



## THE AKWABA TOUR - GHANA

6 Days Comfortable Tour

Accra – Aburi – Kumasi – Elmina

### **Day 1: UK - Accra**

Arrive in Accra and transfer in an air-conditioned Standard 4X4. Refresh and relax. Neighbourhood or Accra city orientation as time permit.

### **Day 2: Accra – Aburi – Atimpoku**

Depart for Aburi Botanical Gardens and Aburi craft market in the Akuapem highlands. Stop at a glass bead workshop near the Volta River to see this traditional handcraft. Motorboat ride on the Volta River to the Akosombo dam. *BLD*

### **Destination Information:**

**Aburi Botanical Gardens:** Located 45mn drive from Accra, the Aburi Botanical Gardens have an impressive variety of fauna and flora. It is a great place to learn about different trees, have a peaceful walk or enjoy a picnic under a 160 years old Kapok tree.

**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.

### **Day 3: Atimpoku – Kumasi**

In the early morning, drive 4 and half hours to the seasonal Akaa Falls and take 250 concrete steps to the bottom of the falls. Onward to a number of villages showcasing traditional Asante handcrafts: Kumasi Kente cloth weaving, Adinkra cloth stamping, wood carving. Also visit a cocoa farm. *BLD*

#### **Destination Information:**

**Akaa 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. It is accessible by 250 concrete steps to the bottom where the water can fall around you from three different sides if the pressure is good.

**Kumasi:** The ancient capital of the Ashanti or Asante kingdom, Kumasi is still the heart of the Ashanti country. The king palace is in Kumasi, hence centre of the cultural and traditional activities of the kingdom.

### **Day 4: Kumasi**

This morning, visit the National Cultural Centre, one of Ghana's best museums; the home of the Ashanti King, Manhyia Palace and the Komfo Anokye Sword Kumasi. Shopping experience at West Africa's largest outdoor market, the vast Kejetia market. *BLD*

#### **Destination Information:**

**National Cultural Centre:** Kumasi's major attraction is a complex of artisan workshops, performance centre, museum, library, and a craft shop. There are workshops on the centre grounds for various Ghanaian crafts such as ceramics, drum making, wood carving, brass casting, kente cloth weaving, and Adinkra cloth printing. Various types of performances take place in the afternoon on public holidays.

**Manhyia Palace:** The Manhyia Palace is the seat of the Ashanti King also known as the Asantehene, as well as his official residence. It is located at Kumasi, the capital of the Ashanti Kingdom and Ashanti Region.

**Komfo Anokye Sword site:** Situated on the grounds of the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, this site is important in Asante history. A 333-year-old sword wedged in the rockface is one of the centre artefacts and legends of the rich history of the Asante nation. On a good day you may run into the Asante king who regularly comes to pay his respects at this important and sacred site.

### **Day 5: Kumasi – Elmina**

In the morning, depart along the Slave Route, and drive 4 hours to Elmina; stopping at the Slave River in Assin Manso. Tour the oldest European structure in Africa, Elmina castle, a World Heritage site. Explore the Posuban Shrines, Ft. San Jago and fishing lagoon in central Elmina. In the late afternoon, watch a special cultural performance. *BLD*

**Destination Information:**

**Elmina:** Elmina, which means in Portuguese “The Coast of the Gold mines “, is a popular fishing port. In the past, the port was used by the slave traders to ship the captured Ghanaians to the New World.

**Elmina Castle:** Built by the Portuguese in 1482, it is believed to be one of the oldest European buildings south of the Sahara. The trade settlement that grew up around the castle originally dealt in gold as its primary export, but by the 17th century, the castle was a key holding station for slaves captured in West Africa. From there, they were shipped off to captivity throughout the New World.

**Posuban Shrines:** Posuban shrines are found in the coastal areas of the Fante people. These shrines can be anything from simple statues to elaborate concrete structures with life-size figures, fantasy creatures and other strange objects. Long ago these were the posts for local Asafo companies, or tribal militias.

**Ft San Jago:** It was built by the Dutch in 1652 to protect the castle from attack. In 1872, the fort and the entire Dutch Gold Coast were ceded to the British, who carried out several fortifications of the original structure. Today, the fort remains in relatively good condition.

**Day 6: Elmina – Accra – UK**

Early morning at the beach to watch fishermen pulling nets with their catch and drive west along the coast. Quickly visit the smaller Ft. San Sebastian in Shama. Drive back to Accra for your flight back to the UK. *BL*