

# RETURN TO THE MOTHERLAND GHANA

## OCTOBER 12-21, 2019

### DAY 1 SAT October 12, 2019

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Arrive at Dulles International Airport a minimum of three hours in advance of South African Airlines' Flight #210 which departs at 5:35 p.m.

### DAY 2 Sun October 13, 2019

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#### AKWAABA WELCOME

Arrive in Accra, Ghana. Transfer from airport to your hotel. **Overnight stay at La Palm Beach Hotel in Accra. (Meals Included: Dinner).**



#### La Palm Beach Hotel – 2 Nights

La Palm is Accra's principal address for businessmen, government delegations and tourists. Hugging the shores of the Atlantic, this 152-room hotel, is located inside 30 acres of lush lawns and landscaped gardens. With its 8 bars and restaurants, 3 swimming pools, a gym, spa, hair salon, nightclub and the 9-venue, 2,500 square metre Homowo Conference centre, the La Palm is rightly the One Destination with Endless Possibilities.

### DAY 3 Mon October 14, 2019

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#### Accra City Tour

After breakfast devote this day to city sightseeing in Accra. You will drive through the administrative and economic districts of Accra, the capital of Ghana. This 139-year-old city has a blend of colonial and modern architecture that summarize her history. This refers us to the Christiansburg Castle in Osu, which originally belonged to the Danish before been sold to the Dutch. You will visit the W. E. B. Dubois Center for Pan African Culture, Independence/ Black Star Square and Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park. End the day's tour at the Arts Centre where you will have an opportunity to use your bargaining skills to shop from an open-air market for artefacts from Ghana and West Africa. At the end of the day, drive to the hotel and relax.

**Overnight stay at La Palm Beach Hotel (Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)**



## DAY 4 Tues October 15, 2019

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### Accra - Kakum National Park & Cape Coast Castle

After early morning breakfast, depart for drive to Elmina. Devote this day to visiting the historic Denkyira Kingdom and Kakum National Park, one of West Africa's surviving tropical rain forests. Extending over 360sq km, Kakum is the home to over 40 large mammals and 400 bird species as well as many species of butterflies, flora and fauna. The most popular attraction is the Canopy walkway which is made up of seven bridges extending 330m, hanging 100 feet above the forest floor. Choose between a 2 km nature walk through this forest to discover the wide variety of exotic floral species and the medicinal values they offer or take a walk on the canopy walkway.

Afterwards, head for lunch and later embark on a tour of the infamous Forts, Castles and Slave Dungeons of Ghana. History will unfold the story of the slave trade where the impact is still felt far beyond the shores of Africa today. The Cape Coast Castle was built by the Swedes in 1653 and was later taken over by the British. This castle also houses the West African Historical Museum established by the Smithsonian Institute in collaboration with the Ghanaian Government in 1994. **Overnight at Coconut Grove Beach Resort (Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)**



### Coconut Grove Beach Resort (2 Nights)

Coconut Grove Beach Resort has become an important land mark in Elmina. The facility includes 4 large family suites comprising of 2 bedrooms each, a living room and a kitchenette; 3 Executive Suites comprising 1 bedroom, a living room and kitchenette, 7 family units comprising two interconnecting bedrooms, 59 Standard rooms. All rooms are air-conditioned, with hot and cold water, mini bar, satellite multi-channel TV reception, and Wi-Fi connection. The popular Ocean View Restaurant has an enviable reputation for the best sea food served fresh in the region. Coconut Grove Beach Resort is the only hotel in Elmina that has access to a clean and safe beach. **(Meals Included: Breakfast and Lunch)**



**After dinner participate in KASA (TALK TIME) - An opportunity to learn more about Ghanaian culture or simply talk to each other and share information about the experiences you are having on the tour. (This activity will be led by the tour guide). Then enjoy a Barn -fire by the beach!**

## **DAY 5 Wed October 16, 2019**

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### **Elmina Castle**

After breakfast, visit the Elmina Castle built by the Portuguese in 1482 and is also known as St. George's Castle. This castle was the first European structure built in Sub - Saharan Africa. The colorful harbour nestled below the Elmina Castle, full of pirogues preparing to go to sea offers one of West Africa's greatest photo opportunities. At the end of the tour have lunch and head back to the hotel. **Coconut Grove Beach Resort (Meals Included: Breakfast, lunch and Dinner)**

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## **DAY 6 Thurs October 17, 2019**

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### **Elmina – Assin Manso - Kumasi City Tour**

On this day, check out early in the morning and take a scenic drive to Assin Manso, visit the site of "Donkor Nsuo", the former Slave River and market, as well as the final transit point for a large number of enslaved Africans. This is the final resting place for two ancestors whose mortal remains were returned from the USA and Jamaica. *(Elmina – Kumasi - drive time is approx. 4hrs 35 min.)*

Afterwards drive to visit Kumasi, the seat of the Ashanti Empire to explore the legends of the famous Ashantis. You will visit Manhyia Palace Museum, to obtain first hand information on the legacies of the Ashanti kingdom. A regal history that dates back to 1700 is told with relics and artefacts. Enjoy a drive through the city with monuments dedicated to the memory of the great Ashanti people. **Overnight stay at Golden Tulip Kumasi (Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)**



## Golden Tulip Kumasi (2 Nights)

Welcome to the Golden Tulip Kumasi City! This remarkable hotel, the Golden Tulip Kumasi City is a first class African style business hotel set in extensive tropical gardens in the central business district of the Ashanti regional capital in Kumasi. This elegant hotel has 160 luxuriously furnished air-conditioned rooms with a variety of lodging accommodations like apartments, suites, executive, deluxe, superior and standard rooms. The restaurant also offers a la carte style menu and buffets with international standards and local flavour. The hotel is equipped with facilities such as a forex bureau, lounge bar, VIP bar, swimming pool, tennis courts, a shop and casino.

**After dinner participate in KASA (TALK TIME) - An opportunity to learn more about Ghanaian culture or simply talk to each other and share information about the experiences you are having on the tour. (This activity will be led by the tour guide).**

## DAY 7 Fri October 18, 2019

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### Ashanti Craft Villages - Accra

After breakfast, depart your hotel to visit the three Ashanti craft villages: Ahwiaa, the wood carvers' village; Ntonso, the home of Adinkra cloth; and Bonwire, the Kente weaving village. Afterwards drive back to your hotel in Kumasi.

**Overnight at Golden Tulip Kumasi Hotel. (Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)**



## DAY 8 Sat October 19, 2019

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### Kumasi - Accra

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and depart for Accra. Upon arrival back in the capital city of Ghana, spend the remainder of the day at leisure to shop or explore on your own.

**Overnight at La Palm Beach Hotel. (Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner).**

## DAY 9 Sun October 20, 2019

### Shopping - Farewell Departure

After breakfast, spend this day doing some last minute shopping and packing. In the afternoon you will be picked up and transferred to a Ghanaian restaurant for your Farewell Dinner.

Afterwards, transfer to the airport in time for your **9:30PM** for final flight SA #209. **(Meals Included: Breakfast and Farewell Dinner)**

Depart via SA #209 for Washington Dulles International Airport at 11:35 p.m.

## **DAY 10 Mon October 21, 2019**

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Arrive Dulles International Airport at 6:25 a.m. in time to connect with American Airlines Flight #5516 departing from Dulles Airport at 9:19 a.m. and arriving Charlotte at 10:50; in time to connect with AA Flight #1932 departing Charlotte at 1:00 p.m. and arriving St. Louis at 1:51 p.m.

***Welcome Home!!***

### **END OF TOUR 9-DAY GHANA TOUR TOUR DATE: OCTOBER 12 – 21, 2019**

#### **Included In the Tour Cost:**

- Accommodations in 4 and 3-Star hotels (3\* Only in Elmina & Kumasi Only)
- All Ground Transportation in air conditioned vehicle with professional Driver
- Breakfast Daily and All meals as per the itinerary above
- All entrance fees
- Private English speaking tour guide
- All Sightseeing and airport transfers with assistance

#### **Not included:**

- International flights and airport departure taxes
- Passport and visa fees
- Drinks, Tips and personal expenses
- Any items of a personal nature
- Gratuities for driver and guides
- Trip cancellation, travel delay and baggage insurance. (This optional insurance is available and highly recommended)
- Charges incurred as a result of delays or cancellations beyond The Art of Travel's control, such as delayed or cancelled flights, natural disasters or weather conditions.
- **Travel Insurance is available at Additional Cost \$\$\$ and Highly Recommended!!**