

Gypsy, Domari of Egypt



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Submit People Photo: [GO](#) ^[1]

Get Involved



Map source: Joshua Project / Global Mapping Intl

| Population ^[2] | Language | Religion | % Christian | % Evangelical | Audio NT | Jesus Film | Progress |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------|
| 270,000 | Domari | Islam | 1.00 % | 0.20 % | Not available | Not available | 1.2 |

Gypsy, Domari of Egypt

Profile Text

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Introduction / History

Gypsies, often called Romani or Domari, are made up of two groups: the Ghorbati and the Nawari. Both groups speak a dialect of the Gypsy language called Romany, which is related to the North Indo-Aryan language of India. Their dialect, Domari, contains many Arabic words.

Gypsies call themselves Rom, which in their language means "men." Rom is derived from the Indian word Dom, meaning "a man of low caste who gains his livelihood by singing and dancing." The Ghorbati are named from the Arabic word, gurbet, which means "stranger." In the Arab world, Gypsies are called Nauar, hence the Nawari Gypsies.

Gypsies originated in India where they worked as musicians, entertainers, and metal workers. There they were discriminated against and excluded from the temples. Later, they were sent to Persia as minstrels. From there they were separated into two groups. One traveled northward and became the Romany-speaking European Gypsies. The other traveled southward and became known as the Domari, or Middle Eastern Gypsies.

What are their lives like?

Dark skin and dark eyes are typical of most Gypsies. Their

Geography

Submit Update: [GO](#)

Country: [Egypt](#)

Continent: [Africa](#)

Region: [Middle East and North Africa](#)

Persecution Rank: 25 (Only top 50 ranked, 1 = highest persecution ranking)

10/40 Yes

Window:

Location in Country: Ghagar mainly in Dakahlia Governorate, north of Cairo (Source: Ethnologue 2010)

Maps

Submit Map: [GO](#)

Country Map: [Political map](#)

Linguistic Map: [Ethnologue language map](#)

Peoples ^[6]

Submit Update: [GO](#)

People Name in Country: [Gypsy, Domari](#)

People Name General: [Gypsy, Domari](#)

almost "mystical" lifestyle has made them the objects of curiosity, distrust, and even fear, from their beginnings until now. However, they are a proud and dignified people often not deserving a negative reputation.

The Gypsies live scattered throughout much of the world. Most of them are nomads, wandering from region to region, and they depend on a variety of entrepreneurial skills for their livelihood. It is common for Gypsies to have two or more specialized occupations. This makes it easier for them to adapt to a changing society's needs. When a region's people no longer need a Gypsy's particular skill, they move on to one that will.

Gypsies have long been known for their abilities as musicians, singers, and dancers. They also hold a wide variety of other occupations. The men are skilled makers of sieves, drums, bird cages, and reed mats. They also entertain with animals, work as tinkers, or play music. The women sometimes sell such things as cloth, shoes, kitchen utensils, or other products made by Gypsy men. Many also sing and dance. Both men and women shear sheep, spin wool, and tell fortunes. Sadly, some of the women and children are forced to beg for food as a means of survival.

Today, there are some Gypsy villages and communities in the Middle East. Some also live in the cities and have become an integral part of urban life. Other Gypsies are nomadic and either travel in caravans of wagons or carts, or they ride on camels, donkeys, or horses. The settled Gypsies usually live in houses that are typical to those of the region in which they settle.

Gypsy marriages usually take place between couples in their teens. The Gypsy family unit is highly valued and each member is depended on for his financial contribution.

Values such as justice, fidelity, and morality are very significant in Gypsy society. Such things as courtesy and friendliness are also very important. The control of deviants is strictly enforced. If a Gypsy becomes impure by some immoral or unlawful act, he is considered an outcast. Also, sexual purity is considered a must for young girls. In fact, it must be proven before marriage that the girl has never before been with a man. This strict social code is related to their old Hindu caste system which they have kept since their origin.

What are their beliefs?

The Middle East Gypsies are often Muslim and they follow the practices and beliefs of the Islamic faith. The traditional beliefs of the Gypsies such as that ghosts, lizards, and snakes are capable of harming humans, that men have the power to curse others by giving them the "evil eye," and that some people have the power to heal the sick are no longer held by most Gypsies. There are a growing number of Christian Gypsies.

What are their needs?

The quality of health care, nutrition, housing, and education is poor. Adequate educational opportunities

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| Alternate People Names: | Barake Dom Gypsy Ghagar Ghorbati Gypsy Helebi Karachi Kowli Gypsy Luli | Churi-Wali Domari Ghorbati Halebi Gypsy Indian Gypsy Kowli Kurbat Luli Gypsy |
| ROP3 Code: | 102682 | |
| Joshua Project People ID: | 11597 | |
| Indigenous: | No | |
| Population in Country: | 270,000 | |
| Population all Countries: | 1,276,000 | |
| Least-Reached: | Yes | |

| Ethnicity | | |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| Affinity Bloc: | Persian-Median | |
| People Cluster: | Domari | |
| People Name General: | Gypsy, Domari | |
| Ethnic Code: | CNN25f | |
| Ethnic Relationships: | Affinity Bloc -> People Cluster -> Peoples Ethnicity Tree | |

| Language | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | | Submit Update: GO |
| Primary Language: | Domari (270,000 Speakers) | |
| Language Code (ISO): | rmt | Ethnologue Listing |
| Total Languages: | 1 | |

| Religion ^[2] | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | Submit Update: GO |
| Primary Religion: | Islam | |
| Major Religions: | Buddhism | 0.00 % |
| | Christianity | 1.00 % (Evangelical: 0.20 %) |
| | Ethnic Religions | 0.00 % |
| | Hinduism | 0.00 % |
| | Islam | 99.00 % |
| | Non-Religious | 0.00 % |
| | Other / Small | 0.00 % |
| | Unknown | 0.00 % |
| Christianity | Anglican | 0.00 % |

must be provided in order to raise their standard of living.

Spiritually, the Islamic religion is very difficult to influence. Their nomadic lifestyle has also made it difficult for missionaries to reach them. It is encouraging to hear of recent breakthroughs in ministering to Gypsies.

Most Gypsies have no Christian resources available to them. Christian broadcasts and Scriptures must be made available if they are to hear the Gospel. Christian workers are needed to teach them how to live lives pleasing to God.

Prayer Points

- * Ask the Lord to call people who are willing to share Christ with the Gypsies.
- * Ask God to strengthen, encourage, and protect the small number of Gypsy Christians.
- * Pray that those Gypsies who know Christ will be bold witnesses of the Gospel to their own people.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of Gypsies towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- * Pray that God will raise up intercessors who will stand in the gap for them.
- * Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Middle East Gypsies.
- * Pray for translation of the Bible to begin in this people group's primary language.
- * Pray for the availability of the Jesus Film in the primary language of this people.

Text source: Bethany World Prayer Center © 1999.
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View [Gypsy, Domari](#) in all countries.

Prayer Links

- [PrayerGuard.net](#)
- [Global Prayer Digest: 2006-11-13](#)
- [Global Prayer Digest: 2007-12-10](#)
- [Global Prayer Digest: 2010-12-12](#)

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------|---------|
| Segments: | Independent | 40.00 % |
| | Protestant | 10.00 % |
| | Orthodox | 50.00 % |
| | Other Christian | 0.00 % |
| | Roman Catholic | 0.00 % |

(Evangelicals distributed across Christianity segments)

Progress Indicators ^[3]

Progress Scale: ^[4] 1.2 ■ Evangelicals >.01% but <=2%. Professing Christians <=5%
Least-Reached: Yes
GSEC Status: **Level 1** Less than 2% Evangelical. Some evangelical resources available, but no active church planting within past 2 years

Bible Translation Status

Submit Update: [▶ GO](#)

Bible Portions: [Help start a Bible Translation](#)
New Testament: None Reported
Complete Bible: None Reported

Ministry Resources ^[5]

Submit Link: [▶ GO](#)

- Audio Recordings [MegaVoice Audio Bible and Stories](#)
- Audio Recordings [Global Recordings](#)

Ministry Activity

Register Ministry Activity: [▶ GO](#)

Description: [Register](#) your ministry activity among this people group. Contact the [Adopt-A-People Clearinghouse](#) to learn about others that might be focused on this people group.

Data Notes: 

Data Sources: 