

Italian Tourism Co. Ltd

SUDAN

Hidden treasures of Sudan

6 days

This tour shows all the major archaeological sites of the Northern part of the country. Some overnights are in our exclusive properties of Karima and Meroe. This arid and wild region of extraordinary archaeological interest and beautiful landscapes becomes accessible even to those reluctant to sacrifice their comfort.



Day 1 / Khartoum – city tour

Breakfast at the hotel and then Khartoum city tour. We first visit the **Archaeological Museum** that, besides many beautiful objects, contains two beautiful temples rescued by UNESCO and moved from the *Lake Nasser* area, when it was flooded by the water. We then cross the Nile over the **confluence** between the Blue and the White Nile to reach Omdurman to visit the **Khalifa's House Museum**. Lunch NOT included. In the afternoon we visit the colourful **souk** and then at sunset time we move near the tomb of Ahmed Al Nil to assist at the involving ceremony of the **Whirling Dervishes** (*only on Fridays*). Return to the hotel. Dinner NOT included and overnight stay. (B.)

18 Nov 2016 Day 2 / Khartoum – Old Dongola - Karima

Early in the morning breakfast at the hotel and then we begin the journey northward through the Western desert. We travel in a flat desert where the view can span 360° around and we reach *Wadi Muqaddam* with its many acacia trees. We will stop at the "*chai houses*", literally tea houses, simply a sort of very Spartan "motorway restaurants", in the desert where local truck drivers usually stop for a quick meal and some rest. After 6 hours drive, we reach the site of **Old Dongola**, where there are the ruins of a *Christian Coptic temple* with marble columns as well as several rest of churches situated on the banks of the Nile. We continue our journey along the Nile crossing picturesque **Nubian Villages** with their houses with painted entrance doors with typical patterns and flowers. The population speaks a different language from the Arabs, and also the Islamic religion is not as "strict" as in other regions. We visit the beautiful village of Gaddar. Late in the afternoon arrival in Karima where you will be accommodated in a special preset camp where also some of the crew participating to the Air Rally will stay. Dinner at the charming Nubian Rest House just at the feet of *Jebel Barkal*. Dinner and overnight stay. (B.L.D.)



19 Nov 2016 Day 3 / Karima – Jebel Barkal – El Kurru

Landmark in the *Nubian Desert*, **Jebel Barkal** «*Jebel*» means Mountain in Arabic can be seen from a few dozen kilometres whilst still in the open desert. At the foot of this wonderful and isolated red sandstone mountain, considered holy since the ancient times, there is a big temple, dedicated to the Pharaohs of the New Reign and to their patron, *Amon*. *Amon's* ancient "*Pure Mountain*", the Olympus of the Nubians, was the religious Nubian heart for more than 1000 years. Besides the ruins of the big temple there are still several sculptured granite rams that were supposed to border a long avenue that probably led to the pier on the Nile. In the mountain wall there is a big room decorated with bas-relief. The *Jebel Barkal* archaeological sites are on the World Heritage list. The Royal necropolis of the ancient city of Napata, the Nubian capital (from 800 to 400 B.C.) before the Meroitic period, had a large number of pyramids, located in three different places: few hundred metres north of *Jebel Barkal*; a dozen kilometres southwards from the holy mountain, in *El Kurru*; in *Nuri*, which is located on the other bank of the Nile. After lunch at the *Nubian Rest House* we then move southwards to the village of **El Kurru** where there is one of the necropolises of the ancient capital, Napata. Here we can visit one tomb, which is excavated in the rock under pyramids - partially collapsed - and it is decorated with images of the Pharaoh, of the gods and multicolour hieroglyphic inscriptions. The trip goes on with the visit to a site, rich in fossil trunks in the desert. In the evening return to the preset

camp. Dinner at the NUBIAN REST-HOUSE, dinner and overnight stay. (B.L.D.)

20 Nov 2016 Day 4 / Karima – Nuri - Bayuda Desert - Meroe

Not far from the Rest-House we cross the Nile to briefly visit the archaeological site of **Nuri** where we can see many pyramids among which there is also the one of the great Taharqa. Little walk and then we enter the **Bayuda Desert**. This desert is an area bounded by the loop that the Nile forms between the 4th and the 6th Cataract and characterised by sharp black basalt mountains, most of them volcanic and typically cone-shaped. They alternate with level pebble stretches and large valleys crossed by dry *wadis*, where little vegetation can be seen. It is very likely to meet isolated groups of *Bisharin* nomads, who live in familiar groups in small huts made of intertwined branches close to the rare water wells, with their caravans and herds of camels and donkeys. After a picnic in the desert, we continue travelling until we reach the town of **Atbara**, located on the confluence between the Nile and the *Atbara River*. Here we cross the Nile for the last time. All of a sudden, we can glance at more than 40 pyramids, located on top of a hill, some of them perfectly preserved that belong to the **Royal Necropolis of Meroe**. Arrival at the permanent tented camp of Meroe, with a beautiful view onto the pyramids. Accommodation in comfortable and fully furnished tents, dinner and overnight stay. (B.L.D.)

THE MEROE CAMP

Meroe tented Camp is located in Bagarwyia, (about 230 km. north of Khartoum) overlooking the beautiful pyramids of Meroe. Accommodation consists of 22 twin-bedded tents (4x4 m), tastefully furnished. Each one has its own private bathroom hut with shower and toilet. The Camp is located 2 km from the Royal Necropolis. Each tent is equipped with a veranda with two comfortable chairs to relax in front of the astonishing view of more than forty pyramids. The tents have electricity produced by a generator working till 11:00 pm. A restaurant building is available for the guests. The Camp is managed by an Italian manager with the help of well-trained Sudanese staff. With this permanent facility, this arid region of extraordinary archaeological interest and beautiful landscapes become accessible even to those reluctant to sacrifice their comfort.

<http://www.italtoursudan.com/en/our-properties/the-meroe-camp>



21 Nov 2016 Day 5 / Meroe - the Necropolis and the Royal city of Meroe



Morning dedicated to the visit of the pyramids. The **Royal Necropolis of Meroe** is located at about 3 km from the Nile on some hills covered by yellow sand dunes. Several pyramids stand out with their sharp shapes against the clear sky. Each one has its own funerary chapel with the walls fully decorated with bas-reliefs that show the King's life and offers to the gods. Lunch at Meroe Camp. In the afternoon we move along the Nile to visit the ruins of the **Royal city**. The excavations confirm that the town of *Meroe* used to cover a large area and the Royal city was located in a central position, surrounded by suburbs and a boundary wall. Most of the area where the city is located, formed by many small hills covered by red clay fragments, has still to be excavated by the archaeologists. Dinner and overnight stay at the permanent Meroe Camp. (B.L.D.)

22 Nov 2016 Day 6 / Meroe - Naga and Mussawarat temples - Khartoum

After breakfast we drive south and we reach **Mussawarat** which is located in a beautiful valley crowned by hills. Here the ruins of a very big temple are visible; it once played an exceptional important role. Its main characteristic, the "*Great Enclosure*" is made by many constructions and boundary walls which surround a temple built in the 1st century A.D. The large number of elephants represented on these walls makes you think that this animal used to have an important role in this area. Beyond the big *wadi* there is another temple - restored by a German archaeological mission - dedicated to the god *Apedemak*. The site of **Naga** is located about 30 km to the east of the Nile and it is one of the two centres that developed during the Meroitic period. In *Naga*, in a typical Saharan environment with rocks and sand, we find a temple dedicated to *Apedemak* (1st century a.D.): a wonderful building with bas-relief decorations depicting the god with a lion's head, the Pharaoh, noblemen and several ritual images. A few metres away there is a small and odd construction with arches and columns, named "*kiosk*", in which we can notice Egyptian, Roman and Greek styles, all at the same time. Not far away we reach another temple dedicated to *Amon* with many statues of rams and beautiful gates decorated with bas-reliefs. Picnic lunch in the area and late in the evening we reach Khartoum. Time permitting on the way to Khartoum we shall stop for a quick view of **Sabaloka Gorge**. Check in at your hotel. Dinner NOT included. (B.L.)



End of services

The itinerary can be run in opposite direction without any changes for the visits and the excursions.

B=Breakfast – L=Lunch – D=Dinner

Additional information:

OUR 4x4 CARS:



Toyota Land Cruiser with 3 or 4 pax per car and Toyota Hilux double cabin with 3 pax per car

Land services Khartoum – Khartoum - 6 gg:

Rate per person in DBL room:

No. Pax	No. cars	Rates pp
1 pax	1	Euro 2.190
2 pax	1	Euro 1.440
3 pax	1	Euro 1.220
4 pax	1 (with only one car it is not possible to have the guide)	Euro 1.140
4 pax	2	Euro 1.360
5 pax	2	Euro 1.140
6 pax	2	Euro 1.110
Sgl Suppl.		Euro 230
Archeo fees, photo/travel Permits, passport reg. pp in Sudan TO BE PAID CASH in USD in KRT	Copulsory	USD 260

- English speaking guide for 6 days (upon availability) Euro 690

CHOOSE YOUR HOTEL IN KHARTOUM

Price per room, per night including local taxes and breakfast:

Acropole Hotel 3*** or similar

Twin room	Euro 125
Single room	Euro 95

GRAND HOLIDAY VILLA 4****

Twin room	Euro 170
Single room	Euro 150

CORINTHIA HOTEL 5*****

Twin room	Euro 290
Single room	Euro 265

The quotation includes:

- 2 O/N at a special preset camp near the Nubian Rest-House in Karima in FB
- 2 O/N at the permanent Tented Camp in Meroe in FB
- mineral water outside Khartoum
- meals as per itinerary
- transport with Toyota Hilux (3 pax per auto) or Toyota Land Cruiser (4 pax per car) outside Khartoum; minivan in Khartoum
- Guide English speaking (*quoted separately and upon availability*)

The following items are quoted separately and compulsory per person – to be paid cash on arrival in Sudan:

- archaeological sites entry fees
- photo and travel permit (*please note that we can only issue travel permits to pax that have obtained their visa through our sponsorship*)
- passport registration

The quotation does not include:

- transfer apt/htl in Khartoum (to be quoted according to the hotel selected)
- Hotel in Khartoum
- the meals and drinks in Khartoum
- Soft drinks
- Sudan entry visa and visa authorization
- video camera permits at the archaeological sites (*at the moment 20 USD per site per video camera*)
- Personal expenses
- tips

Prices validity:

Nov 2016. Surcharges may apply during Christmas and New Year's.

Cancellation fees

- 10% between 30 days and 21 days before departure
- 50% between 20 e 11 days before departure
- 100% from 10 days before departure and no-show

Khartoum, 14.09.2016



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