



## LANDS OF THE GODS

15 Days: Benin – Togo – Ghana

Cotonou – Ganvié – Ouidah – Potossomé – Grand Popo – Togoville –

Kara – Kpalimé – Wli Falls – Accra – 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 – Ganvié – Abomey**

In the morning, go on a half day trip to Ganvié and explore the history of these stilt villages. In the afternoon, journey to Abomey. On arrival, visit the 12 palaces of the Royal Palaces of Abomey, a tour of the royal enclosure, museums, the King's tomb and Jewel Room. Drive to Ouidah for the night.

*BLD*

#### **Destination Information:**

**Lake Ganvié:** The Venice of Africa, the largesse stilt village of the region of Calavi, where 12,000 fishermen live. They were created over three hundred years ago when the local tribes moved into the shallow Lake Nakoué to avoid capture and enslavement.

**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.

**Ouidah:** In the past popular with the slave traders because it was the route that was used to take the slaves to the boat. Nowadays, Ouidah is the capital of the voodoo religion, where all the believers and voodoo worshippers will convert on the every 10<sup>th</sup> January for the voodoo festival.

### **Day 3: Ouidah – Potossomé**

Drive to Ouidah and visit the temple of Pythons and the Zinsou foundation modern art museum. Embark on the slave tour, which include: the Portuguese slave fort, the slave market, the wall of lamentation and the gate of no return. Drive to Potossomé for the night. *BLD*

#### **Destination Information:**

**The Museum of History:** A basic museum, which holds the remnants of a very dark time of human history: the slave trade, when thousands of West African men and women were shipped to America.

**The Door of No Return:** A monument, designed like a door symbolising the last place the slaves will see before embark on the slave boats that will take them away from the land of their ancestors.

### **Day 4: Potossomé**

In the morning, visit Possotomé, an authentic voodoo village. On arrival, start a hiking journey through the village. In the afternoon, there will be a Kayaking activity. *BLD*

#### **Destination Information:**

**Potossomé:** Potossomé is known for its superb landscapes, its renowned thermal spring and Lake Ahémé.

### **Day 5: Potossomé – Grand Popo**

Depart early for Avlo, a small village of Grand Popo. On arrival, start with a walking tour of the village; then go on a motorised boat trip to the Mouth of the Roy Reserve, the place where the river flows into the ocean. Also, visit the mangrove and the salt island along the lagoon. Finish the day relaxing on the beach. *BLD*

#### **Destination Information:**

**Grand Popo:** Grand-Popo is a small town in the far southwest of Benin, known for its voodoo culture. Once a major slave port, the town is now celebrated for its long beach lined with coconut palms.

**Avlo:** A village located between the Atlantic Ocean and the Mono River.

**La Bouche du Roy:** where the Mono river flows into the Atlantic Ocean. La Bouche du Roy is part of Mono MAB UNESCO Biosphere Reserve enjoyed by nature lovers. From unique bird sightings from Bird Island to the release of baby sea turtles or the mangrove plantation, it is a must-see while in Grand Popo.

#### **Day 6: Grand Popo – Togoville**

Depart early morning for the border and bid farewell to Benin and drive into Togo. Get on a boat ride on the Lake Togo to Togoville. On arrival, walk around the village where there will be a display of voodoo statues; learn about the colonisation history by German and French. Drive to Lomé for the night. *BLD*

#### **Destination Information:**

**Togoville:** the city from which the country got its name.

#### **Day 7: Lomé – Kara**

Make an early start this morning for the journey to the north of Togo, drive 7 to 8 hours to Kara. Make a stop in Tcharé village to visit of blacksmiths. On arrival, check-in at the hotel and enjoy the evening at leisure. *BLD*

#### **Destination Information:**

**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 8: Kara**

In the morning, drive to Djamdè Park for a visit to the elephants. In the afternoon, Visit the Batamariba tribe in Tamberma village to see their unique houses.

#### **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 Batamariba 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 17<sup>th</sup> century by the Batamariba people in order to protect themselves from the German invaders. The houses have a striking

**Djamdè Park:** The park of Djamdè, with its 17 hectares, has a beautiful fauna, and three semi-domesticated elephants.

#### **Day 9: Kara – Kpalimé**

Drive to Kpalimé the greenest city of Togo. On the way stop in the village of Bafilo to see the traditional weavers. Make another stop at the Aledjo Fall. On arrival in Kpalimé, transfer to the hotel for the night.

**Destination Information:**

**Kpalimé:** Kpalimé is about 1h30 drive from Lomé. It has a beautiful landscape and is located in the heart of the coffee and cocoa region.

**Day 10: Kpalimé – Wli Falls**

This morning, embark on walking tour through Kouma Konda ecotourism village. Walk through the houses, the forest to reach a small waterfall and admire the beautiful green and lush surroundings. In the afternoon, bid goodbye to Togo and drive to Hohoe in Ghana for the night. *BLD*

**Destination Information:**

**Kouma Konda Village:** Is a village with painted shutters; Founded in 1720 by Ewes peasants, the village retains many ancestral customs such as traditional dances and cults and voodoo ceremonies. It is very popular with tourists because of its lush fields and plantations.

**Day 11: Wli Falls – Accra**

This morning, visit Wli Falls, West Africa's tallest falls. In the afternoon, travel to Accra. *BLD*

**Destination Information:**

**Wli Falls:** The highest in Ghana and the most popular tourism attraction in the country. Wli Falls, pronounced 'vlee', cover an area of 35 square Km; this area has 220 birds, 400 butterfly species, fruit bats, monkey and number of antelopes.

**Day 12: Accra**

In the morning, go on a city tour. Tour highlight will be: the independence Square and the Kwame Nkrumah memorial. *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.

**The Kwame Nkrumah Memorial:** The pyramid-styled Park is the final burial place of the former President of Ghana. The Museum is also located inside the park. The Museum contains some items and personal effects used by the first President, Dr Kwame Nkrumah. The navy-blue Cadillac Car used by the Dr Nkrumah is one of the must-sees in the museum. Clothes, furniture and wall frames are some of the other artefacts that make up the museum.

**Independence Square:** Now officially called the Black Stars Square is plenty of history in Ghana. The Black Star Square an awesome park and the second largest of its kind in the world. The Black Star Square lies between the Accra Sports Stadium and the Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park.

**Day 13: Busua Rainforest Canopy Walkway – Cape Coast**

Early morning, drive to the coastal town of Cape Coast. On arrival, walk across the forest canopy walkway at Kakum National Park. After, visit 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. *BLD*

**Destination Information:**

**Kakum National Park:** A blend of true rainforest and semi deciduous forest, the Kakum National Park is home to animals and bird species and a breathtaking array of butterflies, a wide variety of exotic

floral species and fauna. The canopy walkway, which hangs 100 feet above the forest and is 350 metres (1,150 ft) long connects seven tree tops therefore provides access to the forest.

**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 14: Cape Coast – Accra**

Spend a relaxing morning at the beach or at the hotel. Drive back to Accra for your flight home. *BL*