

Ghana Castles and Forts
6 days – 5 nights
Accra, Cape Coast, Elmina, Kakum National Park
Heritage, Discovery, Culture, History

This program can be extended and may be operated for individuals, pods and groups

Are you a lover of monuments and archaeological sites? If yes, then this tour is a must do for you. Explore the oldest buildings in sub-Saharan Africa, various slave castles and forts among others. These fortified trading posts, founded between 1482 and 1786 and stretching for about 310 miles along the Ghanaian sides between Keta in the east and Beyin in the west, marked the trade routes that the Portuguese had traced in many parts of the country at the time of their great maritime discoveries. Forts and castles were built and occupied at different times by merchants from Portugal, Spain, Denmark, Sweden, Holland, Germany and Great Britain. They served as a base for European chartered companies that traded in gold. They subsequently played an important role in the development of the slave trade, and therefore in the history of the Americas, then, in the 19th century, in the disappearance of this trade.

Day 1: Accra

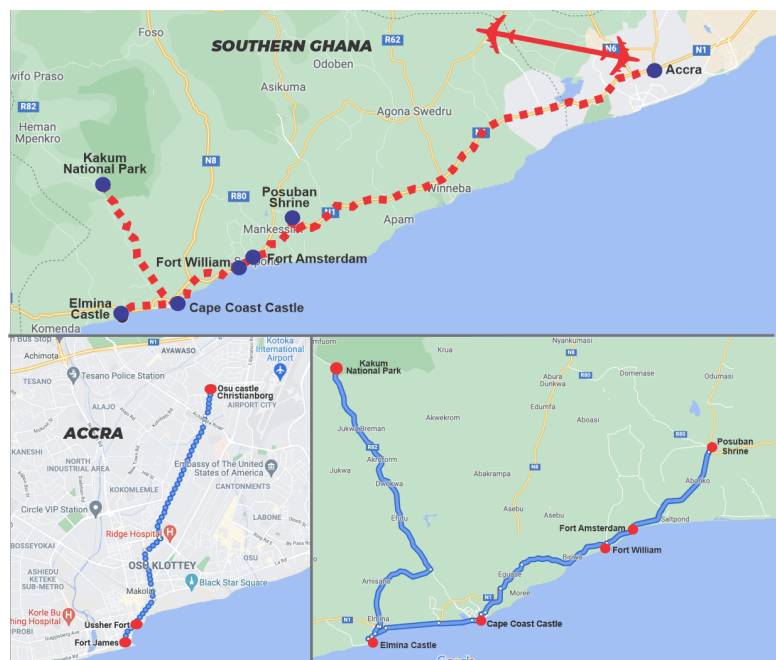
Upon arrival in Ghana, you'll be met at the airport by our representative and driven to your hotel. After you settle in, our guide will give you a short orientation about the tour and the country Ghana in general. Relax for the rest of the day. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. [D]

Day 2: Forts of Accra

Today, explore the oldest parts of Accra as you visit James Town. On the way you will have a view on some of the old buildings in Accra. Explore James Fort, built by the British as a trading post in 1673 and still in fairly good condition. The fort gave its name to the Jamestown district in Accra. Until 2008, James Fort served the Ghanaian society as a prison. After, visit Ussher Fort to learn more about the dark history of the slave trade in West Africa. The paintings depict images of the once accepted industry, and relics belonging to kidnappers and slaves line the halls, haunting visitors. Exhibits include heartbreaking artifacts like chains, as well as models of slave ships and a tribute to abolitionists who fought to end the inhumane practice of slavery. Last, visit the Christianborg castle in Osu built by the Danish in 1661. It will first pass into the hands of the Portuguese and finally, around 1872, ended up in those of the then considered to be the new masters of Africa. In recent years, until 2007, it served as Ghana's presidential palace in where the Flagstaff was built. Overnight in Accra. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight. [B/D]

Day 3: Accra, Cape Coast

After breakfast depart to the central region of Ghana stopping on the way to visit Fort Amsterdam. In 1631 the English had a lodge in Cormantine and, in 1645, they built a fort on the summit of a hill. In 1665 the Dutch occupied it during a struggle and renamed it Fort Amsterdam. In 1782 the Dutch surrendered the fort to the British, but in 1785 it was newly in Dutch hands by a treaty. In 1811 the African tribe of Anomabu captured the fort, which was later abandoned. A few miles west is Fort William, built in April 1820 on the site of a



lookout post previously used for signaling purposes. The fort was built by the then English Governor, Hope Smith and named Smith's Tower. Prior to 1838, the fort was converted to a lighthouse and re-named Fort William. Fort William currently accommodates staff of the Ghana Museums & Monuments Board and has been preserved to a fairly good state. Continue along the coast to reach Elmina to visit one of the Posuban sanctuaries, a unique feature of the central coastal region of Ghana and, now, the only ceremonial places that constitute the religious center of an Asafo company. Every statue and every carving, practiced on the columns and on the walls, has a particular meaning. Often, these signs have a religious value or represent dominance over enemies. The figures of the sanctuaries are represented in full size and have a symbolic value even if at times it is difficult to interpret their meaning and symbolism. Continue to Cape Coast for dinner and overnight. [B/D]

Day 4: Cape Coast

Located in the historic town of Elmina, 9 ½ miles from the Cape Coast, St. George's Castle (Elmina Castle), built in 1482, was the first fort built in Ghana and is considered to be one of the oldest European buildings outside of Europe. The site is believed to have been the first point of contact between Europeans and sub-Saharan Africans. It was founded by the Portuguese to protect the region's gold-rich lands, discovered by them in 1471. With the construction of the castle, Elmina gained the status of 'city' and became an important economic center in the west of the continent. The castle's location was carefully done, being situated on a narrow piece of land bordered on one side by the Atlantic Ocean and on the other by the Benya Lagoon, forming a natural harbor that guaranteed the safe anchorage of Portuguese ships. Then, visit one of the most famous castles in the dark episode of slavery in Ghana: Cape Coast Castle. It started as a commerce shop built by the Portuguese in 1555, which what later became known as the Cape Coast. In 1653, after Sweden's conquest of the Cape Coast, the Swedish Africa Company built a permanent wooden fortress for trading timber and gold. A decade later, the fort was rebuilt in stone when the Danes seized power from the Swedes. The fort, then passed into the hands of the Dutch and even a local Fetu chief at some point, before being conquered by the British in 1664. Over the years, the fort was increasingly used for the development of the slave trade, which reached its peak in the 18th century. In 1700, the fort was turned into a castle and also served as the seat of the British colonial governor. Cape Coast Castle served as one of the major slave castles that held enslaved Africans before their final departure to the Americas and the Caribbean. The castle is home to the "Door of No Return". Continue to your hotel for dinner and overnight. [B/D]

Day 5: Cape Coast, Kakum National Park, Accra

Visit the Kakum National Park and walk on the suspended bridges. The canopy walk is only one of Kakum's many delights. There are a variety of trails and guided walks that allow visitors to experience the solitude of the rainforest. It's also a premier site for bird watchers, with over 300 species including eight species of global conservation concern. Mammals include forest elephant, leopard, bongo, bush-buck and many primates, but game viewing is difficult. Also, more than 600 butterfly species have been recorded. Hike in the virgin forest and learn about the medicinal and spiritual importance of trees. In the afternoon the long drive to Accra. [B/D]

Day 6: Accra, USA

Check out of your hotel and take advantage of any time left for last-minute shopping. At the appointed time you'll be picked-up and driven to the airport to board your flight back home. [B]

[B] = Breakfast | [B/D] = Breakfast and Dinner



Your Tour includes:

- Round-trip airfare New York-Accra
- Arrival & departure transfers
- 5 nights' accommodation
 - Accra 3 nights
 - Anomabo 2 nights
- Meals:
 - Breakfast daily
 - 6 dinners
- Tour the castles of Accra
- Visit the Cape Coast Castles:
 - Fort Amsterdam
 - Fort William
 - Elmina Castle
 - Cape Coast Castle
 - See the "Door of No Return"
- Visit Katum National Park

- Sightseeing tour of Elmina
- Posuban sanctuaries of Elmina
- Entrance fees for sites visited
- English-speaking guides
- A/C vehicles
- All local taxes

Tour does not include:

- Taxes or surcharges related to airline tickets
- Hotel Tourism tax to be paid at checkout
- Travel insurance
- All alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks
- Other meals not mentioned in itinerary
- Extras and gratuities
- Early check-in, late check-out
- Expenses of personal nature

Hotels in your Tour

City	Hotel Name	Tripadvisor
First Class		
Accra	Holiday Inn Hotel	3.5
Anomabo	Anomabo Beach Resort	3.5

Hotels will be confirmed at time of booking

Tour Price:

From: \$2,629 including airfare

Add-ons available from all US gateways.

Price is minimum per person sharing a double room and may change without notice

These programs can be customized for individuals and for groups

Changes to this program may be requested by phone (1855-55-TOURS) or using the web FIT Quote Request

Airfare

We also be glad to add the necessary airfare from your gateway so you take advantage of our special discounted leisure fares

• **Program**

You may add or remove;

- Trip days
- Cities and sites
- Meals

• **Other options**

- The program was designed with private services, however, we may substitute shared sight-seeing where available
- If you prefer deluxe services we may operate this program including private driver, private guide and concierge service.

• **Quotation**

Once we have designed the program the way you want we'll give you a quote within 2 business days.

Tour Code: GH03ACC21ET

Options:

- Lunches and dinners can be arranged for individuals, families and groups at top restaurants or any

restaurant requested by you.

- We can revise the itinerary to spend more time and provide more depth in those areas that you are interested on.
- Any other changes to the itinerary will be accommodated depending on the facilities available in the area.
- Car can be upgraded upon request

Group Quotations

- If you wish to use these programs for your group or as the basis for a customized journey please either call us (1-855-55-TOURS or use the web Group Quote Request.
- In either case our specialists will work with to refine all the details and they will get you a quote with 2 business days. Quotes may be obtained for the air and land portions of just for the land journey.
- Booking both air and land with us will represent savings for you because of our buying power and longtime relationship with the airlines.

We will also may have the choice between regular fares and special leisure fares not available to the public.