

# Ramses Sunrise Feb 2020

10 days | Starts/Ends: Cairo



*Experience the exciting Sun Festival of King Ramses II in 5 star luxury. As well as seeing the unique spectacle of sunlight flooding the temple of Abu Simbel, you will discover on this tour the marvels of the Pyramids of Giza, Egyptian Museum and the ancient tombs at the Valley of the Kings.*

## HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

### Trip Highlights

- Abu Simbel - visit this awe-inspiring temple at sunrise to witness the incredible phenomenon of the Abu Simbel Sun Festival
- 5 star Nile River Cruise - spend four nights onboard a luxury cruise boat
- Cairo - marvel at the legendary Pyramids of Giza, explore the Necropolis of Saqqara and see King Tut's treasures at the Egyptian Museum
- Luxor West Bank - discover exquisite tombs in the Valley of the Kings, the towering Colossi of Memnon and the beautiful Temple of Queen Hatshepsut
- Luxor - roam around the colossal Temple of Karnak and see the beautifully illuminated Luxor Temple at night
- Aswan - visit the High Dam, take leisurely boat trip to Agilkia Island to explore the

romantic Philae Temple and wander around the colourful souqs

- Elephantine Island and Kitchener island - visit the islands on a felucca sailing trip
- Kom Ombo - visit the Nile side Temple of Kom Ombo

### What's Included

- Breakfast daily, 4 lunches, 5 dinners - (1 aboard the sleeper train)
- 4 nights 5 star hotels, 4 nights aboard a 5 star cruiser (en suite cabin)
- 1 flight: Aswan - Cairo and 1 overnight train: Cairo - Luxor (Private 2 berth sleeper cabin)
- Return bus trip (3.5hrs) Aswan - Abu Simbel for the Abu Simbel Sun Festival
- Guided visit to Abu Simbel at sunrise for the Sun Festival of King Ramses II including Abu Simbel and Sun Festival entrance fee
- Group tip kitty included (excl. gratuities for your tour guide and Nile Cruise staff)
- Airport arrival transfer on day 1 and departure transfer on day 10
- Touring of Cairo, Kom Ombo, Luxor, Aswan and Abu Simbel
- Escorted by an Egyptian tour guide degree qualified in Egyptology
- All relevant transfer and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles

### What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$60-80pppp, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: USD\$80-100pp, paid in local currency
- International flights and visa
- Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow USD\$5 - 7 per day, per traveller. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture

## ITINERARY

### Day 1 : Cairo

Saturday 15 February 2020. Welcome to Egypt and the start of your holiday! Upon arrival at Cairo airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is free for you to spend at your own leisure. The rest of the day is free to relax or those arriving early can opt to pre book our optional Backstreets of Cairo tour which departs the hotel at 10am today.

For those who wish to extend their stay, we also offer a pre or post tour Alexandria Day Trip.

### Overnight - Cairo

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## Day 2 : Pyramids of Giza & Saqqara



Cairo - Luxor. Today we visit the legendary pyramids and the iconic 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. Leaving the pyramids behind, we visit a government supervised papyrus emporium where 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.

This evening we board an overnight sleeper cabin train, travelling south to Luxor with a light dinner included. **Overnight - Sleeper Train (B)**

## Day 3 : Luxor - Valley of the Kings



Luxor - Nile Cruiser. Arriving into Luxor early this morning we embark on a guided tour of the West Bank, home to the legendary Valley of the Kings. The massive pair of statues known as the Colossi of Memnon are the first monuments we see here before continuing into the vast necropolis the region

is famed for. We also pay a visit to the colonnaded Temple of Queen Hatshepsut before returning to Luxor for check-in on our Nile 5 star cruiser. Enjoy a leisurely lunch on board and time to relax until our early evening visit to the Temple of Luxor. Beautifully illuminated against the night sky, this after dark experience offers a different perspective of ancient Egypt's incredible temples. **Overnight - Nile Cruising (B, L, D)**

## Days 4-5 : Karnak Temple & Nile Cruising



Nile Cruiser. Today we head to the magnificent Temple of Karnak. More than a temple, Karnak is a spectacular complex of sanctuaries, pylons, statuettes and obelisks. Built on a grand scale, Karnak is probably Egypt's finest ancient temple. Later in the afternoon we begin our cruise down the Nile to Esna for a stop at the Temple of Horus at Edfu.

The following day we visit the Temple of Kom Ombo, a unique riverside temple. What is unusual about Kom Ombo, is that everything architecturally is doubled and perfectly symmetrical along the main axis of the temple including twin halls, courts, colonnades, sanctuaries and entrances. This evening we arrive in Aswan, a prosperous town at the crossroads of the ancient caravan routes. **Overnight - Nile Cruising (B:2, L:2, D:2)**

## Day 6 : Philae Temple & Aswan High Dam



Today we enjoy a leisurely boat trip to picturesque Agilika Island where we have a guided tour of Philae Temple - dedicated to the goddess Isis. We will also visit the Aswan High Dam and this evening is free for you to further explore Aswan independently.

**Overnight - Nile Cruiser/Bus to Abu Simbel (B, L, D)**

## Day 7 : Day at leisure in Aswan

Aswan - Abu Simbel. Disembark our cruiser and check into our hotel. Today is at leisure to independently explore Aswan, we recommend you head to the colourful local souq (market) for a little bargain hunting or enjoy a tea of coffee and watch the sellers go about the business of hocking their wares. The market offers an extensive array of cotton products, spices, wooden and copper ornaments, alabaster statues and beaded jewellery.

In the early hours of the morning we take a bus trip south to the Temples of Abu Simbel, arriving well before sunrise. Here we await the first rays of sunlight, signifying the start of the Sun Festival of the mighty King Ramses II.

**Overnight - Aswan (B)**

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## Day 8 : Abu Simbel Sun Festival



### SUN FESTIVAL – TEMPLE OF KING RAMSES II – ABU SIMBEL

Friday 22 February. Abu Simbel – Aswan - Cairo. Twice a year an incredible phenomenon occurs at the awe-inspiring temples of Abu Simbel, in an event that has become known as the Sun Festival of King Ramses II. The great Sun Temple of King Ramses II at Abu Simbel was constructed between 1290 and 1224 BC to revere the mighty pharaoh himself. Ramses II had the entire temple complex carefully angled so that the sun's rays would align only twice a year on the date of his ascension to the throne (21 February) and his birthday (21 October) to illuminate the inner sanctum of the temple. In 1972 the temple was famously re-located further up from the shoreline of Lake Nasser, which had threatened to erode its foundations. Because of it being moved the sun now strikes a day later than Ramses had originally planned, though the event itself is still amazing.

Crowd assemble in the temple before sunrise and watch the shafts of light slowly creep through the inner Hypostyle Hall and through to the Sanctuary. Significantly, the sun illuminate's statues of Amun-Re, Re-Herakhte and Ramses the god, whilst the statue of Ptah - the god of darkness, remains in the shadows.

After we watch this incredible event unfold we fly to Cairo and check into our hotel. The remainder of today is at your leisure. **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

## Day 9 : Egyptian Museum

This morning we will 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 Tutankhamun. Opt to see also the Royal Mummies, if you wish.

The remainder of today is free for you to enjoy the hotel facilities or explore Cairo independently. Perhaps head to Khan el-Khalili bazaar and pick up a few souvenirs or join our optional Cairo city tour which is available to book locally. **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

## Day 10 : Cairo

Monday 24 February 2020. Today our holiday concludes. Hotel check out and included transfer to the airport.(B)

### HOTELS

The hotels listed below are ones which we frequently use on this tour. We reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard when necessary.

### Le Meridien Pyramids

Set within beautifully manicured gardens, Le Meridien Pyramids is a stunning modern hotel affording amazing views of the Pyramids. The guest rooms have been designed with optimum taste and comfort in mind and include state of the art facilities. The outdoor swimming pool includes waterfalls and hydro jets. head to the Citrus Pool Bar in the afternoon for a refreshing beverage under the gaze of the pyramids!



### M/S Premium

The modern and luxurious M/S Premium cruise boat boasts stylish cabins equipped with all modern amenities and large panoramic windows. Facilities on board include a fitness centre, spacious deck with swimming pool, large restaurant and cocktail

bar. Grab a good book and a refreshing beverage and relax on the Sund Deck - the perfect way to spend the day. The M/S Premium sets sail on Mondays on a 4 and 7 night cruise from Luxor and on Fridays on a 3 and 7 night cruise from Aswan.



### Sheraton Cairo Hotel

The recently renovated Sheraton Cairo Hotel, Towers and Casino is a stylish, contemporary hotel with fantastic views over the Nile. The rooms are particularly spacious with large bright windows, complimentary WiFi and all of the modern amenities required to ensure a comfortable stay. If you're feeling lucky head to the casino, or relax in the spa tub and soak up the sun by the large outdoor pool. The hotel has a choice of three restaurants and bars, where you can enjoy a tasty meal and refreshing drinks after taking in the ancient wonders of Egypt's capital city.



### PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates noted with a 'G' are guaranteed to operate. All other departure dates are guaranteed with a minimum of 2 persons. Prices shown are per person travelling. 'Twin/Double' prices per person apply when there are 2 people travelling, sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers who require their own room and needs to be added to the 'Twin/Double' price. If you are happy to be paired up with another single traveller of

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the same sex, this can be arranged, thus avoiding the single person supplement.

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Date	Twin Share	Single
15 Feb	USD 2,545	USD 3,805

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