



2024  
**GHANA**  
**+TOGO & BENIN**

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AFRICAN AMERICAN TRAVELERS



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# MEET THE TEAM



**Lawrence McLean**

**CEO/FOUNDER OF AAT  
TRIP HOST**

Lawrence McLean developed the concept of AAT in 2012, as a result of the constant let down of friends backing out of travel plans, or simply not sharing his interest in traveling any further than the Caribbean. He started the group, African American Travelers of Philadelphia, followed by another chapter in New York, on meetup.com. Since, he has led thousands from around the country, on the most epic, unforgettable, international tours. AAT's groups have perused six continents, including its, signature, annual NYE in Dubai experience, and taking travelers "Home for the Holidays" to the beautiful motherland, Africa, year after year. According to "Madame Noir" Lawrence has been recognized as one of the three US entrepreneurs who is changing the perception of travel to Africa!



**Andrea McLean**

**SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGER  
HOST ASSISTANT**

Andrea McLean is known for traveling with style, She has worked in customer service and sales for many years, mastering 60-second pitches since the spunky age of 6! She is focused on customer satisfaction, engagement, and bringing a smile to our travelers faces. Some believe that she may have been a comedian in her past life. Whenever she is around , there is always laughter.



**William McLean**

**SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGER  
HOST ASSISTANT**

William Mclean is our newest addition to the team. William is currently in college majoring in business acquiring relevant skills that will not only enhance your traveling experience with African American Travelers but ensure that your experience is our top priority. William loves building connections and meeting new people, as our entire team is incredibly eager to present our customers with the opportunity to develop lifelong friendships and memories as that will last forever.

**“Great things in business are never done by one person. They’re done by a team of people.”**

**– Steve Jobs**

## WED, DECEMBER 27

 USA → GHANA

ARRIVE IN ACCRA, GHANA



ACCRA HOTEL  
3:00 PM CHECK IN

## THU, DECEMBER 28



### NAMING CEREMONY TOUR

- 8:00 AM** DEPART FOR NAMING CEREMONY
- 12:00 PM** RETURN TO HOTEL FOR LUNCH
- 1:30 PM** ACCRA CITY TOUR
  - Kwame Nkrumah Museum/Statue
  - Web Du Bois Center
  - National art center for crafts and souvenirs
- 5:00 PM** RETURN TO HOTEL



### AFROCHELLA (For those who booked)

- 7:00 PM** DEPART FOR AFROCHELLA
- 12:00 AM** RETURN TO HOTEL

## FRI, DECEMBER 29



ACCRA → KUMASI  
(For those who booked)

- 7:30 AM** DEPART FOR AIRPORT
- 9:00 AM** DEPART FOR KUMASI  
VIA flight no AAWAW104
- 9:40 AM** ARRIVE IN KUMASI | TOUR BEGINS
- 7:00 PM** DEPART FOR ACCRA  
VIA AWA flight no AW119
- 7:30 PM** RETURN TO HOTEL



# FREE DAY

THOSE WHO DIDNT BOOK  
KUMASI EXCURSION

# THE ITINERARY

## SAT, DECEMBER 30



ACCRA HOTEL  
**6:30 PM CHECK OUT**



### CAPE COAST TOUR

- 7:00 AM** DEPART FOR CAPE COAST (3H DRIVE)
- 10:00 AM** ARRIVE/TOUR CAPE COAST CASTLE
- 12:00 PM** LUNCH AT HOTEL
- 1:30 PM** ARRIVE AT ELMINA CASTLE
- 3:00 PM** DEPART FOR HOTEL



CAPE COAST HOTEL  
**4:00 PM CHECK IN**

## SUN, DECEMBER 31



### KAKUM PARK TOUR (For those who booked)

- 8:00 AM** DEPART FOR KAKUM PARK
- 11:30 AM** RETURN TO HOTEL



CAPE COAST HOTEL  
**1:00 PM CHECK OUT / DEPART FOR ACCRA  
(3hr Drive)**



ACCRA HOTEL  
**4:00 PM CHECK IN**



### NYE PARTY (For those who booked)

- 10:00 PM** DEPART FOR NYE PARTY
- 2:00 AM** RETURN TO HOTEL

## MON, JANUARY 1



### DANCE CLASS (For those who booked)

- 9:00 AM** DEPART FOR DANCE CLASS
- 12:00 PM** RETURN TO HOTEL
- 1:00 PM** DEPART FOR COOKING CLASS
- 4:00 PM** RETURN TO HOTEL



**6:30 PM - 10:30 PM**  
FAREWELL DINNER @ SKYBAR

*TUE, JANUARY 2*

**12:00 PM CHECK OUT**

ACCRA HOTEL  
TRANSFER TO AIRPORT

GHANA  → USA



# BENIN & TOGO EXTENSION

WED, JANUARY 2



**FREE TIME**

THU, JANUARY 3



ACCRA HOTEL  
**8:00 AM CHECK OUT/ DEPART FOR TOGO**



TOGO HOTEL  
**1:00 PM CHECK IN**



## TOGO TOUR

**3:00 PM** DEPART FOR NATIONAL MUSEUM  
& INDEPENDENCE SQUARE

**6:00 PM** RETURN TO HOTEL

FRI, JANUARY 4



TOGO HOTEL  
**8:30 AM CHECK OUT**



## HEAD TO BENIN

**9:00 AM** DEPART FOR FETISH MARKET &  
SOUVENIR SHOPPING

**1:00 PM** BREAK FOR LUNCH

**2:00 PM** DEPART FOR BENIN (5H DRIVE)

**7:00 PM** CHECK INTO BENIN HOTEL

# BENIN & TOGO EXTENSION

**SAT, JANUARY 5**



## HEAD TO BENIN

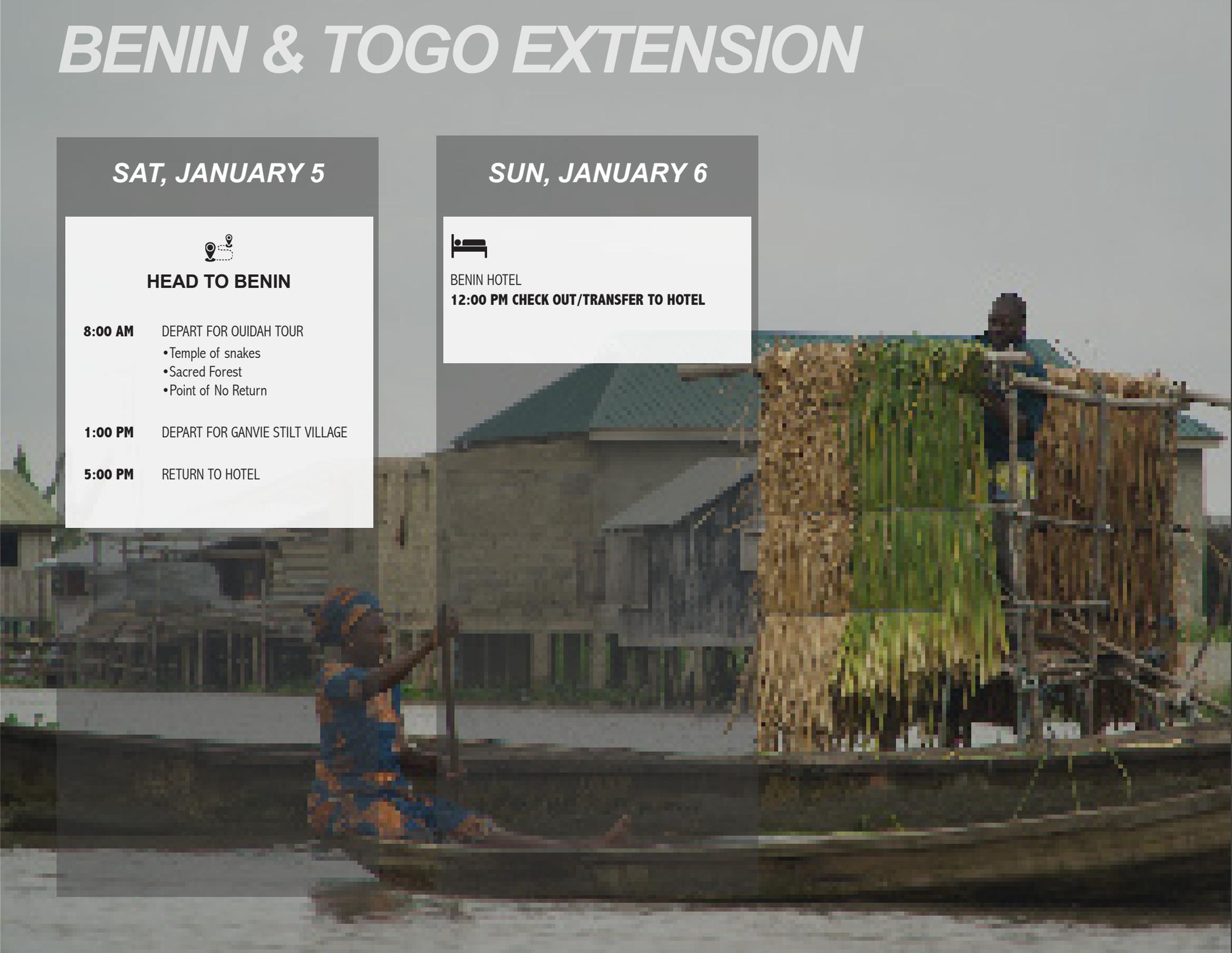
- 8:00 AM** DEPART FOR QUIDAH TOUR
- Temple of snakes
  - Sacred Forest
  - Point of No Return
- 1:00 PM** DEPART FOR GANVIE STILT VILLAGE
- 5:00 PM** RETURN TO HOTEL

**SUN, JANUARY 6**



BENIN HOTEL

**12:00 PM CHECK OUT/TRANSFER TO HOTEL**





### ***Naming Ceremony***

Travel to Kisseman once a bush village, recently swallowed by the growing metropolis. Upon arrival you will visit the home of a local family to receive a traditional blessing. You will be given a mild stimulant (cola nut) and local gin during prayers, before receiving your Ghanaian name. Dancing and drumming will last throughout the afternoon



### ***Accra City Tour***

Black Star Square, also known as Independence Square, is a public square in Accra, Ghana.

Bordered by the Accra Sports Stadium and the Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park. It is the second-largest city square in the world after Tiananmen Square in China.

The square was commissioned by Kwame Nkrumah to honor the visit of Queen Elizabeth II. Construction ended in 1961 and it was christened "Black Star Square". Black Star Square is a site for Ghana's Independence Day parades which falls on the 6th of March every year.



### ***National Museum Of Ghana***

Set in pleasant grounds, the national museum features excellent displays on various aspects of Ghanaian culture and history. The displays on local crafts, ceremonial objects and the slave trade are particularly noteworthy.



## ***Kwame Nkrumah memorial***

A national park erected in memory of Osagyefo (the Messiah) Doctor Kwame Nkrumah, Ghana's first president and one of its founding fathers. Built on a former British polo field, it was the point where Nkrumah declared independence in 1957. The park consists of five acres of land and holds a museum tracing Nkrumah's life. There are many personal items on display, but the centerpiece is the mausoleum, Nkrumah and his wife's final resting place. Kwame Nkrumah is an essential part of Ghana's history and a good half-hour here will fill you in on most of the details.



## ***National art center for crafts and Souvenirs***

A warren of stalls selling arts and crafts, known simply as the Arts Centre, this is the place to shop in Accra. The level of aggressive hassling may make you want to keep your cedis in your pocket but if you have the patience and wherewithal, you can come away with good-quality handicrafts from all over Ghana.



## ***W.E.B. DuBois Center***

The W.E.B. DuBois Center is the former home and final resting place of American-born socialist, author, and civil rights activist, William Edward Burghardt DuBois, who became a citizen of Ghana in his later years. DuBois campaigned for African-American rights and was often referred to as the 'Father of Pan-Africanism'.

The center, on the outskirts of Accra, was where DuBois and his wife lived for the last few years of his life, and is where they are now both buried.



## Cape Coast Castle Tour

Cape Coast Castle is one of about forty “slave castles”, or large commercial forts, built on the Gold Coast of West Africa by European traders. It was originally built by the Swedes for trade in timber and gold, but later used in the trans- Atlantic slave trade. Other Ghanaian slave castles include Elmina Castle and Fort Christiansborg. They were used to hold slaves before they were loaded onto ships and sold in the Americas, especially the Caribbean. This “gate of no return” was the last stop before crossing the Atlantic Ocean.



## Elmina Castle Tour

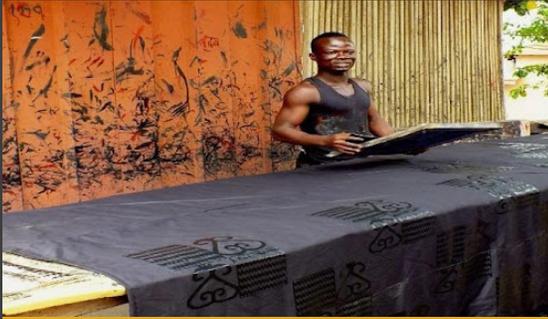
Elmina Castle was erected by the Portuguese in 1482 as Castelo de São Jorge da Mina, also known as Castelo da Mina or simply Mina, in present-day Elmina, Ghana. It was the first trading post built on the Gulf of Guinea, and the oldest European building in existence south of the Sahara. First established as a trade settlement, the castle later became one of the most important stops on the route of the Atlantic slave trade. The Dutch seized the fort from the Portuguese in 1637, after an unsuccessful attempt to the same extent in 1596, and took over all of the Portuguese Gold Coast in 1642. The slave trade continued under the Dutch until 1814. In 1872, the Dutch Gold Coast, including the fort, became a possession of Great Britain.



## Bomwire Kente Weaving Village

Kente was developed around 17th Century A.D by the people of Asanti the Kingdom; it can be traced to the long tradition of weaving in African dating back to circa 3000 BC. The origin of Kente is grounded in both legends and history. For the legend, a man named Ota Karaban and friend, Kwaku from a town called Bonwire (a leading town for the production of Kente in Ghana) had their weaving lessons from a spider that was weaving its web. They tried to do same by weaving a beautiful raffia fabric. They later told their story to the Nana (Chief) Bobie, who intend passed on the important news to the paramount chief of the Ashantis- the Asantehene. The Asantehene did not hesitate adopting the fabric for all Asantis as a national cloth for special occasions like funerals, festivals, naming ceremonies and marriage ceremonies.

Afterwards the production was improved but the name was retained which subsequently became “Kente”. It is also held that Kente was design originally from Bonwire. Bonwire is located 18 km off the Kumasi – Mampong road. It is a settlement with hundreds of Kente weavers.



## *Ntonso Stamping Village*

Ntonso is the homeland of adinkra cloth and the only place in Ghana where traditional adinkra is made locally from scratch. Ntonso is still Ghana's biggest producer of adinkra, a cloth famed for its symbols and proverbial wisdom. The cloth was originally worn only for funerals in the Ashanti Region and produced mainly in black, brown and red. These days, however, it is made in all colors and used throughout Ghana. Ntonso has a new visitor center and lays on official guided tours. On a walking tour, visitors can engage in the various stages of adinkra production, such as dye preparation, cloth dyeing, adinkra stamping and embroidery of stamped cloth



## *Asante Museum*

Visitors to the Museum will be able to view video- presentations explaining Asante history and the richness of its culture, as well as splendid examples of the gold-work for which the Asante are world famous. These include gold weights, bracelets and pots for gold dust which were removed from the Palace by Lord Baden Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts Movement and a member of the British expeditionary force in Kumasi in 1896. Here too are the life-sized effigies of the Nana Prempeh I, Nana Yaa Akyaa and the legendary Nana Yaa Asantewaa, Queen of Ejisu, who in 1900 led the uprising and last of the seven Asante wars with the British, when the British Governor demanded the surrender to him of Asikadwa (Gold Stool).



## *Ghanian cooking class*

Browse for fresh produce, herbs and spices as you explore a neighborhood market with your guide, and learn the fundamental components of the West African kitchen. Bring your ingredients to a nearby home and prepare a meal of traditional Ghanaian dishes like Jollof Rice and Fufu then finish your tour around the table as you enjoy warm Ghanaian hospitality.



## **KAKUM PARK**

Kakum Conservation Area is a wildlife protected area located in the Central Region of the Republic of Ghana, West Africa. It is approximately 35km north of Cape Coast, the regional capital. The conservation area which covers 360km consists of Kakum National Park and Assin Attandanso Resource Reserve.

The area falls within Assin South and Twifo Lower Denkyira Districts and traditionally under the Twifo, Assin, Denkyira and Fanti (Abakrampa) people of the Central Region. Subsistence and commercial types of agriculture are the predominant activities in the communities surrounding the two reserves. The area is home to a wide variety of plant and animal species and the world famous Kakum Canopy Walkway.



## **Dance Class**

Receive state of the art training in multiple African dance forms, as well as learning how to play the drums, Ghanaian xylophone, and other instruments.



## **Skybar**

Experience a stylish beachside restaurant smartly decked-out with chic yet comfortable furnishings. Trademark white sun loungers are set against the sparkling blue waters of the Balearic Sea. The surroundings are stunning and the ambiance is captivating as you quaff Champagne and rosé and sample delicious snacks.



## *Fetish market in Akodessewa*

Togo's capital city of Lomé is the birthplace of the largest Voodoo market in the world – a kind of super supply store for fetishes, charms and anything else one might need for a ritual. The Akodessewa Fetish Market, or Marche des Feticheurs, is a place where you can find anything from leopard heads and human skulls to Vodou (voodoo) priests who bless and create fetishes or predict the future and make medicines to heal whatever ails you.

Though many people think of Haiti as Voodoo's biggest stronghold, the religion originated in West Africa. Vodoun is the official religion of neighboring Benin and is still the largest religion in the area, which is obvious given that the outdoor market's location is in the heart of Togo's capital. Although the market is owned and run by Beninese. The Akodessewa Fetish Market is a mecca to local practitioners and they travel there from all over the African continent. Many believers view the Marche des Feticheurs as a kind of hospital or pharmacy – it is the place you go when you either cannot afford traditional treatment or traditional treatment has failed you. Here you can find talismans and charms good for treating everything from the flu or infertility to removing the blackest of curses.



## *Togoville*

Ntonso is the homeland of adinkra cloth and the only place in Ghana where traditional adinkra is made locally from scratch. Ntonso is still Ghana's biggest producer of adinkra, a cloth famed for its symbols and proverbial wisdom. The cloth was originally worn only for funerals in the Ashanti Region and produced mainly in black, brown and red. These days, however, it is made in all colors and used throughout Ghana. Ntonso has a new visitor center and lays on official guided tours. On a walking tour, visitors can engage in the various stages of adinkra production, such as dye preparation, cloth dyeing, adinkra stamping and embroidery of stamped cloth



### *Temple of Python*

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### *Sacred Forest*

Browse for fresh produce, herbs and spices as you explore a neighborhood market with your guide, and learn the fundamental components of the West African kitchen. Bring your ingredients to a nearby home and prepare a meal of traditional Ghanaian dishes like Jollof Rice and Fufu then finish your tour around the table as you enjoy warm Ghanaian hospitality.

# ACCOMODATIONS



## **ACCRA HOTEL**

A 14-minute walk from the Kotoka International Airport, this elegant hotel is 8 km from Labadi Beach and 9 km from the Achimota Forest.

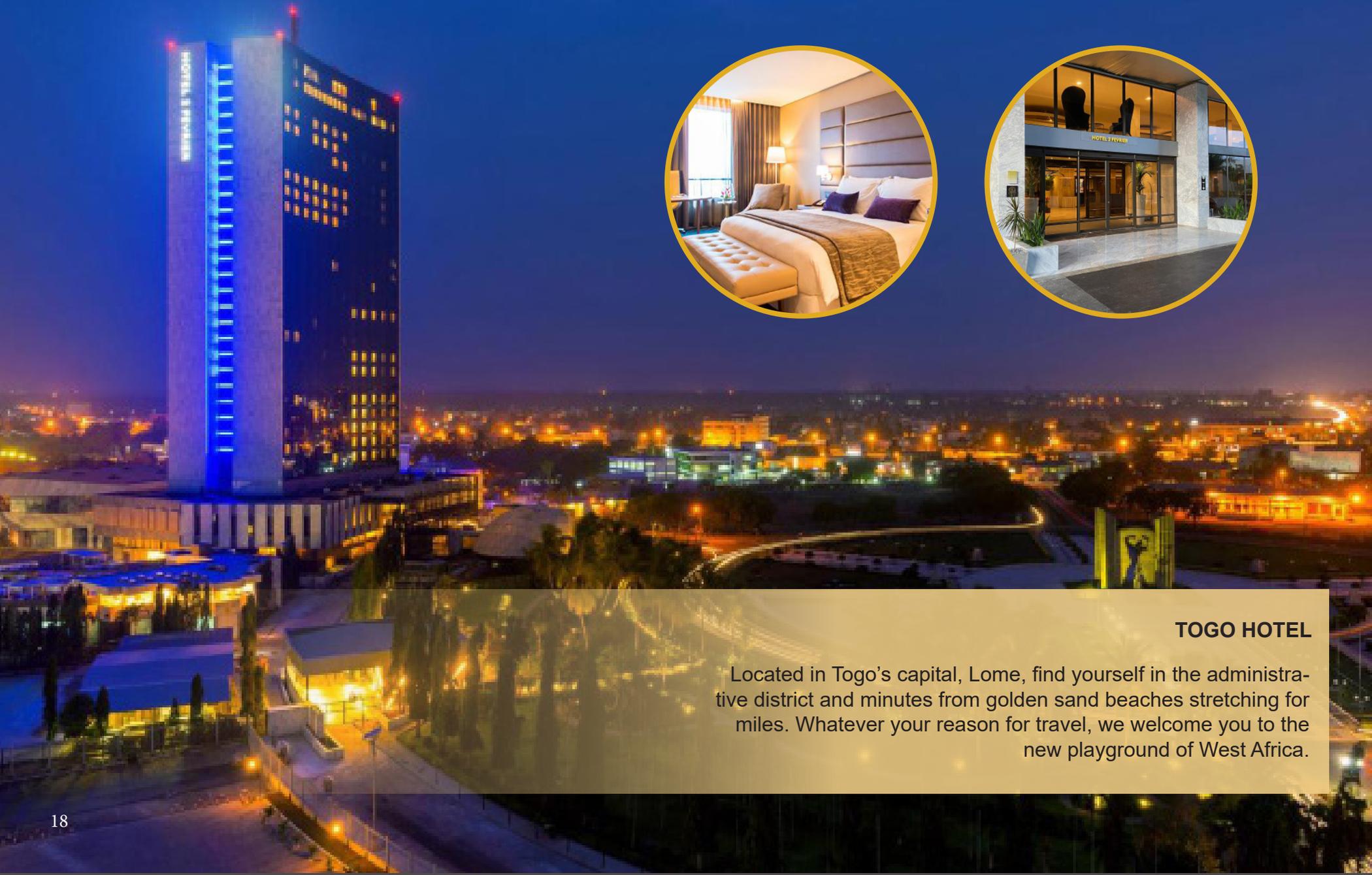
# ACCOMODATIONS



## CAPE COAST HOTEL

Moving from the ordinary, you get to live like Royalty. Ridge Royal Hotel takes you to the ridge of comfort and luxury in the best style possible. Situated in the historic City of Cape Coast, Ghana. The Hotel boasts of a picturesque landscape in a serene environment.

# ACCOMODATIONS



## TOGO HOTEL

Located in Togo's capital, Lome, find yourself in the administrative district and minutes from golden sand beaches stretching for miles. Whatever your reason for travel, we welcome you to the new playground of West Africa.

# ACCOMODATIONS



## BENIN HOTEL

enjoy Accor comfort just a short walk from the beach and Cotonou Airport The fully refurbished Hotel is the ideal stay, comfortable and relaxing, great for your business and leisure needs and just 5 minutes from the airport and 10 minutes from the city center