

Cornell University

West Africa Discovery

Ghana, Togo, Benin

December 2-17, 2026

16 days from \$9,479 total price from Boston, New York, Washington, D.C.

(\$8,595 air & land inclusive plus \$884 airline taxes and fees)

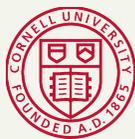


7-TIME HONOREE

This tour is provided by
Odysseys Unlimited,
seven-time honoree
Travel + Leisure World's
Best Tour Operators award.



An Exclusive Small Group Tour for
Alumni & Friends of Cornell Alumni Travel



Cornell University

Dear Alumni, Families, and Friends,

Uncover the rich tapestry of West Africa’s history, culture, and traditions on this exclusive 16-day tour. From vibrant coastal cities to serene rural villages, you’ll gain a deep appreciation for the region’s artistic traditions, the intriguing Vodun religion, contemporary life, and the devastating history of the transatlantic slave trade.

Your journey begins in Accra, Ghana, with immersive tours of Jamestown, Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park, and the W.E.B. DuBois Center. From there, travel to Elmina to explore the historic 15th-century Elmina Castle, visit the Cape Coast Castle—a UNESCO World Heritage site with a museum documenting the transatlantic slave trade—and venture into the surrounding rainforest. Next, head to Kumasi, where you’ll take a guided tour of the Prempeh II Jubilee Museum and engage with the local Akan community. Continue on to Akosombo to meet an artisan of the Krobo tribe, renowned for their handmade Cedi glass beads, and enjoy an excursion on the Volta River. Next, cross into Lomé, Togo, when you’ll visit the Palais de Lomé, the Grande Marché, and enjoy a hands-on cooking class. Finally, enjoy a boat ride to Togoville, and explore the village before traveling on to Cotonou, Benin, where you’ll gain a deeper understanding of the traditional Vodun religion and the region’s enduring connection to the history of the slave trade.

Space on this exciting program is limited and will fill quickly. Book today!

Warmly,

Cornell Alumni Travel

CORNELL RESERVATION FORM: WEST AFRICA DISCOVERY

To reserve your place on tour, **please call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765**. Please have the information outlined below available to share with an Odysseys Unlimited Travel Counselor.

If you prefer, you may also complete this Reservation Form and submit it to Odysseys Unlimited’s office. Upon receiving your request, a Travel Counselor from Odysseys Unlimited will contact you within two business days to review the tour information and provide you with a secure link to enter your credit card information. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA, or by personal check. If paying by check, please make check payable to **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.** and include with the form. Final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure.

Send to: **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.**

Attn: Special Interest Groups

One Newton Place

275 Washington Street, Suite 300

Newton, MA 02458

WEST AFRICA DISCOVERY • DECEMBER 2-17, 2026

I/We would like to request _____ place(s). (Deposit amount is \$500 per person.)

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____

E-mail(s) _____ Badge Name(s) _____

Please book my/our air from _____ I/We request a Business Class upgrade

I will share a room with _____ I request a single room (limited availability)

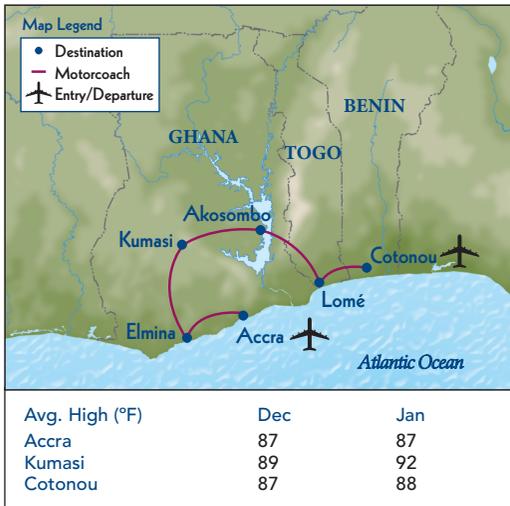
Tour membership limited to 24 alumni and friends

West Africa Discovery

Ghana, Togo, Benin

16 days from \$9,479 total price from Boston, New York, Washington, D.C.
(\$8,595 air & land inclusive plus \$884 airline taxes and fees)

Embark on a fascinating journey through a region brimming with history, culture, and tradition. As we travel to rural villages and coastal cities, we learn about rich artistic tradition and Voodoo religion, about modern life and the shameful history of the slave trade.



Day 1: Depart U.S. for Accra, Ghana

Day 2: Arrive Accra Upon arrival in Ghana’s capital, we transfer to our hotel. As guests’ arrival times vary, we have no group activities or meals planned.

Day 3: Accra We get our first taste of this colorful and pulsating Atlantic Coast city on our full-day tour. Highlights include the historic Jamestown neighborhood; fountain- and statue-filled Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park, dedicated to the memory of Ghana’s first president; a visit to a woodworking shop specializing in “fantasy coffins” – unique handcrafted coffins that are collected and displayed in museums world-wide; and the W.E.B. Du Bois Center for Pan African Culture, where the American sociologist spent his last years. Tonight, we gather for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. *B,L,D*

Physical Activity Level

3 **Moderate**

Walk 2-4 miles per day, often on uneven terrain in natural settings; many stairs throughout tour; embarkation/disembarkation from multiple boats; several long days of travel via motorcoach

Day 4: Accra/Elmina This morning we travel by coach to the former Gold Coast where Africans from across the continent were held in forts and castles before being forced onto the ships that would take them to the Americas. We reach the fishing village of Elmina in time for lunch at a local restaurant then embark on a tour of 15th-century Elmina Castle. A one-time trade settlement whose dungeons held tens of thousands of enslaved persons, Elmina Castle today is a UNESCO site and Ghanaian national museum. En route to our hotel, we see Elmina’s Posuban Shrines, whose unusual statues have historic roots in Fante tribal culture. We dine tonight at our hotel. *B,L,D*

Your Tour at a Glance

Day	Itinerary	Hotel	Rating
1	Depart U.S. for Accra		
2-3	Accra	Mövenpick Ambassador Hotel	Deluxe
4-5	Elmina	AnoMansa Beach Resort	Not rated
6-7	Kumasi	Oak Plaza Suites	First Class
8-10	Akosombo	The Royal Senchi Hotel & Resort	Sup. First Class
11-12	Lomé	Hotel 2 Fevrier	Sup. First Class
13-14	Cotonou	Sofitel Cotonou Marina Hotel & Spa	Deluxe
15	Cotonou/ Depart for U.S.	Sofitel Cotonou Marina Hotel & Spa (day room)	Deluxe
16	Arrive U.S.		

Day 5: Elmina/Cape Coast Our enlightening odyssey continues this morning at the Cape Coast Castle, a UNESCO site that houses a museum documenting the slave trade. Between 1662 and 1867, more than 500,000 captive Africans were held here. This afternoon, we visit Kakum National Park where we have the opportunity to experience the rainforest from above on one of the world’s longest and highest canopy walkways and to hopefully glimpse some of the park’s resident Diana monkeys, giant bongo antelope, and African elephants, among other fauna. *B,L,D*

Day 6: Elmina/Kumasi En route to Kumasi today, we visit the Assin Manso Slave River Site, once a

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference. Unrated hotels may be too small, too new, or too remote to be listed.

Cover photo: A Zangbeto masked dancer performs at a Vodun (Voodoo) celebration in Benin.



On Day 14, we visit the Door of No Return memorial in Ouidah.

slave market and now a memorial site. Then we continue on to Kumasi, Ghana's second largest city, historical and spiritual capital of the powerful Ashanti Empire (1670-1957), and modern home of the Asante people. This afternoon, we take a guided tour of the Prempeh II Jubilee Museum, with its rich collection of Ashanti artifacts, including colorful *kente* cloths and an authentic reproduction of an Ashanti house. *B,L,D*

Day 7: Kumasi This morning we meet the Akan people, known for their rich culture heritage and skilled craftsmanship. We see this artistry on display at a market selling locally crafted woodwork and at a weaving workshop that produces intricately designed *kente* cloths. Then we don the colorful cloths ourselves as we join in a time-honored ceremony to receive our Akan names. We continue our discovery of the "Garden City of West Africa" this afternoon at the Manhyia Palace Museum, housing a collection of gold jewelry worn by the Ashanti court. *B,L,D*

Day 8: Kumasi/Akosombo It's a day of travel as we leave Kumasi this morning for Akosombo, a tranquil town on Ghana's Volta River. We stop for a light lunch en route and dine tonight at our resort hotel. *B,L,D*

Day 9: Akosombo This morning we visit an artisan of the Krobo tribe, known for their crafting of traditional handmade Cedi glass beads. We watch a beadmaking demonstration then are invited to try our hand at fashioning these ornaments ourselves. Once known as "trade beads" for their use as currency during the slave trade, today the beads are valued for their beauty and artistry. Our afternoon is free to relax and enjoy the amenities of our riverfront resort. *B,L,D*

Day 10: Akosombo/Volta Region We encounter some of Ghana's remarkable scenic beauty on today's boat excursion on the Volta River. We pass rolling hills and valleys, glimpse people in riverside fishing villages, and relax as we cruise amid the lovely scenery. Then we return to our hotel for lunch and an afternoon at leisure. *B,L,D*

Day 11: Akosombo/Lomé, Togo We leave Ghana today bound for the tiny nation of Togo, known for its natural beauty, friendly people, rich cultural heritage (more than 40 ethnic groups coexist here), and formerly as the Slave Coast for its role as the heart of the slave trade. We reach Lomé, Togo's capital, midday and have lunch at a local restaurant. Later this afternoon, we visit the Palais de Lomé, an African arts and cultural center that once served as the country's colonial headquarters. *B,L,D*

Day 12: Lomé One of the few world capitals that borders another country (Ghana), Lomé today reflects its German, British, and French colonial past, as we see on this morning's city tour. We visit the Grand Marché, the vast central market with goods of all kinds, including the famed "Nana Benz" stalls and their textiles. We also see the German-influenced buildings of the colonial period as well as the modern architecture that graces the city. Dinner tonight is a small group highlight as we participate in a cooking class at a local venue, where we learn about and savor traditional Togolese cooking. *B,L,D*

Day 13: Lomé/Togoville/Cotonou, Benin We take a boat ride this morning from Le Lac to Togoville, a center of the practice of Vodun (voodoo) on the shores of Lake Togo. Here we explore the village, where a priestess teaches us about Vodun ceremonies. Then, a boat ride back to Le Lac, where after lunch we



GO WHERE THERE IS NO PATH
TO BEGIN A TRAIL.”

– GHANAIAN PROVERB

journey to Cotonou. We make a quick stop in Aného, scenically perched between the ocean and Lake Togo. From here we cross the border into Benin, traveling on to Cotonou. Dinner tonight is on our own. *B,L*

Day 14: Cotonou/Ouidah Once an active slave trading port, Ouidah today memorializes its ignoble past with monuments of the Slave Route, including the Door of No Return memorial arch, the site where more than one million Africans were taken to the ships that would bring them in bondage across the Atlantic. We travel this road ourselves on this morning’s illuminating tour. We also visit Ouidah’s Temple of Pythons, housing the snakes important to the Vodun religion. Later, we attend a Zangbeto mask dance, an important Vodun practice featuring swirling performers adorned with layers of palm leaves and hay. *B,L,D*



Local children in Benin

century. Midday, we return to our hotel, where we celebrate our discovery of West Africa over a farewell lunch. This afternoon is at leisure in our day rooms before our evening departure for the airport and our return flights to the U.S. *B,L*

Day 15: Cotonou/Ganvié/Depart for U.S. A motorboat ride across Lake Nokwe this morning brings us to the floating village of Ganvié, with its colorful stilt houses. Here, members of the Tofinou ethnic group live much as their ancestors did when they fled to escape the slave trade in the 18th



Local seamstress in Ghana

Day 16: Arrive U.S. We arrive in the U.S. today and connect with our return flights home.

Tour Departs: December 2, 2026

Prices include int'l airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

Boston, New York, Washington, DC	\$9,479
Chicago, Philadelphia	\$9,779
Atlanta, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle	\$9,879
Charlotte, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Denver, Detroit, Miami, Minneapolis, Orlando, Phoenix, Portland (OR), Tampa	\$9,979
Land Only (transfers not included)	\$7,995

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of \$884, which are subject to change until final payment is made.

Single travelers please add \$1,995. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Business Class upgrade on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: \$6,795 per person in addition to the above costs (upgrade is subject to availability and pricing is subject to change).

Please contact Odysseys Unlimited for information on our new Flexible Travel program, which allows you to arrive on tour up to three days before your tour begins and/or extend your stay after touring ends.

Please note: Visas are required for all three countries visited on this tour. Current fees (subject to change) total between \$803 and \$956. Further information will be provided upon reservation.

For reservations and information, please call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765

Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–7:00 PM, Eastern Time

Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
- 13 nights’ accommodations in Deluxe, Superior First Class, and First Class, and unrated hotels
- 37 meals: 13 breakfasts, 13 lunches, 11 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Mineral water while touring
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, restaurant servers, hotel porters, and all drivers
- \$100 frequent traveler credit towards your next Cornell/Odysseys Unlimited tour (\$200 after 3 tours; \$300 after 10 tours)



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Cornell Alumni Travel
Office of Alumni Affairs
130 East Seneca Street, Suite 400
Ithaca, NY 14850-4353

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The following is intended to provide you with a description of what to expect when you reserve this tour. Upon booking, you will be asked to acknowledge your acceptance of the full Terms and Conditions on the secure on-line portal, My Odyssey.

Not Included in Tour Price: Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package; costs of passports and visas; immunizations and inoculations; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: \$10-\$15 per traveler, per day); communication charges; optional sightseeing or shore excursions, and travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Cancellations, Refunds, and Changes: If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.'s receipt of your notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **cancel 95 days or more before departure: \$200 charge; cancel 94-85 days before departure: 25% of tour price; cancel 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price; cancel 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; cancel 29-0 days before departure: no refund.** If you make any changes to your reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a \$100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. **No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure. Upon reservation, you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.**

Responsibility: The liability of Cornell Alumni Travel, as sponsor and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. Cornell Alumni Travel and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including, without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise lines, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

Health and Medical Issues: We request that you be in good health to participate in this tour. There is a considerable amount of walking, and you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own as well as keep pace with the tour group. We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our tour itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail us to inquire and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, Cornell Alumni Travel, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

Air Transportation - Important Information: Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown, and contracts with those airlines the company feels provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. **Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments.** Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including, but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. **Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.**

Please Note: While Cornell is pleased to facilitate travel opportunities for its alumni and friends with tour operators that specialize in high-quality educational travel, please be aware that Cornell does not conduct, manage or operate these travel experiences, or act as an agent for travelers interested in tours. Tour operators and travelers are responsible for making their own safety decisions concerning this travel, and, as a facilitator between travelers and the tour operators with whom travelers make arrangements for completing travel, Cornell's role and liability are strictly limited. Specific tour operator and national health and safety protocols will apply to each trip, and travelers should review all protocols and trip terms and conditions, including terms and conditions regarding cancellations, refunds, health and safety, and insurance prior to making a reservation. Cornell is not responsible for changes to trips or travel arrangements or for losses, expenses, damages, or injuries resulting from travel.

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THROUGH WEST AFRICA!

*Guaranteed Small Group:
Limited to 24 Guests*