



LAND OF THE ANCESTORS

13 Days Tour: Benin – Togo – Ghana

Cotonou – Abomey – Parakou – Djougou – Kara – Lomé –

Togoville – Accra – Atimpoku – Adanwomase – Cape Coast

Day 1: Arrival in Cotonou

Fly to Cotonou, the capital city of Benin. On arrival, you will be met and transfer to your hotel. *D*

Destination Information:

Cotonou: Cotonou is the biggest city of Benin, in fact it is the economic heart of the country with its port, markets and banks.

Day 2: Cotonou – Abomey

This morning, journey to Abomey, one of the most popular tourist cities of Benin. On arrival in Abomey, former capital of the ancient Kingdom of Dahomey, visit the 12 palaces of the Royal Palaces of Abomey, spread over 99 acres of land. The visit will include a tour of the royal enclosure, museums, the King's tomb and Jewel Room. *BLD*

Destination Information:

The Royal Palaces of Abomey: The palaces are spread over 99 acres of land in the heart of Abomey, former capital of the ancient Kingdom of Dahomey and have a capacity of about 8000 people and the one belonging to the king included a two-storey structure called the "cowrie house" or akuehue. The Royal Palaces of Abomey have been recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in Africa.

Day 3: Abomey – Parakou – Djougou

Drive approximately 3 hours to Parakou, the largest city in the North of Benin. Visit the city and the royal court of the king of Parakou, get first-hand knowledge of the customs and deity of the kingdom of Parakou. Get back on the coach and head to Djougou. On arrival after 2 hours drive, check in the hotel and in the evening, during dinner watch a performance of cultural song and dance. *BLD*

Destination Information:

Parakou: From its real name Karouko, the navel in Hausa language, the city of Parakou by its history, was born from the ruins of the kingdom of Koubourou known for its legendary hospitality. Parakou is the third largest city in Benin after Cotonou and Porto-Novo.

Day 4: Djougou – Kara

This morning, head north to visit the villages of the Taneka people, who are very closed and deeply traditional people. Meet their spiritual guide and learn about their distinctive marks on their face. After lunch, bid farewell to Benin and cross the border into Kara via Ouaké. Upon arrival, check in the hotel and settle for the night. *BLD*

Destination Information:

Djougou: Second largest city of North Benin after Parakou, Djougou is from its position a meeting point of several ethnic groups. Its market is popular in the sub-region because of the numerous craftsmen's workshops

Taneka People: An ethnic group that has been created over the centuries by the encounter of populations of different origin who have moved to this area and who here have created a unique cultural mix. The villages reflect the different origins of the different ethnic groups.

Kara: Kara is the capital of the Kara region in the North of Togo, a popular tourist destination of its cultural, tourist sites and its landscape.

Day 5: Kara

Journey 1 and half hour this morning to the Tamberma Valley and visit the remarkable Tamberma mud tower-houses, a UNESCO heritage. visit the land of Batammariba and see the Koutammakou landscape and its houses; the mud tower- houses are remarkable and the history of the places are very impressive. In the afternoon, visit the village of Tchare, a village in the mountain known as the blacksmith's village. *BLD*

Destination Information:

Tamberma Valley: The Tamberma Valley is 80 Km of Kara in the North of Togo; it is also the valley of the mysterious Batammariba tribe with its beautiful landscape of grassland and small trees scattered around a baobab tree.

Tamberma Mud Tower-Houses: Are fortified houses built in the 17th century by the Batammariba people in order to protect themselves from the German invaders. The houses have a striking architecture and are built with mud, branches and straw.

Day 6: Kara – Lomé

Make an early start this morning for the journey to the south of Togo, drive 7 to 8 hours to Lomé. On arrival, check-in at the hotel and enjoy the evening at leisure. *BLD*

Destination Information:

Lomé: The capital of Togo, Lomé is a friendly place to visit with its beautiful countryside and its white and palm-tree beaches.

Day 7: Lomé – Togoville

You may enjoy one of the most unique and historical tour in Togo. In the morning, visit first of all, the Agbodrafo clandestine (slave trade in Agbodrafo was done in clandestinely as the traders settled there after the first abolition). After learning about that part of the Togolese history and culture, enjoy a relaxing boat ride on Lake Togo to Togoville, the city from which the country got its name. On arrival, walk around the village where there will be a display of voodoo statues; learn about the colonisation history by German and French. Return to Lomé for a visit to the must-see Akodessawa Fetish Market (Marché Des Feticheurs) located at Akodessawa, Lomé. Le Marché Des Feticheurs is the world's largest voodoo market. In the afternoon, ride back in Agbodrafo and enjoy a time on the beach. *BLD*

Destination Information:

Agbodrafo Slave House: The slave house or "Maison des Esclaves" was one of the last clandestine slave trading houses in operation after the abolition of slavery. Located less than a mile from the beach, the house was the last stop for slaves before boarding slave ships off the coast of Togo. The Afro-Brazilian style building has one main floor and a sub floor where slaves were hidden while waiting for shipment.

Fetish Market: Considered as the biggest fetish market in the world, not in size but because of the number of fetish items in one location, the Fetish market is a must-see for people who not put off by dead animals and are interested in herbal medicines.

Day 8: Lomé – Aflao – Accra – Kisseman

In the morning, after bidding goodbye to Togo, drive to Aflao in Ghana. After crossing the border, travel 4 hours and quarter minutes to suburban Accra. Visit a family compound, market and shrine in the urban village of Kisseman. The evening is at leisure. *BLD*

Destination Information:

Accra: Is the capital of Ghana, located on the coastline of West Africa; it is the economic and administration hub of the country but also a great tourist city to visit.

Day 9: Accra – Atimpoku

Early morning, depart to Shai Hills Wildlife Preserve. Baboons, birds, antelope. Hike to bat caves, cultural remains and scenic vistas. Stop at a bead workshop near the Volta River to see this traditional handcraft.

Destination Information:

Atimpoku: Is a small town in the Eastern region near the Akosombo Dam along the Volta River.

Shai Hills Wildlife Reserve: Covers a total area of 51sq km and is home to 31 species of mammals and over 150 bird species. The hills and terrain of Shai Hills is a wonderful glimpse into "natural" Africa. Much tribal history is associated with this area, and one can explore much of that while here. The reserved is breeding ostriches and zebras

Day 10: Atimpoku – Kumasi

Journey to Adanwomase for a two nights homestay. Morning motor boat ride on the Volta River to the Akosombo Dam Scenic drive to seasonal Boti Falls and take 250 concrete steps to the bottom of the falls. Moderately strenuous 45 minutes morning hike to Umbrella Rock for stunning vistas. Overnight at a mid-range hotel in suburban Kumasi. *BLD*

Destination Information:

Akosombo Dam: Also known as Volta Dam, located in the south-eastern Ghana, was built between 1961 and 1965 to provide electricity to the aluminium industry. The construction of the dam subsequently created the Volta River and displaced 80000 farmers.

Boti Falls: This spectacular seasonal waterfall is situated in the Eastern Region of Ghana, about 17km Northeast of Koforidua, the regional capital of the Eastern Region. There are actually two falls at Boti: The upper falls and the lower falls. These are the main features of the Boti Falls (what has widely been talked about is the lower falls). The locals describe it as male and female (this description is for the lower falls only).

Day 11: Traditional Ashanti Villages, Cocoa Farm

Tour the craft villages in of the Ashanti Kingdom showcasing traditional crafts: Kente cloth weaving, Adinkra cloth stamping, wood carving and a healing shrine. Visit a cocoa farm. Evening drumming, singing, and storytelling with village locals. *BLD*

Destination Information:

Ashanti Kingdom: The empire was founded in 1670, and the Ashanti capital Kumasi was founded in 1680 the late 17th century by Asantehene (emperor) Osei Kofi Tutu I on the advice of Okomfo Anokye, his premier. The current Asantehene is His Majesty (HM) Otumfuo Nana Osei Tutu II.

Kente Cloth: One of the most sumptuously coloured textiles used for clothing, made by Asante and Ewe weavers using specially designed looms.

Adinkra Cloth: Adinkra is a printed or stamped traditional cloth made by the Ashanti people in Ghana, especially in the village of Ntonso.

Day 12: Kumasi – Cape Coast

In the morning, drive 3 and half hours for the coastal town of Cape Coast. Stop at the former slave market and cemetery at Assin Manso, the Slave River Cape Coast. Tour the U.N. World Heritage Site of Cape Coast castle.

Destination Information:

Cape Coast: Once the largest slave-trading centre in West Africa, Cape Coast is a quiet fishing town of Ghana. It is the capital of the Central region with its imposing castles.

Cape Coast Castle: Cape Coast Castle is a European-built fortress situated on the central coastline of Ghana. It was originally built by the Swedes for trade in timber and gold, but later used in the trans-Atlantic slave trade. A must-see for anyone in Cape Coast.

Day 13: Cape Coast – Ft San Sebastian – Accra

Spend the early morning at the beach to watch fishermen pulling nets with their catch before driving west along the coast. Make a quick visit to the smaller Ft. San Sebastian in Shama. Drive back to Accra for your flight home.

Destination Information:

Ft. San Sebastian: The third oldest fortification. Fort San Sebastian is a historical architectural delight, reflecting the distinctive styles and preferences of both its Portuguese and Dutch sculpturing. Fort San Sebastian was built by the Portuguese from 1520 to 1526. Its original purpose was to serve as a deterrent to English sailors interfering in Shama trade.