



GENERAL REPORT

PRELIMINARY PREPARATION TOWARDS THE AACB CONTINENTAL SEMINAR BY GHANA

1. **VENUE: Movenpick Ambassador Hotel – Accra –** Opposite National Theatre
2. **HOTELS FOR PARTICIPANTS / RATES**

HOTEL NAME	NEGOTIATED STANDARD ROOM PRICE, SINGLE OCCUPANCY	NEGOTIATED SUITE PRICE SINGLE OCCUPANCY	HOTEL STARS RATING	TIME (DISTANCE) FROM CONFERENCE VENUE
MOVENPICK AMBASADOR HOTEL	\$250		5	CONFERENCE VENUE
ACCRA CITY HOTEL	\$150		4	2 MINUTES NEXT TO CONFERENCE VENUE
COCONUT GROVE	\$120	\$150	3	7 MINUTES
ROOTS HOTEL APARTMENT	\$160	\$370		10 MINUTES
LA VILLA BOUTIQUE	\$160			10 MINUTES
ALISA/SWISS SPIRIT HOTEL	\$150		3	7 MINUTES
LA PALM ROYAL BEACH HOTEL	\$180			20 MINUTES
BLUE ROYAL HOTEL OSU	\$60, \$100, Executive \$120 Delux		2	15 MINUTES
URBANO HOTEL	\$120		3	15 MINUTES
FRANKIES HOTEL	\$90		3	15 MINUTES

Hotel Reservation

Please contact the Protocol Officer by e-mail to kwame.ntiamoah@bog.gov.gh for Hotel booking.



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3. **ENTRY VISA**

Ghana **offers visas upon arrival** to all nationals of African Union (AU) member states for up to 30 days.

We will need the itinerary of all potential participants so as to make formal arrangements at the Kotoka International Airport to ease their passage.

For participants who would want to apply for visa in their own countries, they should also send their names / particulars for us to arrange **Confirmation Letters of Invitation**

4. **E-MAIL ADDRESS OF FOCAL POINT PERSON**

- i. thomas.essel@bog.gov.gh
- ii. freda.mensah@bog.gov.gh
- iii. lawrence.kutsienyo@bog.gov.gh

5. **COUNTRY PROFILE**



GENERAL INFORMATION ON GHANA

Government	Unitary Presidential
President	His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwah Akufo-Addo
Vice President	His Excellency Mahamudu Bawumia
Legislature	Parliament
Official Language	English
Currency	Ghana Cedi (GH¢ or GHS)
Capital	Accra
Population	Approx. 26million
Calling Code	+233

In January 2017, His Excellency President Nana Addo Dankwah Akufo-Addo was sworn in as President of the Republic of Ghana. The peaceful and orderly transition of power that followed testified to the country's steady progress and relative maturity in democratic governance since returning to Constitutional Rule in 1992. Ghana practices parliamentary democracy with the President's party, the New Patriotic Party (NPP) having the majority seats.

Ghana stands tall as one of the most accessible and peaceful countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, with a friendly and vibrant society. Ghana has so much to be explored. The old Ghana Empire was very well noted for her trade in gold and ivory. In search of this precious mineral, Europeans came to the coast of West Africa over 500 years ago and discovered abundant gold deposits in the part now named Ghana. Other minerals available in Ghana include diamonds, bauxite and manganese.

Named Gold Coast by the Europeans looking for gold in the 14th and 15th Centuries, Ghana became a very attractive destination, first for the Portuguese, who named it ELMINA (The Mine) in 1471, followed by the Dutch, the British and finally the Danes, leaving a legacy of over 32 Forts and Castles. The country was subsequently colonized by the British in 1874, but gained political independence in 1957 and its name changed to Ghana.

By 1700, the numerous forts that had been built were expanded and their warehouses converted to slave dungeons where thousands of human captives were kept prior to being shipped across the Atlantic to the Americas.

Today, some of these forts still stand with the Cape Coast and the Elmina Castles being the ones best kept as World Heritage Sites. These structures have become emotive sites of pilgrimage for many people of African descent.

Cultural Heritage

Ghana is steeped in culture and tradition. From the bustling city of Accra in the South, to the farthest end of the North, the country has an immense cultural diversity that thrills and fascinates visitors. Events such as funerals, naming ceremonies, engagements are common place and showcase the rich cultural diversity of the different regions of the Country.

Accra is the usual starting point for exploring Ghana. Characterized by a variety of old and new structures, the 17th century Osu Castle and Jamestown Lighthouse, are striking landmarks. The W.E.B. Du Bois Centre for Pan-Africanism has an extensive library and information on some very notable personalities such as Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, W.E.B. Du Bois etc. The National Museum houses artifacts from all over Africa and the Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum has the remains of the first President of Ghana, and are all a must to be visited.

Of special interest are the coffin makers who produce a wide variety of coffins depicting different professions.

The second largest city in Ghana, Kumasi also has a rich cultural heritage. Well known for her vibrancy and strong traditional beliefs, Kumasi is surrounded by the beautiful 300 year old fetish shrine at Besease, the royal kente weaving village of Bonwire, Ahwiaa, famous for its fertility dolls and magnificently carved wooden Ashanti stools and the Ntonso, the village that produces the famous hand-printed Adinkra cloth. You may try your hands at weaving a kente cloth or some 'do it yourself programs'. Not to be missed is the Manhyia Palace, where the Ashanti King sits in state, amidst drumming and dancing.

The northern part of Ghana, has close cultural connections with the Sahel Region, evidenced by the local style of dressing, the strong Islamic influence and the interesting mud architecture of villages such as Sirigu, Larabanga and Paga.

Arts and Crafts

Ghana is a great place for a wide variety of excellent handicrafts, traditional masks, drums and souvenirs of every kind. The colourful ceremonial kente cloth which is woven by the Ashanti's and Ewes continues to be unique and admired by visitors all over the

world. The Adinkra cloth, a dye stained fabric, is also associated strongly with the Ashanti's and is often worn during funerals and important occasions. Each of the over 60 Adinkra signs has a different proverb assigned to it.

From Bolgatanga and the village of Daboya are the hand-spun fugu cloth, as well as straw hats and baskets which are their specialty. Also of interest are the wide varieties of beads from the Eastern Region of the Country.

Festivals

Ghanaians enjoy festivals and annually these are held around the country, with locals dressed up in some of the finest traditional attires. This period is a welcome time for tourists, who join in these celebrations etc.

Prominent among the festival are:-

- Adae, sitting of Asante King in Kumasi, this is done every sixth Sunday.
- Buronya, a local variation of Christmas in Elmina, first Thursday of January.
- Dipo, initiation ceremony of the Krobos, held in April.
- Aboakyer, antelope hunt, Winneba, first Saturday of May.
- Bakutue, opening of the lagoon, Elmina, first Tuesday of July.
- Asafo Tufiam, indigenous warriors' celebration, Ada Foah, starts last Thursday of July.
- Odwira, Asante's most important festival, Kumasi, September.
- Homowo, "hooting at hunger", Accra, August-September.
- Fetu-Afahye, colourful parade, Cape Coast, first Saturday of September.
- Yam Festivals, harvest festivals, Volta Region different dates August-November at different locations.
- Odwira, Akropong, October
- Hogbetsotso, Anlo, Volta Region, first Saturday in November.

Adventure and wildlife

Ghana is an excellent place for adventure and eco-tourism! It is the nature lover's paradise! Its climate and fertile soil, sustain a wide selection of wildlife, ranging from monkeys to elephants and marine turtles to crocodiles. Ghana is a beguiling location for birdwatchers. With over 725 species recorded, species such as gonoleks, rollers, parrots and weavers can all be sited comfortably in a well-planned two-week itinerary. For more serious birdwatchers, places such as Xavi, Ankasa, Kakum and Bui will provide the answer. Coastal lagoons such as Keta, Songor and Muni-Pomadze also offer an exceptional variety of marine species.



The Mole National park has a substantial number of elephants, baboons and antelopes to be encountered on a guided walk through the park. Also found are the mona and black and white colobus monkeys, the surprisingly elusive hippopotamus, a range of reptiles from lizards to the outsized rugged-toothed imposing crocodile.

Ecotourism

Ghana is endowed with a unique natural landscape which ranges from the savannah in the north, the forest zone in the Centre and West, the mountains in the East and coastal plains in the South. You will have opportunity to see breathtaking views of the semi-deciduous rainforest. The enchanting rainforests with their unique flora and fauna are an exceptional site. Visit Africa's first canopy walkway in the Kakum National Park, a 350 km long suspended bridge comprised of six tree-platforms and seven connecting spans that stand 30meters above the forest floor.

The Volta Region, the most topographically varied part of Ghana, also hosts some of the most popular attractions such as the sacred monkeys of Tafi Atome, magnificent waterfalls around Amedzofe, the country's highest peak on Mount Afadjato and the impressive forest-fringed Wli falls, the tallest in West Africa.

For foreigners and local residents as well as delegates to conferences etc., tours can be arranged to a variety of places depending on interest. Ghana has amazing places of interest, the lengthy palm-fringed beaches and safe and accessible village and community based tourism.

General Travel Information

Ghana can be located on the West Coast of Africa. To the West she shares a border with Cote d'Ivoire, and is bounded to the East by Togo. Further up North, Ghana shares border with Burkina Faso and to the South is the Gulf of Guinea.

The People

Ghana's population totals over 26 million, with the nation's capital, Accra, having the highest population of over 4 million people. There are about four broad ethnic groupings, the main one being the Twi and Fante who speak Akan (44%), the Dagombas (16%), Ewes (13%) and the Gas (8%). Overall there exist about 60 different languages, with English as the official language.

Religion



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Christians of varied denominations account for 63% of the population, while 16% are Muslims and about another 16% practice indigenous traditional religions.

Government

Ghana is a multi-party constitutional democracy with an elected President, a single chamber legislature and an independent judiciary. With over 60 years of independence, Ghana can boast of one of the most stable countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Climate

Ghana is a tropical country and has an almost year round warm weather. Northern Ghana has a rainy season from April to October, the rest of the year is hot and dry with temperature up to 38 (degree Celsius). In Southern Ghana the rains last from April to June and again from September to October with slight variations in recent times. Generally temperatures are between 21 (degree Celsius) and 32 (degree Celsius).

Currency

The currency of Ghana is the Ghana Cedi. Rates of exchange are posted daily by banks and Forex Bureaux. There are no restrictions on the amount of foreign currency that can be brought into Ghana. Credit/debit cards are accepted by most hotels and few shops. Most transactions are in cash.