



Sunchaser Feb 2020

13 Days | Starts/Ends: Cairo



Discover Egypt's ancient wonders and witness the phenomenal Sun Festival at Abu Simbel on this 13 day tour. Gaze in wonder at the legendary Pyramids of Giza and explore Valley of the Kings, go felucca sailing on the Nile and relax by the Red Sea in Hurghada.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Hurghada - enjoy R&R at the Red Sea, swim and opt to snorkel or scuba dive in the clear coastal waters
- Abu Simbel Sun Festival - at sunrise, witness the grand accomplishment and feat of precision mastered by King Rameses II at the Abu Simbel Sun Festival
- 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 take an optional tour of the beautifully illuminated Luxor Temple at night

- Aswan - take leisurely boat trip to Agilika Island to explore the romantic Philae Temple and wander around the colourful souqs
- Nile felucca cruising - sail the River Nile on board a traditional felucca and spend two nights sleeping under a blanket of stars (or upgrade to a 5 star Nile Cruise)
- Kom Ombo - visit the Nile side Temple of Kom Ombo

What's Included

- Breakfast daily, 2 lunches and 2 dinners
- 8 nights 4 - 5 star hotels, 2 nights aboard felucca (open deck). If booking our Nile Cruise Upgrade, 7 nights 4 - 5 star hotels and 3 nights Nile Cruiser (en suite cabin)
- 1 overnight train: Cairo - Aswan (Private 2 berth sleeper cabin)
- 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 13
- Touring of Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Aswan, Abu Simbel, Kom Ombo, Luxor and Hurghada
- 3 days Hurghada, Red Sea stay - swim, sun and sand
- 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\$60-80pp, 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. Tip for your Felucca Crew, we recommend you allow \$10 USD. Tipping your guide and crew is an entirely personal gesture

ITINERARY

Day 1 : Cairo

Tuesday 18 February 2020. Welcome to Egypt and the start of your holiday! Arrive Cairo, included transfer to hotel. 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 & Saqqara



Visit to the famous pyramids and monolithic 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! **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

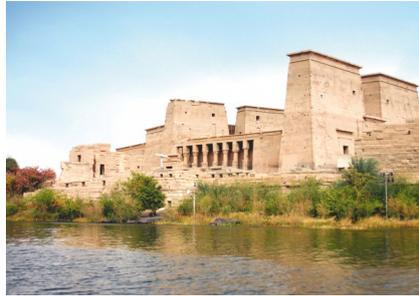
Day 3 : The treasure of King Tutankhamen



Cairo – Aswan. The morning is at leisure so why not go out and visit the Khan el-Khalili bazaar - This is a great place to pick up a few bargains or just sip some tea and people watch! Following hotel check out, this afternoon we embark on a guided tour of the enlightening Egyptian Museum, where you can opt to see the famed solid gold death mask of King Tutankhamen, or the Royal Mummy room.

There is time for dinner before our overnight sleeper train to Aswan. **Overnight - Sleeper Train (B)**

Day 4 : Philae Temple & Abu Simbel



Aswan - Abu Simbel. Arrive Aswan, today we enjoy a short boat trip to Agilika Island for Philae Temple, dedicated to the goddess Isis. There is time to rest before departing in the early 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 - Overnight – hotel/ coach journey to Abu Simbel (B)**

Day 5 : ABU SIMBEL SUN FESTIVAL



22 February. Abu Simbel – Aswan - Nile Felucca Cruise. 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. Guarding the entrance to the temple (built between 1290 and 1224 BC) shewn into the side of a mountain are four famous colossal statues of the pharaoh himself, which sit majestically staring out across the desert. 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.

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.

After watching the incredible event unfold, we return to Aswan, to board our Nile felucca for a 2 night voyage downstream on the River Nile.

If sailing by felucca is not your style, consider upgrading to a 5 star luxury Nile Cruise, please see the tab above for prices. For more information about Nile Cruising please click here. Our Nile cruise upgrade is offered from day 5 (prior to travelling to Abu Simbel) and

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ends on day 8. **Overnight - Felucca Cruise** (B, L, D)

Day 6 : Felucca Sailing & Kom Ombo

Nile Felucca Sailing - Kom Ombo. 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. In the afternoon we dock near Kom Ombo and take a motorboat to visit the temple, which is dedicated to the crocodile headed god Sobek, before returning to the felucca for the night. **Overnight - Felucca Cruise** (B, L, D)

Day 7 : Luxor

Kom Ombo - Luxor. This morning we disembark and drive 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 excursion to visit the Temple of Luxor - wonderfully illuminated at night is available for those interested. **Overnight - Luxor** (B)

Day 8 : Valley of the Kings



Luxor. This morning we cross 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. Explore the highly decorated tombs at the Valley of the Kings and the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut. After a little R&R, we visit Karnak Temple, the rest of the day is at your leisure. **Overnight - Luxor** (B)

Days 9-11 : Hurghada by the Red Sea



Luxor - Hurghada. Mid morning we depart Luxor heading east to Hurghada part of the beautiful Red Sea Riviera for 3 days on the beach. The remainder of today, day 10 and day 11 can be spent exploring Hurghada or simply relaxing. There is the option to go snorkelling on day 10 but the rest of the time it's up to you!

Hurghada is one of the Red Sea's most popular resorts and it is easy to see why. Hotels and expanded infrastructure provide holidaymakers with excellent aquatic facilities for sail boarding, yachting, deep-sea fishing, SCUBA diving and snorkeling. Hurghada's central location provides a gateway to prime offshore reefs, which are some of the finest in the world. Hurghada also has a healthy after dark scene. For retail therapy, the town has plenty of shops selling knock-off bags and tees, snorkeling gear and suchlike. Just outside Hurghada is an ancient Roman quarry called Mons Porphyritis and Port Safarga – a famously windy place and King Kong of windsurfer paradises. **Overnight - Hurghada** (B:3)

Day 12 : Return to Cairo, free time

Hurghada - Cairo. Morning at leisure before hotel check out and then our transfer back to Cairo departing approx 12 noon. Upon arrival and after check in, this evening remains yours to further explore this amazing city, perhaps head to Khan el-Khalili bazaar and pick up a few souvenirs. **Overnight - Cairo** (B)

Day 13 : Farewell...

Sunday 01 March 2020. Hotel check out and included transfer to 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.

Holiday Inn Cairo Maadi

Overlooking the Nile and offering distant views of the Great Pyramids of Giza, this Holiday Inn provides the perfect location for your stay in Cairo. Each guestroom features a balcony and is well-equipped with modern amenities including free WiFi. Evenings can be spent enjoying international or Egyptian cuisine and unwinding with a cocktail at one of the hotel's bars. Thanks to the friendly hotel staff, you'll soon feel at home. And with panoramic views of the city from the rooftop lounge and pool, there's no better place to base yourself for exploring Egypt's ancient wonders.



Steigenberger Cairo Pyramids Hotel

Just footsteps away from the Great Pyramids of Giza is the Cairo Pyramids Hotel. Combining ancient history with world-class hospitality, the hotel is the perfect base for sightseeing. Guestrooms are spacious and comfortable, with friendly staff offering 24-hour room service. You're spoilt for choice when it comes to food, with four restaurants offering international and local specialties. Enjoy stunning views of the pyramids from the lush gardens and end your day with a refreshing dip in the pool.



Felucca Cruise

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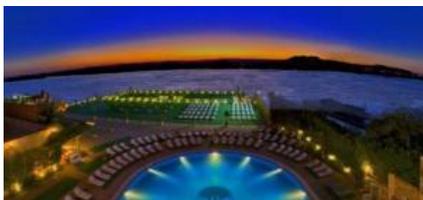
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Feluccas are simple, traditional Egyptian sailboats that have plied the Nile since ancient times. Feluccas carry between 10 - 12 passengers comfortably. The boat's deck is draped with soft colourful cushions that serve as your lounging area during the day and as your sleeping area at night. A support boat travels alongside your felucca and is on hand if you need to use the toilet. The support boat is also where your meals are prepared and eaten. You'll need to bring a sleeping bag/sheet (or hire for a nominal cost) and a towel with you. The crew, as well as being experienced sailors, are responsible for the preparation of the included meals.



Sonesta St. George Hotel

An elegant and luxurious classical hotel, the Sonesta's sophistication will ensure you a comfortable stay. The hotel has a sweeping terrace with fantastic views of the Nile, a grand entrance of polished marble and handsomely appointed furnishings with exquisite detail and a beautiful health spa. All its rooms offer views of the city or the river, complemented by a wide range of restaurants and cafes. Just minutes away you will find the temples at Luxor and Karnak, home to two of ancient Egypt's most famed sanctuaries.



Marriott Beach Resort

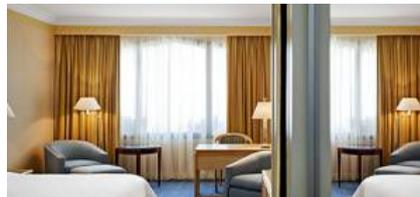
The Marriott Beach Resort is a luxurious beachfront hotel, with every room enjoying a view of the Red Sea and Hurgada city centre just a few minutes drive away. There is a choice of 8 restaurants and bars for hungry travellers, and a health club, tennis

& squash courts, and fitness centre to stay in shape. During the day, soak in the heated outdoor pool or book a watersport activity. The hotel even has its own private island if you fancy a massage among the palm trees.



Le Meridien Heliopolis

Just a short drive from Cairo's Old Town and international airport, the 5-star Le Meridien Heliopolis combines comfort with convenience. The guest rooms are spacious and equipped with air-conditioning, satellite television and a minibar, plus there's complimentary WiFi throughout the property. Dining options include a choice of four on-site restaurants, serving Egyptian and international cuisine. Guests can also enjoy live entertainment and cocktails at The 51 Bar. During the warmer months hotel guests can take a dip in the outdoor pool or relax on a sun lounger on the terrace. There's also a fitness centre and tennis courts for those who like to stay active whilst on holiday.



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

PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
18 Feb	USD 1,895	USD 1,895

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