

## Festive King Ramses - 14 days

# go guide

don't leave home without it



A World Of Discovery



Escape to sunny Egypt this festive season - Pyramids, temples, felucca sailing & the Valley of the Kings & a 4 day Red Sea retreat. Choose between Xmas day at the pyramids or on the Nile and ring in the New Year by the Red Sea in Dahab!



### HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

#### Trip Highlights

- Cairo - Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza Plateau, Necropolis of Saqqara, Egyptian Museum
- 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
- All meals aboard felucca cruise
- 9 nights 4 - 5 star hotels, 2 nights aboard felucca (open deck)
- 4 days Dahab - Red Sea stay - swim, sun and sand
- 2 overnight trains: Cairo - Aswan and Luxor - Cairo (seater train)
- Airport arrival and departure transfer, day 1 and day 14
- Touring of Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Aswan, Edfu & Luxor
- Escorted by an Egyptian tour guide degree qualified in Egyptology
- All relevant transfer and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles

#### What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: \$40-60 USD
- Entrance Fees: \$90-110 USD
- All hotels on New Year's Eve charge a compulsory New Year's dinner supplement. Tours departing on 21 and 23 Dec 2011 will be staying at a hotel in Dahab. The New Year's dinner cost is payable by you locally, (collected on day 2 of your tour with your entrance fees and tip kitty) budget approx: USD\$60.
- 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
- International flights and visa

### DETAILED ITINERARY

#### Day 1 : Cairo

Welcome to Egypt and the start of your holiday! Arrival at Cairo Airport, you will be met by a representative from On The Go Tours. The prominent sign depicting our company logo easily identifies our representative. Cairo International

Airport can appear to be a little chaotic to the uninitiated. This is normal! Upon exiting the airport you will be escorted to our awaiting transportation and transferred to your hotel. Here, your Egyptian adventure begins!

For those arriving a day or two earlier than Day One of the tour, one of our staff will be on hand to advise on where best to enjoy your extra time in Cairo in advance of the tour commencing. Day One is designed to be an arrival day for all passengers, so there are no formal arrangements on this first day. **Overnight - Cairo**

#### Day 2 : Pyramids & Saqqara



Cairo - Aswan - breakfast. After a good nights rest, we have a full day of touring planned for today. You'll need to have your bags packed as we'll be travelling down to Aswan in southern Egypt tonight.

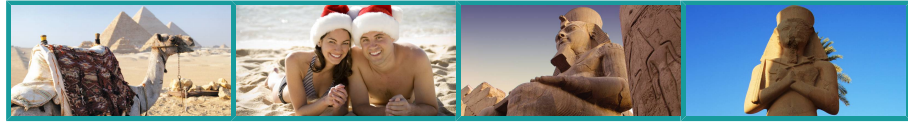
Our first stop this morning is the famous pyramids and lion-headed Sphinx at Giza Plateau. Sole survivors from the ancient Greeklisted Seven Wonders of the World, the pyramids are the planet's oldest tourist attraction! Known as Cheops, Chephren and Mycerinus, the pyramids were already more than 2,000 years old when Herodotus the Greek historian visited them (5th century BC). A highly skilled corps of mathematicians, masons, surveyors and stonecutters did the job of building the Pyramids. 100,000 slaves were used to carry out the backbreaking task of moving and laying the stones of the largest pyramid-Cheops. About 2.5 million limestone blocks, quarried locally and weighing in excess of 6 million tonnes, were used in the construction of Cheops. Leaving the Pyramids

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This Go Guide has been compiled with care and good faith. It gives an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. This document does not form part of a contract between the traveller and on the go and their affiliates. Any costs shown are subject to change though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of on the go

updated on 16-02-2012



of Giza, we'll sometimes drop into a Government supervised papyrus emporium. Here, you can buy genuine papyrus at quite reasonable prices.

Continuing to the necropolis of 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! We later journey to Aswan by overnight seater train. An option to upgrade to sleeper train cabin is available, please see our website or brochure for details. **Overnight - Train (B)**

### Day 3 : Philae Temple



Arrive and check in to our hotel. A visit out of town takes us to the mighty High Dam, a modern feat of engineering; the by-product for which 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. Later, free time to perhaps do some shopping in the colourful souks and markets or simply relax at our hotel that straddles the River Nile. **Overnight - Aswan (B)**

### Days 4-5 : Felucca Cruise



Aswan – Nile felucca cruise – Kom Ombo - all meals. Optional early morning excursion to famous Abu Simbel, built by mighty King Ramses II. If travelling on 15 Dec 2012, our optional Abu Simbel excursion is undertaken by air. Our flight will leave early in the morning and we'll return to Aswan by noon.

If travelling on 21 Dec 2012, 23 Dec 2012 or 27 Dec 2012 our journey will be undertaken by road as there are very few air carriers operating on a Mon, Wed and Sun. In the wee hours of the morning we depart on our journey by road taking approximately 3.5hrs. We arrive back to Aswan early in the afternoon.

Whether arriving to Abu Simbel by air or by road, the massive rock-cut temple 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 four famous colossal statues of Ramses II sit majestically, staring out across the desert, seemingly since time began. 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.

If you choose not to embark upon this optional excursion, there is plenty to do in Aswan, before our early afternoon departure on our Nile felucca cruise. You can relax at the hotel, explore Aswan and its beautiful shoreline and corniche or perhaps do a spot of shopping. This afternoon, we board our wind-powered Nile felucca for a 2-night voyage on the River Nile upstream to Kom Ombo. Feluccas are simple sailboats based on a unique design and have plied the mighty Nile since ancient times.

If sailing by felucca is not for you, consider upgrading to a 5 star luxury Nile Cruise for a 3 hour stay with all meals included.

NOTE: As feluccas are wind-powered, our itinerary cannot be rigidly defined. However, during our cruise, we make plenty of stops to visit points of interest, areas for swimming and for the purpose of performing our ablutions. (there are no toilets or showers on board) The felucca sails during the day, and prior to sundown, the anchor is dropped and we moor at the riverside for the night. The craft carries between 5-10 passengers comfortably and the deck is strewn with soft colorful cushions and rugs and equipped with a canopy that offers shade and protection from the elements. You will need to bring a sleeping bag/sleeping sheet and also a towel with you. Soft drinks, water and beer can be purchased aboard.

THE NILE FELUCCA CRUISE: Before boarding the felucca, it is important you prepare a day bag - taking care to pack things you feel you'll need during the cruise, as your large bag will be placed below in below deck storage. If unable to swim, you must advise your tour leader before boarding.

5 STAR NILE CRUISER: Those travellers who have opted to travel aboard the Nile 5 Star cruiser you will also spend the coming days sailing along the Nile. Sailing will commence in Aswan and conclude in Luxor with stops for sightseeing enroute at the Temple of Kom Ombo the Temple of Edfu. If travelling on 15 Dec 2012 or 27 Dec 2012 tours you will board your Nile cruiser on day 3 and stay aboard for 3 nights. If travelling with us on 21 Dec 2012 or 27 Dec 2012 embarkation will be on day 4, for a 3 night stay.

Note: 27 Dec 2012 all cruise boats charge a compulsory New Year's Eve dinner supplement. This cost has been included at time of booking. **Overnight - Felucca Cruise (B:2, L:2, D:2)**

### Day 6 : Kom Ombo & Edfu Temple



Kom Ombo - Edfu - Luxor. Disembarking in Kom Ombo we visit the temple before travelling to 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, 4000 year-old Luxor is ancient Egypt at it's best. Enjoy some rest and relaxation. This evening there is an optional visit to the magnificently illuminated Luxor Temple with dinner afterwards (cost is minimal, pay locally). Remainder of the evening at leisure to enjoy the facilities of our hotel. **Overnight - Luxor (B)**

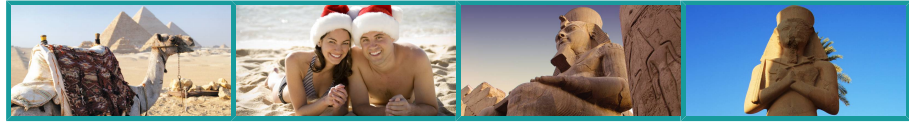
### Day 7 : Valley of the Kings

Luxor - Cairo – breakfast. Opt for our early morning Hot Air Ballooning excursion. After, an early start allows us to avoid some of the fierce heat as we venture to the awesome Valley of the Kings. Prior to this it is possible to join our hot air ballooning excursion over ancient Thebes - fabulous early in the morning!

Arriving the the West Bank, the first monument you'll see is the imposing 18m-high Colossi of Memnon, which represent the remains of the temple of the hedonistic Amenophis III. Further highlights include 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.

Later this afternoon after time to relax, we visit the Temple of Karnak - a spectacular complex of sanctuaries, pylons, chapels, halls and obelisks, all dedicated to the Theban gods and to the greater glory of Egypt's Middle and New Kingdom rulers. Tonight, we return to Cairo by overnight train. **Overnight - Train**

## Festive King Ramses - 14 days



## Day 8 : Cairo



Arriving into Cairo we embark on a guided tour of the Egyptian Museum. A mind-boggling array of relics and antiquities from almost every period of ancient Egyptian history are housed in the museum, making it one of the foremost in the world. Arguably the most famous exhibit is the solid gold funerary mask of King Tutankhamen. Made of solid gold and weighing 11kg, the mask was found covering the head of mummy, where it lay inside a series of 3 sarcophagi. Opt to see also the Royal Mummies, if you wish.

Remainder of the day free to relax, shop and explore Cairo - Africa's largest city. Perhaps head 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. An optional Cairo city tour is also available locally. **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

## Day 9 : Dahab - by the Red Sea



Cairo - Dahab. Today we cross the Suez Canal and travel onto Dahab, located on the Red Sea. The intimate coastal resort town just 90km from Sharm-el-Sheikh and around 7 hours drive from Cairo, has developed from a hippy village to a respected haven with a solid infrastructure for SCUBA divers, snorkellers and travellers seeking sun, sea and relaxation.

Located alongside some of the best reef waters on the Red Sea coast, Dahab offers mostly shore-diving to around 30 diving sites for both beginners and the more experienced diver, some of which are located just a few miles north of Dahab. Divers are usually driven along the coast by jeep, to 'gear-up' at water's edge and commence their sub-aquatic experience. One of the most popular dive sites is the Blue Hole - a dive site with the greatest attraction lying not in the blue hole itself, but on the

rich sloping coral reef garden on the outer lip of the hole.

Dahab is also a great preserve for windsurf enthusiasts, and where the water is always temperate - it is safe for swimming and snorkeling. On terra firma, popular activities and pursuits are available such as camel safaris to neighbouring Bedouin villages and 4WD excursions to the Coloured Canyon. The canyon gets its name from the vivid striations on the steep walls of the canyon. The area is a good spot for hiking. You have 4 whole days to do as you please. **Overnight - Dahab (B)**

## Days 10-12 : Blue Hole Snorkeling



Today offers an optional snorkelling excursion to the Blue Hole. 80 metres in depth, the Blue Hole boasts an abundance of colourful coral, fish and marine life (book and pay locally).

Dahab also offers great diving, swimming and sun-worshipping possibilities. Dahab's waterfront is dotted with relaxed cafes, bars and shops to dine, drink and shop the day away.

An energetic optional excursion to the summit of Mt Sinai and St Katherine's Monastery is also available (book & pay locally). The climb commences in the early hours of the morning and experiencing the magnificent sunrise atop a mountain is a truly great experience. During winter (01 Oct - 30 Mar) we offer this as a sunset trek, visiting St. Katherine's Monastery before climbing the mountain to witness a glowing red sunset.

If you'd like to extend your stay in Dahab, consider our Red Sea Dive Learn to Dive bolton. It's your ticket to the big deep blue! **Overnight - Dahab (B:3)**

## Day 13 : Dahab to Cairo



Dahab - Cairo. After a leisurely breakfast we return to Cairo. The remainder of the day and evening are free to enjoy Cairo your way. **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

## Day 14 : Cairo

Hotel check out and included onward departure transfer to airport.(B)

## New Years Eve - 21 Dec & 23 Dec 2012 departures

All hotels on New Year's Eve charge a compulsory New Year's dinner supplement. Tours departing on 21 Dec 2012 and 23 Dec 2012 will be staying at a hotel in Dahab. The New Years dinner cost is payable by you locally, (collected on day 2 of your tour with your entrance fees and tip kitty) budget approx: USD\$70.

### KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

#### Visas

Visas are required by all visitors to Egypt. Visa forms are available from us. The Embassy of Egypt advises all travellers to procure their visa prior to entry into Egypt. However it still remains possible for nationals of some countries to procure their tourist visa upon arrival at Cairo International Airport.

Please note that in the event of visa refusal at port of entry, on the go cannot be held responsible.

All RSA passport holders must procure their Egyptian visa prior to departure.

When filling in an Egyptian visa form, you will be asked to provide your address in Egypt. For the purposes of this form, please use the following address: 68 Merghany St, Abou Ghaly Building Heliopolis, Cairo. Telephone: +2 02 241821 65

If your holiday incorporates a stay in Jordan, followed by further arrangements in Egypt (ie you travel to Jordan and then return to Egypt) you will need to procure a Multiple Entry Egyptian Tourist Visa that is only available before travelling to Egypt.

Please note that visa requirements are subject to change. Visa procurement is solely the responsibility of the traveller and not of On The Go Tours.

If travelling with us from Egypt to Jordan via Aqaba Seaport (the Jordanian port of entry if arriving from Egypt) a Jordanian Tourist Visa is obtainable upon arrival, free of charge for UK, EU, AUS, NZ, CAN and USA passport holders. For all other nationalities please check with your local Jordanian Embassy. On departure from Jordan, via land or sea, a 5JD departure tax of is applied to all visitors.

#### Etiquette

Despite the inevitable ups and downs of travelling abroad, you will generally be shown great hospitality in Egypt. In return, please demonstrate sensitivity and respect for the local customs. Egypt is a Muslim country; so care should be taken to

## Festive King Ramses - 14 days



dress respectfully in large cities and towns, for example, when at markets and in public places.

- Ladies should avoid wearing 'clingy, tight or suggestive' attire, and stick to cool, flowing, cottons in busy city areas and markets
- Take care to dress conservatively and ensure that limbs are covered and remove footwear prior to entering a mosque.
- Ex-military style clothing should not be worn
- Ask permission before taking photographs of people.
- Beach attire is fine on board felucca cruises, at beach resorts or touristic areas i.e. at the Pyramids.
- Particular respect should be shown to Muslim women.
- The standard form of greeting is a handshake. Men and women do not kiss at any time as a form of greeting.

## Mosques, Religion & Ramadan

90% of the population are Muslim. Others are Coptic Christians or followers of other faiths. All mosques (with the exception of Sayyida Zeinab and Al-Hussein in Cairo) are open to non-Muslims but cannot be visited during prayer times. For Egypt's best mosques, go to Islamic Cairo. Dress conservatively. Ensure limbs are covered and shoes removed when entering any Mosque. Men must refrain from wearing shorts, as must women.

### RAMADAN

Ramadan is a month of fasting observed by Muslims throughout the world and adherents of the Muslim faith fast during daylight hours and break their fast with lavish meals and lively celebrations in the evening. Ramadan culminates a month later in a 3 day celebration called Eid al - Fitr. Many shops (excluding those which cater mainly to tourists) and attractions close earlier during Ramadan. As such we will start our tour earlier during this period to make the best use of time, leisure time will be offered in the late afternoon. Note: Traffic is exceptionally heavy during Ramadan, especially toward the time of breaking the fast.. Forthcoming Ramadan dates are as follows, (approximate) -  
21 July - 20 August 2012  
09 July - 07 August 2013

Many shops (excluding those which cater mainly to tourists) and attractions close earlier during Ramadan, so our itinerary is slightly altered to ensure we visit all itinerary attractions. Non Muslims are not expected to fast over Ramadan, but it is considered impolite to eat food or drink on the street.

## Trouble Shooting

These things will most likely never happen, but it's good to be prepared if they ever do. Here are a few tips to keep your trip hassle-free. Egypt is no worse than anywhere else when it comes to crime. The biggest problem seems to be petty theft, including pick-pocketing and bag snatching. Minimise your chances of being robbed with these tips:

- Leave valuables in the hotel safe deposit or better still, at home

- Carry your passport on your person or a photocopy as ID
- Carry your bag close to your person rather than over your shoulder
- Travel in a group or pair, especially if you are female
- Don't catch cabs late at night on your own
- Never drink anything offered to you in the street, unless you opened it yourself

Please note On The Go Tours will not be held liable for loss or damage to personal property under any circumstances.

## It's not like home

Travel to far - flung corners of the earth involves lifestyles and conditions that are sometimes very different from what you are used to back home. You must come prepared to cope with unusual situations, local inadequacies and unpredictable events as and when they occur. Foreign travel is definitely not suitable for people who expect or demand everything to go exactly as planned. With the greatest respect and in the interest of your ultimate enjoyment you must understand this. Things can and do change in foreign countries.

## Climate

Temperatures in Egypt are generally high (25 - 30 degrees) and even hotter in the summer months from May to September, when the sun can be fierce and temperatures soar, so pack light comfortable clothing, sunscreen and a hat.

In Cairo and the Nile Delta region, winter (October to February) can be cooler - so take a jacket, long-sleeved tops and trousers for the cooler evenings. The south remains warm during this time but again, temperatures do drop in the evenings. Rainfall is negligible with the most falling along Egypt's Mediterranean coastline.

## Health Requirements

It is recommended that you be vaccinated for Tetanus and Polio, if you haven't had a booster in the last ten years. Food and waterborne diseases are more common, so we recommend vaccinations for typhoid (valid 3 years) and Hepatitis A (validity varies). Vaccination requirements can change so please check with your local health care provider before travel.

## Currency

Egyptian Pounds (EGP or LE). Pounds Sterling, US Dollars and Euros are easily exchanged. You can obtain Egyptian Pounds (LE) at any major bank or your hotel. Exchange rates are subject to fluctuations.

- USD 1 = EGP 6.0
- GBP 1 = EGP 9.3
- AUD 1 = EGP 6.0
- EURO 1 = EGP 7.70

## Holiday Money

All funds collected in Egypt for entrance fees or optional excursion that you may wish to undertake are payable in local currency (EGP).

## Time

Egypt is two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)

## Essential Packing

- Sleeping bag for the felucca or for camping in the White Desert (if applicable to your tour).
- Lightweight cotton garments.
- Comfortable walking shoes for the Pyramids and Valley of the Kings Pack flip flops/thongs/jandals to wear aboard the Nile felucca or Nile Cruiser
- DEET based mosquito repellent & antihistamine cream
- 2 pin, European electrical adaptor.
- Two spare passport photos & a photocopy of your passport
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs.
- Sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, swim costume and torch
- Neck pillow, sleeping bag and eye mask, if travelling on the overnight seater train.
- Sleep sheet or sleeping bag if travelling with us to Jordan and staying at our Wadi Rum camp.

If doing a felucca cruise, undertaking the Mt Sinai excursion in Dahab or travelling between November and March, pack warm clothes (i.e. - fleece, jacket, trousers, jeans, hat and scarf) as temperatures plummet at night. Due to sometimes icy conditions at the summit of Mt Sinai, hiking boots and thermal clothing are a sensible consideration if undertaking the optional climb in winter (November - March).

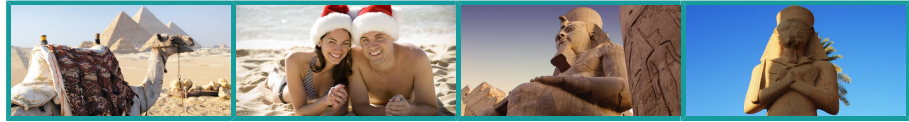
## Arrival Transfers

A complimentary airport arrival transfer is included in your tour. Upon arrival at Cairo Airport you will be met by a representative from On The Go Tours either just before immigration or in the baggage hall near the luggage belt of your respective arriving flight. The prominent sign depicting our company logo easily identifies our representative. Please have your tour voucher handy and make it available to our representative. After collecting your luggage you will be escorted to our awaiting transportation.

If, for any reason you have trouble locating our representative (after waiting 20 minutes in the arrival hall) or your flight to Egypt is delayed, please call or send a text message to the emergency contact number as stated on your tour voucher.

## Travelling by overnight train

SEATER TRAIN: On many of our group tours journeying south from Cairo to Aswan and/or Luxor, we utilise the overnight SEATER train service. This style of train offer basic and a modest level of comfort. Seating is reserved in air-conditioned Nefertiti Class or 1st Class Reserved seater wagons. Nefertiti style seats are located within 6 person, semi enclosed cabins. Whilst seats don't recline, the lights can be switched off inside your cabin. While 1st Class Reserved wagons are open, lights can not be turned off though the seats are wide and do recline. It is suggested you bring



some ear plugs and also an eye mask for personal comfort. A neck pillow is also good idea, for a little added comfort. Rest rooms (which are very basic in standard) are located at the end of each wagon.

It is possible to upgrade to a sleeper cabin, reservations need to be made PRIOR to departure. Please ask your reservation consultant for more information.

Occasionally, the Nefertiti Class and the 1st Class Reserve train service are cancelled, in which case we would need to revert to a sleeper service at an additional cost to the passenger. You would be advised in Egypt, as although this occurrence is rare, there would be little notice offered.

**SLEEPER TRAIN SERVICE, SLEEPER CABIN UPGRADE:** On our Jewel of the Nile and Family tours we include the Sleeper Cabin Train as part of your journey. If you book our SLEEPER TRAIN UPGRADE this is also the service that you will be travelling on. Sleeper Train Cabins are equipped with 2 bunk beds with linen provided. Cabins are lockable, A/C and lighting are also controlled from the inside. Each cabin has a washbasin and small towel and western style bathrooms are located at the end of the carriage. Dinner and breakfast (of an average standard) are served throughout the journey.

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