



25 Crescent Avenue, Sausalito, CA 94965  
Phone: 415-381-5861 ♦ 888-367-6147  
inquire@originalworld.com ♦ www.originalworld.com  
CST Permit #2057026-40

---

## SUDAN

### The Kingdom of The Black Pharaohs

---

#### *Extensions to Soleb and Old Dongola (3 days)*

*April 1-9, April 8-16, April 22-30, 2012*

*October 13-21, October 27-November 4, November 10—18*

*December 1-9, December 29, 2012-January 6, 2013*

*January 19—27, February 9—17, March 2-10, March 16—24, March 23—31, March 30-April 7,*

*April 30-May 8, 2013*

Northern Sudan is one of Africa's most mysterious destinations. The Nile River crosses the Sahara Desert and along its valley lie very interesting archaeological sites of the Egyptian and Meroitic civilizations still unknown to the public. There are more pyramids in Sudan than in Egypt. The Nubian Desert, the Eastern part of the Sahara desert and the Nile Cataracts, are only some of Sudan's natural wonders.

This tour shows all the major archaeological sites with overnights in exclusive Italian properties of Karima and Meroe. This arid region of extraordinary archaeological interest and beautiful landscapes becomes accessible even to those reluctant to sacrifice their comfort.

#### **Day 1 / Arrival in Khartoum**

Meet and Greet with the guide, and transfer to the hotel. Check in, dinner independent.

#### **Day 2 / Khartoum - permanent tented Camp in Meroe** (B.L.D.)

Breakfast at the hotel and then short tour of Khartoum. We follow the Blue Nile near the Presidential Palace where in 1885 General Gordon was beheaded by the Mahdist troops. We then get near the Catholic Cathedral and Marina Yacht Club where there are the rest of one of the boats used by Kitchner to conquer Khartoum in 1898. We cross the confluence between the Blue and the White Nile and we reach **Omdurman**, the old capital of Sudan, where we see the Mahdi's tomb from outside.

Late in the morning we begin the journey northward. After about 50 km, we get into a desert area covered with huge round granite boulders; these are the last offshoots of the rocky formations of the 6<sup>th</sup> Cataract. We then reach a level ground area where there are many small camel-thorn acacia trees as far as we can see. And then, all of a sudden, we can glance at more than 40 pyramids, located on top of a hill, some of them perfectly preserved, belonging to the Royal Necropolis of Meroe.

Arrival at the permanent tented camp of Meroe with a beautiful view of the pyramids. Accommodation in comfortable and fully furnished tents, dinner.

#### **Day 3 / Meroe - the necropolis and the royal city of Meroe** (B.L.D.)

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. 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 camp.

#### **Day 4 / Meroe - the temples of Naga and Mussawarat** (B.L.D.)

After breakfast at the camp, we spend the morning visiting the two archaeological sites. 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 (1<sup>st</sup> 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. We then go to **Mussawarat**, also not far from Naga. This settlement 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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. Picnic in the area and then return towards camp. We will stop in the town of Shendi to visit the colorful market.

#### **Day 5 / Meroe - Karima** (B.L.D.)

After breakfast we leave from Meroe and we continue on the road that skirts the Nile to the city of **Atbara**, located on the confluence between the Nile and the Atbara River. Here we cross the Nile and we enter the **Bayuda Desert**, an area bounded by the loop formed by the Nile between the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 6<sup>th</sup> 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 only little vegetation survives and dorcas gazelles 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. Arrival at Meroe where we cross again the Nile to reach the comfortable Nubian Rest-House in Karima.

#### **Day 6 / Karima - Jebel Barkal and the necropolis of El Kurru** (B.L.D.)

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 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.

We then move southwards to the village of **El Kurru** where there is one of the necropolis of the ancient capital, Napata. Here we can visit two tombs, which are excavated in the rock under pyramids - partially collapsed - and are totally 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 Karima, accommodation at the Rest-House, dinner and overnight.

#### **Day 7 / Karima - cruise on the Nile and Nuri** (B.L.D.)

After breakfast, we visit the market in Karima, where we can have a real experience of the life of Sudanese people. We then board a small motorboat for a pleasant cruise along the Nile to enjoy the beautiful sand stretches and cultivated islands along the river. A little further northward there used to be the beautiful granite rocky formations of the **4<sup>th</sup> Cataract**, which prevented the Nile from

flowing slowly and formed many rapids that obstructed the navigation. In April 2008 the new Dam of Meroe has been completed and the flooding of the artificial lake started.

Picnic lunch in the area. In the afternoon we cross the Nile to reach the **Pyramids of Nuri**. Little walk and then return to the Nubian Rest House for dinner and overnight stay.

#### **Day 8 / Karima - Khartoum** (B.L.)

Today we drive south along the tarmac road across the Western desert. We stop for lunch in a simple *chai house* (a roadhouse where the local truck drivers stop for food and to rest).

We reach Khartoum in the afternoon where we 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 visit also the interesting **Omdurman souk**. (*the visit to the Museum and/or Omdurman souk may be moved to the first day according to opening time*).

Check in to the hotel where day use rooms will be available until 9 pm. Dinner independent. In the evening transfer to the airport.

#### **Day 9 / departure**

International flight. Departs at midnight or early am.

#### **EXTENSION TO SOLEB and OLD DONGOLA - (3 additional days)**

April 8-12, April 15-19, April 29-May 3, October 20-24, November 3-7, November 17-21, December 8-12, January 5—9, 2013, January 26-30, February 16-20, March 9-13, March 23-27, March 30-April 3, April 6-10, May 7-11

#### **Day 8 / Karima - Kerma-Tombos-Sesibi** (B.L.D.)

Today we drive north west through the Nubian Desert, we reach the village of **Kerma** to visit the majestic "*Defuffa*". Not far from here, among the rocks near the village of **Tombos**, there are the granite quarries and the remains of a huge **statue of the King Taharqa**, simply left there in the desert 3000 years ago. In **Sebu**, right on the river bank of the Nile it is possible to visit one of the richest sites of rock engraving of all Sudan with hundreds of images from prehistoric to Egyptian times. We then reach the granite boulders of the **Third Cataract** which used to be the third huge obstacle that the ancient Egyptians had to face when trying to sail on the Nile River. Late in the afternoon we cross the Nile and reach Sesibi Hotel.

#### ***SESIBI HOTEL***

*This brand new small hotel in typical Nubian style has 8 rooms with private facilities and hot water. Accommodations are simple but clean. A cook is in charge of the meals.*

#### **Day 9 / Sesibi-Soleb-Sesibi** (B.L.D.)

Today we drive north to reach the **Temple of Soleb**, the most beautiful Egyptian temple of all Sudan, testimony of the New Kingdom in Nubia, with many walls rich in hieroglyphic inscriptions, bas-relief figures and many columns. Not far we'll reach **Jebel Dosh** to see a nice stele on the rock just on the shore of the Nile. Picnic in the area and then return towards Sesibi, where we will visit the remains of the **Temple of Sesibi** and the Egyptian colony that used to be here during Amenhotep IV times. Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Sesibi.

#### **Day 10 / Sesibi-Nubian Villages-Old Dongola - Karima** (B.L.D.)

Today we drive south following the Nile. This area is the central part of the Nubian region. Here the population lives in small villages amongst yellow sand dunes and palm trees they speak a different language from the Arabs and also the Islamic religion is not as "strict" as in other regions. The women don't cover their faces and readily speak to foreigners. Some houses in the **Nubian Villages** are painted and decorated with colourful patterns and flowers. Enthusiastic hospitality abounds, people will often invite foreigners to visit their home and share a meal or a cup of spiced tea. We then reach the site of **Old Dongola**, where a Christian Coptic temple with marble columns as well as several

churches are situated on the banks of the Nile. Arrival in the evening at the charming Nubian Rest House. Dinner and overnight.

**Day 11 / Karima - Khartoum** (B.L.)

Today we drive south along the tarmac road across the Western desert. We stop for lunch in a simple *chai house* (a roadhouse where the local truck drivers stop for food and to rest) and in the afternoon we reach **Omdurman** where we visit the interesting *souk*. Arrival at Khartoum. Check in at the hotel where day use rooms will be available until 21.00. Dinner free. In the evening transfer to the airport.

**Day 12 / departure**

International flight. Departs at midnight or early am.

**PRICES based on min 4 people**

**The Kingdom of the Black Pharaohs (9 days):** \$3500 per person; single supplement: \$550  
**Except December 29, 2012-January 6, 2013** \$3550 per person, single supplement: \$625  
Supplement for upgrade to Corinthia Hotel, 5\* in Khartoum \$67 twin share; single room \$122

**EXTENSION TO Soleb and OLD DONGOLA (3 days)**

based on min 2 people: \$975 per person, single room supplement: \$225

**Price includes:**

- met at airport and private transfer to the hotel
- 1 night at Holiday Villa hotel in Khartoum in BB
- day-use rooms available at Holiday Villa till 09,00 pm
- 3 nights at the permanent Tented Camp in Meroe in FB
- 3 nights at the Nubian Rest-House in Karima in FB
- mineral water outside Khartoum
- transport with Toyota Land Cruisers (4 people per car) OR Toyota Hilux (3 people per car)
- Tour Leader English speaking for 9 day tour
- National Museum and archaeological sites entry fees
- photo permit
- Passport registration
  
- **Extension:** 2 nights in a simple local hotel/rooms with private facilities in Sesibi and 1 night at the Nubian Rest House in Karima in FB
- Tour Leader (**available on request with additional fee for less than 6 people**)

**Does not include:** meals and drinks in Khartoum - soft drinks - personal expenses - Sudan entry visa (\$155 at the moment) and visa authorization (\$125 at the moment)- tips - video camera permits at the archaeological sites (*at the moment 20 USD per site per video camera*)