

THE YEAR OF RETURN GHANA 2019 “TRADITIONAL FESTIVAL OF THE KINGS” SEPTEMBER 3-10, 2019 ITINERARY

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DAY 1-(SEPTEMBER 3) ARRIVAL IN ACCRA

ROOTS APARTMENT OR SIMILAR WELCOME DINNER

MEALS: D

- Arrival at Kotoka International Airport; Akwaaba Welcome
- Later this evening, we will host a Meet & Greet Dinner at a restaurant nearby. You'll have an opportunity to try your first taste of local cuisine and get to know your fellow travelers.

DAY 2- (SEPTEMBER 4) “ACCRA CITY TOUR”

ROOT APARTMENT/SIMILAR

MEALS: B, L, D

Having enjoyed your first night in Accra, today is dedicated to an Accra city tour, first visit is W. E. B. DuBois and Pan African Center is a memorial place and a research center, dedicated into a great Pan Africanist who lived and died as a Ghanaian, he came to Ghana at the Age of 95 with 1,000 books to work on African Encyclopedia on invitation of Ghana's first president. At the center we will visit African American Association of Ghana office and join other returnees to participate in some of the yearlong activities earmarked for the “The Year Of Return 2019”. Ghana seeks to invite home all and sundry kith and kin of African descendants on a pilgrimage journey to the motherland to reconnect with their ancestral roots, whilst commemorating 400 years of when the first enslaved Africans landed in America. We also honor our heroes and heroines for fighting for our emancipation and liberty. We continue to visit National Museum, which is ethnographic in nature and gives us an excellent overview of West African culture. During our time here we also get the chance to view and purchase some wonderful examples of traditional crafts. James Town is the next, which is one of the indigenous areas of Accra to learn about the legacies two European Powers British and Dutch left behind and the daily life style of people of James Town which is a fishing community with a lot of vibrant tourist activities

notably is the recent Street Art Festival “Chale Wote” with a lot of fascinating street art works, we will also visit a Brazilian lane, which inhabit Stone Houses which was built by formal enslave Africans from Brazil who seal their way back to the Guinea Coast after Slave Trade was abolished and some of them ended up in Accra Ghana, some continue to Nigeria others stay in Ghana and integrate very well in Ghana society, during our time in James Town, we will also participate in ongoing rituals and atonements in commemorate the 400 years when the first enslaved African landed in America. Lunch will be taken at a local restaurant serving a selection of West African and continental dishes. In the afternoon we pass by Independence Square and view the enclosed flame of African liberation, which was lit by Kwame Nkrumah himself in 1961. We continue the short distance to the Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park, final resting place of Ghana’s founder. Set in attractive gardens, there is an adjoining museum, which contains photos, artifacts and an insight into this incredible man’s life. Adjoining the park is the National Cultural Center, which is actually Ghana’s largest outdoor arts and crafts market selling traditional crafts from all over West Africa. After testing your bargaining skills we return to our hotel for our evening meal, the remainder of the evening is for leisure.



DAY 3 (SEPTEMBER 5)

COCONUT GROVE/SIMILAR

MEALS: B,L,D

We depart for Cape Coast, after a leisurely breakfast, we will drive through scenic coastal planation, having a glimpse looks at several historical and heritage sites on our way. We will visit Cape Coast castle designated as a world heritage site by UNESCO. Built by the British in 1665 at the height of slavery and play a major role in holding enslaves African in awaiting of slave ship to ship them to the New World. We will walk through the Male and Female dungeons and the infamous “Door of no return”. There is a historical museum inside, which explains the whole history of the castle and Cape Coast itself, as well as a souvenir shop which sells literature on all of Ghana’s forts and castles, as well as the cultural history and traditions of Ghana. There will be a “Right of Return Rituals and Atonement” inside the Cape Coast Castle to official welcome you back home. We will participate in traditional naming ceremony and family integration. At the village we will pay a courtesy call on chiefs and elders of the village, to formally welcome you back home, we will be welcomed to the village by the chiefs, queen mothers and elders of the community with pouring of libation to call on our ancestors and welcome you back, there will be drumming and dance and other rituals will be perform to officially welcome you back home and accepts you once one of their own can adopt a family in the village. Lunch will be taking at beach front restaurant, after we will proceed to Batiking cloth making workshop to get a glimpse into the life of a local artisan as you work side by side during batik production. After wonderful day, we will check into our hotel, reminder of the day will be at leisure.



DAY 4 (SEPTEMBER 6)

COCONUT GROOVE/SIMILAR

MEALS: B,L,D

The day is packed with activities, after our leisurely breakfast we head to Elmina to visit Elmina castle built by the Portuguese in 1482 which is the oldest European building in Sub Saharan Africa. This castle is steeped in history and played a prominent part during the tragic transatlantic enslaved African trade era. There is an informative museum inside which concentrates on local history and it is designated a world heritage site by UNESCO. We continue to Cape Coast to join the throngs to participate in annually Cape Coast Fetu Afahye festival which is celebrated to purify the state and is also a time to settle disputes, family reunion and a lot of merry making. Today's activity is sacrificing of a dull, first the dull is sent to a deity inside Cape Coast Castle Slave Dungeon for cleansing before it sacrifice, enjoy traditional gathering of chiefs and people of Cape Coast, we will enjoy our lunch at a local restaurant, after we will take a siesta or after relaxation at our hotel, and in the early evening we will participate in "Orange Friday" which is the biggest street carnival in Ghana with a lot of music, dance, wacky costumes and it really a time for fun and enjoyment.

DAY 5 (SEPTEMBER 7)

ELMINA BEACH RESORT

MEALS: B,L,D

Today is the climax of the traditional festival of Cape Coast with a big durbar of kings and Queens, and people of Cape Coast, we will participate in the Ground Durbar, there is going to be a lot of cultural immersion and customs display, kings and queens sitting on palanquins, carried on the shoulders of 4 strong men, clad in colorful traditional attire with their regalia's and paraphernalia, there is going to be a procession throughout the principal streets of Cape Coast to the events grounds. In the evening we will enjoy nightlife, listening to some good music and dance.

DAY 6 (SEPTEMBER 8)

NODA HOTEL

MEALS: B,L,D

We will depart for Kumasi after breakfast, but first we will visit one of the highlights of the trip is a visit to Kakum tropical rainforest to experience the much talked about Canopy walkway, the uniqueness of the park lies in the fact that it was established at the initiative of the local people, it is one of the only 3 locations in Africa with a canopy walkway, which is 350 meters (1,150 FT) long and connects seven tree tops, the park is also notable for a lot of endangered species of fauna in the park. We will enjoy our lunch at the Castle restaurant before continuing our journey to Kumasi stopping at Assin Manso, which was one of the major slave markets during the slave trade, Ndonkor Nsuo (Enslaved African River). This river is where enslaved Africans were checked for fitness and given a last bath before they continued on foot to the coast, to be first held at the dungeons for shipping to the Americas and Caribbean. Lunch will be taken en-route, we check into our hotel upon arrival, the remainder of the day will be spent at leisure.

DAY 7 (SEPTEMBER 9)

NODA HOTEL

MEALS: B,L,D

We begin our day visiting Asante's traditional villages; Kumasi regarded as the cultural center of Ghana, with its many ancient craft villages within touching distance of the city. Visiting these traditional villages; our next stop is Adanwomasie famous as the birth place of Kente. Adanwomasie produces some of Ghana's finest Kente cloths, many designs of cloth are woven here and some are exclusive only to this region. Adinkra are traditional symbols with meanings, carved from calabash shells, and printed onto traditional cloth using natural dyes made from the bark of certain local trees. Adinkra cloth has been adorned by the Ashanti's for more than 4

centuries and pre dates Kente cloth. Lunch will be taken at a local restaurant which sells an excellent selection of local and continental dishes. We continue to embark on city tour of Kumasi with a visit to Manhyia Palace museum, which houses regalia, paraphernalia and real good ornaments which tells the history, tradition, continuity and customs of Ashantes. A short distance from the palace is Kejetia market which is the largest outdoor market in the whole of Western Africa. Visiting here gives us a wonderful opportunity to experience everyday life for the people in this great city and pick up a few bargain souvenirs. The market is a labyrinth of stalls nestled closely together, and a hive of activity. Some stall holders sleep here in the evenings as trade rarely stops. Next is Okomfo Anokye sword which has defied all human strength to pull it out, it believed to be there famous priest Okomfo Anokye conjure the golden stool from the heavens. We call it a day after wonderful time, we will drive through the campus of Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology which was named after our first president, establishing in 1952 to be the leading University in the sub region to research into science and technology.

DAY 8 (SEPTEMBER 10)

DEPARTURE

MEALS: B,L,D

Sadly your final day with us, we check out of our hotel after a leisurely breakfast and depart for Accra, en route we will stop at one of Ashante's traditional homes. Yaa Asantewaa Shrine. Yaa Asantewaa a great female warrior who led the Ashantes in the 1901 war against the British, to protect the "Golden Stool" she was also the Queen Mother of Ejisu Besease, we shall visit her Spiritual Shrine where she fortified herself during the war. After we continue our journey Accra and enjoy our lunch en-route. On arrival in Accra, we will allow time for some last-minute shopping at Ghana's largest arts and crafts market. An early farewell dinner will conclude your time with us on this unforgettable 8 day tour with us.