

Discover My Egypt with Egyptologist Amr Shamala

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Bird Watching Trip Itinerary

Aswan / Natural Preservation Area / First Cataract *Three Hours*

For bird watching enthusiasts Egypt is an ideal destination for experiencing some of the world's rarest and most exquisite birds. Herons, Glossy Ibis, Pied Kingfishers, Purple Gallinules, Swallows, Kestrels, Cormorants, Hoopoes, Little Egrets - the list is endless.

Whilst it is possible to experience bird watching all over Egypt - in places such as the Fayoum, Wadi Natrum, Gebel Elba and Suez, the following itinerary takes in an optional bird watching excursion whilst you are in Aswan.

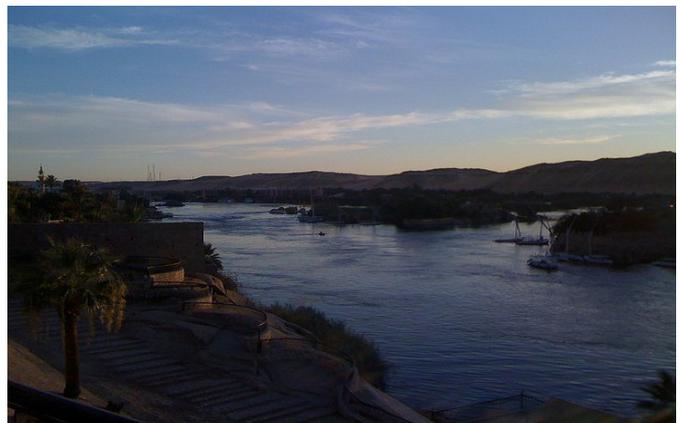
We can start as early as 07:00, or as late as 14:00 to take in the evening's stunning sunset.

We start off our tour by hiring our motorboat and River guide.

We can optionally begin our trip at the Botanical Gardens on Kitchener's Island (locally known as 'Geziret an-Nabatat' - the 'Island of Plants'). The gardens are particularly popular amongst both local people and tourists as a spot for weekend picnics, or for a quiet afternoon away from the noise of the city.

The Island was once Lord Kitchener's home, awarded to him in the 1890's after leading successful campaigns in the Sudan. He indulged his passion for flowers and covered the island in exotic plants imported from all over the world.

Today the huge sycamore trees, date and coconut palms are filled with colourful birds and egrets, who at



sunset fill the island with the sound of their calls.

After leaving Kitchener's Island we continue our motor boat journey slowly out to the Natural Preservation Area, where we keep an eye out for Ospreys, Pied Kingfishers, Herons and Swallows. Stopping to take in the beauty of these amazing birds.

We then make our way out to the First Cataract, passing the bright and colourful Nubian houses that line the River Nile. We also take in the stunning scenery of the undulating cliffs and sand dunes that surround us as we travel up River.

We then finish by going as close as we can to the small Aswan Dam, the site of the Old Reservoir. The Aswan Dam stretches across the Nile and was built by the British between 1898 and 1902 to regulate the flow of the River.



We experience the gentle swirling eddy's of the River as we take in the magnificent views.

We then make our return journey in the motor boat back to Aswan.

What is included on this tour

- ✓ All sights accompanied by an Egyptologist Amr Shamala for the duration of the tour

What is not included on this tour

- ✓ Entrance fee to the Botanical Gardens
- ✓ Gratuity/tips to driver, motor boat staff

Optional trips

- ✓ A Nubian family home visit, perhaps sharing tea and experiencing their culture and life.