



Equatoria Tribes

SOUTH SUDAN

Photo by S. Lavery



12 days

01 - 12 December 2026

English speaking guide



The 'unforgettable' of the trip:

- The majestic **White Nile** and the bustling Konyo Konyo market in **Juba**
- The **Lopit warriors** in their traditional 'armour'
- In the small kingdom of **Lotuko**, admiring superb traditional architecture
- At the foot of the **Boya Hills**, to meet the **Larim** tribe
- The **Toposa** herders and their distinctive 'bomas'
- The tribal dances of the **Jiye** herders, with their scarifications and piercings
- Life at the **Mundari** camp, home to zebu herders



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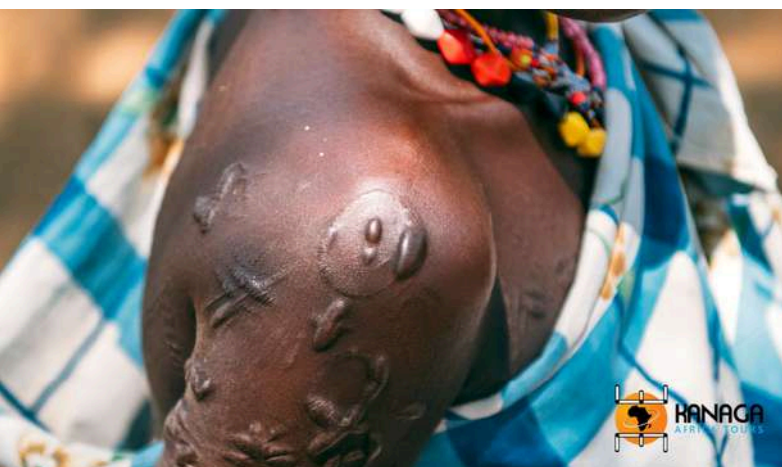
Ethnographic Journey in South Sudan

In the regions of Central and Eastern Equatoria, there are dozens of ethnic groups and sub-groups, considered among the most isolated and poorest in the world, due to the paralysis the country has been in for decades, but very rich in traditions and free from the flattening of modern times, which is often the enemy of peoples' identity cultures.

A common characteristic of these strongly identity-driven peoples, and of many other tribes inhabiting the South Sudanese lands, is undoubtedly their deep attachment to their ancestral traditions, which have been perpetuated intact for centuries, motivated by animist beliefs and very ancient cults, despite the spread of the Christian religion in South Sudan. Focusing on propitiatory sacrificial ceremonies, initiations and rites of passage to adulthood, and ancestor worship, their rites are mainly governed by the cyclical nature of the rains and natural events, officiated by a spiritual leader. To visit the villages and rural communities of what was called Equatoria by the first settlers is to plunge into an authentic dimension that goes far beyond history, into a temporal sphere that still belongs to myth and nature. This is due to the forced, but also partly desired, isolation of these populations, in a country that has particularly suffered from international and internal contrasts, but that today is increasingly moving towards the coveted stability.

A trip off the tourist track, for real travellers

A trip to South Sudan requires strong motivation and an excellent spirit of adaptation. The ethnographic treasures that this country holds are not easily accessible, the organisation and logistics are complex, and a bit of luck is often required to be repaid for the efforts made during the tour (trying as much as possible to participate in spontaneous ceremonies). There will be long transfers, you will often travel on uneven tracks, you will have to wait patiently at checkpoints, you will have to adapt to possible itinerary changes ... In short, an experience for 'true travellers' who are not discouraged by the complexity of the African reality, aware that the possibility of spending a few hours in the remote villages of the Toposa, or watching the dances of the Jiye tribe, or even admiring the return to camp of hundreds of zebu at Mundari at sunset, are privileges reserved for the few, and precious gifts that will certainly repay the hardships of the journey.



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SOUTH SUDAN

Day 1: Tuesday 01 December

Outward flight/Juba (JUB)

Evening flight to Juba.

Day 2: Wednesday 02 December

Juba

On arrival, meet with the Kanaga Africa Tours staff, who will assist with exchanging euros and purchasing a local SIM card. The afternoon is spent visiting Juba, Africa's youngest capital: the viewpoint overlooking the White Nile and the colourful Konyo Konyo market. Overnight stay at the Royal Palace Hotel or similar, in double rooms with services.

Day 3: Thursday 03 December

Juba/Lopit Tribe/Torit/Lotuko Kingdom

Breakfast at the hotel and transfer to TORIT. On the way, we will encounter the LOPIT PEOPLE, where we will be able to admire the warriors in their traditional dress. We'll continue on to the LOTUKO KINGDOM, a people who settled in the area in the 15th century, becoming sedentary and living off agriculture, livestock farming and fishing. Their economy and spirituality revolve around the cycle of the seasons, in which the figure of the chief sorcerer plays a particularly important role, as he is responsible for officiating at rituals to ensure abundant rainfall and harvests. Picnic lunch en route. First visit to the village, where we will also have time to admire the sunset. Dinner prepared by our chef and overnight stay in double igloo tents.



Welcome to South Sudan!



Juba and the White Nile



Lotuko Kingdom



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Day 4: Friday 04 December

Lotuko/Larim Tribe

After breakfast we return to the village to watch a traditional Lotuko dance, and meet the queen. Transfer to Camp 15, a market where the DIDINGA and LARIM TRIBES meet daily to trade and exchange information. Picnic lunch. We continue to the majestic BOYA HILLS, at the foot of which are the LARIM VILLAGES, which used to live on the hills but descended to the valley in the late 1990s in search of better pastures for their cattle and to get closer to water points, which are very scarce in the region. The Larim scarify their bodies and faces, pierce their noses, ears and lips, and often smoke tobacco from wooden and metal pipes. Their huts, built of wood, are often decorated with shells and designs. Dinner prepared by our cook and overnight stay in double igloo tents.



Larim Girl



Landscapes of the Boya Hills



Larim Village

Day 5: Saturday 05 December

Larim Tribe

The whole day is dedicated to visiting the LARIM VILLAGES, where we can also assist to traditional dances. Breakfast, lunch and dinner at the camp, overnight stay in double igloo tents.



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Day 6: Sunday 06 December

Larim Tribe/Kapoeta

Breakfast at the camp and greetings with the Larim tribe. Transfer to Kapoeta, accommodation at Hotel Kuleu or similar, lunch and time at leisure for a shower and a well-earned rest. In the afternoon we visit the KAPOETA market, which despite being a small town is very lively and interesting, and allows us to admire the aesthetic beauty of the different ethnic groups that frequent it. Dinner at the hotel and overnight stay in double rooms with services.

Day 7: Monday 07 December

Kapoeta/Toposa Tribe

Breakfast at the camp and transfer to the region inhabited by the TOPOSA TRIBE, where we will visit a boma, a typical fenced village with cattle inside, and meet the elders and the local chief, the women with their scarified faces and bodies, and watch traditional dances. The Toposa belong to the Ateker group, which includes the Turkana in northern Kenya, the Karamajong in northern Uganda and the Nyangatom in Ethiopia. Lunch and dinner at the camp, overnight in double igloo tents.



Toposa woman



Toposa Dance



Toposa woman with a pipe



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Day 8: Tuesday 08 December

Toposa/Jiye Tribe/Toposa

Breakfast at the camp and transfer to the region inhabited by the JIYE TRIBE. The Jiye pastoralists, belonging to the large group of Karamojong and Turkana peoples, with their characteristic tribal dances and ceremonies (which we will witness), inhabit the lands around Kapoeta. Famous for their walled villages, whose dwellings are decorated with animal skulls, the Jiye are organised in strongly hierarchical societies, in which the aesthetic cult of the body is a preponderant part, according to a complex symbolism, expressed in elaborate decorations and showy scarifications on the face and body, indicative of the status and role each individual occupies in society. Picnic lunch. Return to the tented camp, dinner prepared by our cook and overnight stay in double igloo tents.



Jiye Hut



Jiye woman with scarification

Day 9: Wednesday 09 December

Toposa Tribe/Kapoeta/Torit

Breakfast at the camp and greetings with the Toposa population. Transfer to Kapoeta, lunch at the hotel. Continuation to TORIT, accommodation at the Hotel Torit or similar, dinner in a local restaurant and overnight stay in double rooms with services.



Jiye Man

Day 10: Thursday 10 December

Torit/Juba/Mundari Tribe

Breakfast at the hotel and transfer to JUBA. Lunch in a restaurant in the capital. In the afternoon, we continue to a camp of the MUNDARI ethnic group near Terakeka, their capital. We will meet the tribal leaders, and admire the hundreds of long-horned zebu returning before sunset after a day's grazing. Dinner prepared by our cook and overnight stay in double igloo tents.



Mundari Tribe



Day 11: Friday 11 December

Mundari Tribe/Juba (JUB)

A visit to the MUNDARI camp at the first light of dawn: without a doubt one of the most fascinating and moving experiences in South Sudan. A journey into a past that remains incredibly relevant today, amidst surreal scenes of ash-covered herders and cattle herds numbering in the hundreds, whose indefinable tangles of long, crescent-shaped horns are lost amidst the soot rising from the huge mounds of dung, in a thick blanket of smoke that shields the sun and darkens the sky, tinging the atmosphere with silvery and orange hues. An almost dreamlike vision that photography enthusiasts will particularly appreciate. Opportunity to witness the 'naming ceremony'. Breakfast and return to the capital. A few rooms are available for day use so you can have a shower before being transferred to the airport in good time for your return flight. End of services.



Mundari Boy



Mundari Tribe

Day 12: Saturday 12 December

Return flight

Arrival at the destination airport.



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Individual participation fee in double room/tent (min. 4 - max. 12 pax)

4,490 €/pax



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Supplements:

- Enrollment fee: **free**
- Single room: **€ 210**
- Permits, invitation letter, eVisa: **€ 160**

The fee includes:

- English speaking tour leader (from 8 pax);
- English-speaking local guide;
- Visits and excursions as scheduled;
- All transfers in 4x4 safari vehicles (max. 7 passengers per vehicle), including drivers, fuel and tolls;
- Full board (except in Juba);
- Camping equipment;
- Cook and field kitchen;
- 9 nights' accommodation (3 in hotels and 6 in igloo tents) in a twin room/tent;
- Day use in Juba on Day 11 (1 room for every 4 people).

The fee does not include:

- The visa for South Sudan;
- The ALIEN fee (\$40 on arrival);
- Travel cancellation, health and luggage insurance;
- Airfares;
- Transfers to and from the airport with operators other than the one recommended;
- Drinks and mineral water;
- Meals not included in the itinerary;
- Photography fees and tips outside the villages/activities included in the itinerary;
- Tips and personal expenses;
- Everything listed under 'Supplements';
- Anything not expressly mentioned under 'The price includes'.

RECOMMENDED AIRLINE: Turkish Airlines

Arrival in Juba JUB: **14h30 (+1)**

Return from Juba JUB: **15h30**