning visits from the ship to the many included sites: the Valley of the Kings where Tutankhamun's mummy is displayed in his tomb; Hatshepsut's impressive temple; Kom Ombo Temple and Museum where they have displayed the most extraordinary thing, a mummified crocodile embryo still inside the egg; or the Temple of Isis at Aswan - all made easier and more enjoyable by the fact that you didn't have to pack and unpack each day. Lazing in the afternoons and listening to the call to prayer from the sundeck, you are transported to a different time.

One of the highlights of any trip to Egypt certainly has to be travelling to Abu Simbel to visit the Great Temple of Ramses II and his favourite wife Nefertari's Temple of Hathor. When you see the Philae Island or Abu Simbel Temples standing today, it really is mind boggling to think that both these entire sites were actually moved and then reconstructed in the modern day. You can take a bus, but this particular tour with Peregrine included the cost of return flights and this is by far the best

option, saving you time and energy; it's a long day by road!

Back to Cairo and the medieval Khan al-Khalili Bazaar ... the scent and colour of the spices, the hustle and bustle of trade; it's intoxicating, and you will be happily lost among the alleys for hours.

The incomparable representative from Peregrine and Intrepid, Jess Klaebe, will be here on Thursday 20 June at 5.30 pm to showcase just some of their more than 500, often diverse and unusual trips (Gina will just have returned from their tour to Azerbaijan and Georgia), across more than 120 countries.

Hope to see you there!

Lyn Judd

You are Invited!

FREE INFORMATION SESSION

with Jess

Where: Travelling Places

24 Main Street

Time: 5.30 pm

When: Thursday 20 June

RSVP: 07 5545 1600 or

travel@travellingplaces.com.au

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EXCLUSIVE to Travelling Places - Book by 28 June 2019 for travel between 20 June 2019 - 30 June 2020
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