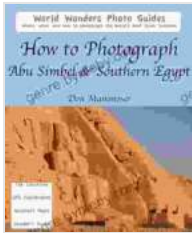


# How To Photograph Abu Simbel: Southern Egypt's Architectural Marvels



## How to Photograph Abu Simbel & Southern Egypt

by Lonely Planet

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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Nestled amidst the golden sands of Southern Egypt, the majestic temples of Abu Simbel stand as a testament to the ingenuity and artistry of ancient Egypt. These colossal structures, built during the reign of Pharaoh Ramesses II, have captivated the hearts and minds of travelers and photographers alike. In this comprehensive guide, we will embark on a photographic journey to uncover the secrets of Abu Simbel, providing you with the essential knowledge and inspiration to capture extraordinary images of these iconic landmarks.

## The Great Temple of Ramses II



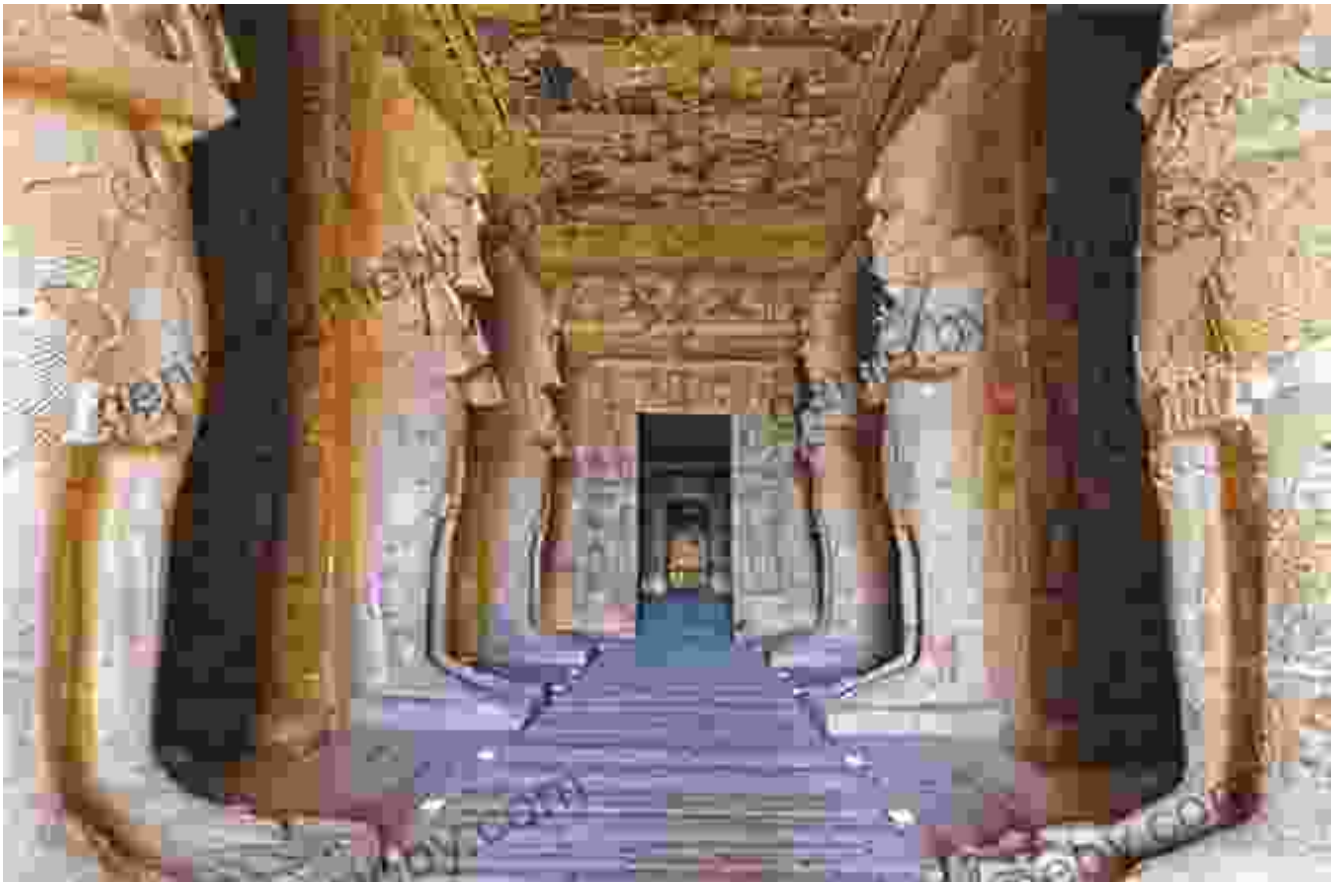
The Great Temple of Ramses II is the larger and more impressive of the two temples at Abu Simbel. It is dedicated to the sun god Ra-Horakhty and features a colossal facade dominated by four seated statues of Ramses II, each measuring over 60 feet in height. The temple's interior is adorned with intricate reliefs depicting the military victories and religious rituals of Ramses II.

### **Tips for Photographing the Great Temple**

- Arrive early morning or late afternoon to avoid the harsh midday sun.
- Use a wide-angle lens to capture the temple's imposing scale.
- Focus on the facial features of the colossal statues to convey their regal presence.

- Experiment with different angles and perspectives to create dynamic compositions.
- Consider using a graduated neutral density filter to balance the exposure between the bright sky and the shadowed temple facade.

## The Temple of Hathor



The Temple of Hathor, dedicated to the goddess of love and beauty

Located just north of the Great Temple, the Temple of Hathor is dedicated to the goddess of love and beauty. It is smaller in scale but equally impressive, featuring a facade adorned with statues of Ramses II and his queen, Nefertari. The temple's interior contains beautiful reliefs depicting the goddess Hathor and the royal family.

## **Tips for Photographing the Temple of Hathor**

- Focus on the intricate details of the facade, including the statues and reliefs.
- Use a telephoto lens to isolate specific elements and create intimate portraits.
- Pay attention to the soft, warm light that filters into the temple, creating a unique atmosphere.
- Experiment with different angles to capture the temple's relationship to the surrounding landscape.
- Consider using a tripod to stabilize your camera and capture sharp images in low-light conditions.

## **The Relocation of Abu Simbel**



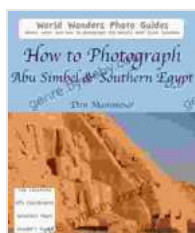
In the 1960s, the construction of the Aswan High Dam threatened to submerge the temples of Abu Simbel. In an unprecedented engineering feat, the temples were carefully dismantled and relocated to higher ground. This remarkable operation preserved these ancient monuments for future generations.

### **Tips for Photographing the Relocation Sites**

- Visit the original location of the temples to appreciate the scale of the relocation project.
- Photograph the massive blocks of the temples that were carefully moved.

- Document the new location of the temples and their relationship to the surrounding landscape.
- Consider using aerial photography to capture a bird's-eye view of the relocation sites.
- Research the history of the relocation project to add context to your photographs.

Abu Simbel is an extraordinary destination that offers photographers a unique opportunity to capture the grandeur and beauty of ancient Egypt. By following the tips outlined in this guide, you can create stunning images that convey the majesty of these iconic temples. Remember to embrace the history, culture, and architectural wonders of Abu Simbel, and let your camera become a tool to share the beauty of this timeless destination with the world.



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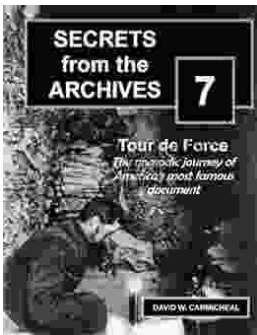
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