



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



## HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

### Trip Highlights

- Cairo - Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza Plateau, Necropolis of Saqqara and The Egyptian Museum
- Abu Simbel - at sunrise, witness the grand accomplishment and feat of precision mastered by King Rames II at the Abu Simbel Sun Festival
- Aswan - High Dam, Philae Temple, River Nile
- Nile felucca cruising - islands en route
- Kom Ombo - Temple of Kom Ombo
- Edfu - Temple of Horus
- Luxor - Temple of Karnak
- Valley of the Kings, Colossi of Memnon, Temple of Queen Hatshepsut

- Dahab - Red Sea coast - swim, relax, opt to snorkel or scuba dive in the clear coastal waters

### What's Included

- Breakfast daily, 2 lunches and 2 dinners
- 9 nights 4 - 5 star hotels, 2 nights aboard felucca (open deck)
- 2 overnight trains: Cairo - Aswan & Luxor - Cairo (seater cabin). Sleeper cabin upgrade available!
- 1/2 night 4-5 star Aswan hotel prior to overnight bus journey (3.5hrs) to Abu Simbel
- Abu Simbel and Sun Festival entrance fee
- Airport arrival and departure transfer day 1 and day 14
- Touring of Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Aswan, Abu Simbel, Kom Ombo Edfu & Luxor
- 3 days Dahab, Red Sea stay - swim, sun and sand
- Egyptian tour leader/guide degree qualified in Egyptology
- All relevant transfer and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles

### What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: \$40-60 USD
- Entrance Fees: \$90-110 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

Monday 18 February 2013. 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 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 & Saqqara



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

### Day 3 : Aswan

Aswan. Arrive Aswan and transfer to our hotel. Spend time at leisure in Aswan. Consider taking a walk along the majestic Nile corniche, framed by rolling sand dunes of the Sahara Desert or



simply relax and enjoy the hotel facilities. Later this evening we'll head to the colourful local souq (market) for a little bargain hunting. The lively night market offers comic entertainment as the sellers go about the business of hocking their wares. The market also offers an extensive array of cotton products, spices, wooden and copper ornaments, alabaster statues, beaded jewellery and mother of pearl trinkets at some of the best prices in the country. **Overnight - Aswan (B)**

## Day 4 : Philae Temple & the High Dam



Aswan - Abu Simbel - breakfast. Today we enjoy a visit out of town to the mighty High Dam. A modern feat of engineering, the by-product is Lake Nasser, the world's largest artificial lake! Continuing, we take a short boat trip to Agilika Island for Philae Temple, dedicated to the goddess Isis. There is time to rest before departing in the wee hours of the morning on our coach journey toward the Grand Temples of Abu Simbel. In readiness we await for the first rays of golden sunlight to touch the temple gate signifying the start of the Sun Festival of the mighty King Ramses II. **Overnight - Hotel or cruiser/coach journey to Abu Simbel. Overnight - hotel/ coach journey to Abu Simbel (B)**

## Day 5 : ABU SIMBEL SUN FESTIVAL



Friday 22 February 2013. Abu Simbel - Aswan - Nile Felucca Cruise - all meals. 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. Built by Ramses II himself, 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 Burkhart. Only one of the heads of the pharaohs was showing and only a small part of the rest of the colossal temple peeked above the desert sands. It wasn't until the British happened upon Abu Simbel and started excavating that the full glory of the temple of Abu Simbel was revealed to the modern world. 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 the entire temple carefully angled and oriented in order that the sun's rays would align twice a year on the date of his ascension to the throne (21 February) and on his birthday (21 October) and illuminate the inner sanctum of the temple. This incredible natural phenomenon provides for a most spectacular sight, which has come to be referred to as the Sun Festival of King Ramses II. Crowds pack in to the temple before sunrise and watch the shafts of light slowly creeping through the rock hewn inner Hypostyle Hall (replete with further statues of the king) and through to the Sanctuary. 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 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. 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 watching this incredible event unfold we return to Aswan. Just after noon we board our Nile felucca for a 2 night voyage downstream on the River Nile.

**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.

Feluccas 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. 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 5-12 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.

### 5 STAR NILE CRUISER:

For those who have opted to upgrade to a 5 star Nile Cruiser, you will check in after returning from Abu Simbel for a 3 night stay (Fri, Sat, Sun). All meals on board are included and sightseeing stops will be en route at the Temples of Kom Ombo and Edfu. **Overnight - Felucca or Nile Cruiser (B, L, D)**

## Day 6 : Felucca Sailing

Nile Felucca Cruise - all meals. Relax, go for a swim or just chill out in the sun on deck. Let your troubles melt away, as the felucca plies its route. **Overnight - Felucca or Nile Cruiser (B, L, D)**

## Day 7 : Kom Ombo & Edfu Temple



Nile felucca cruise - Kom Ombo - Edfu - Luxor. Disembarking our felucca, we visit the riverside Temple of Kom Ombo and continue onward to the Temple of Horus at Edfu, before driving north to Luxor. Home of the legendary Valley of the Kings and Temple of Karnak, 4000 year old Luxor is ancient Egypt at its best. Enjoy some rest and relaxation. Tonight, an optional visit is available to the Temple of Luxor with a restaurant dinner afterwards. The excursion is at nominal cost, payable locally. Rest of evening free. **Overnight - Luxor or Nile Cruiser (B)**

## Day 8 : Valley of the Kings



## Sun Chasing - 14 Days



Luxor - Dahab. An early start! There is the option to float over Luxor in a hot air balloon to view temples or tombs or villages and ancient Thebes from high above (flights typically last between 35-50 minutes). Starting early to avoid the heat, we venture to the famed Valley of the Kings. One of the first sights you'll see is the Colossi of Memnon. This huge pair of enthroned statues is all that remains of the temple of Amenophis III. See the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut and surrounding tombs. After relaxation back in Luxor, we visit the Temple of Karnak. This evening we travel by overnight train to Cairo. **Overnight - Train (B)**

## Day 9 : Egyptian Museum & free time

Arriving to 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. **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

## Days 10-12 : Dahab by the Red Sea



Dahab. Arriving at Dahab, our base for the coming days, there is plenty of time to explore the Sinai, a region of awesome beauty. Dahab offers great diving, snorkelling, swimming and sun - worshipping possibilities. Optional excursions such as snorkelling at Dahab's Blue Hole or an energetic climb to the summit of Mt Sinai and visit to St Katherine's Monastery are available (book/pay locally). The climb commences in the early hours of the morning and experiencing the magnificent sunrise atop a mountain is a fantastic experience. During winter we offer this as a sunset trek, firstly visiting St. Katherine's Monastery in the morning. Camel and jeep treks into the surrounding Sinai Desert are also available locally. Dahab waterfront is dotted with relaxed cafes, bars and shops, perfect for eating, drinking and a little relaxing retail therapy. (If you'd like to extend your stay in Dahab, consider our Red Sea Dive Learn to Dive bolt-on. It's your ticket to the big deep blue!).

Dahab - Cairo. Very early this morning, approx 6am, we bid farewell to Dahab and travel back to Cairo and enjoy a guided visit to the Egyptian Museum.

Cairo - Dahab. Today we cross the Suez Canal and travel onto Dahab. The intimate coastal resort town offers 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 3 whole days to do as you please. **Overnight - Dahab (B:3)**

## Day 13 : Cairo - your way

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

## Day 14 : Cairo

Sunday 03 March 2013. Hotel check out and included transfer to airport.(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-Husseini 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

### Sun Chasing - 14 Days



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.