Africa’s Gold Coast: Togo & Ghana

Magic, Majesty & Masks

February 24 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.
**Vibrant fishing boats in Fort William**

**Ashanti gold jewelry worn by the king during an Akwasidae festival**

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

**DAY 5 ~ LOMÉ/AKOSOMBO, GHANA**

**Voyage to Lomé**

- Head to a remote hidden village to join a Voodoo ceremony: the frenetic rhythm of the drums and the mystical drumming rhythms like the Python Temple and the elegant Villa Ajavon.
- Discover Kakum National Park, in the middle of a 19th-century cocoa plantation.
- Drive to Kumasi, the historical and spiritual capital of the old Ashanti Kingdom, a sprawling city with its famous “Nana Benz,” women who control the market of the African fashion.

**Your Journey Includes**

- Services of English-speaking guide throughout the tour.
- Transfers in air-conditioned minibuses.
- All meals as specified on itinerary.
- All tours/excursions.
- Portage.
- Mineral water in the back/car during visits and at meals.
- Entrance fees to parks, concessions, protected areas, and cultural sites.

**Did you know ...**

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

**Your Costs**

- **$1,995 single supplement, additional.**
- **$3,995 per person, based on double occupancy.**

**Mole National Park**

**Kumasi/Elmina**

**Shanti Parikh**

Shanti Parikh is the chair of and facilitate the work of the Ghanaian 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 2010 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.

**Your Journey Costs**

- **FEBRUARY 24 TO MARCH 6, 2025**
- **PRICES PER PERSON, EXPENSES INCLUDED**
- **$1,995 land only.**
- **$4,995 single supplement, additional.**
- **$7,995 per person, based on double occupancy.**
- **Contact Classic Escapes if you require assistance with your airfare.**

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

**Did you know ...**

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 Aylm, Ghanaian writer, art historian and filmmaker

**Your Accommodations**

**Accommodations**

Main Program Accommodations

- **Abomey**
  - 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 WiFi, flat-screen TVs, minibar, and a safe.
- **Elmina**
  - Located on the ocean in Elmina, this beach hotel features private rooms with boardwalks and complimentary toiletries. You can relax at the infinity pool, outdoor bar or restaurant.
- **Accra**
  - Located in the middle of a large national park, this lodge features luxury tented chalets with private balconies. You can relax at the infinity pool, outdoor bar, or restaurant. You can relax at the infinity pool, outdoor bar, or restaurant.

**Pre-Extension Accommodation**

- **Zaina Lodge**
  - This hotel is located in the Kumasi central market and features spacious rooms with views of the Gulf of Guinea.
- **Hotel 2 Fevrier**
  - This hotel features rooms equipped with air-conditioning, and minibars. Hot and cold water are available. A number of restaurants in Togo are serving meals in honor of the Divinities with energetic Afro-Rhythms of the old Ashanti Kingdom, a sprawling city with its famous “Nana Benz,” women who control the market of the African fashion.

**Post-Tour Extension**

- **Coconut Grove Hotel**
  - Located in the middle of a large national park, this lodge features luxury tented chalets with private balconies. You can relax at the infinity pool, outdoor bar, or restaurant.
DAYS 1/2 – USA/LOMÉ, TOGO

Hop to FÉVRIER (Meals Alaft: 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.

DAYS 3 – LÔMÉ – FISHET MARKET

HOTEL 3 FÉVRIER (BLD)

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 Fishet 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 Afrikun, as a consequence of the analogy between Voodoo drums and the rhythms and blues of James Brown, Otis Redding, and the Rolling Stones.

DAYS 4 – LÔMÉ – VOODOO LAND

HOTEL 3 FÉVRIER (BLD)

Drive to a hidden remote village to join a Voodoo ceremony: the frenetic rhythm of the drums and chants of the adepts help call in the Voodoo spirit. Here, delve into the intricacies of bead production and marvel at the artistry and precision as molten glass is transformed into vibrant beads, crafted by skilled artisans. These elaborate stone shingles, decorated with findlothed statues, honor the great deeds of past warriors.

DAYS 5/6 – ELIMA/ELIMA COCONUT GROVE HOTEL (BLD)

ELIMA, (Meals Alaft)

Discover Kakum National Park, in the middle of a tropical rainforest in the east of Ghana. This park hosts the largest nesting site for Olive Ridley turtles in the world. The park is also home to various wildlife: including the slender-snouted crocodile, and dwarf crocodile, and the skies for martial eagles. You will also spot various 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, buffaloes, rains, oribis, and the predators that follow them: hyenas, lions and leopards. Search the waterways for the slender-snouted crocodile, and dwarf crocodile, and the skies for martial eagle, Abyssinian roller, and violet turaco.

Did you know ...

Voodoo is the oldest traditional form of African Witchcraft. In West Africa, Togo and Benin are its heartlands. 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 afternoon, take part in the spectacular Akwasidae festival, experiencing a ceremonial celebration of ancient traditions, attended by the king and his court.

DAYS 7 – AKOSOMBO, GHANA

Post-Extension to Mole National Park, Ghana

DAY 1 – AKOSOMBO, GHANA

KUMASI/ELIMA COCONUT GROVE HOTEL (BLD)

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 stone shingles, decorated with fanciful statues, honor the great deeds of past warriors.

Embark on a journey to Cotonou, Benin. Delve into the serene beauty of Lake Hôkôkô and experience the unique charm of Canivé, renowned as the largest slivovitz village across Africa. Immerse yourself in the vibrant world of contemporary African art at the Zimou Foundation. Be captivated by the mesmerizing performances of Celeste & &g mask dances in Keta. Set out for Ouidah, the birthplace of Voodoo worship, and prepare for a day full of fun, cultural immersion. Explore the rich cultural 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 Amanou.

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 95 mammalian 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, buffaloes, rains, oribis, and the predators that follow them: hyenas, lions and leopards. Search the waterways for the slender-snouted crocodile, and dwarf crocodile, and the skies for martial eagle, Abyssinian roller, and violet turaco.

YOUR ITINERARY

DAYS 1/2 ~ USA/LOMÉ, TOGO

DAYS 3/4 ~ LÔMÉ – FISHET MARKET

DAY 5 ~ LÔMÉ/AKOSOMBO, GHANA

DAYS 9/10/11 ~ ELMINA/ACCRA/USA

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.
• Portage.
• Mineral water in the back car during visits and at meals.
• Entrance fees to parks, concessions, protected areas, and cultural sites.

YOUR JOURNEY COSTS

FEBRUARY 24 TO MARCH 6, 2025

• Benin – Departs February 20, 2025

PRICES PER PERSON, BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

$1,595 land only.
$1,695 single supplement, additional.
$2,795 single supplement, additional.
$3,795 single supplement, additional.
$5,195 double occupancy.
$6,995 double occupancy.
$7,795 single supplement, additional.

YOUR EXTENSIONS COSTS

BENIN – DEPARTS FEBRUARY 20, 2025

• Pre-Extension to Mole National Park

$2,995 double occupancy.
$3,795 single supplement, additional.

$1,795 single supplement, additional.

$795 single supplement, additional.

$2,295 single supplement, additional.

$995 additional based on double occupancy

$1,995 additional based on single occupancy

If we get a minimum of 10 reservations, a host will accompany the group on the main tour. The candidate host for this extension is Prof. Shanti Parikh, faculty member, Shanti Parikh Chair of and Professor in the Department of Anthropology and Gender, and Cultural Studies and the Directer 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 2020 as a postdoctoral fellow after earning her PhD from Yale University in sociocultural Anthropology. She was a Small Business Advisor with the U.S. Peace Corps in Kenya.

Shanti Parikh is the chair of and professor in the Deparment 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 2020 as a postdoctoral fellow after earning her PhD from Yale University in sociocultural Anthropology. She was a Small Business Advisor with the U.S. Peace Corps in Kenya.
DAYS 1-3 ~ LOUMA, TOGO

Day 1 ~ Introduction.

Day 2 ~ A DAILY LIFE IN LOUMA.

Day 3 ~ A DAY IN THE VILLAGE.

DAYS 4-6 ~ LOMÉ, TOGO

Day 4 ~ A DAY IN THE CITY.

Day 5 ~ A DAY IN THE OUTDOORS.

Day 6 ~ A DAY IN THE MUSEUM.

DAYS 7-9 ~ GHANA

Day 7 ~ DAY 1 ~ LOMÉ TO ELMINA.

Day 8 ~ DAY 2 ~ ELMINA TO ACCRA.

Day 9 ~ DAY 3 ~ ACCRA TO KUMASI.

DAYS 10-11 ~ KUMASI, GHANA

Day 10 ~ A DAY IN THE VILLAGE.

Day 11 ~ A DAY IN THE CITY.

DAYS 12-13 ~ AGRA, GHANA

Day 12 ~ A DAY IN THE CITY.

Day 13 ~ A DAY IN THE OUTDOORS.

DAYS 14-15 ~ CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Day 14 ~ A DAY IN THE CITY.

Day 15 ~ A DAY IN THE OUTDOORS.

DAYS 16-17 ~ CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Day 16 ~ A DAY IN THE CITY.

Day 17 ~ A DAY IN THE OUTDOORS.

DAYS 18-19 ~ BENIN

Day 18 ~ A DAY IN THE CITY.

Day 19 ~ A DAY IN THE OUTDOORS.

DAYS 20-21 ~ BENIN

Day 20 ~ A DAY IN THE CITY.

Day 21 ~ A DAY IN THE OUTDOORS.

DAYS 22-23 ~ POLITICO, GHANA

Day 22 ~ A DAY IN THE CITY.

Day 23 ~ A DAY IN THE OUTDOORS.

DAYS 24-25 ~ POLITICO, GHANA

Day 24 ~ A DAY IN THE CITY.

Day 25 ~ A DAY IN THE OUTDOORS.

YOUR ITINERARY

DAYS 12-13 ~ AGRA, GHANA

Did you know ...

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

Elmina Castle – perched on the rugged coast of Ghana

Crushing rocks in the heart ofAccra, Ghana

Embarc on a journey to Cotonou, Benin. Delve into the serene beauty of Lake Houcou and experience the unique charm of Ganvie, renowned as the largest stilts village across Africa. Immerse yourself in the vibrant world of contemporary African art at the Zimou Foundation. Be captivated by the mesmerizing performances of Celeb & Smilax dances in Keta. Set out for Ouidah, the birthplace of Voodoo worship, and prepare for a divine, functional and integral experience. Explore the rich cultural heritage of Benin at the Abomey Royal Palace, a renowned and UNESCO World Heritage site. Traverse the streets of Ouidah, visiting landmarks like the Python Temple and the elegant Villa Limonier.

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, 135 species of reptiles, and 345 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, rains, and oribis, and the predators that follow them: hyenas, lions and leopards. Search for the waterways for the slender-snouted crocodile and dwarf crocodile, and the skies for martial eagle, Abyssinian roller, and violet turaco.

Tours are subject to weather conditions and may be adjusted. The journey may be shared with local guests. Your tour guide will make sure that the tour is well organized and that you have a great experience.

YOUR JOURNEY COSTS

FEBRUARY 24 to MARCH 6, 2025

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<th>FEES</th>
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YOUR JOURNEY COSTS

- 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 is 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.

YOUR JOURNEY INCLUDES

- "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

Accommodations

Main Program Accommodations

Coconut Grove Hotel: Located by the ocean in Elmina, this beach hotel features private rooms with contemporary 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 private spa, a well-equipped gym, a pool, a tennis court, and outdoor running space.

Post Extension Accommodation

Zaika Lodge: Located within Mole National Park, this lodge features luxurious tents with private balconies. You can relax at the infinity pool, outdoor bar, fire pit, or restaurant.

Pre Extension Accommodation

Malou Rouge: This hotel features views of the Gulf of Guinea and all rooms are ensuite with free WiFi, flat-screen TVs, air conditioning, and direct dial telephone.

Residence Gélin: In the outer area of Kétou, rooms are clean and well maintained, equipped with AC, TV (French only), and a coffeemaker.

Hotel Casa del Papa: This hotel features rooms equipped with modern amenities. All rooms have ensuite bathrooms with showers and complimentary toiletries.
I/We have read the conditions of travel on this brochure and understand and agree to the terms and conditions stated herein:

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

- Full Passport Name: ________________________________________ Date of Birth (M/D/Y) _____/_____/_______
- Preferred Name if different from above: 1) __________________________ 2) __________________________

- I wish to participate in the optional post extension to Mole National Park.
- I wish to participate in the optional pre-extension to Benin.
- I need assistance in securing a roommate. I understand if one cannot be located for me by final payment date, I agree

- The two of us above are sharing a room and, where possible, would like a room with:
  - One Bed
  - Two Beds

- I am sharing with ________________________________________ (form sent separately)

- I need assistance in securing a roommate. I understand if one cannot be located for me by final payment date, I agree

- 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).

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

- Signature:
- Date:

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