

Italian Tourism Co. Ltd

SUDAN

The hidden treasures of Meroe

2 days



Day 1 / Khartoum – Naga and Mussawarat - Meroe

Pick up from your hotel in Khartoum in the morning and then departure northward. After passing the last stretches of Khartoum, we drive through a desert area characterized by granite rocky hills. These are the last offshoots of the 6th Cataract. After about 2h30 drives we reach the site of **Naga**, located about 30 km to the east of the Nile. 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. We then go to



Mussawarat, not far away 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 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*. Picnic in the area then we continue our journey towards Meroe. 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 into the pyramids. Accommodation in comfortable and fully furnished tents, dinner and overnight stay. (L.D.)



MEROE CAMP

Meroe tented Camp is located in Bagarwyia, (about 230 km. north of Khartoum) overlooking the beautiful pyramids of Meroe. Accommodation consists of 10 twin-bedded tents (4x4 m), tastefully furnished. Each one has its own private bathroom hut with shower and toilet. The Camp is located 3.5 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/prop_meroecamp.php

Day 2 / Meroe - Khartoum

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. Then 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. Lunch at the Meroe Camp. In the afternoon return to Khartoum. Drop off at your hotel in Khartoum (B.L.)

End of service

Khartoum, July 2014



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