

Capt. Daley's Sea Stories

M/V Ken C Tamblyn Ghana, Africa

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Elmina Slave Castle & Road to Accra 2



Accra is the capital and largest city in Ghana with the population estimated at 1,963,264 as of 2009. The word Accra is derived from the word Nkran meaning "ants" in Akan, a reference to the numerous anthills seen in the countryside. Built around a port, Accra stretches along the Atlantic Coast and north into the interior. Its architecture ranges from large and elegant 19th Century colonial buildings to skyscrapers and apartment blocks made of concrete, glass and steel of the 1970s.

Accra offers a range of museums and public monuments, modern business and commercial areas, as well as busy markets and tree-lined residential suburbs. There is also an impressive National Theatre that was built with help from the Chinese. The centre of Accra contains the main banks, large department stores, the Cocoa Marketing board headquarters and a whole area known as The Ministries, where the government administration is concentrated. Economic activities in Accra are financial, agriculture, fishing, and manufacturing processed food, lumber and plywood, textiles, clothing and chemicals.



This is the entrance to the infamous Elmina Slave Castle. Millions of slaves passed over this draw bridge on the way to South, Central and North America and even some to Asia, especially Southeast Asia.



This was near the front gate of the castle, but I'm not sure what it is used for. It could be a sundial or a compass. If anyone knows what this was used for, please let me know.



This is the main stairway leading up to the governor's suite. There is a back stairway leading to the female cells used to bring up female slaves for his entertainment. There was so much abuse, it is difficult to understand.



The road out of Elmina passes by the shore of the Gulf of Guinea, providing a tranquil setting for the slave castle.



Making so much out of so little – this thought comes to mind so many times in Africa. What a creation, a hand carved boat, not as art, though it is artful, but used many miles out to sea to earn a living fishing. Amazing!



There are several universities en route to Accra. There is much revenue from the gold mines of Accra that is invested in the infra-structure. It is an interesting contrast of wealth and poverty.



There are still native kings in Ghana today. Here is the palace of one of them.



This is the infamous Cape Coast Castle, one of the many slave castles of old. I didn't really have time to tour the castle (or the stomach for that matter having just come from Elmina).



I never could understand how so many roadside stands could sell so many items competing with each other and still stay in business. Ghana has the largest yams I have ever seen.



A brand new resort being built on the shore of the Gulf of Guinea



Many roadside vendors were encountered during the trip. It is natural for them to carry their goods on their head.



The fresh fruit stands were abundant. The fruit was probably picked from trees and bushes not far from the stand.



Yes, those are yams on the ground and pineapples on the table. Ever seen yams that large?



My only question is who buys all these goods?



The tomatoes were large and beautiful.



This lady had her baby with her as she tended her stand.



There were several toll booths along the way which provided captive customers for roadside vendors.



I'm not sure what she was selling, but it looks like peanuts to me. I know I don't have the balance to do this.



Anastasia Adjei sat next to me on the flight from Ghana to Washington DC. This 29 year old school teacher won a lottery for US visas and is relocating from Takoradi, Ghana to Chico, California. What a spirit of adventure!