

Chase the Sun 10 Days



Cairo, pyramids, the Sun Festival at Abu Simbel in honour of the mighty King Ramses II, Nile felucca cruising, Valley of the Kings & Queens, & Thebes (Luxor) - an action packed 10 day holiday!

TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: Cairo / Ends in: Cairo
- Departs: 18 February 2013
- No local payment required
- Breakfast:9, Lunch: 2, Dinner: 2
- Hotel Rating: 4 - 5 star
- Tour Guide: Yes

ONLINE RESOURCES:

- For a detailed GO GUIDE - [click here](#)
- To book this trip - [click here](#)
- To enquire about this trip - [click here](#)

TOUR MAP:



QUICK WEB LINKS

[Egypt Prices](#) ::: [Why Us for Egypt?](#) ::: [Egypt Reviews](#) ::: [Our Egypt Blog](#) ::: [Top Spots in Egypt](#) ::: [Hotels in Egypt](#) ::: [Festivals & Events](#) ::: [Egypt - Useful Info](#) ::: [Feluccas Sailing](#) ::: [FAQs on Egypt](#) ::: [Egypt Visas](#) ::: [Egypt Gallery](#)

Chase the Sun 10 Days

Day 1: Cairo

Monday 18 February 2013. Welcome to Egypt and the start of an amazing holiday. Arrive Cairo airport and included transfer to your hotel. Overnight - [Cairo](#)

Day 2: Pyramids & Saqqara

Cairo - Aswan. 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! We later enjoy a chance to relax, freshen up and have dinner. Overnight train to Aswan. Upgrade to a Sleeper cabin is available, should you require. Overnight - Seater Train



Day 3: Aswan

Arrive Aswan and transfer to our hotel. Spend the day at leisure, enjoying the facilities of the hotel. Later, free time to explore Egypt's southern most city on your own. 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. Overnight - [Aswan](#)



Day 4: Philae Temple & the mighty High Dam

Aswan - Abu Simbel. Today 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.

There is time to rest before departing in the wee 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

Day 5:

Friday 22 February 2013. 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. 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 centenary, 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

Chase the Sun 10 Days

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 (only a few seconds) 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 Sun Festival we return to Aswan by coach. Just after noon we board our Nile felucca for a 2 night voyage downstream on the River Nile. You can opt to cruise the Nile in style, with our 3 night 5 star Nile cruise upgrade. Overnight - [Felucca or Nile Cruiser](#)



Day 6: Felucca Sailing

Nile Felucca Cruise - all meals. 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. Overnight - [Felucca or Nile Cruiser](#)



Day 7:

Nile Felucca Cruise - Kom Ombo - Edfu - Luxor. 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, there's an optional excursion to explore the Temple of Luxor - by night. Overnight - [Luxor or Nile Cruiser](#)

Day 8: Valley of the Kings

Luxor - Cairo. An early start with an optional hot air balloon flight over Luxor. See the temples or tombs or villages from high above as we drift over ancient Thebes. Starting early to avoid the heat, we venture to the awesome Valley of the Kings. Highlights of our visit include the Colossi of Memnon, a massive pair of statues that stand silent against a backdrop of history, the legendary Valley of the Kings and the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut. The Valley of the Kings is studded with often highly decorated tombs, constructed to once house the regal sarcophagi enclosed mummies of the mighty pharaohs awaiting their passage into the after-life. Later this afternoon after time to relax, we visit the Temple of Karnak, a spectacular temple on a gigantic scale dedicated to the Theban gods. Karnak is ancient Egypt at it's very best. You'll feel like an extra in a Hollywood epic, as you stroll around this place. Tonight, we return to Cairo by train, (Sleeper cabin upgrade available) Overnight - Seater Train



Chase the Sun 10 Days

Day 9: Treasures of the Egyptian Museum

Cairo. Arrival and hotel check-in. Mid morning we'll depart for our guided tour the Egyptian Museum. See the famous Tutankhamen Gallery and opt to see the Royal Mummies. This afternoon is free - perhaps spend the remainder of the day exploring Cairo your way. Overnight - [Cairo](#)

Day 10: Cairo

Wednesday 27 February 2013. Cairo. Our tour concludes after breakfast, hotel check out and onward departure transfer to the airport.

WHAT YOU SEE AND WHAT YOU GET:

Below is a list of key highlights and what is included on this tour. Further, where appropriate, we have listed the items that are not included in the tour price.

Trip Highlights

- Cairo - Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza Plateau, Necropolis of Saqqara and The Egyptian Museum
- Abu Simbel - at sunrise, witness the grand accomplishment and feat of precision mastered by King Rames II at the Abu Simbel 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 - Temple of Karnak
- Valley of the Kings, Colossi of Memnon, Temple of Queen Hatshepsut

What's Included

- Abu Simbel and Sun Festival entrance fee
- Breakfast daily, 2 lunches and 2 dinners
- 4 nights 4 - 5 star hotels
- 1/2 night 4-5 star Aswan hotel prior to overnight bus journey (3.5 hrs) to Abu Simbel
- 2 nights aboard felucca (open deck)
- 2 nights train: Cairo - Aswan and Luxor - Cairo (seater train) - Sleeper cabin upgrade available!
- Airport arrival and departure transfers on day 1 and day 10
- Touring of Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Aswan, Abu Simbel, Kom Ombo, Edfu & Luxor
- Egyptian tour leader/guide degree qualified in Egyptology
- All relevant transfer and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles

What's Not Included

- Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow \$3 - 5 USD per day, per traveller. Tip for your Felucca Crew/ Nile Cruise staff, we recommend you allow \$10 USD. Tipping your guide and crew is an entirely personal gesture
- International flights and visa
- Entrance Fees: \$80-90 USD
- Tipping Kitty: \$35-45 USD

BOLT-ONS:

Make the most of your time away! Listed below are the optional activities that are available on this trip. Please note that you will need to book these prior to travel as we cannot always guarantee availability of these activities once you are on holiday.

Sleeper Train Upgrade - one way - USD \$89

On our Jewel of the Nile, Family tours and many tailor-made itineraries we include the Sleeper Cabin Train as part of your journey. On all other tours (taking the Nefertiti Seater Train) we offer the option to upgrade to a sleeper cabin on the Sleeper train. Cabins are lockable, equipped with 2 bunk beds, linen, washbasin and towel, allowing passengers to relax and stretch out.

Nile Cruise Upgrade - USD \$339

Upgrade from the included Nile felucca cruise from Aswan to Luxor and cruise in style aboard a luxury Nile cruiser. Our 5 star cruiser has a bar and restaurant, whilst your well-appointed, air-conditioned cabin offers a private bathroom. The boat deck offers plenty of space for relaxation and a swimming pool. Sightseeing stops are made en-route. All meals included, buffet style during your onboard stay.

Western Oasis - 3 day extension - USD \$499

Start - any day of the year. Ex. Cairo. Chart Egypt's Western Oases! Journeying to Bahariyya Oasis, we continue by 4 x 4's to the amazing expanse of the White Desert, where we'll camp out under a blanket of stars and watch an amazing sunrise over the desert sands before returning to Cairo.

PRICES AND DATES: from USD \$1,199

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 on your tour, this can be arranged, (if another solo traveller of the same sex is already booked upon the tour), thus avoiding the single person supplement. All our scheduled tour departures are guaranteed subject to a minimum of 2 travellers.

Chase the Sun 10 Days



2013

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
18 FEB - 27 FEB	USD \$1,199	USD \$299

Supplementary Prices

	Price/Person	Single Supp.
Pre Accom - Cairo	USD \$79	USD \$20
Post Accom Cairo	USD \$79	USD \$20

POSTCARDS:

Here's what some of our past travellers have written in to us and said about their experiences on this trip.

Thanks for this note and all of your work which went towards my two children and myself having probably the best holiday that we have ever had. I would especially like to mention Said who was amazing with his knowledge and enthusiasm, but the whole trip was brilliantly organised. I will be writing to the Egyptian Consulate and Tourist board to tell them how much I enjoyed their fabulous country and the way that your firm opened it up for us. I am also telling everyone that I know about you all. All the very best,

Terry Elwell, Aug 2009