



tour spotlight

what you see

- Cairo - Pyramids & Sphinx at Giza Plateau, Necropolis of Saqqara, Egyptian Museum
- Abu Simbel - Sun Temple of King Ramses II and 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 - East Bank - Temple of Karnak
- Luxor - West Bank - 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 you get

- Breakfast daily
- 2 lunches, 2 dinners aboard felucca cruise
- 8 nights 4 - 5 ★ hotels,
- 1/2 night 4 - 5★ hotel Aswan prior to overnight bus journey (3.5hrs) to Abu Simbel • 2 nights aboard felucca (open deck)
- 1 overnight train - Cairo - Aswan (seater train) Upgrade possible!
- 1 overnight bus - Luxor - Dahab
- Airport arrival and departure transfer - day 1 & 13
- 3 days Dahab - Red Sea stay - swim, sun & sand
- Touring of Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Aswan, Abu Simbel, Kom Ombo, Edfu, Luxor and Dahab
- Egyptian tour leader/guide degree qualified in Egyptology
- All relevant transfers in private modern A/C buses



on location

Your guide to on the ground...

visa requirements

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. It still remains possible for nationals of some countries to procure their tourist visa upon arrival at Cairo International Airport. Visas are your responsibility. Don't forget to check!

climate

Temperatures in Egypt are generally high, particularly during the summer months from May to September, when the sun can be fierce and temperatures are at industrial levels, so take sunscreen. In Cairo and the Nile Delta region, winter (October to February) can be cooler - so take a jacket, long-sleeved tops and pants for the cooler evenings.

time

Egypt is 2 Hours ahead of GMT (+3hrs Apr - Sept)

money

GBP1=LE9.3, USD1=LE5.8, Euro1=LE8, AUD1=LE5.7

(subject to fluctuation). Exchange facilities are available at various bureau de changes and banks in major towns have ATMs. If visiting Dahab, have a supply of cash on you as ATMs are more scarce.

health requirements

Recommendations - 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 and Hepatitis A. This information is intended as a guide only and vaccination requirements can change so please check with your local health care provider before travel.

how much

- **ENTRANCE FEES**
Entrance fees are not included in your tour. Please budget approximately **USD90-110**
- **TIPPING**
A small tipping kitty will be collected from all tour participants to cover tips en route. **USD40-60**
Your guide (suggested amount) **USD30-50**
Driver, felucca captain/Nile cruise staff **USD10-15**
- Mineral water (500ml or 1L) **LE5 or 10**
- Can of coke **LE2.75-5**
- Beer (local brew Stella - 500ml approx) **LE10-17**
- Meal for 2 (entree, main, local beer) **LE60-80**

things to bring

- A sleeping bag for the felucca or desert oases tour.
- Lightweight cotton garments.
- Comfortable walking shoes for the Pyramids and Valley of the Kings.
- DEET based mosquito repellent & antihistamine cream.
- Two spare passport photos & a photocopy of your passport
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs.
- Sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, swim costume, torch.

top experiences

- Visit the spectacular Pyramids of Giza - the world's oldest tourist attraction!
- Lose yourself in the gargantuan Hypostyle Hall at the Temple of Karnak.
- Check out the awesome temple of Ramses II at Abu Simbel during the Sun Festival.
- Revel in the laziness aboard the 2-night Nile felucca cruise.
- Climb to the summit of Mount Sinai and admire the views!
- See the highly decorated tombs in the Valley of the Kings.





king ramses sun festival: itinerary

day 1 - cairo 18th october 2011

Tuesday. 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 **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 transfer to your hotel. Your Egyptian adventure will start from the moment you leave the airport! Day One is designed to be an arrival day for all passengers, so there are no formal arrangements on this day, although if you arrive before 10am you can join our tour of the Egyptian Museum, alternatively you can undertake your included tour on day 12. Overnight - Cairo.

day 2 - pyramids of giza

Cairo - Aswan - breakfast. 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. We then journey to Aswan by overnight train. At the train station, there'll be the opportunity to buy more water and snacks for the trip ahead. Option to upgrade to sleeper train cabins. See brochure or website for details. Overnight - train

day 3 - aswan

Aswan - breakfast box. Arrive Aswan and transfer to our hotel. This morning 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 enjoy a short boat trip to Agilika Island for Philae Temple, dedicated to the goddess Isis. Later, free time to explore Egypt's southern most city on your own. Consider taking a walk along the majestic Nile corniche, framed by rolling sand dunes of the Sahara Desert or with a drink in hand, pull up a seat Nile for an amazing sunset. Overnight - Aswan

day 4 - aswan

Aswan - Abu Simbel - breakfast. Today offers free time for you to relax by the hotel swimming pool, maybe go for High Tea at the charming Old Cataract Hotel or opt to visit the Nubian Museum located just south of the city. This evening we'll head to the colourful local souq (market) for a little bargain hunting. The lively night market offers comic entertainment and a chance to practice your bargaining skills, 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. As the clock strikes midnight we depart by full size coach and travel with a convoy of vehicles toward the Grand Temples of Abu Simbel (approximate journey time 3.5 hours). 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/ coach journey to Abu Simbel

day 5 - sun festival - abu simbel

Abu Simbel - Aswan - Nile Felucca Cruise - breakfast. 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, 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. It wasn't until the British happened upon Abu Simbel and starting 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.

The temple was dedicated to the deified Pharaoh, King Ramses II, known also as the great builder and the gods Amun-Re, Re-Herakhte and Ptah. 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 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, 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. As we are lead through the temple there will be time to pause for a moment to watch the sun illuminating the 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 the event, there will also be plenty of time to explore the Sun Temple of King Ramses II and also the Temple of Hathor and take plenty of pictures.

Upon returning to Aswan, at approximately 1pm we board our Nile felucca for a 2 night voyage downstream on the River Nile. Spend the afternoon relaxing on the boat deck chatting with friends and looking out upon village folk going about their day set within a picture frame of rugged desert landscape. Lunch, dinner and overnight - onboard Felucca

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king ramses sun festival: itinerary

day 6 - sail the river Nile

Felucca - breakfast. 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. Lunch, dinner and overnight - onboard Felucca.

day 7 - kom ombo & edfu

Kom Ombo - Edfu - Luxor - breakfast. 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 it's best. Enjoy some rest and relaxation. Tonight, an optional visit is available to the Temple of Luxor (book and pay locally) alternatively enjoying the evening your way. Overnight - Luxor

days 8 - valley of the kings

Luxor - Dahab. Optional early morning hot air balloon ride over Luxor before crossing to the west side of the Nile and commencing our tour of the 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. Touring of Valley of the Kings and the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut. After a little rest and relaxation by the pool we visit Karnak Temple. This evening we travel by overnight bus to Dahab via Hurghada. Option to forgo the overnight bus journey and upgrade with our Luxor to Dahab Flight Bolt-on! Overnight - Bus journey to Dahab

Forsaking the included overnight bus journey from Luxor to Dahab, you can opt to travel by flight this includes:

- Economy class flight Luxor - Sharm el Sheikh
- 1 night 4 - 5 star hotel in Luxor or Dahab, (evening of day 8 or morning of day 9, subject to flight availability).
- All relevant transfers (incl. 2hr drive from Sharm el Sheikh - Dahab).

Note: With only 1 scheduled flight per day from Luxor to Sharm el Sheikh this bolt-on must be booked in advance. Should seats be available locally this bolt-on will be charged at a higher cost as transportation on the overnight bus will have already been reserved. Please visit our website or contact us for details.

days 9 - 11 - dahab

Dahab - breakfast. Arriving at Dahab, our base for the coming days, there is plenty of time to explore the Sinai - a region of incredible beauty. Dahab offers great diving, snorkelling, swimming and sun-worshipping possibilities. Check out our exciting range of dive bolt-ons. Optional excursions such as snorkelling at Dahab's Blue Hole or an energetic climb to the summit of Mt Sinai and a visit to St Katherine's Monastery are available. Camel and jeep treks into the surrounding Sinai Desert are also available. Dahab waterfront is dotted with laid back cafes, bars and shops, perfect for eating, drinking and a little relaxing retail therapy. Overnight - Dahab

day 12 - egyptian museum

Dahab - Cairo - breakfast. Early this morning (approx 05:00), we bid farewell to Dahab and travel back to Cairo. Arriving near noon there is time to freshen up before enjoying a guided visit at the Egyptian Museum. Prize exhibit has to be the priceless funerary treasures of King Tutankhamen, including his legendary solid gold death mask, second the uncanny Royal Mummy Room. Spend the remainder of the afternoon and evening shopping or further exploring Cairo - your way. Overnight - Cairo

day 13 - tour ends

Sunday 30 October 2011. Our tour concludes after breakfast, hotel check out at 12 noon and onward departure transfer to the airport. Happy travels!

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

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