



See the best of ancient Egypt with the luxury of a 5 star Nile cruiser & hotels. Explore pyramids, temples & tombs & top it off with the amazing Sun Festival of King Ramses II - observe the awesome spectacle as sunlight floods the temple of Abu Simbel.



### WHAT YOU SEE AND WHAT YOU GET

#### Trip Highlights

- Luxor - Karnak Temple and Luxor Temple by night
- Luxor - West Bank - Valley of the Kings and Queens, Colossi of Memnon, Temple of Queen Hatshepsut
- Nile 5 star cruising - islands en route
- Edfu - Temple of Horus
- Kom Ombo - Temple of Kom Ombo
- Aswan - High Dam, Philae Temple, River Nile by cruiser
- Felucca sailing to Elephantine and Kitchener Islands
- Abu Simbel - at sunrise, witness the grand accomplishment and feat of precision mastered by King Ramses II at the Abu Simbel Sun Festival
- Cairo - Great Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza
- Egyptian Museum

#### What's Included

- Breakfast daily, 4 lunches, 5 dinners - (2 aboard sleeper train)
- 3 nights 5 star hotels
- 4 nights aboard luxury 5 star cruiser (twin/double cabin with en suite bathroom)
- 2 overnight trains Cairo - Luxor and Aswan - Cairo (1st Class sleeper accommodation)
- 1 night 5 hotel/bus to Abu Simbel - for sunrise
- Return coach journey Aswan - Abu Simbel for the Abu Simbel Sun Festival
- Guided visit to Abu Simbel at sunrise on 22nd February 2012
- Abu Simbel and Sun Festival entrance fee
- Felucca sailing afternoon, boat journey to Philae Temple
- Airport arrival and departure transfer
- Touring of Cairo, Aswan, Kom Ombo, Edfu, Luxor & Abu Simbel
- 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

- Tipping Kitty: entirely personal gesture
- Entrance Fees: \$80-115 USD
- 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

### DETAILED ITINERARY

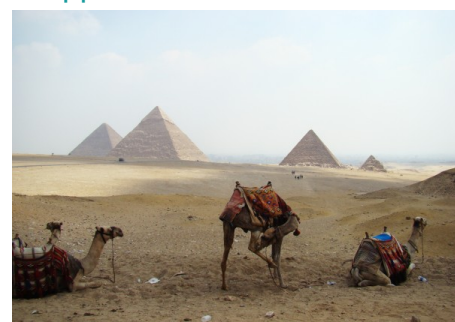
#### Day 1 : Cairo

Thursday 16th February 2012. 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 team 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 of Giza and Saqqara



Cairo - Luxor. Today we visit Egypt's most loved sight - The Great Pyramids of Giza. We explore the Gize plateau, pyramids and massive lion-headed Sphinx. Later, we tour Saqqara - an ancient necropolis with many half-buried tombs and the famous Zoser's step pyramid. Overnight sleeper cabin train south to Luxor with a light dinner included.

If you don't fancy travelling by overnight sleeper train, opt to undertake the journey by flight with our Jewel of the Nile Flight Upgrade. 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 3 : Valley of the Kings & Ancient Thebes

Luxor - 5 star Nile cruising. Arriving into Luxor we have a full day of sightseeing ahead of us, dictated by the early departure of all Nile cruisers tomorrow morning. The massive pair of statues known as the Colossi of Memnon are the first monuments you'll see during our morning visit to the West Bank, home to the legendary Valley of the Kings and Valley of the Queens. You'll also see the colonnaded Temple of Queen Hatshepsut. Return to Luxor for check-in aboard our Nile 5 cruiser. Lunch and time to freshen up. Afternoon visit to the magnificent Temple of Karnak. More than a temple, it's a gigantic and stunning complex of sanctuaries and pylons dedicated to the Theban gods. Later, we visit to the Temple of Luxor, a strikingly graceful piece of architecture built by the New Kingdom pharaoh Amenophis III, was originally joined to Karnak by an avenue of sphinxes. Luxor Temple looks stunning at dusk and is beautifully illuminated at night. **Overnight - Nile Cruising (B, L, D)**

## Day 4 : Nile Cruising



Nile Cruising. As the sun rises it's anchors away! Our cruiser will depart Luxor in the early hours of the morning to wait in queue for the opening of the Esna lock. We enjoy a well deserved day of complete R&R. Pull up a deck chair and relax as we sail upstream toward Temple of Horus at Edfu. Depending on our cruise schedule we may tour Edfu Temple this afternoon or early tomorrow morning. **Overnight - Nile Cruiser (B, L, D)**

## Day 5 : Nile cruising & Kom Ombo Temple

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 is architecturally doubled and perfectly symmetrical along the main axis of the temple including twin halls, courts, colonnades, sanctuaries and entrances. We arrive at Aswan, a prosperous town at the crossroads of the ancient caravan routes late this evening. **Overnight - Nile Cruiser (B, L, D)**

## Day 6 : Aswan, Philae Temple & the High Dam



Tuesday 21 Feb 2012. Nile cruiser/ Aswan - Abu Simbel. Today, we visit Philae Temple - dedicated to the goddess Isis and the mighty High Dam - a modern feat of engineering.

After we'll enjoy a felucca boat journey on the Nile. Sailing around the islands of Aswan, we'll disembark at Kitchener Island to stroll the gardens of British Lord Kitchener and at Elephantine Island - a trading place for Ivory. Elephantine boasts some impressive ruins dating back to the Second Intermediate Period (1650 - 1550 BCE) and the Temple of Khnum, the ram-headed god of the cataracts, who guarded and controlled the waters of the Nile from caves beneath the island.

This evening relax and watch an amazing sunset in Egypt's southern most town straddling the River Nile. Just after midnight, we check out from our Nile Cruiser and travel due south toward the Temples of Abu Simbel. Our bus journey will take approximately 3.5 hours, arriving well before sunrise. **Overnight - Nile Cruiser/Bus to Abu Simbel. (B, L)**

## Day 7 : SUN FESTIVAL – TEMPLE OF KING RAMSES II – ABU SIMBEL

SUN FESTIVAL – TEMPLE OF KING RAMSES II – ABU SIMBEL

Wednesday 22 Feb 2012. Abu Simbel – Aswan. As dawn breaks the magic will unfold and here we'll witness the spectacular Sun Festival of King Ramses II. 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, and 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. The other rock cut temple at Abu Simbel is the Temple of Hathor, which is fronted by six massive standing statues. Four of them represent King Ramses II, whilst the other two are of his beloved wife, Queen Nefertari.

In a fit of precision and architectural egotism, Ramses II had Abu Simbel 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, and is now known as the Sun Festival of King Ramses II. People gather before sunrise and watch the shafts of light slowly creeping through the rock hewn inner Hypostyle Hall and through to the Sanctuary.

Significantly, the sun illuminates 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 multimillion 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 grand finale, we'll explore the site in depth with a fully guided tour of the Sun Temple of King Ramses II and also the Temple of Hathor. You'll have time to independently explore and take plenty of pictures, before returning to Aswan. Upon arrival to Aswan day use rooms have been arranged offer some R&R and a chance to freshen up. Later this evening we take the overnight sleeper train service to Cairo.

For those who have opted to undertake our Jewel of the Nile Flight Upgrade. Arrangements of this upgrade differ slightly. Here on our Ramses Sunrise tour travellers will fly to Cairo this evening, stay overnight in the nation's capital and spend the morning at leisure. **Overnight - Sleeper Train (B)**



## Day 8 : The Egyptian Museum



Cairo. Sleeper train travellers arrive to Cairo and hotel check in. Early this afternoon we all head out to tour the dazzling antiquities at the Egyptian Museum. Amongst the many exhibits are the treasures of King Tutankhamen. The remains of the afternoon and evening offer free time. **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

## Day 9 : Explore Cairo - your own way.

Today offers free time for you to relax by the pool, enjoy the hotel facilities or maybe head to Khan el Khalili market for a little last minute souvenir shopping. Alternatively, you could join our Cairo city tour visiting old Cairo and the Islamic citadel (book and pay locally).

Note: Bolt-ons or optional activities purchased in Egypt are payable in USD or EGP (Egyptian Pound) equivalent. **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

## Day 10 : Cairo

Sunday 25th February 2012. Our Ramses Sunrise tour concludes after breakfast and onward departure transfer to the airport.

jewel of the Nile flight option

If your don't fancy travelling by overnight sleeper train on the Jewel of the Nile, Jewel of the Nile Sun Festival or Ramses Sunrise tours, then upgrade to our flight option, and fly from Cairo to Luxor and Aswan to Cairo. Enjoying two extra nights of comfort in 5\* hotel accommodation.

additional Information

\* Due to the size of the aircraft running the route between Cairo -Luxor and Aswan and Cairo often it will not be possible for all travellers to be accommodated on the same flight. On the route between Cairo - Luxor, evening flights will be secured, following the completion of our day 2 sightseeing arrangements (Ramses Sunrise travellers). On the return route between Aswan - Cairo, preference will be given to securing seats on a mid afternoon/evening flight. In all cases our ideal/preferred flight times are subject to availability.

\* Further, should economy class seats not be available on either route business class seats will be secured at supplementary cost. Should this be the case you will be advised at time of booking.

\* Please note that if you are undertaking our Jewel of the Nile flight bolt-on, dinner will not be provided on day 2 and day 7.

what's Included

- \* Economy class flight Cairo - Luxor
- \* 1 night at a 5 star Luxor hotel (evening of day 3)
- \* Economy class flight Aswan - Cairo
- \* 1 extra night at 5 star Cairo hotel (evening of day 8)
- \* All relevant transfers and breakfast

(B)

### 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.

## 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

## Ramses Sunrise - 10 days

www.onthegotours.com  
uk 020 7371 1113 info@onthegotours.com  
aus 1300 855 684 aus-info@onthegotours.com  
nz 0800 44 77 69 can 1 866 890 7038  
usa 1 866 377 6147 sa 0800 982 686

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 07-02-2012



- 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.