

# Glorious Ghana

## 8-22 January 2017.

Group leaders Fiona Wright and Praveen Nayak Ghana, once home to the mighty Ashanti Kingdom and fought over by Colonial Powers for its many riches is now a shining light in Africa; a stable nation moving forward in the modern world.

One of Ghana's many riches is its textile and bead-making traditions that still prosper to this very day. We'll travel this fascinating country from the dry grasslands of the north down to the tropical beaches of the south observing traditional methods in textiles and bead making as well as participating in workshops to make treasures to take home.

Weaving, Batik, Indigo, Beads...there are many small artisan workshops to visit [in the West we would name these Fairtrade type ventures— dealing directly with the makers at reasonable prices]

Enlarge your stash for back home projects and take time to learn how it is done [bring an apron you will be getting your hands dirty!]

Warning: Ghanaian fabric from handmade batik to African wax print is completely addictive.

**Creative Arts Safaris tours are – art and culture based with a hands-on, get out and about type attitude.**

- we utilise good quality mid-range accommodation and search out good places to eat – “*Ghana is not really known for flash accommodation often 70's revival springs to mind...*” as one guide book points out; the places we use are always the best available—very clean, always western-style bathrooms, friendly service and comfortable rooms.

- most meals included— see itinerary.
- Drinks separate.
- groups of 8-14 participants

*These trips are not traditional package tours, rather it is hoped we can travel as a group of friends;*

*Creative Arts Safaris have done the research, our tutor handles the artistic side and a host makes sure it runs smoothly; we all share our observations and knowledge along the way. [any info you pick up in preparation is easy to share with the group via the internet and helps you 'meet' the others too]*

**Day 1-Sun, 8 Jan, 2017 Accra, Ghana**

Arrivals to Kotaka International Airport in Accra, where you'll be met and transferred to your hotel.

**Day 2-Mon, 9 Jan, 2017 Accra**

Bring your apron, we are straight into a batik workshop with Esther. Batik; rich, multi-layered batik is a highly desired dress material in Ghana and our teacher's business produces some of the best

**Cost – US\$4950 -twin share**

Single supplement ...US \$1250

Deposit to book today US\$1980

Deposit Deadline 8 October, 2016

Full payment due 8 October, 2016

Email [fiona@creative-arts-safaris.com](mailto:fiona@creative-arts-safaris.com)

or phone +91 998 203 2755

by the end of the day you'll have worked up 2 metres to take home with you. Artisan's Alliance and coffin viewing in the afternoon— these are not just any coffins but works of art!

[includes breakfast, lunch, dinner]

**Day 3-Tues, 10 Jan, 2017**

**Accra/Korfuidua**

We are heading up to Korfuidua- set amongst sub-tropical woodlands dotted with orchards we will spend some time exploring the local area. We'll need the work gear on today to join Oklah in his workshop to make our own re-cycled glass beads and pendent

Today we work to a true African pace; relaxed... our workshop is not far away from our hotel and pool so we can take time to relax as the process unfolds.

[Includes breakfast, lunch, dinner]

**Day 4-Wed, 11 Jan, 2017**

**Korfuidua**

An early morning stroll [OK we will take a relaxed pace but it is a big walk uphill to the villages] will take us up through the hills to a glass bead village and a morning learning about painted glass beads, and a then relaxing afternoon or finishing off the beads making

[Includes breakfast, dinner]

**Day 5- Thurs, 12 Jan, 2017**

**Accra/ Korfuidua**

This morning we are heading to the Koforidua bead market. Held weekly it is a treasure trove for the bead addicted and the centre of the bead trade in West Africa and increasingly international clients as well. The evening will find us back in Accra

[Includes breakfast, lunch]

**Day 6-Fri, 13 Jan, 2017**

**Accra/ Tamale/Bolgatanga**

After a short flight we are heading to the far north of Ghana and the evocative painted village of Sirigu. This area is renowned for its arts, crafts and traditional architecture.

We are staying in a beautiful eco-tourism grass hut style guest-house tonight

[includes breakfast, lunch, dinner]

**Day 7- Sat, 14 Jan, 2017**

**Bolgatanga/Tamale**

This is the hub of the grass basket industry –we are visiting a local village who work together to improve their skills and produce some of the best baskets around. This community has also pooled their resources to make a village library– if you have a spare spot in your bag you might like to bring a children's book to donate. Afternoon visit to the smock market before heading south to Tamale for the night.

[includes breakfast, lunch, dinner]

**Day 8- Sun, 15 Jan, 2017**

**Tamale- Daboya**

Today is a real adventure: we'll visit the isolated village of Daboya, west of Tamale, after we cross the White Volta River by dug-out canoe. We'll need dash to gift the chief and then wander the village to view strip weaving and indigo dyeing.

“Daboya strips” are used throughout northern Ghana to make the distinctive smock worn by the men of the region. Definitely off the tourist trail in Daboya feels like we are stepping into the past as we cross savannah where the shea trees grow of shea butter fame. [includes breakfast, lunch, dinner]

**Day 9- Mon, 16 Jan, 2017 Tamale/Kumasi**

Starting south today we go to Kumasi, a big drive watching the scenery change from the semi-arid north to the more fertile Kumasi region. [includes breakfast, dinner]

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**Day 10-Tues, 17 Jan, 2017****Kumasi**

Kumasi, home to the legendary Ashanti kingdom and heart of traditional crafts and culture of Ghana. This is a base for a few days to explore the region.

An early visit to a weaving village to see Ashanti Kente weaving— this village is special also for the responsible approach to tourism— a well-informed info centre and a village that believes tourists should be able to wander around in peace and appreciate their village.

In the afternoon- Adinkra Printing with Gabriel [Gabriel says Adinkra means talking and each symbol associated with this style has a clear meaning so your choice of symbols imparts a lot of information]. Gabriel and his family still source bark from up towards the Sahara to make the traditional inks, the family weaves Kente strips, all will be combined by us in our workshop.

[includes breakfast, lunch]

**Day 11-Wed, 18 Jan, 2017****Kumasi**

Today we will start the day at the Kofofrom brass village and a demonstration of how to mould and fire brass beads. Later an afternoon visit to the Cultural Centre to brush up on a bit of Ashanti history.

[includes breakfast, lunch]

**Day 12-Thurs, 19 Jan, 2017 Kumasi/ Cape Coast**

Major Market Meander Day this morning ...delve into the enormous Central Market at the heart of Kumasi [it boasts to be biggest in West Africa!]. ...it seems literally anything is possible in this market even things you never dreamed could be there...textiles, food, second hand goods, the odd fetish item or 100- parrot wings, dried bats, vulture heads all those things to stock the cupboard back home!

A guided tour of the market in the morning then we head off to Cape Coast today.

**Day 13-Fri, 20 Jan, 2017 Cape Coast**

Today is about African time...taking it easy at a beach side resort, we will check out the history of the area, this coast was once the centre of the nefarious slave trade. Cape Coast and its castle has been possessed by many European nations in its history and is a now a world Heritage site- lots to explore.

This area is famous for its Fante Flags- applied flags of various warrior groups.

[includes breakfast, lunch]

**Day14- Sat, 21Jan, 2017 Cape Coast/ Elmina/Accra**

Picturesque Elmina today just down the coast and then up to Accra for last minute shopping and a farewell dinner [includes breakfast, lunch, dinner]

**Day15- Sun, 22 Jan, 2017 Departures**

[breakfast]

If you are joining us, please consider filling that extra space in your suitcase with empty glass bottles. Especially in blue- it will make the perfect present for the re-cycled glass bead makers. Bombay Sapphire Gin is especially desired because the bottle makes the most beautiful blue beads! Children's books are great gifts for various village libraries we will visit

**Creative Arts Safaris tours include:**

- pickups from the airport for arrivals
- departures last day of tour
- accommodation from check in time of Day 1 up to and including the night of our Farewell Dinner

*Our accommodation is generally mid-range. All places are clean, friendly and have western bathrooms! It is ambiance and friendliness we are looking for, accommodation tends to be on the simple side in Ghana but always friendly and spotlessly clean.*

- all transportation, road taxes and fuel costs for the tour
- Internal flight to Tamale
- all breakfasts and many other meals

*Food is a reflection of the culture, we tend to favour local cuisine but western style food is also available in the large towns.*

- sightseeing entrance fees
- all tuition fees

**You need to cover:**

- a few meals
- all drinks
- laundry
- the one expense that we can't guestimate' for you is shopping! [this is not a shopping expedition but you will see some amazing things and you will probably want to indulge!]

**• airfares****• travel insurance****• visa [where necessary]**

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- We support Fair Trade and Self-Help organisations where we can and so the only 'shops' listed on our itinerary come under this category. Don't worry there are also lots of other markets we can visit too!

**Notes**

**Accommodation**— is not so fancy in Ghana, we go for the best we can find, clean and friendly and AC if available [everywhere except grass hut].

**Food**— In Ghana, food is plentiful and fresh, local diet is based on a starch— rice or other things such as fou-fou and a sauce/ soup on top that can include chicken, guinea fowl, meat or vegetables...sometimes a peanut sauce. Sometimes spicy...excellent fish along the coast. Perhaps a little repetitive but tasty.

**Weather** — At this time of year is warm to hot and humid closer to the coast— loose layers a good idea. It is also the end of the Harmattan season, when a dusty wind blows in off the Sahara...cold by local standards... around 32'C + in day time.

**Clothing** — light weight layers of clothing is good. Light, loose layers work well with the climate. Generally I find 3 or 4 outfits sufficient, there is always the opportunity to pick up things along the way. Sun hat is a good idea.

**Shoes** — sensible walking shoes such as sneakers or strapped on sandals are the best options. Surfaces are often rough and you really want your footing stable so you can focus on all the wonderful things everywhere to look at!

**Money** — ATMs are in all towns- so you can use a Visa based travel card, **VISA** debit or credit advance easily Note Visa not Mastercard etc. If you plan to use a card overseas DO warn your bank to expect overseas activity — some will freeze the card wondering what is happening. Forex Bureaux Money Changers to change currency, very limited possibilities to change traveller's cheques.

**Power** — 240 volts, UK style power points.

**Tipping** — not a big issue in Ghana, usually 10 % in a flash restaurant.

**Step lightly** on our environment, be frugal in water use, turn off power switches, take rubbish with you where possible.

**Say NO to Plastic!** Please bring a cloth carry bag.

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