



PANAFEST: FEATURING TOGO AND BENIN WEST AFRICA JULY 28-AUGUST 6, 2019

DAY 1 (July 28) ARRIVE IN ACCRA

Arrive in Accra, Ghana. Transfer from the airport to your hotel for a fantastic traditional welcome ceremony, including cultural drumming and dancing (for daylight arrivals only), pouring of libations, welcome drink and orientation. Spend the rest of the day at leisure or by the pool soaking up the African sun. Overnight: Accra. Meals D.

DAY 2 (July 29) ACCRA CITY TOUR - ELMINA

After breakfast, embark on a sightseeing city tour of Accra. You will drive through the administrative and economic districts of Accra, the capital of Ghana. This city is well over 100 years old and has a blend of colonial and modern architecture that summarize her history. You will visit the W. E. B. Dubois Center for Pan African Culture, the place where Dr. Dubois (an American academic and civil rights champion) spent the last two years of his life working on a Pan-African encyclopedia under the invitation the first Ghanaian president, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah.



Next, you will visit Independence/ Black Star Square and Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park, significant landmarks in the city which are of immense historical and cultural value. Lunch will be on your own in a local Ghanaian restaurant. The Accra tour will end with a visit to the Arts Center, where you will have an opportunity to use your bargaining skills to shop for artifacts from Ghana and West Africa in an open-air market. Depart for drive Elmina. Overnight: Elmina. Meals B, D.

DAY 3 (July 30) KAKUM NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, depart for a drive through the historic Denkyira Kingdom to Kakum National Park, one of West Africa's surviving tropical rain forests. Extending over 360sq km, Kakum is the home to over 40 large mammals, 400 bird species, and a breathtaking array of butterflies, flora and fauna. The most popular attraction is the canopy walkway, which is comprised of seven bridges that span 330m and hang 40m above the forest floor. You may choose to traverse the canopy walkway or enjoy a 2 km nature walk through the forest to discover the wide variety of exotic floral species and the medicinal values they offer. Overnight: Elmina. Meals B, D.

DAY 4 (July 31) MEMORIAL AT ELMINA CASTLE – REVERENTIAL CASTLE

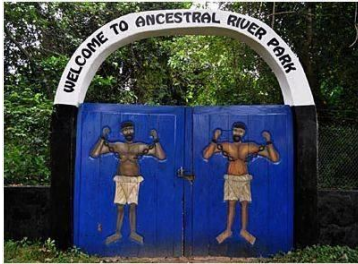
This morning you will visit Elmina Castle, built by the Portuguese in 1482 and originally known as St. George's Castle. This castle was the first European structure built in Sub-Saharan Africa. Explore the grounds and rooms full of haunting history. Stroll down to the beach for a memorial ceremony where each participant will throw bread into the waters in remembrance of ancestors. A wreath with a candle is solemnly cast out to sea a respectful moment of silence is observed in remembrance of those who died in the middle passage.



After lunch, savor a walking tour of Elmina. The rich history of this colonial town is captured in its buildings. They tell the stories of the people of Elmina and their interaction with those who came from outside West Africa. Visit the colorful Asafo houses, which were used as a place for warriors to prepare mentally and spiritually before going to war. They are wonderful examples of how art is used in daily lives of Africans.

After dinner, you will have the opportunity to participate in “Reverential Night.” There will be candle light processions and a vigil to commemorate the Africans who died in the slave trade. There will also be a moving ceremony and re-enactment of the slave passage through the “Door of No Return,” followed by a midnight declaration of Emancipation Day. This is the highlight of the Panafest celebration. Overnight: Elmina. Meals B, D.

DAY 5 (August 1) EMMANCIPIATION DURBAR AT ASIN MANSO



After breakfast, check out of your hotel for a drive through the former slave route to Assin Manso. This was the final transit point for enslaved Africans before being shipped off to the new world. You will have the opportunity to visit the slave dungeons as well as the final resting place for two ancestors whose mortal remains were returned from the USA and Jamaica and re-interred in Ghana.

The Emancipation Day Celebration is opened with a Grand Durbar of Traditional Chiefs and people of the Central Region. Witness this grand, colorful and spectacular event that showcases the pomp and pageantry of Ghana's traditional rulers, dressed in rich Kente and adorned in glittering gold jewelry. Discover the African rhythm in you as you dance to the beat of the 'Fromtomfrom' drums.

Join the group for “kasa” (talk time). Kasa provides an opportunity to learn more about Ghanaian culture or simply talk to each other and share impressions of the tour experience. Kasa discussions are led by your tour leader or tour guide. (This activity is optional). Depart for the drive to Accra. Overnight: Accra. Meals B, D.

DAY 6 (August 2) ACCRA – LOME, TOGO

After breakfast, depart Accra for a scenic drive through the countryside to Togo's capital city, Lome. Upon arrival, check in to your hotel briefly and then embark on an insightful tour of the city. Visit the monuments and sights that will allow you to fully experience Togolese and West African life and culture. Included in your visits for the afternoon are: Grand Marche, Marche des Feticheurs, Musee National, and Place de l' Independence. Overnight: Lome. Meals B, D.





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DAY 7 (August 3) LOME – OUIDAH – COTONOU

After breakfast, depart for a visit to Ouidah, the cradle of African traditional religion. Tour the temple dedicated to the sacred python (believed to give vitality and protection) and the sacred forest which houses many shrines dedicated to various deities. Visit the historical Museum of Ouidah. Located in a Portuguese fort built in 1721, this Museum portrays Benin's role in the transatlantic slave trade. Later, visit the "Port of No Return," a monument built by the Benin government to commemorate the Africans taken from the Dahomey Empire during the slave trade. Continue the journey northwards to Cotonou. Overnight: Cotonou. Meals: B, D.

DAY 8 (August 4) COTONOU – GANVIE



Enjoy breakfast at your hotel, then make a sensational visit to Ganvie (the village on water), commonly referred to as the "Venice of West Africa." Witness first-hand as the people of Ganvie carry out their daily routines in dugout canoes piled high with wares, transacting commerce with one another and tourists. You will enjoy shopping on the floating market and taking a relaxing canoe ride on the waterways of this exotic 300-year-old village.

Later, drive through the multicolored center of the administrative and commercial capital of Benin to view its many statues and monuments. "Kasa" Talk Time (optional). Overnight: Cotonou. Meals: B, D.

DAY 9 (August 5) COTONOU – ACCRA

After breakfast, depart Cotonou for Accra via Lome. Stopover in Lome for lunch and then continue to Accra. Overnight: Accra. Meals B, D.

DAY 10 (August 6) SHOPPING / DEPARTURE

Today is reserved as a day for leisure or last-minute shopping. Early evening transfer to the airport for check-in and departure. Meals B.

\$2,500 per person. Minimum group of 10

Payment Plan Available