

Dendera (Qena), Upper Egypt, Egypt

Ships dock at Qena on the Nile, then a short bus transfer lands you at the Temple of Hathor — one of ancient Egypt's most intact and colorful temple complexes. Vivid 2,000-year-old paint still blazes across the ceilings.

Docked at Qena pier

Typical call: 4–6 hrs

Egyptian Pound (EGP)

Arabic

Hot & dry — shade scarce

👉 MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Docked at Qena — bus transfer to Dendera (~5 km)
Best For: Ancient temples, hieroglyphics, original painted ceilings

Temple entry: ~140 EGP (~\$3 USD) adults; students ~70 EGP
Don't Miss: Astronomical ceiling, rooftop chapels, underground crypts

🚗 Getting around: 🚗 **Taxi** ✅ \$5–\$15 USD

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Temple of Hathor, Dendera** — The headline attraction: a Ptolemaic-era temple dedicated to Hathor, goddess of love and music.
- **Dendera & Abydos Combined Day** — Pair Dendera with the Temple of Seti I at Abydos (~90 km north) — one of Egypt's holiest sites featuring the famous King List and stunning relief art.
- **Qena Local Market Walk** — If time allows after the temple, Qena's street market near the corniche offers spices, pottery, and local produce.
- **Hathor Temple Roof at Sunrise** — For passengers on early-docking itineraries, reaching the rooftop chapels in morning light reveals spectacular Nile Valley panoramas and the best...

BEST WALKS

- **Dendera Temple Complex Loop** ~1 km inside complex | Easy | 1.5–2.5 hrs — Enter the main pylon, cross the courtyard to the Great Hypostyle Hall, work through the inner sanctuary, then ascend the staircase to the roof chapels.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		67°	48°	11d
Jun		84°	65°	8d
Aug		90°	70°	5d
Sep		82°	63°	9d
Oct		73°	55°	9d

DAYLIGHT & 💰 MONEY

Apr 6:03AM–7:21PM · Jun 5:10AM–8:14PM · Aug 5:52AM–7:39PM · Sep 6:22AM–6:50PM · Oct 6:53AM–6:01PM

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Bring a flashlight or torch app. The underground crypts are very dark; your phone light will illuminate carvings the overhead lighting misses.
- Hat, water, and sunscreen are essential. The outer courtyard has almost no shade, and Upper Egypt is brutally hot — even in winter mornings can reach 30°C.
- Keep small EGP notes (10–20 EGP) handy. Temple guards often point out hidden Cleopatra reliefs or famous 'lightbulb' carvings and expect a small tip. Bathroom attendants too.
- No flash photography inside the temple. Phone cameras are free to use — flash is strictly prohibited to protect the ancient painted ceilings.
- Cover shoulders and knees out of respect for local culture, even though there's no enforced dress code at the temple itself.
- Skip the crypts if claustrophobic — the underground passages require crouching or crawling through very low stone openings. The roof and main hall are worth the visit regardless.

Dendera (Qena), Upper Egypt, Egypt — Port Map

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



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|--|---|---|--|
| 1 Temple of Hathor, Dendera | Remarkably intact Ptolemaic-Roman temple dedicated to the goddess of love and music, famed for its zodiac ceiling relief. | 2 Dendera Zodiac Ceiling Chamber | Rooftop chapel with a carved celestial map (the original is now in the Louvre; a replica sits here). |
| 3 Sacred Lake, Dendera Temple Complex | Stone-lined ceremonial lake once used for ritual purification within the temple precinct. | P Cruise port / terminal | |