

glory of light - 10 days

go guide

don't leave home without it



tour spotlight

what you see

- Cairo - Pyramids & Sphinx at Giza Plateau, Necropolis of Saqqara, Egyptian Museum
- Abu Simbel - Sun Temple of King Ramses II, Temple of Queen Nefertari and 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
- Luxor - Valley of the Kings, Colossi of Memnon, Temple of Queen Hatshepsut

what you get

- Breakfast daily
- 2 lunches, 2 dinners aboard felucca cruise
- 4 nights 4 - 5★ hotel,
- 1/2 night 4 - 5★ hotel Aswan prior to overnight bus journey (3.5hrs) to Abu Simbel
- 2 nights aboard felucca (open deck)
- 2 nights train - Cairo - Aswan & Luxor - Cairo (seater train) - Sleeper cabin upgrade available
- Airport arrival and departure transfer - day 1 & 10
- Touring of Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Aswan, Abu Simbel, Kom Ombo, Edfu and Luxor
- Egyptian tour leader/guide degree qualified in Egyptology
- All relevant transfers and private modern A/C buses



on location

Your guide to on the ground...

visa requirements

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. It still remains possible for nationals of some countries to procure their tourist visa upon arrival at Cairo International Airport. Visas are your responsibility. Don't forget to check!

climate

Temperatures in Egypt are generally high, particularly during the summer months from May to September, when the sun can be fierce and temperatures are at industrial levels, so take sunscreen. In Cairo and the Nile Delta region, winter (October to February) can be cooler - so take a jacket, long-sleeved tops and pants for the cooler evenings.

time

Egypt is 2 Hours ahead of GMT (+3hrs Apr - Sept)

money

GBP1=LE9.3, USD1=LE5.8, Euro1=LE8, AUD1=LE5.7

(subject to fluctuation). Exchange facilities are available at various bureau de changes and banks in major towns have ATMs. If visiting Dahab, have a supply of cash on you as ATMs are more scarce.

health requirements

Recommendations - 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 and Hepatitis A. This information is intended as a guide only and vaccination requirements can change so please check with your local health care provider before travel.

how much

- **ENTRANCE FEES**
Entrance fees are not included in your tour. Please budget approximately **USD90-110**
- **TIPPING**
A small tipping kitty will be collected from all tour participants to cover tips en route.
 - Your guide **USD30-40**
 - Driver, felucca captain/Nile cruise staff **USD10-15**
- Mineral water (500ml or 1L) **LE5 or 10**
- Can of coke **LE2.75-5**
- Beer (local brew Stella - 500ml approx) **LE10-17**
- Meal for 2 (entree, main, local beer) **LE60-80**

things to bring

- A sleeping bag for the felucca or desert oases tour.
- Lightweight cotton garments.
- Comfortable walking shoes for the Pyramids and Valley of the Kings.
- DEET based mosquito repellent & antihistamine cream.
- Two spare passport photos & a photocopy of your passport
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs.
- Sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, swim costume, torch.

top experiences

- Visit the spectacular Pyramids of Giza - the world's oldest tourist attraction!
- Lose yourself in the gargantuan Hypostyle Hall at the Temple of Karnak.
- Check out the awesome temple of Ramses II at Abu Simbel during the Sun Festival.
- Revel in the laziness aboard the 2-night Nile felucca cruise.
- See the highly decorated tombs in the Valley of the Kings.





glory of light : itinerary

day 1 - cairo - 18th october 2011

Tuesday. Welcome to Egypt and the start of your holiday! Arrive at Cairo, where after you have attended to customs and immigration formalities, you will be met by a representative from **on the go**. 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! Our capable airport representative will streamline your arrival. You will then transferred to your hotel in central Cairo. Your Egyptian adventure will start from the moment you leave the airport! 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. There are plenty of attractions in Cairo. Our comfortable Cairo pre-tour hotel is centrally located to all attractions including restaurants, shops and city attractions. Day One is designed to be an arrival day for all passengers, so there are no formal arrangements on this first day, although if you arrive before 10am you can join our tour of the Egyptian Museum, alternatively you can undertake your included tour on day 9. Overnight - Cairo

day 2 - pyramids and saqqara

Cairo - Aswan - breakfast. 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! Later there will be a chance to have dinner. We then journey to Aswan by overnight train. At the train station, there'll be the opportunity to buy more water and snacks for the trip ahead. Option to upgrade to sleeper train cabins. See brochure or website for details. Overnight - train

day 3 - aswan souq

Aswan - breakfast box. Arrive Aswan and transfer to our hotel. Later 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. Later, free time to explore Egypt's southern most city on your own. Consider taking a walk along the majestic Nile corniche, framed by rolling sand dunes of the Sahara Desert or with a drink in hand, pull up a seat by the Nile for an amazing sunset.

There is time to rest before departing at about midnight on our coach journey toward the Grand Temples of Abu Simbel. 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 - aswan free time

Aswan - Abu Simbel - breakfast. Today offers free time for you to relax by the hotel swimming pool, maybe go for High Tea at the charming Old Cataract Hotel or opt to visit the Nubian Museum located just south of the city. This evening we'll head to the colourful local souq (market) for a little bargain hunting. The lively night market offers comic entertainment and a

*The go guide & information contained herein has been compiled with care and in good faith. It is as accurate an illustration as can be given with regard to the proposed itinerary. Circumstances beyond our control such as inclement weather or local conditions could force us to amend the proposed itinerary. This document does not form part of a contract between the client and on the go and their affiliates. Any costs shown may be subject to change but are an accurate reflection of costs at the time of writing this go guide. Please also be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and remain the responsibility of the traveller and not that of **on the go**.

chance to practice your bargaining skills, 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.

As the clock strikes midnight we depart by full size coach and travel by convoy toward 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 5 - sun festival - abu simbel

Abu Simbel - Aswan - Nile Felucca Cruise - breakfast. 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 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 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.

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 sanctuary 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, at approximately 1pm 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. Lunch, dinner and overnight - onboard Felucca.

day 6 - felucca

Nile felucca cruise - breakfast. Relax, go for a swim or just chill out in the sun on deck. Let your troubles melt away, as the felucca plies it's route. Lunch, dinner and overnight - felucca cruise.

day 7 - kom ombo & edfu

Nile felucca cruise - Kom Ombo - Edfu - Luxor - breakfast. 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, an optional visit is available to the Temple of Luxor, alternatively enjoy the facilities of your hotel. Overnight - Luxor.

day 8 - luxor

Luxor - Cairo - breakfast. An early start with an optional hot air balloon flight over Luxor (flights typically last between 35-50 minutes). 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. Tonight, we return to Cairo by train, (Sleeper train upgrade available) Overnight - train.

day 9 - cairo

Cairo - breakfast. Arrival and hotel check-in. Mid morning we'll depart for our guided tour of the Egyptian Museum. See the famous Tutankhamen Gallery and opt to see the Royal Mummies. See the famous Tutankhamen Gallery and opt to see the Royal Mummies, if you dare. This afternoon is free to explore Cairo your way.

day 10 - cairo

Thursday 27th October 2011. Cairo. Our tour concludes after breakfast, hotel check out and onward departure transfer to the airport.

Note: Bolt-ons or optional activities purchased in Egypt are payable in USD or EGP (Egyptian Pound) equivalent.



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