

Return to the Motherland

Ghana, Togo and Benin

African Heritage Tour™

January 1st – 15th 2025

(15 Days)



For More Information, Contact:

African Connections

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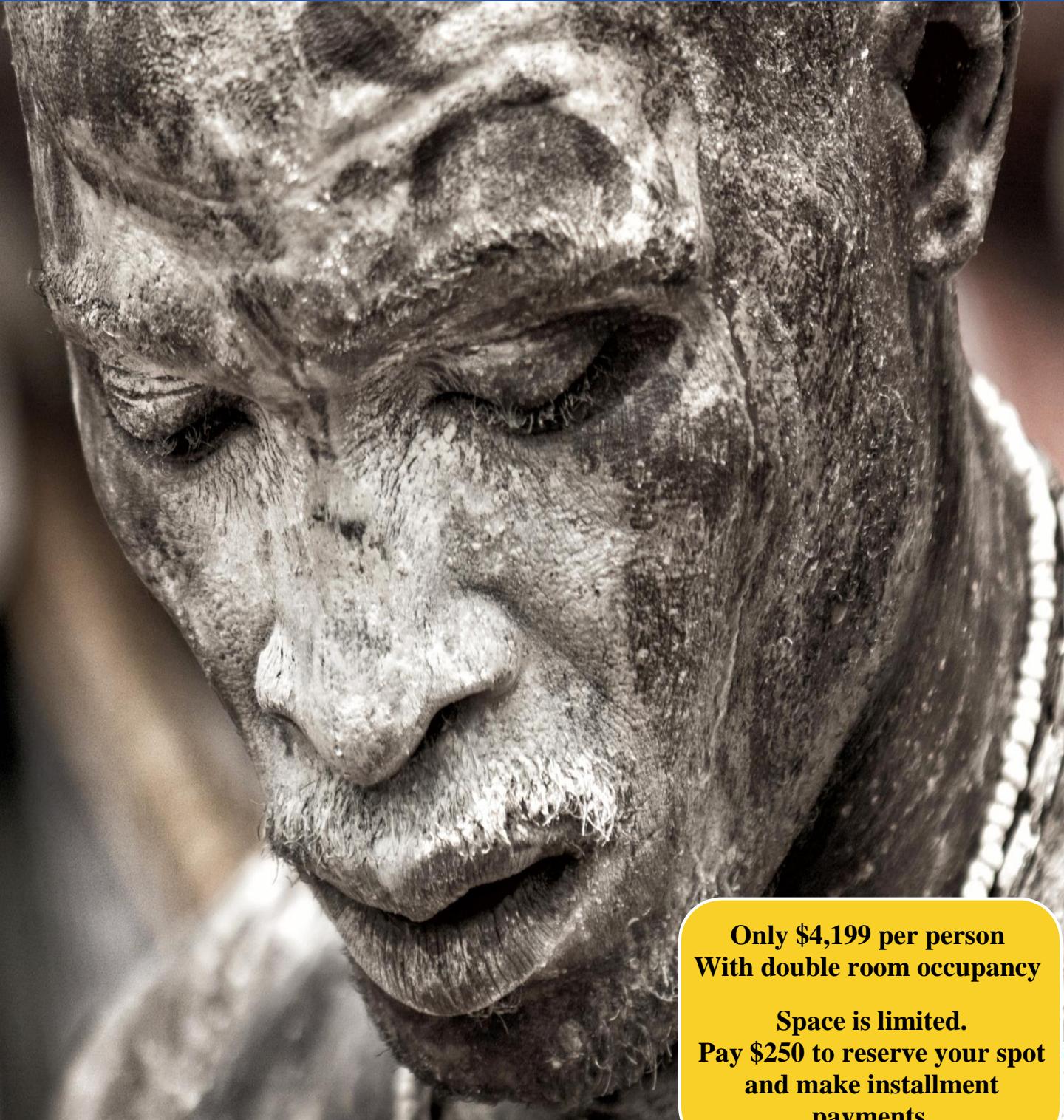
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**Go to Ghana with
African Connections a leader in
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PREPARE TO BE AMAZED!!!!



**Only \$4,199 per person
With double room occupancy**

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and make installment
payments.**



Tour Highlights:

Benin is considered by many to be the birthplace of voodoo. In Benin, voodoo is the invisible lintel of society, a granitic faith centered on devotion to hundreds of invisible deities, which gives meaning and order to the lives of the local population.

Every year, on the 10th of January, the Ouidah region celebrates the Voodoo Festival, an important event dedicated to this religion.

Voodoo was formally recognized as the official religion of Benin on January 10th 1996, a date that has since been considered a national holiday. On this occasion, ceremonies, sacrifices, songs, dances, and large banquets are held; and faith, magic and the supernatural are revealed through complex rituals and spectacular performances.

Our tour will give you the opportunity to witness the amazing **OUIDAH VOODOO FESTIVAL** to witness the annual rituals of dancing and drumming to honor this ancient religion.

We will also visit the Temple of the Pythons, where we will learn about the beliefs of this cult and the scared forest, a place dotted with voodoo deities, where you will have the opportunity to participate in the Gelede Mask ceremony with the EGUNGUN and the ZANGBETO spirits.

We will retrace the route des esclaves, a route that led enslaved Africans to the port from which they would embark to Haiti and other ports in the Americas through the “gate of no return” and we will tour the infamous House of Slaves.

Our tour will also give you a chance to explore the voodoo culture of Togo. While in this tiny but intriguing country, we visit voodoo temples, fetish market, the Grand Marche, travel by dugout canoe on Togo Lake to reach the mysterious Togoville; and visit Ganvie, a charming village built entirely on stilts.

This tour also includes tours in Accra, Ghana's vibrant and cosmopolitan capital, Kumasi, the famous capital of the Asante Empire, Cape Coast and Elmina in the historic Central Region.

This trip will be unforgettable! Have your cameras ready! Prepare to be amazed!

ITINERARY SUMMARY

DAY 1-3: Travel to Ghana and tour Accra, the capital city of Ghana:

Our tour includes:

Visit to Independence Square (where Ghanaians celebrate the nation's Independence Day each year); and stand under Black Star Square which is a monument to the Black Star of Ghana, which Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, Ghana's first Prime Minister adopted in tribute to Marcus Garvey.

Visit to the Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum, which is the final resting place of the first President of Ghana, one of Africa's most renowned Statesmen and Pan-Africanists; and the W.E.B. DuBois Memorial Center for Pan-African Culture, which is a research library containing the personal papers and invaluable manuscripts of W.E.B. DuBois.



Drive through the commercial districts of Accra and see the amazing development and growth of Accra.

Stop at points of interest as we crisscross through Accra, one of the most vibrant and exciting cities in Africa.



While in Accra, enjoy an evening of entertainment and fun at one of Accra's Premier Dinner Clubs.



Days 4-5: Travel to the Asante Region, Naming Ceremony; and tour of Kumasi, and its Surrounding Towns:

Our tour includes:

Traditional Naming Ceremony:

Tour members will have the opportunity to participate in a Traditional Naming Ceremony, where each tour member will be given a traditional Asante name based on his/her day of birth and welcomed into his/her “adopted” family with dance and celebration.

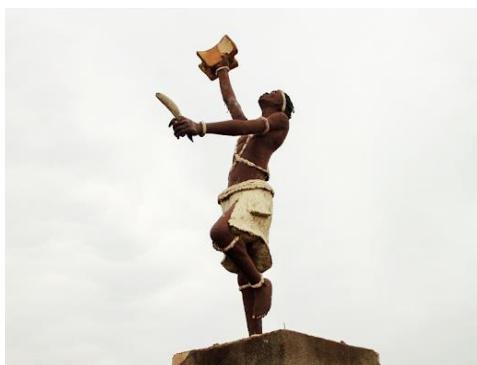


Kumasi City Tour:

While in Kumasi, you will have the opportunity to visit Manhyia Palace the traditional home of the Asantehene, the king of all Asante, and one of the most powerful chiefs in Africa.

Visit the Museum, which is filled with countless relics and artifacts that highlight the richness of the history and culture of the Asante people.

Stop for photos at the Okomfo Anokye Monument, dedicated to the traditional priest who “conjured” from the skies the famous Golden Stool that unified the Asante people



Stroll through the winding lanes at the National Center for Culture which features the workshops and shops the artisans producing brass items, batik cloth, wood pieces, artwork and pottery. The National Center for Culture in Kumasi also houses the Prempeh II Jubilee Museum that contains many historical and cultural artifacts.



Driving tour through Kumasi to see all the sites that makes this a “must visit” city in Ghana. The group will have the opportunity to have lunch at Ike’s Café, which is on the grounds of the National Center for Culture in Kumasi. This well-known restaurant is located on its own “lake” and is famous for its fresh fish, which tour members can



select live from the Ike's "point and kill" tank.

Days 6-7: We tour the Central Region.

Our tour includes:

Stop at Assin Manso to participate in a Ceremony of Remembrance at "Slave River".



We will have a guided tour through Elmina Slave Dungeon and Cape Coast Slave Dungeons, infamous as the places where the largest number of enslaved Africans were housed before shipment to the Americas.



Our tour concludes with a buffet dinner and an evening of entertainment, Cultural Dance and Drumming Performances and dancing on the beach.



Days 8-9: We tour Lome, the Capital City of Togo

Our tour includes:

We will stop at points of interest; and upon arriving in Lome see:

Independence Square, the fishing harbor, the Lome Craftsmen village; the fetish Market—the traditional “drugstore” and other products including “sacred” items are on display.



Visit the Voodoo Village near Lome. We will be received by a traditional healer who combines African herbal medicine and voodoo magical rites in his treatment. Believers often meet in this compound to dance to the hypnotic rhythm of the tam tam and enchantment songs with some dancers falling into a deep trance. This possession of the spirits is part of the African religious experience.



Visit the Slave House in Agbodrafo; and travel by boat to Togoville, the village which was home to numerous enslaved Africans who were members of the voodoo cult that were later taken to Haiti.



Days 10-13: OUIDAH VOODOO FESTIVAL; and tour of Cotonou, the Capital City of Benin, and its Surrounding Towns.

Our tour includes:

Members will have the opportunity to witness the amazing **OUIDAH VOODOO FESTIVAL**. Benin is considered the birthplace of Voodoo and Voodoo is the national religion of Benin. You will have an amazing opportunity to witness the spectacle of the festival, observe devotees as they assume the identity of gods and spirits, and witness the traditions of the area on full display.



The town of Ouidah is infamous as one of the most prolific of the slave trading post used during the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. This unforgettable visit takes you to many of the points of interest including the Badagry Slave Museum.



We will continue to the place of “the common grave;” the “tree of forgetfulness;” and the infamous “Gate of No Return” that so many of our ancestors passed through on their journey of enslavement.

Visit to the Ganvie market zone including the international Dantokpa market with its exuberant traders and famous handicraft center; Lake Village-Ganvie, known as the “Venice of Africa” with its houses built on stilts; the “fishers’ streets” and “Francophone villa.”



Visit the statue of the “Woman King”

Benin is the home of the female warriors made famous in the recent Hollywood Blockbuster film starring Viola Davis, **“The Woman King.”** This movie was based on the real life story of these famous women warriors, known as the “Dahomey Amazons.” This all-female military regiment of the Kingdom of Dahomey (in today’s Benin) existed from the 17th century to the late 19th century and was the only female army in modern history.



Days 14-15: Return to Accra, Prepare for Departure and Arrival back in the USA.

We will depart from Cotonou after breakfast on Day 14 and drive back to Accra to get ready for our departure to the USA. We will arrive in Accra in plenty of time for last-minute souvenir shopping before heading for the airport, where we will assist you as you complete departure procedures.

Examples of hotels we use:

- La Palm Royal Beach Hotel in Accra



- Lancaster Kumasi City (formerly known as the Golden Tulip) in Kumasi



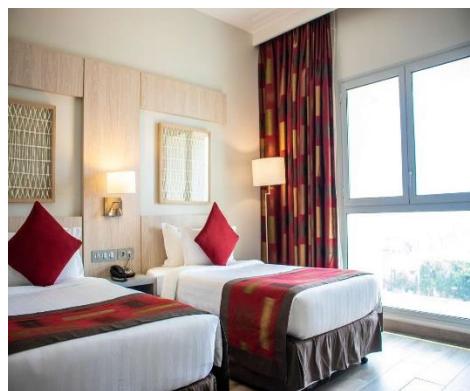
- Coconut Grove Beach Resort in Elmina



- **Onomo Hotel in Lome**



- **The Golden Tulip in Cotonou**



Don't miss the Excitement!

For the time of your life, experience Ghana!

Package Includes:

- Deluxe Accommodation (twin/double occupancy)
- Breakfast Daily
- Welcome Dinner and Departure Dinner with Cultural Performances
- Ceremony of Remembrance at Slave River
- Traditional Naming Ceremony
- Participation in Ouidah Voodoo Festival
- Transportation throughout in comfortable air-conditioned vehicle
- Experienced Driver
- Knowledgeable Tour Guide
- Tours and Entry Fees at all sites visited
- Visa Assistance and other pre departure support
- Expert tour management and destination support

Single room upgrade: \$1000

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