Egypt & Sudan: The Road to Khartoum

The Nile loops a lazy arc through the arid desert, passing the crumbling remains of a civilisation that once lay at the heart of African trade and culture. But this isn’t the land of the Pharaohs. This is the ancient land of Kush, the old kingdom of the Meroitic kings, lost for centuries amongst the sands of the Sahara to the south of the great cataracts. Amongst the landscapes of northern Sudan we find the ancient lands of Nubia, where the desert plains are strewn with an incredible collection of archaeological sites that lie far beyond the tourist trappings of Egypt’s well-trodden Nile Valley. Here we find the remains of a civilisation whose culture and power were equal to that of the Pharaohs and whose lasting legacy is an incredible assembly of pyramids that outnumber those of their northern neighbour. Travelling by road from Aswan to Abu Simbel, we will visit this UNESCO World Heritage site before we cross into northern Sudan by the land border (opened in 2014). From here we begin a journey by road that follows the meandering ribbon of the Nile south. We’ll visit the tombs of the Nubian pharaohs and the remains of ancient Coptic kingdoms, we’ll stand before the slopes of the holy mountain of Jebel Barkal and gaze in wonder upon the expansive temple complexes of the Meroitic kings. Finally, our adventure ends amongst the bustling streets and souks of Khartoum, Sudan’s vibrant capital where the blue and white Niles meet.

Duration: 13 Days
Average group size: 5 - 12
Start: Mon 29 Oct 18
Finish: Sat 10 Nov 18

Looking for alternative dates? Check the website or give us a call
TOUR DETAILS

TOUR CODE: RTK/A

HIGHLIGHTS

• Explore the UNESCO World Heritage site at Abu Simbel
• Visit the stunning pyramids of Meroe
• Wild desert camps along the river Nile and meeting friendly villagers along the way
• Ancient sites of Soleb, Jebel Barkal, Nuri, Naqa and Mussawarat
• Be amazed by the spectacular whirling dervishes ceremony

Accommodation: As an overall ethos, wherever possible we aim to use characterful accommodation that enhances the overall travel experience, not just offers a bed for the night. This can obviously vary dramatically from country to country and from trip to trip.

On this particular trip accommodation will include hotels, guesthouses, homestays, fixed camping and wilderness camping. Please note that when camping you will be expected to put up and take down your tent, though help will always be available if needed.

Please note that the accommodation mentioned in the itinerary is intended as a guide only and is always subject to availability.

Transport: On this tour we will use minibuses, ferries/boats & 4WDs.

Climate: Hot days (around 30-35 degrees) and cool nights (around 10-15 degrees) can be expected as is typical of desert regions. Rain is unlikely but not unheard of.

Is this trip for me? It may sound obvious but Wild Frontiers tours are not always for everyone and it is important to us that the tour you choose is the most suitable. Please therefore take time to read the dossier carefully. All our tours are graded to give an overall picture of the trip but these are only guidelines and you should check the daily itinerary. Should you have any concerns about your ability to partake in any aspect of the tour then please contact the office.

Key Aspects to Consider: Anyone in a reasonable state of health, with an open mind and a sense of adventure should be perfectly able to cope with this tour.

Please note that desert travel can be tiring and you should come prepared for some unexpected challenges. In addition there are a number of nights spent wilderness camping on this tour.

It’s also worth pointing out that Sudan is a ‘dry’ country and it is forbidden to take alcohol in to the country.

Please be advised that on this trip vegetarians can be catered for but the selection and variety may be limited.

Adventure Rating ✦✦✦✦✦✦
Comfort Grade ✦✦✦✦✦✦✦
Fitness Level ✦✦✦✦✦✦✦
Cultural Interest ✦✦✦✦✦✦✦
Day 1: Tour Starts in Aswan (Egypt): Our adventure begins in the city of Aswan, one of Egypt’s most fascinating destinations. Lying along the Nile, at the southern limits of Pharaonic power, the city is the perfect starting point for our journey beyond the cataracts. To the south lie the ancient lands of Nubia, and it’s this close proximity to its African neighbours that has instilled Aswan with a vibrant blend of culture and a rich mix of Arab and African influences that embodies the very spirit of the journey that we are about to undertake. Due to the late arrival of the suggested group flights there are no activities or meals included today. 

Movenpick Hotel or similar (no meals)

Day 2: Aswan - Abu Simbel: After breakfast this morning we’ll leave Aswan and take the desert road south to Abu Simbel. Once we arrive and settle into our guesthouse there’ll be time to explore one of Egypt’s most iconic sights with a local guide. Later on this evening we’ll return to the site for the famous sound & light show, a fitting finale to our final night in Egypt before our adventure truly begins across the border. 

Nubian Guesthouse or similar (B,L,D)

Day 3: Abu Simbel - Qustul - Wadi Halfa (Sudan): After an early breakfast we will take a ferry across Lake Nasser and drive on to the Qustul/Ashkait border crossing (opened in 2014). After clearing customs and immigration we’ll continue on to our first desert camp close to Wadi Halfa. The port lies at the end of the railway line that travels north from Khartoum and was originally established during the 19th century to deal with the flow of river traffic up and down the Nile into Egypt. During the Sudanese uprising under the Mahdi it became the headquarters of the Anglo-Egyptian army under Kitchener and later, during the Second World War, went on to serve as a vital line of communication for the Allied forces serving in Africa. 

Wild Camp (B,L,D)

Day 4: Wadi Halfa - Abri - Island of Sai - Wawa: Following the eastern bank of the Nile we travel beyond the Second Cataract and deep into the heart of Upper Nubia. The remote villages that we pass along the way are rarely visited by travellers and the people in this region are extremely hospitable. Often they’ll invite strangers into their homes to share tea with them, so our journey to tonight’s camp may be interrupted by a few refreshment stops along the way. This afternoon we plan to take a boat ride on the Nile to visit the Island of Sai en route to the small village of Wawa. Whilst on the river we have a good chance of spotting Nile crocodiles! We’ll spend this evening close to the beautifully atmospheric ruins of the Temple of Soleb (on the opposite side of the river), one of the best preserved of all Sudan’s temples. 

Nubian Homestay or similar (B,L,D)

Day 5: Wawa - Kerma - Tombos: Crossing the Nile by a small boat this morning, we will visit the impressive Soleb temple, built by Amenhotep III during the 18th dynasty. Its walls are richly decorated with hieroglyphics, bas-relief figures and columns, dedicated to both Amun-Re and Nebma’atre, the Lord of Nubia. To this day the temple remains a rich testimony to the importance attached to Nubia by the Egyptian Pharaohs. Crossing back over to the east bank we resume our journey south, passing through numerous Nubian villages besides the foaming waters of the Third Cataract, as we make our way towards the archaeological site of Kerma, home to a pre-dynastic civilisation that went on to become a major trading power in the region. Here we’ll visit the enigmatic mud brick monument of the Western ‘Defuffa’, an imposing building lying on the outskirts of Kerma, whose true purpose still remains something of a
mystery. From Kerma we head to the village of Tombos. Here we find a statue of the black Pharaoh, Taharqa, which has lain abandoned amongst the old quarries for some 2,800 years.

Local Nubian House or similar (B,L,D)

Day 6: Tombos - Nubian Villages - Old Dongola: Continuing south we follow the Nile into the heart of the Nubia region, where the language of the local people differs markedly from that of their Arab neighbours. Here we’ll find a delightful blend of colourful houses and wonderfully hospitable people in surrounding villages. Later today we’ll reach the site of Old Dongola, where we find the remains of a small Coptic Christian kingdom (the Makuria Kingdom) which thrived once the Aksumite Empire decline, enjoying a relatively easy coexistence with its Muslim neighbours for centuries until its collapse in the 14th century.

Wild Camp (B,L,D)

Day 7: Old Dongola - El Kurru - Karima: Journeying through the Nubian Desert we notice the change in the surrounding terrain as we pass from sand dunes and flat sandy plains, to low, brown rocky hills eroded by the elements. As we complete our crossing of the Nubian Desert we reach the site of El Kurru, home to a royal necropolis that dates back to the time of the ancient Nubian capital of Napata. Predating the Meroitic period, the remains of the city houses two tombs that lie partially collapsed underneath the pyramids, both of which are richly adorned with images of the Pharaoh and the gods of ancient myth. Some 20 kms to the north of here lies the small town of Karima, set before the imposing base of Jebel Barkal, Nubia’s holy mountain of legend. A red sandstone monolith that acts like a beacon amongst the vast open landscapes of the desert, the mountain lay at the centre of Nubian religious worship for centuries and the large temple that adorns its foot is filled with dedications to the Pharaohs and their gods.

Marawee Land Hotel or similar (B,L,D)

Day 8: Karima - Jebel Barkal - Nuri: After visiting the temple at Jebel Barkal this morning we’ll take to the Nile for a short cruise to see what’s left of the fourth cataract, before visiting the Royal Necropolis of Nuri. From here we start following the old tracks that cross through the Bayuda Desert. This area is encircled by a loop that was formed between the Fourth and Sixth Cataracts and is characterised by the distinctive cone-shaped presence of a series of black basalt peaks, which are interspersed with a barren landscape of dry wadis and large featureless expanses of flat rock. This evening we’ll camp in the desert close to the medieval ruins of the Ghazali Monastery.

Wild Camp (B,L,D)

Day 9: Bayuda Desert - Atrun Crater - Atbara - Meroe: As we continue across the desert today we’ll visit the evaporating lake that lies at the bottom of the Atrun volcano crater. The Bisharin nomads collect salt from the crater lake, loading it onto their donkeys and camels and trekking through the harsh desert landscape to sell the produce at the nearest market. Reaching Atbara we then turn away from the Nile and follow the road to the royal necropolis of Meroe. About an hour later we’ll see the pyramids of the ancient city for the first time, visible amongst the dunes in the distance. Remote and mysterious, Meroe was the cultural core of a Kushite civilisation that flourished for a thousand years. Today this remarkable site is littered with pyramids and funerary temples, some of them remarkably well preserved, their walls decorated with bas-reliefs showing the life of the kings and the gods.

Fixed safari-style camp (B,L,D)

Day 10: Meroe - Naqa: This morning we visit the Royal Necropolis before moving on to the Royal City itself. Excavations have confirmed that Meroe and its environs once covered a large area, with the royal quarters located in the centre and surrounded by suburbs and a boundary wall. Much of the area where the city is located is formed by numerous small hills, scattered with fragments of red clay that still await excavation. Departing the city we’ll visit the small market of Kabushia, before heading south to the archaeological sites of Mussawarat and Naqa where we’ll camp for the night.

Wild Camp (B,L,D)

* Please note that the ‘Royal Baths’ at Meroe may be closed to the public when we visit due to planned restoration work.
Day 11: Naqa - Mussawarat - Omdurman - Khartoum: After breakfast we’ll visit the 1st century Temple of Apedemak, whose sandstone walls are covered in engraved images of the Meroitic kings. We’ll also visit the ‘great enclosure’ at Mussawarat, whose numerous depictions of elephants imply that these great pachyderms once played an important role in this region. We’ll then continue to the old Sudanese capital of Omdurman and opening times permitting (always subject to change in Sudan), we plan to visit the site of the Khalifa House and the tomb of the Mahdi (from the outside only). Muhammad Ahmad led a Muslim revolt against the Egyptians and the British for nearly 15 years, killing General Gordon in the process and plunging the region into a bloody war with their colonial rulers. The decisive battle, that took place on 2nd September 1898, saw a combined force of British, Egyptian and Sudanese troops under Lord Kitchener inflict a massive defeat on the Mahdi forces, killing and wounding over 20,000 of the Mahdi’s Dervish warriors. We’ll arrive in Khartoum late this afternoon. 

Grand Holiday Villa or similar (B,L,D)

Day 12: In Khartoum: After breakfast this morning we’ll take a tour of the capital with a local guide, visiting the impressive archaeological museum, home to two beautiful temples that were rescued by UNESCO from the Lake Nasser area when the rising waters threatened to consume them forever. We’ll also see where the waters of the white & blue Niles meet, before heading out to witness the spectacular whirling dervishes. A sufi tradition this weekly event is a truly impressive ritual sure to leave a lasting impression on you! From here we’ll enjoy a farewell dinner in the city.

Grand Holiday Villa or similar (B,L,D)

Day 13: Tour Ends in Khartoum: The tour ends in the early hours of this morning. Those on the suggested group flights will transfer to Khartoum airport in time for their early morning flight. 

(B)

Extensions: If you have more time available, why not arrive early to adjust to a new time zone or just to get a feel for the country before your tour starts? Or alternatively you might choose to allow a few extra days after the tour to relax or to undertake some further exploration.

The choice is completely yours and we can usually arrange anything from simply additional accommodation and transfers to full tailor-made itineraries.

Here is just a small sample of what you could do:

Aswan & Around: As this tour does not spend any length of time in Aswan, why not arrive a day or two early for a guided tour of the city and surrounding sites like the Philae Temple, St Simeon’s Monastery and the Tombs of the Nobles?

Cairo & Luxor: Never been to Egypt before? Fancy revisiting some of the most famous archaeological sites in the world? Pre or post tour extensions to Cairo or Luxor can easily be arranged. We suggest a minimum of 3 nights in each city to see the major attractions.

Please contact the office for more details and to discuss your individual requirements.
PRICING

Tour price: All our tours are priced on a land-only basis, giving you maximum flexibility when deciding how to get to and from your tour. For the latest prices, please refer to our website or contact the office.

Travelling Solo & Single Supplements: As a company approximately 70% of our clients are solo travellers, so it’s very unlikely you’ll be alone!

Our prices are typically based on twin-share accommodation but single supplements are not compulsory for any Wild Frontiers tour. If you prefer not to pay a single supplement we’ll pair you with someone else of the same sex for you to share with throughout the trip.

On this trip, if you do opt to pay for a single supplement then please note that it will cover you for all nights except at the Nubian homestay and the Nubian Guesthouse (days 4 & 5). In other places, where rooms are limited (notably at Karima and Meroe), single rooms will be available according to the order in which people book, and pro-rata reductions on the price of the single supplement will be offered to those missing out at these locations.

Flights: If you would like us to send you a quote for the suggested tour flight (see GETTING THERE) or on any alternative flight that may suit you better, please let us know although it should be noted that in most cases we are only able to quote on flights originating in the UK.

Please remember that all Wild Frontiers tour prices mean NO hidden extras, NO local payments and NO compulsory single supplements.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

- Visas (if applicable)
- Local airport taxes
- Tips (always optional, but some guidance will be given in the pre-departure information pack you’ll receive after booking)
- Beverages other than drinking water & any costs of a personal nature
- International flights to/from the start/finish of the trip
- Airport transfers (unless booking suggested flights through WF office)

GETTING THERE

For this trip our suggested flights from the UK (subject to change) are:

29OCT MS778 LHR-CAI 14:00/20:40
29OCT MS090 CAI-ASW 22:15/23:40
10NOV MS858 KRT-CAI 10:50/12:50
10NOV MS779 CAI-LHR 17:30/21:00

Key:
LHR - London Heathrow
CAI - Cairo
ASW - Aswan
KRT - Khartoum
MS - Egypt Air

NB If you wish to arrange your own flights you are completely free to do so and in this case we can arrange any transfers or supplementary accommodation that you may require.

Please note that if you are planning on making your own flight arrangements, we recommend that you first check with us to see if the trip is guaranteed. We then suggest that you purchase flights that are flexible and ideally refundable as due to the nature of adventure travel, itineraries and destination accessibility can change at any time. For more information, please refer to our booking conditions.

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

- Full services of a Wild Frontiers Tour Leader with local guides and drivers
- Meal plan as detailed in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner) with drinking water as required with the majority of meals being taken in local restaurants where viable
- All transport as outlined in the itinerary.
- All accommodation
- 2-man dome tents while camping
- Foam mats while camping (though you need to being sleeping bags and pillows)
- All entrance fees, as per itinerary
- A carbon-offsetting contribution to Carbon Clear (if booking international flights through WF office)
**Insurance:** Insurance that provides cover for emergency repatriation in case of a medical emergency is compulsory for all tours. You should be aware that due to some of the geographical areas visited and some of the activities included on certain of our trips some standard insurance policies may not always provide adequate cover. As such we strongly recommend that you purchase a policy that adequately covers your trip.

Travel & General offer a tailor-made policy that provides cover for all Wild Frontiers trips. Under this policy there are two different levels of cover available – Standard and Elite.

**Cover explained:**

**Standard policy:** a comprehensive travel insurance policy that provides cover for all Wild Frontiers activities, including trekking up to 6,000m. This policy does not provide cover for travel to areas where the FCO is advising against all or all but essential travel except where it has been previously agreed.

**Elite policy:** provides the same comprehensive level of cover as the standard policy. In addition the Elite policy also provides cover for travel to areas where the FCO is advising against all or all but essential travel. Except in the case of terrorism, the policy will not provide cover for any claims arising from or relating to the reasons why the FCO is advising against travel.

For this trip the minimum requirement would be the **Standard policy**.

These policies are only available to those travelling on a Wild Frontiers holiday and can be purchased on a trip-specific basis or annual cover. For more information please refer to the details on our website www.wildfrontierstravel.com/insurance or by calling Travel & General direct on +44 (0) 20 3794 2954. This insurance is available to EEA residents (i.e. EU countries as well as Iceland, Lichtenstein and Norway) up to the age of 78. It covers horse riding, mountain walking, trekking, white-water rafting and all other activities we offer as part of our tours.

If you are over 78 then you may still be able to get your insurance arranged by

**Travel & General Insurance Services Limited. Please contact us for assistance with this.**

If you do decide to purchase alternative insurance, then you must ensure that it covers you for every aspect of this trip.

Wild Frontiers Limited is an Introducer Appointed Representative of Travel & General Insurance Service Ltd, details of which can be found at the website of the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) www.fca.org.uk

Please note that no insurance policy will cover every eventuality and terms and conditions will apply in the event of any claim. Both the Standard & Elite policies provide cancellation cover up to a maximum of £5000pp. Should you require additional cover it is available on request.

**Visas:** Visas are necessary for many of the destinations we travel to and while we aim to provide you with the most up-to-date information, requirements frequently change and as such for the latest advice we advise that you check with the relevant embassies or contact our recommended visa agency for this trip, details of which are below:-

Travcour
www.travcour.com

For this tour, UK passport holders currently require a visa for Sudan.

Non-UK passport holders or non-UK residents should contact the relevant embassies for individual requirements.

**NB:** It should also be noted that anyone with a passport showing evidence of having visited Israel (including having entered or left Jordan/Egypt from posts which are known to border Israel) are likely to be denied a visa for Sudan.

Moreover as of January 2016 US policy (subject to change) has stated that anyone wishing to travel to or via the USA is required to apply for a US visa (rather than an ESTA) if they have travelled to Sudan since March 2011. The process is fairly straightforward and you can read more about it here - www.wildfrontierstravel.com/us-visa - but this is just something you will need...
to aware of if you have future plans to travel to or via the US.

Further details will be sent out to you on booking, however ensuring that correct and valid visas are obtained remains the sole responsibility of the client.

Responsible Travel: Responsible travel and sustainable tourism are fundamental ideas that Wild Frontiers has been committed to since our birth. It is our strong belief that these words should not be simply ‘tagged on’ to dossiers and websites but should be at the very core of each trip, and our adventures are therefore designed with the local people, culture and eco-system in mind. We believe that a successful trip not only delivers a unique and unsurpassable journey for our clients, but that it also benefits the peoples whose lands we are privileged to visit.

In 2012 we were delighted to be awarded the Guardian Observer Best Ethical Travel Award.

The Wild Frontiers Foundation: Supporting communities has always played a huge part of the Wild Frontiers’ ethos and from the outset we have contributed to projects in many of the places we visit. However in 2009 we decided to take things a step further by setting up our own charitable foundation. Through the Wild Frontiers Foundation, we have not only developed our own community projects but also - by working closely with certain carefully selected charity partners - helped fund the invaluable work they do throughout the developing world. With our mandate firmly based on education and sustainability we established our first project in 2010 in the remote Northern Pakistan village of Baleygon, where around 100 children are now being educated in a school built and maintained by the Foundation.

Working with charity partners we have also established a number of e-learning centres in schools across Ethiopia, sponsored an English class in rural Northern Laos and funded hospitality traineeships for a number of young people from the Kolkata slums in India. Where practicable, Wild Frontiers clients will have the opportunity to visit our projects whilst on tour.

Visit www.wildfrontiersfoundation.org to see details of all our projects, along with ways you can get involved by taking on the challenge of a charity trek, attending our fundraising events or simply giving what you can. Other ongoing fundraising schemes include:-

Go Paperless: For UK-based clients who are happy for all their final travel documents to be sent by email rather than through the post, Wild Frontiers will donate £5 from each booking to the Foundation.

Kit Out for Kids: Nomad Travel Stores generously donates 5% of purchases by Wild Frontiers’ clients to the Foundation. Quote WF1000 either online or in store when purchasing clothing and kit and Nomad will give you 20% off full priced clothing and kit, plus the charitable donation. Visit www.nomadtravel.co.uk

The Environment: Trying to do our bit for the environment, in 2005 we were among the first UK-based travel companies to automatically offset every client’s international flight (if booked with us)
with a payment to Carbon Clear to help promote sustainable energy. To read more about the work of Carbon Clear, please follow this link:  www.carbon-clear.com

AITO Membership: Wild Frontiers is a member of AITO, the Association of Independent Tour Operators. AITO’s charter states that its exclusive members strive to create overseas holidays with high levels of professionalism and a shared concern for quality and personal service. The Association encourages the highest standards in all aspects of tour operating. AITO sets criteria regarding ownership, finance and quality which must be satisfied before new companies are admitted to membership. All members are required to adhere to a Code of Business Practice which encourages high operational standards and conduct.

British Foreign & Commonwealth Office: The travel advice of the British Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) highlights potential hazards people might experience when travelling abroad and as an advocate of their “Know Before You Go” campaign we strongly suggest that you refer to it before booking and contact us if you have any queries or concerns. Details can be found on the website below.

Non-UK citizens should consult the travel advice of their respective governments.

Wild Frontiers Community

If you’re still not sure if this trip is right or just want to see get some different perspectives, then why not have a look at the wide variety of resources we have on our website?

Clients’ Views: See what other travellers have said about our trips - www.wildfrontierstravel.com/views

Blogs: See what our tour-leaders, staff and clients have posted from the road - www.wildfrontierstravel.com/blog

Videos: They may not find their way on the list for Oscars nominations but we have an extensive (and growing) collection of short videos giving you an insight in many of our destinations - www.wildfrontierstravel.com/video

Photos: Our popular “Photo of the month” competition has added to the vast gallery of photos we already have from around the world. See them here - www.wildfrontierstravel.com/photos

Events: From time to time we hold informal presentations, photo exhibitions and dinner evenings mainly in the London area. To find out more see here - www.wildfrontierstravel.com/events

Wild Miles Club: Everyone that has booked a trip directly with us will become an automatic member of the Wild Miles Club gaining instant access to a range of exclusive discounts from a variety of travel partners from bookshops to outdoor clothing shops. In addition, regular direct bookers will earn “Wild Miles” which can earn you up to 10% in discounts off of all tours. For more information visit this page - www.wildfrontierstravel.com/wild-miles

Facebook: Keep up to date with the latest news and special offers by liking our Facebook page - www.facebook.com/wildfrontiers
EGYPT & SUDAN- THE FACTS

Egypt: Egypt is an extraordinary country, the most populous nation of the Middle East with 75 million people, and it has an energy and charm all of its own. The legacy of the master architects, creators of such incredible structures as the Pyramids, Sphinx, Temple of Karnak and the Valley of the Kings, is never far away, as farmers along the Nile tend their soil alongside the ruins of one of the greatest cultures the world has seen.

Aswan: Lying at the southern extremes of Ancient Egypt, Aswan is a fascinating city of contrasts; here the ancient world of the pharaohs locks horns with the cultural traditions of Arabia and Africa. Beyond the city lie the expansive waters of Lake Nasser and the fabulous rock-cut temples of Abu Simbel, whilst to the south is the massive construction of the Aswan High Dam, engineering achievements of stunning complexity that span some 4000 years of Egyptian history. Aswan is also home to the spectacular 6th century Monastery of St Simeon, a Coptic retreat that lies amongst the desert dunes across the river, close to the imposing grandeur of the tomb of the Aga Khan. Set against a beguiling backdrop of dunes and feluccas, the city is a wonderful place to wander and enjoy the rich atmosphere of its unique setting. You can take tea on the terrace of the Old Cataract Hotel, where Agatha Christie wrote part of ‘Death on the Nile’, stroll down through the spice markets and back streets of its bustling town, or simply relax amongst the lovely botanical gardens of Kitchener’s Island.

Sudan: Previously Africa’s largest country, until Southern Sudan split away and became independent, Sudan has a connection with Egypt and the Nile that stretches back into antiquity. The country’s recent history has been blighted by civil, political and religious unrest, but this vast land was the powerbase of the powerful Kushite and Meroitic kingdoms for centuries. Its capital, Khartoum, sees the converging waters of the White and Blue Niles meet to form the great river itself and from here it begins its long journey north, through the desert landscapes of ancient Nubia and into the fertile ribbon of the Nile Valley to the Mediterranean. Rich in history and culture, the Sudan can boast nearly 600 ethnic groups, speaking over 400 different languages and dialects and divided between the Muslim north and the Christian south. This cultural and religious divide has had a profound effect on the history of the Sudan, perpetuated by a policy of isolationism by the British of the 1920s that barred movement between the southern tribes and the northern Arabs. Following independence in 1956, a protracted civil war between north and south has since spilled over into the western regions of Darfur.
The Nile: The longest river in the world, the Nile has always been central to life in Egypt and the deserts of the Sudan. To the ancient Egyptians it was simply the ‘Great River’ and for over 4000 miles, its moods and inundations brought the rich dark soil that meant the difference between life and death to the people who lived along its banks. Its two major tributaries begin in the great lakes of Central Africa and the highlands of Ethiopia and both come together in the Sudanese capital, to form the mighty river whose timeless course still passes through landscapes that have changed little since Pharaonic times. Even today its life giving waters are still essential to the communities that live beside it and as it passes through northern Sudan and beyond the cataracts into the Nile Valley, its fast running waters still nourish fields of corn, sweet potato, watermelon and dates. The Nile of today flows through an incredible landscape that spans countless millennia of human development, from the haunting remains of lost civilisations and remote rural villages, to the remarkable engineering feats of Lake Nasser and the Aswan Dam.

The Meroe Pyramids: The Nubian pyramids at Meroe once lay at the heart of a Kushitic Kingdom that flourished for over 1000 years. The site is strewn with a fabulous collection of pyramids that number in their hundreds, and whilst many now lie in ruins, the significance and sheer majesty of the site remains. Discovered by a French mineralogist in 1821, the pyramids sit above a collection of sepulchral chambers that once held the bodies of Meroitic royalty and it has been ascertained that at its peak the city was trading in iron ore, textiles and gold with countries as far afield as China and India. At the time iron ore was the most important metal in the world and Meroe’s metalworkers were considered the best anywhere, leading to the ancient capital being compared with the industrial output of the blast furnaces of the English Midlands. The site today contains the largest collection of pyramids in the Sudan, some of which have been restored to something approaching their former glory, including the beautiful ‘Lion Temple’ at Musawwarat es Sufra and some of the temple complexes at nearby Naqa.

Khartoum: The Sudanese capital since independence in 1956, Khartoum is home to the country’s largest museum as well as one of its largest souks, the expansive Haj Al Arab in nearby Omdurman. The city began its life as an outpost for the Egyptian army under Ibrahim Pasha in 1821, growing to prominence on the back of the growing slave trade. Then, on 26 January 1885, the city became infamous as the site of the slaughter of the Anglo-Egyptian garrison by troops loyal to the Mahdi Muhammad Ahmad and the murder of General Charles George Gordon. The city’s National Museum contains the Egyptian temples of Buhen and Semna, originally built by Queen Hatshepsut.
How to Book:

In order to confirm your booking we need to have a completed signed booking form for each client together with a £400 deposit per person. You can either return your booking form to us by post or by booking online at www.wildfrontierstravel.com.

You can contact the office by email to info@wildfrontierstravel.com or we are very happy to take your call on + 44 (0) 20 8741 7390.

Protection for you money:

The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT) provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for Wild Frontiers, and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following:

1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK;
2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; and
3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK, which are sold to customers outside of the UK.

1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with Wild Frontiers.

If you choose to book your international flights with us then you will also be ATOL protected as we hold an Air Travel Organiser’s Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Our ATOL number is 5975. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will arrange to refund any monies to you that you have paid for an advance booking and ensure that you are not stranded abroad. For further information visit www.atol.org.uk.

We recommend that you take out adequate travel insurance at the time of booking in the event that you are no longer able to travel as all deposits are non-refundable - full booking conditions can be found on the booking form and online at our website.

As we’re sure you can appreciate, Wild Frontiers trips can be quite complex affairs to arrange and certain elements (such as permits, visa authorisations, trains and flights) may need to be requested several months in advance. As such, wherever possible, we would encourage you to plan ahead and book early to avoid disappointment. Moreover, by booking early you are much more likely to get the best price for your whole tour. For further details, please refer to www.wildfrontierstravel.com/book-early.

Further information:

When you make a confirmed booking with Wild Frontiers we will send you a pre-departure information pack giving you details on visas, health and vaccinations, packing lists, suggested reading on the region, photography and other useful tips to make your trip more enjoyable.
Why Wild Frontiers?

Wild Frontiers is proud to have been regularly voted one of the top ten tour operators by readers of Wanderlust Travel Magazine over the last ten years. A number of our innovative itineraries have been included in National Geographic Traveller Magazine’s “Trips of a Lifetime”, and our acclaimed Tour Leaders regularly feature in the Wanderlust World Guide Awards, with Mark Steadman winning gold in 2015. Responsible travel has always been incredibly important to us, so we were delighted to be awarded Best Ethical Tour Operator by The Guardian/Observer in 2012.

We are frequently asked what makes Wild Frontiers different from other tour operators. Below are a few of the factors that we believe set us apart from our competitors and form the reasons as to why our clients travel with us again and again...

**Personal Service & Expertise:** Our London office is manned by experienced expedition leaders and most trips we run stem from our first-hand knowledge - in short, we run the kind of holidays that as passionate travellers, we like to do ourselves. When you ring our office, you can be guaranteed to chat to someone who knows the region and the terrain and is able to offer sound and practical advice.

**Authentic, Cutting-Edge Experiences:** Our unique, original itineraries allow you to take journeys that venture beneath the surface of the region. We rarely run any group tour more than a couple of times a year and they are typically on routes we have discovered for ourselves, meaning we are able to give a truly authentic, off-the-beaten-track experience.

**Be the First:** Our style of travel is all about exploration, and nothing excites us more than opening up new routes to genuine travellers, even if that makes our job harder at times! We keep abreast of new destinations and are often the first to return to places that have vanished from the tourist map. We were the first back into Pakistan after 9/11, the first to return to Kashmir after a decade of tourist isolation, and amongst the first to run a commercial travel trip to Afghanistan for almost 30 years. Since then we have helped bring Colombia, Iran, Georgia and Bangladesh back into the tourist fold, specialising in ground-breaking reconnaissance trips and imaginative expeditions.

**Small Group Size:** On our escorted tours, we believe it is imperative to keep the group sizes small. Most trips are limited to an average maximum of 12 travellers, thus giving you more access to fragile cultures, better opportunities to interact with local people, and the knowledge you are making less of an impact while there. “Having been a bit apprehensive about joining a group as a single traveller, I found myself surrounded by interesting, friendly, helpful people who I hope to catch up with again on future trips.” Angela Chick, Kashmir Group Tour

**Cost of Group Tours:** We believe in an honest, upfront pricing structure so you know exactly what the tour will cost before you book. On our group tours we avoid local payments, ‘optional extras’ or forcing our clients to go through the annoying procedure of splitting every meal bill. Our tours are provided on a predominantly full board basis, with drinking water, government permits, entrance fees and transport all included.

**Our clients:** Your companions can make or break a trip, and it’s lucky therefore that our clients are often our greatest asset. Travelling to remote regions is not for everyone, and as such we tend to attract open-minded travellers looking for genuine experiences, and a desire to reach those hard to get to places.

**Responsible Travel:** Awarded 5 star status by AITO (Association of Independent Tour operators), responsible tourism (RT) has always been an integral part of our company ethos and our adventures are designed with the local people, culture and eco-system in mind. In 2012 we were awarded the Guardian Observer Best Ethical Travel Award. For further details please refer to the RT section of our website - [www.wildfrontierstravel.com/rt](http://www.wildfrontierstravel.com/rt)