



WashU



# *Africa's Gold Coast: Togo & Ghana*

***Magic, Majesty & Masks***

**FEBRUARY 23 TO MARCH 6, 2025**

Venture into a land where kings still rule amid the ruins of castles and dungeons spread along a glittering coast. Experience colorful festivals and lively, celebratory rituals. Visit modern cities and rural villages standing on stilts in watery basins. This is the home of ancient traditions that have survived the encroachments of colonialism and modern life. Here you will uncover the secrets of ritual masks, talk to priestesses and kings, and witness regal traditions that have survived the test of time. Don't miss this unique opportunity to glimpse into the vibrant culture and intricate history of West Africa.



# YOUR ITINERARY

**DAYS 1/2 ~ USA/LOMÉ, TOGO**

**HOTEL 2 FEVRIER. (Meals Aloft; No Meals)**

Board your overnight flight to Lomé, Togo. Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day will be at leisure.

**DAY 3 ~ LOMÉ ~ FETISH MARKET**

**HOTEL 2 FEVRIER (B,L,D)**

Explore the vibrant capital of Togo, the only African town which has been colonized by the Germans, British, and French. Start in the central market with its famous “Nana Benz,” women who control the market of the African fashion. You’ll continue on to the colonial buildings in the administrative quarter and the largest Fetish Market on the continent, where an eclectic assortment of all the necessary ingredients for love potions and magical concoctions are sold. Return to your hotel where you will have some time to freshen up before dinner. *Optional:* in the evening, live music in town if available. A number of musicians in Togo are mixing songs in honor of the Divinities with energetic Afro-funk, as a consequence of the analogy between Voodoo drumming beats and blues, funk, as well as the rhythm and blues of James Brown, Otis Redding, Wilson Pickett... and more!

**DAY 4 ~ LOMÉ ~ VOODOO LAND**

**HOTEL 2 FEVRIER (B,L,D)**

Head to a remote hidden village to join a Voodoo ceremony: the frenetic rhythm of the drums and chants of the adepts help call in the Voodoo spirit who then takes possession of some of the dancers. In another village, visit a healer, a person who assists with complex issues by giving solutions based on assessing and treating the patient’s spirit, and converse with him and some of his patients.

**DAYS 5/6 ~ LOMÉ/AKOSOMBO, GHANA**

**ROYAL SENCHI RESORT (B,L,D)**

Cross the border into Ghana and continue to a charming village where you can enjoy a packed lunch and stretch your legs. In the afternoon, set sail on the serene waters of Lake Volta. As you glide along the calm waters, enjoy panoramic views of the landscapes dotted with traditional villages. Next day, explore the Krobo region, famous around the world for its beads. Here, delve into the intricacies of bead production at a specialized factory, witnessing firsthand the techniques that have been meticulously preserved and passed down through the generations of skilled craftsmen.

**DAYS 7/8 ~ AKOSOMBO/KUMASI**

**LANCASTER KUMASI CITY HOTEL (B,L,D Daily)**

Drive to Kumasi, the historical and spiritual capital of the old Ashanti Kingdom, a sprawling city with a fantastic central market. Explore the Ashanti Cultural Centre: a rich collection of Ashanti artifacts housed in a reproduction of an Ashanti house. Participate – if available – in a traditional Ashanti

funeral, attended by mourners wearing beautiful red or black togas. If available, in the evening, you can attend live music in town. Next morning, head to the Royal Palace Museum, hosting a unique collection of gold jewels worn by the Ashanti court. Late morning, take part in the spectacular Akwasidae festival, experiencing a ceremony of ancient traditions, attended by the king and his court.

**DAY 9 ~ KUMASI/ELMINA**

**COCONUT GROVE HOTEL (B,L,D)**

Drive to Elmina on the coast of Ghana, and visit castles and dungeons, relics of the ancient gold, ivory, and slave trades. Elmina is the oldest European building in sub-Saharan Africa and links the history of Africa to world history. Facing the castle and the ocean is a unique fishing harbor with hundreds of large, colorful canoes that every day defy the waves and currents. In the old town with its vivid atmosphere, discover the Posuban shrines of the “Asafo companies.” These elaborate concrete shrines, decorated with fanciful statues, honor the great deeds of past warriors.

**DAYS 10/11/12 ~ ELMINA/ACCRA/USA**

**LABADI BEACH HOTEL (B,L,D; B,L, Meals Aloft)**

Discover Kakum National Park, in the middle of a rainforest, close to the coast. Observe the forest from above on a canopy walk, the longest and highest rope bridge in the world. Then, head to Cape Coast Castle, a museum based on the history of slave trade. Visit Fort William, hosting a lighthouse. Then drive to Accra, the capital of Ghana, and enjoy the night at leisure. Next day, explore Jamestown’s historic neighborhood, inhabited by the Ga people. Visit a workshop that specializes in Fantasy Coffins, unique handcrafted coffins built to reflect any shape: fruits, animals, fish, cars, airplanes, etc., the only limit being imagination! Later, transfer to the airport for your return flight back to the U.S.



Elmina Castle – perched on the rugged coast of Ghana

## Did you know ...

**Voodoo is the oldest traditional form of African religion in West Africa. Togo and Benin are its heartlands.**



Ashanti gold jewelry worn by the king during an Akwasidae festival



Vibrant fishing boats in Fort William

## PRE-EXTENSION TO BENIN



Embark on a journey to Cotonou, Benin. Delve into the serene beauty of Lake Nokoue and experience the unique charm of Ganvie, renowned as the largest stilt village across Africa. Immerse yourself in the vibrant world of contemporary African art at the Zinsou Foundation. Be captivated by the mesmerizing performances of Gelede & Egun mask dances in Ketou. Set out for Ouidah, the birthplace of Voodoo worship, and prepare for a display of Egun mask theater. Explore the rich heritage of Benin at the Abomey Royal Palace, a revered museum and UNESCO World Heritage site. Traverse the streets of Ouidah, visiting landmarks like the Python Temple and the elegant Villa Ajavon.

## POST-EXTENSION TO MOLE NATIONAL PARK, GHANA



Enjoy the wild side of West Africa with a visit to Mole National Park, Ghana's largest wildlife refuge. These sprawling grasslands are home to over 93 mammal species, 33 species of reptiles, and 344 species of birds. Enjoy two guided safaris, early in the morning and late in the afternoon, when animals are more active, and look for elephants, hippos, buffalos, roans, oribi, and the predators that follow them: hyenas, lions and leopards. Search the waterways for the slender-snouted and dwarf crocodile, and the skies for martial eagle, Abyssinian roller, and violet turaco.

### YOUR JOURNEY COSTS

**FEBRUARY 24 TO MARCH 6, 2025  
PRICES PER PERSON,  
BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY**

- \$7,995 land only.
- \$2,295 single supplement, additional.
- Contact Classic Escapes if you require assistance with your airfare.

### YOUR EXTENSIONS COSTS

**BENIN – DEPARTS FEBRUARY 20, 2025  
PRICES PER PERSON,  
BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY**

- \$2,995 double occupancy.
- \$795 single supplement, additional.

**MOLE NATIONAL PARK  
RETURNS MARCH 10, 2025  
PRICES PER PERSON,  
BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY**

- \$4,695 double occupancy.
- \$1,795 single supplement, additional.

### YOUR JOURNEY INCLUDES

- Services of English-speaking guide throughout the tour.
- Transfers in air-conditioned minibus.
- All meals as specified on itinerary.
- All tours/ excursions.
- Portorage.
- Mineral water in the bus/car during visits and at meals.
- Entrance fees to parks, concessions, protected areas, and cultural sites.
- If we get a minimum of 10 reservations, a host from Washington University in St. Louis will accompany the group on the main tour. The candidate host for this trip is esteemed WashU faculty member, Shanti Parikh, chair of African and African-American Studies (see her bio on the next page).
- Complimentary baggage tags and water bottle.
- Flight between Accra/Tamale/Accra on the post extension.



Crafting beads in the heart of Akwasidae, Ghana

*“Traveling through Ghana is like turning the pages of a history book written in the vibrant hues of the tropics, each chapter revealing the layers of a rich and complex heritage.”*

**— Nana Oforiatta Ayim,  
Ghanaian writer, art  
historian and filmmaker**

## GHANA

## BENIN

## TOGO

## NIGERIA



## YOUR FACULTY HOST SHANTI PARIKH



Shanti Parikh is the chair of and professor in the Department of African and African-American Studies, holding a joint appointment in Anthropology and an affiliation with Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and the Institute of Public Health. Specializing in global health, gender, and HIV in sub-Saharan Africa, she has published numerous articles and two books, and advises international organizations such as the United Nations and Save the Children. She joined Washington University in 2000 as a postdoctoral fellow after earning her Ph.D. from Yale University in sociocultural Anthropology. She was a Small Business Advisor with the U.S. Peace Corps in Kenya.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

### Main Program Accommodations

**Hotel 2 Fevrier:** Located in Lomé's main square, all rooms are equipped with modern amenities. The hotel has an outdoor pool and a gym.

**Royal Senchi Resort:** Facing the Volta River, this 4-star hotel has rooms that are fitted with a seating area, a flat-screen TV, and a private bathroom with free toiletries and a hot tub. Other amenities include an outdoor pool, a gym, and a spa.

**Lancaster Kumasi City Hotel:** Formerly known as The Golden Tulip, this hotel is located near the Kumasi central market. The property has a garden with a picnic area and sun terrace. Modern rooms provide free Wi-Fi, flat-screen TVs, minifridge, and a coffeemaker.

**Coconut Grove Hotel:** Located by the ocean in Elmina, this beach hotel features rooms with private bathrooms and complimentary toiletries. Other amenities include two outdoor tennis courts, a restaurant, and two bars/lounges.

**Labadi Beach Hotel:** Set amidst landscaped gardens, the hotel offers a modern spa, a well-equipped gym, a pool, a tennis court, and outdoor running space.

### Post-Extension Accommodation

**Zaina Lodge:** Located within Mole National Park, this lodge features luxury tented chalets with private balconies. You can relax at the infinity pool, outdoor bar, fire pit, or restaurant.

### Pre-Extension Accommodation

**Maison Rouge:** This hotel features views of the Gulf of Guinea and all rooms are en-suite with free Wi-Fi, flat-screen TVs, air conditioning, and minibars.

**Residence Celine:** In the outer area of Ketou, rooms are clean and well maintained, equipped with AC, TV (French only), and toilet/shower.

**Hotel Casa del Papa:** This hotel features rooms equipped with modern amenities. All rooms have ensuite bathrooms with showers and complimentary toiletries.



Hotel 2 Fevrier



Royal Senchi Resort



Lancaster Kumasi City Hotel



Coconut Grove Hotel



Labadi Beach Hotel

Zaina Lodge



Maison Rouge



Residence Celine



Hotel Casa del Papa



## CONDITIONS OF TRAVEL

**HOW TO BOOK:** Fill out and sign the enclosed reservation form and send it, along with the relevant deposit of \$1,600 per person for the main trip, \$600 for the pre-extension, and \$900 for the post-extension, to: Classic Escapes Inc. 191 W Poplar Street, Floral Park, NY 11001. Upon receipt of your signed reservation form and deposit, we will, subject to availability, reserve your spot on the tour. You may consider your booking confirmed when you receive a confirmation notice and invoice from us.

**RATES:** Rates are based on a minimum number of guests, plus airfare costs, currency exchange rates and other factors and are subject to change. Though it is rare for Classic Escapes to make a price adjustment after promotion of an itinerary, we do reserve the right to assess a surcharge if the minimum is not met, or if increases are forced upon us by airlines or other partners or because of changes in currency exchange rates.

**INSURANCE:** It is a condition of booking, that the sole responsibility lies with the guest to ensure that they carry the correct comprehensive travel and medical insurance to cover themselves, as well as any dependents/traveling companions for the duration of their trip. Classic Escapes, including their representatives, employees and agents will take no responsibility for any costs, losses incurred or suffered by the guest, or guest's dependents or traveling companions.

Please visit the website to enroll – <http://www.travelguard.com/classicescapes/>. For any questions you may have on insurance, contact Travel Guard at 1-866-385-4839 and refer to ARC #71298.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Neither Classic Escapes (the Company) nor any person or agent acting for, through or on behalf of the Company shall be liable for any loss or damage whatsoever arising from any cause and without restricting the generality of the foregoing shall particularly not be responsible for loss or damage arising from any errors or omissions contained in its brochure or other literature, loss or damage caused by

delays, sickness, theft, injury or death. In addition the Company shall have the right at any time at its discretion to cancel any trip or the remainder thereof or make any alteration in route, accommodation, price or other details and, in the event of any trip being rendered impossible, illegal or inadvisable by weather, strike, war, government or interference or any other cause whatsoever, the extra expenses incurred as a result thereof shall be the responsibility of the passenger. The Company may at its discretion and without liability or cost to itself at any time cancel or terminate the guest's booking and in particular without limiting the generality of the foregoing it shall be entitled to do so in the event of the illness or the illegal or incompatible behavior of the guest, who shall in such circumstances not be entitled to any refund.

**HEALTH REQUIREMENTS:** You must be in good physical and mental health. It shall be your duty to inform us in case you have any medical condition that may affect your ability to enjoy and pursue fully the services of Classic Escapes. By registering for a Classic Escapes service/program, you certify that you do not have any mental, physical, or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for yourself or others.

**CANCELLATIONS:** Cancellations are only effective on receipt of written notification. The following per person fees are applicable on this tour:

- Up to 6 months prior to departure (August 28, 2024), \$300 per person administrative fee.
  - 179 days to 96 days prior to departure (August 29 to November 20, 2024), \$300 per person administrative fee, plus \$500 non-refundable deposits given to suppliers.
  - 95 days to 76 days prior to departure (November 21 to December 10, 2024), deposit is forfeited.
  - 75 days to 60 days prior to departure (December 11 to December 26, 2024), 50% refund is possible.
  - 59 days or less prior to departure (December 27, 2024), no refund is possible.
- These cancellation fees are also in addition to any imposed by airlines.

RESERVATION FORM: (Please Print)

TOUR CODE: 25AFL0224/WUSTL

Enclosed is my deposit for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$1,600 per person for the main trip, \$600 for the pre-extension and \$900 for the post extension) to hold \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on a Cultural Adventure to Togo & Ghana departing **February 24, 2025**. All deposits are subject to the Cancellation policy herein. Some airfares or services must be paid in full at the time of booking. Deposits may be paid by check or with credit card.

**Final payment due date is November 21, 2024.** Final payment is payable by check, wire transfer, or money order **ONLY. Please make check payable to Classic Escapes, Inc., and send, with completed reservation form, to: Classic Escapes, 191 W Poplar Street, Floral Park, NY 11001.**

Method of Payment for my deposit:  Check  MasterCard  Visa  Discover  American Express

FULL PASSPORT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth (M/D/Y) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

FULL PASSPORT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth (M/D/Y) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

PREFERRED NAME IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE: 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ MOBILE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

- I am sharing with \_\_\_\_\_ (form sent separately)
- The two of us above are sharing a room and, where possible, would like a room with:  One Bed  Two Beds
- I need assistance in securing a roommate. I understand if one cannot be located for me by final payment date, I agree to pay the additional single supplement. I prefer to share with:  Smoker  Nonsmoker
- I desire single accommodations, if available, and will pay the single supplement additional cost.
- I/We wish to participate in the optional pre-extension to Benin.
- I/We wish to participate in the optional post extension to Mole National Park.
- I certify that I have not recently been treated for, nor am I aware of any physical or other condition or liability that would create a hazard to myself or the other members of this tour.

We strongly recommend that you obtain travel insurance. Reservations are accepted subject to tour conditions and will be confirmed only if accompanied by completed form signed by the tour participant(s).

I/We have read the conditions of travel on this brochure and understand and agree to the terms and conditions stated herein:

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR RESERVATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT**

Lori Ellefsen at Classic Escapes

800.627.1244

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# WashU

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