Add an extra special element to your Egyptian holiday by combining it with the magical Abu Simbel Sun Festival. The legendary Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx, cruising the Nile, Luxor’s spectacular Valley of the Kings and energetic Cairo all in 11 unforgettable days!

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
- 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 take an optional tour of the beautifully illuminated Luxor Temple at night
- Aswan - Take a leisurely boat trip to Agilika Island to explore romantic Philae Temple and wander around the colourful souqs
- Nile cruising - Spend 3 nights on board a 5 star Nile cruiser
- Kom Ombo - Visit the Nile side Temple of Kom Ombo

What’s Included
- Breakfast daily, 3 lunches and 3 dinners
- 5 nights 4-5 star hotels, 3 nights aboard 5 star Nile Cruiser (en suite cabin)
- 2 overnight trains from Cairo to Aswan and Luxor and Cairo (Private 2 berth sleeper cabin)
- 1 overnight night bus (3.5 hrs) with 4 star hotel before hand to freshen up and rest prior to the festival event
- Airport arrival and departure transfers on day 1 and day 11
- Touring - Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Aswan and Luxor
- Guided visit to Abu Simbel at sunrise for the Sun Festival of King Ramses II including Abu Simbel and Sun Festival entrance fee
- Escorted by an Egyptian tour guide degree qualified in Egyptology
- All relevant transfer and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles

What’s Not Included
- Tipping Kitty: USD$50-70pp, 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

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Cairo
Sunday 18 Oct 2020. Welcome to Egypt! Upon 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!

The rest of the day is free to relax or those arriving early, opt to join our optional Backstreets of Cairo tour which departs the hotel at 10am. Tonight, your Welcome Meeting will be held at 7pm. 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...
Abu Simbel Sun Festival Oct 2020 with Cruise

TRIP NOTES

your extra time in Cairo in advance of the tour commencing. **Overnight - Cairo**

**Day 2 : Pyramids & Saqqara**

Today we visit the stunning pyramids and the 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 stone cutters carried out the job of building the pyramids. 100,000 workers were used for the backbreaking task of moving and laying the stones of the largest pyramid-Cheops and around 2.5 million limestone blocks, quarried locally and weighing in excess of 6 million tonnes, were used in its construction.

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 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 is at your leisure. **Overnight - Cairo**

**Day 3 : Grand Egyptian Museum**

Cairo - Aswan. Today we embark on a guided tour of the new Grand Egyptian Museum, acclaimed for its treasures of King Tutankhamun and his famous solid gold funerary mask. There is a mind-boggling array of relics and antiquities from almost every period of ancient Egyptian history housed in the museum, making it one of the foremost

in the world. There is also the option to see the Royal Mummies for an additional fee, if you wish. Later, there will be a chance to have dinner before the overnight sleeper train to Aswan. **Overnight - Sleeper Train (B)**

**Day 4 : Aswan & Philae Temple**

Aswan - Abu Simbel - Nile Cruiser. This morning we arrive into Aswan and enjoy a short boat trip to Agilkia Island for Philae Temple - dedicated to the goddess Isis. The temple dates from 4th century BC but, the Ptolomies and the Romans up to 3rd century AD built most of the existing structures.

Upon returning to Aswan we visit a perfume oil emporium. The use of essential and perfumed oils in Egypt dates back to 2700BC. Perfumed oils were used by women, pharaohs and by temple priests for worship, who offered a melange of 6 perfumes called Kyphi to the Sun God at dawn, noon and dusk. At the perfumery, there’s a million and one exquisite glass bottles filled with perfumed oils that make for a truly authentic Egyptian gift. For those that are not interested, there is a supermarket nearby where you can use the opportunity to purchase snacks and incidentals.

Check-in on board your Nile Cruiser, home for the next three nights. Later, there is free time to perhaps enjoy some shopping in the colourful souks and markets or simply relax in this attractive town which straddles the River Nile.

On board the cruiser there will be time to rest and recuperate before departing in the early hours of the morning (approx 4am) on our coach journey toward the Temples of Abu Simbel. Here we await the first rays of sunlight to touch the temple gate signifying the start of the Sun Festival of the mighty King Ramses II.

**5 STAR NILE CRUISER:** You will be provided with the cruising schedule upon arrival to Aswan. Cruise schedules vary. Boarding of the cruise ship will be on day 4 for a period of 3 nights, or on day 5 for a period of 3 nights. Facilities on board the Nile cruiser include a bar, lounge, dining room and outdoor recreation area. The boat deck offers plenty of space for relaxation and there is a swimming pool. Your outward facing cabin located on the main or upper deck offers air-conditioning, a private bathroom and views of the Nile as we sail. In the evening, low-key entertainment is on hand. All meals are included, buffet style.

Your cruiser will sail for a total duration of 8 - 12 hours covering a distance of 212km (split between 2 of the 3 days you are on board). The remainder of the time the boat is in dock in either Aswan, Luxor or at sightseeing stops en route. Views will be obstructed whilst the cruiser is in dock as ships dock side by side. You may also need to cross the reception of other boats to reach your vessel. Free time is offered during this time to independently explore whilst docked when sight-seeing is not included. **Overnight - Nile Cruiser/Coach Journey to Abu Simbel**

**Day 5 : ABU SIMBEL SUN FESTIVAL**

22 October. Abu Simbel - Aswan - Nile Cruiser. 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 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 Ramses the god, whilst the statute 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 is plenty of time to explore the Sun Temple of King Ramses II and also the Temple of Hathor and take pictures.

After watching this incredible event unfold we return to Aswan. Our Nile Cruiser departs Aswan this afternoon and we cruise the River Nile to Kom Ombo where we disembark to visit the temple which is dedicated to the crocodile headed god - Sobek before returning to the cruiser. **Overnight - Nile Cruiser (B, L, D)**

**Day 6 : Nile Cruise to Luxor**

Nile Cruiser - Luxor. Relax, enjoy a swim in the pool and chill out in the sun on deck this morning. Let your troubles melt away as we cruise the River Nile to Luxor. Home of the legendary Valley of the Kings and Temple of Karnak, 4000 year-old Luxor is ancient Egypt at its best. Arriving into Luxor this afternoon, the rest of the day is free to explore the city before we spend our final night aboard the cruiser. **Overnight - Nile Cruiser (B, L, D)**

**Day 7 : Luxor**

This morning we disembark and check into our hotel. Luxor is the home of the legendary Valley of the Kings and Temple of Karnak, 4000 year-old Luxor is ancient Egypt at its best. Checking into our 5 star hotel the afternoon is free to swim and relax by the pool. Tonight, we have the opportunity to visit Luxor Temple with dinner afterwards. Built by Amenophis III, Luxor Temple looks stunning at night when it’s illuminated by hundreds of lights. Book/pay locally at approx USD$25pp including entrance fees and buffet dinner. Remainder of the evening is at your leisure. **Overnight - Luxor (B)**

**Days 8-9 : Valley of the Kings**

Luxor - Cairo. On day 8 we cross to the West Bank of the Nile for the day’s touring. An early start allows us to avoid some of the fierce 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.

The Valley of the Kings is studded with often highly decorated pharaoh’s tombs, some of which you can enter. Some of the tombs are so well preserved; the colours of the incredible pharaonic friezes are still as vibrant as when they were first painted. The best known tombs are those of Ramses II, Seti I, Amenhotep II and of course, the tomb of King Tutankhamun. If open, an additional entrance fee applies to visit King Tut’s tomb.

After the Valley of the Kings we visit Deir al- Bahri, otherwise known as the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut. Rising out of the desert plain, in a series of terraces, it’s one of Egypt’s finest and most photographed monuments.

A short stop will also be made at an Alabaster workshop. Stone carving is a trade that has existed on the West Bank since pharaonic times. Carving the stone is a trade passed on generation after generation, for most residents of the west bank and is their sole trade and income.

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**Abu Simbel Sun Festival Oct 2020 with Cruise - 11 days**

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Abu Simbel Sun Festival Oct 2020 with Cruise

We return to the east bank around midday, where we have a chance to relax by the hotel pool. Meeting up mid afternoon, we visit the colossal Temple of Karnak. More than a temple, 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.

Day 9 is a free day for you to relax by the hotel pool or explore the wonders of Luxor independently. Tonight, we return by overnight train to Cairo.

Note: The Valley of the Kings ticket includes entry to 3 tombs. A subset of the 64 tombs at the site are open at any point in time and your guide will offer advice on the best ones to visit on the day. The tomb of King Tutankhamun is nearly always open and requires an additional entrance fee to visit. Overnight - Luxor (1) & Sleeper Train (1) (B2)

Day 10: Day at leisure in Cairo

This morning we arrive back into Cairo and transfer to our hotel. Today is at your leisure to independently explore Cairo, or you could book locally our optional visit to the exotic Khan el Khalili Bazaar where you can pick up a few souvenirs. Overnight - Cairo (B)

Day 11: Cairo

Wednesday 28 Oct 2020. Our Egyptian adventure comes to an end today. Included departure transfer to the airport later today in time for your international flight. (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.

Holiday Inn Cairo Maadi

Overlooking the Nile and offering distant views of the Great Pyramids of Giza, this Holiday Inn provides the perfect location for your stay in Cairo. Each guestroom features a balcony (not Nile View as standard) and is well-equipped with modern amenities including free WiFi. Evenings can be spent enjoying international or Egyptian cuisine and unwinding with a cocktail at one of the hotel’s bars. Thanks to the friendly hotel staff, you’ll soon feel at home. And with panoramic views of the city from the rooftop lounge and pool, there’s no better place to base yourself for exploring Egypt’s ancient wonders.

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.

Steigenberger Hotel el Tahrir

Ideally located in the heart of downtown Cairo, the Steigenberger Hotel El Tahrir is right by the lively Tahrir Square. Guestrooms offer peace and quiet away from the high-energy of the city, with contemporary decor and sound-proofed windows overlooking views of Cairo. The wellness facilities are state-of-the-art, including a fitness centre, outdoor pool and sauna and massage rooms. Be sure to take advantage of the poolside bar and delicious hotel restaurant, or enjoy the option of 24-hour in-room dining.

M/S Radamis I

Cruising from Luxor to Aswan and back again, the Ramdais I is a luxury Nile cruiser offering a comfortable journey with incredible scenery. All cabins are ensuite with panoramic wall to wall windows. You’ll find exciting international cuisine in the onboard restaurant and ample room to relax with other guests in the lounge.

Amarco Nile Cruise

The award-winning Amarco cruise ship combines contemporary style with classic service for a memorable trip along the Nile River. There are 53 cabins and suites split across five decks and each features panoramic windows from which to enjoy the views. Guests can unwind with the professional spa services offered on board and enjoy international cuisine at the restaurant.

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TRIP NOTES

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Sonesta St. George Hotel
An elegant and luxurious classical hotel, the Sonesta’s sophistication will ensure you a comfortable stay. The hotel has a sweeping terrace with fantastic views of the Nile, a grand entrance of polished marble and handsomely appointed furnishings with exquisite detail and a beautiful health spa. All its rooms offer views of the city or the river, complemented by a wide range of restaurants and cafes. Just minutes away you will find the temples at Luxor and Karnak, home to two of ancient Egypt’s most famed sanctuaries.

Steigenberger Nile Palace
The Steigenberger Nile Palace is a grand hotel and stylishly furnished, with many rooms overlooking the Nile River. The hotel has a health club with massage rooms, sauna, steam room and fitness room, and a tennis court on the roof, not to mention a riverside pool. Its four restaurants offer a choice between Nubian, Lebanese, Italian, and Thai cuisine.

Nile Cruise Cabins
• Your onboard cabin will be air-conditioned (individually regulated) for your comfort and offer en suite facilities. In most cabins, there will be a combination of facilities, such as a television, security deposit box, phone and mini-bar
• Guest facilities aboard - Restaurant, bar, sundeck with swimming pool, shop(s), hairdresser, laundry, guest safe
• Drinks - Alcoholic or non-alcoholic are not included. These are extra, as is any laundry
• All cabins have outward facing windows allowing for viewing whilst sailing. When in port cruisers line up side by side and views are restricted. You may also be required to walk through other cruisers to reach your cruiser
• Onboard purchases - Cash payments are best for your onboard purchase of goods and services because telephone lines for credit card connection are not always reliable and you will incur a 3% surcharge

Optional Add-ons
If you have opted to extend your stay or enhance your holiday with one of our add-ons, please note:
Alexandria day trip - departs approx. 7am and returns to Cairo at between 5 - 7pm. Entrance fees are payable locally by you, budget approx USD$18.
Alexandria & El Alamein - 4 days - departs approx. 7am and returns to Cairo at between 5 - 7pm. Entrance fees are payable locally by you, budget approx USD$18.
Backstreets of Cairo - departs 10am, day 1 and returns to your hotel at 5pm. Entrance fees included.
For further information about Add-ons, please refer to our website: www.onthegotours.com/Egypt/Tour-Add-ons

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Entrance Fees
Entry fees to sites of antiquity are not included, although reasonably priced. In Egypt, we collect entrance fees on Day 2 of the tour (the amount is noted under exclusions on the first page of this document). A break down of the entrance fee total is provided upon arrival. Entrance fees and optional excursions that you may wish to undertake are payable in local currency - Egyptian Pounds (EGP).
Tours that travel onwards:
To Jordan - Entrance fees in Jordan are payable at the Welcome Meeting in Jordan, in Jordanian Dinar (JD).
To Israel - On our Pyramids Petra Promised Lands tour, entrance fees are included.

Tip Kitty
At the start of your tour we will collect a tip kitty (the amount is noted under exclusions) from all tour participants to cover tips throughout your holiday. This saves you the hassle of knowing when and how much to tip bellhops, luggage luggers, bus drivers, antiquity guards, train conductors and other support staff throughout the tour.
Your tip kitty in Egypt is collected in Egyptian Pounds (EGP). If you are travelling to Jordan, the tip kitty for this part of your holiday is collected in Jordanian Dinar (JD). If you are travelling to Israel we do not collect a tipping kitty.
This amount does not include a tip for your tour guide. For a job well done, we suggest USD$5 - 7 per day, per traveller for your guide. Tipping your guide and crew is an entirely personal gesture and ultimately the amount is up to you.

Travelling By Overnight Train
For journeys between Cairo and Aswan and/or Luxor on our Signature tours, and from Luxor to Cairo on our Budget tours, we utilise the overnight 1st class sleeper train service (excludes Treasures of the Nile Tour). The train cabins are equipped with two beds (one above the other), a basin, electric points, air conditioning and are lockable. Freshly laundered bedding is provided and in the early evening an attendant will come round and make up your bed for you. A simple dinner and breakfast is included on the service. The dinner that is served within an hour of boarding is of a very average standard, so we recommend that you eat dinner prior to boarding. A basic breakfast is served in the morning and tea and coffee is offered complimentary. Toilets are located at the end of each carriage and a bar carriage is located toward the centre of the train where hot and cold beverages can be purchased, and sometimes alcohol.
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The sleeper train is the highest class of rail travel available in Egypt, though by western standards it would be considered of a moderate standard. We always request cabins to be side by side in the same carriage, though ultimately the location of our cabins, and whether they are together rests with the rail authority.

If you are a solo traveller and have opted to share a room for your tour and not pay the single supplement you will be sharing a cabin with another On The Go traveller, or if this isn’t possible, a member of the public (of the same gender).

Health requirements & water
You should seek medical advice for vaccinations and about medications before travelling.

Tap water is not safe to drink in Egypt, only drink bottled mineral water which is readily available from hotels, shops and restaurants.

Essential packing
Please check local temperatures so you can pack accordingly. Visit www.worldclimate.com

- Towel for the felucca (if applicable to your chosen tour)
- Lightweight cotton garments
- Comfortable walking shoes. Pack flip flops/thongs/jandals to wear aboard the Nile felucca or Nile Cruiser
- DEET based mosquito repellent and antihistamine cream
- Tour Voucher and a copy of your travel insurance policy, spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport
- Universal travel adaptor
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
- Sunshades, hat, sunscreen, swim costume and torch
- Sleep sheet or sleeping bag if travelling on the felucca, or if travelling onto Jordan. If travelling by felucca you can opt to only bring a sleep sheet and hire a freshly laundered winter warmth blanket for USD$15 (total) for the 2 night stay from our felucca crew
- If doing a felucca cruise or travelling between November and March, pack warm clothes (i.e. fleece, jacket, trousers, jeans, hat and scarf) as temperatures plummet at night

It’s not like home, what to expect & Ramadan
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.

Please visit www.onthegotours.com/Egypt/Travel-tips-and-useful-info for what to wear, local customs, currency, WiFi, Ramadan and other helpful information to prepare you for an enjoyable holiday.

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. Many shops (excluding those which cater mainly to tourists) and attractions close earlier, as such we will start our tour earlier to make the best use of time and itineraries may be slightly altered to ensure we visit all attractions, leisure time will be offered in the afternoon. Non-Muslims are not expected to fast over Ramadan, but it is considered impolite to eat food or drink on the street. NOTE: Traffic is exceptionally heavy during Ramadan, especially toward the time of breaking the fast. Forthcoming Ramadan dates are: 12 Apr – 11 May 2021 (approx)

Shopping in Egypt
For those that enjoy shopping, Egypt is a virtual Aladdin’s Cave. Top buys include perfume concentrate, rugs, backgammon boards, shisha pipes, Egyptian cotton clothing and authentic papyrus. When bartering for goods, set your budget, don’t be swayed and remember the caveat – ’let the buyer beware.’

In the tourism industry it’s common practice for commission to be offered in exchange for recommending particular shops or suppliers. This can become an issue when clients feel obliged to purchase. We do our best to avoid this by monitoring all shopping experiences offered.
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All shopping experiences on your tour have been noted in the itinerary and they have been carefully selected based upon positive feedback from On The Go travellers. You are under no obligation to partake in a listed shopping experience and you are most welcome to wait inside or outside the premises.

Although we only visit reputable retailers, please note that we cannot explicitly guarantee the quality of their products. All purchases made whilst on holiday with us are at your own discretion. Please make sure that you are completely happy with your purchase. On The Go cannot be held responsible for any items that you buy if they fail to meet expectation, or any shipping arrangements. Proceed with caution.

Camera fees

At some sites there is an additional fee for use of a camera or video. Camera/video (not professional) fees range between USD $3 – 30 per site. There is no fee for taking photographs at the Pyramids of Giza and Saqqara. The cost for using camera inside Valley of the Kings (though not permitted inside the tombs) is approx. USD$20. The cost for photographing the treasures inside the Egyptian Museum is generally USD$6.