[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:EngvarB](/wiki/Template:EngvarB) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country)

**Ghana** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en)), officially called the **Republic of Ghana**, is a [sovereign](/wiki/Sovereign_state) [unitary](/wiki/Unitary_state) [presidential](/wiki/Presidential_system) [constitutional democracy](/wiki/Constitutional_democracy), located along the [Gulf of Guinea](/wiki/Gulf_of_Guinea) and [Atlantic Ocean](/wiki/Atlantic_Ocean), in the [subregion](/wiki/Subregion) of [West Africa](/wiki/West_Africa). Spanning a [land mass](/wiki/Land_mass) of 238,535 km[Template:Smallsup](/wiki/Template:Smallsup), Ghana is bordered by the [Ivory Coast](/wiki/Ivory_Coast) in the west, [Burkina Faso](/wiki/Burkina_Faso) in the north, [Togo](/wiki/Togo) in the east and the [Gulf of Guinea](/wiki/Gulf_of_Guinea) and Atlantic Ocean in the south. The word *Ghana* means "Warrior King" in the [Soninke language](/wiki/Soninke_language).[[1]](#cite_note-1) The territory of present-day Ghana has been inhabited for millennia, with the first permanent state dating back to the 11th century. Numerous kingdoms and empires emerged over the centuries, of which the most powerful was the [Kingdom of Ashanti](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Ashanti).[[2]](#cite_note-2) Beginning in the 15th century, numerous European powers contested the area for trading rights, with the British ultimately establishing control of the coast by the late 19th century. Following over a century of native resistance, Ghana's current borders were established by the 1900s as the [British Gold Coast](/wiki/British_Gold_Coast). In 1957, it became the first sub-saharan African nation to declare independence from European colonisation.[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[4]](#cite_note-4)[[5]](#cite_note-5) A multicultural nation, Ghana has a population of approximately 27 million, spanning a variety of ethnic, linguistic and religious groups.[[6]](#cite_note-6) Five percent of the population practices traditional faiths, 71.2% adhere to Christianity and 17.6% are Muslim. Its diverse geography and ecology ranges from coastal savannahs to tropical jungles. Ghana is a democratic country led by a president who is both [head of state](/wiki/Head_of_state) and [head of the government](/wiki/Head_of_the_government). Ghana's economy is one of the strongest and most diversified in Africa, following a quarter century of relative stability and good governance.[[7]](#cite_note-7) Ghana's growing economic prosperity and democratic political system has made it a [regional power](/wiki/Regional_power) in West Africa.[[8]](#cite_note-8) It is a member of the [Non-Aligned Movement](/wiki/Non-Aligned_Movement), the [African Union](/wiki/African_Union), the [Economic Community of West African States](/wiki/Economic_Community_of_West_African_States) (ECOWAS) and the [Group of 24](/wiki/Group_of_24) (G24).[[9]](#cite_note-9)[Template:TOC limit](/wiki/Template:TOC_limit)

## Contents

* 1 Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]
* 2 History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]
  + 2.1 Prehistory[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]
  + 2.2 Medieval kingdoms[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]
  + 2.3 European contact (15th century)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]
  + 2.4 Independence (1957)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]
  + 2.5 Operation Cold Chop and aftermath[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]
  + 2.6 21st century[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]
* 3 Historical timeline[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]
* 4 Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]
  + 4.1 Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]
  + 4.2 Rivers[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]
  + 4.3 Wildlife[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]
* 5 Government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]
  + 5.1 Foreign relations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]
  + 5.2 Law enforcement and Police[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]
    - 5.2.1 Ghanaian Drug War and The Narcotic Control Board[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]
  + 5.3 Military[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]
    - 5.3.1 Weapons of mass destruction and tactical nuclear weapons[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]
  + 5.4 Administrative divisions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]
* 6 Transportation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]
* 7 Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]
  + 7.1 Key sectors[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]
  + 7.2 Manufacturing[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]
  + 7.3 Petroleum and natural gas production[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]
  + 7.4 Industrial minerals mining[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]
  + 7.5 Real estate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]
  + 7.6 Trade and exports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]
  + 7.7 Electricity generation sector[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]
  + 7.8 Economic transparency[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]
* 8 Science and technology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]
  + 8.1 Innovations and HOPE City[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]
  + 8.2 Space and satellite programmes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]
  + 8.3 Cybernetics and cyberwarfare[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]
  + 8.4 Health and biotechnology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]
* 9 Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]
  + 9.1 Overview[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]
  + 9.2 Enrollment[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]
  + 9.3 Foreign students[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=39)]
  + 9.4 Funding of education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=40)]
  + 9.5 Provision of educational material[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=41)]
  + 9.6 Kindergarten and education structure[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=42)]
  + 9.7 Elementary[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=43)]
  + 9.8 High school[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=44)]
  + 9.9 University[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=45)]
* 10 Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=46)]
  + 10.1 Population[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=47)]
  + 10.2 Legal immigration[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=48)]
  + 10.3 Illegal immigration[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=49)]
  + 10.4 Language[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=50)]
  + 10.5 Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=51)]
  + 10.6 Fertility and reproductive health[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=52)]
* 11 Universal health care and health care provision[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=53)]
* 12 Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=54)]
  + 12.1 Food and drink[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=55)]
  + 12.2 Literature[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=56)]
  + 12.3 Adinkra[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=57)]
  + 12.4 Traditional clothing[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=58)]
  + 12.5 Modern clothing[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=59)]
  + 12.6 Music and dance[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=60)]
  + 12.7 Film[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=61)]
  + 12.8 Media[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=62)]
  + 12.9 Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=63)]
  + 12.10 Cultural heritage and architecture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=64)]
* 13 National symbols[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=65)]
* 14 Tourism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=66)]
* 15 See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=67)]
* 16 References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=68)]
* 17 Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=69)]
* 18 External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=70)]

## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[thumb|210px|left|1925 map of what was to become Ghana](/wiki/File:The_National_Archives_UK_-_CO_1069-37-161.jpg) The [etymology](/wiki/Etymology) of the word *Ghana* means "[warrior](/wiki/Warriors) king" and was the title accorded to the kings of the medieval [Ghana Empire](/wiki/Ghana_Empire) in West Africa, although this empire was further north than the modern-day country of Ghana in [Guinea region](/wiki/Guinea_(region)).[[10]](#cite_note-10) The name "Ghana" was [a possible source](/wiki/Etymology_of_Guinea) of the name "Guinea" (via French *Guinoye*) used to refer to the [West African](/wiki/West_African) coast off Ghana (as in [Gulf of Guinea](/wiki/Gulf_of_Guinea)).[[11]](#cite_note-11) *Ghana* was adopted as the legal name for the area comprising four separate parts, which immediately before independence enjoyed distinct constitutional positions:[[12]](#cite_note-12)\* the Colony of the [Gold Coast](/wiki/Gold_Coast_(region));

* the Colony of [Ashanti](/wiki/Ashanti_Empire);
* the Protectorate of the [Northern Territories](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Dagbon_(Northern_Territories)); and
* the [Trust Territory of Togoland (under British administration)](/wiki/British_Togoland).

The minister responsible for shepherding through the independence legislation [Charles Arden-Clarke](/wiki/Charles_Arden-Clarke) [Lord Listowel](/wiki/William_Hare,_5th_Earl_of_Listowel) explained that the name was chosen "in accordance with local wishes".[[13]](#cite_note-13)[Template:Clear left](/wiki/Template:Clear_left)

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

### Prehistory[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Template:Expand section](/wiki/Template:Expand_section) Archaeological evidence suggests that humans have lived in present-day Ghana since the [Bronze Age](/wiki/Bronze_Age).[[14]](#cite_note-14)

### Medieval kingdoms[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|upright|160px|16th – 17th century](/wiki/File:Akan_face.jpg) [Akan](/wiki/Akan_people) Terracotta, [Metropolitan Museum of Art](/wiki/Metropolitan_Museum_of_Art) Ghana was inhabited in the [Middle Ages](/wiki/Middle_Ages) and the [Age of Discovery](/wiki/Age_of_Discovery) by a number of ancient predominantly [Akan](/wiki/Akan_people) kingdoms in the Southern and Central territories. This included the [Ashanti Empire](/wiki/Ashanti_Empire), the [Akwamu](/wiki/Akwamu), the [Bonoman](/wiki/Bonoman), the [Denkyira](/wiki/Denkyira), and the [Mankessim Kingdom](/wiki/Mankessim_Kingdom).[[15]](#cite_note-15) Until the 11th century, the majority of modern Ghana's territorial area was largely unoccupied and uninhabited by humans.[[16]](#cite_note-16) Although the area of present-day Ghana in West Africa has experienced many population movements, the [Akans](/wiki/Akan_people) were firmly settled by the 5th century BC.<ref name=col>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>[[17]](#cite_note-17) By the early 11th century, the [Akans](/wiki/Akan_people) were firmly established in the Akan state called [Bonoman](/wiki/Bonoman), for which the [Brong-Ahafo Region](/wiki/Brong-Ahafo_Region) is named.[[18]](#cite_note-18)[[19]](#cite_note-19) From the 13th century, [Akans](/wiki/Akan_people) emerged from what is believed to have been the Bonoman area, to create several Akan states of Ghana, mainly based on gold trading.[[20]](#cite_note-20) These states included Bonoman ([Brong-Ahafo Region](/wiki/Brong-Ahafo_Region)), Ashanti ([Ashanti Region](/wiki/Ashanti_Region)), [Denkyira](/wiki/Denkyira) ([Central region](/wiki/Central_Region,_Ghana)), [Mankessim Kingdom](/wiki/Mankessim_Kingdom) ([Western region](/wiki/Western_Region,_Ghana)), and [Akwamu](/wiki/Akwamu) [Eastern region](/wiki/Eastern_Region,_Ghana).[[18]](#cite_note-18) By the 19th century; the territory of the southern part of Ghana was included in the [Kingdom of Ashanti](/wiki/Ashanti_Empire), one of the most influential states in sub-saharan Africa prior to the onset of colonialism.[[18]](#cite_note-18) [thumb|250px|A 1850 map showing the](/wiki/File:Guinea_from_Milner's_Atlas.jpg) [Akan](/wiki/Akan_people) [Kingdom of Ashanti](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Ashanti) within the [Guinea region](/wiki/Guinea_(region)) and surrounding regions in West Africa.

The Kingdom of Ashanti government operated first as a loose network, and eventually as a centralised kingdom with an advanced, highly specialised bureaucracy centred in the capital city of [Kumasi](/wiki/Kumasi).[[18]](#cite_note-18) Prior to Akan contact with Europeans, the Akan [Ashanti people](/wiki/Ashanti_people) created an advanced economy based on principally gold and [gold bar](/wiki/Gold_bar) [commodities](/wiki/Commodity) then traded with the states of Africa.[[18]](#cite_note-18)[[21]](#cite_note-21) The earliest known kingdoms to emerge in modern Ghana were the [Mole-Dagbani](/wiki/Oti–Volta_languages) states.[[18]](#cite_note-18) The Mole-Dagombas came on horse-backs from present day [Burkina Faso](/wiki/Burkina_Faso) under a single leader, [Naa Gbewaa](/wiki/Na_Gbewa).[[22]](#cite_note-22) With their advanced weapons and the presence of a central authority they easily invaded and occupied the lands of the local people ruled by the *Tendamba* (land god priests), established themselves as rulers over them and made [Gambaga](/wiki/Gambaga) their capital.[[23]](#cite_note-23) The death of Naa Gbewaa caused civil war among his children, some of whom broke off and founded separate states including [Dagbon](/wiki/Dagomba_people), [Mamprugu](/wiki/Mamprusi_people), [Mossi](/wiki/Mossi_Kingdoms), [Nanumba](/wiki/Nanumba_people) and [Wala](/wiki/Wala_people).[[24]](#cite_note-24)[[25]](#cite_note-25)

### European contact (15th century)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|right|385px|](/wiki/File:Chronicles_of_Pre−Republic_of_Ghana.jpg)[Chronicles](/wiki/Chronicle) of Pre-Republicanism ([Template:Circa](/wiki/Template:Circa)–6 March 1957), including [Gold Coast legislative election, 1956](/wiki/Gold_Coast_legislative_election,_1956). Akan trade with European states began after contact with [Portuguese](/wiki/Portuguese_Empire) in the 15th century.[[26]](#cite_note-26) Early European contact by the [Portuguese people](/wiki/Portuguese_people), who came to the [Gold Coast region](/wiki/Gold_Coast_(region)) in the 15th century to trade then established the [Portuguese Gold Coast](/wiki/Portuguese_Gold_Coast) (Costa do Ouro), focused on the extensive availability of gold.[[27]](#cite_note-27) The Portuguese first landed at a south coastal city, and named the place [*Elmina*](/wiki/Elmina) as the Portuguese Gold Coast's capital city.[[27]](#cite_note-27) In 1481, King [John II of Portugal](/wiki/John_II_of_Portugal) commissioned [Diogo d'Azambuja](/wiki/Diogo_d'Azambuja) to build [Elmina Castle](/wiki/Elmina_Castle), which was completed in three years.[[27]](#cite_note-27) By 1598, the [Dutch people](/wiki/Dutch_people) had joined the Portuguese people in gold trading, establishing the [Dutch Gold Coast](/wiki/Dutch_Gold_Coast) (Nederlandse Bezittingen ter Kuste van Guinea) and building forts at Komenda and Kormantsi.[[28]](#cite_note-28) In 1617, the Dutch captured the Olnini Castle from the Portuguese, and [Axim](/wiki/Axim) in 1642 (Fort St Anthony).[[28]](#cite_note-28) Other European traders had joined in gold trading by the mid-17th century, most notably the [Swedish people](/wiki/Swedes), establishing the [Swedish Gold Coast](/wiki/Swedish_Gold_Coast) (Svenska Guldkusten), and [Denmark-Norway](/wiki/Denmark-Norway), establishing the [Danish Gold Coast](/wiki/Danish_Gold_Coast) (Danske Guldkyst *or* Dansk Guinea).[[29]](#cite_note-29) [Portuguese](/wiki/Portuguese_people) merchants, impressed with the gold resources in the area, named it *Costa do Ouro* or *Gold Coast*.[[29]](#cite_note-29) More than thirty forts and castles were built by the [Portuguese](/wiki/Portuguese_people), [Swedish](/wiki/Swedes), [Dano-Norwegians](/wiki/Denmark–Norway), [Dutch](/wiki/Dutch_people) and German [merchants](/wiki/Merchant); the latter [German people](/wiki/Germans) establishing the [German Gold Coast](/wiki/Brandenburger_Gold_Coast) (Brandenburger Gold Coast *or* Groß Friedrichsburg).[[30]](#cite_note-30) In 1874 Great Britain established control over some parts of the country assigning these areas the status of [British Gold Coast](/wiki/British_Gold_Coast).[[31]](#cite_note-31) Many [military engagements](/wiki/Engagement_(military)) occurred between the British colonial powers and the various Akan nation-states and the Akan [Kingdom of Ashanti](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Ashanti) defeated the British a few times in the [Anglo-Ashanti wars](/wiki/Anglo-Ashanti_wars) against the United Kingdom that lasted for 100 years, but eventually lost with the [War of the Golden Stool](/wiki/War_of_the_Golden_Stool) in the early 1900s.[[32]](#cite_note-32)[[33][33]](#cite_note-33)[[34]](#cite_note-34) In 1947, the newly formed [United Gold Coast Convention](/wiki/United_Gold_Coast_Convention) (UGCC) by [The Big Six](/wiki/The_Big_Six_(Ghana)) called for "self-government within the shortest possible time" following the [Gold Coast legislative election, 1946](/wiki/Gold_Coast_legislative_election,_1946).[[29]](#cite_note-29)[[35]](#cite_note-35) [Dr.h.c. Kwame Nkrumah](/wiki/Kwame_Nkrumah) is the first [Prime Minister of Ghana](/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Ghana) and [President of Ghana](/wiki/President_of_Ghana) and formed the [Convention People's Party](/wiki/Convention_People's_Party) (CPP) with the motto "self-government now".[[29]](#cite_note-29) The first [Prime Minister of Ghana](/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Ghana) and [President of Ghana](/wiki/President_of_Ghana) Osagyefo Kwame Nkrumah won a majority in the [Gold Coast legislative election, 1951](/wiki/Gold_Coast_legislative_election,_1951) for the Gold Coast Legislative Assembly in 1952, Nkrumah was appointed leader of the Gold Coast's government business.[[29]](#cite_note-29) The Gold Coast region declared independence from the United Kingdom on 6 March 1957 and established the nation of Ghana.[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[4]](#cite_note-4)[[5]](#cite_note-5)

### Independence (1957)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[thumb|A postage stamp of Gold Coast overprinted for Ghanaian independence in 1957.](/wiki/File:Ghana_Independence_overprint_on_Gold_Coast_1s_stamp_1957.jpg) [thumbtime=0:55|thumb|250px|The commencing](/wiki/File:Ghana_(1957-03-07_A_New_Nation).ogg) [chronicles](/wiki/Chronicle) of Ghana on 6 March 1957 and [Kwame Nkrumah](/wiki/Kwame_Nkrumah) establishment of Ghanaian Republicanism, including [Ghanaian presidential election, 1960](/wiki/Ghanaian_presidential_election,_1960). On 6 March 1957 at 12 a.m [Kwame Nkrumah](/wiki/Kwame_Nkrumah) declared Ghana's establishment and autonomy as the first [Prime Minister of Ghana](/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Ghana) and on 1 July 1960, following the [Ghanaian constitutional referendum, 1960](/wiki/Ghanaian_constitutional_referendum,_1960) and [Ghanaian presidential election, 1960](/wiki/Ghanaian_presidential_election,_1960) Nkrumah declared Ghana as a republic as the first [President of Ghana](/wiki/President_of_Ghana).[[29]](#cite_note-29) The [flag of Ghana](/wiki/Flag_of_Ghana), consisting of the colours red, gold, green, and a black star, became the new flag in 1957 when Gold Coast gained its name Ghana.[[36]](#cite_note-36) Designed by [Theodosia Salome Okoh](/wiki/Theodosia_Salome_Okoh); the red represents the blood that was shed towards independence, the gold represents the [industrial minerals](/wiki/Industrial_mineral) wealth of Ghana, the green symbolises the rich [grasslands](/wiki/Grassland) of Ghana, and the black star is the symbol of the Ghanaian people and African emancipation.[[37]](#cite_note-37) Kwame Nkrumah, first Prime Minister of Ghana, and then President of Ghana, was the first African head of state to promote [Pan-Africanism](/wiki/Pan-Africanism), an idea he came into contact with during his studies at [Lincoln University, Pennsylvania](/wiki/Lincoln_University_(Pennsylvania)) in the United States, at the time when [Marcus Garvey](/wiki/Marcus_Garvey) was becoming famous for his "Back to Africa Movement".[[29]](#cite_note-29) Nkrumah merged the teachings of Marcus Garvey, [Martin Luther King, Jr.](/wiki/Martin_Luther_King,_Jr.) and the naturalised [Ghanaian](/wiki/Ghanaian_people) scholar [W. E. B. Du Bois](/wiki/W._E._B._Du_Bois) into the formation of 1960s Ghana.[[29]](#cite_note-29) Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, as he became known, played an instrumental part in the founding of the [Non-Aligned Movement](/wiki/Non-Aligned_Movement), and in establishing the [Kwame Nkrumah Ideological Institute](/wiki/Kwame_Nkrumah_Ideological_Institute) to teach his ideologies of [communism](/wiki/Communism) and [socialism](/wiki/Socialism).[[38]](#cite_note-38) His life achievements were recognised by Ghanaians during his centenary birthday celebration, and the day was instituted as a [public holiday in Ghana](/wiki/Public_holidays_in_Ghana) ([Founder's Day](/wiki/Founder's_Day_(Ghana))).[[39]](#cite_note-39)[Template:Clear left](/wiki/Template:Clear_left)

### Operation Cold Chop and aftermath[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|250px|](/wiki/File:Nkrumah_Accra_(3106539556).jpg)[Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum](/wiki/Kwame_Nkrumah_Mausoleum) with the [statue](/wiki/Statue) of [Osagyefo](/wiki/Osagyefo).

Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah and his government was subsequently overthrown by a GAF [military operation](/wiki/Military_operation) codenamed "Operation Cold Chop" coup while Nkrumah was abroad with [Zhou Enlai](/wiki/Zhou_Enlai) in the People's Republic of China for a fruitless mission to [Hanoi](/wiki/Hanoi) in Vietnam to help end the [Vietnam War](/wiki/Vietnam_War) on 24 February 1966 by [GAF](/wiki/Ghana_Armed_Forces) led by Col. Emmanuel K. Kotoka. National Liberation Council (N.L.C.) formed and chaired by Lt. General Joseph A. Ankrah.[[40]](#cite_note-40) A series of alternating military and civilian governments from 1966 to 1981 ended with the ascension to power of [Flight Lieutenant](/wiki/Flight_Lieutenant) [Jerry John Rawlings](/wiki/Jerry_Rawlings) of the [Provisional National Defense Council](/wiki/Provisional_National_Defense_Council) (PNDC) in 1981.[[41]](#cite_note-41) These changes resulted in the suspension of the [Constitution of Ghana](/wiki/Constitution_of_Ghana) in 1981, and the banning of [political parties in Ghana](/wiki/Political_parties_in_Ghana).[[42]](#cite_note-42) The economy suffered a severe decline soon after, Kwame Darko negotiated a structural adjustment plan changing many old economic policies, and economic growth soon recovered from the mid–2000s.[[42]](#cite_note-42) A new [Constitution of Ghana](/wiki/Constitution_of_Ghana) restoring [multi-party system](/wiki/Multi-party_system) politics was promulgated in [Ghanaian presidential election, 1992](/wiki/Ghanaian_presidential_election,_1992); Rawlings was elected as president of Ghana then, and again in [Ghanaian general election, 1996](/wiki/Ghanaian_general_election,_1996).[[43]](#cite_note-43)[Template:Clear left](/wiki/Template:Clear_left)

### 21st century[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

Winning the [2000 Ghanaian elections](/wiki/Ghanaian_general_election,_2000), [John Agyekum Kufuor](/wiki/John_Kufuor) of the [New Patriotic Party](/wiki/New_Patriotic_Party) (NPP) was sworn into office as president of Ghana on 7 January 2001, and attained the presidency again in the [2004 Ghanaian elections](/wiki/Ghanaian_general_election,_2004), thus also serving two [term of office](/wiki/Term_of_office) [term limit](/wiki/Term_limit) as president of Ghana and thus marking the first time under the fourth republic of Ghana that power had been transferred from one legitimately elected [head of state](/wiki/Head_of_state) and [head of government](/wiki/Head_of_government) to another.[[43]](#cite_note-43) Kufuor was succeeded to the presidency of the Republic of Ghana by John Atta Mills of the [National Democratic Congress](/wiki/National_Democratic_Congress_(Ghana)) (NDC) following the [Ghanaian presidential election, 2008](/wiki/Ghanaian_presidential_election,_2008) and [John Atta Mills](/wiki/John_Atta_Mills) was inaugurated as the third president of the fourth republic of Ghana and eleventh president of Ghana on 7 January 2009,[[44]](#cite_note-44) prior to John Atta Mills being succeeded as president of Ghana by then vice-president of Ghana John Dramani Mahama on 24 July 2012.[[45]](#cite_note-45) Following the [Ghanaian presidential election, 2012](/wiki/Ghanaian_presidential_election,_2012) John Dramani Mahama became supreme commander-in-chief, and he was inaugurated as the 4th President of the Fourth Republic of Ghana and 12th President of Ghana on 7 January 2013 to serve a one [term of office](/wiki/Term_of_office) of four-year term length as *supreme commander-in-chief* and [president of Ghana](/wiki/President_of_Ghana) until 7 January 2017,[[46]](#cite_note-46) and securing Ghana's status as a stable democracy.[[43]](#cite_note-43)

## Historical timeline[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

<timeline> ImageSize = width:800 height:auto barincrement:20 PlotArea = top:10 bottom:50 right:130 left:20 AlignBars = late

DateFormat = dd/mm/yyyy Period = from:01/01/1960 till:31/12/2012 TimeAxis = orientation:horizontal ScaleMajor = unit:year increment:10 start:1960

Colors =

id:military value:rgb(0,1,1) legend: Military

id:liberal value:rgb(0,0,1) legend: Liberal

id:democrat value:rgb(1,0.6,0) legend: Social\_Democrat

id:socialist value:rgb(1,0,0) legend: \_Socialist

Legend = columns:4 left:150 top:24 columnwidth:110

TextData =

pos:(20,27) textcolor:black fontsize:M

text:"Political parties:"

BarData =

barset:PM

PlotData=

width:5 align:left fontsize:S shift:(5,-4) anchor:till

barset:PM

from: 01/07/1960 till: 24/02/1966 color:socialist text:"[Osagyefo-Kwame Nkrumah](/wiki/Kwame_Nkrumah)" fontsize:10

from: 24/02/1966 till: 02/04/1969 color:military text:"[Major-Joseph Arthur Ankrah](/wiki/Joseph_Arthur_Ankrah)" fontsize:10

from: 02/04/1969 till: 07/08/1970 color:military text:"[Brigadier Akwasi Amankwa Afrifa](/wiki/Akwasi_Afrifa)" fontsize:10

from: 07/08/1970 till: 31/08/1970 color: liberal text:"[Nii Amaa Ollennu](/wiki/Nii_Amaa_Ollennu)" fontsize:10

from: 31/08/1970 till: 13/01/1972 color: liberal text:"[Edward Akufo-Addo](/wiki/Edward_Akufo-Addo)" fontsize:10

from: 13/01/1972 till: 05/07/1978 color:military text:" [Colonel Ignatius Kutu Acheampong](/wiki/Ignatius_Acheampong)" fontsize:10

from: 05/07/1978 till: 04/06/1979 color: military text:"[Lieutenant-General Frederick Fred William Kwasi Akuffo](/wiki/Fred_Akuffo)" fontsize:10

from: 04/06/1979 till: 24/09/1979 color: military text:"[Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings](/wiki/Jerry_Rawlings)" fontsize:10

from: 24/09/1979 till: 31/12/1981 color:democrat text:"[Hilla Limann](/wiki/Hilla_Limann)" fontsize:10

from: 31/12/1981 till: 07/01/1992 color:military text:"[Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings](/wiki/Jerry_Rawlings)" fontsize:10

from: 07/01/1992 till: 07/01/2001 color: democrat text:"[Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings](/wiki/Jerry_Rawlings)" fontsize:10

from: 07/01/2001 till: 07/01/2009 color:liberal text:"[John Agyekum Kufuor](/wiki/John_Kufuor)" fontsize:10

from: 07/01/2009 till: 24/07/2012 color: democrat text:"[Professor John Evans Atta Mills](/wiki/John_Atta_Mills)" fontsize:10

from: 24/07/2012 till: end color: democrat text:"[John Dramani Mahama](/wiki/John_Dramani_Mahama)" fontsize:10

</timeline>

[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|300px|Ghana map of Köppen climate classification.](/wiki/File:Ghana_map_of_Köppen_climate_classification.svg) Ghana is located on the [Gulf of Guinea](/wiki/Gulf_of_Guinea), only a few degrees north of the [Equator](/wiki/Equator), therefore giving it a warm climate.[[47]](#cite_note-47) Ghana spans an area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), and has an Atlantic coastline that stretches [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) on the Gulf of Guinea in Atlantic Ocean to its south.[[47]](#cite_note-47) It lies between latitudes [4°](/wiki/4th_parallel_north) and [12°N](/wiki/12th_parallel_north), and longitudes [4°W](/wiki/4th_meridian_west) and [2°E](/wiki/2nd_meridian_east); and the [Prime Meridian](/wiki/Prime_Meridian) passes through Ghana, specifically through the industrial [port town](/wiki/Port_town) of [Tema](/wiki/Tema).[[47]](#cite_note-47)Ghana is geographically closer to the "centre" of the [Earth](/wiki/Earth) than any other country in the World; even though the notional centre, (0°, 0°) is located in the Atlantic Ocean approximately [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) off the south-east coast of Ghana on the Gulf of Guinea.[[48]](#cite_note-48) [Grasslands](/wiki/Grassland) mixed with south coastal [shrublands](/wiki/Shrubland) and forests dominate Ghana, with forest extending northward from the south-west coast of Ghana on the Gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic Ocean [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and eastward for a maximum of about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) with the [Kingdom of Ashanti](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Ashanti) or the southern part of Ghana being a primary location for mining of [industrial minerals](/wiki/Industrial_mineral) and timber.[[47]](#cite_note-47) Ghana encompasses [plains](/wiki/Plain), [waterfalls](/wiki/Waterfall), low hills, rivers, [Lake Volta](/wiki/Lake_Volta), the world's largest artificial lake, [Dodi Island](/wiki/Dodi_Island) and [Bobowasi Island](/wiki/Bobowasi_Island) on the south Atlantic Ocean coast of Ghana.[[49]](#cite_note-49) The northernmost part of Ghana is Pulmakong and the southernmost part of Ghana is [Cape Three Points](/wiki/Cape_Three_Points).[[47]](#cite_note-47)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) The [climate](/wiki/Climate) of Ghana is [tropical](/wiki/Tropical_climate) and there are two main seasons: the [wet season](/wiki/Wet_season) and the [dry season](/wiki/Dry_season).

[Template:Weather box](/wiki/Template:Weather_box) [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

[Template:Wide image](/wiki/Template:Wide_image)

### Rivers[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Ghana has a vast river system with an array of [tributaries](/wiki/Tributaries). [Template:Wide image](/wiki/Template:Wide_image)

[Template:Wide image](/wiki/Template:Wide_image)

### Wildlife[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

Ghana has an array of [wildlife](/wiki/Wildlife) that can be seen at [zoos](/wiki/Zoo) and [national parks](/wiki/National_park) in Ghana, although populations have been drastically reduced by habitat loss and poaching.

## Government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image) Ghana is a [unitary](/wiki/Unitary_executive_theory) [presidential](/wiki/Presidential_system) [constitutional democracy](/wiki/Constitutional_democracy) with a parliamentary [multi-party system](/wiki/Multi-party_system) and former alternating [military occupation](/wiki/Military_occupation). Following alternating military and civilian governments in January 1993, the Ghana military government gave way to the Fourth Republic of Ghana after [presidential elections](/wiki/Ghanaian_presidential_election,_1992) and [parliamentary elections](/wiki/Ghanaian_parliamentary_election,_1992) in late 1992. The 1992 [constitution of Ghana](/wiki/Constitution_of_Ghana) divides powers among a [Commander-in-Chief](/wiki/Commander-in-Chief) of the [Ghana Armed Forces](/wiki/Ghana_Armed_Forces) ([President of Ghana](/wiki/President_of_Ghana)), parliament ([Parliament of Ghana](/wiki/Parliament_of_Ghana)), cabinet ([Ministers of the Ghanaian Government](/wiki/Ministers_of_the_Ghanaian_Government)), council of state ([Ghanaian Council of State](/wiki/Council_of_State_(Ghana))), and an independent judiciary ([Judiciary of Ghana](/wiki/Judiciary_of_Ghana)). The [Government of Ghana](/wiki/Government_of_Ghana) is elected by [universal suffrage](/wiki/Universal_suffrage) after every four years.<ref name=cs>"Government and Politics". [*A Country Study: Ghana*](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/ghtoc.html) (La Verle Berry, editor). [Library of Congress](/wiki/Library_of_Congress) [Federal Research Division](/wiki/Federal_Research_Division) (November 1994). *This article incorporates text from this source, which is in the* [*public domain*](/wiki/Public_domain)*.* [*Lcweb2.loc.gov*](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/about.html)*.</ref>*

The [Electoral Commission of Ghana](/wiki/Electoral_Commission_of_Ghana) announced that former [Vice President of Ghana](/wiki/Vice_President_of_Ghana), John Dramani Mahama won the [Ghana presidential election, 2012](/wiki/Ghana_presidential_election,_2012) on 7 December 2012 and [John Dramani Mahama](/wiki/John_Dramani_Mahama) was sworn in, amidst announcement of [electoral fraud](/wiki/Electoral_fraud), as the reigning [President of Ghana](/wiki/President_of_Ghana) on 7 January 2013 to serve a four-year term that expires on Saturday, 7 January 2017.[[46]](#cite_note-46) The 2012 [Fragile States Index](/wiki/Fragile_States_Index) indicated that Ghana is ranked the 67th least fragile state in the world and the 5th least fragile state in Africa after [Mauritius](/wiki/Mauritius), 2nd [Seychelles](/wiki/Seychelles), 3rd [Botswana](/wiki/Botswana), and 4th [South Africa](/wiki/South_Africa). Ghana ranked 112th out of 177 countries on the index.[[50]](#cite_note-50) Ghana ranked as the 64th least [corrupt](/wiki/Corruption) and [politically corrupt](/wiki/Political_corruption) country in the world out of all 174 countries ranked and Ghana ranked as the 5th least corrupt and politically corrupt country in Africa out of 53 countries in the 2012 [Transparency International Corruption Perception Index](/wiki/Corruption_Perceptions_Index).[[51]](#cite_note-51)[[52]](#cite_note-52) Ghana was ranked 7th in Africa out of 53 countries in the 2012 [Ibrahim Index of African Governance](/wiki/Ibrahim_Index_of_African_Governance). The Ibrahim Index is a comprehensive measure of African government, based on a number of different variables which reflect the success with which governments deliver essential political goods to its citizens.[[53]](#cite_note-53)

### Foreign relations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [[File:800px-Oyw kofi.jpg|thumb|250px|

[Kofi Annan](/wiki/Kofi_Annan)

]] Since independence, Ghana has been devoted to ideals of nonalignment and is a founding member of the [Non-Aligned Movement](/wiki/Non-Aligned_Movement). Ghana favours international and regional political and economic co-operation, and is an active member of the United Nations and the African Union.[[54]](#cite_note-54) Ghana has a great relationship with the United States, all of the last three U.S presidents- [Bill Clinton](/wiki/Bill_Clinton), [George W Bush](/wiki/George_W_Bush), and [Barack Obama](/wiki/Barack_Obama)- have made diplomatic trips to Ghana. Many Ghanaian diplomats and politicians hold positions in international organisations. These include Ghanaian diplomat and former [Secretary-General of the United Nations](/wiki/Secretary-General_of_the_United_Nations) [Kofi Annan](/wiki/Kofi_Annan), International Criminal Court Judge [Akua Kuenyehia](/wiki/Akua_Kuenyehia), former President [Jerry John Rawlings](/wiki/Jerry_Rawlings) and former President John Agyekum Kuffour who have both served as diplomats of the United Nations.[[55]](#cite_note-55) In September 2010, Ghana's former President [John Atta Mills](/wiki/John_Atta_Mills) visited China on an official visit. Mills and China's former President [Hu Jintao](/wiki/Hu_Jintao), marked the 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two nations, at the [Great Hall of the People](/wiki/Great_Hall_of_the_People) on 20 September 2010.[[56]](#cite_note-56) China reciprocated with an official visit in November 2011, by the Vice-Chairman of the [Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China](/wiki/Standing_Committee_of_the_National_People's_Congress_of_China), [Zhou Tienong](/wiki/Zhou_Tienong) who visited Ghana and met with Ghana's President [John Dramani Mahama](/wiki/John_Dramani_Mahama).[[57]](#cite_note-57) The [Islamic Republic of Iran](/wiki/Iran) and the [6th](/wiki/List_of_Presidents_of_Iran) [President of Iran](/wiki/President_of_Iran), [Mahmoud Ahmadinejad](/wiki/Mahmoud_Ahmadinejad) met with the [12th](/wiki/List_of_heads_of_state_of_Ghana) [President of Ghana](/wiki/President_of_Ghana), [John Dramani Mahama](/wiki/John_Dramani_Mahama) on 16 April 2013 to hold discussions with President John Dramani Mahama on strengthening the [Non-Aligned Movement](/wiki/Non-Aligned_Movement) and also co–chair a bilateral meeting between the two countries Ghana and Iran at the Ghanaian [presidential palace](/wiki/Presidential_palace) [Flagstaff House](/wiki/Flagstaff_House).[[58]](#cite_note-58)[[59]](#cite_note-59)[[60]](#cite_note-60)[[61]](#cite_note-61)[[62]](#cite_note-62) [Government of Ghana](/wiki/Government_of_Ghana) reciprocated with an official [state visit](/wiki/State_visit) on 5 August 2013, by the [Vice-President of Ghana](/wiki/Vice-President_of_Ghana), [Kwesi Amissah-Arthur](/wiki/Kwesi_Amissah-Arthur) whom [met](/wiki/Meeting) with the Vice-President of Iran, [Eshaq Jahangiri](/wiki/Eshaq_Jahangiri) on the basis of [autarky](/wiki/Autarky) and possible [bilateral trade](/wiki/Bilateral_trade) at the [Islamic Republic of Iran's](/wiki/Islamic_Republic_of_Iran) [presidential palace](/wiki/Presidential_palace), [Sa'dabad Palace](/wiki/Sa'dabad_Palace).[[63]](#cite_note-63)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

<gallery> File:Fokker F-28-3000 Fellowship, Ghana - Air Force AN0193478.jpg|[Fokker F28 Fellowship](/wiki/Fokker_F28_Fellowship) of the [President of Ghana](/wiki/President_of_Ghana) arrives on [State visit](/wiki/State_visit) at the [Beijing Capital International Airport](/wiki/Beijing_Capital_International_Airport) in Beijing, People's Republic of China File:Vladimir Putin with Kofi Annan-3.jpg|Diplomat Kofi Annan [meeting](/wiki/Meeting) with [Vladimir Putin](/wiki/Vladimir_Putin) in [Saint Petersburg](/wiki/Saint_Petersburg), [Russian Federation](/wiki/Russian_Federation). File:LuladaSilvaeJohnKufuor.JPG|Presidents [John Kufuor](/wiki/John_Kufuor) of Ghana and [Lula da Silva](/wiki/Lula_da_Silva) of [Brazil](/wiki/Brazil) meet in Accra. File:Obama family departure from Ghana.jpg|[Barack Obama](/wiki/Barack_Obama) and [Michelle Obama](/wiki/Michelle_Obama), along with [Malia Obama and Sasha Obama](/wiki/Family_of_Barack_Obama), participate in [State Arrival Ceremony](/wiki/State_Arrival_Ceremony) at [Kotoka International Airport](/wiki/Kotoka_International_Airport). File:Map of diplomatic missions of Ghana (3).PNG|[Diplomatic missions of Ghana](/wiki/Diplomatic_missions_of_Ghana). </gallery>

### Law enforcement and Police[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image)

The [Ghana Police Service](/wiki/Ghana_Police_Service) (GPS) and the [Criminal Investigation Department](/wiki/Criminal_Investigation_Department) (CID) are the main law enforcement agencies of the Republic of Ghana and responsible for the detection of crime, maintenance of law and order and the maintenance of internal peace and security.<ref name=MINT>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The Ghana Police Service has eleven specialised police units including a [Militarized Police](/wiki/Militarized_police) [Rapid deployment force](/wiki/Rapid_deployment_force) (RDF) and [Marine Police](/wiki/Ghana_Police_Service#Marine_Police_Unit) Unit (MPU).<ref name=UNIT>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>[[64]](#cite_note-64) The Ghana Police Service operates in 12 divisions: ten covering the ten regions of Ghana, one assigned specifically to the seaport and industrial hub of [Tema](/wiki/Tema), and the twelfth being the Railways, Ports and Harbours Division.<ref name=POLICE>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The Ghana Police Service's [Marine Police](/wiki/Maritime_police) Unit and Division handles issues that arise from the country's offshore [oil and gas industry](/wiki/Oil_and_gas_industry).[[64]](#cite_note-64) The [Ghana Prisons Service](/wiki/Ghana_Prisons_Service) and the sub-division [Borstal Institute for Juveniles](/wiki/Borstal_Institute_for_Juveniles) administers [incarceration](/wiki/Incarceration) in Ghana.[[65]](#cite_note-65) Ghana retains and exercises the death penalty for treason, corruption, robbery, piracy, drug trafficking, rape, and homicide.[[66]](#cite_note-66)[[67]](#cite_note-67) 27 convicts (all men) were sentenced to death in Ghana in 2012 and the Ghana Prisons Service statistics of the total number of convicts sentenced to death in Ghana as at December 2012 was 162 men and 4 women,[[66]](#cite_note-66) with a total prison inmate population of 13,983 convicts as at 22 July 2013.[[68]](#cite_note-68) "The new sustainable development goals adopted by the United Nations call for the international community to come together to promote the rule of law; support equal access to justice for all; reduce corruption; and develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels."[[69]](#cite_note-69) [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

#### Ghanaian Drug War and The Narcotic Control Board[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[thumb|right|340px|Ghana is among the sovereign states of West Africa used by](/wiki/File:Drugtrade.png) [drug cartels](/wiki/Drug_cartel) and drug traffickers (shown in orange). Ghana is used as a key [narcotics](/wiki/Narcotic) industry [transshipment](/wiki/Transshipment) point by traffickers, usually from South America as well as some from other African nations.[[70]](#cite_note-70) "West Africa is completely weak in terms of border control and the big drug cartels from Colombia and Latin America have chosen Africa as a way to reach Europe." [[71]](#cite_note-71) There is not a wide or popular knowledge about the narcotics industry and intercepted narcotics within Ghana itself, due to the industry's operations and involvement in the [underground economy](/wiki/Black_market). The social context within which [narcotic trafficking](/wiki/Narcotic_trafficking), storage, transportation, and repacking systems exist in Ghana and the state's location along the [Gulf of Guinea](/wiki/Gulf_of_Guinea) within the Atlantic Ocean[Template:Spaced ndashonly](/wiki/Template:Spaced_ndash) a few degrees north of the [Equator](/wiki/Equator)[Template:Spaced ndashmakes](/wiki/Template:Spaced_ndash) Ghana an attractive country for the narcotics business.[[70]](#cite_note-70)[[72]](#cite_note-72) The [Narcotic Control Board](/wiki/Narcotics_Control_Board_(Ghana)) (NACOB), in collaboration with an internal counterpart, has impounded [container ships](/wiki/Container_ship) at the Sekondi Naval Base within the [Takoradi Harbour](/wiki/Takoradi_Harbour). These ships were carrying thousands of kilograms of cocaine, with a street value running into billions of [Ghana cedis](/wiki/Ghana_cedi). However, drug seizures saw a decline in 2011.[[70]](#cite_note-70)[[72]](#cite_note-72) [Drug cartels](/wiki/Drug_cartel) are using new methods in narcotics production and narcotics [exportation](/wiki/Exportation), to avoid Ghanaian security agencies.[[70]](#cite_note-70)[[72]](#cite_note-72) Underdeveloped institutions, porous open borders, and the existence of established [smuggling](/wiki/Smuggling) organisations contribute to Ghana's position in the narcotics industry.[[70]](#cite_note-70)[[72]](#cite_note-72) [John Atta Mills](/wiki/John_Atta_Mills), president between 2009 and 2012, initiated ongoing efforts to reduce the role of airports in Ghana's drug trade.[[70]](#cite_note-70)

### Military[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image) In 1957, the Ghana Armed Forces (GAF) consisted of its headquarters, support services, three battalions of infantry and a reconnaissance squadron with armoured vehicles.[[73]](#cite_note-73) Ghanaian Prime Minister and President Kwame Nkrumah aimed at rapidly expanding the GAF to support the [United States of Africa](/wiki/United_States_of_Africa) ambitions. Thus in 1961, 4th and 5th Battalions were established, and in 1964 6th Battalion was established, from a [parachute](/wiki/Paratrooper) [airborne unit](/wiki/Airborne_forces) originally raised in 1963.[[74]](#cite_note-74) Today, Ghana is a [regional power](/wiki/Regional_power) and [regional hegemon](/wiki/Regional_hegemony).[[8]](#cite_note-8) In his book [*Shake Hands with the Devil*](/wiki/Shake_Hands_with_the_Devil_(book)), [Canadian Forces](/wiki/Canadian_Forces) commander [Roméo Dallaire](/wiki/Roméo_Dallaire) highly rated the GAF soldiers and [military personnel](/wiki/Military_personnel).[[73]](#cite_note-73) The [military operations](/wiki/Military_operation) and [military doctrine](/wiki/Military_doctrine) of the GAF are conceptualised on the [Constitution of Ghana](/wiki/Constitution_of_Ghana), Ghana's Law on [Armed Force](/wiki/Armed_Force) [Military Strategy](/wiki/Military_Strategy), and [Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre](/wiki/Kofi_Annan_International_Peacekeeping_Training_Centre) (KAIPTC) agreements to which GAF is attestator.[[75]](#cite_note-75)[[76]](#cite_note-76)[[77]](#cite_note-77) GAF military operations are executed under the auspices and imperium of the [Ministry of Defense](/wiki/Ministry_of_Defence_(Ghana)) (MoD) [Minister for Defence](/wiki/Minister_for_Defence_(Ghana)).[[75]](#cite_note-75)[[78]](#cite_note-78)

#### Weapons of mass destruction and tactical nuclear weapons[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image) Ghana adheres to a common credo ethos of the [IAEA](/wiki/International_Atomic_Energy_Agency). The Ghana atomic agency currently holds no intent for the production of Weapons of Mass Destruction. Although Ghana has no military use of its nuclear assets, options for scientific research into modern nuclear propelled submarine and aircraft carrier ships, design and development of same technology and its transfer from partner OECD for its military use are imminent. Ghana currently has a prototype nuclear power plant and is opened to nuclear investors for the development of high tech nuclear power plants for a West Africa Electric Power Pool project. Although fragments of anti-nuclear power groups might critique nuclear proliferation, Ghana remains the safest and most trustworthy country in sub-Saharan Africa to pioneer it. Some people state that Ghana maintains several [research reactors](/wiki/Research_reactor) ready on standby for the processing of [highly enriched uranium](/wiki/Highly_enriched_uranium) (HEU) into [tactical nuclear weapons](/wiki/Tactical_nuclear_weapon) (TNW).[[79]](#cite_note-79) In an article entitled "We're still vulnerable", renowned [political scientist](/wiki/Political_scientist), [bioterrorism](/wiki/Bioterrorism) and [nuclear weapons](/wiki/Nuclear_weapon) specialist [Graham T. Allison](/wiki/Graham_T._Allison) for the [*Boston Globe*](/wiki/Boston_Globe), speculates that Ghana's orphaned [research reactor](/wiki/Research_reactor) (at [Kwabenya](/wiki/Kwabenya), Greater Accra) contains [highly enriched uranium](/wiki/Highly_enriched_uranium) (HEU) sufficient enough to make a number of [nuclear weapons](/wiki/Nuclear_weapon).[[80]](#cite_note-80)

### Administrative divisions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

Ghana is divided into 10 [administrative](/wiki/Administrative_division) regions, sub-divided into 275 districts:[[81]](#cite_note-81)[[82]](#cite_note-82)[[83]](#cite_note-83) {| class="wikitable" |- ![Regions of Ghana](/wiki/Regions_of_Ghana) !Area (km2) !Regional capitals ! ! ! |- |border="1"|[Ashanti Region](/wiki/Ashanti_Region) |style="text-align:center;"|24,389 | style="text-align:center;"|[Kumasi](/wiki/Kumasi) | style="text-align:center;" rowspan="10"| [Template:Regions of Ghana Image Map](/wiki/Template:Regions_of_Ghana_Image_Map)  
[Template:Nowrap](/wiki/Template:Nowrap) | style="text-align:center;" rowspan="10"| [center|230px](/wiki/File:Ghana_Topography.png) [Template:Nowrap](/wiki/Template:Nowrap) | style="text-align:center;" rowspan="10"| [center|230px](/wiki/File:Ghana_sat.png) [Template:Nowrap](/wiki/Template:Nowrap) |- |border="1"|[Brong-Ahafo Region](/wiki/Brong-Ahafo_Region) |style="text-align:center;"|39,557 | style="text-align:center;"|[Sunyani](/wiki/Sunyani) |- |border="1"|[Central Region](/wiki/Central_Region_(Ghana)) |style="text-align:center;"|9,826 | style="text-align:center;"|[Cape Coast](/wiki/Cape_Coast) |- |border="1"|[Eastern Region](/wiki/Eastern_Region_(Ghana)) |style="text-align:center;"|19,323 |style="text-align:center;"|[Koforidua](/wiki/Koforidua) |- |border="1"|[Greater Accra Region](/wiki/Greater_Accra_Region) |style="text-align:center;"|3,245 | style="text-align:center;"|[Accra](/wiki/Accra) |- |border="1"|[Northern Region](/wiki/Northern_Region_(Ghana)) |style="text-align:center;"|70,384 | style="text-align:center;"|[Tamale](/wiki/Tamale,_Ghana) |- |border="1"|[Upper East Region](/wiki/Upper_East_Region) |style="text-align:center;"|8,842 | style="text-align:center;"|[Bolgatanga](/wiki/Bolgatanga) |- |border="1"|[Upper West Region](/wiki/Upper_West_Region) |style="text-align:center;"|18,476 | style="text-align:center;"|[Wa](/wiki/Wa,_Ghana) |- |border="1"|[Volta Region](/wiki/Volta_Region) |style="text-align:center;"|20,570 | style="text-align:center;"|[Ho](/wiki/Ho,_Ghana) |- |border="1"|[Western Region](/wiki/Western_Region,_Ghana) |style="text-align:center;"|23,941 | style="text-align:center;"|[Sekondi-Takoradi](/wiki/Sekondi-Takoradi) |}

[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear) [Template:Largest cities of the Republic of Ghana](/wiki/Template:Largest_cities_of_the_Republic_of_Ghana) [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## Transportation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Transport and [modes of transport](/wiki/Modes_of_transport) in Ghana is accomplished by [road transport](/wiki/Road_transport) ([bus-based mass transit](/wiki/Public_transport_bus_service) system), [railway](/wiki/Rail_transport), [air transport](/wiki/Air_transport) ([civil aviation](/wiki/Civil_aviation)) and [water transport](/wiki/Water_transport) (ferry).

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

### Key sectors[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Template:Double image](/wiki/Template:Double_image)

Ghana is an average [natural resource](/wiki/Natural_resource) enriched country possessing [industrial minerals](/wiki/Industrial_mineral), [hydrocarbons](/wiki/Hydrocarbon) and [precious metals](/wiki/Precious_metal). It is an emerging designated [digital economy](/wiki/Digital_economy) with [mixed economy](/wiki/Mixed_economy) hybridisation and an [emerging market](/wiki/Emerging_markets) with 8.7% GDP growth in 2012. It has an [economic plan](/wiki/Economic_plan) target known as the "Ghana Vision 2020". This plan envisions Ghana as the first African country to become a [developed country](/wiki/Developed_country) between 2020 and 2029 and a [newly industrialised country](/wiki/Newly_industrialised_country) between 2030 and 2039. This excludes fellow [Group of 24](/wiki/Group_of_24) member and [Sub-Saharan African](/wiki/Sub-Saharan_Africa) country South Africa, which is a [newly industrialised country](/wiki/Newly_industrialised_country).[[84]](#cite_note-84) The economy of Ghana also has ties to the [Chinese yuan renminbi](/wiki/Renminbi) along with Ghana's vast gold reserves. In 2013, the [Bank of Ghana](/wiki/Bank_of_Ghana) began circulating the renminbi throughout Ghanaian state-owned banks and to the Ghana public as [hard currency](/wiki/Hard_currency) along with the national [Ghana cedi](/wiki/Ghana_cedi) for second national trade currency.[[85]](#cite_note-85) The state-owned [Volta River Authority](/wiki/Volta_River_Authority) and [Ghana National Petroleum Corporation](/wiki/Ghana_National_Petroleum_Corporation) are the two major electricity producers.[[86]](#cite_note-86) The [Akosombo Dam](/wiki/Akosombo_Dam), built on the Volta River in 1965, along with [Bui Dam](/wiki/Bui_Dam), [Kpong Dam](/wiki/Kpong_Dam), and several other [hydroelectric dams](/wiki/Hydroelectric_dam) provide hydropower.[[87]](#cite_note-87)[[88]](#cite_note-88) In addition, the Government of Ghana has sought to [build the second nuclear power plant in Africa](/wiki/Nuclear_energy_in_Ghana).

The [Stock exchange](/wiki/Stock_exchange) of Ghana ([Ghana Stock Exchange](/wiki/Ghana_Stock_Exchange)) is the 5th largest on continental Africa and 3rd largest in sub-saharan Africa with a [market capitalisation](/wiki/Market_capitalisation) of [GH¢](/wiki/Ghana_Cedi) 57.2 billion or [CN¥](/wiki/Renminbi) 180.4 billion in 2012 with the South Africa [JSE Limited](/wiki/JSE_Limited) as first.[[89]](#cite_note-89) The [Ghana Stock Exchange](/wiki/Ghana_Stock_Exchange) (GSE) was the 2nd best performing [stock exchange](/wiki/Stock_exchange) in sub-saharan Africa in 2013.[[90]](#cite_note-90) Ghana also produces high quality [cocoa](/wiki/Cocoa_bean),[[91]](#cite_note-91) is the 2nd largest producer of cocoa globally,[[91]](#cite_note-91)[[92]](#cite_note-92) and is projected to become the largest producer of cocoa in the world in 2015.[[93]](#cite_note-93) Ghana is classified as a middle income country.[[94]](#cite_note-94)[[95]](#cite_note-95) [Services](/wiki/Tertiary_sector_of_industry) account for 50% of GDP, followed by [manufacturing](/wiki/Secondary_sector_of_industry) (24.1%), [extractive industries](/wiki/Primary_sector_of_industry) (5%), and taxes (20.9%).[[86]](#cite_note-86)

### Manufacturing[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

The Ghana economy is an emerging digital-based mixed economy hybrid similarly to that of [Taiwan](/wiki/Taiwan) with an increasing primary manufacturing and exportation of digital technology goods along with assembling and exporting automobiles and ships, diverse resource rich exportation of [industrial minerals](/wiki/Industrial_mineral), agricultural products primarily cocoa, petroleum and natural gas,[[96]](#cite_note-96) and [industries](/wiki/Industry) such as [information and communications technology](/wiki/Information_and_communications_technology) primarily via Ghana's state digital technology corporation [Rlg Communications](/wiki/Rlg_Communications) which manufactures [tablet computers](/wiki/Tablet_computer) with [smart phones](/wiki/Smart_phone) and various [consumer electronics](/wiki/Consumer_electronics).[[86]](#cite_note-86)[[97]](#cite_note-97)

### Petroleum and natural gas production[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

Ghana produces and exports an abundance of [hydrocarbons](/wiki/Hydrocarbon) such as [sweet crude oil](/wiki/Sweet_crude_oil) and natural gas.[[98]](#cite_note-98)[[99]](#cite_note-99) The 100% state-owned [filling station](/wiki/Filling_station) company of Ghana, [Ghana Oil Company](/wiki/Ghana_Oil_Company) (GOIL) is the number 1 petroleum and gas filling station of Ghana and the 100% state-owned state oil company [Ghana National Petroleum Corporation](/wiki/Ghana_National_Petroleum_Corporation) (GNPC) administrates [hydrocarbon exploration](/wiki/Hydrocarbon_exploration) and production of Ghana's entire petroleum and natural gas reserves and Ghana aims to further increase output of oil to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) per day and gas to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) per day.[[100]](#cite_note-100) Ghana's [Jubilee Oilfield](/wiki/Jubilee_oil_field) which contains up to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of [sweet crude oil](/wiki/Sweet_crude_oil) was discovered in 2007, among the many other offshore and inland oilfields in Ghana.[[101]](#cite_note-101) Ghana is believed to have up to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of petroleum in reserves,[[102]](#cite_note-102) which is the fifth largest in Africa and the 21st to 25th [largest proven reserves](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_proven_oil_reserves) in the world. It also has up to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of natural gas in reserves,[[103]](#cite_note-103) which is the sixth largest in Africa and the 49th [largest natural gas proven reserves](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_natural_gas_proven_reserves) in the world. [Oil and gas exploration](/wiki/Oil_and_gas_exploration) off Ghana's eastern coast on the Gulf of Guinea is ongoing, and the amount of both crude oil and natural gas continues to increase. The [Government of Ghana](/wiki/Government_of_Ghana) has drawn up plans to [nationalise](/wiki/Nationalization) Ghana's entire petroleum and natural gas reserves to increase government revenue.[[104]](#cite_note-104)

### Industrial minerals mining[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

Known for its [industrial minerals](/wiki/Industrial_mineral), Ghana is the world's 7th largest producer of gold; producing over 102 [metric tons](/wiki/Metric_ton) of gold and the 10th [largest producer](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_gold_production) of gold in the world in 2012; producing 89 metric tons of gold and Ghana is the designated 2nd largest producer of gold on the [Africa continent](/wiki/African_continent) behind the designated first South Africa.[[105]](#cite_note-105) Ghana has the 9th largest reserves of diamonds in the world and Ghana is the 9th largest producer of diamonds in the world with [Brazil](/wiki/Brazil) having the 10th largest reserves of diamonds in the world and being the 10th largest producer of diamonds in the world.[[106]](#cite_note-106) [Industrial minerals](/wiki/Industrial_mineral) and exports from South Ghana are gold, silver, timber, diamonds, [bauxite](/wiki/Bauxite), and [manganese](/wiki/Manganese); South Ghana also has a great deposit of [barites](/wiki/Barite); [basalts](/wiki/Basalt); [clays](/wiki/Clay_minerals); [dolomites](/wiki/Dolomite); [feldspars](/wiki/Feldspar); [granites](/wiki/Granite); [gravels](/wiki/Gravel); [gypsums](/wiki/Gypsum); iron ores; [kaolins](/wiki/Kaolin); [laterites](/wiki/Laterite); [limestones](/wiki/Limestone); [magnesites](/wiki/Magnesite); [marbles](/wiki/Marble); [micas](/wiki/Mica); [phosphates](/wiki/Phosphate); [phosphorus](/wiki/Phosphorus); [rocks](/wiki/Rock_(geology)); salts; [sands](/wiki/Sand); [sandstones](/wiki/Sandstone); silver; [slates](/wiki/Slate); [talcs](/wiki/Talc); and [uranium](/wiki/Uranium) that are yet to be fully [exploited](/wiki/Exploitation_of_natural_resources).[[107]](#cite_note-107) The [Government of Ghana](/wiki/Government_of_Ghana) has drawn up plans to [nationalise](/wiki/Nationalization) Ghana's entire mining industry to increase government revenues.[[108]](#cite_note-108)[[109]](#cite_note-109)

### Real estate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[thumb|A middle-class luxury](/wiki/File:Luxury_Villa_House_(South_Ghana).jpg) [villa](/wiki/Villa) house with swimming pool development in [East Ridge](/wiki/East_Ridge,_Accra)

The real estate and [housing market](/wiki/Housing_market) of Ghana has become an important and strategic [economic sector](/wiki/Economic_sector), particularly in the [urban centres](/wiki/Urban_centre) of south Ghana such as Accra, Kumasi, Sekondi-Takoradi and Tema.[[110]](#cite_note-110)[[111]](#cite_note-111)[[112]](#cite_note-112) Kumasi is growing at a faster rate than Accra, and there is less competition in its real estate market.[[110]](#cite_note-110) The gross rental [income tax](/wiki/Income_tax) of Ghana is withheld at 10%, [capital gains](/wiki/Capital_gain) are taxed at 15% with a 5% [gift tax](/wiki/Gift_tax) imposed on the transfer of properties and Ghana's [real estate market](/wiki/Real_estate_market) is divided into 3 areas: public sector real estate development, emerging private sector real estate development, and private individuals.[[110]](#cite_note-110)[[111]](#cite_note-111) The activities of these 3 groups are facilitated by the Ghanaian banks and the primary mortgage market which has demonstrated enormous growth potential.[[111][111]](#cite_note-111) Recent developments in the Ghanaian economy has given birth to a boom in the construction sector, including the housing and public housing sector generating and injecting billions of dollars annually into the Ghanaian economy.[[110]](#cite_note-110)[[111]](#cite_note-111) The real estate market investment perspective and attraction comes from Ghana's tropical location and robust political stability.[[110]](#cite_note-110)[[111]](#cite_note-111) An increasing number of the Ghanaian populace are investing in properties and the Ghana government is empowering the [private sector](/wiki/Private_sector) in the real estate direction.[[110]](#cite_note-110)[[111]](#cite_note-111)

### Trade and exports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[thumb|300px| Ghana Export Treemap by Product (2012)](/wiki/File:2012_Ghana_Products_Export_Treemap.png)[[113]](#cite_note-113)

[Template:Double image](/wiki/Template:Double_image)

In July 2013, [International Enterprise Singapore](/wiki/International_Enterprise_Singapore) opened its 38th global office in Accra, Ghana to develop trade and investment on logistics, [oil](/wiki/Petroleum) and [gas](/wiki/Natural_gas), aviation, transportation and consumer sectors.[[114]](#cite_note-114) Singapore and Ghana also signed four bilateral agreements to promote [public sector](/wiki/Public_sector) and [private sector](/wiki/Private_sector) collaboration, as Ghana aims to predominantly shift its economic trade partnership to East Asia and Southeast Asia.[[114]](#cite_note-114) The economic centre is [IE Singapore's](/wiki/International_Enterprise_Singapore) second office in Africa, coming six months after opening in Johannesburg, South Africa in January 2013.[[114]](#cite_note-114) Ghana's labour force in 2008 totalled 11.5 million Ghanaian citizens.[[115]](#cite_note-115)[[116]](#cite_note-116) [Tema Harbour](/wiki/Tema_Harbour) is Africa's largest [Template:Linktext](/wiki/Template:Linktext) harbour and [Takoradi Harbour](/wiki/Takoradi_Harbour) along with Tema harbour in Ghana handles goods and exports for Ghana, they are also a traffic junctions, where goods are transhipped, the Tema harbour handles the majority of the nation's export cargo and most of the country's chief exports is shipped from Takoradi harbour.[[117]](#cite_note-117)[[118]](#cite_note-118) The Takoradi harbour and Tema harbour are operated by the state-owned [Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority](/wiki/Ghana_Ports_and_Harbours_Authority).[[117]](#cite_note-117)[[118]](#cite_note-118)

### Electricity generation sector[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

Shortages of electricity have led to [dumsor](/wiki/Dumsor),<ref name=germany>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> increasing the interest in renewables.[[119]](#cite_note-119) Ghana plans to become a major regional exporter of electrical power using oil from the [Jubilee oil field](/wiki/Jubilee_oil_field).[[120]](#cite_note-120)

### Economic transparency[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

According to Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index of 2013, out of 177 countries, Ghana ranked 63rd with [Cuba](/wiki/Cuba) and [Saudi Arabia](/wiki/Saudi_Arabia). Ghana had a score of 46 on a scale where a 0–9 score means highly corrupt, and a 90–100 score means very clean. This was based on perceived levels of public sector corruption.[[121]](#cite_note-121) Previously in 2012, the country ranked 64 and scored 45. Thus, Ghana's public sector scored lower in 2013 than in 2012, according to CPI's scores.

Local reports have claimed that Ghana loses US$4.5 billion every year (annually) from [nominal gross domestic product](/wiki/Nominal_GDP) (Nominal GDP) growth as a result of economic corruption and economic crime by the incumbent [National Democratic Congress](/wiki/National_Democratic_Congress_(Ghana)) (NDC) [government of Ghana](/wiki/Government_of_Ghana) led by [John Dramani Mahama](/wiki/John_Dramani_Mahama).[[122]](#cite_note-122) It is also said Ghana has lost an additional US$2.5 billion from [nominal gross domestic product](/wiki/Nominal_GDP) (Nominal GDP) growth between the months of January 2013 to October 2013 through economic corrupt practices under the [Mahama administration](/wiki/List_of_Mahama_government_ministers).[[123]](#cite_note-123) The incumbent president is however seen to be fighting corruption by some government members,[[124]](#cite_note-124) and a fellow politician of an opposition party,[[125]](#cite_note-125) after ordering investigations into scandals. Nonetheless others believe his actions aren't satisfactory in some cases.[[126]](#cite_note-126)

## Science and technology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

Ghana was the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to launch a cellular mobile network in 1992. It was also one of the first countries in Africa to be connected to the internet and to introduce ADSL broadband services.<ref name=Ghanaweb> [Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

### Innovations and HOPE City[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[Hope City](/wiki/Hope_City) is a [technology park](/wiki/Technology_park) to be built and based in Ghana.<ref name=BBC>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> [Hope City](/wiki/Hope_City) is being undertaken by Ghanaian [information and communications technology](/wiki/Information_and_communications_technology) company [Rlg Communications](/wiki/Rlg_Communications).[[127]](#cite_note-127) Hope City is an acronym for *H*ome, *O*ffice, *P*eople and *E*nvironment.[[127]](#cite_note-127) The Hope City project is expected to be completed in 2016 and is estimated to cost $[US](/wiki/United_States_dollar) 10 billion in construction;[[127]](#cite_note-127) and one of its towers will become [Africa's tallest building](/wiki/List_of_tallest_buildings_in_Africa).<ref name=viva>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Hope City will host a cluster of buildings and [telecommunications facilities](/wiki/Telecommunications_facility) to serve as an [information and communications technology](/wiki/Information_and_communications_technology) park.[[128]](#cite_note-128)[[127]](#cite_note-127)

### Space and satellite programmes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

The [Ghana Space Science and Technology Centre](/wiki/Ghana_Space_Science_and_Technology_Centre) (GSSTC) and Ghana Space Agency (GhsA) oversees the [space exploration](/wiki/Space_exploration) and [space programmes](/wiki/Space_program) of Ghana and GSSTC and GhsA officials are to have a [national security](/wiki/National_security) [observational satellite](/wiki/Earth_observation_satellite) launched into orbit in 2015.<ref name=BBCSpace>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>[[129]](#cite_note-129) The first practical step in its endeavor was a [CanSat](/wiki/CanSat) launched on 15 May 2013, a space programme spearheaded by the All Nations University College (ANUC) in Koforidua. The CanSat was deployed 200 m high from a helium-filled balloon and took some aerial images as well as temperature readings. As its next step in advancing space science and satellite technology in the sub-region, an amateur ground station has been designed and built by the university. It has successfully tracked and communicated with several amateur radio satellites in orbit including the [International Space Station](/wiki/International_Space_Station), receiving [slow-scan TV](/wiki/Slow-scan_TV) images on 18 and 20 December 2014. The miniaturized earth observational satellite is to be launched into orbit in 2017.<ref name=VOASpace>[Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)</ref>

Ghana's annual space exploration expenditure has been 1% of its gross domestic product (GDP) for support research in science and technology and in 2012 Ghana was elected to chairman the [Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South](/wiki/Commission_on_Science_and_Technology_for_Sustainable_Development_in_the_South) (Comsats) and Ghana has a joint effort in [space exploration](/wiki/Space_exploration) with South Africa's [South African National Space Agency](/wiki/South_African_National_Space_Agency) (SANSA).[[130]](#cite_note-130)

### Cybernetics and cyberwarfare[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|250px|](/wiki/File:Wikimedia_Outreach_in_Ghana_6.jpeg)[Ghana education system's](/wiki/Education_in_Ghana) implementation of [information and communications technology](/wiki/Information_and_communications_technology) at the [University of Ghana](/wiki/University_of_Ghana).

The use of computer technology for teaching and learning began to receive [government of Ghana's](/wiki/Government_of_Ghana) attention from the late 1990s.[[131]](#cite_note-131) The [information and communications technology](/wiki/Information_and_communications_technology) in education policy of Ghana requires the use of information and communications technology for teaching and learning at all levels of the [education of Ghana](/wiki/Education_in_Ghana) system.[[131]](#cite_note-131) The [Ministry of Education](/wiki/Ministry_of_Education_(Ghana)) (MOE) supports institutions in teaching of information and communications technology literacy.[[131]](#cite_note-131) Majority of secondary, and some basic [schools of Ghana](/wiki/List_of_schools_in_Ghana) have computer laboratories.[[131]](#cite_note-131) Ghana's intention of becoming the information technology hub of West Africa has led the government of Ghana to enact cyber crime legislation and enhance [cyber security](/wiki/Cyber_security) practices.[[132]](#cite_note-132) Acting on that goal, in 2008 Ghana passed the *Electronic Communications Act* and the *Electronic Transactions Act*, which established the legal framework for governing information technology.[[132]](#cite_note-132) In November 2011, the Deputy [Minister for Communications](/wiki/Minister_for_Communications_(Ghana)) and Technology announced the development of a national cyber security strategy, aimed at combating [cyber crime](/wiki/Cyber_crime) and securing critical infrastructure.[[132]](#cite_note-132) In June 2012, the [National Information Technology Agency](/wiki/National_Information_Technology_Agency) (NITA) announced a national [computer emergency response team](/wiki/Computer_emergency_response_team) "strategy" designed to co-ordinate government response to cyberattacks, both internal and external.[[132]](#cite_note-132) The Agency also establish [computer emergency response teams](/wiki/Computer_emergency_response_team) for each [municipal, metropolitan, and district assembly](/wiki/Districts_of_Ghana) to improve co-ordination and information-sharing on [cyberspace threats](/wiki/Threat_(computer)).[[132]](#cite_note-132) Ghana is ranked 2nd on continental Africa and 7th globally in [cyber warfare](/wiki/Cyber_warfare), [cyberterrorism](/wiki/Cyberterrorism), [cyber crime](/wiki/Cyber_crime), and [internet crime](/wiki/Internet_crime).[[133]](#cite_note-133)

### Health and biotechnology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

The [Centre for Scientific Research into Plant Medicine](/wiki/Centre_for_Scientific_Research_into_Plant_Medicine) is an agency of the [Ministry of Health](/wiki/Ministry_of_Health_(Ghana)) that was set up in the 1970s for both [R&D](/wiki/Research_and_development) and as a practical resource (product production & distribution/provision) primarily in areas of [biotechnology](/wiki/Biotechnology) related to [medicinal plants](/wiki/Medicinal_plants). This includes both [herbal medicine](/wiki/Herbalism) and work on more advanced applications. It also has a secondary role as an educational resource for foreign students in health, biotechnology and related fields. The two most known diseases in Ghana are malaria and HIV/AIDS. These diseases are very easy to catch but also very easy to avoid or prevent from having. [Template:Clear left](/wiki/Template:Clear_left)

## Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

### Overview[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]

Ghanaian Education system is divided in three parts: "Basic Education", secondary cycle and tertiary education. "Basic Education" lasts 11 years (ages 4‒15).[[134]](#cite_note-134) It is divided into [Kindergarten](/wiki/Kindergarten) (2 years), Primary School (2 module of 3 years) and Junior High (3 years). Junior High School (JHS) ends with the Basic Education Certificate Examination ([BECE](/wiki/BECE)).[[134]](#cite_note-134)[[135]](#cite_note-135) Once the BECE achieved, the pupil can pursue into secondary cycle.[[136]](#cite_note-136) Hence, the pupil has the choice between general education (assumed by Senior High School) and vocational education (assumed by technical Senior High School, Technical and Vocational Institutes, completed by a massive private and informal offer). Senior High School lasts three years and ends on the West African Secondary School Certificate Examination ([WASSCE](/wiki/WASSCE)). The WASSCE is needed to join a university bachelor's degree programme.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) Polytechnics are opened to vocational students, from SHS or from TVI.[[137]](#cite_note-137) A Bachelor's degree usually lasts 4 years, can be followed by a 1- or 2-year master's degree, which can be concluded in 3 years by a Ph.D.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) A polytechnic lasts 2 or 3 years.[[137]](#cite_note-137) Ghana also possesses numerous colleges of education.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) The Ghanaian education system from Kindergarten up to an undergraduate degree level takes 20 years.[[138]](#cite_note-138) The academic year usually goes from August to May inclusive.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) The school year in primary education lasts 40 weeks in Primary School and SHS, and 45 weeks in JHS.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)

### Enrollment[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]

[Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image) With over 95% of its children in school, Ghana currently has one of the highest school enrollment rates in all of Africa.[[139]](#cite_note-139)[[140]](#cite_note-140) The ratio of females to males in the total education system was 0.98, in 2014.[[141]](#cite_note-141)

### Foreign students[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=39)]

Ghana's education system annually attracts a large number of [foreign students](/wiki/Foreign_student) particularly in the university sector.[[142]](#cite_note-142) One noted product of the Ghana education system is [Robert Mugabe](/wiki/Robert_Mugabe) who completed both his elementary school education and high school education at the prestigious [Achimota School](/wiki/Achimota_School).[[143]](#cite_note-143)

### Funding of education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=40)]

The government largely funds basic education comprising public primary schools and public junior high schools. Senior high schools are highly subsidised by the government. At the higher education level, the government funds more than 80% of resources provided to public universities, polytechnics and teacher training colleges.

### Provision of educational material[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=41)]

As part of the Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education, Fcube, the government supplies all basic education schools with all their textbooks and other educational supplies like exercise books. Senior high schools are also provided with all their textbook requirement by the government. Private schools acquire their educational material from private suppliers. Ghana has the largest bookshop in Africa, EPP Books Services located at the University of Ghana.

### Kindergarten and education structure[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=42)]

[[File:Ghana Education Structure.gif|thumb|right|300px|

Education structure of Ghana

]] The female and male ages 15–24 years literacy rate in Ghana was 81% in 2010, with males at 82%,[[144]](#cite_note-144) and females at 80%.[[145]](#cite_note-145) Ghanaian children begin their education at the age of three or four starting from [kindergarten](/wiki/Kindergarten) (nursery school and [preschool](/wiki/Preschool)), then to elementary school (primary school), high school ([junior high school](/wiki/Junior_high_school) and [senior high school](/wiki/Senior_high_school)) and finally university. The average age at which a Ghanaian child enters primary school is 6 years.[[139]](#cite_note-139) Ghana has a [free education](/wiki/Free_education) 6-year primary school education system beginning at age six,[[146]](#cite_note-146) and, under the educational reforms implemented in 1987 and reformed in 2007, they pass on to a 3-year junior high school system. At the end of the third year of junior high, there is a mandatory "[Basic Education Certificate Examination](/wiki/Basic_Education_Certificate_Examination)". Those continuing must complete the 4-year senior high school programme (which has been changed to three years) and take an admission exam to enter any university or tertiary programme. The Ghanaian [education system](/wiki/Education_system) from nursery school up to an [undergraduate degree](/wiki/Undergraduate_degree) level takes 20 years.[[138]](#cite_note-138) In 2005, Ghana had 12,130 primary schools, 5,450 junior secondary schools, 503 senior secondary schools, 21 public training colleges, 18 technical institutions, two diploma-awarding institutions and 6 universities.[[147]](#cite_note-147)[[148]](#cite_note-148) In 2010, there were relatively more females (53.0%) than males (40.5%) with Primary school and JSS (Junior Secondary School) / JHS ([Junior High School](/wiki/Junior_High_School)) as their highest level of education.[[149]](#cite_note-149)

### Elementary[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=43)]

The [Ghanaian Ministry of Education](/wiki/Ministry_of_Education_(Ghana)) and the [Ghanaian National Accreditation Board](/wiki/National_Accreditation_Board_(Ghana)) provide [Free education](/wiki/Free_education) at Elementary school (Primary school Education) level, and most Ghanaians have relatively easy access to High school Education ([Junior high school](/wiki/Junior_high_school) Education and [Senior high school](/wiki/Senior_high_school) Education).[[146]](#cite_note-146) These numbers can be contrasted with the single university and handful of secondary and primary schools that existed at the time of independence in 1957. Ghana's spending on education has varied between 28–40% of its annual budget in the past decade. All teaching is done in English, mostly by qualified Ghanaian educators.[[138]](#cite_note-138) The courses taught at the primary or basic school level include English, Ghanaian language and culture, mathematics, environmental studies, social studies, [Mandarin](/wiki/Standard_Chinese) and French as an [OIF](/wiki/Organisation_internationale_de_la_Francophonie) associated-member; as further languages are added,[[150]](#cite_note-150) integrated or [general science](/wiki/General_science), pre-[vocational](/wiki/Vocational_education) skills and pre-[technical](/wiki/Technical_education) skills, religious and moral education, and physical activities such as Ghanaian music and dance, and [physical education](/wiki/Physical_education).[[138]](#cite_note-138)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### High school[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=44)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

The senior high level school curriculum has core subjects and elective subjects of which students must take four the core subjects of English language, mathematics, integrated science (including science, agriculture and environmental studies) and [social studies](/wiki/Social_studies) (economics, geography, history and government).[[138]](#cite_note-138) The high school students also choose 4 elective subjects from 5 available programmes: agriculture programme, general programme (arts or science option), [business programme](/wiki/Business_program), [vocational](/wiki/Vocational_education) programme and [technical](/wiki/Technical_education) programme.[[138]](#cite_note-138) Apart from most primary and secondary schools which choose the Ghanaian system of schooling, there are also international schools such as the [Takoradi International School](/wiki/Takoradi_International_School), Tema International School, [Galaxy International School](/wiki/Galaxy_International_School,_Accra), The Roman Ridge School, [Lincoln Community School](/wiki/Lincoln_Community_School), Faith Montessori School, American International School, Association International School, New Nation School, SOS Hermann Gmeiner International College and International Community School, which offer the [International Baccalaureat](/wiki/International_Baccalaureat), [Advanced Level General Certificate of Education](/wiki/Advanced_Level_General_Certificate_of_Education) and the [International General Certificate of Secondary Education](/wiki/International_General_Certificate_of_Secondary_Education) (IGCSE).[[147]](#cite_note-147)

### University[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=45)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

[Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image)

There are eight national public universities in Ghana — the University of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, [University of Cape Coast](/wiki/University_of_Cape_Coast), [University of Education](/wiki/University_of_Education,_Winneba), [University for Development Studies](/wiki/University_for_Development_Studies), [University of Mines and Technology](/wiki/University_of_Mines_and_Technology), [University of Professional Studies, Accra](/wiki/University_of_Professional_Studies,_Accra), University of Energy and Natural Resources, and University of Health and Allied Sciences.[[151]](#cite_note-151) Ghana has a growing number of accredited private universities including [Ghana Technology University College](/wiki/Ghana_Technology_University_College), [Ashesi University College](/wiki/Ashesi_University_College), [Methodist University College Ghana](/wiki/Methodist_University_College_Ghana), [Central University College](/wiki/Central_University_College), [Accra Institute of Technology](/wiki/Accra_Institute_of_Technology), [Regent University College of Science and Technology](/wiki/Regent_University_College_of_Science_and_Technology), [Valley View University](/wiki/Valley_View_University) and [Zenith University College](/wiki/Zenith_University_College).[[152]](#cite_note-152) The oldest university in Ghana, the [University of Ghana](/wiki/University_of_Ghana), was founded in 1948. It had 29,754 students in 2008. Its programmes in the arts, [humanities](/wiki/Humanities), business, and the [social sciences](/wiki/Social_science), as well as medicine are among of the best in the country. Many top universities — including [Harvard University](/wiki/Harvard_University), [Cornell University](/wiki/Cornell_University), and [Oxford University](/wiki/Oxford_University) — have special study abroad programmes with Ghanaian schools and provide their students the opportunity to study abroad at Ghanaian universities. [New York University](/wiki/New_York_University) has a campus in Accra.[[153]](#cite_note-153) The University of Ghana has seen a shift of its traditionally best students to the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology.[[154]](#cite_note-154) Since Ghana's independence, the country has been one of the most educational in sub-Saharan Africa. Former UN Secretary General [Kofi Annan](/wiki/Kofi_Annan) has been chancellor of the University of Ghana since 2008.[[154]](#cite_note-154) [Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology](/wiki/Kwame_Nkrumah_University_of_Science_and_Technology), the second university to be established in the country, is the premier university of science and technology in Ghana and West Africa.[[138]](#cite_note-138)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=46)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

[thumb|right|240px|Three Ghanaian citizens:](/wiki/File:Ghanéses_(Ghanaians).JPG) [Kofi Annan](/wiki/Kofi_Annan), [Abedi Pele](/wiki/Abedi_Pele) and [Flight lieutenant Rawlings](/wiki/Jerry_Rawlings).

The vast majority of Ghana's population — 98% percent — are [Black](/wiki/Black_people) [Africans](/wiki/Africans)[[155]](#cite_note-155)[[156]](#cite_note-156)[[157]](#cite_note-157) Ghana is a [multiethnic country](/wiki/Multiethnic_society).[[149]](#cite_note-149) The largest [ethnic group](/wiki/Ethnic_group) is the [Ashanti people](/wiki/Ashanti_people). Ghana's territorial area within West Africa was unoccupied and uninhabited by humans until the 10th century BC.[[16]](#cite_note-16) By the 10th century AD. The Guans were the first settlers in Ghana long before the other tribes came. ([Akans](/wiki/Akan_people)) had established [Bonoman](/wiki/Bonoman) ([Brong Ahafo](/wiki/Brong-Ahafo_Region) region) and were joined by the current settlers and inhabitants in the 16th century.

In 2010 the inhabiting population of Ghana was 71.2% Christian (28.3% are [Pentecostal](/wiki/Pentecostal), 18.4% [Protestant](/wiki/Protestant), 13.1% [Catholic](/wiki/Catholic) and 11.4% other). Approximately 17.6% of the inhabiting population of Ghana were [Muslims](/wiki/Muslim),[[7]](#cite_note-7) (51% [Sunni](/wiki/Sunni), 16% [Ahmadiyya](/wiki/Ahmadiyya), and 8% [Shia](/wiki/Shia)).[[158]](#cite_note-158)[[159]](#cite_note-159) As of the year 2014, there are 375,000 registered legal [skilled workers](/wiki/Skilled_worker) (permanent residents) or [foreign workers](/wiki/Foreign_worker)/students (i.e. [Ghana Card](/wiki/Ghana_Card) holders) inhabitants with an annually 1.5 million transited airport [layovers](/wiki/Layover). In its first post-colonial census in 1960, Ghana had a population of 6.7 million.[[160]](#cite_note-160) The median age of Ghanaian citizens is 30 years old and the average household size is 3.6 persons. The Government of Ghana states that the [official language](/wiki/Official_language) of Ghana is English,[[161]](#cite_note-161) and is spoken by 67.1% of the inhabiting population of Ghana.[[149]](#cite_note-149)

### Population[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=47)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image)

In 2010, most of the 24.2 million inhabitants were predominantly citizens of the [Ashanti](/wiki/Ashanti_people) ([Akan](/wiki/Akan_people)) territories or [Ashantiland](/wiki/Ashantiland) ([Kingdom of Ashanti](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Ashanti)) (4.7 million in [Ashanti](/wiki/Ashanti_Region), 2.3 million in [Brong-Ahafo](/wiki/Brong-Ahafo_Region), 2.2 million in [Central](/wiki/Central_Region_(Ghana)), 2.6 million in [Eastern](/wiki/Eastern_Region_(Ghana)), 2.3 million in [Western](/wiki/Western_Region_(Ghana)), and 4 million in the [seat of government](/wiki/Seat_of_government) in [Greater Accra](/wiki/Greater_Accra_Region) geographically and legally part of [Eastern](/wiki/Eastern_Region_(Ghana)) then administered separately on 23 July 1982).[[158]](#cite_note-158)[Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), 4.1 million persons reside in the [Dagbani](/wiki/Dagomba_people) territories or [Kingdom of Dagbon](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Dagbon) (2.4 million in [Northern](/wiki/Northern_Region_(Ghana)), 1 million in [Upper East](/wiki/Upper_East_Region), and 0.7 million in [Upper West](/wiki/Upper_West_Region)).[[158]](#cite_note-158) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), 2.1 million persons reside in [Ewe](/wiki/Ewe_people) territory [Volta](/wiki/Volta_Region).[[158]](#cite_note-158)

### Legal immigration[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=48)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Due to recent legal immigration of [skilled workers](/wiki/Skilled_worker) who possess [Ghana Cards](/wiki/Ghana_Card), there is a small population of Chinese, Malaysian, Indian, Middle Eastern and European nationals.

### Illegal immigration[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=49)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

In 2010, the [Ghana Immigration Service](/wiki/Ghana_Immigration_Service) reported that there was a large number of [economic migrants](/wiki/Economic_migrant) and [Illegal immigrants](/wiki/Illegal_immigrant) inhabiting Ghana 14.6% (or 3.1 million) of Ghana's 2010 population (predominantly [Nigerians](/wiki/Nigerians), Burkinabe citizens, Togolese citizens, and Malian citizens). In 1969, under the "Ghana Aliens Compliance Order" (GACO) [enacted](/wiki/Enactment_of_a_bill) by the [Prime Minister of Ghana](/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Ghana) [Kofi Abrefa Busia](/wiki/Kofi_Abrefa_Busia);[[162]](#cite_note-162) Government of Ghana with BGU ([Border Guard Unit](/wiki/Border_Guard_Unit)) [deported](/wiki/Deportation) over 3 million [aliens](/wiki/Alien_(law)) and [illegal immigrants](/wiki/Illegal_immigrant) in 3 months as they made up 20% of the inhabiting population at the time.[[162]](#cite_note-162)[[163]](#cite_note-163) In 2013, there was a mass deportation of illegal miners, more than 4,000 of whom were Chinese nationals.[[164]](#cite_note-164)[[165]](#cite_note-165)

### Language[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=50)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

[thumb|300px|right| Ashanti](/wiki/File:Akan_Greetings_(Akwaba_–_Welcome;_Ete_sen_–_Hello).JPG) [greeting](/wiki/Greeting) [phrases](/wiki/Phrase); "akɔaba" (welcome) and "ɛte sɛn" (how is it?) in Ashanti Twi.

There are eleven languages that have the status of government-sponsored languages: four are [Akan ethnic languages](/wiki/Akan_language) ([Asante Twi](/wiki/Asante_dialect), [Akuapem Twi](/wiki/Akuapem_Twi), [Mfantse](/wiki/Fante_dialect) and [Nzema](/wiki/Nzema_language)), two are [Mole-Dagbani ethnic](/wiki/Oti-Volta_languages) languages ([Dagaare](/wiki/Dagaare) and [Dagbanli](/wiki/Dagomba_language)). The rest are [Ewe](/wiki/Ewe_language), [Dangme](/wiki/Adangme_language), [Ga](/wiki/Ga_language), [Gonja](/wiki/Gonja_language), and [Kasem](/wiki/Kasem_language).[[166]](#cite_note-166)[[167]](#cite_note-167) [English](/wiki/English_language) is the language of the state and is widely used as a [lingua franca](/wiki/Lingua_franca).

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=51)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Religious affiliation in Ghana | | |
| **Affiliation** | **2000 census**[**[168]**](#cite_note-168) | **2010 census**[**[169]**](#cite_note-169) |
| [Christian](/wiki/Christianity) | 54.8% | 56.2% |
| [Pentecostal](/wiki/Pentecostal)/[Charismatic](/wiki/Charismatic_Christianity) | 24.1% | 28.3% |
| [Protestant](/wiki/Protestant) | 18.6% | 18.4% |
| [Catholic](/wiki/Catholic) | 15.1% | 13.1% |
| Other | 11% | 11.4% |
| [Muslim](/wiki/Islam) | 29.5% | 32.8% |
| Traditional | 6.5% | 9% |
| [None](/wiki/Irreligion) | 3.1% | 2.8% |
| Other | 0.7% | 0.8% |

Ghana is a largely Christian country, although a sizable Muslim minority exists. Traditional (indigenous) beliefs are also practiced.

### Fertility and reproductive health[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=52)]

[thumb|150 px|A baby attended to at a](/wiki/File:Ghana2.jpg) [Ghana hospital](/wiki/List_of_hospitals_in_Ghana) by a [Nurse midwife](/wiki/Nurse_midwife) Fertility rate of Ghana declined from 3.99 (2000) to 3.28 (2010) with 2.78 in urban region and 3.94 in rural region.[[170]](#cite_note-170) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), the [maternal mortality](/wiki/Maternal_mortality) rate was 350 deaths/100,000 live births, and the [infant mortality](/wiki/Infant_mortality) rate was 38.52 deaths/1,000 live births.[[169]](#cite_note-169) According to a 2013 UNICEF report,<ref name=UNICEF2013p27>[UNICEF 2013](http://www.unicef.org/media/files/FGCM_Lo_res.pdf), p. 27.</ref> 4% of women in Ghana have undergone [female genital mutilation](/wiki/Female_genital_mutilation) (FGM). The practice has been made illegal in the country.[[171]](#cite_note-171)Ghana is also the birth country of anti-FGM campaigner [Efua Dorkenoo](/wiki/Efua_Dorkenoo).

## Universal health care and health care provision[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=53)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|right|770px|Ghanaian Surgeons, Physicians, and Nurses performing](/wiki/File:Ghana_Surgeons,_Physicians,_and_Nurses_performing.jpg) [health care provision](/wiki/Health_care_provider) for [Ghanaian](/wiki/Ghanaian_people) [National Health Insurance Scheme](/wiki/National_Health_Insurance_Scheme_(Ghana)) (NHIS) patients at the [37 Military Hospital](/wiki/37_Military_Hospital) in [Accra](/wiki/Accra), [Greater Accra](/wiki/Greater_Accra_Region) and at the [Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital](/wiki/Komfo_Anokye_Teaching_Hospital) in [Kumasi](/wiki/Kumasi), [Ashanti](/wiki/Ashanti_Region). Ghana has a [universal health care](/wiki/Universal_health_care) system strictly designated for [Ghanaian nationals](/wiki/Ghanaian_people), National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS).[[172]](#cite_note-172) Health care is very variable throughout Ghana and in 2012, over 12 million Ghanaian nationals were covered by the [National Health Insurance Scheme (Ghana)](/wiki/National_Health_Insurance_Scheme_(Ghana)) (NHIS).[[173]](#cite_note-173) Urban centres are well served, and contain most of the hospitals, clinics, and pharmacies in Ghana. There are over 200 hospitals in Ghana and Ghana is a destination for [medical tourism](/wiki/Medical_tourism).[[174]](#cite_note-174) In 2013, [life expectancy](/wiki/Life_expectancy) at birth had increased to an average of 66 years with males at 66 years and females at 67 years,[[175]](#cite_note-175) and in 2013 [infant mortality](/wiki/Infant_mortality) decreased to 39 per 1,000 live births.[[176]](#cite_note-176) There was an estimation of 15 physicians and 93 nurses per 100,000 persons in 2010.[[177]](#cite_note-177) 5.2% of Ghana's GDP was spent on health in 2010,[[178]](#cite_note-178) and all [Ghanaian](/wiki/Ghanaian_people) [citizens](/wiki/Citizenship) have the right to access [primary health care](/wiki/Primary_health_care).[[179]](#cite_note-179) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), the [HIV/AIDS](/wiki/HIV/AIDS) prevalence was estimated at 1.40% among adults aged 15–49.[[180]](#cite_note-180)[Template:Clear right](/wiki/Template:Clear_right)

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=54)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image)

Ghanaian culture is a diverse mixture of the practices and beliefs of many different [Ghanaian](/wiki/Ghanaian_people) ethnic groups.

### Food and drink[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=55)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

[Ghanaian cuisine](/wiki/Ghanaian_cuisine) and [gastronomy](/wiki/Gastronomy) is diverse, and includes an assortment of [soups](/wiki/Soup) and [stews](/wiki/Stew) with varied seafoods and most Ghanaian soups are prepared with vegetables, meat, poultry or fish.[[181]](#cite_note-181) Fish is important in the Ghanaian [diet](/wiki/Diet_(nutrition)) with [tilapia](/wiki/Tilapia), roasted and fried [whitebait](/wiki/Whitebait), [smoked fish](/wiki/Smoked_fish) and [crayfish](/wiki/Crayfish) all being common components of Ghanaian dishes.[[181]](#cite_note-181) Banku is a common Ghanaian [starchy](/wiki/Starch) food made from ground corn (maize),[[181]](#cite_note-181) and cornmeal based staples, dokonu ([kenkey](/wiki/Kenkey)) and banku are usually accompanied by some form of [fried fish](/wiki/Fried_fish) (chinam) or grilled tilapia and a very spicy condiment made from raw red and green [chillies](/wiki/Chili_pepper), onions and tomatoes ([pepper sauce](/wiki/Pepper_sauce)).[[181]](#cite_note-181) Banku and tilapia is a combo served in most Ghanaian restaurants.[[181]](#cite_note-181) [Fufu](/wiki/Fufu) is the most common exported Ghanaian dish in that it is a delicacy across the [African diaspora](/wiki/African_diaspora).[[181]](#cite_note-181)

### Literature[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=56)]

The Ghanaian national literature radio programme and accompanying publication [*Voices of Ghana*](/wiki/Voices_of_Ghana) was one of the earliest on the African continent. The most prominent Ghanaian authors are novelists; [J. E. Casely Hayford](/wiki/J._E._Casely_Hayford), [Ayi Kwei Armah](/wiki/Ayi_Kwei_Armah) and [Nii Ayikwei Parkes](/wiki/Nii_Ayikwei_Parkes), who gained international acclaim with the books, *Ethiopia Unbound* (1911), [*The Beautyful Ones Are Not Yet Born*](/wiki/The_Beautyful_Ones_Are_Not_Yet_Born) (1968) and *Tail of the Blue Bird* (2009), respectively.[[182]](#cite_note-182) In addition to novels, other literature arts such as Ghanaian theatre and poetry have also had a very good development and support at the national level with prominent Ghanaian playwrights and poets [Joe de Graft](/wiki/Joe_de_Graft) and [Efua Sutherland](/wiki/Efua_Sutherland).[[182]](#cite_note-182)

### Adinkra[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=57)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|right|370px|](/wiki/File:Adinkra_motifs_Rattray_1927.jpg)[Ashanti people](/wiki/Ashanti_people) [Adinkra symbols](/wiki/Adinkra_symbols) by [Robert Sutherland Rattray](/wiki/Robert_Sutherland_Rattray). During the 13th century, Ghanaians developed their unique art of [*adinkra*](/wiki/Adinkra) printing. Hand-printed and hand-[embroidered](/wiki/Embroidery) adinkra clothes were made and used exclusively by the then Ghanaian royalty for devotional ceremonies. Each of the [motifs](/wiki/Motif_(visual_arts)) that make up the [corpus](/wiki/Text_corpus) of adinkra symbolism has a name and meaning derived from a proverb, a historical event, human attitude, [ethology](/wiki/Ethology), [plant life-form](/wiki/Plant_life-form), or [shapes](/wiki/Shape) of [inanimate](/wiki/Inanimate) and man-made objects. These are graphically rendered in stylised geometric shapes. The meanings of the motifs may be categorised into [aesthetics](/wiki/Aesthetics), ethics, [human relations](/wiki/Interpersonal_relationship), and concepts.[[182]](#cite_note-182) The Adinkra symbols have a decorative function as [tattoos](/wiki/Tattoo) but also represent objects that encapsulate evocative messages that convey traditional wisdom, aspects of life or the environment. There are many different symbols with distinct meanings, often linked with [proverbs](/wiki/Proverb). In the words of [Anthony Appiah](/wiki/Anthony_Appiah), they were one of the means in a pre-literate society for "supporting the transmission of a complex and nuanced body of practice and belief".[[183]](#cite_note-183)

### Traditional clothing[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=58)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|right|330px|Group of people ornamented with](/wiki/File:Parure_et_mode_africaine_famille_akan.jpg) [Ashanti](/wiki/Ashanti_people)-[Gold](/wiki/Gold) Jewellery wearing variations of the traditional male Ashanti-Kente clothing (first-left, second-middle, last-right) and variant of traditional female Ashanti-Kente clothing (first-middle) worn with traditional [Ashanti](/wiki/Ashanti_people)-Ahenemaa sandals embedded with [gold](/wiki/Gold)-ornaments variations.

Along with the *Adinkra cloth* Ghanaians use many different cloth fabrics for their traditional attire.[[184]](#cite_note-184) The different ethnic groups have their own individual cloth. The most well known is the [Kente](/wiki/Kente) cloth.[[184]](#cite_note-184) Kente is a very important Ghanaian [national costume](/wiki/National_costume) and clothing and these cloths are used to make traditional and modern Ghanaian Kente [attire](/wiki/Attire).[[184]](#cite_note-184) Different symbols and different colours mean different things.[[184]](#cite_note-184) [Kente](/wiki/Kente_cloth) is the most famous of all the Ghanaian cloths.[[184]](#cite_note-184) Kente is a ceremonial cloth hand-woven on a horizontal [treadle loom](/wiki/Loom) and strips measuring about 4 inches wide are sewn together into larger pieces of cloths.[[184]](#cite_note-184) Cloths come in various colours, sizes and designs and are worn during very important social and religious occasions.[[184]](#cite_note-184) In a cultural context, kente is more important than just a cloth and it is a visual representation of history and also a form of written language through weaving.[[184]](#cite_note-184) The term kente has its roots in the Akan word *kɛntɛn* which means a basket and the first kente weavers used raffia fibres to weave cloths that looked like kenten (a basket); and thus were referred to as *kenten ntoma*; meaning basket cloth.[[184]](#cite_note-184) The original Akan name of the cloth was *nsaduaso* or *nwontoma*, meaning "a cloth hand-woven on a loom"; however, "kente" is the most frequently used term today.[[184]](#cite_note-184)[Template:Clear left](/wiki/Template:Clear_left)

### Modern clothing[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=59)]

[Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image)

Contemporary Ghanaian fashion include traditional and modern styles and fabrics and has made its way into the African and global fashion scene. The cloth known as [African print fabric](/wiki/African_waxprints) was created out of Dutch wax textiles, it is believed that in the late 1800s, Dutch ships on their way to Asia stocked with machine-made textiles that mimicked Indonesian Batik stopped at many West African ports on the way. The fabrics did not do well in Asia. However, in West Africa mainly Ghana where there was an already established market for cloths and textiles, the client base grew and it was changed to include local and traditional designs, colors and patterns to cater to the taste of the new consumers.[[185]](#cite_note-185)Today outside of Africa it is being called "*Ankara*" and it has a client base well beyond Ghana and Africa as a whole. It is very popular among Caribbean peoples and African Americans – celebrities such as Solange Knowles and sister Beyoncé have been seen wearing African print attire.[[186]](#cite_note-186) Many European and American designers are now using African prints and it has gained a Global interest.[[187]](#cite_note-187) European luxury fashion house [Burberry](/wiki/Burberry) created a collection around Ghanaian styles.[[188]](#cite_note-188) American musician Gwen Stefani has repeatedly incorporated African prints into her clothing line and can often be seen wearing it.[[189]](#cite_note-189) Internationally acclaimed Ghanaian-British designer [Ozwald Boateng](/wiki/Ozwald_Boateng) introduced African print suits in his 2012 collection.[[190]](#cite_note-190)

### Music and dance[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=60)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [120px|thumb|right|Traditional](/wiki/File:Traditional_Adowa_dance_form_and_music_performance.ogv) [Adowa dance](/wiki/Adowa_dance) form and music performance.

The [music of Ghana](/wiki/Music_of_Ghana) is diverse and varies between different ethnic groups and regions. Ghanaian music incorporates several distinct types of musical instruments such as the talking drum ensembles, [Akan Drum](/wiki/Akan_Drum), [goje](/wiki/Goje) fiddle and koloko lute, court music, including the Akan [Seperewa](/wiki/Seperewa), the Akan atumpan, the Ga kpanlogo styles, and log [xylophones](/wiki/Xylophone) used in asonko music.[[191]](#cite_note-191) The most well known genres to have come from Ghana are *African jazz* which was created by Ghanaian artist [Kofi Ghanaba](/wiki/Guy_Warren).[[192]](#cite_note-192) and its earliest form of secular music is called [highlife](/wiki/Highlife).[[191]](#cite_note-191) Highlife originated in the late 19th century and early 20th century and spread throughout West Africa.[[191]](#cite_note-191) In the 1990s a new genre of music was created by the youth incorporating the influences of highlife, Afro-reggae, [dancehall](/wiki/Dancehall) and [hiphop](/wiki/Hiphop).[[191]](#cite_note-191) This hybrid was called [Hiplife](/wiki/Hiplife).[[191]](#cite_note-191) Ghanaian artists such as "Afro Roots" singer, activist and songwriter [Rocky Dawuni](/wiki/Rocky_Dawuni), R&B and soul singer [Rhian Benson](/wiki/Rhian_Benson) and [Sarkodie](/wiki/Sarkodie_(rapper)) have had international success.[[193]](#cite_note-193)[[194]](#cite_note-194) In December 2015, Rocky Dawuni became the first Ghanaian musician to be nominated for a Grammy award in the [Grammy Award for Best Reggae Album](/wiki/Grammy_Award_for_Best_Reggae_Album) category for his 6th studio album titled *Branches of The Same Tree*[[195]](#cite_note-195) released 31 March 2015.

Ghanaian dance is as diverse as its music, and there are traditional dances and different dances for different occasions.[[196]](#cite_note-196) The most known Ghanaian dances are those for celebrations. These dances include the [Adowa](/wiki/Adowa_dance), [Kpanlogo](/wiki/Kpanlogo), [Azonto](/wiki/Azonto), Klama, and Bamaya.[[196]](#cite_note-196)

### Film[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=61)]

[Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image) Ghana has a budding and thriving film industry. Ghana's film industry dates as far back as 1948 when the Gold Coast Film Unit was set up in the Information Services Department.[[197]](#cite_note-197) Some internationally recognised films have come from Ghana. In 1970, *I Told You So* was one of the first Ghanaian films to receive international acknowledgement and great reviews by *The New York Times*.[[198]](#cite_note-198) It was followed by the 1973 Ghanaian and Italian production *The African Deal* also known as "*Contratto carnale*" featuring [Bahamian American](/wiki/Bahamian_American) actor [Calvin Lockhart](/wiki/Calvin_Lockhart).[[199]](#cite_note-199) 1983's *Kukurantumi: the Road to Accra*, a Ghanaian and German production directed by King Ampaw was written about by famous American film critic [Vincent Canby](/wiki/Vincent_Canby).[[200]](#cite_note-200) In 1987, [*Cobra Verde*](/wiki/Cobra_Verde) another Ghanaian and German production directed by Werner Herzog received international acclamation and in 1988, *Heritage Africa* won more than 12 film awards.

In recent times there has been some collaboration between Ghanaian and Nigerian crew and cast with a number of productions being turned out. Many Ghanaian films are co-produced with [Nollywood](/wiki/Cinema_of_Nigeria), the Nigerian film industry and some are distributed by Nigerian marketers. Also, Nigerian filmmakers usually feature Ghanaian actors and actresses in their movies and Ghanaian filmmakers feature Nigerian actors and actresses in theirs. [Nadia Buari](/wiki/Nadia_Buari), [Yvonne Nelson](/wiki/Yvonne_Nelson), [Lydia Forson](/wiki/Lydia_Forson) and [Jackie Appiah](/wiki/Jackie_Appiah) all popular Ghanaian actresses and [Van Vicker](/wiki/Van_Vicker) and [Majid Michel](/wiki/Majid_Michel) both popular Ghanaian actors, have starred in many Nigerian movies. As a result of these collaborations, Western viewers oftentimes confused Ghanaian movies with Nollywood and count their sales as one; however, they are two independent industries that sometimes share the colloquial *Nollywood*. In 2009, [Unesco](/wiki/Unesco) described Nollywood as being the second-biggest film industry in the world after [Bollywood](/wiki/Bollywood).[[201]](#cite_note-201)

### Media[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=62)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|right|170px|Ghana mass media,](/wiki/File:Ghana_Trustworthiness_of_Media.jpg) [news](/wiki/News) and information provided by television The [media of Ghana](/wiki/Media_of_Ghana) are amongst the most free in Africa. Chapter 12 of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana guarantees [freedom of the press](/wiki/Freedom_of_the_press) and independence of the media, while Chapter 2 prohibits censorship.<ref name=gov>[Template:Wayback](/wiki/Template:Wayback), *Government of Ghana*.</ref> Post-independence, the government and media often had a tense relationship, with private outlets closed during the military governments and strict media laws that prevent criticism of government.<ref name=Anokwa>Anokwa, K. (1997). In *Press Freedom and Communication in Africa.* Erbio, F. & Jong-Ebot, W. (Eds.) Africa World Press. ISBN 978-0-86543-551-3.</ref>

Media freedoms were restored in 1992, and after the election in 2000 of [John Agyekum Kufuor](/wiki/John_Kufuor) the tensions between the private media and government decreased. Kufuor was a supporter of press freedom and repealed a [libel](/wiki/Defamation) law, though maintained that the media had to act responsibly.<ref name=pr>[Basic Data](http://www.pressreference.com/Fa-Gu/Ghana.html). pressreference.com</ref> The Ghanaian media has been described as "one of the most unfettered" in Africa, operating with little restriction on private media. The private press often carries criticism of government policy.<ref name=bbc>[BBC Country Profile: Ghana](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1023355.stm#media), [BBC News](/wiki/BBC_News).</ref>

### Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=63)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|left|300px|Black Stars;](/wiki/File:20150331_Mali_vs_Ghana_042.jpg) [Ghana national football team](/wiki/Ghana_national_football_team).

Association soccer (or Football) is the most spectated [sport in Ghana](/wiki/Sports_in_Ghana) and the [national men's football team](/wiki/Ghana_national_football_team) is known as the Black Stars, with the [under-20 team](/wiki/Ghana_national_under-20_football_team) known as the Black Satellites.[[202]](#cite_note-202) Ghana has won the [African Cup of Nations](/wiki/African_Cup_of_Nations) four times, the [FIFA U-20 World Cup](/wiki/FIFA_U-20_World_Cup) once, and has participated in three consecutive [FIFA World Cups](/wiki/FIFA_World_Cup) dating back to 2006.[[202]](#cite_note-202) In the [2010 FIFA World Cup](/wiki/2010_FIFA_World_Cup), Ghana became the third African country to reach the quarter-final stage of the World Cup after Cameroon in 1990 and Senegal in 2002.[[203]](#cite_note-203) Ghana national U-20 football team, known as the *Black Satellites*, is considered to be the feeder team for the [Ghana national football team](/wiki/Ghana_national_football_team). Ghana is the first and only country on the [Africa continent](/wiki/African_continent) to be crowned [FIFA U-20 World Cup Champions](/wiki/2009_FIFA_U-20_World_Cup),[[202]](#cite_note-202) and two-time runners up in [1993](/wiki/1993_FIFA_World_Youth_Championship) and [2001](/wiki/2001_FIFA_World_Youth_Championship). The Ghana national U-17 football team known as the Black Starlets are two-time [FIFA U-17 World Cup](/wiki/FIFA_U-17_World_Cup) champions in [1991](/wiki/1991_FIFA_U-17_World_Championship) and [1995](/wiki/1995_FIFA_U-17_World_Championship), two-time runners up in [1993](/wiki/1993_FIFA_U-17_World_Championship) and [1997](/wiki/1997_FIFA_World_Youth_Championship).[[204]](#cite_note-204)[Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image)

Ghanaian [football teams](/wiki/Football_team) Asante Kotoko SC and Accra Hearts of Oak SC are the 5th and 9th best [football teams](/wiki/Football_team) on the [Africa continent](/wiki/African_continent) and have won a total of five Africa continental association football and [Confederation of African Football](/wiki/Confederation_of_African_Football) trophies; Ghanaian football club [Asante Kotoko SC](/wiki/Asante_Kotoko_SC) has been crowned two-time [CAF Champions League](/wiki/CAF_Champions_League) winners in [1970](/wiki/1970_African_Cup_of_Champions_Clubs), [1983](/wiki/1983_African_Cup_of_Champions_Clubs) and five-time CAF Champions League runners up, and Ghanaian football club [Accra Hearts of Oak SC](/wiki/Accra_Hearts_of_Oak_SC) has been crowned [2000 CAF Champions League](/wiki/2000_CAF_Champions_League) winner and two-time CAF Champions League runners up, 2001 [CAF Super Cup](/wiki/CAF_Super_Cup) champions and [2004 CAF Confederation Cup](/wiki/2004_CAF_Confederation_Cup) champions.[[205]](#cite_note-205) The [International Federation of Football History and Statistics](/wiki/International_Federation_of_Football_History_and_Statistics) crowned Asante Kotoko SC as the [African club of the 20th century](/wiki/International_Federation_of_Football_History_&_Statistics#Continental_Clubs_of_the_20th_Century).[[205]](#cite_note-205) There are several club football teams in Ghana that play in the [Ghana Premier League](/wiki/Ghana_Premier_League) and [Division One League](/wiki/Ghana_Football_Leagues), both administered by the [Ghana Football Association](/wiki/Ghana_Football_Association).[[206]](#cite_note-206) [Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image) Ghana competed in the Winter Olympics in 2010 for the first time, Ghana qualified for the 2010 Winter Olympics, scoring 137.5 [International Ski Federation](/wiki/International_Ski_Federation) points, within the qualifying range of 120–140 points.[[207]](#cite_note-207)Ghanaian [skier](/wiki/Skiing), [Kwame Nkrumah-Acheampong](/wiki/Kwame_Nkrumah-Acheampong), nicknamed "The [Snow Leopard](/wiki/Snow_leopard)", became the first [Ghanaian](/wiki/Ghanaian_people) to take part in the [Winter Olympics](/wiki/Winter_Olympics), at the [2010 Winter Olympics](/wiki/2010_Winter_Olympics) held in [Vancouver](/wiki/Vancouver), Canada,[[208]](#cite_note-208) taking part in the [slalom skiing](/wiki/Slalom_skiing).[[209]](#cite_note-209) Ghana finished 47th out of 102 participating nations, of whom 54 finished in the [Alpine skiing slalom](/wiki/Alpine_skiing_at_the_2010_Winter_Olympics_–_Men's_slalom).[[210]](#cite_note-210)[[211]](#cite_note-211) [Kwame Nkrumah-Acheampong](/wiki/Kwame_Nkrumah-Acheampong) broke on the international [skiing](/wiki/Skiing) circuit, being the second [black African](/wiki/Black_people) skier to do so.[[212]](#cite_note-212) Ghanaian athletes have won a total of four Olympics medals in thirteen appearances at the [Summer Olympics](/wiki/Summer_Olympics), three in [boxing](/wiki/Boxing), and a [bronze medal](/wiki/Bronze_medal) in association football, and thus became the first country on the [Africa continent](/wiki/African_continent) to win a [medal](/wiki/Medal) at association football.[[213]](#cite_note-213) The country has also produced quite a few quality boxers, including [Azumah Nelson](/wiki/Azumah_Nelson) a three-time world champion and considered as Africa's greatest [boxer](/wiki/Boxer),[[214]](#cite_note-214)[[215]](#cite_note-215) [Nana Yaw Konadu](/wiki/Nana_Konadu) also a three-time world champion,[[215]](#cite_note-215) [Ike Quartey](/wiki/Ike_Quartey),[[215]](#cite_note-215) and [Joshua Clottey](/wiki/Joshua_Clottey).[[215]](#cite_note-215)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### Cultural heritage and architecture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=64)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

[380px|thumb|right|Ghanaian](/wiki/File:Ghanés_Arquitectura_Postmoderna_y_Arquitectura_Futurista_(Ghanaian_Postmodern_Architecture_and_Futurist_Architecture).JPG) [postmodern architecture](/wiki/Postmodern_architecture) and [high-tech architecture](/wiki/High-tech_architecture).

There are two types of Ghanaian traditional construction; The series of adjacent buildings in an enclosure around a common are common and the traditional round huts with grass roof.[[216]](#cite_note-216) The round huts with grass roof architecture are situated in the northern regions of Ghana ([Northern](/wiki/Northern_Region_(Ghana)), [Upper East](/wiki/Upper_East_Region) and [Upper West](/wiki/Upper_West_Region) regions), while the series of adjacent buildings are in the southern regions of Ghana ([Ashanti](/wiki/Ashanti_Region), [Brong-Ahafo](/wiki/Brong-Ahafo_Region), [Central](/wiki/Central_Region_(Ghana)), [Eastern](/wiki/Eastern_Region_(Ghana)), [Greater Accra](/wiki/Greater_Accra_Region) and [Western](/wiki/Western_Region_(Ghana)) regions).[[216]](#cite_note-216) Ghanaian [postmodern architecture](/wiki/Postmodern_architecture) and [high-tech architecture](/wiki/High-tech_architecture) buildings are predominant in the Ghanaian southern regions, while the Ghanaian [heritage sites](/wiki/Heritage_site) are most evident by the more than thirty [forts](/wiki/Fort) and [castles](/wiki/Castle) built in Ghana. Some of these forts are [Fort William](/wiki/Fort_William_(fort)) and [Fort Amsterdam](/wiki/Fort_Amsterdam_(Ghana)). Ghana has museums that are situated inside castles, and two are situated inside a fort.[[217]](#cite_note-217) The [Military Museum](/wiki/Armed_Forces_Museum_(Ghana)) and the [National Museum](/wiki/National_Museum_of_Ghana) organise temporary exhibitions.[[217]](#cite_note-217) Ghana has museums that show a in-depth look at specific [Ghanaian regions](/wiki/Regions_of_Ghana), there are a number of museums that provide insight into the traditions and history of their own geographical area in Ghana.[[217]](#cite_note-217) The [Cape Coast Castle](/wiki/Cape_Coast_Castle) Museum and St. Georges Castle ([Elmina Castle](/wiki/Elmina_Castle)) Museum offer [guided tours](/wiki/Guided_tour). The [Museum of Science and Technology](/wiki/Kwame_Nkrumah_University_of_Science_and_Technology) provides its visitors with a look into the domain of Ghanaian [scientific](/wiki/Science) development, through exhibits of objects of scientific and [technological](/wiki/Technology) interest.[[217]](#cite_note-217)

## National symbols[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=65)]

[[File:Tawny Eagle (Aquila rapax) 1.jpg|thumb|270px|

The [tawny eagle](/wiki/Tawny_eagle) appears on the [coat of arms of Ghana](/wiki/Coat_of_arms_of_Ghana)

]] [[File:Blackstar.jpg|195px|thumb|left|

[Flag of Ghana](/wiki/Flag_of_Ghana)

]] The [coat of arms](/wiki/Coat_of_arms_of_Ghana) depicts two animals: the [tawny eagle](/wiki/Tawny_eagle) (*Aquila rapax*, a very large [bird](/wiki/Bird_of_prey) that lives in the savannas and deserts[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed); 35% of Ghana's [landmass](/wiki/Land_mass) is [desert](/wiki/Desert), 35% is forest, 30% is [savanna](/wiki/Savanna)) and the lion (*Panthera leo,* a [big cat](/wiki/Big_cat)); a [ceremonial sword](/wiki/Ceremonial_sword), an [heraldic](/wiki/Heraldic) castle on an heraldic sea, a [cocoa tree](/wiki/Cocoa_tree) and a [mine shaft](/wiki/Mine_shaft) representing the [industrial mineral](/wiki/Industrial_mineral) wealth of Ghana, and a five-pointed black star rimmed with gold representing the mineral gold wealth of Ghana and the lodestar of the [Ghanaian people](/wiki/Ghanaian_people).[[218]](#cite_note-218) It also has the legend *Freedom and Justice*.[[218]](#cite_note-218) The [flag of Ghana](/wiki/Flag_of_Ghana) consists of three horizontal bands (strips) of red (top), gold (middle) and green (bottom); the three bands are the same height and width; the middle band bears a five-pointed black [star](/wiki/Star) in the centre of the gold band, the colour red band stands for the blood spilled to achieve the nation's independence: gold stands for Ghana's [industrial mineral](/wiki/Industrial_mineral) wealth, and the color green symbolises the rich [tropical rainforests](/wiki/Tropical_rainforest) and natural resources of Ghana.[[36]](#cite_note-36)[[218]](#cite_note-218)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## Tourism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=66)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|300px|right|](/wiki/File:Surfers_Surfing_at_Busua_Beach_in_Western_region,_Ghana.jpg)[Surfers](/wiki/Surfer) [Surfing](/wiki/Surfing) and [Big Wave Surfing](/wiki/Big_wave_surfing) at [Busua Beach](/wiki/Busua_Beach) in [Western region](/wiki/Western_Region_(Ghana)).[[219]](#cite_note-219) In 2011, 1,087,000 tourists visited Ghana.[[220]](#cite_note-220) Tourist arrivals to Ghana include: South Americans, Asians, Europeans, and North Americans.[[221]](#cite_note-221) The attractions and major tourist destinations of Ghana include a warm, tropical climate year-round; diverse [wildlife](/wiki/Wildlife); exotic [waterfalls](/wiki/Waterfall) such as Kintampo Waterfalls and the largest waterfall in west Africa, [Wli Waterfalls](/wiki/Wli_Waterfalls); Ghana's coastal palm-lined sandy beaches; caves; mountains, rivers; [meteorite](/wiki/Meteorite) [impact crater](/wiki/Impact_crater) and reservoirs and lakes such as [Lake Bosumtwi](/wiki/Lake_Bosumtwi) or Bosumtwi [meteorite crater](/wiki/Meteorite_crater) and the largest man-made lake in the world by surface area, [Lake Volta](/wiki/Lake_Volta); dozens of [castles](/wiki/Castle) and [forts](/wiki/Fort); [UNESCO](/wiki/UNESCO) World Heritage Sites; [nature reserves](/wiki/Nature_reserve) and [national parks](/wiki/National_park).[[221]](#cite_note-221) The [World Economic Forum](/wiki/World_Economic_Forum) statistics in 2010 showed that out of the world's favourite tourist destinations, Ghana was ranked 108th out of 139 countries.<ref name=RANK>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The country had moved two places up from the 2009 rankings. In 2011, [*Forbes*](/wiki/Forbes) magazine, published that Ghana was ranked the eleventh most friendly country in the world. The assertion was based on a survey in 2010 of a cross-section of travellers. Of all the African countries that were included in the survey, Ghana ranked highest.[[222]](#cite_note-222) Tourism is the fourth highest earner of [foreign exchange](/wiki/Foreign_exchange_reserves) for the country.[[222]](#cite_note-222) In 2015, Ghana ranks as the [54th–most peaceful country](/wiki/Global_Peace_Index) in the [world](/wiki/Earth).[[223]](#cite_note-223) To enter Ghana, it is necessary to have a visa authorised by the [Government of Ghana](/wiki/Government_of_Ghana). Travelers must apply for this visa at a Ghanaian embassy; this process can take approximately two weeks. By law, visitors entering Ghana must be able to produce a yellow fever vaccination certificate.[[224]](#cite_note-224) [Template:Wide image](/wiki/Template:Wide_image) [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

{| class="wikitable" |- !colspan="3"| Tourism Landmarks, National Border, Region and Terrestrial plain of the 4th Republic of Ghana |- |colspan="2"| {| class="wikitable" |- | style="background:#71b37b;width:5px" | |[Coastal Plain](/wiki/Geography_of_Ghana#Low_Plains) | [Accra](/wiki/Accra), [Apam](/wiki/Apam), [Cape Coast](/wiki/Cape_Coast), [Elmina](/wiki/Elmina), [Kakum National Park](/wiki/Kakum_National_Park), [Kokrobite](/wiki/Kokrobite), [Nzulezo](/wiki/Nzulezo), [Sekondi-Takoradi](/wiki/Sekondi-Takoradi), [Ada Foah](/wiki/Ada_Foah) | The [Gulf of Guinea](/wiki/Gulf_of_Guinea) [coastal plain](/wiki/Coastal_plain) with the [seat of government](/wiki/Seat_of_government) and [capital city](/wiki/Capital_city), several [castles](/wiki/Castle) and [forts](/wiki/Fort) and the best preserved [rainforest](/wiki/Rainforest) in Ghana

|- | style="background:#64a0c7;width:5px" | |[Ashanti-Kwahu](/wiki/Geography_of_Ghana#Ashanti_Uplands) | [Koforidua](/wiki/Koforidua), [Kumasi](/wiki/Kumasi), [Obuasi](/wiki/Obuasi), [Sunyani](/wiki/Sunyani) | [Forested](/wiki/Forest) hills and the ancient [Kingdom of Ashanti](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Ashanti)

|- | style="background:#bf88bf;width:5px" | |[Volta Basin](/wiki/Volta_Basin) | [Tamale](/wiki/Tamale,_Ghana) | massive and world's largest [Lake Volta](/wiki/Lake_Volta), the river system that feeds it and Ghana eastern [border crossing](/wiki/Border_crossing)

|- | style="background:#b2be9b;width:5px" | |[Northern Plains](/wiki/Geography_of_Ghana#High_plains) | [Wa](/wiki/Wa,_Ghana), [Bolgatanga](/wiki/Bolgatanga), [Mole National Park](/wiki/Mole_National_Park) | [Savanna](/wiki/Savanna) plains and north Ghana [trade route](/wiki/Trade_route) and [border crossing](/wiki/Border_crossing) |} |rowspan="11"|[[File:Ghana Regions map.png|300px|thumb|center|

Map of Ghana with [national border](/wiki/National_border), [geographical regions](/wiki/Geographical_region) and [terrestrial plains](/wiki/Plain) colour-coded

]] |- style="background:#eee;" | style="text-align:center;" colspan="2"|**Settlements** |- |border = "1"|[Accra](/wiki/Accra) |style="text-align:center;"| [Seat of Government](/wiki/Seat_of_Government) and [Capital City](/wiki/Capital_city). |- |border = "1"|[Bolgatanga](/wiki/Bolgatanga) |style="text-align:center;"| [Paga Crocodile Pond](/wiki/Paga_Crocodile_Pond) location. |- |border = "1"|[Cape Coast](/wiki/Cape_Coast) |style="text-align:center;"|[Cape Coast castle](/wiki/Cape_Coast_Castle) is a [UNESCO World Heritage site](/wiki/UNESCO_World_Heritage_site). |- |border = "1"|[Elmina](/wiki/Elmina) |style="text-align:center;"| Coastal town with a quite harrowing fort [Elmina Castle](/wiki/Elmina_Castle). |- |border = "1"|[Koforidua](/wiki/Koforidua) |style="text-align:center;"|[Aburi Botanical Gardens](/wiki/Aburi_Botanical_Gardens) location. |- |border = "1"|[Kumasi](/wiki/Kumasi) |style="text-align:center;"|Traditional centre of the [Kingdom of Ashanti](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Ashanti). |- |border = "1"|[Obuasi](/wiki/Obuasi) |style="text-align:center;"|The [Earth's](/wiki/Earth) 9th largest [gold mine](/wiki/Gold_mine) location; and [Mining town](/wiki/Mining_town). |- |border = "1"|[Sekondi-Takoradi](/wiki/Sekondi-Takoradi) |style="text-align:center;"|[Ashantiland's](/wiki/Ashantiland) location of renowned [surfing](/wiki/Surfing) beaches such as [Busua Beach](/wiki/Busua_Beach),[[219]](#cite_note-219) and [UNESCO World Heritage sites](/wiki/UNESCO_World_Heritage_site). |- |border = "1"|[Tamale](/wiki/Tamale,_Ghana) |style="text-align:center;"|Largest settlement in the [Kingdom of Dagbon](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Dagbon) and gateway to [Mole National Park](/wiki/Mole_National_Park). |}

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=67)]

* [Index of Ghana-related articles](/wiki/Index_of_Ghana-related_articles)
* [Outline of Ghana](/wiki/Outline_of_Ghana)

[Template:Portalbar](/wiki/Template:Portalbar)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=68)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=69)]

* Arhin, Kwame, *The Life and Work of Kwame Nkrumah* (Africa Research & Publications, 1995)
* Babatope, Ebenezer, *The Ghana Revolution: From Nkrumah to Jerry Rawlings* (Fourth Dimension Publishing, 1982)
* Birmingham, David, *Kwame Nkrumah: Father Of African Nationalism* (Ohio University Press, 1998)
* Boafo-Arthur, Kwame, *Ghana: One Decade of the Liberal State* (Zed Books Ltd, 2007)
* Briggs, Philip, *Ghana (Bradt Travel Guide)* (Bradt Travel Guides, 2010)
* Clark, Gracia, *African Market Women: Seven Life Stories from Ghana* (Indiana University Press, 2010)
* Davidson, Basil, *Black Star: A View of the Life and Times of Kwame Nkrumah* (James Currey, 2007)
* Falola, Toyin and Salm, Stephen J, *Culture and Customs of Ghana* (Greenwood, 2002)
* Grant, Richard, *Globalizing City: The Urban and Economic Transformation of Accra, Ghana* (Syracuse University Press, 2008)
* Hadjor, Kofi Buenor, *Nkrumah and Ghana* (Africa Research & Publications, 2003)
* Hasty, Jennifer, *The Press and Political Culture in Ghana* (Indiana University Press, 2005)
* James, C.L.R., *Kwame Nkrumah and the Ghana Revolution* (Allison & Busby, 1977)
* Kuada, John and Chachah Yao, *Ghana. Understanding the People and their Culture* (Woeli Publishing Services, 1999)
* Miescher, Stephan F, *Making Men in Ghana* (Indiana University Press, 2005)
* Milne, June, *Kwame Nkrumah, A Biography* (Panaf Books, 2006)
* Nkrumah, Kwame, *Ghana : The Autobiography of Kwame Nkrumah* (International Publishers, 1971)
* Utley, Ian, *Ghana – Culture Smart!: the essential guide to customs & culture* (Kuperard, 2009)
* Various, *Ghana: An African Portrait Revisited* (Peter E. Randall Publisher, 2007)
* Younge, Paschal Yao, *Music and Dance Traditions of Ghana: History, Performance and Teaching* (Mcfarland & Co Inc., 2011)
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=70)]

[Template:Wikiquote](/wiki/Template:Wikiquote)

Government

* [Ghana](http://www.ghana.gov.gh/) official website
* [The Parliament of Ghana](http://www.parliament.gh/) official site
* [National Commission on Culture](http://www.ghanaculture.gov.gh/) official site

General information

* [Country Profile](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1023355.stm) from [BBC News](/wiki/BBC_News)
* [Ghana](http://www.britannica.com/place/Ghana) from [Encyclopaedia Britannica](/wiki/Encyclopaedia_Britannica)
* [Ghana](http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/govpubs/for/ghana.htm) from *UCB Libraries GovPubs*
* [Template:CIA World Factbook link](/wiki/Template:CIA_World_Factbook_link)
* [Ghana](http://www.africa.com/ghana/) profile from [Africa.com](/wiki/Africa.com)
* [Template:Dmoz](/wiki/Template:Dmoz)
* [Template:Wikiatlas](/wiki/Template:Wikiatlas)
* [Ghana Directory](http://www.ghanayello.com/)
* The [African Activist Archive Project](http://africanactivist.msu.edu/) website has photographs of the All Africa People's Conference held in Accra, Ghana, 5–13 December 1958 including [Kwame Nkrumah, Prime Minister of Ghana](http://africanactivist.msu.edu/image.php?objectid=476), addressing the conference, the [American Committee on Africa delegation](http://africanactivist.msu.edu/image.php?objectid=85) meeting with Nkrumah, and of [Patrick Duncan and Alfred Hutchinson](http://africanactivist.msu.edu/image.php?objectid=470) of South Africa at the conference.
* [Key Development Forecasts for Ghana](http://www.ifs.du.edu/ifs/frm_CountryProfile.aspx?Country=GH) from [International Futures](/wiki/International_Futures)

Trade

* [Ghana 2012 Summary Trade Statistics](http://wits.worldbank.org/CountryProfile/Country/GHA/Year/2012/Summary)

[Template:Years in Ghana](/wiki/Template:Years_in_Ghana) [Template:Ghana governments](/wiki/Template:Ghana_governments) [Template:Navboxes](/wiki/Template:Navboxes) [Template:Subject bar](/wiki/Template:Subject_bar)

[Template:Authority control](/wiki/Template:Authority_control)

[Category:Ghana](/wiki/Category:Ghana) [Category:Commonwealth republics](/wiki/Category:Commonwealth_republics) [Category:Countries in Africa](/wiki/Category:Countries_in_Africa) [Category:Economic Community of West African States](/wiki/Category:Economic_Community_of_West_African_States) [Category:English-speaking countries and territories](/wiki/Category:English-speaking_countries_and_territories) [Category:Liberal democracies](/wiki/Category:Liberal_democracies) [Category:Member states of the African Union](/wiki/Category:Member_states_of_the_African_Union) [Category:Member states of the Commonwealth of Nations](/wiki/Category:Member_states_of_the_Commonwealth_of_Nations) [Category:Member states of the United Nations](/wiki/Category:Member_states_of_the_United_Nations) [Category:Republics](/wiki/Category:Republics) [Category:States and territories established in 1957](/wiki/Category:States_and_territories_established_in_1957) [Category:West African countries](/wiki/Category:West_African_countries) [Category:Articles containing video clips](/wiki/Category:Articles_containing_video_clips)