



## Up in the air over Egypt sailing the Nile and the blue skies over Cairo

“Ancient – massive - intricate – awe-inspiring.” Just a few words traveller Allen Edwards of Pukekohe uses to describe Egypt after a 10 day visit he calls “the experience of a lifetime.”

“It’s mind-boggling to stand and stare at the immense size of the temples and huge, smoothed statues. It’s always so unbelievably hot and dry there, which explains how such ancient monuments have lasted – it never rains and nothing deteriorates. The colours of the inscriptions on the walls in the tombs are still vivid. They look as if they’ve just been put there. The lighting is kept low and in some places is only turned on to take photographs. I’ve seen the documentaries and the pictures, but actually being there is amazing. I was overawed by the immense size and the overpowering sense of antiquity – 3000-4000 years. When the tour began, I looked at everything and didn’t know what to feel – was it emotional, was it spiritual? There’s simply nothing else like it.”

The intense early summer heat of May produced one 45 degree day, with Allen downing seven litres of water. Heat was a constant companion, and so were the crowds of tourists. “Tourism is everything in Cairo and it is full-on every day of the week as people come from all over the world to see the ancient wonders for themselves. The tombs are hot and stuffy, as 1000s of people stream through in an endless line every day. You can hear hundreds of different languages spoken all around – it’s like

