

Part 1: Key features or tourism to Egypt

Tourism is the correct word to be using for the late 19th century in Egypt. By the 19th century Egypt was very much part of an established tourist route in the Eastern Mediterranean, where people went on the same kind of organised package tours that people go on today.

You could, in London or another city in the UK, you could book a package tour with an operator such as Thomas Cook, which would cover your travel, your accommodation, they would issue you with vouchers so that you could pay for things along the way without using cash, and if you weren't particularly confident about travelling on your own, you also could go with an organised tour; there were large organised tours who went to places like Egypt from the 1860s and 1870s, so although we might think of this as being quite an adventurous thing for someone to do in the late 19th Century, in fact if you weren't a confident traveller, you could quite easily join a package tourist group which would take a lot of the worry out of organisation for you.

Part 2: The Tourists

You would have everything from members of European royal families to people who would have had great difficulty getting the money together to afford a trip Egypt but who nevertheless thought it was important thing for them to do. You get among package tours, people of the professional middle classes in Britain in the late 19th century such as doctors, lawyers, clergymen, teachers and so forth.

You also get people who wouldn't normally or wouldn't in the regular course of things have had any opportunities to travel at all. I think particularly of one tourist whom I've worked on called the Rev. Charles Walker, who was an American Baptist minister from Augusta, Georgia, who'd been born into slavery - and his parishioners in Augusta collected the money together to enable him to go on a trip to Egypt and the Middle East, so he writes lengthy letters back to Augusta so they can share in the experience as well.