

Esna, Upper Egypt, Egypt

Step down into a 2,000-year-old temple buried under a living Egyptian town, then watch your ship squeeze through the Nile's famous lock while rowboat merchants hurl souvenirs up to the sun deck.

 Docked (Nile pier)  Typical call: 4-6 hrs  Egyptian Pound (EGP)  Arabic (English limited)

📌 MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Direct alongside floating pontoon on the Corniche — no tender
Best For: Ancient temples, lock transit spectacle, authentic bazaar

Walk to Temple: ~400 m / 10 min through the souk
Don't Miss: The restored astronomical ceiling inside the Hypostyle Hall

 Getting around:  Taxi  EGP 20–50

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Temple of Khnum** — Descend 9 metres below modern street level into the only excavated part of a massive Ptolemaic–Roman temple.
- **Esna Souk (El-Qaysariya Market)** — The historic covered street market linking the riverfront to the temple is Esna's living heart.
- **Esna Lock Transit** — The Esna weir lock raises and lowers ships up to 8 metres to navigate the Nile dam.
- **Wekalet El-Gedawy Caravanserai** — A restored 18th-century caravanserai (merchants' inn) steps from the temple — one of few surviving examples in Upper Egypt.
- **Corniche Stroll & Local Life** — Walk Esna's Nile-front Corniche to watch feluccas, fishing boats, and farmers working the fertile green strip between river and desert.

BEST WALKS

- **Pier to Temple Loop** ~1 km · 20 min · flat · easy — Leave the gangway, head into the covered souk street, reach the Temple of Khnum, descend into the excavation, then return via the Corniche waterfront for sugar-cane...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

 **CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)**

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		94°	68°	0d
Jun		106°	81°	0d
Aug		107°	83°	0d
Sep		103°	79°	0d
Oct		96°	72°	0d

 **DAYLIGHT &  MONEY**

Apr 5:27AM–6:12PM · Jun 5:59AM–7:41PM · Aug 6:23AM–7:24PM · Sep 6:35AM–6:53PM · Oct 6:48AM–6:22PM

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Cards preferred at the temple. Egypt has been rolling out card-only payment at major monuments. Bring a Visa/Mastercard, but keep a few hundred EGP for the souk and street vendors.
- Dress modestly. Esna is a traditional, conservative town. Cover shoulders and knees — light linen trousers and a t-shirt are comfortable in the heat.
- The boat merchants are entertainment. The rowboat vendors at the lock are part of the experience — but if you catch a thrown package, you're expected to engage. Only open it if you're willing to haggle.
- Midday heat is fierce. Upper Egypt regularly hits 40°C+ in summer. Ships usually time the Esna visit for early morning or late afternoon. Bring a hat, sunscreen and your ship's bottled water.
- "La, shukran" (No, thank you) said firmly and with eye contact is the most useful phrase in Esna's souk. Vendors are persistent — keep moving if you're not interested.
- Try the sugar-cane juice. Street stalls press it fresh and it's cheap, cold and delicious. Stick to bottled water and hot drinks elsewhere — avoid ice and raw produce on land.

Esna, 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.



- 1

Temple of Khnum

Ancient Egyptian temple dedicated to the ram-headed god Khnum.
- 2

尼羅河水閘門

A modern lock on the Nile River for boat passage.
- P

Cruise port / terminal