

# Ghana to host Africa Travel Association 31st World Congress



Years before we set foot in West Africa, we had met many Ghanaians in our own community, and found them to be one of the most outgoing, friendly races of people on the planet. So you can imagine our great pleasure to hear the good news that ourselves and several hundred travel industry colleagues will be returning to Ghana for the Africa

Travel Association (ATA) 31st International Congress in Accra, May 2006. Judging from the warm welcome and outstanding success of the historic ATA-WTO World Congress in 1999, (see photo opposite) a large, enthusiastic gathering is expected. Like many other travelers who know their way around, we heard the expression that "Ghana is the smile on the face of Africa." This was confirmed by our two week stay in the country during We were impressed by the way the City of Accra had prepared for the new millennium, creating a modern infrastructure of wide highways, overpasses and boulevards, plus buildings, stadia and convention facilities any nation would be proud of.

## Golden Tulip Hotel

Congress headquarters will be the Golden Tulip Hotel, one of West Africa's most popular conference locations (photos on this page). On our last visit, several new upscale hotels and lodges were under construction in Accra, and we look forward to seeing the results. Stories of the sights we saw in Ghana and the wonderful friends we met, would fill volumes. Koforidua and the colorful Durbar ceremonies was a day to remember. Our scenic motor coach trip along the Cape Coast, with its historic forts, definitely calls for an encore, as well as the Kakum National Forest, with its six swinging bridges. Historic Kumasi, with its royal palace and weavers of famous Kente designs. Among our many purchases while in Ghana were two multicolored Kente cloth caps, which stood the test of time, and attract attention wherever we go. They are part of our African costume at travel trade shows in North America, and we could have sold them many times in the past years. What we encountered en route, along the highways and byways is a story in itself. Small wonder we kept running out of film for the cameras.

## Ghana and the African Diaspora

(Courtesy of Joe Nyarko, Sagrenti Tours)

"A darker era saw many of our people, and those of other African lands, leave our shores for the plantations of America and the Caribbean, creating the biggest Diaspora the world has ever seen. Today, citizens of many states around the world still acknowledge and treasure their family links with Ghana, returning to explore those links and to experience the soul of their motherland. Today, come home to Ghana, the gateway to that African Heritage. Our celebrations, with great durbars of chiefs in full regalia, full of dancing and drumming, reverberate with images of our rich cultural traditions and reflect the passage of nature's calendar, so important in the preservation of our culture. Throughout the year and throughout the Country, our people love to celebrate, and the great sights and scenes reflected in these festivals create for every visitor, a memory to be cherished. If you're surprised by all this, you're beginning to get the feel of Ghana. One delightful surprise after another."

## Ghana's Natural Beauty

Nature has been generous to Ghana. Few natural attractions can compare with the land of Ghana. National Parks, such as the rain forest of Kakum, or the broad Savannah of Mole, are havens for indigenous flora and fauna, safe from predatory man. Ghana is a bird watcher's paradise and nature lover's delight. Forest walks captivate the senses, as butterflies flit from flower to flower, and shafts of sunlight illuminate tiny orchids and other native flowers. More about Ghana visit [www.africa-ata.org/ghana.htm](http://www.africa-ata.org/ghana.htm)

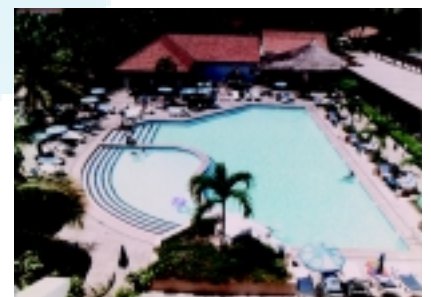


**Exotic Culture**  
**Exciting Nature**



We invite you to join us on an unforgettable journey to West Africa, a region rich in history, tradition and culture - a region whose people are noted for their warmth, friendliness and hospitality. From the legendary Ashanti Kingdom of gold to the vibrant streets of Accra, Ghana's capital. You'll see unspoiled white beaches, historical sites, amazing wildlife parks and forest reserves. You'll experience cultural drumming and dancing that will touch your very soul. Come, relax, enjoy and participate in our exciting tours.

**We Know Ghana and West Africa Best**





**Remember when?** The Africa Travel Association 24th International Congress in Accra, Ghana was truly a standout affair. ATA expects next year's event to attract even more delegates and trade show visitors from 22 ATA African host countries (since 1976) and 23 ATA chapters in the USA, Canada and Africa.

### Ghana's Panafest Celebrations July 24 -August 1, 2005

As part of the ongoing commitment to enhance the historical, cultural and spiritual focus of PANAFEST, the 2005 schedule includes a Pre-Panafest Pilgrimage called "On The Slave Route to Panafest" - Part I of the program allows the participants to experience the courses of the Slave Trade route on the old Gold Coast.

### Ghana Joseph Project

The Ghana Government intends to use the year 2007, 50th Anniversary of the country's independence, to celebrate African excellence and to inaugurate the Joseph Project. Ghana will use the year to bring together, more closely. For details on Panafest, please visit <http://www.panafest.org>

For more about Ghana, visit the Africa Travel Association website- [www.africa-ata.org/ghana.htm](http://www.africa-ata.org/ghana.htm)