



This picture shows the steam ship “PS Sudan” anchored at a dock in the Nile river.



A Nile view of the Old Cataract Hotel overlooking the river in Egypt’s southern city of Aswan.

not sink the historic vessel. “My product is unique,” Attia said. “Egypt as a tourist destination will never die down.” The SS Sudan has faced crises before. It was left to rot for decades after World War II, but was rescued and refitted in 1991, before being abandoned and then repaired a second time in 2000.

Last year the boat was initially stuck in port-but it started operating as soon as rules allowed. “The SS Sudan was the first cruise ship to re-open for business in October,” Attia said. “We immediately got so many reservations... that we had to knock a few back because we’re overbooked.”

**Hollywood treatment**

Staff hope that Christie’s story can work its magic again to draw new visitors. A big-budget film version-directed by and starring Kenneth Branagh, along with Hollywood stars Annette Bening, Russell Brand and Gal Gadot-is due for release in late 2021, a followup to the 2017 Christie adaption, “Murder on the Orient Express”. The last stop on the cruise is the Old Cataract Hotel, which over the years has hosted guests ranging from Britain’s Winston Churchill to Egyptian Nobel Prize for Literature winner, Naguib Mahfouz, said Selim Shawer, the hotel manager.

The hotel too has a small exhibition dedicated to Christie, including the rocking chair and desk where she wrote. “It is an attraction in itself for fans of Hercule Poirot,” said Shawer. “Even people who are not staying in our hotel come to take photos with the chair.”— AFP



A view of the lobby of the Old Cataract Hotel.



An employee of the Old Cataract Hotel stands through the door of the suite where British crime fiction writer Dame Agatha Christie is believed to have stayed while writing her 1937 novel “Death on the Nile”.



A view of the lobby of the Nile steam ship “PS Sudan”.



A view of the garden of the Old Cataract Hotel overlooking the Nile river in Egypt’s southern city of Aswan.



A view of the suite where British crime fiction writer Dame Agatha Christie is believed to have stayed while writing her 1937 novel “Death on the Nile”.