

Sun Chasing 14 Days



The Sun Festival for the mighty King Ramses II at Abu Simbel, Nile felucca cruising, Valley of the Kings and Dahab, as well as the intoxicating city of Cairo - what better way to spend a holiday!

TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: Cairo / Ends in: Cairo
- Departs: Monday 18 February 2013
- No local payment required
- Breakfast:13, 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

Monday 18 February 2013. Welcome to Egypt and the start of a wonderful holiday. Arrive Cairo airport and included transfer to your hotel and check in. Overnight - [Cairo](#)

Day 2: Pyramids & Saqqara

Cairo - Aswan. Visit to the famous pyramids and lion-headed Sphinx at Giza Plateau. Sole survivors from the ancient Greek-listed Seven Wonders of the World, the pyramids are the planet's oldest tourist attraction! Gaze in awe at Cheops (Khufu), the largest of the three great pyramids. Constructed from over 2.5 million limestone blocks it is thought to have taken more than 20 years to construct. Continuing to Saqqara, we can explore the myriad tombs and temples at this site and see Zoser's step pyramid - constructed by Imhotep, the pharaoh's chief architect in 2700 BC! There is time for dinner before our overnight train to Aswan. Upgrade to sleeper cabin, should you require! Overnight - Train



Day 3: Aswan

Arrive Aswan and transfer to our hotel. Spend the day at leisure, relax and enjoy the hotel facilities or consider taking a walk along the majestic Nile corniche, framed by rolling sand dunes of the Sahara Desert. This evening we'll head to the colourful local souq (market) for a little bargain hunting. The lively night market offers comic entertainment as the sellers go about the business of hocking their wares. The market also offers an extensive array of cotton products, spices, wooden and copper ornaments, alabaster statues, beaded jewellery and mother of pearl trinkets at some of the best prices in the country. Overnight - [Aswan](#)

Day 4: Philae Temple & the High Dam

Aswan - Abu Simbel. Today we enjoy a visit out of town to the mighty High Dam. A modern feat of engineering, the by-product is Lake Nasser, the world's largest artificial lake! Continuing, we enjoy a short boat trip to Agilika Island for Philae Temple, dedicated to the goddess Isis.

There is time to rest before departing in the wee hours of the morning on 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 - Overnight - hotel/ coach journey to Abu Simbel



Day 5: ABU SIMBEL SUN FESTIVAL

Friday 22 February 2013. Abu Simbel – Aswan - Nile Felucca Cruise. 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. 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. 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 Burkhart. 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.

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

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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.

After watching the incredible event unfold, we return to Aswan, to board our Nile felucca for a 2 night voyage downstream on the River Nile. Or opt to cruise the Nile in style, with our 5 star Nile cruise upgrade. Travellers undertaking this upgrade will check in today and enjoy a 3 night stay. Overnight - [Felucca or Nile Cruiser](#)



Day 6: Felucca Sailing

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 - [Felucca or Nile Cruiser](#)

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 excursion to visit the Temple of Luxor - wonderfully illuminated at night is available for those interested. Overnight - [Luxor or Nile Cruiser](#)

Day 8: Valley of the Kings

Luxor - Cairo. Optional early morning hot air balloon ride over Luxor before crossing to the west side of the Nile and commencing our tour of the Valley of the Kings. 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. Explore the highly decorated tombs at the Valley of the Kings and the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut. After a little R&R, we visit Karnak Temple. This evening we travel by overnight train to Cairo. 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, commonly referred to as the Egyptian Museum. The museum is home to an extensive collection of some 120 000 ancient Egyptian antiquities, with a representative amount on display, the remainder in storerooms. Opt to visit the Royal Mummy Room, where 9 royal mummies from the New Kingdom is displayed. The later part of the afternoon and evening are 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](#)

Days 10 - 12: Dahab by the Red Sea

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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, swimming and sun-worshipping possibilities. Overnight - [Dahab](#)



Day 13: Cairo - your way

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 14: Cairo

Sunday 03 March 2013. Hotel check out and included 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

- Breakfast daily, 2 lunches and 2 dinners
- 9 nights 4 - 5 star hotels, 2 nights aboard felucca (open deck)
- 2 overnight trains: Cairo - Aswan & Luxor - Cairo (seater cabin). Sleeper cabin upgrade available!
- 1/2 night 4-5 star Aswan hotel prior to overnight bus journey (3.5hrs) to Abu Simbel
- Abu Simbel and Sun Festival entrance fee
- Airport arrival and departure transfer day 1 and day 14
- Touring of Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Aswan, Abu Simbel, Kom Ombo Edfu & Luxor
- 3 days Dahab, Red Sea stay - swim, sun and sand
- 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 availability of these activities once you are on holiday.

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

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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 \$1,369

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.

2013

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
18 FEB - 03 MAR	USD \$1,369	USD \$359

Supplementary Prices

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