

Jewel of the Nile Sun Festival

10 days | Starts/Ends: Cairo



PREMIUM FESTIVAL TOUR: Staying in deluxe hotels and cruising aboard a premium 5 star Nile cruiser, see the best of ancient Egypt and get the rare opportunity to witness the grand Sun Festival of King Ramses II at legendary Abu Simbel on this first-class holiday.

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 at the Valley of the Kings, see the towering Colossi of Memnon and explore 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 a leisurely boat trip to Agilika Island to

explore romantic Philae Temple and wander around the colourful souqs

- Elephantine Island and Kitchener island - Visit the islands on a traditional felucca (sailing boat)
- Kom Ombo - Visit the Nile side Temple of Kom Ombo

What's Included

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

including Abu Simbel and Sun Festival entrance fee

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 Nile Cruise staff. Tip for your tour guide - we recommend you allow USD \$5-7 per day, per traveller for your guide, though ultimately tipping is an entirely personal gesture

COVID SAFE GUIDE

ITINERARY

Day 1 : Cairo

Friday 15th October 2021. Welcome to Egypt and the start of your holiday! Upon arrival at Cairo airport you will be met by a local representative and transferred to your hotel, located by the Great Pyramids of Giza. Tonight, your Welcome Meeting will be held at 7pm. **Overnight - Cairo**

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This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.

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Day 2 : The Pyramids of Giza



Cairo - Luxor. We start the day with a visit to the legendary pyramids and iconic Sphinx at the 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 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 train south to Luxor, with a light dinner served onboard. **Overnight - Sleeper Train** (B, D)

Day 3 : Luxor & Valley of the Kings



Early this morning we arrive into Luxor. The massive pair of statues known as the Colossi of Memnon are the first monuments you'll see during our morning visit to the West Bank - home to the legendary Valley of the Kings. You'll also see the colonnaded Temple of Queen Hatshepsut. Return to Luxor for check-in on board our Nile 5 star cruiser. Lunch at leisure and time to relax until our early evening visit to the Temple of Luxor.

Luxor Temple looks stunning at dusk and is beautifully illuminated at night.

Note: Dependent upon Nile Cruiser scheduling it maybe required that we also undertake our excursion to Karnak Temple this afternoon. Should this occur, day 4 will be spent at leisure. **Overnight - Nile Cruising** (B, L, D)

Day 4 : Luxor & Nile Cruising



Luxor - Nile Cruising. Today we tour the ancient city of Thebes (the East Bank), taking in the magnificent Temple of Karnak. More than a temple, Karnak is a gigantic and stunning complex of sanctuaries and pylons dedicated to the Theban gods. Anchors away this afternoon as we set sail downstream to Esna.

Overnight - Nile Cruising (B, L, D)

Day 5 : Cruising & Kom Ombo

Nile Cruising. Relax as we sail the Nile. 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. In the evening we arrive into Aswan, a prosperous town at the crossroads of the ancient caravan routes late evening. **Overnight - Nile Cruising** (B, L, D)

Day 6 : Elephantine & Kitchener Island



After a leisurely morning we take a felucca sailing trip to Elephantine and Kitchener Island. Feluccas are simple sailboats based on a unique design and have plied the mighty Nile since ancient times. Later we visit Philae Temple - dedicated to the goddess Isis. We then visit Aswan High Dam and upon returning to Aswan, we stop at a perfume oil emporium.

This evening watch an amazing sunset in Egypt's southern most town straddling the River Nile and enjoy your last night on board the cruise ship. **Overnight - Nile Cruising** (B, L, D)

Day 7 : Aswan

Today offers free time in Aswan to independently explore. You might wish to visit the incredible Nubian museum, dedicated to the Nubian culture it also holds thousands of Egyptian antiquities. We have an early start tomorrow, where we'll travel by road to the Abu Simbel Sun Festival. **Overnight - Aswan** (B)

Day 8 : KING RAMSES II SUN FESTIVAL – ABU SIMBEL



22 October. Possibly the most awe-inspiring temple in all ancient Egypt, the great Sun Temple of King Ramses II at Abu Simbel was

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constructed between 1290 and 1224 BC to revere the mighty pharaonic ruler himself. Ramses the Bold, Ramses the Great, Ramses the Narcissist are perhaps all apt titles for one of ancient Egypt's most powerful rulers.

Built by Ramses II to demonstrate his political clout and divine backing to the ancient Nubians, Abu Simbel is an incredible self-tribute. Guarding the entrance to the temple, hewn into the side of a mountain, are four colossal statues of the pharaoh himself. 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 a small part of the rest of the temple peeked above the desert sands. It wasn't until the British happened upon the temple and started excavating that the full glory 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 Great 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) to illuminate the inner sanctum of the temple. This incredible phenomenon provides for a most spectacular sight, which has come to be referred to as the **Sun Festival of King Ramses II**. Crowds assemble in to 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 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 where we'll have a little time on our hands as we await the earliest flight to Cairo. Arriving to our hotel in Cairo we enjoy a well earned rest. **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

Day 9 : Egyptian Museum



Enjoy a guided visit to the Egyptian Museum today. 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. Made of solid gold and weighing 11kg, the mask was found covering the head of the mummy, where it lay inside a series of 3 sarcophagi. You can also opt to see also the Royal Mummies, if you wish.

This afternoon offers free time to relax and enjoy the hotel facilities or join us for an optional city tour visiting old Cairo and the Islamic citadel. Alternatively you could take an optional day trip to Alexandria or El Alamein. **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

Day 10 :

Sunday 24th October 2021. Our tour concludes after breakfast and included onward departure transfer to airport.(B)

HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.

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 specialities. Enjoy stunning views of the pyramids from the lush gardens and end your day with a refreshing dip in the pool.



Sleeper Train

When travelling on an overnight train in Egypt, sleeper carriages offer the highest level of comfort. Cabins are equipped with two beds (one above the other), a basin, electric points and air conditioning. Freshly laundered bedding is provided and in the early evening an attendant will come round and make up your bed for you. The carriages have toilets at each end and there is a club car which serves snacks and beverages. In the morning a very basic breakfast is provided.



InterContinental Semiramis

Situated on the banks of the River Nile in the heart of the capital, the luxury InterContinental Semiramis is conveniently located next to the Egyptian Museum and the bustling bazaars of Old Cairo. The

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tastefully appointed guest rooms have been designed with comfort in mind, with all modern amenities and balconies offering Nile or city views. The hotel's large rooftop pool is perfect for a refreshing dip and with 12 restaurants offering cuisine from across the world there's certainly no shortage of dining options. At the end of the day, head to the Nile Terrace to watch a spectacular sunset over the Nile, with a cool drink in hand.



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.



M/S Concerto

The M/S Concerto is stylish cruise boat, with large cabins that face out over the Nile. Contemporary in decor, the Concerto has a large sun deck.

Movenpick Hotel, Aswan

Situated on Elephantine Island, the Movenpick is a luxurious hotel with stunning views of the Nile River. There is a range of spacious and luxurious rooms with stylish

furnishings, private balconies or terraces and a great selection of amenities including WiFi, satellite TV and tea/coffee making facilities. The Movenpick offers three restaurants as well as the Lounge Bar and Panorama Bar. Guests can also make use of the outdoor swimming pool and tennis courts.



PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates noted with a 'G' are guaranteed to operate. All other departure dates are guaranteed with a minimum of 4 persons. Prices shown are per person when there are 2 persons sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' is compulsory for solo travellers or if your booking party cannot reach the minimum of 2 persons in a room and the amount needs to be added to the per person price. The single supplement offers the comfort of your own room and is also available to any other person wanting their own room.

PRICES / DATES 2021

Date	Twin Share	Single
15 Oct	USD 2,055	USD 3,057