

Abu Simbel, Nubia, Egypt

Two colossal temples hewn from living rock by Ramesses II — then lifted, stone by stone, out of rising waters. A feat of ancient ambition matched only by a modern rescue mission that cut the temples into thousands of blocks and lifted them to higher ground.

Docked — small Lake Nasser ships tie up at the quay

Typical call: 4-6 hrs

Egyptian Pound (EGP); USD widely accepted

Arabic; English spoken at tourist sites

Extreme heat May–Sep; mild Nov–Feb

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Lake Nasser cruise ships tie up at Abu Simbel quay; larger vessels may tender

Best For: Ancient Egyptian history, photography, bucket-list monuments

Walk to temples: 5 min from quay; golf carts available for reduced mobility

Don't Miss: Great Temple inner sanctuary — sun alignment twice yearly (Feb 22, Oct 22)

Getting around: Taxi ~5 USD

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Great Temple of Ramesses II** — Four colossal seated statues of Ramesses II (20 m tall) guard a temple that plunges 60 m into the cliff.
- Small Temple of Nefertari** — Dedicated to Ramesses II's chief queen and the goddess Hathor, this temple features six standing colossi — four of Ramesses II and two of Nefertari...
- Sound & Light Show (Evening)** — After dark, the temples are illuminated and a narrated light show recounts the story of Ramesses II and the UNESCO relocation project.
- Lake Nasser Nubian Temple Circuit** — Multi-day Lake Nasser cruises stop at additional relocated Nubian temples — Wadi El Seboua (avenue of sphinxes), Amada (oldest surviving Nubian...

BEST WALKS

- Temple Circuit Walk** 0.5 km · 20 min · Easy · Paved path — From the quay, follow the paved path past the ticket booth to the Great Temple of Ramesses II, then continue 150 m along the cliff to the Small Temple of Nefertari.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		93°	69°	0d
Jun		104°	81°	0d
Aug		105°	83°	0d
Sep		101°	79°	0d
Oct		95°	73°	0d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 5:33AM–6:13PM · Jun 6:09AM–7:38PM · Aug 6:31AM–7:24PM · Sep 6:40AM–6:56PM · Oct 6:50AM–6:28PM

Egyptian Pound (EGP); USD widely accepted

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Go early. Most Lake Nasser ships schedule the temple visit at dawn — this is correct. By 9 AM the facade is in shadow for photography and by 10 AM the heat is fierce. Don't skip the early start.
- Bring water. The desert sun is relentless, even in winter. There is a small café near the ticket booth but supplies are limited. Carry at least a litre per person.
- No photography inside the Great Temple. The ban is enforced (a bribe opportunity is also sometimes offered — decline it). Exterior and facade shots are permitted and spectacular.
- Egyptian Pounds preferred; USD accepted. Small EGP notes are useful for tips and the café. Most Lake Nasser cruise packages are all-inclusive, so you may need very little cash ashore.
- Context matters. The temples were dismantled and moved 65 m uphill between 1964–1968 to save them from Lake Nasser. The seam in the hillside above the temples is visible — a reminder of one of history's most ambitious engineering rescues.
- Abu Simbel is not a port town. There are no shops, markets, or restaurants beyond the basic visitor café. Your ship is your base — everything worthwhile is within a 10-minute walk of the quay.

Abu Simbel, Nubia, Egypt — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|
| 1 Great Temple of Ramses II | Colossal rock-cut temple with four 20-meter statues of Ramses II. | 2 Temple of Nefertari | Rock-cut temple dedicated to Ramses II's queen, beside the main temple. |
| 3 Lake Nasser | Vast reservoir formed by the Aswan High Dam, backdrop to the temples. | P Cruise port / terminal | |