

## EXTENSION TO SOLEB (3 days)

### Day 9 / Karima – Temple of Soleb – Island of Sai -

Today we drive west through the *Nubian Desert*. We reach the Nile and we cross the Bridge to Dongola city, we continue north on the western side of the Nile on the new asphalt road that crosses part of the Western Desert which in some areas has some nice granite formations. We reach the **Temple of Soleb**. Here we have our picnic lunch in the



house of the Guardian of the temple. After lunch we drive a further half a hour north to then cross the Nile on a fisherman boat to reach the **Island of Sai** an important archaeological area where we can find ancient remains from

Kerma civilization, Egyptian and Christian culture. During the navigation to the island we may hope to see Nile crocodiles on the shore of the river. After the visit we return to main land and drive back to the house where we will spend the night.

#### **Nubian house in Soleb**

*This is a typical Nubian house with some rooms with 4 beds each, verandas with other beds, 2 long drop toilets, 1 naturally sun heated water shower. There is a generator working for a couple of hours, so people can charge the batteries from their cameras. A kitchen and a room for the driver is also available. The food will be prepared by our cook. The sleeping bags with sheets and mosquito nets are provided by our organization. SGL rooms cannot be guaranteed.*

### Day 10 / Soleb – Ferry crossing – 3<sup>rd</sup> cataract – Sebu – Tombos -

This morning we visit 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. We then drive south leaving the main road to reach the Nile and following it among some villages before arriving to the ferry. Here we cross the River to arrive to the Eastern bank just north of the rapids 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. We walk up the hill to the ancient Ottoman Fort where we can have beautiful views of the cataract. 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 continue driving through the **Nubian villages** and among the huge rocks of the Third Cataract to the village of **Tombos**. Here there were the ancient granite quarries with the remains of a **statue of the King Taharqa**, simply left there in the desert about 2800 years ago and some interesting Egyptian stele engraved on the rocks. We spend the night in a local private Nubian house, with simple/basic rooms and sharing facilities, but clean and with a couple of western toilets and shower. Dinner and overnight stay. (B.L.D.)

#### **Day 11 / Tombos – Kerma – Karima**

A short drive this morning takes us to **Kerma** where we visit the majestic “**Defuffa**” the monument that characterizes Kerma civilization. Very interesting is the Museum created by the Swiss archaeological mission after the recovery of seven statues of the Black Pharaohs in 2003.

We have time to visit also the Eastern Defuffa located in the middle of the Necropolis, but to reach we need to cross agricultural fields. In the afternoon we return to Karima (B.L.D.)

#### **Day 12 / Karima - Khartoum**

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 can return to the interesting **souk IF required by the group**. Then we cross the Nile and check-in at the hotel where day use rooms will be available until 23.30. Dinner free. (B.L.)

#### **Day 13 / Departure**

Transfer and boarding the international flight.

***The itinerary can be run in opposite direction without any change for the visits and for the excursions.***