

Glorious Ghana

16 January– 3 February, 2010.

Lead by Magie Relph and Bob Irwin.

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 traditions that still prosper to this very day. We will be joining long time visitors to Ghana Magie Relph and Bob Irwin on a journey of exploration, seeking to gather a knowledge and experience of the textile traditions of the region, as well as a feel for its history and traditions.

Weaving, Batik, Indigo, Beads...there are many Fair Trade ventures and co-operatives to visit, 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!]

In Accra we will meet up with long time resident Trish Graham who is a beaded jewellery artist/designer and textile enthusiast. She's been living and working in Accra for over 10 years and will share her love of this city with us for an insiders view.

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...* the places we use are always the best available clean, always good western-style bathrooms, friendly service and comfortable rooms.
- many 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-Saturday, 16 January, 2010 Accra, Ghana
Arrivals to Kotoka International Airport in Accra, where you'll be met and transferred to your hotel.

Cost – Au \$ 6250 -twin share

[all inclusive except your shopping]

Single supplement Au \$1420

Deposit \$500 to book today

Deposit Deadline 17 July, 2009

Full payment due 15 September, 2009

Email fiona@creative-arts-safaris.com

or phone +61 [0]2 49 389 410

Day 2-Sunday, 17 January, 2010

Accra

Orientation day...Accra is a huge bustling city today we will take a bit of time to wander in our local area, get a feel for life African Style...The Christian ethic of Sunday being the day for church is very strong in Ghana, everyone heads to church, and a very vibrant part of community life it is...there is the chance to join the locals and start our day the same way.

Magie will start to clue us in on the textiles' scene as well...

[includes breakfast, dinner]

Day 3-Monday, 18 January, 2010

Accra

Get your work gear on! Today we join Bob Dennis for the day to participate in a Kente/Ewe weaving workshop.

[includes breakfast, lunch, dinner]

Day 4-Tuesday, 19 January, 2010

Accra

A tour and lecture with Trish Graham at the Museum of Archaeology at the University of Ghana and a workshop making Recycled glass bead at TK Beads with Trish Graham will keep us busy today.

The bookshop here at the University is well known and may have a few interesting things on Crafts and arts of Ghana for your reference.

[includes breakfast, lunch, dinner]

Day 5-Wednesday, 20 January, 2010

Accra/Tamale

We make the big leap today with a domestic flight to the North to Tamale. The landscape is flat and fairly sparse up this way, dust is a constant companion but it also leads to many treasures....today we will wander the town and take a little time to polish up on Indigo in preparation for tomorrow...

[includes breakfast, dinner]

Day 6-Thursday, 21 January, 2010

Tamale

Today is a real adventure: We'll visit the isolated village of Daboya, about 1.5 hours from Tamale by taxi and canoe across the Volta River. Magie and Bob first visited Daboya in January 2008 to research the village's indigenous crafts – strip weaving and Indigo dyeing. "Daboya strips" are used throughout northern Ghana to make the distinctive smock worn by the men of the region. "We're definitely off the tourist trail in Daboya", says Magie. "It's hot, dusty and fascinating to witness these age-old textile techniques close-up."

[includes breakfast, lunch, dinner]

Day 7-Friday, 22 January, 2010

Tamale/Kumasi

Starting south today we go to Kumasi, fitting in a visit to a wildlife sanctuary along the way.

[includes breakfast, dinner]

Day 8-Saturday, 23 January, 2010

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. Today we will spend the day wandering through some local villages for traditional Ashanti shrines, Adinkra stamping, and fantastic sights...local lifestyles. Saturday is traditionally funeral day and a very big event...and so depending ...it is a little difficult to plan exactly how they day will unfold– it will be interesting.

[includes breakfast, lunch, dinner]

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Day 9-Sunday, 24 January, 2010 Kumasi
 Kofofrom brass village and a brass bead workshop with Paul. In the afternoon we will visit the plastic bead ladies.
[includes breakfast, dinner]

Day 10-Monday, 25 January, 2010 Kumasi
 Major Market Meander Day today ...delve into the enormous Kejetia 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...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 an unstructured afternoon allowing plenty of time for exploration of the market and all it holds— definitely need to have a brag session before dinner to show off our finds!
[includes breakfast, dinner]

Day 11-Tuesday, 26 January, 2010 Kumasi/Accra
 Head back into Accra today, it will feel some what familiar now not like the first day we arrived...in the afternoon we can head to the area of the Makola Market for a look around.
[includes breakfast, dinner]

Day 12-Wednesday, 27 January, 2010 Accra
 Need the work gear on today for a Batik workshop with Esther and Magie Relph.
[includes breakfast, lunch, dinner]

Day 13-Thursday, 28 January, 2010 Accra
 Beaded jewellery workshop with Trish Graham then free time to finish projects, explore the area, go to the markets....
[includes breakfast, dinner]

Day 14- Friday, 29 January, 2010 Accra
 Coffin workshops—do you fancy a coffin that looks like a car as your chariot to the Hereafter? What would you prefer? Let's have a look and a visit to the Artist's Alliance Gallery, then free time. *[includes breakfast, dinner]*

Day 15- Saturday, 30 Jan, Accra
 We are heading to the Krobo-Odumasi bead market.. Held weekly it is a treasure trove for the bead addicted!. This town is also home to Cedi Beads, one of Ghana's most famous bead makers with an international reputation. We can go to Cedi workshop for a tour and Cedi himself can do a presentation about "Dipo", which is a coming of age ceremony for young women which is integral to the local bead culture.
[includes breakfast, lunch, dinner]

Day 16- Sunday, 31 Jan Accra/ Elmina
 Elmina heart of the infamous slave trade of West Africa today peaceful, picturesque fishing village. A few days to rest, work on projects and enjoy our very comfortable beach resort. Elmina is the location of St George's Castle —the oldest European structure in this part of Africa it has an appalling history.... and is our base to explore locally via a walking tour of Elmina including Fante shrines and take a bit of time appreciate the beach *[includes breakfast, dinner]*

Day 17- Monday, 1 Feb Elmina
 Explore....Elmina town is very small, but is significant as a centre of Fante flag making (hand appliqué technique). Afternoon to sort through our treasures, show and tell ...really just enjoy everyone's finds and stories. *[includes breakfast, dinner]*

Day 18- Tuesday, 2 Feb Elmina/ Accra
 Return to Accra, a bit of last minute wandering and remembering...then a farewell dinner *[inc breakfast, dinner]*

Day 19- Wed, 3 February, 2010 Accra/Home
 We'll organize transfers to the airport.

Notes

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 tough 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 30°C in day time.

Clothing — light weight layers of clothing is good. To respect local customs it is best for skirts or trousers to be mid-calf length at least, tops not too revealing. 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.

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 the big towns, need to stock up for up north, so you can use a Visa based travel card, **Visa** debit or credit advance easily. 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, limited possibilities to change traveller's cheques.

Power — 240 volts, UK style power points.

Tippling — 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.

Creative Arts Safaris tours include:

- pickups from the airport for arrivals on Day 1
- departures last day of tour

[we are happy to organise pick-ups if you arrive earlier or depart later at an extra fee, we are also happy to help with accommodation etc if you wish to stay longer]

- accommodation from the evening 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. This is the range where we may meet locals as well — top end is far removed from this and just full of foreigners!

- all transportation, road taxes and fuel costs for the tour
- 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:

- some lunches
- 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]

- 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!

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