

Agilkia Island, Aswan, Egypt

A tiny island in the Nile reservoir that holds one of Egypt's most beloved temple complexes — the sanctuary of Isis, saved stone by stone from rising floodwaters and rebuilt here in a UNESCO feat of rescue archaeology.

Motorboat transfer (no direct pier)

Typical call: 4-6 hrs

Egyptian Pound (EGP)

Arabic

Hot desert climate — shade is scarce

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: Arrive: All aboard:

Excursion: Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Nile cruise ships dock at Shellal/Marina Philae; guests reach Agilkia by small motorboat (~10 min)

Best For: Ancient Egyptian temples, Ptolemaic architecture, hieroglyphs, Nile photography

Walk to center: The island itself is compact — all temples within a 10-min walk of the landing dock

Don't Miss: Trajan's Kiosk at sunset and the Sound & Light Show on evening calls

Getting around: **Taxi** 70–100 EGP one way

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Philae Temple Complex Self-Guided Walk** — Explore the entire Ptolemaic complex at your own pace: First Pylon, open colonnaded courtyard, Temple of Isis, inner Sanctuary, Temple of Hathor, and...
- Egyptologist-Guided Temple Tour** — A licensed Egyptologist deciphers the myths of Isis and Osiris carved into the pylon walls, explains the UNESCO relocation project, and brings the...
- Sound & Light Show at Philae** — On evening calls, the temple is dramatically lit and narrated — the story of Isis, Osiris, and Horus told through coloured illuminations and...
- Aswan High Dam & Nile Panorama** — Combine the temple visit with a stop at the Aswan High Dam, just minutes away by road.
- Nubian Village & Museum** — Head into Aswan to visit the Nubian Museum (Egypt's finest collection of Nubian artefacts) or cross to a Nubian village on Elephantine Island for...

BEST WALKS

- Philae Temple Island Circuit** ~1 km | 30-45 min | Easy — From the boat landing, follow the path past the outer colonnade to the First Pylon entrance.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		95°	67°	0d
Jun		106°	80°	0d
Aug		107°	82°	0d
Sep		104°	78°	0d
Oct		97°	72°	0d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 5:27AM–6:09PM · Jun 6:00AM–7:37PM · Aug 6:23AM–7:21PM · Sep 6:34AM–6:51PM · Oct 6:46AM–6:21PM

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Go early or late. Midday temperatures regularly exceed 40°C (104°F). Shade on the island is very limited — early morning arrivals or evening Sound & Light visits are far more comfortable.
- Boat price is fixed. The motorboat round-trip to Agilkia is a shared, regulated fare — don't accept inflated quotes from unofficial touts. Buy tickets at the official booth at the dock.
- Bring Egyptian Pounds (EGP) in cash. Entry tickets, boat fare, and on-site vendors are cash-only. ATMs are available in Aswan city but not at the dock or on the island.
- Trajan's Kiosk is the money shot. The open-columned kiosk on the island's eastern edge frames perfectly against the Nile — best light is late afternoon.
- Combine visits efficiently. The Aswan High Dam, Unfinished Obelisk, and Philae are all within a few kilometres — most cruise excursions bundle all three into a half-day.
- Sun protection is non-negotiable. Hat, sunglasses, SPF 50+, and a water bottle are essentials. Vendors on the island sell water at a premium — bring your own from the ship.

Agilkia Island, Aswan, Egypt — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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| 1 Fatimid Cemetery | Historic burial ground with unique domed tombs. | 2 Nubian Museum | Museum showcasing Nubian culture, history, and artifacts. |
| 3 Philae Temple | Beautiful ancient Egyptian temple complex dedicated to Isis. | 4 Aswan Museum | Museum displaying artifacts from Aswan and Nubia. |
| 5 Monastery of St. Simeon | Ancient Coptic monastery ruins overlooking the Nile. | P Cruise port / terminal | |