



An Egyptian adventure! Ancient Western Desert oases, 4x4 drives, camping under the stars in the stunning White Desert, Medieval Al Qasr - the abandoned city, Aswan, Nile felucca cruising, the Valley of the Kings and the Pyramids of Giza.



WHAT YOU SEE AND WHAT YOU GET

Trip Highlights

- Cairo - Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza Plateau, Necropolis of Saqqara, Egyptian Museum
- Bahariyya Oasis - Golden Mummy Museum, Tombs of the Nobles, El Heiz - date palm grove and spring
- White Desert, Black Desert and Crystal Mountain
- Farafra Oasis - Badr (local sculpter) Museum & Hot springs
- Dakhla Oasis/Al Qasr - abandoned Islamic city
- Kharga Oasis - El Bagawat - Christian necropolis
- 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

- Breakfast daily, 5 lunches, 4 dinners
- 6 nights 4 - 5 star hotels,
- 2 nights Oases hotels,
- 2 nights aboard felucca (open deck)
- 1 night camping - White Desert
- 1 night train: Luxor - Cairo (seater train)
- Touring of Cairo, Giza/Saqqara, oases, Aswan, Edfu & Luxor
- 4x4 desert jeep trekking & camp equipment
- Swimming in natural hot/cold springs and River Nile
- Insight into isolated communities and traditional way of life
- Airport arrival and departure transfer day 1 and day 13
- Egyptian tour leader/guide degree qualified in Egyptology
- All relevant transfer and transportation in private air-conditioned vehicles

What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: \$30-50 USD
- Entrance Fees: \$100-120 USD
- International flights and visa
- Tip for your tour guide and leaders. 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

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Cairo

Tuesday. Welcome to Egypt and the start of your holiday! Arrival at Cairo Airport, you will be met by a representative from On The Go Tours. The prominent sign depicting our company logo easily identifies our representative. Cairo International Airport can appear to be a little chaotic to the uninitiated. This is normal! Upon exiting the airport you will be escorted to our awaiting transportation

and transferred to your hotel. Here, your Egyptian adventure begins!

For those arriving a day or two earlier than Day One of the tour, one of our staff will be on hand to advise on where best to enjoy your extra time in Cairo in advance of the tour commencing. Day One is designed to be an arrival day for all passengers, so there are no formal arrangements on this first day. **Overnight - Cairo**

Day 2 : Pyramids & Saqqara

After a good night's rest, we have a full day of touring planned for today. Throughout the tour, you'll be fully briefed by your tour leader as regards touring arrangements. This morning entrance fees and tipping kitty will be collected from everyone.

After our meeting it's time to visit 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! Known as Cheops, Chephren and Mycerinus, the pyramids were already more than 2,000 years old when Herodotus the Greek historian visited them (5th century BC). A highly skilled corps of mathematicians, masons, surveyors and stonemasons did the job of building the Pyramids. 100,000 slaves were used to carry out the backbreaking task of moving and laying the stones of the largest pyramid-Cheops. About 2.5 million limestone blocks, quarried locally and weighing in excess of 6 million tonnes, were used in the construction of Cheops.

Leaving the Pyramids of Giza, 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! **Overnight - Cairo (B)**



Day 3 : Bahariyya Oasis



Cairo – Bahariyya Oasis. This morning we drive to Bahariyya Oasis. Spend the afternoon at leisure and watch an amazing sunset over the remote landscape. **Overnight - Bahariyya Oasis (B, D)**

Day 4 : Crystal Mountain

Bahariyya Oasis - White Desert. Situated in a 2000 sq km depression about 330km south-west of Cairo is Bahariyya Oasis. Dating back to ancient times, it was prosperous until the 4th century, when attacks from surrounding tribes and the decline of Roman rule left great chunks of it's surrounding agricultural land to be reclaimed by the surrounding desert. There are believed to be as many as 1,000 mummies in the area, but only a few have been excavated so far. There are several surrounding villages, but the main one, is Bawiti. We explore some of Bahariyya such as the remains of a temple and settlement dating back to the 17th dynasty.

Continuing by desert 4 x 4, we drive to the White Desert via the Crystal Mountain - a large rock formation made from quartz and we visit the Temple of Alexander the Great, Tombs of the Nobles and the Black Desert – so named as the desert surrounding the large volcano-shaped mountains is black. Our destination – the White Desert (Sahra al-Beida) is so-named due to its region of striking blinding-white rock formations shaped by wind erosion. We'll set up camp tonight under the starry expanse with a backdrop of nothing but stunning white rock sculptures set across the sand. **Overnight - free camping White Desert (B, L, D)**

Day 5 : Al Qasr, Abandoned City



White Desert - Dakhla Oasis. This morning we drive onward to Farafra - the smallest oasis in the Western Desert famed for it's exotic fruit and

olive oil. Here, we visit a local artist and sculptor Mr Badr Aly at the Badr's Museum. Later we tour the medieval city of Al Qasr - a true highlight of our journey. Only recently abandoned we wander the eerie high walled city, mosque, school, olive press and court. Many of the houses here have acacia wood lintels above the doorways whose kufic (Islamic script) inscriptions name the builder or occupants of the dwelling. Additionally, the inscriptions trace the family heritage, the oldest dating back to 1518. We continue on to Deir al-Haggar and have lunch. Afterward you can opt for a dip in one of the mineral rich hot springs. **Overnight - Dakhla Oasis (B, L)**

Day 6 : Kharga Oasis



Departing Dakhla, we journey to Kharga Oasis. In Kharga we visit the Temple of Hibis (exterior only) and the rambling 4th century necropolis of el-Bagawat built entirely of mudbrick. We stop for lunch before driving to Luxor (approx 6 hours drive) for the night. **Overnight - Luxor (B, L)**

Day 7 : Aswan High Dam & Philae Temple

This morning we travel south to the Nile frontier town of Aswan. After hotel check in and time to freshen up, a visit out of town takes us to the mighty High Dam – a modern feat of engineering, the by-product for which 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. The temple dates from 4th century BC but the Ptolemies and the Romans up to 3rd century AD built most of the existing structures. Later, free time to perhaps do some shopping in the colourful souks and markets or simply relax in this attractive town which straddles the River Nile. Please note, at times that upon arrival to Aswan, at times our Dunes & Tombs travellers will meet with other On the Go Tour groups. Both groups will continue together as one larger group from here forward. **Overnight - Aswan (B)**

Days 8-9 : Felucca Cruise



Aswan – Nile felucca cruise – Kom Ombo - all meals. Day 8 - Optional early morning air excursion to famous Abu Simbel - the gargantuan rock-cut temple of King Ramses II, the Great Builder (details of this optional excursion are featured in our brochure and online). Possibly the most awe-inspiring temple of all ancient Egypt, with its gargantuan rock-cut façade, Abu Simbel was created to rever the mighty pharaonic ruler King Ramses II. Guarding the entrance to the temple, the four famous colossal statues of Ramses II sit majestically, staring out across the desert, seemingly since time began. 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.

If you choose not to embark upon this optional excursion, there is plenty to do in Aswan, before our early afternoon departure on our Nile felucca cruise. You can relax at the hotel, explore Aswan and its beautiful shoreline and corniche or perhaps do a spot of shopping. This afternoon, we board our wind-powered Nile felucca for a 2-night voyage on the River Nile upstream to Kom Ombo. Feluccas are simple sailboats based on a unique design and have plied the mighty Nile since ancient times.

If sailing by felucca is not for you, consider upgrading to a 5 star luxury Nile Cruise with our Pharaoh's Pass. 2 nights onboard the felucca. All meals included.

NOTE: As feluccas are wind-powered, our itinerary cannot be rigidly defined. However, during our cruise, we make plenty of stops to visit points of interest, areas for swimming and for the purpose of performing our ablutions. (there are no toilets or showers on board) The felucca sails during the day, and prior to sundown, the anchor is dropped and we moor at the riverside for the night. The craft carries between 5-10 passengers comfortably and the deck is strewn with soft colorful cushions and rugs and equipped with a canopy that offers shade and protection from the elements. You will need to bring a sleeping bag/sleeping sheet and also a towel with you. Soft drinks, water and beer can be purchased aboard.

THE NILE FELUCCA CRUISE: Before boarding the felucca, it is important you prepare a day bag - taking care to pack things you feel you'll need during the cruise, as your large bag will be placed

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below in below deck storage. If unable to swim, you must advise your tour leader before boarding.

5 STAR NILE CRUISER: Those travellers who have opted and paid the supplement to travel aboard the Nile 5 Star cruiser will be provided with their cruising schedule upon arrival in Cairo. Boarding of the Nile 5 star cruiser will usually be on Day 7 for a period of 3 nights, or on Day 8 for a period of 3 nights. **Overnight - Felucca Cruise (B:2, L:2, D:2)**

Day 10 : Kom Ombo & Edfu Temple

Kom Ombo - Edfu - Luxor. Disembarking in Kom Ombo, we enjoy a visit to the Temple of Horus at Edfu. Having the distinction of being the largest and most completely preserved pharaonic, albeit Greek-built, temple in Egypt, it was one of the last monumental temples built on a large scale. Though much newer than the temples of Karnak and Luxor, its excellent state of structural preservation fills in a lot of historical gaps because it is, in effect, a 2000 year old replica of an architectural style that was already age-old during Ptolemaic times. Back on the bus, we rejoin the police convoy as we drive 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. The excursion is payable locally. Rest of evening free. **Overnight - Luxor (B)**

Day 11 : Valley of the Kings



Luxor - Cairo. Our optional Hot Air Balloon excursion is offered early this morning. At approximately 6am (early to avoid the heat) as we venture to the awesome Valley of the Kings. The first monument you'll see on the West Bank is the imposing 18m-high Colossi of Memnon, which represent the remains of the temple of the hedonistic Amenophis III. Further highlights include 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. Some of the best known tombs are those of Ramses II, Seti I, Amenhotep II and of course, the tomb of King Tutankhamen. Discovered intact in 1922 by Howard Carter, it represented possibly one of the most dazzling archaeological finds ever. King Tutankhamen's solid gold funerary mask and his priceless cache of treasures entombed with him

for his journey to the afterlife, are now on display at the world famous Egyptian Museum in Cairo. In all, more than 60 tombs have been excavated. Deir al- Bahri, otherwise known as the famous Temple of Queen Hatshepsut rises out of the desert plain, in a series of terraces partly rockcut, partly freestanding, it is one of Egypt's finest and most photographed monuments.

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 a spectacular complex of sanctuaries, pylons, chapels, halls and obelisks, all dedicated to the Theban gods and to the greater glory of Egypt's Middle and New Kingdom rulers. Gigantic in proportion, at over 1.5km by 800m and the fact that almost every pharaoh left his (or her) mark here with evolving artistic and architectural styles, wandering through the temple is one of the highlights of a visit to Egypt. There will be time for a little R&R, before later this evening we returning by train to Cairo. A sleeper train upgrade is available. **Overnight - Train (B)**

Day 12 : Egyptian Museum



Cairo. Arrive Cairo. Afternoon guided visit to 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 Tutankhamen. Opt to see also the Royal Mummies, if you wish. Remainder of the day free to relax, shop and explore. Perhaps head to Khan el-Khalili bazaar and pick up a few souvenirs. An optional Cairo city tour is also available locally. **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

Day 13 : Cairo

Sunday. Our tour ends after breakfast. Included onward transfer to airport. Happy Travels!(B)

Exploring the Western Oasis

Exploring the Western Desert is a great opportunity to get off the beaten track and discover parts of Egypt most travellers never venture near. In the White Desert we'll camp under a blanket of stars, while in Bahariyya, Dakhla, and Kharga we'll be accommodated in simple 2 star hotels. Toilet facilities en route can be primitive and the choice of available food stuffs at local restaurants and shops limited. On occasion our trusty driver/cook and tour leader will cook up a feast, with years of experience their desert dinners are tasty,

delicious and a real treat.

Off road touring by its very nature can be rough and bumpy, sections of the terrain may be corrugated or splayed with rocky outcrops and sand. The vehicles we use whilst travelling off road are typically strong and utilitarian. Common makes include 1990/2008 4 x 4 Jeep, Land Cruiser and Land Rover, modified to Troop Carrier configuration. Most vehicles are not fitted with passenger restraints and as such extra care is warranted. When travelling on sealed road for long distances touring is undertaken in 12 - 28 seat buses or 4 x 4's with lap belt passenger restraints.

17 Dec 2012 departure

Festive Abu Simbel: If travelling with us on our Xmas tour departing 17 Dec 2012, our optional excursion to the Temples of Abu Simbel will be undertaken by road as there are very limited choice of air carriers flying to Abu Simbel on a Monday (the day we need to travel). It is not possible to re-arrange our itinerary to include the option by flight as this will affect our felucca and Nile cruise programs. Our Festive Abu Simbel bolt-on includes a return road trip from Aswan to Abu Simbel, (departing in the wee hours of the morning) and guided sightseeing. The drive takes approximately 3.5hrs each way.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Visas

Visas are required by all visitors to Egypt. Visa forms are available from us. The Embassy of Egypt advises all travellers to procure their visa prior to entry into Egypt. However it still remains possible for nationals of some countries to procure their tourist visa upon arrival at Cairo International Airport.

Please note that in the event of visa refusal at port of entry, on the go cannot be held responsible.

All RSA passport holders must procure their Egyptian visa prior to departure.

When filling in an Egyptian visa form, you will be asked to provide your address in Egypt. For the purposes of this form, please use the following address: 68 Merghany St, Abou Ghaly Building Heliopolis, Cairo. Telephone: +2 02 241821 65

If your holiday incorporates a stay in Jordan, followed by further arrangements in Egypt (ie you travel to Jordan and then return to Egypt) you will need to procure a Multiple Entry Egyptian Tourist Visa that is only available before travelling to Egypt.

Please note that visa requirements are subject to change. Visa procurement is solely the responsibility of the traveller and not of On The Go Tours.

If travelling with us from Egypt to Jordan via Aqaba Seaport (the Jordanian port of entry if arriving from Egypt) a Jordanian Tourist Visa is obtainable upon arrival, free of charge for UK, EU, AUS, NZ, CAN and USA passport holders. For all other

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nationalities please check with your local Jordanian Embassy. On departure from Jordan, via land or sea, a 5JD departure tax of is applied to all visitors.

Etiquette

Despite the inevitable ups and downs of travelling abroad, you will generally be shown great hospitality in Egypt. In return, please demonstrate sensitivity and respect for the local customs. Egypt is a Muslim country; so care should be taken to dress respectfully in large cities and towns, for example, when at markets and in public places.

- Ladies should avoid wearing 'clingy, tight or suggestive' attire, and stick to cool, flowing, cottons in busy city areas and markets
- Take care to dress conservatively and ensure that limbs are covered and remove footwear prior to entering a mosque.
- Ex-military style clothing should not be worn
- Ask permission before taking photographs of people.
- Beach attire is fine on board felucca cruises, at beach resorts or touristic areas i.e. at the Pyramids.
- Particular respect should be shown to Muslim women.
- The standard form of greeting is a handshake. Men and women do not kiss at any time as a form of greeting.

Mosques, Religion & Ramadan

90% of the population are Muslim. Others are Coptic Christians or followers of other faiths. All mosques (with the exception of Sayyida Zeinab and Al-Hussein in Cairo) are open to non-Muslims but cannot be visited during prayer times. For Egypt's best mosques, go to Islamic Cairo. Dress conservatively. Ensure limbs are covered and shoes removed when entering any Mosque. Men must refrain from wearing shorts, as must women.

RAMADAN

Ramadan is a month of fasting observed by Muslims throughout the world and adherents of the Muslim faith fast during daylight hours and break their fast with lavish meals and lively celebrations in the evening. Ramadan culminates a month later in a 3 day celebration called Eid al - Fitr. Many shops (excluding those which cater mainly to tourists) and attractions close earlier during Ramadan. As such we will start our tour earlier during this period to make the best use of time, leisure time will be offered in the late afternoon. Note: Traffic is exceptionally heavy during Ramadan, especially toward the time of breaking the fast.. Forthcoming Ramadan dates are as follows, (approximate) -
21 July - 20 August 2012
09 July - 07 August 2013

Many shops (excluding those which cater mainly to tourists) and attractions close earlier during Ramadan, so our itinerary is slightly altered to ensure we visit all itinerary attractions. Non Muslims are not expected to fast over Ramadan, but it is considered impolite to eat food or drink on the street. Ramadan

Trouble Shooting

These things will most likely never happen, but it's good to be prepared if they ever do. Here are a few tips to keep your trip hassle-free. Egypt is no worse than anywhere else when it comes to crime. The biggest problem seems to be petty theft, including pick-pocketing and bag snatching. Minimise your chances of being robbed with these tips:

- Leave valuables in the hotel safe deposit or better still, at home
- Carry your passport on your person or a photocopy as ID
- Carry your bag close to your person rather than over your shoulder
- Travel in a group or pair, especially if you are female
- Don't catch cabs late at night on your own
- Never drink anything offered to you in the street, unless you opened it yourself

Please note On The Go Tours will not be held liable for loss or damage to personal property under any circumstances.

It's not like home

Travel to far - flung corners of the earth involves lifestyles and conditions that are sometimes very different from what you are used to back home. You must come prepared to cope with unusual situations, local inadequacies and unpredictable events as and when they occur. Foreign travel is definitely not suitable for people who expect or demand everything to go exactly as planned. With the greatest respect and in the interest of your ultimate enjoyment you must understand this. Things can and do change in foreign countries.

Climate

Temperatures in Egypt are generally high (25 - 30 degrees) and even hotter in the summer months from May to September, when the sun can be fierce and temperatures soar, so pack light comfortable clothing, sunscreen and a hat.

In Cairo and the Nile Delta region, winter (October to February) can be cooler - so take a jacket, long-sleeved tops and trousers for the cooler evenings. The south remains warm during this time but again, temperatures do drop in the evenings. Rainfall is negligible with the most falling along Egypt's Mediterranean coastline.

Health Requirements

It is recommended that you be vaccinated for Tetanus and Polio, if you haven't had a booster in the last ten years. Food and waterborne diseases are more common, so we recommend vaccinations for typhoid (valid 3 years) and Hepatitis A (validity varies). Vaccination requirements can change so please check with your local health care provider before travel.

Currency

Egyptian Pounds (EGP or LE). Pounds Sterling, US Dollars and Euros are easily exchanged. You can obtain Egyptian Pounds (LE) at any major bank or your hotel. Exchange rates are subject to fluctuations.

- USD 1 = EGP 6.0
- GBP 1 = EGP 9.3
- AUD 1 = EGP 6.0
- EURO 1 = EGP 7.70

Holiday Money

All funds collected in Egypt for entrance fees or optional excursion that you may wish to undertake are payable in local currency (EGP).

Time

Egypt is two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)

Essential Packing

- Sleeping bag for the felucca or for camping in the White Desert (if applicable to your tour).
- Lightweight cotton garments.
- Comfortable walking shoes for the Pyramids and Valley of the Kings Pack flip flops/thongs/jandals to wear aboard the Nile felucca or Nile Cruiser
- DEET based mosquito repellent & antihistamine cream
- 2 pin, European electrical adaptor.
- Two spare passport photos & a photocopy of your passport
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs.
- Sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, swim costume and torch
- Neck pillow, sleeping bag and eye mask, if travelling on the overnight seater train.
- Sleep sheet or sleeping bag if travelling with us to Jordan and staying at our Wadi Rum camp.

If doing a felucca cruise, undertaking the Mt Sinai excursion in Dahab or travelling between November and March, pack warm clothes (i.e. - fleece, jacket, trousers, jeans, hat and scarf) as temperatures plummet at night. Due to sometimes icy conditions at the summit of Mt Sinai, hiking boots and thermal clothing are a sensible consideration if undertaking the optional climb in winter (November - March).

Arrival Transfers

A complimentary airport arrival transfer is included in your tour. Upon arrival at Cairo Airport you will be met by a representative from On The Go Tours either just before immigration or in the baggage hall near the luggage belt of your respective arriving flight. The prominent sign depicting our company logo easily identifies our representative. Please have your tour voucher handy and make it available to our representative. After collecting your luggage you will be escorted to our awaiting transportation.

If, for any reason you have trouble locating our representative (after waiting 20 minutes in the arrival hall) or your flight to Egypt is delayed, please call or send a text message to the emergency contact number as stated on your tour voucher.

Travelling by overnight train

SEATER TRAIN: On many of our group tours journeying south from Cairo to Aswan and/or Luxor,



we utilise the overnight SEATER train service. This style of train offer basic and a modest level of comfort. Seating is reserved in air-conditioned Nefertiti Class or 1st Class Reserved seater wagons. Nefertiti style seats are located within 6 person, semi enclosed cabins. Whilst seats don't recline, the lights can be switched off inside your cabin. While 1st Class Reserved wagons are open, lights can not be turned off though the seats are wide and do recline. It is suggested you bring some ear plugs and also an eye mask for personal comfort. A neck pillow is also good idea, for a little added comfort. Rest rooms (which are very basic in standard) are located at the end of each wagon.

It is possible to upgrade to a sleeper cabin, reservations need to be made PRIOR to departure. Please ask your reservation consultant for more information.

Occasionally, the Nefertiti Class and the 1st Class Reserve train service are cancelled, in which case we would need to revert to a sleeper service at an additional cost to the passenger. You would be advised in Egypt, as although this occurrence is rare, there would be little notice offered.

SLEEPER TRAIN SERVICE, SLEEPER CABIN UPGRADE: On our Jewel of the Nile and Family tours we include the Sleeper Cabin Train as part of your journey. If you book our SLEEPER TRAIN UPGRADE this is also the service that you will be travelling on. Sleeper Train Cabins are equipped with 2 bunk beds with linen provided. Cabins are lockable, A/C and lighting are also controlled from the inside. Each cabin has a washbasin and small towel and western style bathrooms are located at the end of the carriage. Dinner and breakfast (of an average standard) are served throughout the journey.

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updated on 16-01-2012