



# Sudan

## Includes ➔

Khartoum .....	144
Meroe .....	151
Wadi Halfa .....	152
Karima .....	154
Taka Mountains .....	155
Port Sudan .....	156
Nuba Mountains .....	157
Understand Sudan .....	157
Survival Guide .....	159

## Best Ancient Sites

- ➔ Begrawiya pyramids (p151)
- ➔ Soleb Temple (p152)
- ➔ Jebel Barkal sites (p154)
- ➔ Kerma sites (p153)
- ➔ Nuri pyramids (p154)
- ➔ El Kurru (p154)

## Best for Sudanese Culture

- ➔ Nile-side village life (p152)
- ➔ Halgt Zikr (p145)
- ➔ Nuba wrestlers (p146)
- ➔ Nuba Mountains (if safe; p157)

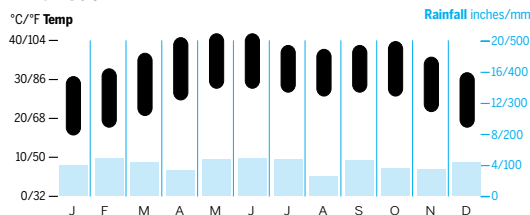
## Why Go?

Wake at the break of day under the golden pyramids of god-like kings of old; traverse a searing desert to the place where two Niles become one and watch a million blood red fish swarm through gardens of coral. Whichever way you look at it, there's just no denying that among Sudan's sweeping hills of sand lie treasures the rest of the world are only just beginning to understand.

Until July 2011 Sudan was the biggest country in Africa, but now, with South Sudan having broken away to form a new nation, maps of Africa are being redrawn. This redefining of national boundaries is making for huge changes, geographically, politically, financially and culturally, for the Sudanese. But for a traveller some things never change; Sudanese hospitality remains second to none, and for most people, travelling through Sudan is such an eye-opening and rewarding experience that many come away saying that Sudan was their favourite country in Africa.

## When to Go

### Khartoum



**Nov–Feb** Winter offers perfect temperatures and clear skies.

**Sep–Oct** Catch the camel races in Kassala.

**Nov** The European Film Festival is held in Khartoum.

# KHARTOUM

POP 5,274,000 (GREATER KHARTOUM)

Built where the two Niles meet, Khartoum defies expectations. Rather than the run-down, undeveloped city many people imagine, Khartoum is a boisterous, modern, flashy city with an ever-increasing number

of glass tower blocks altering its skyline. As well as an excellent museum, some fascinating souqs and Nile-side views, Khartoum's good facilities, hospitable people and laid-back vibe mean that most people find it an agreeable place to come to terms with being in Sudan.



## Sudan Highlights

- 1 Discover **Begrawiya** (p151), where Sudan's best-preserved pyramids are enveloped in sand dunes.
- 2 Follow the sluggish Nile through searing desert past beautiful old ruins and remote sun-baked towns from **Wadi Halfa to Dongola** (p152).
- 3 Explore exotic markets and the Taka Mountains in **Kassala** (p155).
- 4 Sweep away the sandy layers of time and discover a wealth of Pharaonic ruins, tombs and pyramids in **Karima** (p154).
- 5 Be overawed by the mighty Egyptian temple of **Soleb** (p152) and look for crocodiles in the nearby Nile.
- 6 Relish the lush greenery of the mountains where Africa meets Arabia in the

**Nuba Mountains** (but only if it's safe; p157).

- 7 Survey the world from the top of Kerma's **deffufa** (p153), centrepiece of one of the world's oldest towns.
- 8 Dive into a rainbow of colour on the pristine coral reefs of the Sudanese Red Sea near **Port Sudan** (p156).