

SUDAN

**Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax): ++249**

Ministry of Environment and Tourism: PO Box 300, Khartoum, Sudan Tel: (11) 462 604 Fax: (11) 471 437

Capital: Khartoum **Time:** GMT + 2

Background: The island, with its fine natural harbor at Castries, was contested between England and France throughout the 17th and early 18th centuries (changing possession 14 times); it was finally ceded to the UK in 1814. Self government was granted in 1967 and independence in 1979.

Location: Northern Africa, bordering the Red Sea, between Egypt and Eritrea

Map References: Africa

Area: total: 2,505,810 sq km, land: 2.376 million sq km, water: 129,810 sq km

Climate: tropical in south; arid desert in north; rainy season (April to October)

Terrain: generally flat, featureless plain; mountains in east and west

Natural Resources: petroleum; small reserves of iron ore, copper, chromium ore, zinc, tungsten, mica, silver, gold, hydropower

Population: 35,079,814 (July 2000 est.)

Nationality: *noun:* Sudanese (singular and plural), *adjective:* Sudanese

Ethnic Groups: black 52%, Arab 39%, Beja 6%, foreigners 2%, other 1%

Religions: Sunni Muslim 70% (in north), indigenous beliefs 25%, Christian 5% (mostly in south and Khartoum)

Languages: Arabic (official), Nubian, Ta Bedawie, diverse dialects of Nilotic, Nilo-Hamitic, Sudanic languages, English note: program of Arabization in process

Economy: Sudan is buffeted by civil war, chronic political instability, adverse weather, weak world commodity prices, a drop in remittances from abroad, and counterproductive economic policies. The private sector's main areas of activity are agriculture and trading, with most private industrial investment predating 1980. Agriculture employs 80% of the work force. Industry mainly processes agricultural items. Sluggish economic performance over the past decade, attributable largely to declining annual rainfall, has kept per capita income at low levels. A large foreign debt and huge arrears continue to cause difficulties. In 1990 the International Monetary Fund (IMF) took the unusual step of declaring Sudan noncooperative because of its nonpayment of arrears to the Fund. After Sudan backtracked on promised reforms in 1992-93, the IMF threatened to expel Sudan from the Fund. To avoid expulsion, Khartoum agreed to make token payments on its arrears to the Fund, liberalize exchange rates, and reduce subsidies, measures it has partially implemented. The government's continued prosecution of the civil war and its growing international isolation continued to inhibit growth in the nonagricultural sectors of the economy during 1999. The government has worked with foreign partners to develop the oil sector, and the country is producing approximately 150,000 barrels per day.

Industries: cotton ginning, textiles, cement, edible oils, sugar, soap distilling, shoes, petroleum refining

Currency: 1 Sudanese dinar (SD) = 100 piastres; note - in July 1999 the Sudanese Central Bank made the formal declaration that all dealings with the Sudanese pound should stop

Railways: total: 5,311 km, narrow gauge: 4,595 km 1.067-m gauge; 716 km 1.6096-m gauge plantation line, note: the main line linking Khartoum to Port Sudan carries over two-thirds of Sudan's rail traffic

Highways: total: 11,900 km, paved: 4,320 km, unpaved: 7,580 km (1996 est.)

Waterways: 5,310 km navigable

Ports and Harbors: Juba, Khartoum, Kusti, Malakal, Nimule, Port Sudan, Sawakin

Airports: 61 (1999 est.) Airports - with paved runways: total: 12, over 3,047 m: 1, 2,438 to 3,047 m: 8, 1,524 to 2,437 m: 3 (1999 est.) Airports - with unpaved runways: total: 49, 1,524 to 2,437 m: 15 914 to 1,523 m: 24, under 914 m: 10 (1999 est.)

Heliports: 1 (1999 est.)

Visa: required by all.

Duty Free: permitted goods: 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 450g of tobacco; a reasonable amount of perfume and eau de toilette for personal use; a reasonable amount of gifts.

Health: the risk of yellow fever is primarily in the equatorial south. A yellow fever certificate is required from travellers. Malaria risk exists throughout the year. All water should be regarded as a potential health risk.

HOTELS•MOTELS•INNS

KHARTOUM

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