



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Tour Notes

Sudan – Hidden Treasures of Sudan

Tour Duration: 6 Days



Tour Rating

Fitness ●●●○○ | Off the Beaten Track ●●●●○ | Culture ●●●●○ | History ●●●●● | Wildlife ●○○○○

Tour Pace

Busy

Tour Highlights

- ✓ See the most prominent archaeological wonders of Sudan
- ✓ Superb views of the Nile from the top of Jebel Barkal
- ✓ The incredible pyramids of Meroe
- ✓ Experience the isolation of the Bayuda desert
- ✓ Ceremony of the whirling dervishes in Khartoum





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Tour Essentials

Accommodation:	Mix of comfortable hotels/Nubian rest house accommodation and permanent tented camp which has proper beds and private bathroom facilities (not attached)
Included Meals:	Daily breakfast (B), plus lunches (L) and dinners (D) as shown in the itinerary
Group Size:	Maximum 16
Start Point:	Khartoum
End Point:	Khartoum
Transport:	4WD (airport transfers may not be by 4WD) - Toyota Land Cruisers and/or Toyota Hilux Double Cabin
Country Visited:	Sudan

Sudan – Hidden Treasures of Sudan

The Sudan – Hidden Treasures of Sudan is a short six-day tour that covers the main highlights of the country. It is perfect for those who want to get a feel for the country but do not have the time to commit to one of our longer holidays. Although short, the tour still takes in many of the areas that any tour of Sudan should cover including Meroe, Khartoum and desert travel.

Tour Itinerary Notes

While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested and on occasions alternative accommodation, of a similar standard to that named below, will be used.

Tour Guide

Our guides are a key strength, chosen for their knowledge of and passion for the areas in which they work. On this tour, your guide may be local or European but they will be based in the region. We may also use specialist guides local to their specific region. Unlike some companies it should be noted we do not send a guide or tour leader from Undiscovered Destinations in the UK as we have every confidence in our locally appointed representative who is responsible for operating the tour on our behalf. Where possible you will have the same guide throughout your trip but on occasions it may be necessary to change the guide at one or more points during the tour.

NOTE: These departures are based on a mixed group, with travellers joining the tour from other companies and countries. The tour will include an English-speaking guide, but may also be guided in one other language.

Itinerary

Day 1 (Tuesday): Arrive in Khartoum

On arrival in Sudan, and having cleared customs and immigration, you will be met by one of our representatives and transferred to the hotel. Overnight at the Acropole Hotel, Khartoum. No meals or guided arrangements are included today.

Note: Depending on the time of your flight arrival you may arrive very early on the morning of Day 2 and the room will be available for you at the hotel.



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Day 2 (Wednesday): Khartoum - Necropolis of El Kurru - Nuri Necropolis – Karima (*Distance travelled today is 450km*)

This morning we leave the hotel and head north out of the city. The drive will take us about six hours as we cross the Western Desert. As we travel, you will be able to view Jebel Barkal (Jebel is the Arabic word for mountain) an imposing landmark in this desert. We break our journey with a stop at the ancient village of El Kurru. Here you will find one of the royal cemeteries used by the Nubian royal family of Kush. We visit one tomb decorated with images of the Pharaoh, of the gods and with multicoloured hieroglyphic inscriptions. Our drive continues and later in the day we reach the stunning site of Nuri. You will have the chance to walk amongst the 20 ancient pyramids belonging to Nubian kings and queens which are still standing here at Nuri. Dinner and overnight at the Karima Nubian Rest House. (BL*D) - *Picnic lunch

Nubian Rest House – Karima

Situated at the foot of Jebel Barkal, the Nubian Rest House is a charming small property built in the typical Nubian style. It is surrounded by a private enclosure, with lovely gardens and a leisure area. Each of the 22 rooms are characterized by a peculiar Nubian door with its own private bathroom and a pleasant veranda. All the buildings at the property are built with local materials synonymous with the Nubian area.

Day 3 (Thursday): Karima - Atbara - Meroe (*Distance travelled today is 360km*)

An early start means that we can get to see the sunrise from the top of Jebel Barkal. A perfect start to the day. After returning for breakfast, the tour continues as we enter the Bayuda Desert, an area characterised by black volcanic mountains. If we are lucky, during our time travelling here we may well meet groups of the Bisharin nomads. They live in small huts constructed of intertwined branches and located close to water wells, with their herds of camels and donkeys. Our next point on the route to Meroe is the town of Atbara. It is here that we cross the Nile and start the journey south travelling through the acacia trees. As we travel, suddenly you the view changes and we see in the distance on top of a hill, more than 40 pyramids. This is the Royal Necropolis of Meroe. Dinner and overnight at Meroe Camp (BL*D) - *Picnic lunch

Meroe Tented Camp

The Meroe tented camp is located in Bagarwyia around 230km North of Khartoum. The site overlooks the spectacular pyramids of Meroe. Accommodation consists of 22 twin bedded tents which are tastefully furnished. Each tent has its own private bathroom with shower and toilet. Each tent is equipped with a veranda and chairs to relax in front of the astonishing view of 40 pyramids making up the Royal Necropolis only 2 km's away. Electricity is working until around 11pm. The restaurant serves excellent food and has a nice atmospheric terrace. Note that Meroe Camp is currently in the process of building new accommodation. No disturbances will be experienced by guests as work will only happen when guests are out of camp. There is no interruption of the views of the pyramids.

Day 4 (Friday): Meroe Camp - Mussawarat Es Sufra – Naga – Khartoum – Dervish Ceremony (*Distance travelled today is 260km*)

We have an early start to view sunrise amongst the pyramids before we then continue to Naga and Mussawarat. In a beautiful valley crowned by hills we find the site of Mussawarat. Having travelled south from our overnight stopover, the first thing that we notice is the ruins of the huge temple. Constructed in sandstone, the main features of the site include the Great Enclosure, the Lion Temple of Apedemak and the Great Reservoir. The site's main monuments are picturesquely scattered in the wide basin of Wadi es-Sufra, bordered by sandstone escarpments which rise up to 60 m above the valley floor. Continuing our tour, we arrive late afternoon in time to see the Dervish ceremony (*Fridays only*) in the Ahmed al Nil cemetery. The famous 'whirling dervishes' are possibly one of the Sudan's biggest tourist attractions. It will be after sunset that we arrive back in to Khartoum and check in to the hotel. Overnight at the Acropole Hotel. (BL*) - *Picnic lunch



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Day 5 (Saturday): Khartoum – Nuba Wrestling

Today we will explore the Sudanese capital, Khartoum. To begin with we travel to Omdurman the old capital of Sudan, by crossing the confluence between the Blue and the White Nile. We explore on foot, walking through the market, viewing the Mahdi's Tomb and entering the Khalifa's House which holds a small museum about the Mahdyaia. Next is a relaxing boat trip along the Nile before our tour takes us to the National Museum*. As the sun begins to set, we head to the north of Khartoum to view a traditional Nubian Wrestling tournament. As this is our last night in Sudan, we have a farewell dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight at the Acropole Hotel. (BD)

Day 6 (Sunday): Khartoum – Departure from Sudan

Your tour ends with a transfer to the airport in time for your onward flight. (B)

Tour inclusions/exclusions

Inclusions:

Arrival and departure transfers
All accommodation
Services of English-speaking guide / tour leader
Meals as listed (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner)
Entrance fees for sites listed as part of the itinerary
Visa support documents (letter of invitation)

Excluded:

Compulsory Archaeological fees, permits, passport registration – EUR 200 or USD equivalent payable locally in cash
International flights
Travel Insurance
Visa
Drinks
Items of a personal nature
Tips (discretionary)
Video camera fees

Important Information

Foreign Travel Advice Warnings

Before booking your tour please familiarise yourself with the country specific information provided by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) - <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>. This includes important information such as latest immigration requirements, and details of any travel advisories.

We constantly monitor the advice posted by the FCDO). In particular we will always advise clients of any travel warnings. At the time of writing a number of travel warnings do apply to Sudan, in particular against travel to Darfur, much of the south and some border areas. However, Undiscovered Destinations does not operate any tours in these areas.



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Please feel free to contact us should you have any specific concerns or if you would like to know in detail what measures are being taken to ensure visits remain trouble free and without incident.

It should be noted that this information applies to British citizens. Other nationals are asked to check the current position of their respective government.

Accommodation and Meals

Hotel Check-in Times

As a general rule most hotels will allow guests to check-in from 2pm. Please note that the price of your tour does not include guaranteed early check-in. Therefore please advise us if you would like to ensure that your room is available for an earlier arrival. This is particularly relevant on the first day of the tour and for early morning arrivals. One option is to pre-book and pay for an extra night at the beginning of your tour which will guarantee your accommodation is available irrespective of what time you arrive. Please contact us for information and costs.

It should also be noted that on many of our tours we have set-aside Day 1 of the itinerary as an 'arrival day'. For this reason and because tour participants are likely to be arriving at different times, and often from different countries, guided sightseeing or other activities are not included. If you are arriving early or before the start date of the tour and would like to organise some extra arrangements on a private basis please contact us.

Accommodation Rating

On this tour you can expect to stay in comfortable, small-scale accommodation, with private bathrooms facilities. Air conditioning is not available at the Meroe permanent tented camp. In Meroe your private bathroom is not attached to the tent. You have to walk outside to it. In general you will find your hotel has a restaurant and/or bar (however alcohol is not served in Sudan). Please also note that new bungalows are being constructed at Meroe camp. No work occurs whilst you are in camp and your views of the desert are not affected.

We welcome solo travellers and single rooms will be allocated subject to the applicable tour supplement. Please note that on occasions you may not always be allocated a double or twin room, as some hotels have designated single rooms. These may be smaller in size. However, the supplement payable takes this into account.

Food & Drink

The daily meal basis is shown in the tour itinerary; breakfast (B), lunch (L) and dinner (D). Please note that lunch may be a picnic. Drinks are not included and will be payable locally in cash.

Dietary Requirements

If you have any special dietary requirements you must notify us at the time of booking. While we will make every effort to cater for you, we cannot guarantee that this will be possible.

Budgeting for your Tour

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the tour price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

Food

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.





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At midday, you can expect cold lunches - picnic style (tomato, rice or pasta salad, cheese, tuna fish, fresh fruit). The meals include international dishes as well as local food. The most common local dishes are: "full" broad beans soup, lamb; "chai", tea with spices or mint, very good and rich of flavour. Dinners are hot dishes including meat or fish, vegetables; pasta, rice or soup; fruit and dessert; tea and coffee available.

Lunch £5 / Dinner £10

Drink

The prices for drinks can vary greatly depending upon location and the prices detailed below are an average guide. In general you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or local bar to be less expensive, whilst drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive. Please note that it is not allowed to bring alcoholic beverages in the country due to the Islamic law, and you cannot drink alcohol in Sudan either. Non-alcoholic beer is available.

Bottle of water £0.50 / Can of soft drinks £0.75 / Bottle of non-alcoholic beer £3

Tipping – Guide and Drivers

Tipping is common practise in Africa. If your local guide has been helpful then you could think about tipping. If you are travelling on a group tour, allow around EUR5-6 per day – if you give this to the guide at the end he or she will distribute it among the drivers and other members of the team. For a private tour, allow around EUR15-20 per day.

Foreign Exchange

ATM Availability: Not available for foreign cards

Credit and Debit Card Acceptance: Credit cards and Debit cards are NOT accepted in Sudan

Local Currency: Sudanese pound (SDG)

Current exchange rate (Nov. 2019): 1 Euro = 49.71 SDG // 1 USD = 45.04 SDG

Recommended Currency for Exchange: US Dollar (please ensure these are post 2009 unblemished notes)

Where to Exchange: Your guide will advise you but the airport has good rates.

Please note that it is not permitted to BRING IN or to TAKE OUT of Sudan more than 3,000 US Dollar cash (or the equivalent in other currencies).

Joining your Tour

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will receive an airport transfer, both on arrival and departure include in the tour price. In order that the transfer can be arranged please ensure that you advise us of your flight information once available. Please advise the date, time and flight number for your arrival/departure. If we have not been advised of this information at least 2 weeks before travel, then you will be required to make your own way to the hotel on Day 1 of your tour.

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Undiscovered Destinations that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities.



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Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country and be valid for the entire duration of your holiday.

Visa Information

Everyone except Egyptians requires a visa for entry to Sudan. At the time of writing British and most other European nationals no longer require an authority from the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs before the visa can be issued, which has previously been the case. A simple Letter of Invitation to support your application will be sufficient.

For US, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand passport holders and where no Sudanese diplomatic representation exists in the home country, a visa on arrival can usually be issued but prior authorisation is required from the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs which we can assist with. *Prices vary depending on nationality so please check with us about the costs for a visa on arrival.

All travellers must bring one passport sized photograph/s to Sudan.

It is essential that your passport does not contain any Israeli stamps or other evidence of travel to Israel; otherwise, your application will be rejected.

Passports

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, valid for at least six months after the date of return to your country.

We strongly advise that your passport contains a minimum of two blank pages, as this may be a requirement of the local immigration authorities. In addition certain countries will stipulate that the two blank pages are opposite each other. If you are unable to meet these requirements you may be refused boarding by your airline or denied entry by the immigration authorities.

For specific information about the requirements for your destination please check with the country's embassy or consulate. Alternatively, UK citizens can visit www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice.

Bags Inspection on arrival and departure

The custom officer may need to check your bags and in this case you will be sent to a large room where you need to open the bag and let them make sure you are not carrying anything prohibited. Once cleared you can go.

It is strictly forbidden to take out of the country fossils, stones and any possible archaeological item. An accurate screening of your luggage will be done at the airport before departure. Fines may apply in case they find something suspicious.

Vaccinations & Protection

As with travel to most parts of Africa, we strongly recommend that you contact your doctor's surgery or a specialist travel clinic for up-to-date information, advice and the necessary vaccinations.

For a visit of less than one month, almost certainly you will be advised to have immunisations against the following: Diphtheria and Tetanus, Hepatitis A, Typhoid, Meningitis. Anti-malaria medication will also be required and the use of a DEET-containing insect repellent is highly recommended. In addition if you are arriving from another African country you may also require a yellow fever certificate.

The legal status and regulation of some medicines prescribed or purchased in your home country can be different in other countries.



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If you're travelling with prescription or over-the-counter medicine, read this guidance from NaTHNaC on best practice when travelling with medicines. For further information on the legal status of a specific medicine, you'll need to contact the embassy, high commission or consulate of the country or territory you're travelling to.

Preparing for your tour

Climate

Sudan is a seasonal destination. The north and area of most interest for travellers, is hot and dry throughout the year, but between April and October temperatures are ferociously hot, typically reaching over 40 °C. Sandstorms are also common during this time. Khartoum is a little cooler but more humid, receiving rain in July and August. From November to March are the best months to travel, although northern winter nights can be cool so some warm weather clothing should be taken at this time.

Clothing

When it comes to clothing it is usually recommended that lighter clothes are worn through the day, and warmer ones at night. A hat is also advised to be worn through the day to protect from the sun, along with at least one piece of waterproof clothing for any days that the weather may be wet or windy, although rain is rare. Wind is much more of an issue in the desert and a head scarf may also be a good idea for sandstorms that can occur from time to time. **Both male and female clients should dress with respect.** Shorts should not be worn. We also recommend that women keep their arms covered. Our advice is to dress sensitively in accordance with Muslim traditions, and avoid wearing revealing clothing, particularly in rural areas. In summary, unless advised by your local guide, you should follow the above advice. If it is appropriate to dress in a slightly more revealing manner, then your guide will advise you accordingly.

Footwear

Footwear is a main priority on this tour. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended. When travelling between places lighter sandals will be suitable.

Equipment

The first thing on your list should be a first aid kit. Whilst there is no undue cause for alarm, travellers are best advised to travel well-prepared: adequately immunized, with sufficient supplies of prescription drugs, along with a medical kit. Suncream/sunblock is a must. Insect repellent, including a bite spray will also be useful to have. We recommend bringing a torch or head-torch in case of any electricity outages and to assist when in dimly lit areas. Towels will be provided. Please bring your own shampoo, conditioner and shower gel.

Photographs while on tour

Camera lenses larger than 400mm and binoculars may not be allowed in to the country- you risk having them confiscated at the airport and they will be returned to you before you depart.

It is not allowed to take photographs of military items, airports, bridges, official buildings and in the markets. In Khartoum also there are often problems with Islamic fundamentalists to take photos of the town. We suggest, in case of any doubt, to ask the tour leader. You will take amazing photos in Sudan following the rules.

Laundry

Laundry service is available at Meroe Camp and at the Nubian Rest House in Karima. Please note that Sudan is an Islamic country and underwear and socks will not be washed.



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Mobile phones and Internet - Wi-Fi access

The coverage for Mobile Phones is constantly improving in Sudan. In the major centres and when on main tar roads there is mobile coverage. Internet and Wi-Fi is available in all the Khartoum hotels - outside Khartoum there are some Internet cafe - If you wish to have connection outside Khartoum a local sim card with GB can be purchased – seek assistance with your guide. Wi-Fi at the Nubian Rest House in Karima is limited to the restaurant and terrace area and due to high congestion in the local line the WI-FI signal is working primarily in the late evening/night/early morning only.

At the Meroe camp WI-Fi works only in the restaurant and veranda area, and signal is normally quite good.

Environmental Responsibility

We are committed to reducing our impact on the environment and protect its resources and the people of Sudan. It is quite difficult to do so in Africa, however in our tours, we are trying our best to minimize the production of non-disposable rubbish, we try to be as "green" as possible and to preserve the friendliness of the Sudanese people. On this tour single-use plastic bottles of water will not be handed out. Water will be provided from a large container. We kindly ask you to bring your own water bottles/flask with you on this trip. If you have any concerns, please contact us.

Luggage on tour

Your luggage should not exceed 15kg. We recommend that you take a soft bag/case for your luggage. A small rucksack as hand luggage is recommended.

Electric Supply & Plugs

Electrical supply is 230V/50 Hz and plugs usually have two round pins.

Electricity availability while on tour:

- o At the Nubian Rest-House in Karima - 24 hours available
- o At the Meroe Camp electricity is supplied by a generator working from sunset till 11:00 pm (Type C plugs, with two pins, 240 V)

Language

The official language is Arabic; in the Nubian region it is also used a local dialect different from Arabic. Very few people speak English.

Time Zone

After 17 years Sudan has decided to adopt once again the Daylight-Saving Time. This means that the official time from 1 Nov is GMT +2. Also note that daily program will start in between 7 and 8am since sunset is currently between 17.00 and 17.30.

Itinerary Versions

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour but small changes may just be added to these tour notes. These tour notes were updated on 27th August 2021.