



MINISTRY OF TOURISM,
ARTS AND CULTURE



MINISTRY OF FINANCE



SECTOR SKILLS REVITALISATION PROGRAM



Becoming a Ghana Guru
(Product knowledge basics)

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INTRODUCTION

The GH¢100 billion GhanaCARES “Obaatan pa” Programme is a three- and a half-year comprehensive programme to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, return the country to a sustained path of robust growth and to create a stronger, more resilient and transformed economy.

Government’s overall vision and medium- term priorities set out in the National Tourism Plan has been prioritised under CARES with a proposed funding of GH¢100 million to the sector over three years. This priority is to ensure investment and development of infrastructure, marketing, improving supply-chain links, enhanced capacity of key tourism institutions and actors and improved coordination with the private sector for job creation and economic expansion. Specifically, the interventions expects to increase tourist arrivals, increase jobs in the tourism sector and increase Tourism’s contribution to GDP by 2% by 2023.

The following are the specific agreed interventions for the Tourism sector under GhanaCARES “Obaatan Pa” from now to the end of 2023:

- 1.Sector Operators’ Skills Revitalization (Enhance skills of tourism sector operators)
- 2.Enhanced tourism marketing and promotion
- 3.Improved sanitation and attractiveness of selected beaches incoastal cities and towns
4. Improve quality of Tourism Assets
- 5.Reduction in the cost of doing business in the tourism sector.



MODULE 1: INTRODUCTION TO GHANA

This module is to introduce you to Ghana, our borders, our history and cultural heritage, historical monuments, Ghanaian hospitality, educational system, the climate, Ecosystem, our natural resources among others.

Introduction

Ghana is located in West Africa. Indeed, it can be said to be the centre of the world since the Greenwich Meridian, longitude 0 degree passes through Tema, a city 30.2 km to the east of the capital, Accra and is also the closest land mass to the Equator longitude 0 degree.

It is six hours by air from the United Kingdom and most European cities and eleven hours by direct flight from New York and Washington in the USA. The Middle East and Southern Africa are within easy reach being seven and half hours and six hours respectively away by air.

Over 30 International airlines fly into the country through the main international gate way. Kotoka International Airport, Cruise ships which periodically call at the Takoradi and Tema ports also bring thousands of visitors to Ghana. Other visitors come through our land borders with neighboring countries like Togo, Burkina Faso and Cote D'ivoire.

Ghana was the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to gain independence from colonial rule in 1957. It is one of the continent's fastest growing economies and has made major progress in the attainment and consolidation of growth.

Geography

Located along the Gulf of Guinea and the Atlantic Ocean, in the sub region of West Africa and spanning a land mass of 238,535km² (92,099 sq. mi), Ghana is bordered by the Ivory Coast in the west, Burkina Faso in the north, Togo in the east, and the Atlantic Ocean in the south. It also boasts of the bisection by the Prime Meridian (00 longitude), which runs through the port city of Tema; east of the capital of Accra. Cape Three Points, the most southerly peninsula in Ghana is also the closest land fall to the oceanic intersection of the Prime Meridian and the Equator.

Most part of the country is relatively flat. A narrow grassy plain stretches inland from this, widening in the east, while south and west are covered by dense rainforest. To the north are forested hills, the dry savannah and open woodland.

Demographics & Language

Ghana is a multilingual country in which about eighty languages are spoken. Among these, English, the official language and lingua franca.

Ghana has more than seventy ethnic groups, each with its own distinct language. Languages that belong to the same ethnic group are usually mutually intelligible. The Dagbani and Mampelle languages of Northern Region, for instance, are mutually intelligible with the Frafra and Waali languages of the Upper West Region of Ghana. These four languages (Akuapem Twi, Asante Twi and Fante) are mutually intelligible and so are two Mole-Dagbani ethnic languages (Dagaare and Dagbanli). Other languages are Ewe, Dagme, Ga, Nzema, Gonja, and the Kasem.

More than two thirds of the population is Christian, with about a fifth being Muslim. The others adhere to traditional African beliefs or are atheists.

Ghana's Economy and Development

The country's economy is the second biggest in West Africa and it is booming, helped by strong exports of cocoa, gold and oil. In 2019, real GDP growth was estimated at 7.1%. The country's Human Development Index has risen by 31% over the last three decades.

Cultural Heritage

Ghana is endowed with a wide range of natural, historical and cultural attractions, all of which provide the basis for conservation and preservation, allowing the country to promote a range of diverse tourism products.

Ghana has a unique cultural heritage, featuring a calendar of regular festivals, ancient traditions, artisans, excellent goldsmiths, wonderful woodcarvings and herbal medicine.

Historical Monuments

The coast of Ghana is dotted with historical monuments such as the forts and castles built during the 14th to 18th centuries by eight different European empires. Visitors can see the dungeons that were used to accommodate millions of Africans for the famous transatlantic slave trade.

They are still standing today, preserved as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. These heritage sites and monuments are key to Ghana's tourism, attracting many students of history and culture as well as other visitors.

Ecotourism & more

There truly is something for everyone in Ghana. For nature lovers, there is the marvelous array of Ghanaian wildlife – everything from elephants to butterflies – while the scenery is breathtaking in its variety, from tropical forests to majestic waterfalls to perfect beaches.

Ghana offers a rich and satisfying experience. This is a land where the past is linked to the present in all kinds of fascinating ways: by the institution of chieftaincy with its rich regalia, by the colorful pageantry of its many festivals, by the splendid variety of its handicrafts – and, above all, by its legendary hospitality.

Natural Resources:

Until its independence from British colonial rule on March 6, 1957, Ghana was called the “Gold Coast”, a name given to it by early Portuguese explorers who first set foot on the shores of the country in the fifteenth century. The name aptly described the country’s wealth in gold and natural resources, which include the present day:

- Rich mineral resources such as gold, diamonds, manganese, bauxite, iron ore and various clay and salt deposits.
- Extensive rich forests with a wide range of tropical hardwoods.
- A wide variety of agricultural products, including the important export crop cocoa, and rich fishing resources.
- Unique tourist attractions, including beautiful landscapes, inviting sunshine, golden beaches, wildlife parks, countryside with rich cultural heritage, and the proverbial warmth and hospitality of the people.

Akwaaba

Renowned for its friendly people and warm hospitality, Ghana is ideal destination for all travelers of all kinds. Whether one is a first-time visitor to Africa looking for an ideal introduction to the continent, or a seasoned traveler in search of a refreshing alternative to the safari circuit, Ghana has the answer.

AKWAABA is an expression one will hear several times daily as you travel around Ghana, one that will ring in your ears at night, and bring a smile to your face for weeks after you leave. Welcome to a haven that combines the charms of a tropical beach idyll with a fascinating historical heritage, rich cultural variety, and some interesting wildlife in the national parks.

Climate

Ghana has a tropical climate, characterized most of the year by moderate temperatures (generally 21-30°C or 70-90F), constant breezes and sunshine. There are two rainy seasons, from March to July and from September to October, separated by a short dry season in August and a relatively long dry season in the south from October to March. Annual rainfall in the south averages 2,030 mm but varies greatly throughout the country, with the heaviest rainfall in the western region and the lowest in the north.

School

There are numerous grammar, secondary, basic, commercial, technical and vocational educational institutions throughout Ghana. The major state universities are, University of Ghana at Legon-Accra, University of Cape Coast, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology at Kumasi and the University of Development Studies at Tamale, as well as, one University of Education at Winneba.

There are also a number of private universities primarily clustered around the Greater Accra Region. In addition, there are numerous specialized tertiary institutions in the country. A functional literacy programme has been initiated in Ghana, targeting illiterate adults.

Health Services

Ghana has a reasonably good health service. All regional capitals and most districts have hospitals and clinics, and four teaching hospitals in Accra, Kumasi, Cape Coast and Tamale have facilities for treating special cases.

Additionally, a number of religious organizations and private medical practitioners operate hospitals and clinics all over the country. Herbal medicine and psychic healing are also generally practiced, and there is a special government Herbal Medicine Hospital and Research Centre at Akwapim-Mampong.

Security

Ghana is described as one of the most peaceful and secured countries in Africa. Ghana has very formidable security services with well trained professionals of international repute who are always on top of their job.

In case of emergency, you can contact these numbers and you are assured of urgent and prompt response.

Police - 191/112/18555
Fire Service - 192/111
National Ambulance - 193/112



MODULE 2: COMING TO GHANA

This module is to show what one needs to know before setting off to Ghana. These include Visa requirements, the type of things to bring, transportation system, hotels, arrival and departure formalities among others

Getting to Ghana

Several international airlines, including Rwanda Airways, British Airways, Emirates, United Airlines, South African Airways, and Delta Airlines, operate regular scheduled flights from Ghana to major cities in North America, Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Health Requirements

Yellow fever vaccination is required by all except infants under one year. Visitors are also advised to consult their doctors well in advance of their visit so that one may begin the usual anti-malaria medication if needed.

Passport

A Valid Passport is mandatory.

Visa information

Visa requirements are subject to change and should be checked prior to traveling to Ghana, but at the time of writing visas are required by most nationalities and must be acquired in advance at a Ghanaian Embassy or High Commission. ECOWAS citizens are exempted from Visa.

The Requirements for Tourist Visa

- Completed Visa Application Form (Can be obtained from any Ghana High Commission listed below) 1 Original and 3 Copies (All the 4 forms should be signed by the applicant. The signature should be same as the one on the passport.)

- Complete Personal History Form (Can be obtained from any Ghana High Commission listed below) 1 Original and 3 Copies (All the 4 forms should be signed by the applicant. The signature should be same as the one on the passport.)
- Four Passport-Sized Photographs
- Original Vaccination Certificate Against Yellow Fever
- Four Copies of Certificate of Ticket or Itinerary or Flight Confirmation Slip or Air Ticket
- Visa Fee
- Original Passport: The Validity of the passport should be more than 6 months when you apply for the visa.

Packing the Right clothing

Since the climate is warm and tropical all year round, visitors are advised to pack light washable cotton clothing and casual wear. One must not forget their sunglasses and comfortable walking shoes. There are no restrictions on what men and women may wear. Slacks and shorts for both sexes are permissible.

Electricity

Electrical appliances operate on or are adaptable to 220 / 240 volts. Electric outlets in Ghana accept either 3pronged, or sometimes 2-pronged. British or Continental European type plus or converters.

Communications

Most major hotels also have business centres which provide secretarial and courier services. Ghana has six Telecommunications companies which provides voice and data services, with a valid identity card/passport, one can acquire a sim from any of the telecoms. You can make long distance telephone calls within the country.

Money/Currency

Ghana's currency is the cedi which comes in denominations of GHC200, 100, 50, 20, 10, 5 and 1. Coins come in denominations of GHC2, GHC1 and also 50p, 20p, 10p, 5p & 1 pesewas. Foreign currency can be freely exchanged at any Forex Bureaus in the country.

Apart from Forex Bureaus, some commercial banks also exchange foreign currency. Banks are normally open from 8:30 am to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Some banks also operate on Saturdays from 09:00 – 14:00 GMT. Most large commercial banks will also have automatic teller machines located outside and available during and after working hours. Most will take VISA and a few other check cards.

Traveler's Cheques

All banks and Forex Bureaus accept Traveler's Cheques although the rate of exchange may be slightly lower than for cash transaction.

Credit Cards

The most widely accepted credit cards are Visa and MasterCard. These cards are accepted in major hotels, restaurants, banks and businesses. Your card may be used for payment at most airlines, leading hotels and major supermarkets. However, be cautious when using your credit to avoid fraud.

Hotels

Ghana, offers a wide range of accommodation facilities from homestays and Guesthouses to up market Hotels. Ghana's hotels are classified according to the international star-system with 5-star as the highest and one-star being the minimum international acceptable quality. In addition, there are local budget hotels with minimum standards of sanitation and comfort. Hotel License is issued by the Ghana Tourism Authority and displayed at the hotel reception.

Entertainment

Most cities and towns have theatres, cinema houses, discotheques, pubs, street cafes and casinos that provide vibrant nightlife experience. Consult your hotel reception for what is on and where to go.

Medical facilities

Modern private and public hospitals and clinics are available in all cities and big towns. Tourist should contact travelers' medical insurance companies to cover any medical contingencies while away from their home countries.

Barbers and Hairdressers

They are available in Salons and most hotels.

Laundry

There are available laundry services in most hotels.

Ground Transport to and from KIA

Although worldwide most people travel to the airport in their private cars, taxis and hiring cars are available at the airport for travelers' convenience.

Public Pool Taxi

There are other taxi services from point to point at fixed charges per individual passenger. This allows other passengers to join in the same vehicle. You can also charter taxis at negotiated rate.

Car rentals

There are car rentals companies registered by the Ghana Tourism Authority which offer car hiring services.

Kotaka International Airport

Kotaka International Airport (KIA) is located in Accra. It is the major entry point to the country and is accessible from any part of the globe. KIA has a Category 1 rating by the FAA. Currently it is served by over 30 carriers with over 170 weekly passenger aircraft movements to more than 36 international destinations.



Airport Departure

Airport departure lounge is located after security control. Facilities include a Duty Free shop, restaurant, bar and a seating area.



MODULE 3: MOVING AROUND GHANA

This module is to show visitors what you need to know to make your movement around Ghana pleasant.

Greetings



Greeting is an important social function that marks an open heart and mind. It also expresses one's concern for the other. Refusing or failing to greet another person may indicate that you do not care for the other's welfare.

Do not forget that a smile is also a form of greeting. Please make an effort to pick up some of our simple vernacular greeting forms and win our hearts over.

Palace Etiquette

Chiefs in Ghana enjoy receiving foreigners and interacting with them. There are etiquettes that one needs to observe. When one is invited to greet a chief or the king, for example, move up towards him and stop short at a point from where he is seated, stop and bow. He may graciously invite you to come for a handshake.

On formal occasions, we do not speak directly to the king, or chief, for that matter communication at the royal court is a three-way affair through a spokesman (linguist) called "Okyeame" who replicates the conversation. The visitor faces the Okyeame and delivers his message to the chief. The chief gives his reply or response to the Okyeame who renders it to the visitor.

The night life

The legendary Ghanaian rhythm comes to life in most cities and major towns after working hours where you can feel Ghana. The Ghanaian warmth and culture extend to our buzzing bars and pubs, nightclubs and drinking spots where African rhythm is usually alive. Experience the authentic Feel Ghana moments by visiting any of the numerous locations where you enjoy live-band music of highlife, hiplife or even take dance lessons in highlife, salsa, Kpanlogo or Boborbo where you could dance the night away as you enjoy drinks with friends or while making new friends.

If it is a serene and quiet environment that one wants, Accra and the major cities have places where you can enjoy soothing, unobtrusive music for your evening's relaxation. Otherwise, you could also join ordinary people at any pub after work where it is likely a live football match is being screened. Feel free to join the discussions where players are either hailed or hooted in a heated passionate but friendly manner.

Is betting your thing? Find your luck in the cities' casinos or many numerous sports betting centres dotted in the major towns and go back home richer than you came.

Ghanaians love to party and almost every gathering is an opportunity to squeeze in some partying. Be it at a funeral or just a friends meet-up, there is sure to be chilled drinks with incessant variety from beers, whisky, brandy, carbonated drinks and don't be shy to ask for local versions of each which come with authentic Ghanaian taste.

LOCAL CUISINE

Food is a key part of the Ghana experience for visitors. Most dishes consist of a starchy element, a sauce or soup and a meat. A thick porridge or puree forms the basis of many Ghanaian recipes. The type of food varies from region to region. Ghana people enjoy plantains (similar to bananas), cassava and cocoyam (a root vegetable), while millet, yams and corn are popular in the north. Stew with fish or chicken) and grilled tilapia (a freshwater fish).

Local food is eaten without cutlery using the right hand. A range of food and drink items are sold on the street, such as, sugar cane, sweetcorn, coconut, oranges and plantain chips. Local beers such as Star, Club, Castle and milk stout are readily available.

Ghanaian cuisine follows the West African food culture where chili peppers, onions and tomatoes are the principal ingredients. The main dishes are staple foods with maize, rice, cassava, yam and beans accompanied of sauces or soups.

Fish is largely eaten in Ghana and especially in the coastal villages you'll find delicious grilled and smoked fish-dishes. However, meat is also one of the main ingredients and the concept of vegetarian food is not largely known, especially in the villages.

Breakfast

For Breakfast Ghanaians usually serve maize porridge eaten with toast. Milo, a chocolate drink, is commonly drunk cold and bottled, or hot for breakfast, as well as Lipton tea. Among delicious snacks you'll find plantain chips, salty pastries, peanuts and roasted plantain, hibiscus juice (sobolo) or fresh coconut.

MODULE 4: REGIONAL EXPOSE

This module is to show you the regions of Ghana and their respective cultures

GREATER ACCRA REGION

The region is made up of two metropolitan areas, Tema and Accra, seven municipalities and seven district assemblies. Accra offers a huge variety of entertainment and culture that has captured the heart and affection of so many visitors. Spread along the Atlantic coast and the Gulf of Guinea, the capital city offers some of Ghana's most attractive beaches and holiday resorts.

Accra is one of the safest cities in Africa. It is a place brimming with excitement and relatively easy to get around. It is the perfect starting point to explore Ghana, with its impressive buildings that reflect the city's history, its luxury hotels, modern commercial areas and shops as well as excellent restaurants, bars and nightclubs. In addition, there are fascinating museums, notable public monuments and busy markets to be explored in Old Accra.

The Accra Arts Centre gives travelers an opportunity to see traditional Ghanaian arts and crafts stalls and to leave the textile market a few cedis lighter but with good-quality handicrafts from all over the country. Another of the city's highlights is the National Museum on Barnes Road, with its collection of historic treasures and exhibits reflecting Ghana's heritage.

For bargain hunters, the Makola Market on Kojo Thompson Road is among the most famous in Ghana, while the unique Osu Night Market is lit by hundreds of lanterns and candles. For those who prefer a modern and peaceful atmosphere, the distinctive National Theatre is an important centre for the performing arts.

SOMETHING A LITTLE DIFFERENT

The Accra suburb of Teshie-Nungua is a culture hot spot for visitors. Here, local artists have made coffins in the shape of cars, aeroplanes and even animals that are now regarded as works of art. Historically, a local fisherman would be transported to the next world in a fish-shaped coffin. Something that began as a special tribute to an uncle has turned into a lucrative business for traditional coffin-makers in the area as the coffins have become collector's items.

WESTERN & WESTERN NORTH REGIONS

These Regions present a striking contrast between ancient and modern Ghana. The area contains a variety of significant forts, numerous mines and traditional villages as well as a long coast that is perfect for relaxing breaks.

The area has a rich heritage, as shown by the number of historical castles and European trading forts that are open to visitors. These castles and forts are a magnet for tourists, reflecting the diversity of building styles employed by colonial traders. The Western Region is home to a remarkable cluster of colonial forts including Fort Friedrichsburg at Princes Town, Fort Antonio at Axim, Fort Apollonia at Beyin and Fort Metal Cross at Dixcove.

Many of these historical buildings overlook some of the best beaches in Ghana – just the right spot to relax after a tour. The Western Region has many charming beaches, stretching from Ghana's border with the Ivory Coast to the Western Region's boundary with the Central Region. A visit to Ghana's southernmost location, Cape Three Points, is highly recommended. Here, tourists can climb the 84-year-old lighthouse for a superb view of Ghana's only coastal rainforest reserve and rolling hills.

Gold mines and offshore oil platforms dominate the economy of the Western Region. This was one of the first areas to be mined for gold and

other minerals and many mines, large and small, can be found here. Tarkwa is the centre of the region's mining industry. Several of the mines welcome visitors, including Nsuta Manganese, Prestea and Tarkwa.

Sekondi-Takoradi, the region's capital, is also on the coast. Comprising the twin cities of Sekondi and Takoradi, the capital has a population of 900,000. Visitors will find plenty of elegant beaches and contemporary resorts including Fanta's Folly, The Hideout, Green Turtle Lodge, Princess Town Beach, Sports Club Beach and Busua Beach.

Takoradi is the location of Ghana's first deep-water seaport, built in 1928, and is the country's second-largest industrial area. It is also now a centre for the offshore oil industry. The so-called Oil City has seen a dramatic increase in investment and wealth as a result of the latest find. Large numbers of international companies and hotels have sprung up in the area. Picturesque villages, the Western Region offers a unique holiday with plenty to do and see.

ASHANTI REGION

The Ashanti Region is blessed with rich cultural and historical landmarks. Known as the 'Kingdom of Gold', the area is famous for gold, cocoa and cloth production and has a legacy of fine craftsmanship and cultural traditions. Occupying a central position in modern Ghana, Ashanti is the hub of the ancient territory of the Asante and is still the heartland for all Asante people today.

Kumasi, the region's ancient capital and Ghana's second-largest city was founded in 1695 by the Asantehene (Osei Tutu I), This scenic city has ancient palaces, museums, forts and churches that provide a historical backdrop to the colourful festivals and ceremonies that continue to this day. Visitors can tour the city's cultural treasures and sites of interest, including the Kumasi Fort, the Military Museum, the beautiful 300-year old shrine at Besease and the Manhyia Palace, where the Asante king

sits in session every sixth Sunday heralded by a procession of dignitaries with exuberant drumming and horn blowing.

Kumasi is ringed by villages famous for their handicrafts, including wood carving and kente cloth weaving. Referred to by the Akans as 'nwentoma' (meaning 'woven cloth'), the kente cloth originated in the Ashanti kingdom and is still one of the region's greatest exports. Many Ashanti tribesmen are involved in weaving the traditional cloth on a daily basis. The Ashanti are known for their dazzling patterns, geometric shapes and bold designs interwoven in silk and cotton. Local people choose the sacred cloth for their names as much as their colours and patterns.

Visits to Adanwomase kente village, Ntonso Adinkra cloth village and the royal kente weaving village of Bonwire are all recommended. The Ashanti Region lies in a tropical rainforest belt dominated by impressive forests, large cocoa farms and picturesque settlements. For birdwatchers and butterfly enthusiasts, the Owabi Wildlife Sanctuary and the crater lake of Bosumtwi are well worth a visit. Walkers will love the Bobiri Forest Reserve and its arboretum, the seasonal waterfall at Bomfobiri Wildlife Sanctuary and the hills around Lake Bosumtwi. Forest wildlife, including monkeys, buck and clouds of butterflies, can be seen all over the region.

This area of Ghana is a cultural hub, with various festivals taking place throughout the year. Among the best known are the Akwasidae, Papa, Kente, Nkyidwo and Adaye Kese festivals, which commemorate past leaders and heroes of the Akan. The religious events are a good way for tourists to gain insight into the true Ghanaian way of life. Visitors can also participate in other traditional events such as funerals and naming ceremonies. Funerals, usually held on Saturdays, are spectacular events in Ashanti, with displays of drumming, dancing and pageantry, often with thousands of mourners in traditional red and black.

From top hotels, entertainment and restaurants to fishing on lakes and rivers, enjoying the wildlife and seeing how the famous kente cloth is made, visitors to the Ashanti Region will be spoilt for choice.

VOLTA & OTI REGIONS

These regions landscape of rolling hills and valleys, with lagoons, rivers and waterfalls, makes for one of Ghana's most attractive natural tourist spots.

The region is dominated by the River Volta and Lake Volta. Both are popular recreational areas where visitors can enjoy a music cruise along the lake or ride a canoe along the river with a local fishermen. The beaches of the Volta estuary are among the best in Ghana. There are many resorts along the coast that offer the opportunity to see crocodiles and marine turtles, indulge in water sports or try deep-sea fishing. Tourism hotspots include the amazing Wli Falls in the tropical forest near Hohoe. Equally spectacular are the nearby Tsatsadu Falls at Alavanyo and the Tagbo Falls at Liate Wote. Ho, the region's capital, is an ideal place to learn about Ghana's heritage. The ruins of European forts and other structures can still be seen, with unmistakable vestiges of the German colonial era.

Festivals in these regions are very colorful. The people of Wli, for example, hold a unique festival to give thanks for the gift of water, while the Anlo people put on the illustrious Hogbetsotso festival which commemorate the dramatic migration of the Anlos from Notsie.

It is also one of the regions of Ghana where the famous kente cloth is produced.

The Volta and Oti Regions gives visitors a chance to truly appreciate the beauty of Ghana.

CENTRAL REGION

The Central Region in southern Ghana is a major tourism centre featuring some of the most beautiful coasts and national parks in the country. The area is famous for its palm-fringed beaches, fascinating fishing villages, historical towns and rich natural attractions.

The seaside, with its tranquil atmosphere and delightful views of the Gulf of Guinea, is a perfect place for visitors to relax. Winneba beach, 45 minutes west of Accra, and Brenu beach, close to Sekondi-Takoradi, are two of the best kept and most delightful beaches in Ghana.

This coast is also famous for its ancient forts and castles, built by early European traders. Three of them – Cape Coast Castle, Elmina Castle and Fort St Jago – are Unesco World Heritage Sites. Other forts that serve as a reminder of Ghana’s strong heritage are Fort Good Hope, Fort Patience, Fort Amsterdam and Fort William.

The Central Region is a focus for much of Ghana’s history, formed by the slave trade, and modern-day culture. Some powerful reminders of earlier times can be found in this region, including the slave-route sites at Assin Praso and Assin Manso. Other historical towns worth a visit are Winneba (traditionally known as Simpa), Kromantse/Abanze, Duakwa and Mensa Krom, home to some of the region’s best wood carvers.

While the area’s economy is dominated by fishing, the Central Region is renowned as the heart of education in Ghana. The area has many elite educational institutions and some of the best schools in the country.

This part of Ghana also has much to offer in the way of regional culture. Various festivals are held throughout the year, including the Bakatue Festival, marking the start of the fishing season, and the Edina Buronya a local version of Christmas celebrated by the people of Elmina on the first Thursday of the New Year.

The Aboakyer Festival is held by the chiefs and people of Winneba on the first Saturday in May, while the Fetu Festival, featuring a durbar of chiefs, is held by the people of Cape Coast on the first Saturday of September. Another renowned festival is Odambea, in Saltpond, on the last Saturday in August, reflecting the migration of local people centuries ago.

Whether you're looking to relax and unwind on the beach, investigate historical roots, take a canopy tour or experience a local festival, the Central Region is a must when visiting Ghana.

EASTERN REGION

The Eastern Region with its scenic areas is the ultimate retreat for relaxation.

This region borders Lake Volta, one of the world's largest man-made lakes. It offers splendid opportunities for paragliding, hiking, sport fishing, cruising and excursions. A weekend trip to Dodi Island is strongly recommended.

Another natural attraction is the breathtaking Kwahu scarp, home to the Kwahus. A number of picturesque communities with beautiful homes can be found on top of the scarp. In the Afram plains, north of the scarp, is a traditional zone of wooded savannah land. The River Volta is at its broadest here, providing opportunities for boating and angling. Trips to Digya National Park are also possible.

Overlooking a beautiful stretch of countryside, the Krobo Mountains and the Akwapim Ridge both provide opportunities for long walks and hikes. Just an hour's drive from Accra, the botanical gardens at Aburi also draw many visitors. The gardens, which opened in 1890, contain a rich collection of tropical flora that attract large numbers of birds and butterflies.

The Eastern Region with its rich tropical forests has many cascading waterfalls, including the Boti Falls in the forest reserve at Huhunya and the Begoro Waterfalls.

The country's first cocoa farm was established by Tetteh Quarshie in Mampong-Akwapim in the Eastern Region using seeds originally brought from Fernando Po Island. From this small beginning grew one of the country's main industries. Travellers should see at least one cocoa farm before they leave and perhaps even try some. The Cocoa Research Institute and its arboretums at New Tafo are open to visitors.

For sightseers interested in the region's rich culture and history, the old villages and towns in the east of Ghana make for a wonderful day out. The original Presbyterian school buildings in Akropong and the house of Tetteh Quarshie in Mampong are worth a visit.

BONO EAST, AHAFO & BONO REGIONS

These regions are the country's food basket with large acres of food crops and plantations under cultivation. It also has extensive forest reserves and wildlife attractions.

Festivals are a huge part of Ghanaian society and many popular festivals take place in these regions. In November, Apoo Festival is held in Techiman and Wenchi. Between November and December the people of Dormaa Ahenkro, Berekum and Nsuatre also put on the Kwafie Festival.

Techiman, 60 km north-east of Sunyani, is believed to be the birthplace of the Akan people. Prehistoric relics, found in the area, are now preserved in the chief's palace. The town comes alive on market days as local people arrive to sell their wares. In the Tano River, which flows through Techiman, visitors may catch a glimpse of the sacred fish, said to have golden crowns.

Tourists can visit busy markets in small towns and villages where farm produce, pottery, weaving and other crafts are displayed. The ancient village of Nsuta, 20 km from Techiman, is famous for Kyenkyen cloth, made from the bark of a tree. It is fascinating to watch the making of this coarse fabric that was worn in ancient times.

SAVANNAH, NORTHERN AND NORTH-EAST REGIONS

These regions are bordered on the north by the Upper East and Upper West Region, on the east by Togo, on the south by the Black Volta River and on the west by the Ivory Coast, giving tourists easy access to many other parts of this wonderful country. The region is a place of wonderful landscapes that include the Gambaga escarpment and the Nakpanduri cliffs.

Tamale, the commercial centre of northern Ghana, is an intriguing mixture of ancient and modern. Its traditional architecture of round huts with conical thatched roofs is in stark contrast to the city's modern role as a hub for technology.

UPPER EAST REGION

The area is home to various cultural and historical tourist hotspots, such as the archaeological treasures of the River Sissili Basin, the ghostly whistling and drumming Tongo Rocks at Pwalugu and Chiana, the Awologo-Tango at Bongo, the wall decoration at Tilli and the Naa Gbewaa Shrine. Other 'must see' places include the Paga Crocodile Pond, the Bolgatanga Museum and the Kulungugu Bomb Site, where an attempt was made on the life of Ghana's first president, Dr Kwame Nkrumah. Also worth seeing are the three point elevation at Pusiga, the Tongo Hills and the mud-built Navrongo Church, with its beautiful decorative designs by local artisans.

The Upper East region is the gateway to Ghana from Burkina Faso and Togo. The regional capital, Bolgatanga (known locally as Bolga) is a centre for farm produce, livestock and handicrafts including straw hats, baskets, cloth and jewelry. The twice-weekly market is the perfect place to grab a bargain in basket ware, leather goods and traditional clothing. A specialty of Bolgatanga is hand-spun fugu cloth, which visitors can buy in the markets.

UPPER WEST REGION

The Upper West Region is a great place to discover Ghana's historical slave routes and trade sites. Travelers can see the remnants of a Slave Defence Wall for themselves in the border town of Gwollu. Located 70 km north of the regional capital, Wa, the Slave Defence Wall is one of many relics of the 300-year-long slave trade.

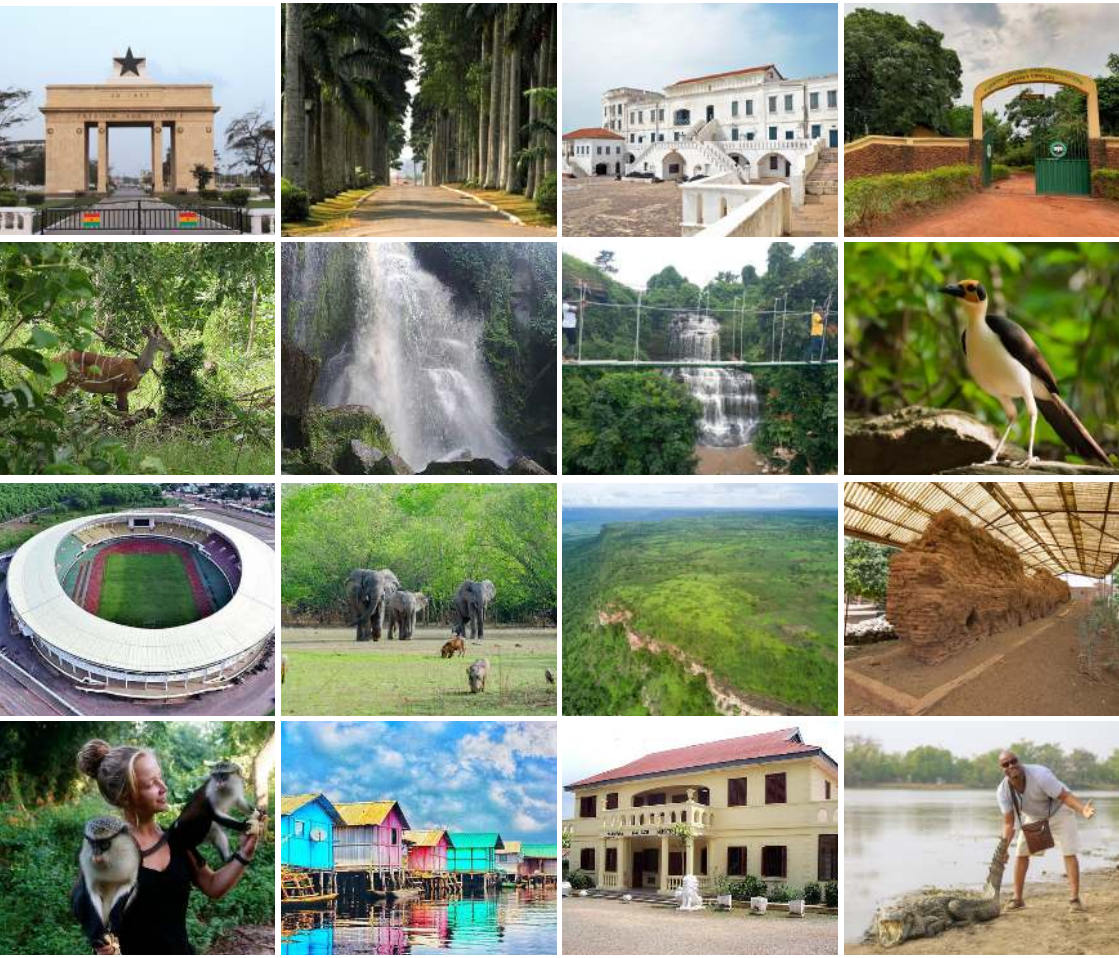
The wall was built by Gwollu Koro Limann to defend local people against slave traders.

Another feature of the Upper West Region are the many ancient caves. The caves in Bulenga, Dahili and Sankana were places of refuge for people fleeing the slave raiders. Relics of ancient slave camps can be found at Pizaga, Dolbizon and Kassana.

The influence of Islam is obvious in the towns throughout the region, as the major routes of the trans-Saharan trade converged in the area. The town of Wa is dotted with mosques including the ancient Sudanese mosques at Nakore and Dondoli. The striking 16th-century Waa Naa's Palace, an example of Sudanese architecture, can also be found in Wa. By contrast, local architecture is exemplified by Jirapa Naa's Palace, the first multi-storey mud building in Ghana.

As in the rest of Ghana, festivals are a way of life in the Upper West Region. Local people and their chiefs dress in colourful smocks and hold durbars in the course of the celebrations. One of the biggest is the

Paragbiele Festival, held by the Tumu people in the last week of January until the first day of February. There is a show of farm produce, together with music and dance, as a way of thanking God and the ancestors for their guidance over the farming season. Other festivals include the Willa, Zumbenti, Kakube and Kobine.



MODULE 5: ECOTOURISM & ADVENTURE

GREATER ACCRA REGION

Shai Hills Reserve

Shai Hills Resource Reserve covers an area of 51 sq km. It is only an hour's drive from Accra and home to 31 species of mammal, 175 species of birds and hundreds of butterfly species. Among the mammals in the reserve are western kob, grey duiker, bushbuck, olive baboon, green monkey and the spot-nosed monkey.

Close to the reserve are the Se Yo and Obonu Tem caves, located in a range of rocky hills. Water harbour crocodiles and tomb bats inhabit some of the caves. In parts of the reserve visitors can see stone defence walls created by the former Shai community, whose people were forced out by rulers over a century ago. The conservation area also offers a baboon trail, a waterhole and the Adwuku Hill hike.

WESTERN & WESTERN NORTH REGIONS

Ankasa Conservation Area

Located in the south-west corner of Ghana, the Ankasa Conservation Area is an extraordinary bioreserve. The 500 sq km area includes the Nini Suhien National Park and Ankasa Resource Reserve. This is the only wet evergreen high forest ecosystem remaining in Ghana and it has the highest plant diversity known in the country (600 plant species have been recorded in a single hectare) as well as the nation's highest rainfall (1,700 to 2,000 mm per year).

Those willing to rough it can experience an extraordinary wild and rugged place. Mammals include forest elephant, forest buffalo, leopard, bongo and nine species of primates. More than 600 butterfly species have been identified, as well as over 190 bird species. Take a walking tour or a guided birdwatching hike.

Nzulezu stilt village

A 'must see' for visitors to the Western Region is the ancient village of Nzulezu. This unique village rests entirely on stilts and platforms. It was founded over 500 years ago and overlooks the jungle-bound Lake Tadane. Located 90 km west of Takoradi, the village is home to hundreds of people and includes a school, church and main street. According to local legend, the community-based wetland reserve was created by a group from Oualata, a city of the ancient Ghana Empire, after a snail led them to the area.

Nzulezu is one of the few ancient settlements on stilts left in the world and in 2000 it was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Visitors can go on a dugout canoe trip, passing through a series of marshes, swamp forest and open pools rich with wildlife including crocodile, egret, heron and kingfisher. Tourists can also take a guided evening tour of the local beach, which has become a conservation area for sea turtles, to see this endangered nesting or its hatchlings emerging and making their way to the sea.

EASTERN REGION

Bunso Arboretum

The site contains over 110 species of birds, 30 species of butterflies and a herb garden with over 40 species.

Tour the arboretum with a guide to learn about the native and exotic plants, including their medicinal properties for traditional healing, or go on an indigenous foods tour to learn the many ways in which local people harvest food from local plants.

Adjeikrom and Akyeamehene Farms tours

Ghana's cocoa is known as the world's premium cocoa because of its unique characteristics resulting from careful handling by farmers through the pod breaking, fermentation and drying processes. Visitors to Adjeikrom can tour rural cocoa farms and learn how cocoa is grown, maintained, harvested, fermented and dried.

Historically, the village is of political significance as it is the birthplace of one of Ghana's freedom fighters, a member of the Big Six called Ako Adjei. Ghana's first president went to this village with Dr Ako Adjei and others to plan the fight for independence.

Another exhilarating cocoa farm tour experience is available on the Akyeamehene Cocoa plantations at Ohwirem, near Asamankese. Here visitors get a refreshing hike under the forest canopy and learn about all the agro processes of cocoa cultivation from planting to harvesting. There are exposure to traditional farm certain and can try their hands on pod breaking, drying and other processes. A wide range of authentic cocoa based products are also available at the farm gate.

ASHANTI REGION

Bonwire Kente Village

Bonwire is the home for the iconic kente cloth which has become the symbolic African textile piece which resonates loudly with all people of african descent.

Visitors to Bonwire can get a firsthand experience of the weaving process and also has a wide selection of intricate designs for the souvenir items of their choice.

Bobiri Forest Reserve and Butterfly Sanctuary

The Bobiri Forest Reserve and Butterfly Sanctuary spans 54 sq km area of semi-deciduous tropical rainforest. Visitors can enjoy close-up views of Bobiri's huge trees, its variety of birds, its landscaped butterfly garden (showcasing the sanctuary's 400-plus species) and its arboretum.

Ntonso adinkra cloth village

Ntonso is the homeland of adinkra cloth and the only place in Ghana where traditional adinkra is made locally from scratch. Ntonso is still Ghana's biggest producer of adinkra, a cloth famed for its symbols and proverbial wisdom. The cloth was originally worn only for funerals in the Ashanti Region and produced mainly in black, brown and red. These days however, it is made in all colours and used throughout Ghana. Ntonso has a new visitor centre and lays on official guided tours. On a walking tour, visitors can engage in the various stages of adinkra production, such as dye preparation, cloth dyeing, adinkra stamping and embroidery of stamped cloth.

CENTRAL REGION



The 360 sq km Kakum National Park offers visitors exciting rainforest experience complimented by modern camping facilities. The Visitor Centre has all kinds of exhibits, plus an open-air restaurant and a gift shop operated by Aid to Artisans Ghana.

The Park's best known feature is undoubtedly its 333 metre long canopy walkway, suspended up to 27 metres above the forest floor from trees that are over 300 years old. The Park is heavily patronized and receives many domestic and international visitors.

There is also a variety of trails and guided walks that give visitors an authentic rainforest experience. It's also a premier site for birdwatchers, with 269 confirmed species including eight species of global conservation concern. Mammals include forest elephant, leopard, bongo, bushbuck and many primates, but game viewing is difficult.



Shai Hills Reserve Shai Hills Reserve



Ankasa Conservation Area



Nzulezu stilted village



Bunso Arboretum



Adjeikrom and Akyeamehene Farms tours



Bonwire Kente Village



Bobiri Forest Reserve and Butterfly Sanctuary



Ntonso adinkra cloth village

VOLTA & OTI REGIONS

Wli Waterfall



Wli falls is a popular attraction site near the village of Wli. Most tourists make the easy walk to the lower falls, which is mostly a flat trail but is made more exciting by the presence of thousands of fruit bats nesting on the nearby cliffs.

The more isolated upper falls are a special treat for those with the stamina for a challenging hike. Both routes take visitors through the Agumatsé Wildlife Sanctuary, which has over 200 bird and 400 butterfly species. There are inviting pools at the base of the falls where the brave can take a chilly dip.

Amedzofe village

Amedzofe, one of the highest villages in Ghana, is perched at the foot of Mount Gemi. Visitors can hike up the mountain and reach a lovely waterfall in the valley. The large cross, church and bell tower, all at the top of Mount Gemi, were put up by a German missionary in the 1930s. Both the mountain and church site offer dramatic views in every direction. In clear weather, villagers and tourists can see all the way to Lake Volta.

Liati Wote

As one enters Liati Wote, one's view of the village is dominated by the mass of Mount Afadjato, Ghana's highest free-standing mountain. In addition to the mountain's sweeping views, Liati Wote features the beautiful Tagbo Falls. The falls can be reached by a rewarding hike that showcases an abundance of butterflies (over 300 species recorded), coffee and cocoa farms as well as the beautiful semi-deciduous forest. When you reach the falls, take a refreshing plunge in the chilly waters of the pool at its base.

Tafi-Atome Monkey Sanctuary

For the past 200 years, the Mona monkeys inhabiting the tropical forest surrounding the small village of Tafi-Atome have been protected as it was believed they were messengers of the gods. In 1996 the village began broader efforts to protect their forest and monkeys as well as to offer tours for visitors. As a result, the monkey population has grown to about 200 and the forest has been preserved. The playful monkeys are wild, but often come down very close to visitors.

BONO EAST, AHAFO & BONO REGIONS

Fiema Monkey Sanctuary

For generations, the village people of Boabeng and Fiema have believed that the local monkeys are sacred and have prohibited harm to them. The two adjacent communities have created a forest sanctuary to protect the black silky colobus and brown mona monkeys, both of which are an enchanting sight.

A visit to the Monkey Sanctuary at Fiema, 22 km north of Nkoranza, makes a great day out. The monkeys have access to all parts of the village and local people plant fruit trees for them. When a monkey dies, it is buried in a coffin and special funeral rites are performed.

Asumura Rockfowl Sanctuary

The Asumura area is home to one of Ghana's last remaining populations of the white-necked rockfowl. This species was commonly found in Ghana in the early 1960s but there had been no reports of the bird for almost 40 years. Efforts to locate it were unsuccessful until 2003, when researchers rediscovered the species in the Asumura area.

The white-necked rockfowl is considered an endangered and threatened species but can be seen in the Asumura Sanctuary, just 45 minutes from Goaso. Stop at the visitor centre to find out more about the bird, enjoy a beverage in the open-air summer house, see the rockfowl for yourself on a guided forest walk and challenge yourself to the Bonsam Bepo (Devil's Hill) climb.

Tanoboase Sacred Grove and Rock Formations

The strikingly beautiful sandstone rock formations within the Tano Sacred Grove, along with the interesting history and culture of the grove, make this a highly enjoyable site to visit. Taakora, the highest of the Akan gods on earth, is believed to dwell at the source of the Tano River within the grove, making it a sacred place. Take a guided tour of the grove, learn its fascinating history and be rewarded with a wonderful panoramic view.



Amedzofe village



Liati Wote



Fiema Monkey Sanctuary



Tafi-Atome Monkey Sanctuary



Asumura Rockfowl Sanctuary



Tanoboase Sacred Grove and Rock Formations

SAVANNAH REGION

Mole National Park

Mole National Park, in the north-west of the country, is Ghana's largest wildlife refuge, measuring 4,849 sq km. It is best known for its elephants (a population of about 600) as well as buffalo, antelope, lion, leopard, hippo and five species of primates. There are also more than 300 bird species and 33 identified reptile species within the national park.

The park is located on grassland savannah and its entrance is near the town of Larabanga. The ephemeral rivers Lovi and Mole flow through the park, leaving behind drinking holes in the long dry season. The park is also Ghana's most developed tourism site in terms of tourist amenities. The reserve has an eco lodge with 25 chalets, a 33-room motel with a restaurant and swimming pool and a small museum.

NORTHERN REGION

Daboya Fugu weaving village

Daboya is the most famous of Ghana's fugu weaving communities. Like kente, the fabric is hand-woven but the strips are narrower and have stripes, in contrast to the geometric patterns found in kente.

Nearly all of the thousands of residents of Daboya are involved in the production of fugu. The village has developed into a fascinating site and residents are eager to share their heritage.

Daboya also offers boat tours and cruises on the White Volta River, which flows beside the village. See some of the area's birdlife, enjoy a fishing demonstration with a handthrown net and visit a beach where salt is harvested, all from a hand-made boat, paddled by villagers.

UPPER EAST

Paga

The area of Paga gives tourists an opportunity to see a remarkably well preserved outdoor slave camp, as well as a sacred pool where protected crocodiles can be seen, touched and fed. Visitors can also enjoy a village tour and an evening of drumming and dancing by a local cultural troop.

How the crocodiles came to make their home in a large pond in a landlocked area has always been a mystery. Yet the crocodiles within the sacred Chief's Pond are supposedly as safe as any household pet and the Paga people certainly treat them as such. Young children swim in the pond and local people wash their clothes next to the lethal jaws of the crocodiles without fear. Astonishingly, no one has ever been harmed by any of the 110 crocodiles in the sanctuary.

The Pikworo Slave Camp in Paga was created as a holding place for slaves travelling from the north, until they continued the 150 km journey to the slave market at Salaga. Tour the fascinating, but chilling, camp to see rock carvings, the punishment rock, the lookout post and the slave graveyard.

Sirigu traditional pottery, art and architecture

The village of Sirigu is a fascinating example of local women taking action to preserve their art and culture. This village is home to beautiful pottery and basketry, interesting architecture and decorative wall paintings.

Faced with the loss of these traditional skills as many young women left the village to find jobs, seven women from Sirigu created SWOPA (Sirigu Women's Organisation for Pottery and Art), which began training local women in making traditional crafts and marketing their products.

SWOPA has now grown to include over 350 women and has opened a visitor centre, gallery, workshop and guesthouse complex where visitors can see and buy functional pottery and baskets.

Tengzug Tongo Hills and shrines

The rock formations, caves and sweeping landscape of the Tongo Hills at Tengzug are reason enough to visit, but the village is also home to multiple shrines. The shrines draw people from across Ghana and neighbouring countries who believe they have a sacred power to provide guidance and resolution of problems. Tengzug's combination of natural beauty and cultural richness has resulted in it being short-listed for future consideration as a World Heritage Site by Unesco.

UPPER WEST REGION

Hippo Sanctuary and river safari

Stretching along 40 km of the eastern bank of the Black Volta River, the Wechiau Hippopotamus Sanctuary is a protected area for hippos and associated species. It is home to one of only two remaining groups of hippopotamus in Ghana. Birdlife is also spectacular, with over 200 species on record. The river has had marked success in providing tourists with a unique and unusual eco-travel experience. Experience a river safari in a dugout canoe and see the resident hippo group, birds and mammals as well as fishermen plying their nets.

Gbelle Game Reserve

The Gbelle Game Reserve and bird sanctuary, 17 km south of Tumu, is an important sanctuary for endangered species of wildlife within Ghana.

The reserve is also home to buffalo, hippo, elephant, buck and the country's largest herds of roan antelope. Birdwatchers consider this an important habitat for indigenous and migratory species of birds.



Mole National Park



Daboya Fugu weaving village



Paga Crocodile Pond



Sirigu traditional pottery, art and architecture



Tengzug Tongo Hills and shrines



Hippo Sanctuary and river safari



Gbelle Game Reserve

MODULE 6: HERITAGE

This module is to show you some of the historic monuments and artefacts in Ghana.

Independence Square

In 1957, the Ghanaian politician and revolutionary leader Kwame Nkrumah led the Gold Coast, now Ghana, to its independence from British. Nkrumah became the first prime minister and president of Ghana, and to celebrate his nation's newfound autonomy, he commissioned the construction of a huge public square.

Black Star Square, also known as Independence Square, is located in Accra, is now the site for all the major military and civic parades in the Ghanaian capital. It was completed in 1961 to coincide with the state visit of Queen Elizabeth II. From the first parades in honor of the Queen's visit all the way up to the present day, Black Star Square has hosted all of the country's major national public gatherings, national festivals, military parades, and concerts.

The most important parade held in the square each year on March 6 is the Independence Day parades.

Independence Arch

The Independence Arch in Accra, Ghana is part of the Independence Square which contains monuments to Ghana's independence struggle. In Independence Square are large stands with a total seating capacity of 30,000 surrounding the edges of the square. The square three monuments which encapsulate the fight for Independent and liberation. These monuments include the Independence Arch to the south of the square, backdropped by the Gulf of Guinea. On the opposite side of the square but facing the arch is the Memorial of the Unknown Soldier, which honors the Ghanaian soldiers who fell fighting for their country.

Just to the north of the main square is a roundabout, in the center of which stands the Black Star Gate, an imposing monument topped by the Black Star of Africa, the five-pointed star that symbolizes Africa in general and Ghana in particular. The monument bears the large inscription “AD 1957” and “Freedom and Justice” and the Liberation Day Monument. The Independence Square is one of the largest city square in the world.

The Independence Arch is guarded by several soldiers who prohibit people of taking close up pictures of the Arch with the exception of those with official permission, but every tourist or visitor is at liberty to take pictures of the area.

Osu Castle

Osu Castle, also known as the Fort Christiansborg is located in Osu, Accra, on the coast of the Atlantic Ocean’s Gulf of Guinea.

It is the first substantial fort built by Denmark-Norway in the 1660’s. It was rebuilt numerous times and has changed hands between Denmark-Norway, Portugal, the Akwamus, Britain and post-independence Ghana.

The Castle has served as a seat of government since Ghana became a republic in 1960 at the time of first president, Doctor Kwame Nkrumah until 2005, when President John Agyekum Kufour moved the presidency to Flagstaff House, now Jubilee House.

Osu castle is among the listed UNESCO world Heritage sites in Ghana. It has been converted into a presidential museum in 2017.



Assin Manso Slave River Site

Assin Manso in the Central Region of Ghana is on a major Slave Route corridor along which thousands of enslaved Africans were moved on their tragic journeys into the Americas and the Caribbean territories during the period of the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

Assin Manso has an ancestral burial ground holding the remains of re-interred diasporans who desired a reconnection with the African motherland even in death.

A memorial wall for sober meditation and ritual baths in the Nnokosuo (Slave River) are some of visitor experiences on offer at this site.

Bisa Aberwa Museum

The Bisa Aberwa Museum is created to be one of the largest sculptural representations in clay, wood, cement, paintings and photographs of personalities whose sacrifices have shaped African history, both within the continent and the diaspora.

It has about 2,200 artefacts, sculptural pieces and photographs of heroes of the African struggle and the African American Civil Rights Movement as well as other Black personalities in the French, Portuguese and Spanish Caribbean.

Bisa Aberwa Museum houses one of the world's largest private collections of artefacts, sculpture and audio-visual representations of the African story.

The Bisa Aberwa Museum is the brainchild of Mr Kwaw Ansah, one of Africa's most respected award-winning filmmakers, founder and first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of TV Africa Limited, is dedicated to preserving the history of the Black Race, promoting African values and celebrating Pan African heroes.



Larabanga Mosque

The larabanga is the oldest mosque in the country and one of the oldest in the West Africa. It was built in 1421 in the Sudanese architectural style in the village of Larabanga, in the Savannah region of Ghana and has undergone several restorations

Nakore Mosque

The Nakore Mosque is located just outside Wa in the Upper West region also shares similar features with the Labaranga mosque, but unfortunately, little is known of the place. The structure of the mosque is that of the Sudanic style. The Sudanic style, though rectangular, has timber frame structures or pillars supporting the roof. It is characterized by two pyramidal towers (the minaret and the mihrab), and by a number of irregular shaped buttresses, with pinnacles projecting above the parapet which give life to the mosque's elevations.

Apart from the usual role the mosque serves as Friday prayer grounds, the ancient mosques also serve as places of pilgrimage to the Muslim communities in the country. On eventful days, a lot of faithful worshippers gather at these mosques for prayers and listen to Koranic readings. Private readings are also organized on request for individuals who want divine solutions to serious problems or those who seek spiritual intervention in their ventures. The Chief Imam normally requests the sacrifice of a cow and other donations for the community, in return for the readings the Koran.

Manhyia Palace Museum

The Museum is a unique creation in West Africa by the Asante Kingdom, to commemorate their leaders, and to communicate the riches of their history and culture to the world. It is a relatively small Museum but stuffed with history larger and older than its size making a visit to the place a worthy one.

The Museum building is of great historical interest and importance as it also houses the Museum's exhibits such as royal regalia, photographs, medals, furniture, drums and palanquins which are over two hundred years, a battle dress which dates back to 1900 and many objects of historical significance as well as effigies of all past kings and the current occupant of the Golden Stool.

Visitors to the Museum will be able to view video-presentations explaining Asante history and the richness of its culture, as well as splendid examples of the gold-work for which the Asante are world famous. These include gold weights, bracelets and pots for gold dust which were removed from the Palace by Lord Baden Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts Movement and a member of the British expeditionary force in Kumasi in 1896. Here too are the life-sized effigies of the Nana Prempeh I, Nana Yaa Akyaa and the legendary Nana Yaa Asantewaa, Queen of Ejisu, who in 1900 led the uprising and last of the seven Asante wars with the British, when the British Governor demanded the surrender to him of Asikadwa (Gold Stool).





Nkrumah Memorial Park

Located in downtown Accra, Ghana is the Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park and Mausoleum. The Mausoleum is the final resting place of Ghana's first President and Africanist. The museum hosts rare artefacts relating to Ghana's independence and tours at the park give visitors in-depth history of the Sub-saharan struggle for independence.

The mausoleum designed by Don Arthur houses the mortal remains of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah and his wife Fathia Nkrumah. It is meant to represent an upside-down sword which in the Akan culture is a symbol of peace. The mausoleum is clad from top to bottom with Italian marble, with a black star at its apex to symbolize unity. The interior of the Mausoleum boasts marble flooring and a mini mastaba looking marble grave marker surrounded by river-washed rocks.

A skylight at the top in the Mausoleum illuminates the grave, and at the right time, seems to reflect off the marble further emphasizing that beauty many have come to fall in love with.

The Mausoleum is surrounded by water which is a symbol of life. Its presence conveys a sense of immortality for the name Nkrumah. It shows that even in death he lives on in the hearts and minds of generations here and generations yet to come.

MODULE 7: MEETING IN GHANA

GHANA, A PLACE FOR MICE BUSINESS

Ghana's central location in West Africa, its mature democracy and political stability, relatively high public safety and security, free and vibrant press, relatively well developed infrastructure, good air access, presence of international hotel chains and strong local brands and genuinely friendly and hospitable people make the country an ideal location for Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibition.

The Capital, Accra has the Accra International Conference Centre also referred to as the Pink Lady. Built in 1991 to host the Non Aligned Movement Ministerial Conference, this impressive edifice continues to serve as the focal point for major international meetings in Ghana.

This is complemented by a wide range of modern meeting facilities in the leading star rated hotels in the country both Accra and in other regional capitals and also in coastal resort towns like Elmina, Axim and Ada. Furthermore, most of these meeting venues are within easy travel distance from major tourist sites in the country and facilitate the inclusion of pre and post conference tours in any meeting programme.

The Visitors and Convention Bureau of the Ghana Tourism Authority operates to facilitate the choice of Ghana for meetings and conventions and assists event organizers to effectively plan and execute meetings in Ghana.






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