

# Festive King Tut - 9 days

# go guide

don't leave home without it



*Classic Egypt at its best - ancient temples, tombs, Nile river cruising, topped off with plenty of festive cheer! With 4 tour dates to choose from, the hardest decision you'll need to make is where you want to spend Xmas & New Years - sailing the Nile, at the legendary pyramids or discovering Cairo!*



## WHAT YOU SEE AND WHAT YOU GET

### 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
- Luxor - Valley of the Kings, Colossi of Memnon, Temple of Queen Hatshepsut

### What's Included

- Breakfast daily
- All meals aboard felucca cruise
- 4 nights 4 - 5 star hotels
- 2 nights aboard felucca (open deck)
- 2 nights train: Cairo - Aswan and Luxor - Cairo (seater train).

- Airport arrival and departure transfer day 1 and day 9
- Touring of Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Aswan, Edfu & Luxor
- Escorted by an Egyptian tour leader/guide degree qualified in Egyptology
- All relevant transfer and transportation

### What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: \$30-50 USD
- Entrance Fees: \$90-110 USD
- 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. 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 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 - seater Train (B)**

### Day 3 : Philae Temple & Aswan High Dam



Arrival and check into our hotel. Our first stop is the mighty High Dam and later a leisurely boat trip to the romantic Temple of Philae, dedicated to the goddess Isis and rescued under an enormous

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UNESCO effort in the 1970's to save the temple from the rising waters of the High Dam. As night falls, free time to shop in the colourful souqs or simply relax and watch an amazing sunset.  
**Overnight - Aswan (B)**

## Day 4 : Abu Simbel, Nile Cruising



Aswan – Nile felucca cruise. 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. Felucca's are simple sailboats based on a unique design and have plied the mighty Nile since ancient times. Our feluccas are proudly owned and crewed by friendly local sailors and they have been adapted to comfortably carry our travellers. Overnight felucca.

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. Nothing beats the experience of sleeping under a blanket of stars, though you'll 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 the felucca.

**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, L, D)**

## Day 5 : Sail away...



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 Cruise (B, L, D)**

## Day 6 : Kom Ombo Temple



Kom Ombo - Edfu - Luxor – breakfast. Disembarking in Daraw, a short drive takes us to Kom Ombo. After enjoying a guided tour here we continue to the Temple of Horus at Edfu. Having the distinction of being the largest and most completely preserved pharaonic, albeit Greek-built, temple in Egypt, the Temple of Horus was one of the last monumental temples built on a large scale. Though much newer than the temples of Karnak and Luxor, its excellent state of structural preservation fills in a lot of historical gaps because it is, in effect, a 2000 year old replica of an architectural style that was already age-old during Ptolemaic times. Back on the bus, we rejoin the police convoy as we drive 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. The excursion is payable locally. Rest of evening free.  
**Overnight - Luxor (B)**

## Day 7 : Valley of the Kings



Luxor - Cairo – breakfast. An early start for those who have opted to undertake our early morning Hot Air Balloon excursion. Afterward we venture to the famed Valley of the Kings. The first monument you'll see on the West Bank 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. Some of the best known tombs are those of Ramses II, Seti I, Amenhotep II and of course, the tomb of King Tutankhamen. Discovered intact in 1922 by Howard Carter, it represented possibly one of the most dazzling archaeological finds ever. King Tutankhamen's solid gold funerary mask and his

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priceless cache of treasures entombed with him for his journey to the afterlife, are now on display at the world famous Egyptian Museum in Cairo. In all, more than 60 tombs have been excavated. Then to Deir al- Bahri, otherwise known as the famous Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, which rises out of the desert plain, in a series of terraces partly rock-cut, partly freestanding, it is one of Egypt's finest and most photographed monuments.

Later this afternoon after lunch and some time to relax, we visit the Temple of Karnak - a spectacular temple on a gigantic scale dedicated to the Theban gods. Karnak is 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. Gigantic in proportion, at over 1.5km by 800m and the fact that almost every pharaoh left his (or her) mark here with evolving artistic and architectural styles, wandering through the temple is one of the highlights of a visit to Egypt. Tonight, we return to Cairo by seater train. Option to upgrade to sleeper train cabin. **Overnight - Train (B)**

## Day 8 : Egyptian Museum

Arrival and hotel check in. Later we enjoy a guided tour of the famous Egyptian Museum. See the priceless funerary treasures of King Tutankhamen, including his legendary solid gold death mask. Enjoy the remains of the day shopping and exploring Cairo. **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

## Day 9 : Cairo

Our tour concluded after breakfast and onward departure transfer to the airport. (B)

## Where will you be for XMAS OR NEW YEARS EVE?

- 17 Dec tour - Xmas Day in Cairo & the final day our our tour
- 21 Dec tour - wake up to Xmas morning from aboard your felucca or Nile Cruiser
- 23 Dec tour departure: On Xmas Day we set sail along the Nile
- 27 Dec tour departure: New Year's Eve felucca sailing or Nile Cruiser party

## Upgrade to a 5 star Nile Cruiser

If sailing by felucca is not your style, navigate the River Nile on board a 5 star Nile Cruiser with private cabin and ensuite bathroom. Add to this a sleeper train upgrade. Sleeper train cabins are fully enclosed, fitted with bunk beds, linen and washbasins. Sleeper train upgrades are offered independently whilst our Nile Cruise upgrade during Xmas and New Year's can be purchased in conjunction with our sleeper train upgrade

**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 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. Ramadan

## 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

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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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