

Abydos, Sohag, Egypt

One of Egypt's oldest and most sacred cities, Abydos holds the hauntingly beautiful Temple of Seti I and the enigmatic Osireion — quieter than Luxor, and far more atmospheric.

River mooring (El Balyana bank)

Typical call: 4-6 hrs

Egyptian Pound (EGP)

Arabic

UNESCO-listed archaeological zone

MY DAY IN PORT

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

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Nile riverbank mooring at El Balyana; site is ~11 km by road
Best For: Ancient Egyptian history, temple reliefs, off-the-beaten-path archaeology

Walk to site: Not walkable — transfer by minibus or taxi (~15-20 min)
Don't Miss: The Abydos King List inside the Temple of Seti I

Getting around: **Taxi** ~10 EGP base + 3 EGP/km

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Temple of Seti I** — Marvel at the extraordinary painted reliefs inside one of Egypt's finest surviving temples, built c.
 - The Osireion** — Adjacent to the Temple of Seti I, this massive granite structure is thought to be a symbolic tomb of Osiris.
- Umm el-Qa'ab Royal Cemetery** — Egypt's earliest royal burial ground, containing tombs of First Dynasty pharaohs including Narmer and Den.
 - Abydos & Dendera Combined Day** — The most popular excursion from this stretch of the Nile.

BEST WALKS

- Temple Circuit Walk** 1 km | Easy | 45-60 min — From the ticket gate, walk through the forecourt into the seven sanctuaries of the Temple of Seti I, then exit through the rear to reach the sunken Osireion.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		93°	64°	0d
Jun		105°	77°	0d
Aug		106°	79°	0d
Sep		103°	75°	0d
Oct		95°	68°	0d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 5:28AM–6:15PM · Jun 5:59AM–7:45PM · Aug 6:24AM–7:27PM · Sep 6:37AM–6:56PM · Oct 6:51AM–6:23PM

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Sun protection is essential. Upper Egypt is intense — hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses are non-negotiable, especially April through October.
- Carry Egyptian pounds in small bills. The ticket office, guides, and local vendors rarely accept cards or foreign currency reliably.
- Photography inside the temple is generally allowed (no flash on the painted reliefs). Check with your guide — some areas may require a camera ticket.
- Dress modestly. Shoulders and knees covered is the local norm and expected at religious heritage sites throughout Egypt.
- Negotiate taxis before boarding. If going independently from El Balyana, agree the round-trip price in Egyptian pounds before you set off — ask your ship's reception for a fair-rate guide.
- Arrive early if you can. Abydos is far quieter than Luxor but tour buses cluster mid-morning. An early start gets you the painted sanctuaries nearly to yourself.

Abydos, Sohag, Egypt — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



- 1

Temple of Seti I

Exceptionally well-preserved temple with vivid painted reliefs.
- 2

Osireion

Mysterious sunken structure behind the temple, linked to Osiris myths.
- 3

Temple of Ramesses II

Smaller nearby temple with well-preserved carved reliefs.
- P

Cruise port / terminal