

# Jewel of the Nile Sun Festival 11 days



**Premium Tour.** Staying in some of Egypt's smartest hotels and cruising aboard a luxury 5 star Nile cruiser, you'll see the best of legendary Egypt and witness the grand Sun Festival of King Ramses II at Abu Simbel!

## TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: Cairo / Ends in: Cairo
- Departs: 14 October 2012
- No local payment required
- Breakfast: 10, Lunch: 4, Dinner: 6
- Hotel Rating: 5 star Superior
- 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

Sunday 14 October 2012. Welcome to Egypt and the start of a wonderful holiday! Arrive Cairo airport, meet and greet service and included transfer to our hotel, located by the Great Pyramids of Giza. Overnight - [Cairo](#)

## Day 2: Pyramids of Giza and Saqqara

Cairo - Luxor. Today we visit Egypt's most loved sight - The Great Pyramids of Giza. We explore the Giza plateau, pyramids and massive lion-headed Sphinx. Later, we tour Saqqara - an ancient necropolis with many half-buried tombs and the famous Zoser's step pyramid. Tonight we take an overnight sleeper cabin train south to Luxor. Overnight - [Sleeper Train](#)

## Day 3: The Temples of Karnak

Home of the legendary Valley of the Kings and Temple of Karnak, 4000 year old Luxor is ancient Egypt at it's best. Upon arriving to Luxor, hotel check in and some rest and relaxation. Later this afternoon we visit the grand temples of Karnak. More than a temple, Karnak is a spectacular complex of sanctuaries, pylons and obelisks - built on a grand scale. During the height of Theban power, Karnak was the most important place of worship. Later, we visit to the Temple of Luxor built by Pharaoh Amenophis III. Luxor Temple looks stunning at dusk and is beautifully illuminated at night. Overnight - [Luxor](#)



## Day 4: Valley of the Kings

An early start allows us to avoid some of the fierce midday heat as we venture to the tomb strewn Valley of the Kings. Consider opting to join our hot air ballooning excursion over ancient Thebes - fabulous early in the morning!

The massive pair of statues known as the Colossi of Memnon are the first monuments you'll see during our visit to the West Bank of the River Nile. After we tour the famed Valley of the Kings and the colonnaded Temple of Queen Hatshepsut. Return to Luxor for check-in aboard our Nile 5 star cruiser. Overnight - [Nile Cruising](#)

## Day 5: Kom Ombo Temple

Anchor's away! Pull up a deck chair and relax as we sail upstream toward Temple of Horus at Edfu. Overnight - Nile Cruiser



## Day 6: Nile Cruising

A relaxing day as we sail the Nile. Later today, we visit the waterside Temple of Kom Ombo. Arrive Aswan late evening and remainder on the evening at leisure. Overnight - Nile Cruiser

## Day 7: Aswan - Egypt's most southern city

Nile Cruiser. Arriving to Aswan, we visit the Philae Temple. Later after lunch, a visit to the High Dam and take a felucca boat journey to Elephantine and Kitchener Island. As the sun sets, free time to shop in the colourful souqs and markets or simply relax and watch an amazing sunset in Egypt's southern most town straddling the River Nile. Overnight - Nile Cruiser



## Day 8:

Today we check out from our Nile Cruiser and check into our Aswan hotel. The day offers free time for you to explore Aswan your own way. Return to the colourful markets, simply relax and sip on a cocktail and watch the feluccas ply their way or consider taking High Tea at the historic and delightful Old Cataract Hotel.

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In the wee hours of the morning we rise and embark upon our coach journey toward the Grand Temples of Abu Simbel. In readiness we await for the first rays of golden sunlight to touch the temple gate signifying the start of the Sun Festival of the mighty King Ramses II. Overnight - [Aswan Hotel/ coach journey to Abu Simbel](#)



## Day 9: SUN FESTIVAL – TEMPLE OF KING RAMSES II – ABU SIMBEL

Monday 22 October 2012. Abu Simbel – Aswan - Cairo. Possibly the most awe-inspiring temple of all ancient Egypt, with its gargantuan rock-cut façade, the great Sun Temple of King Ramses II at Abu Simbel was created to revere the mighty pharaonic ruler King Ramses II. Celebrating a life that spanned nearly a century, Ramses had plenty of time for his more than 200 wives and concubines who produced him some 96 sons and 60 daughters.

Built by Ramses II to demonstrate his political clout and divine backing to the ancient Nubians, Abu Simbel is an awesome self-tribute. Guarding the entrance to the temple (built between 1290 and 1224 BC) hewn into the side of a mountain are four famous colossal statues of the pharaoh himself, which sit majestically staring out across the desert, seemingly since time began. Over the centuries, the desert sands imperceptibly shifted until the temple was all but lost to humanity. It was rediscovered by chance in 1813 by a Swiss explorer called John Lewis Burckhardt. Only one of the heads of the pharaohs was showing and only a small part of the rest of the colossal temple peeked above the desert sands. It wasn't until the British happened upon Abu Simbel and starting excavating, that the full glory of the temple of Abu Simbel was revealed to the modern world. The other rock cut temple at Abu Simbel is the Temple of Hathor, which is fronted by six massive standing statues. Four of them represent King Ramses II, whilst the other two are of his beloved wife, Queen Nefertari.

The temple was dedicated to the deified Pharaoh, King Ramses II, known also as the great builder and the gods Amun-Re, Re-Herakhte and Ptah. In a fit of precision and architectural egotism, Ramses II had the entire temple carefully angled and oriented in order that the sun's rays would align twice a year on his date of his ascension to the throne (21 February) and on his birthday (21 October) and illuminate the inner sanctum of the

temple. This incredible natural phenomenon provides for a most spectacular sight, which has come to be referred to as the Sun Festival of King Ramses II. Crowds pack in to the temple before sunrise and watch the shafts of light slowly creeping through the rock hewn inner Hypostyle Hall (replete with further statues of the king) and through to the Sanctuary. Significantly, the sun illuminates statues of Amun-Re, Re-Herakhte and Ramses the god, whilst the statue of Ptah - the god of darkness - remains in the shadows.

Afterward returning to Aswan, there is time to relax and enjoy the hotel facilities (a number of day use rooms will be provided for the group). Later this evening we board the overnight train for our journey back to Cairo. Enjoy a light dinner in the comfort of your sleeper cabin. Overnight - Sleeper Train

## Day 10: Egyptian Museum

Arriving into Cairo we embark on a guided tour of the Egyptian Museum with its dazzling array of prized antiquities. Amongst the many exhibits are the treasures of King Tutankhamen. After hotel check in the afternoon offers free time for you to relax and enjoy the hotel facilities or opt join us for an optional city tour visiting old Cairo and the Islamic citadel. Overnight - [Cairo](#)



## Day 11: Cairo

Wednesday 24 October 2012. Our tour concludes after breakfast and included onward departure transfer to airport.

## 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, and The Egyptian Museum

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- Aswan - High Dam, Philae Temple, local market & souq
- 5 \* Nile cruising - islands en route
- Kom Ombo - Temple of Kom Ombo
- Abu Simbel - at sunrise, witness the grand accomplishment and feat of precision mastered by King Rames II at the Abu Simbel Sun Festival
- Edfu - Temple of Horus
- Luxor - Temple of Karnak and Luxor Temple by night
- Valley of the Kings, Colossi of Memnon, Temple of Queen Hatshepsut
- Elephantine Island and Kitchener island - felucca sailing

## What's Included

- Breakfast daily, 4 lunches, 6 dinners - (2 aboard sleeper train)
- 4 nights aboard 5 star deluxe Nile cruiser (twin/double cabin with en suite bathroom)
- Return coach journey (3.5hrs) to Abu Simbel
- 2 nights 5 star hotels - Cairo, 1 night 5 star hotel in Luxor and Aswan
- 2 nights train: Cairo - Luxor and Aswan - Cairo (1st Class sleeper cabin accommodation) including meals
- Felucca sailing afternoon, boat journey to Philae Temple
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on day 1 and day 11
- Touring of Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Aswan, Abu Simbel, Kom Ombo, Edfu & Luxor
- Escorted by an Egyptian tour leader/guide degree qualified in Egyptology
- All relevant transfer and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles
- Group tip kitty included (excl. gratuities for your tour guide and Nile Cruise staff)
- Abu Simbel and Sun Festival entrance fee

## What's Not Included

- International flights and visa
- Tip for your tour guide - this is an entirely personal gesture
- Entrance Fees: \$95-105 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.

## Alexandria Day Trip - USD \$119

Carry on your Egyptian affair before or after your tour, with a day tour (with lunch) to amazing Alexandria on the Mediterranean Coast. Founded by Alexander the Great, Alexandria boasts wonderful beaches and an impressive seafront corniche, along which are dotted cafes and restaurants, as well as catacombs,

souks and relics from a bygone age.

## 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!

## Jewel of the Nile - flight option - USD \$399

If you don't fancy travelling by overnight sleeper train on the Jewel of the Nile, Jewel of the Nile Sun Festival or Ramses Sunrise tours, then upgrade to our flight option, and fly from Cairo to Luxor and Aswan to Cairo. Enjoying two extra nights of comfort in 5\* hotel accommodation.

## PRICES AND DATES: from USD \$2,139

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.
14 OCT - 24 OCT	USD \$2,139	USD \$699

## POSTCARDS:

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

*Jane, Thank you for booking us a remarkable trip. My mom and I have never been on a better vacation. The accomodations were fantastic and our tour guide Hani was the best ever. He went above and beyond for us even arranging a dinner in the Nubia village for us. I couldn't even tell you the highlight of our trip because all the sights were phenomonal. I would definitely choose on the go again. It was so easy with all of our entrance fees included and there was no hassle what so ever. I can't wait to head back to Egypt as soon as possible. Thank you for all your help with my questions. I will never forget this trip.*

Gina Isabelli, Oct 2008

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