



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
OF AMERICA TOURS



August 3-19, 2021
(17 days | 16 guests)
with anthropologist and architectural
historian Trevor Marchand



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Ghana & Benin: Exploring West Africa



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By traveling on an AIA Tour you directly support the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) while personally gaining the benefit of the AIA's network of scholars and worldwide contacts.

Archaeological Institute of America Lecturer & Host



Trevor Marchand is Emeritus Professor of Social Anthropology at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS, London) and recipient of the Royal Anthropological Institute's Rivers Memorial Medal (2014). He studied architecture (McGill), received a

PhD in anthropology (SOAS), and qualified as a fine woodworker at London's Building Crafts College (2007). Marchand has published extensively. His books include *The Pursuit of Pleasurable Work* (forthcoming), *Architectural Heritage of Yemen* (2017), *Craftwork as Problem Solving* (2016), *The Masons of Djenné* (2009, winner of three international prizes), and *Minaret Building and Apprenticeship in Yemen* (2001). Marchand produces and directs documentary films on architecture and craftwork, and has curated exhibitions for the Brunei Gallery in London, Museum of Oriental Art in Turin, Pergamon Museum in Berlin, Royal Institute of British Architects, and the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. He is a Trustee of the Paul Oliver Vernacular Architecture Library (POVAL) in Oxford and an independent advisor on World Heritage for the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).

During the past three decades, Marchand has conducted fieldwork with craftspeople in Nigeria, Yemen, Mali, and the UK, and he has lectured on the art, architecture, and archaeology of Central Asia, the Arabian Peninsula, and West and North Africa. He first travelled across West Africa in 1989 and returned to the region repeatedly as a researcher and lecturer. Marchand carried out his first fieldwork in the Hausa Emirate of Zaria, in northern Nigeria, and later made Djenné (Mali) his research base, working during the building seasons alongside the famous mud masons of that historic town. At SOAS, he convened the undergraduate and postgraduate courses on the cultures and societies of West Africa, and he began leading study tours to Ghana and Benin in 2015. In these countries, Marchand shares his architectural expertise on the coastal forts and castles, exquisitely decorated Asante shrines, ancient mud-brick mosques, diverse rural building traditions, and the grand palaces of the Dahomey Kings. He also introduces the histories of the slave trade and colonial rule, which heavily impacted the region; as well as the remarkable mosaic of contemporary ethnic groupings along with their religions, spiritual beliefs, ritual ceremonies, and distinctive craft cultures.



“Trevor...was excellent and I would happily go with him again. He was knowledgeable, cheerful, friendly, upbeat no matter the circumstances. He was also very gracious. The tour was very informative and we were always well taken care of.”

- Rae, Richmond, British Columbia

Cover: (top) Larabanga Mosque, the oldest mosque in Ghana; (bottom) Zayaa “Mosque” at Wulugu; Left (top to bottom) Textiles in Ghana, elephant in Mole National Park, Port of No Return in Ouidah, Ganvie



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Join us as we learn about the effects of the former Atlantic slave trade on West Africa and the resilience of the people, towns, and cultures forever changed by it. Explore the dramatic landscapes that helped shape the different tribes and kingdoms of West Africa, from the rugged coastline of Ghana and Benin to the southern forests of Ghana. Discover the architecture of towns, monuments, and mosques in Sahelian, traditional Sudanese mud-brick, and Portuguese Baroque styles. Ghana and Benin are rich in culture and history, and their people are warm and enthusiastic about sharing their histories, cultures, and traditions.

Highlights:

- Visit the UNESCO World Heritage sites of **Cape Coast Castle**, one of about 40 “slave castles” built on the Gold Coast of West Africa by European traders; and the **Royal Palaces of Abomey**, the palaces of 11 of the 12 kings who ruled the Kingdom of Abomey.
- See neighborhoods, towns, and monuments that played an important role during the **former Atlantic slave trade**; **Jamestown** quarter in Accra, whose colonial history can still be seen; **Elmina**, a fishing port town known for its role in the slave trade; and **Gwollu**, where a mud defensive wall was built to defend against slave raiders.
- Experience the **Akwasidae Festival**, held every 42 days by the Ashanti King; as well as **Vodun ceremonies** in both Grand Popo and Ouidah, Benin.
- Explore the best game park in Ghana, **Mole National Park**, by participating in two game drives with the opportunity to encounter elephants and other wildlife up close.
- See mosques built in **Sahelian** style mud with protruding timber armature; and **Portuguese Baroque** style, which travelled back to West Africa with freed former slaves from Brazil.
- In addition to your **knowledgeable and congenial AIA study leader**, who is an anthropologist and architectural historian, you will be accompanied by **excellent local guides and an expert tour manager** who will handle all of the logistics so you can relax, enjoy, and learn.

Photos (top to bottom): Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum, Accra; a village in Togo; traditional fishing boats in Benin



Itinerary

B= Breakfast • L= Lunch • D= Dinner

Tuesday, August 3, 2021: Depart Home

Depart the U.S. for Accra, Ghana.

Wednesday, August 4: Arrive Accra, GHANA | Transfer to hotel

Arrive today at Accra's Kotoka International Airport (ACC), where you will be met for individual transfers to our hotel, which overlooks one of Ghana's most beautiful beaches. Dinner is at leisure. *Overnight at the 5-star [Labadi Beach Hotel](#) for two nights.*

Thursday, August 5: Accra – University of Ghana, driving tour of Jamestown Quarter, Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum | Welcome dinner

This morning visit the University of Ghana at Legon, a suburb of Accra. We will have a guest lecture by a staff member from the archaeology department, followed by a visit to the small but beautifully displayed university archaeology museum. Afterward, on our way to visit the Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum and adjacent museum, we will take a short driving tour of the historic Jamestown quarter of Accra, whose colonial history can still be seen in its forts that line the High Street and the decaying yet beautiful colonial timber houses. After a group lunch, the balance of the afternoon is at leisure. This evening we gather for an opening lecture and welcome dinner at our hotel. (B,L,D)

Friday, August 6: Coffin-making workshop | Fort Amsterdam | Anomabu | Cape Coast: Cape Coast Castle

Depart Accra early this morning for Cape Coast, a port town that was a center for Asante traders and the British commercial and administrative capital of the Gold Coast for more than 200 years. Along the way, we visit a coffin-making workshop. Funerals are one of Ghana's most important social gatherings, and the deceased among the coastal Ga people are sent off in great style with wonderful coffins carved to represent their lives. Stop briefly to view Fort Amsterdam, the center for British slave trade until it was destroyed by the local population in 1811. Continue on to Anomabu where we see Asafo Posuban, elaborately decorated shrines made by patrilineal military companies that are traditionally responsible for the defense of their towns. After lunch in Cape Coast, visit the expansive Cape Coast Castle, part of a UNESCO World Heritage site. Check-in to our hotel, get settled, and gather for dinner at our hotel this evening. *Overnight at the 3-star [Ridge Royal Hotel](#).* (B,L,D)



Photos (top to bottom): Akwasidae Festival, Kumasi; coffin in the shape of a Louis Vuitton handbag at a Ghana coffin workshop; Cape Coast Castle; Vodun Ceremony

“I enjoyed Trevor Marchand's leadership, which enlivened the history and culture of the region. Trevor's approach and excellent teaching made the history come alive.”

- Jens, British Columbia

Saturday, August 7: Elmina walking tour | Drive to Kumasi

This morning we set out on an extensive walking tour of Elmina, traversing the narrow streets and visiting Dutch merchant houses, Asafo Posuban, the Dutch cemetery, the bustling market, and the fishing harbor, ending in front of Elmina Fort. After lunch we take a scenic, 4-hour drive north through southern forests to Kumasi. Gather for dinner at our hotel this evening. *Overnight at the 4-star [Golden Tulip Kumasi City](#) hotel for three nights.* (B,L,D)

Sunday, August 8: Kumasi – Akwasidae Festival, Manhyia Palace Museum, Prempeh II Jubilee Museum

Experience the Akwasidae Festival, which occurs every 42 days. The Asantehene (Ashanti king), subject to availability, holds audience for his subjects in the great courtyard of the Manhyia Palace. Everyone in attendance wears colorful traditional dress. This vibrant ceremony honors the ancestors and involves drumming and dancing. After lunch we visit the Manhyia Palace Museum and the Prempeh II Jubilee Museum, which offer a good understanding of Ashanti history. Gather for dinner this evening (B,L,D)

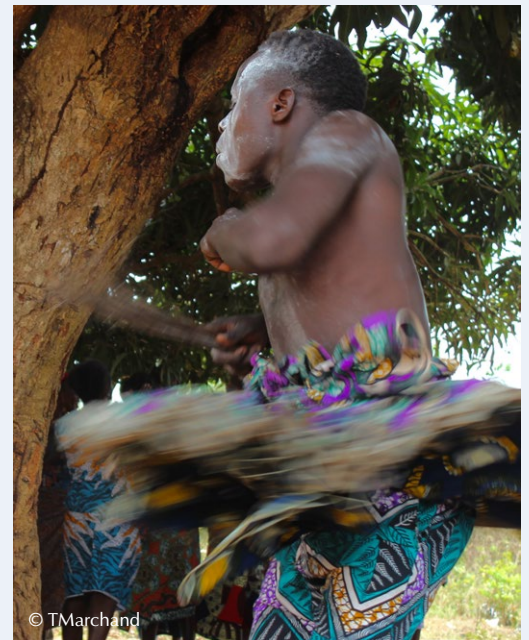
Monday, August 9: Kumasi – Kejetia Market | Pankrono | Ntonso | Adanwomase | Ahwia | Kumasi

We begin our day by visiting the sprawling, bustling Kejetia market, one of the largest urban markets in Africa. From there we will continue to the villages around Kumasi to visit two Ashanti Shrines: Besease and AtiaKusia Kwame. After lunch we spend the remainder of the afternoon visiting several specialized craft villages, including Pankrono, renowned for pottery; Ntonso, where Adinkra cloth is made using stamps carved from calabash gourds; Adanwomase, where we will learn about Kente weaving; and Ahwia, known for its wood carvers. Return to Kumasi, where we enjoy dinner this evening. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, August 10: Boabeng Fiema Monkey Sanctuary | Mole National Park

Depart Kumasi early this morning for a long day of travel (approx. an 8-hour drive) to Mole National Park. Along the way visit the Boabeng Fiema Monkey Sanctuary, where the traditional beliefs of the Ashanti people protect the monkeys. Continue our journey north and stop for lunch along the way. Arrive at our beautiful safari lodge in Mole National Park in time to view sunset over the watering hole, and enjoy dinner together. *Overnight at the 3-star [Zaina Lodge](#) for two nights.* (B,L,D)

Photos (top to bottom): Vodun ceremony in Benin; Great Mosque of Porto Novo; Nakore Mosque, Wa



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What to Expect

This program involves some walking on uneven terrain and up and down stairs that may be steep and without handrails. Expect bumpy terrain during the game drives. All participants are expected to be physically active and not be an impediment to others on excursions. **Participants who are not able to walk or stand unassisted for extended periods are kindly advised not to join this tour.** If you have any questions about your ability to participate, we suggest that you visit your personal physician with this brochure in hand, and discuss whether or not the program is appropriate for you. If the tour manager decides that a participant cannot visit a site safely or in a timely manner, their judgment will be final. Where possible, an alternate activity may be suggested; additional costs may apply. There will be border formalities en route at the Ghana-Togo and Togo-Benin borders on August 16th, however they are usually quite straightforward. While the accommodations are as comfortable as possible for the region, they will vary from four- and five-star properties to relatively basic, simple hotels. It is important to keep in mind that some facilities in this region may not be up to most North American travelers' standards. Flexibility, a sense of humor, enjoyment of group travel, and a willingness to accept cultural differences and local standards of amenities are essential components to the full appreciation of this trip. At the time of our visit the weather is pleasant with average temperatures ranging from the mid 80s F during the day to the high 60s F overnight. Temperatures during the early morning game drive may be chillier. There will be a slight chance of precipitation. *Complete pre-departure details and what to pack will be sent to participants.*



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Wednesday, August 11: Mole National Park – AM and PM Game Drives

Spend the day exploring Mole National Park, known as the best game park in Ghana and, quite possibly, in West Africa. Game drives, with expert driver/guides, provide great opportunities to encounter and photograph elephant and other wildlife up close. Wake early for a morning game drive, and return to the lodge for breakfast. The rest of the morning is at leisure to relax and enjoy the property. Gather again in the late afternoon for another game drive, and then enjoy dinner at the lodge this evening. (B,L,D)

Thursday, August 12: Larabanga | Bole | Wa – WaNaa's Palace, Nakore Mosque

Depart Mole National Park this morning for Larabanga, and see the oldest mosque in Ghana, built in Sahelian style in mud with protruding timber armature. Continue our drive with a small detour west to Bole, to see another of Ghana's historic mud mosques, before driving north to Wa. After a break for lunch we arrive in Wa and visit WaNaa's Palace, an extraordinary example of traditional Sudanese mud-brick architecture and a monument of political, religious, and social significance for local residents. We finish the day at the historic Nakore Mosque, built from mud in the ancient Sudanic style, just outside of Wa. Dinner this evening is at our quaint hotel in Wa. *Overnight at the 2-star Dellagio Hotel.* (B,L,D)

Friday, August 13: Lawra | Gwollu | Bolgatanga

Departing Wa this morning, we drive east to the small village of Lawra, famous for its handcrafted xylophones and the teaching of "gyil" music. We will tour a xylophone workshop and hear a short recital. Next continue on to Gwollu to see a mud defensive wall built in the 19th century by the Gwollu Koro Limann to defend the residents against slave raiders. Afterward, visit the traditional "bone setters" to see how the tradition has been passed down within the Najiriwia clan and is still practiced today. Enjoy a packed lunch as we continue on to Bolgatanga, arriving in the late afternoon. Check-in to our hotel and freshen up before dinner at a local restaurant known for its pizza. *Overnight at the 3-star Akayet Hotel for two nights.* (B,L,D)

Saturday, August 14: Sirigu | Navrongo | Paga | Bolgatanga

Today we begin touring at the village of Sirigu, renowned for its mud compounds painted by the village women with elaborate symbols and designs in red, white, and black. After lunch we continue to the town of Navrongo to visit the mud-brick Cathedral of Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows. The interior is

Photos: (left) Akwasidae Festival, Kumasi; (above) the Royal Palace of Abomey



© TMarchand

painted with biblical scenes and traditional symbols by women from Sirigu using their soil-based pigments. We finish the day with a visit to Paga Pia's Palace, built in the traditional Sahelian style. This compound is a labyrinth of round and square huts with conical thatched roofs and storage buildings, some with paintings of crocodile. Return to Bolgatanga, where dinner is at leisure. (B,L)

Sunday, August 15: Tongo | Wulugu | Tamale | Fly to Accra

Drive south to Tongo, home to the Tallensi people known for their resistance to British rule and strong cultural traditions. Visit the chief's sprawling extended-family compound, with honeycomb-like configurations of tightly interconnected dwellings and ancestral shrines. The rocky outcrops that surround the village house caves, sanctuaries, and shrines that are still in use. Travelling south, stop in Wulugu to see Zayaa "Mosque," a unique, fantastical 20th-century hermitage built in mud. Enjoy a packed lunch along the way, arrive in Tamale in the early afternoon, and depart from Tamale Airport on our flight to Accra. Upon arrival we check-in to the very first hotel at which we stayed on this tour. Gather for dinner this evening. *Overnight at the 5-star [Labadi Beach Hotel](#).* (B,L,D)

Monday, August 16: Drive to Grand Popo, BENIN | Cotonou

After breakfast, we depart our Accra hotel early to drive (approx. 6 hours) east along the coast to Grand Popo, Benin, crossing through the small, narrow country of Togo along the way. Benin is often considered the birthplace of voodoo (locally known as Vodun, an official religion since 1996) and, upon arrival in Grand Popo we attend a spectacular Vodun ceremony. Continue on to Cotonou and check-in to our hotel, where we gather for dinner this evening. *Overnight at the 4-star [Maison Rouge Hotel](#) for three nights.* (B,L,D)

Tuesday, August 17: Porto Novo | Ganvie | Cotonou

This morning we drive to Porto Novo, the administrative capital of Benin, where we visit the Museum of Ethnography and see some of the town's colonial buildings, including the old mosque built in Portuguese Baroque style, which travelled back to West Africa with freed former slaves from Brazil. After lunch continue on to Ganvie, a lake village in Lake Nokoué that is sometimes called the "Venice of Africa," for a boat tour among houses that have stood for centuries on wooden stilts. Return to Cotonou and have dinner at a local restaurant. (B,L,D)

Air Arrangements & Transfers

Airfare from/to home is not included. The in-program flight from Tamale to Accra is included. Individual airport transfers upon arrival at Accra's Kotoka International Airport (ACC) and for departure from Cardinal Bernadin Gantin de Cotonou International Airport (COO) are included. Once you have received your final payment invoice, you should book your flights from/to home. If you are considering booking your flights before this time, please contact our office first. *We do not accept liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets.*



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Photos: (above) Ganvie, Benin; (right) Besease shrine near Kumasi

For questions and reservations: 800-748-6262 | aia@studytours.org | www.aitours.org

The AIA & AIA Tours

The Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) is the oldest and largest archaeological organization in North America. The AIA seeks to educate people of all ages about the significance of archaeological discovery. For more than a century the AIA has been dedicated to the encouragement and support of archaeological research and publication, and to the protection of the world's archaeological resources and cultural heritage. By traveling on an AIA Tour you directly support the AIA while personally gaining the benefit of the AIA's network of scholars and worldwide contacts.

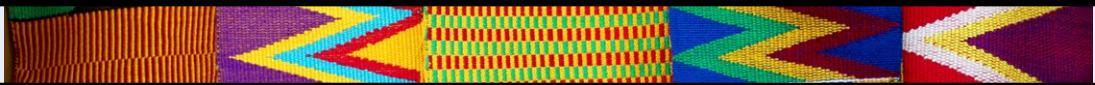
Wednesday, August 18: Abomey | Cotonou | Farewell dinner

This morning we set out for a drive Abomey, about three hours north of Cotonou. After lunch we visit the Royal Palaces of Abomey, a UNESCO World Heritage site, where the palaces of 11 of the 12 kings who ruled the Kingdom of Abomey between 1625 and 1900 are built within the same enclosure. The kingdom was one of the most powerful of the West African coast. These palaces were both the political centers of the kingdom and places where remarkable arts and crafts were developed and treasures stored. The palaces of King Ghézo and King Glélé are now the Historical Museum of Abomey. Drive back to Cotonou and freshen up for our farewell dinner this evening. (B,L,D)

Thursday, August 19: Ouidah | Fly home

On our final touring day we drive to the colonial town of Ouidah, a historic stronghold of Portuguese trade and a thriving center of Vodun. Visit the Sacred Forest; the Temple of the Pythons, a Vodun temple that houses dozens of worshipped snakes; and then make a stop at the "Door of No Return," a monument to enslaved people (more than a million over 200 years) who were forced to depart on boats bound for European colonies across the Atlantic. After an independent lunch near the seaside, we watch a final Vodun ceremony. Transfer this evening to Cardinal Bernadin Gantin de Cotonou International Airport (COO) to catch flights homeward. (B)

Accommodations



Zaina Lodge, Mole National Park



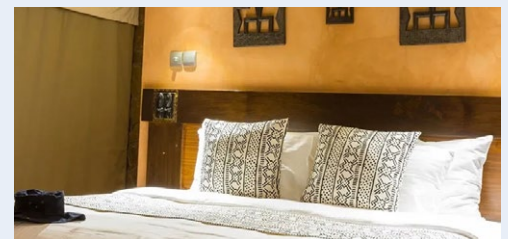
Accra: Three nights total at the 5-star [Labadi Beach Hotel](#)



Cape Coast: One night at the 3-star [Ridge Royal Hotel](#)



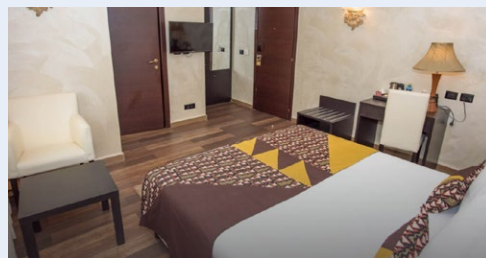
Kumasi: Three nights at the 4-star [Golden Tulip Kumasi City](#)



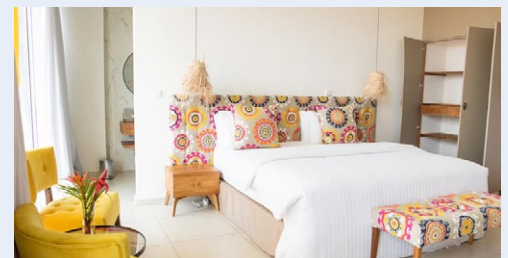
Mole National Park: Two nights at the 3-star [Zaina Lodge](#)



Wa: One night at the 2-star [Dellagio Hotel](#)



Bolgatanga: Two nights at the 3-star [Akayet Hotel](#)



Cotonou: Three nights at the 4-star [Maison Rouge Hotel](#)



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Tour Prices Per Person (15 nights)

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------|
| Double Occupancy (15 to 16 participants)..... | \$9,595 |
| Double Occupancy (10 to 14 participants)..... | \$10,445 |
| Single Supplement..... | \$2,495 |

*Single room supplement will be charged when requested or required (limited availability).
With fewer than 10 participants, a small group surcharge may be added.*

Prices Include:

- Leadership of **AIA lecturer and host Trevor Marchand** plus a **professional Tour Manager** and English-speaking **local guides**
- **Individual airport transfers** upon arrival and departure
- **Fifteen nights' accommodations** at the best available, ideally located hotels, resorts, and lodges
- **Most meals:** breakfast daily; 14 lunches and 13 dinners with bottled water or soft drinks, plus coffee or tea with dinners; including **welcome and farewell dinners** with beer and wine
- Transportation by **private, air-conditioned 45-seater motorcoach** to allow for social distancing, with hand sanitizer and bottled water available at all times
- **In-program flight** from Tamale to Accra
- **Game drives** at Mole National Park
- Tickets for a **boat trip** to Ganvié and two spectacular **Vodun ceremonies** in Grand Popo and Ouidah
- **All gratuities** to drivers, waiters (for included meals), porters, guides, and Tour Manager
- **All sightseeing and excursions** as per itinerary
- **Baggage handling** at hotels and airports where available
- VAT, local taxes, and service charges
- **Comprehensive pre-departure information**, including a suggested reading guide, travel guide, and packing list

Prices Do Not Include: Airfare from/to home; passport and visa fees; all airport fees and departure taxes; cost of personal, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; transportation of excess baggage; meals and beverages other than those indicated; personal tips; items of a personal nature, such as laundry; taxi, telephone, and fax charges; optional excursions or deviations from scheduled tour; and any other items not listed as included.

Payments: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour and is payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or check made payable to "EOS Passenger Account-AIA WestAfrica8/21." Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure and must be by check only; credit cards are not accepted for final payment. By submitting your deposit, you are bound by the terms and conditions delineated throughout this brochure or elsewhere published.

Participant Cancellation Fees: All requests by participants for cancellations must be received in writing by AIA Tours. Cancellations received at least 90 days prior to departure are refunded less a cancellation fee of \$250 per person. Cancellations received between 89 and 61 days prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee equal to 50% of the tour cost. Cancellations received 60 days or less prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee of 100% of the tour cost. *For this and other reasons, participants are strongly encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance. Information will be provided with confirmation of receipt of your deposit.*

Note: Rates are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change prior to departure. Substantial changes in tariffs, exchange rates, and the price of fuel, services, and labor may increase the cost of arrangements significantly, and we reserve the right to alter our prices.

Prices, itinerary, accommodations, and leader are subject to change. Prices quoted are based on group participation and no refunds will be made for any part of the program in which you choose not to participate. It is understood that refunds cannot be made to passengers who do not complete the tour for whatever reason.

Due to space limitations, this is abbreviated information. Complete terms and conditions will be sent upon confirmation or upon request, and can be viewed online at www.aiatours.org.

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For questions, and to reserve your space, please contact AIA Tours at:

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“Trevor was the highlight of the trip...with his compelling lectures and storytelling, knowledge-sharing, on-site observations and good humor. I'd go on another tour led by Trevor without hesitation!”

- Tina, Singapore

Ghana & Benin: Exploring West Africa

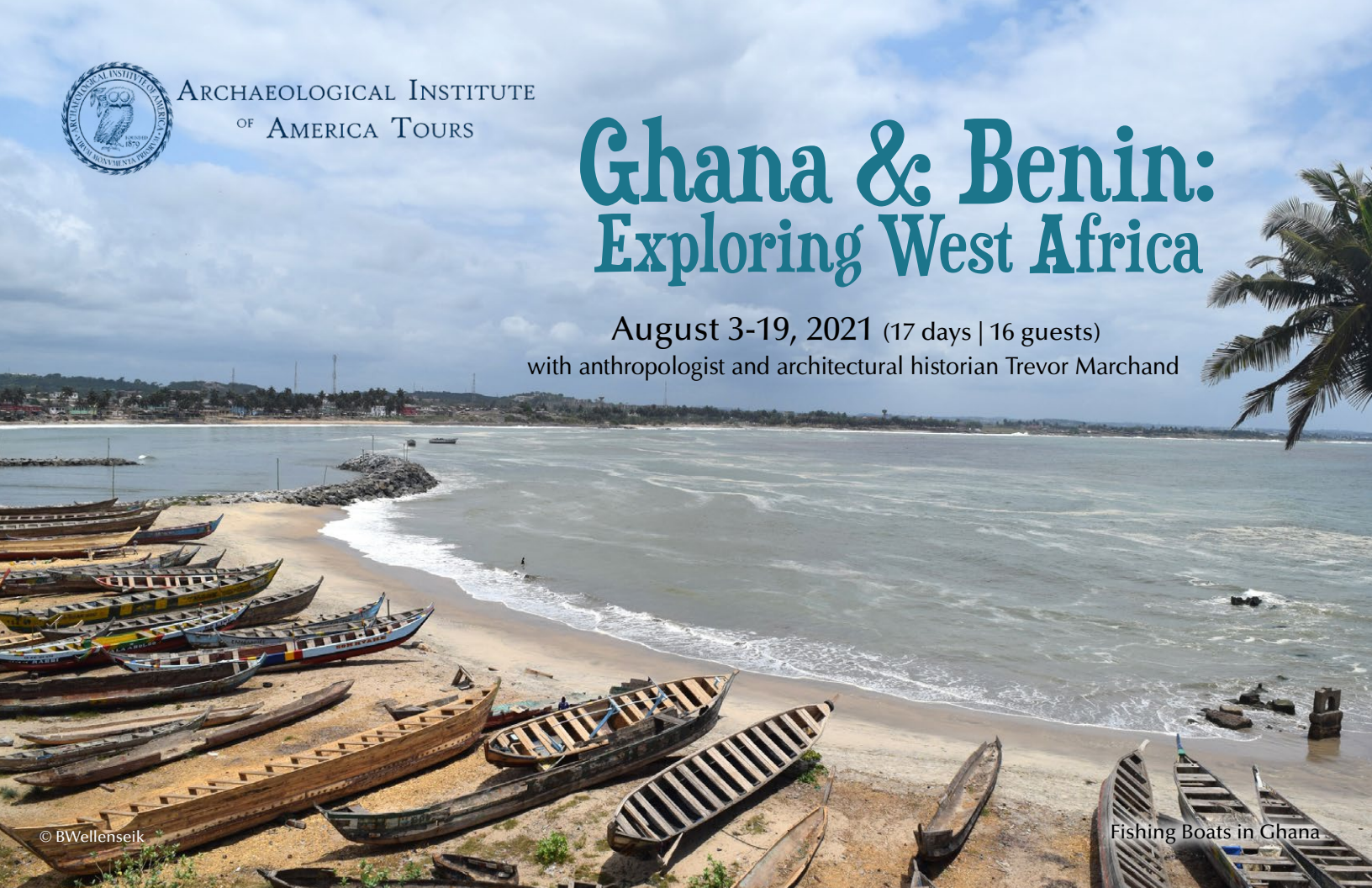
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Fishing Boats in Ghana



RESERVATION FORM



Ghana & Benin: Exploring West Africa

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with anthropologist and architectural historian Trevor Marchand

To hold your reservation for seven days while this form and your deposit are in the mail, please contact us at 800-748-6262 or aia@studytours.org.

Name 1 (as it appears on passport)

Name 2 (as it appears on passport)

Address

City State Zip

Phone (home) Phone (cell)

Email(s)

I/We have read the 'What to Expect' section and am/are physically able to participate fully on the program.

Are you traveling with any other parties on this program? Yes,

How did you hear about this tour? eNewsletter mailing website friends/family other

ACCOMMODATIONS:

- Double (one bed) Twin (two beds) Single
I will be sharing with: Share-please assign a roommate (not guaranteed) Please share my contact information with potential roommate(s).

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENT:

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to confirm a reservation. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Please note that credit cards are not accepted for final payment. You will receive an invoice for final payment. All prices and payments are in US dollars.

DEPOSIT TYPE (please check one):

- Check payable to: EOS Passenger Account-AIA WestAfrica8/21 Visa Master Card American Express Already paid by phone

CC#

Exp. Date 3- or 4-Digit Code

Name on Card

Please complete this reservation form, sign the release statement below, enclose your deposit, and mail or fax to:

AIA Tours - P.O. Box 938, Walpole, NH 03608-0938
Fax: 603-756-2922 • Email: aia@studytours.org

By signing this form, you are acknowledging that you have read and agree to all Terms & Conditions delineated throughout. If you would like to submit this form electronically (via email), you may go online to www.aiatours.org and download the brochure.

Signature (participant #1) Date

Signature (participant #2) Date

✂

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In addition, Sponsors/Operator are not liable for their own negligence, and participant assumes all risk thereof. **CHANGES IN ITINERARY OR FEATURES:** Sponsors/Operator reserve the right to change the itinerary or trip features at any time and for any reason, with or without notice, and Sponsors/Operator shall not be liable for any loss of any kind as a result of any such changes. Sponsors/Operator are not required to cancel any trip for any reason including, without limitation, United States Department of State, World Health Organization, or other Warnings or Advisories of any kind. Sponsors/Operator are not responsible for penalties assessed by air carriers resulting from operational and/or itinerary changes, even if Sponsors/Operator make the flight arrangements or cancels the trip. Sponsors/Operator reserve the right to substitute hotels or attractions of a similar category for those listed in this brochure. **LUGGAGE:** Luggage allowance policies are set by the airlines and may change without prior notice. **PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY:** All programs require physical independence and mobility. Any physical or mental condition that may require special medical attention or physical assistance must be reported in writing when you make your reservation. Participants must be able to embark or disembark transportation vehicles, stand for extended periods, climb stairs, and step over raised thresholds all without assistance. **REFUNDS:** Prices quoted are based on group participation. No refunds will be made for any part of the program in which a participant chooses not to participate. Refunds cannot be made to participants who do not complete the tour for any reason, nor to participants whose entry into any country or aboard any transportation vehicle, including airplanes and cruise ships, is delayed or denied. **TOUR CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS:** Sponsors/Operator reserve the right to cancel this tour prior to departure, in which case payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part unless trip cancellation, itinerary changes, and/or delays are mandated by causes beyond our control, in which case the participant shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by Sponsors/Operator, or else receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as Sponsors/Operator are able to recover on the participant’s behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc. Sponsors/Operator, however, shall not have any obligation or liability to the participant beyond the foregoing. **TRIP INSURANCE:** Sponsors/Operator strongly recommend that participants purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Trip cancellation insurance is available through Sponsors/Operator and others and covers certain expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident and damaged or lost luggage. Sponsors/Operator will send participants an application upon receipt of their reservation. **RATES:** Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to changes at any time. On all programs, even after full payment, Sponsors/Operator reserve the right to increase the tour price in the event of cost increases due to changes in supplier costs, tax increases, currency fluctuations or fuel and energy surcharges, and all such increases are to be paid to Sponsors/Operator upon notice to the participant. **FORUM AND METHODOLOGY FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION:** Any dispute or claim which refers or relates to this contract, any literature related to the trip, or the trip itself shall be litigated solely and exclusively in and for courts in Keene, New Hampshire, subject to substantive and procedural New Hampshire law, and for this limited purpose, the parties agree to exclusive venue and personal jurisdiction therein. At the participant’s option, however, in lieu of litigation, Sponsors/Operator will agree to binding arbitration in Keene, New Hampshire, subject to substantive, but not procedural, New Hampshire law, pursuant to the then existing commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association. In any such arbitration, the arbitrator, and not any federal, state, or local court or agency, shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable. **U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT & CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL:** Both the Centers for Disease Control and U.S. State Department publish and update important country-specific information for travelers. We strongly recommend that you review them. They can presently be found at: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices> and <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings.html>. **MISCELLANEOUS:** Participants should not purchase airline tickets prior to receiving their final payment invoice so as to avoid airline cancellation penalties if a tour is canceled or otherwise modified subsequent to the participant’s purchase of those tickets. Baggage and personal effects are at all times the sole responsibility of the participant. If, due to weather, flight schedules, or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend (an) additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers, and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner’s risk. Sponsors/Operator reserve the right to decline to accept or retain any participant at any time. The right is reserved to decline to accept as a participant, or remove from a trip, without refund, any person it judges to be incapable of meeting the rigors and requirements of participating in the activities, or who is abusive to other trip participants, leaders, or third parties, or who is determined to detract from the enjoyment of the trip by others. Specific room assignments are within the sole discretion of the hotel. **APPEARING IN PHOTOS:** Photos from AIA Tours’ trips may be posted on photo-sharing web sites or on social networking sites. Your likeness may appear in some photos or videos, posted either by other travelers or tour lecturers/guides, and the circulation of the materials could be worldwide. Trip photos may also be selected to appear in future AIA Tours promotions; no compensation is available for appearing in a trip photo used for promotional purposes.

ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT: By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she agrees with these terms and conditions, and accepts the terms contained in these Terms and Conditions, Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement.