

Sandblaster 13 Days



An Egyptian adventure! Ancient Western Desert oases, 4x4 drives, camping under the stars in the stunning White Desert, Medieval Al Qasr - the abandoned city, Aswan, Nile felucca cruising, the Valley of the Kings and the Pyramids of Giza.

TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: Cairo / Ends in: Cairo
- Departs: Tuesday - year round
- No local payment required
- Breakfast: 12, Lunch: 5, Dinner: 4
- Hotel Rating: 4 - 5 star (+ White Desert camp & oases hotels)
- Tour Guide: Yes

ONLINE RESOURCES:

- For a detailed GO GUIDE - [click here](#)
- To book this trip - [click here](#)
- To enquire about this trip - [click here](#)

TOUR MAP:



QUICK WEB LINKS

[Egypt Prices](#) ::: [Why Us for Egypt?](#) ::: [Egypt Reviews](#) ::: [Our Egypt Blog](#) ::: [Top Spots in Egypt](#) ::: [Hotels in Egypt](#) ::: [Festivals & Events](#) ::: [Egypt - Useful Info](#) ::: [Feluccas Sailing](#) ::: [FAQs on Egypt](#) ::: [Egypt Visas](#) ::: [Egypt Gallery](#)

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Day 1: Cairo

Tuesday. Welcome to Egypt and the start of your Egyptian adventure! Arrive Cairo, included airport transfer to hotel and overnight. Overnight - Cairo Overnight - [Cairo](#)

Day 2: Pyramids & Saqqara

Today, we visit Giza Plateau, where we explore the pyramids and Sphinx. It is estimated Cheops (the largest of the pyramids) was constructed from no less than 2.5million quarried limestone blocks, weighing around 6 million tonnes. Later we explore Saqqara - an ancient necropolis with many half-buried tombs and the famous Zhosser's step pyramid. Overnight - [Cairo](#)

Day 3: Bahariyya Oasis

Cairo – Bahariyya Oasis. This morning we drive to Bahariyya. Upon arrival there is time to explore before watching a beautiful sunset over the rugged desertscape. Overnight - [Bahariyya Oasis](#)



Day 4: White Desert

Bahariyya Oasis - White Desert. We check out Bahariyya - an ancient oasis. Continuing by 4x4, we visit the Temple of Alexander the Great, Tombs of the Nobles and the Black Desert, as we push towards the White Desert. So named, as the sand resembles snow, the striking White Desert is full of unusual wind-eroded limestone formations and our remote overnight base. Overnight - free camping White Desert

Day 5: Al Qasr, Abandoned City

White Desert - Dakhla Oasis. Driving to Farafra oasis, we visit a local artist and sculptor Mr Badr Aly at the Badr Museum. Much of his work made from natural materials and coloured sands found within the oasis offers an insight into local life, customs and traditions. Before arriving to Dakhla, we explore the fascinating, only recently abandoned medieval city of Al Qasr. Wander the eerie high walled city, mosque, school, olive press and court. Many of the houses here have acacia wood lintels above the doorways whose kufic (Islamic script inscriptions name the builder or

occupants of the dwelling. Additionally, the inscriptions trace the family heritage, the oldest dating back to 1518. We continue on to Deir al-Haggar - the Roman Temple dedicated to the Theban Triad and take a dip in the local, mineral rich hot springs. Overnight - [Dakhla Oasis](#)



Day 6: Kharga Oasis

Dakhla Oasis - Kharga Oasis - Luxor. Journeying onward to Kharga we visit the Temple of Hibis (exterior only) and the rambling 4th century necropolis of al-Bagawat. After lunch we drive east to Luxor. Overnight - [Luxor](#)



Day 7: Aswan High Dam & Philae Temple

Luxor - Aswan. Today we travel south to Aswan by train or road. After hotel check in, its time to explore the mighty Aswan High Dam and travel by boat to the Temple of Philae, dedicated to the goddess Isis. Remainder of day and evening free. Overnight - [Aswan](#)

Days 8 - 9: Felucca Cruise

Aswan – Nile felucca cruise. Optional early morning air excursion to the colossal Temple of Abu Simbel. This afternoon, we board our Nile felucca for a 2-night voyage on the River Nile downstream. Overnight onboard the felucca. If sailing by felucca is not for you, consider upgrading to a 5 star luxury Nile Cruise with

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our Nile Cruise Upgrade. Overnight - [Felucca Cruise](#)



Day 10: Kom Ombo & Edfu Temple

Kom Ombo - Edfu - Luxor. Disembarking, we enjoy a visit to Kom Ombo Temple and the Temple of Horus at Edfu - a huge complex that began construction in 237 BC! We then continue to Luxor. Home of the legendary Valley of the Kings and Temple of Karnak. Enjoy some rest and relaxation. Tonight, an optional visit is available to the Temple of Luxor (book and pay locally), alternatively enjoy your evening at leisure. Overnight - [Luxor](#)

Day 11: Valley of the Kings

Luxor - Cairo. An early start allows us to avoid some of the fierce heat as we venture to the striking Valley of the Kings. (Optional hot air ballooning prior to Valley of the Kings tour). Highlights of our visit include the Colossi of Memnon - a massive pair of statues that stand silent against a backdrop of history, the legendary Valley of the Kings and the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut. The Valley of the Kings is studded with often highly decorated tombs, constructed to once house the regal sarcophagi enclosed mummies of the mighty pharaohs, awaiting their passage into the after-life.

This afternoon after lunch and time to relax, we visit the Temple of Karnak, a spectacular temple on a gigantic scale dedicated to the Theban gods. Karnak is ancient Egypt at it's very best. Tonight, we return to Cairo by seater train. It is possible to upgrade to the sleeper cabin. Overnight - Train



Day 12: Egyptian Museum

Arrive and hotel check in. Later we enjoy a guided visit to the Egyptian Museum. See the famous Tutankhamen solid gold death mask or opt to see the Royal Mummy Room, if you dare. The remainder of the day is free for you to explore Cairo your way. Overnight - [Cairo](#)



Day 13: Cairo

Sunday. Our tour ends after breakfast. Included onward transfer to airport. Happy Travels!

WHAT YOU SEE AND WHAT YOU GET:

Below is a list of key highlights and what is included on this tour. Further, where appropriate, we have listed the items that are not included in the tour price.

Trip Highlights

- Cairo - Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza Plateau, Necropolis of Saqqara, Egyptian Museum
- Bahariyya Oasis - Golden Mummy Museum, Tombs of the Nobles, El Heiz - date palm grove and spring
- White Desert, Black Desert and Crystal Mountain
- Farafra Oasis - Badr (local sculpter) Museum & Hot springs
- Dakhla Oasis/Al Qasr - abandoned Islamic city
- Kharga Oasis - El Bagawat - Christian necropolis
- Aswan - High Dam, Philae Temple, River Nile
- Nile felucca cruising - islands en route
- Kom Ombo - Temple of Kom Ombo, Edfu - Temple of Horus
- Luxor - Temple of Karnak
- Valley of the Kings, Colossi of Memnon, Temple of Queen Hatshepsut

What's Included

- Breakfast daily, 5 lunches, 4 dinners

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- 6 nights 4 - 5 star hotels, 2 nights Oases hotels, 2 nights aboard felucca (open deck)
- 1 night camping - White Desert
- 1 night train: Luxor - Cairo (seater train)
- Touring of Cairo, Giza/Saqqara, oases, Aswan, Edfu & Luxor
- 4x4 desert jeep trekking & camp equipment
- Swimming in natural hot/cold springs and River Nile
- Insight into isolated communities and traditional way of life
- Airport arrival and departure transfer day 1 and day 13
- Egyptian tour leader/guide degree qualified in Egyptology
- All relevant transfer and transportation in private air-conditioned vehicles

What's Not Included

- International flights and visa
- Tip for your tour guide and leaders. We recommend you allow \$3 - 5 USD per day, per traveller. Tip for your Felucca Crew/ Nile Cruise staff, we recommend you allow \$10 USD. Tipping your guide and crew is an entirely personal gesture
- Entrance Fees: \$120-130 USD
- Tipping Kitty: \$40-50 USD

BOLT-ONS:

Make the most of your time away! Listed below are the optional activities that are available on this trip. Please note that you will need to book these prior to travel as we cannot always guarantee availability of these activities once you are on holiday.

Abu Simbel - USD \$259

Abu Simbel by flight. The massive rock-cut temple of Abu Simbel never fails to impress. It's possibly the most awe-inspiring temple of all ancient Egypt, with its gargantuan intricately carved facade, created to revere the mighty pharaonic ruler King Ramses II. Guarding the entrance to the temple, the 4 colossal statues of Ramses II sit majestically staring out across the desert, seemingly since time began. This excursion is offered on all tours visiting Aswan.

El Alamein Day Trip - USD \$119

The World War II cemeteries of El Alamein. In 1942 the Allies under Britain's field Marshal Montgomery halted the German- Italian advance towards the River Nile. Marked as a major victory for the Allies, though not without loss of life, with some 11,000 killed and 60,000 wounded. We visit the Commonwealth cemetery and recently erected memorials funded by the Australian and New Zealand governments. Through the arches and beyond the gardens, 7,000 white headstones commemorate the Australian, New Zealand and British soldiers who fought and died here.

Hot Air Ballooning - USD \$199

An aerial adventure awaits in Luxor! Imagine drifting silently over temples, ancient sites, ruins and villages in the early morning sun. See ancient Thebes from a different angle as you float above the River Nile and wave down at the locals as you drift a few metres from their open rooftops!

Nile Cruise Upgrade - USD \$339

Upgrade from the included Nile felucca cruise from Aswan to Luxor and cruise in style aboard a luxury Nile cruiser. Our 5 star cruiser has a bar and restaurant, whilst your well-appointed, air-conditioned cabin offers a private bathroom. The boat deck offers plenty of space for relaxation and a swimming pool. Sightseeing stops are made en-route. All meals included, buffet style during your onboard stay.

Sleeper Train Upgrade - one way - USD \$89

On our Jewel of the Nile, Family tours and many tailor-made itineraries we include the Sleeper Cabin Train as part of your journey. On all other tours (taking the Nefertiti Seater Train) we offer the option to upgrade to a sleeper cabin on the Sleeper train. Cabins are lockable, equipped with 2 bunk beds, linen, washbasin and towel, allowing passengers to relax and stretch out.

Festive Abu Simbel - USD \$69

Discover the Temples of Abu Simbel on a journey from Aswan by road. Egypt, with its gargantuan rock-cut facade is the magnificent Abu Simbel. Guarding the entrance to the temple are 4 colossal seated statues of King Ramses II, staring out across Lake Nasser.

PRICES AND DATES: from USD \$1,369

Prices shown are per person travelling. 'Twin/Double' prices per person apply when there are 2 people travelling, sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers who require their own room and needs to be added to the 'Twin/Double' price. If you are happy to be paired up with another single traveller of the same sex on your tour, this can be arranged, (if another solo traveller of the same sex is already booked upon the tour), thus avoiding the single person supplement. All our scheduled tour departures are guaranteed subject to a minimum of 2 travellers.

2012

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
29 MAY - 10 JUN	USD \$1,499	USD \$319
12 JUN - 24 JUN	USD \$1,369	USD \$319
26 JUN - 08 JUL	USD \$1,369	USD \$319
10 JUL - 22 JUL	USD \$1,369	USD \$319
24 JUL - 05 AUG	USD \$1,369	USD \$319
07 AUG - 19 AUG	USD \$1,369	USD \$319

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21 AUG - 02 SEP	USD \$1,369	USD \$319
04 SEP - 16 SEP	USD \$1,499	USD \$319
18 SEP - 30 SEP	USD \$1,499	USD \$319
02 OCT - 14 OCT	USD \$1,499	USD \$319
16 OCT - 28 OCT	USD \$1,499	USD \$319
30 OCT - 11 NOV	USD \$1,499	USD \$319
13 NOV - 25 NOV	USD \$1,499	USD \$319
27 NOV - 09 DEC	USD \$1,499	USD \$319
11 DEC - 23 DEC	USD \$1,499	USD \$319
17 DEC - 29 DEC	USD \$1,569	USD \$319

2013

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
22 JAN - 03 FEB	USD \$1,499	USD \$319
12 FEB - 24 FEB	USD \$1,499	USD \$319
26 FEB - 10 MAR	USD \$1,499	USD \$319
12 MAR - 24 MAR	USD \$1,499	USD \$319
26 MAR - 07 APR	USD \$1,569	USD \$319
09 APR - 21 APR	USD \$1,499	USD \$319
23 APR - 05 MAY	USD \$1,499	USD \$319
07 MAY - 19 MAY	USD \$1,499	USD \$319
21 MAY - 02 JUN	USD \$1,499	USD \$319
04 JUN - 16 JUN	USD \$1,369	USD \$319
18 JUN - 30 JUN	USD \$1,369	USD \$319
02 JUL - 14 JUL	USD \$1,369	USD \$319
16 JUL - 28 JUL	USD \$1,369	USD \$319
30 JUL - 11 AUG	USD \$1,369	USD \$319
13 AUG - 25 AUG	USD \$1,369	USD \$319
27 AUG - 08 SEP	USD \$1,369	USD \$319
10 SEP - 22 SEP	USD \$1,499	USD \$319
24 SEP - 06 OCT	USD \$1,499	USD \$319
08 OCT - 20 OCT	USD \$1,499	USD \$319
22 OCT - 03 NOV	USD \$1,499	USD \$319
05 NOV - 17 NOV	USD \$1,499	USD \$319
19 NOV - 01 DEC	USD \$1,499	USD \$319
03 DEC - 15 DEC	USD \$1,499	USD \$319
17 DEC - 29 DEC	USD \$1,569	USD \$319

Supplementary Prices

	Price/Person	Single Supp.
Pre Accom - Cairo	USD \$79	USD \$20
Post Accom Cairo	USD \$79	USD \$20

POSTCARDS:

Here's what some of our past travellers have written in to us and said about their experiences on this trip.

I have just returned from your Sandblaster tour and wanted to say how much my family appreciated your guide Mahmoud Ramadan. He really went the extra mile to look after us, which was very much appreciated – especially since my husband was unable to join my daughters and myself for the desert portion of the trip. He was also always fascinating and informative on all of the sites we visited and was great at even making the longer journeys interesting, with the little surprise stops he planned – a tea-break in the desert for Bedouin tea, our own special, secret “crystal mountain” away from the one frequented by other tourists and many other things. His knowledge of Egyptology is very impressive and he is a great ambassador for Egypt, and Islam and a very honest and pleasant young man. We felt completely safe in his care and he represented OntheGo as a company in an excellent light. The two off-road drivers who took us through the desert (Henay and Mohammed were also very good. In addition to being excellent drivers, who made us feel completely safe at all times, they worked really hard and cooked some great desert meals). The whole trip – the desert, the felucca and the monuments - has been memorable and, despite the current electoral situation – we felt completely safe in all locations.

Denise Guest , Jan 2012

Dear on the go, I feel it is only appropriate that I express my gratitude for the Excellent Service received from one of your employees (Alam) It is not often that one takes the time to write a letter to compliment but rather send one very quickly when you want to complain. In my case I do feel it necessary to ensure that it is known that Alam (as he was known to us during our tour), has exceeded my expectations when it comes to service. From the moment he gave us the briefing on our first day I realized that this gentleman is very well organized, in touch with his groups and each persons individual needs. He is a true professional and he is well versed in egyptology. He really took his time to explain the complex world of the ancient egyptians in a way that we not only understood it, but gave us lessons we can take with us forever. This I have never experienced from any other tour I have been on before. I also feel it necessary to mention that I have travelled with your company in India as well as now in Egypt and I am truly impressed by the details you give attention to. All the staff I encountered through all my trips have been very kind and helpful. You have a great concept and I will surely be using you again very soon indeed. I will recommend you above other tour operators I have used in the past without a doubt.

Odette Olwage, May 2011

No tour company expects a fan letter from someone in their sixties - but that is exactly what I am writing. We have just come back from

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your Sandblaster tour to Egypt which started in Cairo on the 7th January and lasted for a fortnight. Everything worked smoothly, the guides were very good and the route and sights were fascinating. But what made our particular trip so very special was our guide Mohamed Hady Mohamed. He has enormous charm, with such an ability to get on with people. Hady did not just have great knowledge and enthusiasm for the world and the Gods of ancient Egypt. He put it over with such enthusiasm that at least two of the people on the group went round the tombs and temples in the Valley of the Kings and elsewhere pointing out which gods and pharaohs were featured in each one and reproducing the stories which he has told us. Having had to listen to many worthily dull guides in the past made me all the more aware of the skills he had, when taking us round Details of how ancient Egypt had worked and worshipped in the past was only part of the information Hady gave us. He also told us just what were realistic prices in the markets – and how to bargain successfully. Moving round and supervising a party of 18 people cannot be easy, but he managed the process so successfully that he hardly noticed he was doing it. We were particularly touched when he asked us to lunch with his wife and family in the oasis town where he lived – an honour none of us is going to forget. Everyone on the tour recognised how lucky we were to have Hady with us. He made what would have been a very good tour anyway really memorable and all privately agreed that we should write to tell you say so.

Tom Tickell , Jan 2011

We have just returned from an excellent Sandblaster trip to Egypt. We left on the 3rd January and returned last Sunday. We were both struck by the efficiency of On the Go as an organisation for everything worked like clockwork. All the staff were very friendly and helpful but I would like to give a special commendation to Mohammed Ahmed Mohammed Abdelhady. He was our guide and he was superb. We were a small party but very mixed; there were a few oldies like ourselves, a couple of teenagers and the majority were in their twenties. He was very concerned that we all should have a good holiday and kept an eye on everyone. He was excellent at explaining what was going to happen, what we needed to do and when. He gave us good advice about diet - no one had a stomach upset - and made sure we were not conned when we went shopping, advising us of realistic prices and to be wary of 50 piasta notes etc. But most of all he was great fun and made the trip incredibly enjoyable. He was clearly very knowledgeable but was never boring and happy to answer any questions. We all found it great fun trying to detect the different gods and felt that we were much more clued up by the end of the holiday than when we started. His family home was at the oasis that we visited and he gave us a great treat by inviting us all to eat with his family. He was so generous as indeed were they, that we all felt very touched and lucky to have him as our guide. He was always doing just that bit extra to ensure that we had a good time and were safe, offering to wait for us or escort us etc He ensured that what would have been a good holiday was excellent. This was our first package tour and we started with a certain wariness but we have had such a good time that I am now converted.

Anne Tickell, Jan 2011

We had an awesome time with our tour guide Alam on our 13day sandblaster trip through Egypt. It was worth every penny for the tour. The sights were amazing and it was an unforgettable experience. Every aspect of tour was thought out and went to plan. Accommodation and transport all up to standard especially bolt on and upgrades. We left Egypt seeing many wonderful places and made many new friends. We will definately book another on the go tour.

Mrs Maria Tran, Dec 2010

Hi Ryan - Well, we're home from our Egypt/Jordan adventure and I'd just like to thank you and On the Go Tours for arranging a flawless trip for us. Everything was orchestrated perfectly and we totally enjoyed our holiday. We'll certainly travel with you again. Hey, I'm ready to go right now! Our guides were all terrific and so amenable and attentive. The On the Go office in Petra was particularly helpful. We were a bit uncertain about choosing the felucca sail but that turned out to be a highlight of the trip. Thanks tremendously,

Patti Slaughter , Nov 2010

My daughter Rebecca, her friend Sarah and I have just returned from Egypt after spending 13 magical days travelling from Cairo to Aswan. We took the Desert Tour and were completely blown away by the professionalism of the tour leaders, their humour, their friendliness and their incredible knowledge of Egypt's history. From Willy who met us the airport to Sherif, Mohammed, Mahmoud and Waleed we cannot speak more highly of these wonderful human beings. Over the whole 13 days there was not one mishap. Your company should be proud of these people and the wonderful job they do. I will have no hesitation in recommending 'On the Go Tours' and in the future when I travel overseas again I will be using your company. Our trip to Egypt exceeded our expectations and I consider it to be one of the most exhilarating experiences of my life.

Rob McCarthy, Oct 2010

Our guide was incredibly knowledgeable, he knew heaps about ancient Egypt and the nowadays one too. I have learnt so much about history and culture of this beautiful country. Thank you for the amazing time. I am already booked on one of your India tours, I am sure it will be another memorable experience.

Phil Cowell, May 2010