

Interesting Facts about Ghana

Ghana is in **Western Africa**, between Cote d'Ivoire and Togo and borders the Gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic Ocean. **Area:** 239,460 square kilometres.

The **Ghanaian flag** has three equal horizontal bands of red (top), yellow, and green with a large black five-pointed star centered in the yellow band. The red represents the blood of Africans in their struggle, the gold, the mineral wealth of the earth, and the green, the vegetation. The black star represents the people.

National holiday: Independence Day, March 6 (1957)

Tropical climate: 2 seasons - wet and dry. The dry, dusty, Harmattan winds occur from January to March and bring frequent droughts. High humidity and rains are from July through August.

Landscape: Mostly low plains with a plateau in the south-central area. The highest point is Mount Afadjato (880m).

Waterways: Main rivers are the Volta, Ankobra, and Tano Rivers. Lake Volta is the world's largest artificial lake.

Natural resources: gold, timber, industrial diamonds, bauxite, manganese, fish, rubber, hydropower petroleum, silver, salt and limestone.

Agriculture products: cocoa, shea nuts, rice, coffee, cassava (tapioca), peanuts, corn, timber and bananas.

Population below poverty line: 31.4%

Ethnic groups: There are many ethnic groups in Ghana including: Akan 45.3%, Mole-Dagbon 15.2%, Ewe 11.7%, Ga-Dangme 7.3%, Guan 4%, Gurma 3.6%, Grusi 2.6%, Mande-Busanga 1%, other tribes 1.4%, other 7.8% (2000 census)

Languages: English (official) Asante 14.8%, Ewe 12.7%, Fante 9.9%, Boron (Brong) 4.6%, Dagomba 4.3%, Dangme 4.3%, Dagarte (Dagaba) 3.7%, Akyem 3.4%, Ga 3.4%, Akuapem 2.9%, other 36.1% (includes English) (2000 census)

Literacy (age 15 and over who can read and write – 2000 census):

Total: 57.9%

Males: 66.4%

Female: 49.8%

Religions: Christian 68.8% (Pentecostal/Charismatic 24.1%, Protestant 18.6%, Catholic 15.1%, other 11%), Muslim 15.9%, traditional 8.5%, other 0.7%, none 6.1% (2000 census)

Current environmental problems:

Recurrent droughts in the north severely affects agricultural activities

Deforestation and soil erosion

Overgrazing

Threats to wildlife from poaching and habitat destruction

Water pollution: supplies of potable water are inadequate

Cities:

Accra is the capital city. Although it was once a major center of the gold and slave trade through four different empires, its tree-lined streets give it the feeling of a comfortable town. The Makola Market is a good place to enjoy a typical West African market.

Kumasi was once the capital of the Ashanti empire, and is still the cultural center of the Ashanti people. The historic city was destroyed almost a century ago, but the modern city has a good cultural center and museum as well as the modern palace of the Asantehene.

Craft Villages: In the region surrounding Kumasi are four settlements known as the craft villages. Their citizens have been the royal artisans for the Asantehene for generations.

Bonwire is the capital of the Kente cloth.

Ntonso has the Adinkra cloth.

Ahwiaa has carved figures, including Ghana's traditional fertility doll.

Kurofuforum specializes in brass casting.

Mole National Park: has such game as elephants, various species of antelope, a large and diverse bird population, monkeys and crocodiles, and a small number of lions. Visitors can drive or walk throughout the park at very reasonable costs.

Coastal Forests:

During the gold, ivory, and slave trade, many colonial forts were built along the coastline. The forts at Dixcove, Elmina, Cape Cove, and Apam are open to the public to remind people of the horrors of slavery.

Edited from: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gh.html> and <http://www.ghanaweb.com/>