

Glory of Light 10 days



Add an extra special element to your Egyptian holiday by combining it with the magical Abu Simbel Sun Festival. Pyramids and Sphinx, felucca sailing on the Nile, the Valley of the Kings and energetic Cairo all in 10 fun filled days!

TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: Cairo / Ends in: Cairo
- Departs: 19th October 2012
- 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](#)

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Day 1: Cairo

Friday 19th October 2012. Welcome to Egypt and the start of your holiday! Arrive Cairo, included transfer to hotel and overnight.
Overnight - [Cairo](#)

Day 2: Pyramids & Saqqara

Cairo - Aswan. Today visit to the stunning pyramids and the Sphinx at Giza Plateau. The Pyramids were built as tombs for the Ancient Egyptian Kings and Queens. Gaze in awe at Cheops (Khufu) - the largest of the three great pyramids. Both the northern and southern walls of the burial chamber have two small tunnels with rectangular entrances. They are small, and once were thought to go all the way through the outer sides of the Pyramid, though no exterior openings have been found, and are believed to be "star shafts" that allowed the king to be fertilised by the stars.

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 there will be a chance to have dinner before the overnight train to Aswan, 1st class recliner seats. Sleeper cabin upgrade available.
Overnight - Train

Day 3: Philae Temple & the High Dam

Aswan - Abu Simbel. Arrive into Aswan and check into our hotel. A visit out of town takes us to the mighty High Dam - a modern feat of engineering - creating the world's largest artificial lake, Lake Nasser! This afternoon's highlight is a leisurely boat trip to Agilika Island for Philae Temple for a guided tour of the romantic Philae Temple - dedicated to the goddess Isis. 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.

As the clock strikes midnight we depart by coach and travel by convoy to the Grand Temples of Abu Simbel (approximate journey time 4 hours). Upon arrival with bated breath we will await the first rays of golden sunlight, which will touch the temple gate signifying the start of the Sun Festival of the mighty King Ramses II. Overnight - [Hotel/Coach Journey to Abu Simbel](#)



Day 4: SUN FESTIVAL - TEMPLE OF KING RAMSES II, ABU SIMBEL

Monday 22 October 2012. Abu Simbel - Aswan. 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 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 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 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. Upon returning to Aswan the afternoon offers free time. Overnight - [Aswan](#)

Glory of Light 10 days



Day 5: Nile Felucca or 5 star Cruiser

Aswan - Nile Felucca Cruise. This morning offers free time. At noon we board our Nile felucca for a 2 night voyage downstream on the River Nile. Spend the afternoon relaxing on the boat deck watching out over the children and village folk going about their day set within a picture frame of rugged desert landscape.

If sailing by felucca is not your style, consider upgrading to a 5 star luxury Nile Cruise with our Nile Cruise Upgrade. Overnight - [Felucca Cruise](#)



Day 6: Sailing the Nile

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 and Egyptian life carries on all around you. Overnight - [Felucca Cruise](#)

Day 7: Kom Ombo Temple & Luxor

Kom Ombo - Edfu - Luxor. Disembarking in Kom Ombo, we enjoy a guided tour of the Temple of Kom Ombo - dedicated to the crocodile headed god - Sobek and 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, an optional visit is available to the Temple of Luxor, alternatively enjoy the facilities of your hotel. Overnight - [Luxor](#)

Day 8: Valley of the Kings

Luxor - Cairo. 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! Highlights of the visit include the Colossi of Memnon, a massive pair of statues that stand silent against the backdrop of history, the Valleys of the Kings and the awesome ramped and colonnaded 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 passage into the after-life. This afternoon after lunch and time to relax we visit the colossal Temple of Karnak. Lose yourself in the stone-columned Hypostyle Hall and go crazy with your camera. This is ancient Egypt. Tonight, we return by overnight train to Cairo. Sleeper cabin upgrade available. Overnight - Train



Day 9: The Egyptian Museum

Arrival and hotel check-in. Later, we visit the famous Egyptian Museum, famed for the treasures of King Tutankhamen and his famous solid gold funerary mask. This afternoon is free - perhaps spend the remainder of the day exploring Cairo your way. Overnight - [Cairo](#)

Day 10: Cairo

Sunday 28th October 2012. Our Chase the Sun tour concludes after breakfast. Included onward departure transfer to airport. Happy Travels!

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.

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Trip Highlights

- Cairo - Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza Plateau, Necropolis of Saqqara, 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

- 9 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners
- 4 nights 4 - 5 star hotels
- 2 nights aboard felucca (open deck)
- 2 nights train: Cairo - Aswan and Luxor - Cairo (seater train),
- 1 overnight night bus (3.5 hrs) with 4-5 star hotel before hand to freshen up and rest
- Airport arrival and departure transfer, day 1 and day 10
- Touring of Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Aswan, Edfu & Luxor
- Abu Simbel and Sun Festival entrance fee
- Escorted by an Egyptian tour leader/guide degree qualified in Egyptology
- All relevant transfer and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles

What's Not Included

- International flights and visa
- 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
- 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.

Hot Air Ballooning - USD \$199

An aerial adventure awaits in Luxor! Imagine drifting silently over temples, ancient sites, ruins and villages in the early morning sun. See ancient Thebes from a different angle as you float above the River Nile and wave down at the locals as you drift a few metres from their open rooftops!

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.

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.

2012

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
19 OCT - 28 OCT	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.

I just want to say thank you for everything. That was the BEST trip I have ever been on. Ever! We had Waleed as our tour guide and he is phenomenal. We left three days later and he arranged our transfer for us back to the airport. Gave us his personal phone number if we needed him...he was so concerned about our safety in Cairo.



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Everything was a highlight of the trip for me, but I think my Egypt moment was going into Abu Simbel when the sun came up on the Solstice. IT WAS SO INCREDIBLE. With the drums going and the whirling dervishes dancing there was so much excitement at that place. Still gives me goose bumps when I think about it! Thank you again for everything and you be rest assured that I will book On the Go for everything I can!! And I will be going on another one in the future! Not one complaint came out of the group that we had!!!!

Candy Multamaki, Nov 2010
