

BEST OF GHANA WITH AKWASIDAE FESTIVAL – 10 DAYS 9 NIGHTS

OVERVIEW:

Experience the culture and pageantry of the land of history, culture and gold. Join the celebration of the colourful and joyous event, taking place every 42 days on the traditional calendar, usually on a Sunday morning. Add another colourful dimension to the Ashanti tour with a visit to the Craft villages. See the skill and imagination of local craftsmen and women using simple tools and traditional technology to produce breath taking artifacts and designs from which you may pick souvenirs for friends and family back home.

DAY 1: AKWAABA



Arrive at airport
Meet, assist and transfer to your hotel
Welcome dinner at your hotel
Overnight: Hotel in Accra
Meals:

D

DAY 2: ACCRA EXPERIENCE



Breakfast

Brief orientation by Sunseekers Tours staff.

A full day of exciting city-wide tour. The National Museum of History and Ethnography houses a varied collection of artifacts. Pass through the vibrant, colorful open air Makola Market, offering fresh farm produce and all manner of goods, clothes, electronics, etc. Continue to Old Accra, the one square kilometer area once divided between concurrent colonial Dutch and British administrations. Fort Crêvecoeur (1652) later Ussher Fort when the Dutch sold it to the British (1668); the Post Office, the Lighthouse and James Fort (1662); the Wesleyan Methodist School (1830); Sea View Hotel, (1873); Anglican Cathedral (1893). Visit Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum, the final resting place of Ghana's first President; move to W.E.B. Du Bois Center for Pan Africanism.

Lunch at a local restaurant (*on own account*)

Drive past the Independence Arch and the Black Star Square ceremonial grounds, the Christiansborg Castle, (until recently the office of the President of Ghana). Our last stop is the arts and crafts market where you may try out your bargaining skills with the local vendors and “shop till you drop”. Return to your hotel.

Dinner

Overnight: Hotel in Accra

Meals: B/D

DAY 3: ABURI BOTANICAL GARDENS



Breakfast

Depart after breakfast and drive through the northern suburbs of Accra and up the winding scenic hilly Akwapim ridge overlooking the Accra plains to the Aburi Botanical Gardens which was established in 1890 as a convalescent environment for the British colonial officers in the then Gold Coast (now Ghana). The Gardens were designed for scientific research, pleasure and relaxation under huge shady trees, some of which has are over a hundred years old. It is a habitat for plants from all over the world. Over the years, the Garden has cultured a variety of tropical plants which attract many birds and butterflies. Go on a conducted tour of its many lawns and well-manicured gardens. Continue to Aburi Crafts Village and view a varied collection of artifacts such as masks, beads and drums where you may purchase souvenir gift items for friends and family back home.

Lunch (*on own account*)

Visit the Artists' Alliance Gallery at Labadi. Buy a variety of paintings, sculptures, carvings and artifacts as art direct from renowned Ghanaian and other African artists. See the colorful custom-made coffins depicting anything from animals to professions of the departed. As a bonus, this three-floor gem of a gallery built very close to the sea gives you a bird's eye view of canoes bobbing on the Atlantic Ocean as the fishermen bring in their catch.

Return to your hotel

Dinner

Overnight: Hotel in Accra

Meals: B/D

DAY 4: WATERFALLS/MONKEY SANCTUARY



Breakfast and hotel check out.

Drive past several rustic farming communities on the way to the Volta Region. Visit the Wli waterfalls, the highest in Ghana. Put on your trekking shoes and enjoy a walk through a dense tropical forest. Cross the meandering Agumatsse River at eleven different places before arriving at the waterfall.

Lunch (*on own account*)

After lunch, continue to visit the Tafi Atome Monkey Sanctuary where the endangered but playful true Mona monkeys are considered sacred and are therefore protected.

Walk on well-worn trails and view the monkeys in their natural habitat. Continue to Ho, the administrative capital of the Volta Region and check into your hotel.

Dinner

Overnight: Hotel in Ho

Meals: B/D

DAY 5: BEADS MAKING



Breakfast and hotel check out

Depart to Kumasi. Stop en route at Somanya and visit Cedi Beads Factory to observe the bead-making process. Continue and drive on the scenic Akwapim ridge. Pass by several cute villages to arrive at the Bunso Arboretum, a semi-deciduous forest and home to different species of herbs, birds and butterflies. Explore the herb garden to learn at first hand, the wide range of uses of the various herbs, from food to medicinal to aromatic.

Lunch (*on own account*)

Continue after lunch to Kumasi, the hub of the Ashanti ancient kingdom.

Arrive by late afternoon and check into your hotel.

Dinner

Overnight: hotel in Kumasi

Meals: B/D

DAY 6: AKWASIDAE FESTIVAL/CRAFT VILLAGE



Breakfast

Join in the celebration of Akwasidae, taking place every 42 days on the traditional calendar, usually on a Sunday morning. It is a colorful and joyful event where people from far and near, in traditional costumes, come bearing gifts and pay homage to their king as he sits in state at the Manhyia Palace.

Lunch at a local restaurant (*on own account*)

Visit Anhwia, the woodcarvers' village specializing in carvings such as traditional stools, fertility dolls and walking sticks etc.

Proceed to visit Ntonso, home of indigenous textile printing. The artists use traditional Adinkra symbols expertly crafted to express the spiritual, moral, political and socio-cultural philosophies of the Akan people. You will have an opportunity to create your own designs.

Go on to and Bonwire to see firsthand, the weaving of the world-famous kente cloth. Rest of day is free to relax.

Dinner

Overnight: hotel in Kumasi

Meals: B/D

DAY 7: EXPERIENCE THE GARDEN CITY



Breakfast

After breakfast, depart for city tour of Kumasi visiting the Manhyia Palace and the Palace Museum which provides a good insight into Ashanti culture and traditions, and the history of the Ashanti Kingdom which is over 300 years old. It provides a good glimpse into the powerful ancient Ashanti Empire and its past kings. See the National Cultural Centre, Prempeh II Jubilee Museum, the Okomfo Anokye Sword and the Kumasi Central Market – the largest open-air market in West Africa.

Lunch at a local restaurant (*on own account*)

Continue after lunch on a
Rest of day is free to relax and enjoy a sundown drink.
Dinner
Overnight: hotel in Kumasi
Meals: B/D

DAY 8: KUMASI - ELMINA



Breakfast and hotel check out
Depart Kumasi for Elmina in the Central Region. Drive past rustic villages and towns through evergreen forests, and stop en route to visit a palm wine tapper. Fresh palm wine has a natural sweetness very low in alcohol. The expert palm wine tapper, using age-long techniques bores a pencil hole in the felled palm tree, fits it with a bamboo stick through which the liquid drips into a container. The palm wine ferments within two days and is further distilled to obtain a beverage with a 70% alcoholic content locally called “akpeteshie.”
Arrive in Elmina and visit Elmina Castle, the first and oldest European structure built on African by the Portuguese in 1482. It was later used as an auction market for slaves. See the slave dungeons and condemned cells where slaves who attempted to escape were incarcerated.
Check into your hotel
Dinner
Overnight: Hotel in Elmina
Meals: B/D

DAY 9: CANOPY WALKWAY/CASTLE TOUR



Breakfast

Visit the Kakum National Park. Take a morning walk on the Kuntan Trail with its countless trees of medicinal properties. Experience the Canopy Walk suspended 100 feet from the ground for a panoramic view of the flora and fauna of one of the remaining vestiges of the rain forest.

Continue to visit the Cape Coast Castle which was originally started by the Swedes in 1652. It served as the headquarters and seat of the British colonial government until 1877. Go on a comprehensive tour of the Castle, the slave dungeons and the West African Heritage Museum, and the negotiation hall where our ancestors were bargained for and sold. Participate in a re-enactment of the Slave Trade at the Cape Coast Castle in solemn homage to our ancestors.

Drive through the Cape Coast township with its narrow streets modeled on the Yorkshire districts of England.

Lunch (*on own account*)

After lunch depart Cape Coast back to Accra on a three-hour journey, drive along the coast through several fishing villages and coconut-lined beaches and arrive in Accra by late evening.

Overnight: Hotel in Accra

Meals: B/D

DAY 10: SHOPPING/DEPARTURE

Breakfast

Rest of day is free for last minute shopping and packing.

12:00 Noon: Check out of hotel

Lunch (*on own account*)

Transfer to airport for departure

Meals: B

HIGHLIGHTS:

- “Akwaaba”...Welcome as you arrive and transfer to you hotel with a brief orientation
- Accra city tour with shopping at the arts and crafts centre
- A full day tour in the cool serene atmosphere of the Aburi Botanical Gardens.
- Observe and make your own beads as your journey to Kumasi
- Partake in the Akwasidae festival with visits to the craft villages
- Taste the preparation of our local wine as you go on conducted tours of the slave castles
- Go on the canopy walkway with last minute shopping and departure