PROBUS CLUB OF CABARITA AND BREAKFAST POINT INC



THE GRAPEVINE – NOVEMBER 2026 – Special Edition

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the November edition had already been finalised when I received these two wonderful reviews of our Club's trips to South India and Egypt, I couldn't let them wait until next year.

Rather than hold these stories over until February, I've decided to include these two reviews in this final edition for the year.

I hope you enjoy reading about these memorable adventures and sharing in the experiences of our fellow travellers.

I thank Anne Symons for her review on The Wonders of South India and Connie Fraser for her review of Egypt - Pyramids, Tombs and Temples.

So, lucky members, you're receiving a special edition of The Grapevine!

As activities begin to quieten down towards the end of the year, there will be no newsletters published in December or January.

Pam Floyd
President

Discovering the Wonders of South India
October 2026

From Tamil Nadu on the Bay of Bengal to Kerala on the Arabian Sea, fourteen Probus members enjoyed the sights, sounds and experiences of South India.

Local traditions were observed and the rich culture explained. There were plenty of laughs and a wonderful positive vibe amongst the group throughout the trip.

We met beautiful local people along the way and were welcomed with genuine warmth and wonderful hospitality.

The Dravidian architecture evident in temples and monuments, some dating back many centuries, contrasted with churches constructed by the Portuguese and Dutch.

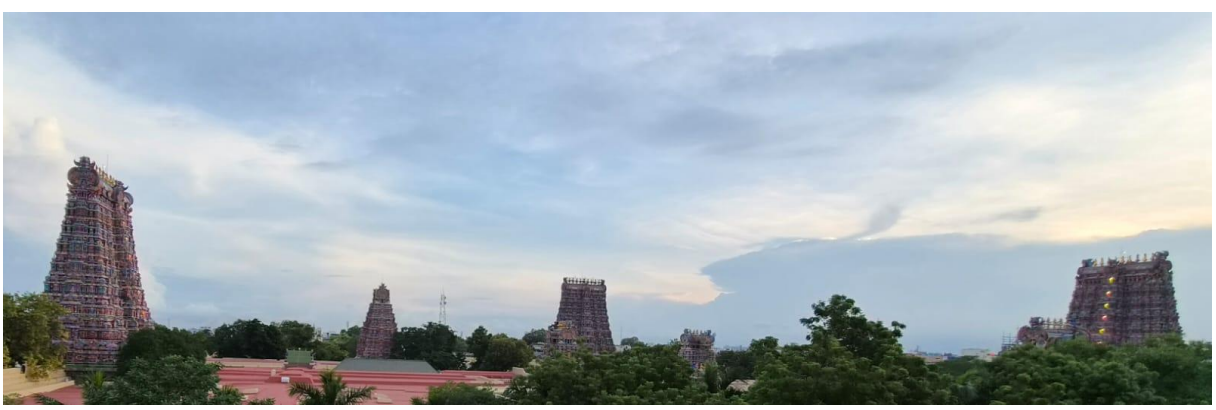


Dravidian architectural style



UNESCO World Heritage site Mahabalipuram





Madurai temple complex including 6th century Meenakshi Temple

Areas displaying French influence and British colonial heritage sat alongside colourful bazaars bustling with activity.



French Quarter Pondicherry



The tranquillity of an ashram, the gongs and drums of temples, a Jewish synagogue, mosques and Auroville, an experimental community, all combined to illustrate the diversity of beliefs and philosophies that form the rich tapestry of South India.



Dhobi Khana Laundry

Beyond the cities and towns, we were able to observe everyday rural life. Women working in the rice paddies, shepherds herding goats, cashews being roasted alongside the road, fishermen using hand nets in rivers and grain drying by the roadside – activity was everywhere!





Cashew roasting

A visit to Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary provided an opportunity to spot bison, wild boar, elephants, birds and otters. The elusive tigers, however, remained hidden!





Wild boar



Boat ride Periyar National Park

The Kerala Backwaters gave us a chance to relax and enjoy rural life at a leisurely pace as we travelled aboard converted rice barges made from coconut fibre.



Kerala converted rice barges



Dinner on the Kerala houseboat



Kathakali dancer

Music and dancing added to the colour and movement of this amazing part of the world.

While watching a traditional Kathakali dance performance in Kerala, our leader, Rosalie, was invited to join in and perform.

She did us proud!



A group of beautiful young girls visiting a temple also treated us to an impromptu dance.

Totally unexpected, but that's India!





Ladies at Brihadeesswara Temple, Thanjavur



Musical performance Thanjavur

Our bus driver and his assistant were absolutely amazing.

Driving in India is certainly not for the faint-hearted, particularly when an accident on the main road forces you to take a detour along a mountain road full of hairpin bends.



Jeep and Tuk-tuk rides





With only millimetres between vehicles, traffic reversing to allow enough room for the bus to manoeuvre, and motorbikes and tuk-tuks squeezing into every available space, the experience was quite something.

Two-lane roads carrying what seemed like six lanes of traffic were simply part of everyday life for our skilled and competent driver!



Ritual head shaving of young children



We sampled traditional South Indian cuisine served on banana leaves. It was delicious, with the added bonus of no washing up!







The street food tour in Madurai was another highlight, ending just as a tropical storm hit. We quickly discovered that riding in a tuk-tuk during a tropical downpour offers very limited protection from the rain! Many of us were soaked to the skin, but in such a warm climate it was all part of the adventure.



Banana market





Dinner at Thanjavur



Flower Market Madurai



Spinning silk and selling fabric





None of these wonderful experiences would have been possible without the excellent organisation of Rosalie and the team from Perfect Travels and Tours, our guide, driver and assistant.

We were looked after exceptionally well, and the itinerary offered a wonderful variety of experiences and a fantastic insight into the culture and way of life of South India.

Many thanks from all of us!



Mahatma Gandhi Statue Pondicherry

Tour of Egypt – Pyramids, Tombs and Temples
October 2026

Just over a century ago, in Nov 1922, when Howard Carter discovered Tutankhamen's tomb and first peered through a small hole in the antechamber, he was asked "What could he see?". He replied "Wonderful things".

Our small group started our tour in the capital city of modern Egypt - crowded, chaotic Cairo to visit the pyramids and the newly opened Grand Egyptian Museum. Then we travelled to the port city of Alexandria, then flew to the ancient capital city of Luxor where we explored the Valley of the Kings, Valley of the Queens, many temples and tombs. We went on a relaxing four-day cruise down the Nile River as far south as Aswan.



In front of the pyramid



Inside the King's Burial Chamber

The ancient Pharoahs believed in an afterlife and being provided with sufficient items on this sacred journey. Early pharaohs were buried in the ground but their bodies were dug up by jackals, so a more permanent structure was designed – hence 109 pyramids built. Experimental designs such as the Stepped, Bent and finally the Red Pyramid were early prototypes for the pyramids of Giza.

Our group were in awe standing beside the majestic Great Pyramid of Giza constructed of three million blocks and took thirty years to build, towering 138 metres (454 feet) high. An unexpected surprise was that visitors can actually climb into pyramids, so most of us walked through its low tunnels, climbed stairs and up into the Great Gallery and finally into the King's Burial Chamber to stand before the pharaoh's empty granite sarcophagus.



Climbing into the pyramid

We saw the iconic Sphinx with its human head on a lion's body and smelt the stink around the Sphinx from the camels which were carrying tourists over the site.

The newly opened Grand Egyptian Museum, with its recurring pyramid motifs, is the largest museum dedicated to the Ancient History of Egypt.



Outside the Grand Egyptian Museum

It is proving to be one of the top museums in the world, causing a revival of tourist numbers. Its 12 galleries are organised into themes of Kingship, Society and Beliefs showcasing over 4 four historical eras from Old Kingdom to the Golden Age of the New Kingdom and the Late Period of Ptolemaic & Greco-Roman.



Tutankhamen's solid gold coffin

The highlight was Tutankhamen gallery where 60% of his treasure is displayed.

Tutankhamen died young. His tomb is the only intact one ever founded and was discovered by Howard Carter.

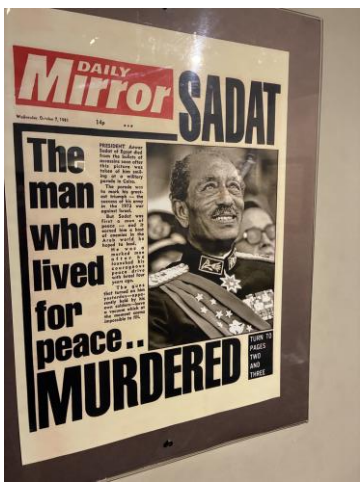
Alexandria is the port city located on the Mediterranean Sea and was founded by Alexander the Great.

A highlight was the Bibliotheca Alexandrina which is a major modern library. It honours and revives the spirit of the ancient Library of Alexandria lost in antiquity.

The library has the largest reading room in the world with space for 2,000 readers over 11 levels. It has a number of specialised museums such as the Manuscript and Rare Book Museum and one dedicated to the assassinated president Anwar Sadat. More information about this library is freely available at www.bibalex.org



Bibliotheca Alexandrina



Inside Sadat Museum

El Alamein was a battle field where Australian and New Zealand soldiers fought during World War II.

We were privileged to arrive in time to commemorate the 84th anniversary of the second battle fought by ANZAC forces.

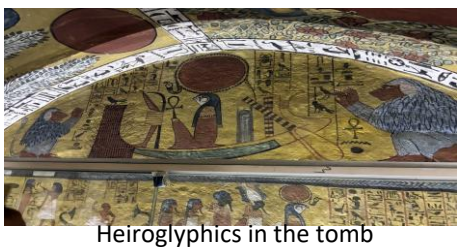


Memorial service at El Alamein



Tutankhamen's mummified body

At Luxor, which was the capital of ancient Egypt, are the many tombs of the Pharoah in the Valley of the Kings. Tombs of the queens and high-ranking officials are hidden in the Valley of the Queens.



Heiroglyphics in the tomb

Many in our group reckoned this was their favourite site because they could view the detailed and coloured hieroglyphics in several tombs without the crowds.

We were fortunate to have a very experienced local guide, Hatim, who pointed out the key features and symbolism of the hieroglyphics we saw on the walls of the tombs and temples.



Tutankhamen's Tomb

Another highlight was hot air ballooning and floating over the topography, tombs and temples of Luxor, contrasting with the green agricultural fields along the Nile River.



Queen Hatshepsut Temple



Our guide Hatim at the Temple of Hathor



Ballooning over Luxor

We went on a 4 -day cruise down the Nile River as far as Aswan. We paid homage to Agatha Christie" by partaking of high tea at the Old Cataract Hotel. She who wrote the famous novel "Death on the Nile while she stayed at this hotel. We marvelled at the Philae Temple and giant statues of Rameses II at Abel Simbel – the result of international projects which rescued these ancient structures block by block from the rising waters of the Aswan High Dam.



Great Temple at Abu Simbel



Philae Temple

Our first day we toured the new Grand Egyptian Museum and on our last day inspected the Old Museum which still held many significant ancient Egyptian artefacts. In between, we saw face to face the pyramids, tombs and temples in situ which we had previously only seen in books, movies and TV.

So, if you asked our small group of travellers what they saw on their 14-day tour around Egypt, they would echo "wonderful, wonderful things!" just like Howard Carter.



High Tea at Old Cataract Hotel, Aswan