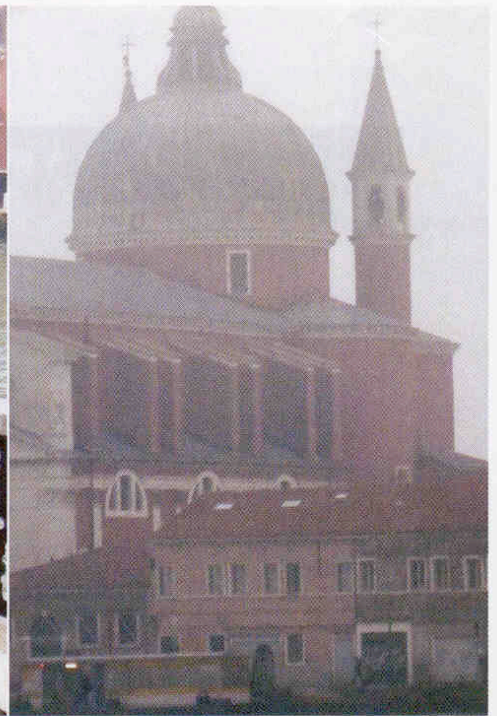


Gideon (far right) loves going to out-of-the-way places for inspiration.



## Craig Port's Egypt

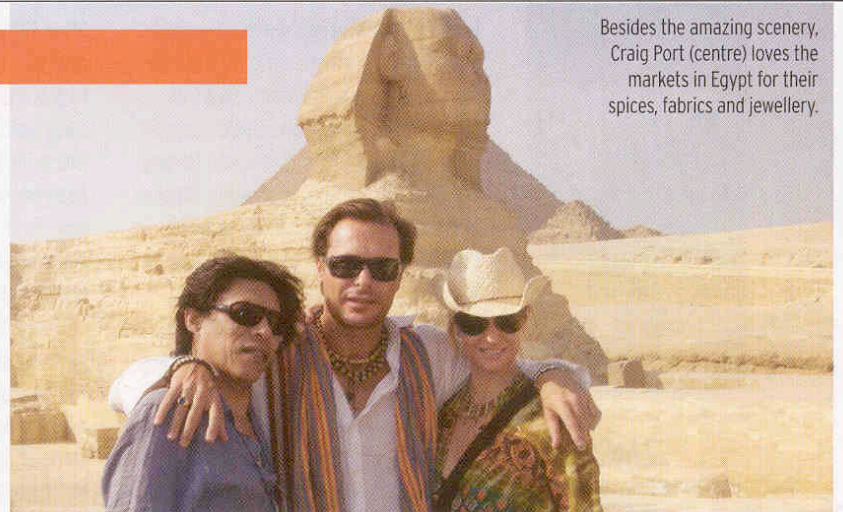


**Holiday of a lifetime** I went to Egypt for 10 days with 18 friends to celebrate my 40th birthday. I will never forget the beauty and stillness of our sunrise balloon ride over the Valley of the Kings.

**Designer duvet** My favourite place to stay was aboard our ship during the four-day Nile cruise. In Aswan, make sure you stay at the Old Cataract Hotel; the new one is an ugly modern building.

**Fashion food** The Mogul Room in the Mena House Oberoi Hotel is a great curry restaurant overlooking the pyramids. Enjoy the delicious butter chicken and marvel at their chandelier - it's five storeys high and made from handblown green glass. Outside the city, have lunch around the pool at the Old Winter Palace.

**Shop till you drop** The markets are fantastic for spices and fabric. The Khan el-Khalili is a must for semiprecious gem and gold jewellery, and the night market in Aswan is beguiling - it feels a bit like Ali Baba's cave. Buy a few Egyptian replicas of the gods - they might look kitsch in Egypt, but when you bring them home they work.



Besides the amazing scenery, Craig Port (centre) loves the markets in Egypt for their spices, fabrics and jewellery.

### EGYPT

#### Nile cruise

Contact Thompsons Leisure on 0861-84-6677

**Cairo Marriott Hotel & Omar Khayyam Casino**  
0800-991-483  
(toll-free reservation line),  
+20-22-728-3000

**Old Winter Palace, Luxor**  
+20-95-238-0422,  
H1661@accor.com

**Old Cataract Hotel, Aswan**  
+20-97-231-6000,  
H1666@accor.com

**Mena House Oberoi, Cairo**  
+20-2-377-3444;  
obmhogm@oberoi.com.eg

**Fashion find** All the gold and turquoise in my latest collection was inspired by the colours in the original hieroglyphics I saw.

**Must-dos** A private cruise from Luxor to Aswan - it feels as if nothing has changed in 2 000 years. High tea at the Old Cataract Hotel in Aswan is also a must - you are served at sunset, overlooking the Nile, with Elephantine Island in the distance.

**Top travel tip** When you haggle, decide beforehand what the item is worth to you and haggle to that price. Unnecessary haggling is not fun.

