

King Ramases Sun Festival 15 days



See the mighty pyramids, witness the spectacular Sun Festival at Abu Simbel, then set sail down the Nile onboard a traditional felucca. Followed by sightseeing in Luxor and relaxation on the beach in Dahab. Bliss!

TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: Cairo / Ends in: Cairo
- Departs: 19th October 2012
- No local payment required
- Breakfast: 14, Lunch: 2, Dinner: 2
- Hotel Rating: 4 - 5 star
- 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

Friday 19 October 2012. Welcome to Egypt! Arrive Cairo airport and included transfer to your hotel. If arriving before 10:00, you are welcome to join our tour of the Egyptian Museum, alternatively you can undertake your included tour of the Egyptian Museum on day 12. Overnight - [Cairo](#)

Day 2: Pyramids & Saqqara

Cairo - Aswan. A big day out. First to the Giza Plateau to see the pyramids and lion-headed Sphinx. Onwards to Saqqara, an ancient necropolis of sand-strewn tombs and home to the great step pyramid. Zoser's step pyramid was the first ever constructed in 2700 BC by Imhotep, the pharaoh's chief architect.

Later there is opportunity to freshen up before boarding the overnight seater train to Aswan. Sleeper cabin upgrade available. Overnight - Train

Day 3: Philae Temple & the mighty High Dam

Aswan - Abu Simbel. Arrive into Aswan and check into our hotel. A visit out of town takes us to the mighty High Dam - a modern feat of engineering - creating the world's largest artificial lake, Lake Nasser! This afternoon's highlight is a leisurely boat trip to Agilika Island for Philae Temple for a guided tour of the romantic Philae Temple - dedicated to the goddess Isis. 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.

As the clock strikes midnight we depart by coach and travel by convoy to the Grand Temples of Abu Simbel (approximate journey time 4 hours). Upon arrival with bated breath we will await the first rays of golden sunlight, which will touch the temple gate signifying the start of the Sun Festival of the mighty King Ramses II. Overnight - [Hotel/ coach journey to Abu Simbel](#)



Day 4: SUN FESTIVAL - TEMPLE OF KING RAMSES II, ABU SIMBEL

Monday 22 October 2012. Abu Simbel - Aswan. 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. Ramses the Bold, Ramses the Great, Ramses the Narcissist are perhaps all apt titles for one of ancient Egypt's most powerful rulers. 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 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. As we are lead through the temple there will be time to pause for a moment to watch the sun illuminating the statues of Amun-Re, Re-Herakhte and Ramses the god, whilst the statue of Ptah - the god of darkness - remains in the shadows.

Famously, the temple was re-located in a multi-million dollar operation in 1972, further up from the shoreline of Lake Nasser, which had threatened to erode the foundations of this monolithic temple complex. For this reason, the sun now strikes a day later than Ramses had originally planned, though the event this morning itself is no less stunning. After the event, there will also be plenty of time to explore the Sun Temple of King Ramses II and also the Temple of Hathor and take plenty of pictures. Upon returning to Aswan the afternoon offers free time. Overnight - [Aswan](#)

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Day 5: Nile Felucca or 5 star Cruiser

Aswan - Nile Felucca Cruise. This morning offers free time. At noon we board our Nile felucca for a 2 night voyage downstream on the River Nile. Spend the afternoon relaxing on the boat deck watching out over the children and village folk going about their day set within a picture frame of rugged desert landscape.

If sailing by felucca is not your style, consider upgrading to a 5 star luxury Nile Cruise with our Nile Cruise Upgrade. Overnight - [Felucca Cruise](#)



Day 6: Sail the River Nile

Relax, go for a swim or just chill out in the sun on deck. Let your troubles melt away, as the felucca plies its route. Overnight - Onboard Felucca

Day 7:

Kom Ombo - Edfu - Luxor. Disembarking our felucca, we visit the riverside Temple of Kom Ombo and continue onward to the Temple of Horus at Edfu, before driving north to Luxor. Home of the legendary Valley of the Kings and Temple of Karnak, 4000 year old Luxor is ancient Egypt at it's best. Enjoy some rest and relaxation. Tonight, an optional visit is available to the Temple of Luxor (book and pay locally) alternatively enjoying the evening your way. Overnight - [Luxor](#)

Day 8: Valley of the Kings

Luxor - Cairo. An early start! There is the option to float over Luxor in a hot air baloon and see area wake up and come alive. Afterwards, we cross to Luxor's West Bank, where one of the first sights you'll see is the Colossi of Memnon. This huge pair of enthroned statues is all that remains of the temple of Amenophis III. Later we tour the famed Valley of the Kings and the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut.

At Valley of the Kings, you'll note the more powerful the deceased pharaoh, the deeper and more elaborate was his tomb. King Tut's tomb, although nondescript as compared with say the highly decorated tomb of Ramses III, is more remarkable for the treasures revealed upon Howard Carter's archeological discovery in 1922. Loaded to the gunnels with priceless treasures intended for Tutankhamen's passage to the afterlife, Carter's find has never been equalled.

Returning to the East, we'll have a little R&R time by the pool before exploring the vast temple complex of Karnak. Lose yourself in the forest of stone papyrus columns in the huge Hypostyle Hall. Karnak is an awesome, lasting legacy of the power of ancient Egypt. Later, we return to Cairo by overnight seater train. Sleeper cabin upgrade available. Overnight - Train



Day 9: Egyptian Museum & free time

Arrive to Cairo and time to freshen up. Later, we take a guided tour of the Egyptian Museum. See the famous King Tutankhamen solid gold death mask or opt to see the Royal Mummy room. Remains of the afternoon and evening free to do your own thing. Maybe head over to Khan el-Khalili bazaar. It's a top spot for the purchase of ornate free-standing tobacco pipes, pharaonic tat, belly dancing costumes, spices and carpets. Overnight - [Cairo](#)

Day 10: Dahab, by the Red Sea

Cairo - Dahab. Today we cross the Suez Canal and travel onto Dahab, located on the Red Sea. Dahab is our base for the coming days and there is plenty of free time to explore the Sinai - a region of incredible beauty. Dahab offers great diving, snorkelling,

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swimming and sun-worshipping possibilities. Check out our exciting range of 4 day dive bolt-ons. Overnight - [Cairo](#)



Days 11 - 13: Dahab

Dahab's waterfront is dotted with laid back cafes, bars and shops, perfect for eating, top seafood, drinking and a little relaxing retail therapy. Optional excursions such as snorkelling at Dahab's Blue Hole or an energetic climb to the summit of Mt Sinai and a visit to St Katherine's Monastery are available. Watching a magnificent sunrise or sunset from the top of the mountain is a truly wonderful experience. Camel and jeep treks into the surrounding Sinai Desert are also available. Overnight - [Dahab](#)



Day 14:

Dahab - Cairo. After a leisurely breakfast we return to Cairo. The remainder of the day and evening offer free to enjoy Cairo your way. Overnight - [Cairo](#)

Day 15: Cairo

Friday 02 November 2012. Cairo - breakfast. Hotel check out and included onward 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
- Abu Simbel - at sunrise, witness the grand accomplishment and feat of precision mastered by King Rames II at the Abu Simbel Sun Festival
- 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
- Dahab - Red Sea coast - swim, relax, opt to snorkel or scuba dive in the clear coastal waters

What's Included

- 14 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 2 dinners
- 10 nights 4 - 5 star hotels
- 2 nights aboard felucca (open deck)
- 2 overnight trains: Cairo - Aswan and Luxor - Cairo (seater train). Sleeper cabin upgrade possible!
- Overnight bus journey (3.5hrs) departing at around midnight to Abu Simbel and use of hotel room beforehand
- Abu Simbel and Sun Festival entrance fee
- Airport arrival and departure transfer day 1 and day 15
- Touring of Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Aswan, Abu Simbel, Kom Ombo Edfu & Luxor
- 3 days Dahab, Red Sea stay - swim, sun and sand
- Escorted by an Egyptian tour leader/guide degree qualified in Egyptology
- All relevant transfer and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles

What's Not Included

- International flights and visa
- Tip for your tour guide. 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: \$80-90 USD
- Tipping Kitty: \$45-55 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

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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!

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.

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.

PRICES AND DATES: from USD \$1,439

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.
19 OCT - 02 NOV	USD \$1,439	USD \$399

Supplementary Prices

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