

GHANA

Ghana, officially the Republic of Ghana, is a country located on the African west coast. It is bordered by Burkina Faso from the north, the Gulf of Guinea from the south, Togo from the east and the Ivory Coast is on its west. Covering an area of 238 533 km², it is mainly a flat country (politically divided into 10 regions) with a slight rise in the west leading to the plateau of Ashanti; Ghana has one of the largest lakes of the world which is the meeting point of two rivers: the White Volta and the Black Volta.

The Portuguese were the first Europeans to reach the West African coast in the fifteenth century, to find much gold in this specific region which became the impetus for subsequent arrivals as the British, the French and the Dutch, giving this area the nickname of the Gold Coast. On March 6, 1957 Ghana became a Republic, after it got independent of the British crown and on July 1, 1960 the first constitution of the country was created. Since then, its capital is Accra, considered the economic and political center of the country.

Ghana is an ethnically diverse country; you can find more than 50 different ethnic groups like the Akan, the mole Dagbon, Ewe... Although the official language of Ghana is English, continues also speaking earlier languages colonial period as the Asante, Ewe, the Fante, the Boron... According to surveys, about 70 % of the population practices Christianity and are divided into different groups of Catholics, evangelicals, Protestants, etc... and the other 30% are shared between Muslims and Animists as well as a minority of Atheists.

Mostly the population depends on the agriculture for survival since Ghana is mainly a rural country and lately, two important factors of economic growth appeared the mining and the tourism.

Before traveling to Ghana, you must consider the following:

Vaccination:

The only mandatory vaccine before you travel to Ghana is the yellow fever; please visit the nearest international vaccination center and ask for it. It is important to ask for the international vaccination booklet, you need it to be able to enter the country. Other vaccines are recommended, such as Hepatitis A and B, typhoid, cholera and tetanus.

For more information, please visit the nearest international vaccination center.

Visa:

You need to apply for a visa before traveling; you get a visa for a period of 60 days (the visa will be granted for 60 days as long as your passport is valid for longer than three months upon reaching the country). This requires a passport, application form to be filled, invitation letter from the organization you go to work with, photocopy of the passport of the person representing the NGO and the visa fees.

Weather:

Ghana's weather is tropical and humid but it has a dry season as well. The temperature varies according to the season which is mainly dry or rainy and the altitude. Generally, the lowest temperatures are in August and the highest are in March. Between December and March, the "Harmattan", a dry desert wind that comes from the north and specifically from the Sahara Desert blows from the northeast, which results in a reduction of humidity so the days in the North become hot and the nights become cold; Ghana doesn't experience severe seasonal changes ; the main factor is the rainy season. This season stays during the summer months in Europe, from April to September, peaking in June and July.

Currency:

The cedi is the currency in Ghana, which can be split in pesewas. Currently, the coins in circulation are 1, 5, 10, 20 and 50 pesewas and 1 cedi. As for the paper money, there are 1, 5, 10, 20 and 50 cedis. The best option is to travel with dollars and change once you get there, either in the airport or in a money exchange office in the city.

<http://www.xe.com/ucc/es/>