Invitation to Join Dr. Saïs Kamalidiin

Howard University

A Musical Expedition in Africa

<<<<>>>>>>

CHANA (West Africa) (December 08 – 22, 2024)



Elmina Castle



University of Ghana – Legon Campus

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Travel Leader: Dr. Saïs Kamalidiin Professor: Howard University - Department of Music

DAY 1: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8: DEPARTURE: – WASHINGTON/ACCRA: Depart on United Airlines flight UA 996 from Washington Dulles (IAD) at 615pm. You are allowed 2 pieces of luggage free, each weighing 50lbs or less, and 1 carry-on weighing 12lbs or less. Please remember your passports, and any visas required and please verify that your passport has at least two blank visa pages and is valid for a least 6 months. We provide free visa service. Visa application, 1 recent passport photo, valid passport & visa fee are required. Yellow fever vaccination is required to enter Ghana; please consult your physician.



Movenpick Ambassador Hotel - Accra

DAY 2: - MONDAY, DECEMBER 09: ACCRA –GREATER ACCRA REGION: Arrival / Visit WEB DuBois Center/Tema City Visit, Orientation & Welcome Dinner. Arrive in Accra at 8:55am. Meet, greet, and transfer to your hotel. The rest of the day is for rest and relaxation. Fashion designers will come to the hotel to take measurements for those interested in custom tailored African outfits. Late afternoon orientation. Evening transfer to a private home for Welcome Reception, Dinner & African Cultural Performances. Overnight.

Accommodation: Movenpick Ambassador Hotel or Similar

Meals: Breakfast / Dinner

DAY 3: - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10: ACCRA: Accra City Visit.

Breakfast at leisure. Today's sites include the WEB DuBois Center for Pan Africanism & The Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum, a park dedicated to the first President of Ghana. The mortal remains of both Dr. Kwame Nkrumah and his wife Madam Fathia Nkrumah are laid to rest in a tomb at the park. Our visit ends at the Arts Center for shopping. Enjoy dinner at Zen Garden restaurant in town. Return to the hotel. *Accommodation: Movenpick Ambassador Hotel or Similar Meals: Breakfast*



Zen Garden Restaurant-Accra



Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum – Accra

DAY 4: - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11: – ACCRA. *Visit University of Ghana, Department of Music.* Breakfast at leisure. Morning visit to the Shai Hills Nature Reserve. Afternoon visit to the University of Ghana, Department of Music to interact with the faculty and music students. Early evening dinner at The Vine Restaurant with live Jazz Music. Return to the hotel. Prepare for the next day journey to the Central Region.

Accommodation: Movenpick Ambassador Hotel or Similar

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 5: -THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12: - ACCRA/CAPE COAST-CENTRAL REGION: Journey to the historical Central Region. Maafa: Captured Africans Experience. Early breakfast and depart for Cape Coast/Elmina. Arrive and check into your beach-front Hotel. After a brief rest, transfer to the Elmina Castle (the oldest holding facility for captured Africans in West Africa). Be part of an emotional late afternoon visit to the dungeons and pass through the "Door of No Return" (the final exit to the slave ships on the high seas). Many who walk through these compounds of physical cruelties and torture chambers can almost feel the presence of our captive ancestors in their iron shackles and hear voices from the past crying out in anguish. The experience will send chills down your spine and leave an indelible mark on your conscience. Dinner at the hotel. Overnight.

Accommodation: Coconut Grove Beach Resort or similar

Meals: Breakfast / Dinner

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Hans Cottage Restaurant-Built over Crocodile Pond



Coconut Grove Beach Resort, Elmina

DAY 6: -FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13: CAPE COAST/ELMINA: *Maafa: The Experience of Captive Africans /Visit Kankum National Rain Forest Park.* After breakfast, we'll visit the Cape Coast Castle to experience the museum and see the one room cell where Queen Mother Yaa Asantewaa the Ashanti female warrior was incarcerated before being sent to the Seychelles. Yaa Asantewaa led the battle against the British Colonialists over the Ashanti Golden stool. Afternoon adventure at Kankum National Rain Forest Park. Challenge yourself to walk the seven bridges over the rain forest. Dinner at Lemon Beach Resort Restaurant. Return to the hotel. Overnight

Accommodation: Coconut Grove Beach Resort or similar Meals: Breakfast



Kankum National Rain Forest – Cape Coast

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DAY 7: – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14: CAPE COAST: Free day to spend as you wish. Optional-Naming Ceremony. Breakfast at leisure. Spend the day relaxing at the Beach Front Hotel. Naming Ceremony. Those who want to participate in the Naming Ceremony should bring white outfits to wear for the ceremony. Note: The cost is an additional \$45.00 per person. At the appointed time, (usually before sunrise) the participants, in their white outfits, would be asked to line up on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean, barefooted, at the commencement of the ceremony. Dinner at the hotel. Prepare for the next day departure for Kumasi, Ashanti Region. Overnight Accommodation: Coconut Grove Beach Resort or similar Meals: Breakfast

Ghanaian Cuisine Adventure











DAY 8: -SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15: CAPE COAST/ KUMASI-ASHANTI REGION: Journey to the Ashanti Region, the Cultural Center of Ghana. Visit the River of Last Bath & the Ancestral Graves. Shopping at the Ashanti Craft Villages: Very early breakfast and depart for Kumasi, Capital of the legendary Ashanti Nation and the Cultural heart of Ghana. On our way, we'll visit the River of Last Bath & the Ancestral Graves, where the captured Africans took their last bath before entering the dungeons. On the compound are the ancestral graves of the two Sarcophaguses, Crystal a Jamaican woman who fought against racism and Samuel Carson an African American Naval officer whose skeletal remains were brought back through the "Door of No Return" in August 1998 and rejoined with their ancestors at the last bath. There is no longer the "Door of No-Return"; it is now the "Door of Return". Continue the journey to Kumasi. Arrive and check into your hotel. Dinner at the hotel. Overnight.

Accommodation: Lancaster Hotel or Similar

Meals: Breakfast / Dinner



DAY 09: -MONDAY, DECEMBER 16: KUMASI: Visit Manhyia Palace Museum, National Cultural Center, Shopping Kejetia Market. Breakfast at leisure. We begin the day with a visit to the Manhyia Royal Palace Museum. This old palace, which is now a museum, contains a collection of historical Asantehene relics dating as far back as the first King of the Ashantis; His Majesty Nana Osei Tutu Opemsoo, who was crowned in 1701. Thereafter, we'll visit Kejetia Open Air Market for shopping. We'll then transfer to the National Cultural Center to visit the Museum dedicated to Prempeh II a Royal Ashanti King of the Ashanti Empire. Dinner at Ike's Cultural Village Restaurant. Return to the hotel. Prepare to the next day journey to Ho, Volta Region. Overnight.

Accommodation: Lancaster Hotel or Similar

Meals: Breakfast / Dinner

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Lancaster Hotel - Kumasi



The Royal King of the Ashanti Nation

Kente Weaving Village – Bonwire

DAY 10: -TUESDAY: DECEMBER 17: KUMASI/HO, VOLTA REGION: Journey to the Volta Region. Visit Kente weaving village of Agortime-Kpetoe. Have an audience with the chiefs, subject to their availability: Early breakfast. Morning departure on our journey through the scenic, rolling hills along the Volta Lake to Ho, regional capital of the Volta region. Situated among the majestic mountains, and the

breath-taking floral green hills, this region of Ghana is by far the most beautiful in terms of scenery and natural landscape endowment. Arrive and check into the Volta Serene Hotel, situated on the misty hills of Volta Lake. Afternoon visit to Agortime Kpetoe Kente Craft Center. The visit will afford you the chance to witness the Kente fabric weaving and to purchase directly from the artisans. Dinner at the hotel. Overnight

Accommodation: Volta Serene Hotel or similar

Meals: Breakfast / Dinner



Volta Serene Hotel – Ho

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DAY 11: – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18: HO/HOHOE: Visit Wli Waterfalls & Monkey Sanctuary. Early breakfast and we proceed through the magnificent vegetation and flora of the region on our way to the Wli Waterfalls, the highest and most consistent Falls in Ghana. Legends have it that the water from the falls purifies your soul and cleanses you of any ailments you may have. So, you are welcome to bring your swimsuit for a dip. We'll take a break on our way to visit the village of Tafi Atome to observe the true Sacred Mona Monkeys in their natural habitat. Believing that the monkeys are Messengers to the gods and their protectors, the Chiefs, and the people of Tafi have been protecting the Monkeys for over 200 years. The monkeys are very friendly, but you need bananas for them to come to you. Our journey thereafter continues to the town of Wli where we will cross the eleven log bridges of River Agamatsa to get to the Waterfalls. Note: Recommend we pack lunch from the hotel to have a picnic by the waterfalls poolside. Early evening return to the hotel. Dinner.

Accommodation: Volta Serene Hotel or similar Meals: Breakfast



Wli Waterfalls, Wli-Agamatsa

DAY 12: - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19 HO: Free day for leisure and relaxation

Breakfast at leisure. The rest of the day is for rest and relaxation. Transportation will be available for any activities selected by the travel leader. Dinner at the hotel. Prepare for the next day journey to Accra. *Accommodation: Volta Serene Hotel or similar Meals: Breakfast*



Sacred Mona Money Sanctuary, Tafi Atome

DAY 13: – FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20: ACCRA/USA. *Journey back to Accra/Visit Aburi Botanical Gardens*. Breakfast at leisure, check out of the hotel and depart for Accra. Visit Aburi Botanical Graden on the way. Arrive and transfer to your hotel to check-in. Dinner at the hotel or the Living Room Restaurant. Prepare for the next day journey back home. Overnight.

Accommodation: Movenpick Ambassador Hotel or Similar Meals: Breakfast

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Aburi Botanical Gardens

DAY 14: – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21: ACCRA/WASHINGTON, USA: Prepare for your journey back to the USA. Breakfast at leisure Pack your bags and prepare for your evening flight back home. Check out of the hotel by 12 noon. You may ask the front desk for a late check-out, subject to approval. Enjoy leisure time until the transfer to the airport around 5pm. United Airlines flight UA 997 departs from Accra at 11:45pm.

Accommodation: None

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 15 – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22: ACCRA/WASHINGTON: *Arrival*. Arrive in Washington at 6:20am *All too soon, you are back home, with memories of a lifetime.*

RATES:

\$3988.00: All-inclusive land package: Per person, Double Occupancy. \$1657.00: Additional Estimated Airfare -Subject to availability \$766.00: Additional payment for Single room supplement

NOTE: This quotation is based on 15 persons or more. Single supplement charge will be paid by anyone who occupies a room alone (without a roommate) whether by choice or otherwise. An increase in airfare or airport taxes would be reflected in the final package cost.

Suggested payment plan:

Initial non-refundable deposit of \$500.00 due now with registration form to hold your space.2nd pmt, 01 Jul. - \$698.003rd pmt, 01 Aug. - \$698.004th pmt. 01 Sep. - \$698.005th pmt, 01 Oct. - \$698.00Final pmt. 01 Nov. - \$698.00Add \$766.00 Single room supplement (If applicable}

<u>All inclusive package :</u>

Round-trip air fare from Washington to Accra Round-trip transfers to hotel and airport Hotel accommodation with daily Breakfast & other stated meals (Double Occupancy) Orientation, Welcome Reception, Cultural Display & Fashion Show (Group size must be at least 15) Air-conditioned Coach Ground Transportation in Ghana Professional Travel Guide Services & Travel site Fees Accommodation and Airport taxes Complimentary Visa Service. (Ghana Single Entry Visa Fee: \$85.00) ****Optional Travel Protection Insurance Available

REGISTRATION FORM

Please register me for Travel Code <u>SKHU-15D/GH 2024</u>. GHANA Journey (Dec 08 – 22, 2024). Departure Cities: WASHINGTON Return Cities: WASHINGTON

I<u>MPORTANT NOTICE</u>: Valid Passport is required when traveling outside of the United States. Depending on the countries being visited, entry visas may also be required. We provide complimentary visa service, however visa fees charged by the embassies together with passport size photos must be submitted with your visa applications. YELLOW FEVER INNOCULATION is needed to enter most African countries. Please check with your physician.

A check for the required non-refundable deposit of \$300.00 per person is enclosed. For accurate posting, please write the above-mentioned travel code on all checks, tendered for payments. Note: Credit/debit cards are accepted but would attract 4% bank service charge.

NAME: (As it appears c	n your passport)		
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