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Ghana, Benin & Togo Tour
December 26, 2019 – January 4, 2020
10 days / 9 nights



Itinerary

B – Breakfast (served daily at hotel)

Thursday, 26 Dec 2019: Arrival – Accra, Ghana (B)

On arrival at the Kotoka International Airport, guests will be met by a representative of the agency for a transfer to the hotel. Depending on the time of arrival, we can have dinner to a live band performance. **Overnight Accra: 2 nights**

Accommodations: Golden Tulip Hotel (*or similar)

Friday, 27 Dec 2019: Accra, Ghana City Tour (B)

Start the day with a drive by the Osu Castle (Fort Christiansborg), which was originally built by the Danes. Stop by Independence square on our way to the Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum (the final resting place of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, Ghana's first President). Continue to the Arts Centre for National Culture (Ghana's biggest craft market). Experience a walking tour through James town with a brief stopover at the James town Café and the Brazil house, the ancestral home of a group of Afro-Brazilian returnees, now an art space and gallery. End the day with a live band performance. **Overnight Accra, Ghana**

Saturday, 28 Dec 2019: Accra, Ghana to Kumasi, Ghana (250km) (B)

Today, we will set off for the Ashanti Region. On arrival, we visit the Asante Traditional Buildings, including the Asemaso Traditional Shrine. Make a brief stopover at the Kejetia Market, the largest open-air market in West Africa. Continue to the Kumasi Cultural Centre, which offers a good account of the rich Ghanaian culture and provides evidence of the Ashanti Kingdom's eminent past. It houses the Prempeh II Jubilee museum, which provides a fascinating collection of Asante's history. In the late evening, we will have the option to witness a voodoo ceremony at the Nana Abass Shrine. **Overnight Kumasi, Ghana: 2 nights**



Accommodations: Golden Tulip Kumasi City Hotel (*or similar)

Sunday, 29 Dec 2019: Kumasi, Ghana (B)



Start the day with a visit to the Manhyia Palace, seat of the Ashanti Kingdom, to witness the Akwasidae Festival, a celebration of Chiefs and Elders paying homage the Asantehene. We set off to the craft villages of Ntonso, a village famous for adinkra design and Ahwiaa for carving. Also, we will visit the village of Adanwomase (Kente) to interact with locals and to learn the art and history of the craft. We will end the day on the banks of Lake Bosomtwi, a crater lake created by a fallen meteorite. **Overnight Kumasi, Ghana**

Monday, 30 Dec 2019: Kumasi, Ghana – Elmina, Ghana (225km) (B)

Today, we will participate in a naming ceremony, where the group will be given traditional names. Then, we will depart for the Central Region through Assin Manso, the location of a slave river, where slaves were kept and had a last bath in the "Donko Nsuo" before shipment to the New World. On arrival, we visit the Cape Coast Castle (Fort Carlsborg), which was under Swedish administration. Here, we will take a walk through the historic township. **Overnight Elmina, Ghana: 2 nights**



Accommodations: Coconut Grove Beach Resort (*or similar)



Tuesday, 31 Dec 2019: Elmina, Ghana (B)

Today, we will experience a walk across the canopy walkway of the Kakum National Park comprising of undisturbed virgin rainforest. We will also make brief stopovers at an oil palm plantation and a local factory to witness work in progress. Continue to the Elmina Castle before taking a walking tour to Fort Jago, through the Elmina township. View some homes built in colonial style and also to experience the lifestyle of the Fantis. In the late evening, we join in celebrations to usher in the New Year. **Overnight Elmina, Ghana**

Wednesday, 01 Jan 2020: Cape Coast, Ghana – Ada, Ghana (255km) (B)

Today, we will depart for Winneba to witness the colorful celebration of the Masquerade festival. Following the festival, we will continue our trip to the riverfront resort in Ada. **Overnight Ada, Ghana: 1 night**

Accommodations: Aqua Safari Beach Resort (*or similar)



Thursday, 02 Jan 2020: Ada, Ghana – Lomé, Togo (125km) – Ouidah, Benin (110km) (B)

Today, we will cross the border into Togo, through the Aflao, to visit the Grand Marche – the realm of the famous "Nana Benz", then to the Art Street with its craft vendors. Also, we will stopover at the Akodesséwa fetishes market, where one can find magic remedies and local voodoo charms used by local sorcerers. We will continue to Benin through Togoville, where we will visit the ancient German Cathedral and the traditional museum of the King of Togoville. **Overnight Ouidah, Benin: 1 night**

Accommodations: Casa del Papa Hotel (*or similar)



Friday, 03 Jan 2020: Ouidah, Benin – Ganvie, Benin (50km) – Lomé, Togo (160km) – Accra, Ghana (190km) (B)

Today, we will visit the Sacred Forest and the Temple of the Pythons, both important voodoo shrines. Nearby, we will also visit the Portuguese Fort, which now houses the History Museum. The exhibits focus on the slave trade and Benin's consequent cultural links with Brazil and the Caribbean. Finally, we visit the Afro-Brazilian House and the Door of no Return. From there, we will return back through Ganvie, considered to be the "Venice" of Africa, which is a 500-year-old village on water. We will finally return to Accra through Grand Popo. **Overnight Accra: 1 night**

Accommodations: Golden Tulip Hotel (*or similar)

Saturday, 04 Jan 2020: Accra, Ghana (B)

We will begin the day with a visit to the Makola Market and then continue to the W.E.B. Dubois Centre for Pan Africanism. We will also visit an amazing open-air market.

In the late afternoon, we depart from the hotel and will be met by a representative of the agency for a transfer to the airport for our return flights to the US.



Tour Pricing & Important Details

December 26 – January 4, 2020

10 Days / 9 Nights

Tour starts and ends in **Accra, Ghana**

\$2,570 per person / double occupancy
\$1,100 additional for single occupancy

A **\$250 non-refundable deposit** is required to reserve a space

FINAL PAYMENT DUE DATE: NOVEMBER 15, 2019

What's Included in Tour Price

- Deluxe, 4-star hotel accommodations (or best-available accommodations for region)
- Airport arrival meet & greet; departure transfers
- A trained, licensed English-speaking driver/tour guide will accompany guests at all times
- Entry tickets to all sites listed in itinerary
- Air-conditioned transportation to all sites by a professionally licensed driver/guide
- Breakfast, daily
- 1.5L bottled water, daily

What's Not Included in Tour Price

- International airfare to/from Accra, Ghana
- Travel insurance (**highly recommended**)
- Entry visas (the visa for Ghana must be obtained in advance – info to be provided after reservation; Togo/Benin can be obtained upon arrival)
- Passport fees (must have valid passport that expires no less than 6 months from the date of arrival in Ghana)
- Required Medical Vaccinations (Yellow Fever vaccination required for Ghana)

- Personal Expenses (including hotel phone calls, minibar charges, meals not indicated in itinerary, alcoholic beverages, etc)

International Arrival & Departure Flight Information

Arrival Airport: ACC - Kotoka International Airport

Arrival Date: Thursday, December 26, 2019 (you will need to leave the US on Wednesday, Dec 25th to arrive on Dec 26th)

Arrival Transfer: Included - Details will be provided in your Final Travel Instructions

Departure Airport: ACC - Kotoka International Airport

Departure Date: Saturday, January 4, 2020

Departure Transfer: Included - Travel Director will provide hotel departure times

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions regarding the tour, itinerary, making air reservations or anything else we may have missed, please contact us! Our goal is to ensure that your travel experience – from beginning to end with us – is an excellent one!

Email: Erica Walker, Travel Director

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