

World Vision



# VISITOR'S GUIDE IN SUDAN

## About World Vision

World Vision is an international Christian humanitarian, development and advocacy organisation. Our work began in the 1950s, with one man-Bob Pierce- who committed to help one child in one country with just \$5. Bob Pierce, a preacher and war correspondent witnessed tragedy and poverty as he helped missionaries across Asia.

Today World Vision has operations in nearly 100 countries worldwide responding to the call of serving the world's most vulnerable regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

In Sudan World Vision has been responding to the Darfur crisis since June 2004. World Vision has programmes in South Darfur and Blue Nile states with interventions in food assistance, health and nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, food security and sustainable livelihoods and education. Our work in South Darfur accounts for approximately 80 per cent of the total annual budget

## Our vision

**Our vision for every child, life in all its fullness;  
Our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so**

## Our Child well-being aspirations

Our work centers around four strategic goals to improve the well-being of children: World Vision wants all children to:

- ▲ Enjoy good health
- ▲ Be educated for life
- ▲ Live in harmony with, and love their neighbours
- ▲ Be loved, cared for and participating

## Funding for World Vision in Sudan

World Vision Sudan operations are funded through donations from individual private donors and public institutions such as multilateral organisations, UN and government agencies. Some of our major donors include: Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, European Union, European Commission on Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), UK's Department for International Aid (DFID), Canada's department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Act (DFATD), Government of Germany, Irish Aid, World Food Program, UNICEF, UN Development Program and Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO).



**Dear Visitor,  
Welcome to Sudan!**

World Vision is glad to welcome you to Sudan, Africa's third largest country. As you visit us in Sudan, there are important issues that you need to know in order to make your stay more comfortable and safe.

**Important to note:** Before arriving, visitors should try to gain a basic understanding of the culture, politics, economy and security of the country and area to be visited, and of World Vision's programmes in Sudan. Additionally, the following documents are available on our external website: [www.wvi.org/Sudan](http://www.wvi.org/Sudan)

- ▲ **Country Fact sheet**
- ▲ **Capacity Statement**
- ▲ **Annual Report**
- ▲ **Strategy Overview**



**Brief overview  
of Sudan**

- ▲ Officially referred to as the Republic of Sudan, the country is located in the Nile Valley of North Africa.
- ▲ The Nile River divides the country into eastern and western halves.
- ▲ Sudan Borders Egypt to the north, the Red Sea, Eritrea and Ethiopia to the east, South Sudan to the south, the Central Africa Republic to the southwest, Chad to the west and Libya to the northwest
- ▲ Area: 1,886,068 sq km; **Estimated population: 39 million**
- ▲ The capital city of the country is Khartoum, the political, cultural and commercial centre of the nation
- ▲ The Sudanese official religion is Islam with presence of small Christian community.
- ▲ Sudan is a member of the United Nations, the African Union, the Arab League, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and the Non-Aligned Movement.
  
- ▲ Sudan is a federal presidential representative democratic republic. The politics of Sudan are regulated by the National Assembly. The Sudanese legal system is based on Islamic law.



**General country  
information**



## Language

The official language in Sudan is Arabic. There are diverse dialects of Nilotic, Nilo-Hamitic and Sudanic languages. English is also spoken.

## Religion

Over 97% of the population practice Islam.

## Currency

Sudanese Pound (SDG).

## Exchange rate

1 US\$ = 6.4 SDG

**Important to note:** The exchange rate is not constant, it fluctuates from time to time

**The country code is +249**



## **Travel information**

## Visa and travel permits

- ▲ All visitors require an entry visa into Sudan. The entry visa is obtained from the visitor's country of origin or Sudanese embassy in another country. **Important to note:** You must have a passport valid for not less than six months.
- ▲ When applying for an entry visa into Sudan with a plan to visit other places other than Khartoum, one needs to state the places they intend to travel to. A Tourist Visa does not allow you to travel to Darfur or any other place outside of the capital city. Travelling out of Khartoum requires one to have a travel permit, which is issued by the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC).
- ▲ On arrival in Khartoum, visitors are requested to hand over their passports to the Liaison department to process their registration. Travel permits to other places in the country outside of Khartoum can only be processed after the registration procedure is done. **\*\*HAC** is the government regulatory body charged with facilitating and monitoring the work of international and national non-governmental organisations in the country.
- ▲ Minimum three months advance notice is required to process a visit visa to Sudan.

## Visitors to Sudan

- ▲ A yellow fever vaccination card is also required when entering into Sudan.
- ▲ The application letter for entry into Sudan usually must be accompanied by an itinerary clearly indicating the objective/purpose of the visit and places to be visited, if any, outside of Khartoum.
- ▲ Please consult with the World Vision Liaison team, to assist you to apply for the necessary travel permits as well as travel arrangements outside of Khartoum.
- ▲ World Vision Sudan requires that World Vision staff visitors undergo HEAT training to travel outside of Khartoum.

**Important to note:** Processing visa to Sudan varies, visitors are therefore strongly advised to apply early to avoid inconveniences.

All visas applications should be sent to the Sudan embassy or consulate offices in the visitor's country for processing. Visitors can also be issued with visas upon arrival if there is no Sudan embassy in the concerned country, of which you will be charged US\$100.

## Medication

- ▲ Visitors are advised to take anti malaria medication for the duration of their stay in Sudan. Those going to the Darfur region should especially take precautions and take all the necessary vaccinations (meningitis and hepatitis).

## Visitors to Khartoum

The capital city is a big city with all the necessary services and facilities. Hotels, restaurants, shopping malls, hospitals are available. There is also a public transport system that serves the city and its environs. The airport is right inside the city; about 15 minutes drive from the World Vision office.

## Climate /Weather Conditions

- ▲ Tropical as you move down south, arid desert in north. Rainy season varies by region (April to November). The main rainy season is from June to September with high intensity in July and August.
- ▲ Khartoum and Nyala temperatures vary between 25 degrees minimum and 45 degrees maximum, with humidity of 44%. In Khartoum, the warmest months are May and June, when average highs are 41°C and temperatures can reach 48°C.

## Clothing

- ▲ Sudan is predominantly Muslim, which requires conservative dressing.
- ▲ **Women:** Western clothes, not tight, not see through, no sleeveless shirts, No shorts. Short sleeves are acceptable in the city area only. Skirts must be longer than mid calf length. **Men:** Western clothes, no shorts, no sleeveless shirts. Short sleeves are acceptable.

## Accommodation

World Vision visitors are accommodated either at the World Vision Guest house within the office which has good facilities including kitchen facilities where guests can prepare their meals of choice. Alternatively, guests can stay in any one of the recommended hotels in Khartoum for about US\$ 120 a night. Visitors take care of their meals. There are plenty of restaurants in Khartoum.

## Restaurants in Khartoum

There are a variety of places to eat out in Khartoum. Some of the popular restaurants include:

- ▲ Steers: A fast food provider specialising in chicken, fries and burgers

- ▲ Amwaj: Provides Sudanese traditional food
- ▲ Little India: India deli among others.
- ▲ Ozone cafe: a popular coffee house that serves coffee, pastries, cakes, icecream etc and has fans with built in water sprinklers to beat the heat

We recommend that you contact World Vision administration staff to facilitate you. to these places.

**Important to note:** It is worth noting that, the restaurants generally do not open during the day when it is Ramadan-the Muslim month of fasting and on Fridays.

## Security

Khartoum is safe. Most embassies are present. There is a large international community and a few churches dotted around the city in Khartoum.

## Transport

Khartoum has functional public transport system many people travel either by bus or by taxi. World Vision however provides transport to its visitors. There is a duty driver on call at night (see telephone number above). It is safe to take a taxi in Khartoum. It is not advisable to travel by bus since most of them overload.

## Airport pick-up

World Vision usually arranges beforehand for visitors airport pick-up through the travel agent or the liaison department. Before your arrival to Sudan you will be given a contact number for which to contact in case of anything.

## Photography

Taking pictures is a very sensitive issue in Sudan. It is a requirement by law that one obtains a photo permit from the Ministry of Information by submitting a written request explaining the purpose of photography.

Receiving a photo permit especially out of Khartoum may take at least 14 days to be issued. If you will require a photo permit, please inform the Liaison department at least two weeks before your arrival.

## Police Clearance

All visitors to Sudan are required to ensure they have completed all appropriate pre-departure reference checks. Contact Liaison Coordinator: [Khalid\\_Abdelrahman@wvi.org](mailto:Khalid_Abdelrahman@wvi.org) for more information.



## Child Protection Behaviour Protocol

As a child focused organisation, World Vision is committed to the protection of children from all forms of abuse such as violence, exploitation and neglect.

Therefore all visitors to World Vision Sudan must commit in writing that they will have the interests of the children first. All World Vision visitors (including staff, volunteers/ interns, donors, sponsors, partners, contractors must abide by and acknowledge in writing the receipt and understanding of World Vision Child Protection Behaviour Policy.

**Important to note:** This must be signed before you commence your visit to the field and having any contact with children.

## Traveling out of Khartoum to South Darfur

South Darfur is situated to the south of Sudan's western Darfur region. To the Southwest it borders the Central African Republic and (since July 2011) South Sudan to the Southeast. Darfur region consists of five states; South Darfur, North Darfur, East, West and Central Darfur. It has an area of 127,300 km square (49,200 square miles) and an estimated population of 2,890,348 (2006 census) 1.

Nyala is the capital of South Darfur and is the centre for World Vision Sudan's operations in South Darfur State. It has traditionally been a major trading centre with neighbouring countries including Chad and Central Africa Republic.

Upon arrival in Nyala, security officers at the airport will ask for a copy of your travel permit. The travel permit that you will receive in Khartoum has several copies.

**Important to note:** Visitors are advised to give one to the authorities and retain the other copies including the original because they will be required during their stay in Sudan

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.southdarfur.gov.sd/en/>

## Accommodation in Nyala

World Vision visitors are accommodated at the World Vision guesthouse located near the office. The guesthouse is fully furnished and equipped with a functional kitchen and other facilities

## Transport in Nyala

World Vision Sudan office in Nyala facilitates the transport of visitors at all times.

## Travelling out of Nyala to project areas

Visitors need additional special clearance from the local authorities to visit areas outside of the town and the camps for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

**Important to note:** Your travel permit (issued to you in Khartoum) will be used to apply for this clearance, therefore carry the copies with you at all times.



## **The Dos while in Sudan**

- ▲ Modesty is strongly recommended in the Islamic culture.
- ▲ Dress modestly and appropriately.
- ▲ Use right hand for eating and greeting. Left hand is regarded as the hand for ablutions etc.
- ▲ Give preference to older people.
- ▲ Show great respect for Islam and do not criticise it.
- ▲ Show respect for cultural differences that you do not understand.
- ▲ Ask for explanation of actions that do not make sense to you.
- ▲ Abstain from alcohol and drugs.
- ▲ Always be polite – do not shout at people.



## **The Don'ts while in Sudan**

- ▲ Do not take photographs unless you have obtained permission
- ▲ Do not stand in front of someone who is praying
- ▲ Stay away from discussing politics and religion
- ▲ Always be patient (do not show that you are angry or in a hurry).
- ▲ Always be persistent (Do not take no for an answer but appeal to the person's goodness to assist you).
- ▲ Do not shake hands with the opposite sex. Look to the other person to see if they put their hand out first. If a religious leader he may not shake hands with a younger woman.
- ▲ Do not argue over a dispute but seek resolution through a third party. Allow the party at fault to save face.
- ▲ Do not eat until all are served and if you are served something you do not want to eat, do not make a big deal of it, and just leave it on your plate.
- ▲ Do not complement or admire things that people have for they may feel obligated to give it to you.
- ▲ Do not laugh or make fun of others in public. Treat everyone with respect
- ▲ Do not turn your back to a person in authority, but apologise if it is unavoidable.
- ▲ Do not interrupt a person in authority who is speaking to you and do not disagree with them directly or publicly.



## **Essential contacts while in Sudan**



<b>Country Programme Director</b>	<b>+249 91 215 5667</b>
<b>P&amp;C Associate Director</b>	<b>+249 91 215 5943</b>
<b>Operations Director</b>	<b>+249 91 215 5661</b>
<b>WV Duty Driver</b>	<b>+249 91 821 0533</b>
<b>Country Security Officer</b>	<b>+249 91 217 6972</b>
<b>Police Control Room</b>	<b>+249 71 18 2217</b>
<b>UNDSS Radio Room</b>	<b>+249 12 17 2957</b>
<b>Police Toll Free Line</b>	<b>996 / 999</b>

## **Contact us:**

**World Vision Sudan  
Al-Geraif Gharb, Al Manshia  
Block #1 house 10 Khartoum East  
P.O Box 15143 Khartoum Sudan  
Tel. +2491557779308**

**Learn more on: [www.wvi.org/Sudan](http://www.wvi.org/Sudan)**