

jewel of the Nile sun festival - 11 days

go guide

don't leave home without it



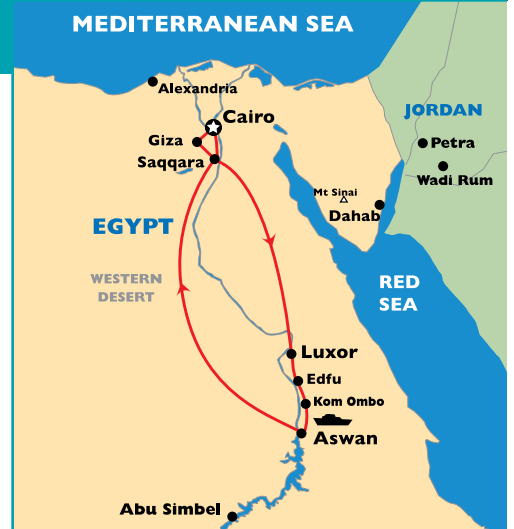
tour spotlight

what you see

- Cairo - Great Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza, Necropolis of Saqqara, Egyptian Museum and Khan el Khalili market
- Luxor - Karnak Temple, Luxor Temple Valley of the Kings, Colossi of Memnon, Temple of Queen Hatshepsut
- Nile 5 ★ cruising - islands en route
- Edfu - Temple of Horus
- Kom Ombo - Temple of Kom Ombo
- ABU SIMBEL SUN FESTIVAL
- Aswan - High Dam, Philae Temple, River Nile by cruiser and felucca sailing to Elephantine and Kitchener Islands

what you get

- Breakfast daily, 4 lunches, 6 dinners
- 4 nights - 5 ★ hotels
- 4 nights luxury Nile 5 ★ cruiser (twin/double cabin with en suite bathroom)
- Midnight coach journey (3.5hrs) to Abu Simbel
- 2 overnight trains (1st Class sleeper) - Cairo - Luxor and Aswan-Cairo
- Guided visit to Abu Simbel and the sunrise event
- Airport arrival and departure transfer
- Touring - Cairo, Saqqara, Luxor, Edfu, Aswan and Abu Simbel
- Egyptian tour guide degree qualified Egyptology
- All relevant transfers and transportation
- Abu Simbel and Sun Festival entrance fees
- Group tipping kitty included (excludes tour guide and Nile Cruise staff)



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 trousers 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

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.

how much?

- **ENTRANCE FEES**
Entrance fees are not included in your tour. Please budget approx USD95-115
- **TIPPING**
A group tipping kitty is included in your package to cover tips en route for porters and other staff. This amount does not include the tour leader or Nile cruise staff
- Your guide (suggested amount) USD30-50
- Nile cruise staff USD10
- Mineral water (500ml or 1L) LE2.75-5
- 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

- High factor sunscreen
- Lightweight cotton garments.
- Comfortable walking shoes for the Pyramids and Valley of the Kings
- DEET based mosquito repellent & anti histamine cream
- Two spare passport photos & a photocopy of your passport
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs.
- Sunglasses, hat, swimming costume and money belt

top experiences

- Visit the spectacular pyramids in Giza - the world's oldest tourist attraction!
- Lose yourself in the gargantuan Hypostyle Hall at the Temple of Karnak
- Revel in laziness aboard a 4 night 5 ★ Nile Cruiser
- Immerse yourself in the madness of chaotic Cairo, Africa's biggest city!
- Watch the incredible Sun Festival at Abu Simbel.
- Test your bargaining skills at Khan el Khalili markets in Cairo or the souqs of Aswan





jewel of the Nile sun festival: itinerary

day 1 - cairo

Friday 14 October 2011. 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 be 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 - pyramids of giza

Cairo - Luxor - breakfast. Today we visit Egypt's most loved sight - The Great Pyramids of Giza. We explore the Giza 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. Tonight we take an overnight sleeper cabin train south to Luxor.

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.

day 3 - temples of karnak

Luxor - breakfast. Home of the legendary Valley of the Kings and Temple of Karnak, 4000 year old Luxor is ancient Egypt at it's best. Upon arriving to Luxor, hotel check in and some rest and relaxation. Later this afternoon we visit the grand temples of Karnak. More than a temple, Karnak is a spectacular complex of sanctuaries, pylons and obelisks - built on a grand scale. During the height

of Theban power, Karnak was the most important place of worship. Later, we visit to the Temple of Luxor built by Pharaoh Amenophis III. Luxor Temple looks stunning at dusk and is beautifully illuminated at night. Overnight - Luxor.

day 4 - luxor/nile cruiser

Luxor - breakfast. An early start allows us to avoid some of the fierce midday heat as we venture to the tomb strewn Valley of the Kings. Consider opting to join our hot air ballooning excursion over ancient Thebes - fabulous early in the morning!

The massive pair of statues known as the Colossi of Memnon are the first monuments you'll see during our visit to the West Bank of the River Nile. After we tour the famed Valley of the Kings and the colonnaded Temple of Queen Hatshepsut. Return to Luxor for check-in aboard our Nile 5 star cruiser. Lunch, dinner and overnight - Nile cruiser.

day 5 - Nile cruising

Luxor - Nile cruising - breakfast. Anchor's away! Pull up a deck chair and relax as we sail upstream toward Temple of Horus at Edfu.

Note: Dependent upon our Nile Cruise sailing schedule, sailing toward Edfu may commence till day 6. If such is the case day 5 will offer free time for you to independently explore some of the many other wonderful ancient sites of Luxor. Lunch, dinner and overnight - Nile cruiser.

day 6 - temple of kom ombo

Nile cruising - breakfast. 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 late evening, a prosperous town at the crossroads of the ancient caravan routes. Remainder of evening at leisure. Lunch, dinner and overnight - Nile cruiser.

day 7 - Nile cruising

Nile Cruiser. We visit the Philae Temple. Later after lunch, a visit to the High Dam and take a felucca boat journey to Elephantine and Kitchener Island. As the sun sets, free time to shop in the colourful souqs and markets or simply relax and watch an amazing sunset in Egypt's southern most town straddling the River Nile.

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. Lunch, dinner and overnight - Nile Cruiser

day 8 - abu simbel sun festival

Today we check out from our Nile Cruiser and check into our Aswan hotel. The day offers free time for you to explore Aswan your own way. Return to the colourful markets, simply relax and sip on a cocktail and watch the feluccas ply their way or consider taking High Tea at the historic and delightful Old Cataract Hotel.

In the wee hours of the morning we rise and embark upon 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 - Aswan Hotel/ coach journey to Abu Simbel.

day 9 - explore aswan

Saturday 22 October 2011. Abu Simbel - Aswan - Cairo - 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 rever 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





jewel of the Nile sun festival: itinerary

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. 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 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.

Afterward returning to Aswan, there is time to relax and enjoy the hotel facilities (a number of day use rooms will be provided for the group). Later this evening we board the overnight train for our journey back to Cairo. Enjoy a light dinner in the comfort of your sleeper cabin. Dinner and overnight - Sleeper Train

day 10 - cairo

Cairo - breakfast. Arriving into Cairo we embark on a guided tour of the Egyptian Museum with its dazzling array of prized antiquities. Amongst the many exhibits are the treasures of King Tutankhamen. After hotel check in the afternoon offers free time for you to relax and enjoy the hotel facilities or opt join us for an optional city tour visiting old Cairo and the Islamic citadel. Overnight - Cairo.

day 11 - cairo

Monday 24 October 2011. Monday 24 October 2011. Our tour concludes after breakfast and included onward departure transfer to airport.

please note

Entrance fees, tip kitty and optional activities purchased in Egypt are payable in Egyptian Pounds (EGP) only.

cairo accommodation

Your 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 notated upon your tour voucher.

Nile cruiser

- Onboard cabin- Your onboard soundproofed cabin will be air-conditioned (individually regulated) for your comfort and will offer en suite facilities. In most cabins, there will be a combination of facilities, such as -TV, hi-fi, radio & mini-bar.
- Guest facilities aboard - Restaurant, bar (with disco/light entertainment), 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.
- 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.

Cruise Schedules

Dependent upon sailing schedules, our cruise may start from either Aswan or Luxor. Content of tour will remain the same.

*The go guide & information contained herein has been compiled with care and in good faith. It is as accurate an illustration as can be given with regard to the proposed itinerary. Circumstances beyond our control such as inclement weather or local conditions could force us to amend the proposed itinerary. This document does not form part of a contract between the client and on the go and their affiliates. Any costs shown may be subject to change but are an accurate reflection of costs at the time of writing this go guide. Please also be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and remain the responsibility of the traveller and not that of on the go.

