

Jewel of the Nile - 10 days

go guide

don't leave home without it



Premium Tour. Enjoy a five star Egyptian adventure, Stay in one of Cairo's smartest hotels and cruise the River Nile in style aboard a 5 star Nile cruiser. Relax and unwind, enjoy the serenity of the Nile Valley, whilst discovering the very best of ancient Egypt!



WHAT YOU SEE AND WHAT YOU GET

Trip Highlights

- Cairo - Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza Plateau, the Necropolis of Saqqara and the Egyptian Museum
- Aswan - High Dam, Philae Temple, local market & souq
- 5 * Nile cruising - islands en route
- Kom Ombo - Temple of Kom Ombo
- Edfu - Temple of Horus
- Luxor - Temple of Karnak
- Valley of the Kings and Queens, 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)
- 3 nights 5 star hotels

- 4 nights aboard luxury 5 star Nile cruiser (twin/dbl cabin with en suite bathroom)
- 2 nights train: Cairo - Aswan and Luxor - Cairo (1st Class sleeper accommodation) including meals
- Airport arrival and departure transfer day 1 and day 10
- Touring and sightseeing in Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Luxor, Edfu and Aswan
- Felucca Sailing around the islands of Aswan
- Escorted by a degree qualified Egyptologist tour guide. (for groups of 4 or more).
- All relevant transfer and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles
- Tip Kitty (excl. gratuities for your tour guide and Nile Cruise staff)

What's Not Included

- Entrance Fees: \$95-115 USD
- International flights and visa
- Tip for your tour guide - this is an entirely personal gesture

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Cairo

Friday. Welcome to Egypt and the start of your holiday! Arrival at Cairo, where after you have attended to customs and immigration formalities, 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! Our capable airport representative will streamline your arrival. You will then transferred to your 5 star hotel.

Your Egyptian adventure will start from the moment you leave the airport! Dependent upon the hour of your arrival, Cairo traffic can be quite heavy and slow going. Roads can be crowded with cars, trucks, motorbikes, bicycles, donkeys, horses and people. The cacophony of constantly sounding horns has to be heard to be believed! The later it is in the day, the smoother the traffic flow.

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. There are plenty of attractions in Cairo. 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 : Egyptian Museum

Cairo. This morning enjoy a guided visit to 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 the mummy, where it lay inside a series of 3 sarcophagi.

Opt to see also the Royal Mummies, if you wish. This afternoon, relax and enjoy the facilities of your hotel or opt for an optional city tour visiting old Cairo and the Islamic Citadel. **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

Day 3 : Pyramids of Giza and Saqqara



Cairo – Luxor. Today we travel beyond Cairo to visit the famous pyramids and lion-headed Sphinx. Sole survivors from the ancient Greek-listed 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

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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



years old when Herodotus the Greek historian visited them (5th century BC). A highly skilled corps of mathematicians, masons, surveyors and stonemasons 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 Luxor by overnight train. You will be accommodated in comfortable twin sleeper cabins. A light dinner is served on board.

If you don't fancy travelling by overnight sleeper train, opt to undertake the journey by flight with our Jewel of the Nile Flight bolt-on. The option includes air travel between Cairo - Luxor and Aswan - Cairo with two nights accommodation in the comfort of 5 star hotels. **Overnight - Sleeper Train** (B, D)

Day 4 : Valley of the Kings



Luxor. Arriving into Luxor for an early morning visit to the incredible Valley of the Kings, which allows us to avoid some of the fierce heat. 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.

Returning to Luxor, we check-in aboard our Nile 5 star cruiser, where we enjoy lunch and then have time to relax until our early evening visit to the Temple of Luxor. The Luxor Temple, is a strikingly graceful piece of architecture built by the New Kingdom pharaoh Amenophis III, which was originally joined to Karnak by an avenue of sphinxes. Luxor temple looks stunning at dusk and is beautifully illuminated at night.

Note: Dependent upon Nile Cruiser scheduling it may be required that we also undertake our excursion to Karnak Temple this afternoon. Should this occur, day 5 will be spent at leisure. **Overnight - Nile Cruiser** (B, L, D)

Day 5 : Luxor & Nile Cruising



Luxor - Nile cruising. Luxor - At over 4,000 years old, Luxor is a living museum. Look down upon the ancient city by opting to join us on an early morning hot air ballooning excursion.

Later we tour the ancient city of Thebes (the East Bank), taking in the Temple of Luxor - built by Pharaoh Amenophis III and the magnificent Temple of Karnak. More than a temple, Karnak is a spectacular complex of sanctuaries, pylons, chapels, halls andobelisks. Anchors away this afternoon as we sail downstream to Esna and the Temple of Horus at Edfu. **Overnight - Nile Cruiser** (B, L, D)

Day 6 : Kom Ombo & Nile Cruising



Nile cruising. Relax as we sail the Nile. Later today, we visit the Temple of Kom Ombo. A unique riverside temple, it is unusual in that everything architecturally is doubled and perfectly symmetrical along the main axis of the temple including twin halls, courts, colonnades, sanctuaries and entrances. Arrive Aswan, a prosperous town at the crossroads of the ancient caravan routes late evening. **Overnight - Nile Cruiser** (B, L, D)

Day 7 : Philae Temple & the Mighty High Dam

Aswan. Today, we enjoy a short boat trip to Agilika Island for Philae Temple - dedicated to the goddess Isis. The temple dates from 4th century BC but the

Ptolomies and the Romans up to 3rd century AD built most of the existing structures.

In danger of being completely submerged by the rising water of Lake Nasser, in 1972 UNESCO stepped in and an 8-year rescue effort was undertaken to relocate the entire temple 20m higher on nearby Agilika Island. After lunch, we visit the mighty High Dam. Constructed with 18 times the material used to create the Great pyramid of Cheops, the controversial High Dam, 17km south of Aswan is 3600m across, 111m high and 980m wide. Colossal in proportion, it took 35,000 people to build this gigantic structure. When it was completed, the water that collected behind the dam, became Lake Nasser, the world's largest artificial lake! Later, we enjoy a felucca cruise to Elephantine and Kitchener Island. Evening free to perhaps do some shopping in the colourful souks and markets or simply relax in this attractive town which straddles the River Nile. **Overnight - Nile Cruiser** (B, L, D)

Day 8 : Aswan



Aswan - Cairo. Optional early morning air excursion to famous Abu Simbel - the gargantuan rock-cut temple of King Ramses II, the Great Builder (details of this optional excursion are featured in our brochure and online). Possibly the most awe-inspiring temple of all ancient Egypt, with its gargantuan rock-cut façade, Abu Simbel was 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.

If you choose not to embark upon this optional excursion, there is plenty to do in Aswan. You can explore Aswan, its beautiful shoreline and cornice or perhaps do a spot of shopping. Late this afternoon, we board the overnight train (twin berth sleeper cabins provided) for our journey back to Cairo. A light dinner is served on board. **Overnight - Sleeper Train** (B, D)



Day 9 : Cairo



Cairo. Arrive Cairo and transfer to hotel. Remainder of the day free to relax, shop and explore Cairo - Africa's largest city. Perhaps head to Khan el-Khalili bazaar and pick up a few souvenirs. An optional Cairo city tour is also available locally. **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

Day 10 : Cairo

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

Cairo Accommodation

Our tour includes a first and second stay within greater Cairo. One stay (either first or second) will commence at a hotel located in the Pyramids area and the other will be undertaken in a downtown area. The choice as to which location will be used first and second will be noted upon your tour voucher. On our Xmas/ New Year tours both our first and second stays in Cairo will be located in the downtown area.

Hot Air Ballooning

Some Nile Cruisers depart Luxor in the wee hours (approx 02:00) of day 5 making it not possible to undertake this excursion. Sailing schedules are only released 5 days prior to embarkation. You will be informed upon arrival in Egypt whether it is possible to undertake a hot air ballooning excursion on your particular Jewel of the Nile departure.

Nile Cruise Cabins

- Your onboard cabin will be air-conditioned (individually regulated) for your comfort and offer en suite facilities. In most cabins, there will be a combination of facilities, such as a Television, security deposit box, phone and mini-bar
- Guest facilities aboard - Restaurant, bar, sundeck with swimming pool, shop(s), hairdresser, laundry, guest safe.
- Drinks - alcoholic or non-alcoholic are not included. These are extra, as is any laundry.

bullet] All cabins have outward facing windows allowing for viewing whilst sailing. When in port cruisers line up side by side and views are restricted. You may also be required to walk through other cruisers to reach your cruiser.

- Onboard purchases - Cash payments are best for your onboard purchase of goods and services because telephone lines for credit card connection are not always reliable and you will incur a 3% surcharge.

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

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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.