

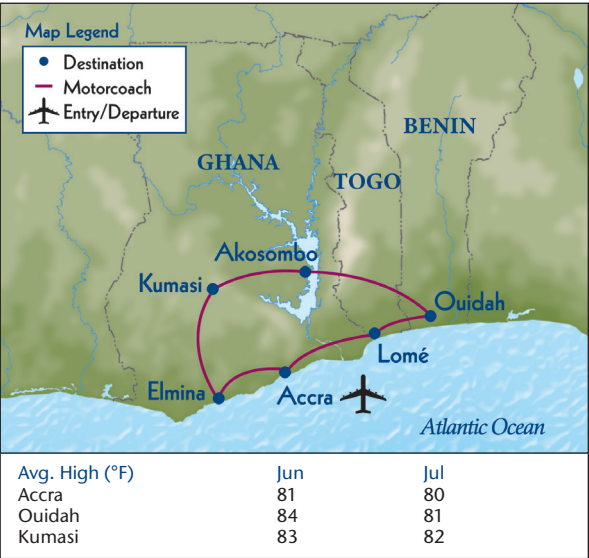
Exclusive Virginia Museum of Fine Arts departure – June 3-18, 2026

# West Africa Discovery

## Ghana, Togo, Benin

**16 days for \$9,479 total price from Washington, DC**  
**(\$8,595 air & land inclusive plus \$884 airline taxes and fees)**

Embark on a fascinating journey through a region brimming with history, culture, and tradition. As we travel to rural villages and coastal cities, we learn about rich artistic tradition and Voodoo religion, about modern life and the shameful history of the slave trade.



**Physical Activity Level**

**3**

**Moderate**

Refer to page 5 for more information.

| Your Tour at a Glance |                           |                                       |                  |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Day                   | Itinerary                 | Hotel                                 | Rating           |
| 1                     | Depart U.S. for Accra     |                                       |                  |
| 2-3                   | Accra                     | Mövenpick Ambassador Hotel            | Deluxe           |
| 4-5                   | Lomé                      | Hôtel 2 Février                       | Sup. First Class |
| 6-7                   | Ouidah                    | Casa del Papa Resort & Spa            | First Class      |
| 8-10                  | Akosombo                  | The Royal Senchi                      | Sup. First Class |
| 11-12                 | Kumasi                    | Oak Plaza Suites                      | First Class      |
| 13-14                 | Elmina                    | Coconut Grove Beach Resort            | First Class      |
| 15                    | Accra/<br>Depart for U.S. | Mövenpick Ambassador Hotel (day room) | Deluxe           |
| 16                    | Arrive U.S.               |                                       |                  |

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.



A Zangbeto masked dancer performs at a Vodun (Voodoo) celebration in Benin.

### Day 1: Depart U.S. for Accra, Ghana

**Day 2: Arrive Accra** Upon arrival in Ghana’s capital, we transfer to our hotel. As guests’ arrival times vary, we have no group activities or meals planned.

**Day 3: Accra** We get our first taste of this colorful and pulsating Atlantic Coast city on our full-day tour. Highlights include the historic Jamestown neighborhood, where we visit a workshop specializing in “fantasy coffins” – unique handcrafted coffins that are collected and displayed in museums worldwide; the W. E. B. Du Bois Center for Pan African Culture, where the American sociologist spent his last years; and fountain- and statue-filled Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park, dedicated to the memory of Ghana’s first president. Tonight, we gather for a welcome dinner. *B,L,D*

**Day 4: Accra/Lomé, Togo** This morning we travel by coach to Lomé, capital and largest city of Togo, the tiny nation known especially for the friendliness of its people, the beauty of its landscapes, and formerly as the Slave Coast for its role as the heart of the slave trade. On this afternoon’s city tour, we stop to visit the Palais de Lomé, the one-time colonial headquarters then government building that fell into disrepair and now has been reborn as an African arts and culture center. We dine together tonight at a local restaurant. *B,L,D*

**Day 5: Lomé** One of the few world capitals that borders another country, Lomé today reflects its German, British, and French colonial past, as we see on our tour of this port city. We visit the Grand Marché, the vast and colorful central market with goods of all kinds, including the famed “Nana Benz” stalls and their textiles. We also see the German-influenced buildings of the colonial period as well as modern architecture. Later, we enjoy a small group highlight: participating in a cooking class at a local restaurant, where we learn about and savor traditional Togolese cooking. *B,L,D*

**Day 6: Lomé/Ouidah, Benin** Our day overflows with a bounty of West Africa’s rich cultural traditions, beginning with the living religion of Vodun (Voodoo), practiced throughout Ghana, Togo, and Benin. In a remote Togolese village, we attend a Vodun ceremony where we observe rhythmic drumming and chanting that evoke the different spirits that guide practitioners. After this fascinating experience, we visit another village to meet with a traditional healer and watch as he treats several patients with age-old local methods. Then we cross the border into Benin, where we stop at a rural settlement to attend a Zangbeto dance performance, with singing, dancing and special demonstrations. Afterwards, we head to our coastal retreat, where we dine together tonight. *B,L,D*



**Day 7: Ouidah/Ganvié** Once an active slave trading port, Ouidah today memorializes its ignoble past with monuments along the Slave Route to the Door of No Return memorial arch, where more than one million Africans were taken to the ships that would bring them in bondage across the Atlantic. We travel this road ourselves on this morning’s enlightening tour. We also visit the Temple of Pythons, housing the snakes important to the Vodun religion. This afternoon, we cross Lake Nokwe by motorboat to the floating village of Ganvié, with its colorful stilt houses. Here, members of the Tofinou ethnic group live much as they did when their ancestors fled to escape the slave trade in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. *B,L,D*

**Day 8: Ouidah/Togo/Akosombo, Ghana** It’s a travel day as we drive from Ouidah via Togo to Ghana. En route we stop in Aného, with its scenic setting between the ocean and Lake Togo. A former slave trading town and capital of German Togoland from 1885-1887 and of the French Occupation from 1914-1920, Aného is now a fishing port known for its churches and architecture. We continue on our journey, crossing the border into Ghana and reaching our hotel late this afternoon. *B,L,D*

**Day 9: Akosombo/Volta Region** We witness some of Ghana’s remarkable scenic beauty on today’s boat excursion on the Volta River past rolling hills and



Local children in Benin

valleys, stopping along the way to meet people in local fishing villages. Then we return to our hotel for a late lunch and an afternoon at leisure. *B,L,D*

**Day 10: Akosombo** We visit a Krobo tribe artisan community today, known for crafting traditional handmade

glass beads. While here, we have the opportunity to try our hand at making these ornaments ourselves. Once known as “trade beads” for their use as currency during the slave trade, today the beads are valued for their beauty and artistry. *B,L,D*

**Day 11: Akosombo/Kumasi** A six-hour drive today brings us to Kumasi, Ghana’s second largest city, historical and spiritual capital of the powerful Ashanti Empire (1670-1957), and modern home of the Asante people. Upon arrival, we begin our exploration of this sprawling city, visiting the Centre for National Culture with its rich collection of Ashanti artifacts, including colorful kente cloth and an authentic reproduction of an Ashanti house. *B,L,D*

“ THE MOON MOVES SLOWLY,  
BUT IT CROSSES THE TOWN.”

– GHANAIAN PROVERB

**Day 12: Kumasi** We continue our discovery of the “Garden City of West Africa” today with a tour of the Manhyia Palace Museum, housing a collection of gold jewels worn by the Ashanti court. After lunch at a local restaurant, we visit an Ashanti village where we learn about traditional clothing and carvings. Later, we engage in a fascinating cultural outing to meet with local Akan people who will bestow on us our Akan names at a time-honored ceremony. *B,L,D*

**Day 13: Kumasi/Elmina** Our enlightening odyssey continues as we drive today to coastal Ghana, the former Gold Coast where enslaved Africans from across the continent were held in forts and castles before being forced onto the ships that would take them to the Americas. Upon arrival in the picturesque fishing village of Elmina, we tour the Cape Coast Castle where more than 500,000 slaves were held between 1662 and 1867. Today, the castle is a UNESCO site that houses a museum documenting the slave trade. *B,L,D*

**Day 14: Elmina** On this morning’s excursion to Kakum National Park, we have the opportunity to experience the rainforest from above on one of the world’s longest and highest canopy walkways. Then we visit 15<sup>th</sup>-century Elmina Castle, a trade settlement whose dungeons held tens of thousands of enslaved persons and today is a UNESCO site and Ghanaian national museum. We also see Elmina’s Posuban Shrines, with their unusual statues with historic roots in Fante tribal culture. Tonight, we celebrate our journey through West Africa at a farewell dinner. *B,L,D*

**Day 15: Elmina/Accra/Depart for U.S.** We return to Accra today, where our day rooms are available to us. This evening, we depart for the airport for our flights to the U.S. *B*

**Day 16: Arrive U.S.** We arrive in the U.S. today and connect with our return flights home.



On Day 7, we visit the Door of No Return memorial in Ouidah.

**Tour Departs: June 3, 2026**

Prices include international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Boston, New York,<br>Washington, DC   | \$9,479 |
| Chicago, Philadelphia   | \$9,779 |
| Atlanta, Dallas,<br>Houston, Los Angeles,<br>San Francisco, Seattle   | \$9,879 |
| Charlotte, Cincinnati,<br>Cleveland, Denver, Detroit,<br>Miami, Minneapolis, Orlando,<br>Phoenix, Portland (OR),<br>Richmond, Tampa | \$9,979 |
| Land Only (transfers not included)  | \$7,995 |

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of \$884, which are subject to change until final payment is made.

Single travelers please add \$1,995. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Business Class upgrade on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: \$6,795 per person in addition to the above costs (upgrade is subject to availability and pricing is subject to change).

**Please note: Visas are required for all three countries visited on this tour. Current fees (subject to change) total \$705. Further information will be provided upon reservation.**

**Your Tour Price Includes**

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
- 13 nights’ accommodations in Deluxe, Superior First Class, and First Class hotels
- 37 meals: 13 breakfasts, 12 lunches, 12 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Mineral water while touring
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers
- \$100 frequent traveler credit towards your next VMFA/Odysseys Unlimited tour (\$200 after 3 tours; \$300 after 10 tours)

## *Important Information About Your Tour*

# General Terms and Conditions

The following is intended to provide you with a description of what to expect when you reserve a tour with Odysseys Unlimited. Upon booking, you will be asked to acknowledge your acceptance of the full Terms and Conditions on My Odyssey, our secure on-line portal.

### Tour Prices

Tour prices quoted are guaranteed through December 31, 2026, and include accommodations based on double occupancy; airfare from your departure city; airline taxes, surcharges, and fees, and port charges and cruise line fees (where applicable), which are subject to change until final payment has been made; internal air, rail, and motorcoach transportation; meals, sightseeing, and transfers as described; hotel taxes; entrance fees for included sightseeing; the services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director; luggage handling for one bag per person; and all gratuities as described below. Please note that the cost of air upgrades is subject to change.

### Gratuities

Tour prices include all gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers on base tours and on optional extensions when accompanied by an Odysseys Unlimited representative. Please note that gratuities for the Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and shipboard personnel (if a cruise is included in your tour) are not included. These tips are optional and should be extended on a voluntary basis. Gratuities are not included on "On Your Own" optional extensions.

### Not Included in Your Tour Price

Airfare from your hometown to your departure city; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; immunizations and inoculations; communications charges; airport transfers when purchasing a land-only package or when selecting alternate tour

arrival and/or departure dates; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and shipboard personnel (if a cruise is included in your tour), which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: \$10-\$15 per guest, per day); and a Travel Protection Plan. Additional baggage fees levied directly by the airline(s) may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

### Registration and Payment

A deposit of \$500 per person confirms your reservation. Full payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure and may be made by personal check or credit card. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. reserves the right to cancel any reservations that are not paid in full at any time after final payment is due. If you make your reservation after the final payment date, payment in full will be required upon reservation.

### Cancellations and Refunds

If you must cancel your tour, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges:

#### *For all tours (except as noted)*

| <u>Prior to departure</u> | <u>Charge</u>     |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 95 days or more:          | \$200             |
| 94-65 days:               | 25% of tour price |
| 64-45 days:               | 50% of tour price |
| 44-30 days:               | 75% of tour price |
| 29-0 days:                | No refund         |

*For Machu Picchu to the Galapagos*

| Prior to departure | Charge            |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 95 days or more:   | \$200             |
| 94-65 days:        | 50% of tour price |
| 64-30 days:        | 75% of tour price |
| 29-0 days:         | No refund         |

Please note that we will not refund the cost of any unused portion of your tour package, should you or your travel companion cancel your participation in the tour. If due to unforeseen circumstances Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. cancels your tour, you will receive a complete refund of all payments you have made to us.

**Pre-Departure**

Upon reservation, you will be able to access all information regarding your tour in My Odyssey, our secure on-line portal. This material includes your invoice, a detailed day-by-day itinerary, visa requirements (if applicable), Travel Protection Plan information, and more. Your final tour documents, including airline itineraries (with e-ticket numbers), will be available in the portal two to three weeks before departure.

**Single Travelers**

We welcome single travelers, and offer a limited number of single accommodations on each tour. Because hotel and cruise rates are priced by the room or cabin, the per person cost for accommodations occupied by one person is higher than that shared by two people. We endeavor to keep single supplements at a reasonable cost. Please note that single rooms in many foreign hotels may be smaller than those to which you are accustomed.

**Changes to Your Reservation**

A fee of \$50 per person will apply to all air-inclusive guests who have chosen an alternate arrival or departure date. Once inside the final payment date for your tour, additional hotel night(s) and/or transfer(s) that you may have added to your reservation are non-refundable. From 94 to 30 days before departure, an administrative fee of \$100 per person will apply to any changes you make to your reservation, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by airlines, hotels, or other third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason or at any time, you will be charged the single supplement. **Please note that no changes**

to your name(s) or departure date are allowed within 95 days of departure. No changes to your reservation can be made within 30 days of departure.

**Required Information**

Upon reservation, we will need to obtain from you the following, in accordance with the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) Secure Flight program (for details, please visit [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov)), as well as for our international travel partners: **your full name as it appears on your passport, date of birth, and gender; for domestic tours – your full name as it appears on the accepted form of government-issued photo identification that you plan to use, date of birth, and gender.** In addition, airlines may require that we provide them with your contact information prior to departure. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, or if you use a different passport than originally cited, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.

**Travel Documents**

A passport valid for at least six months after the completion of your tour is required for U.S. citizens on all of our international tours. For all domestic tours, where we fly into a U.S. city to begin the tour or out of a U.S. city at the end, you must present a valid U.S. government-issued photo identification. Starting on May 7, 2025, your government-issued photo ID must be REAL ID-compliant (or you can present an alternate form of ID, such as a passport). Visit [www.dhs.gov/real-id](http://www.dhs.gov/real-id) or contact your local DMV for more information. If your tour requires a visa(s), we strongly recommend that you have at least six blank visa pages available; for tours not requiring a visa(s), we recommend that your passport have at least three blank visa pages. We will send you specific visa and entry requirements after you make a reservation. You are responsible for obtaining these documents. If you need to obtain a visa, we recommend our preferred provider G3 Global Services. If you are traveling with a minor, please contact us for special entry requirements. If you are not a U.S. citizen, please contact your embassy or consulate to ensure you obtain the proper documentation.

**Health and Medical Issues**

We welcome all travelers, but request that you be in good health to participate in an Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. tour. All of our tours involve a reasonable amount of walking (typically two to



three miles per day), often uphill or on uneven or cobblestone streets. **You must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own as well as keep pace with the tour group.** We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance if you require the use of a wheelchair or have other personal needs; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail us to inquire, and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have.

We ask that all guests review our guidelines for health on tour, which can be found on our website: [www.odysseys-unlimited.com/travel-health](http://www.odysseys-unlimited.com/travel-health).

We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical condition or behavior, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other tour members. In that event, VMFA and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour. While we do our best to accommodate food allergy concerns, we cannot guarantee zero cross-contamination.

### **Travel Protection Plan**

Odysseys Unlimited makes available an optional Travel Protection Plan that is available for purchase until your final payment. We strongly recommend that you protect yourself and your investment in the event you have to cancel or interrupt your tour. Your Plan payment is fully refundable if you cancel outside of the final payment due date. In order to provide you with the most effective coverage, the policy exclusion for “Pre-Existing Conditions” will be waived if you purchase this plan within 14 days of making your initial deposit/payment for your trip and are medically able to travel at the time the plan is purchased. Information on this Travel Protection Plan will be included with your tour confirmation package. To review full plan details please visit [www.tripmate.com/wpGR350](http://www.tripmate.com/wpGR350).

### **Air Transportation**

Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy airfare (except for *National Parks of the Southwest*) from designated departure cities as shown and contracts with those airlines the company feels provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. Airline upgrades at additional cost may be available on request for the round-trip trans-Atlantic

or trans-Pacific portion of your flights. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. **Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments.** Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including, but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, booking the tour “Land Only” is available on most tours. Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own travel arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.

### **Responsibility**

The liability of VMFA, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. VMFA and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchase transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. VMFA and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including, without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise lines, and other independent suppliers.

We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary or staff changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality. Cruise itineraries may change due to factors such as government regulations, water levels, or weather conditions.

**VMFA Member Travel reserves the right to use photos that might include you in marketing materials and for other purposes unless you specify otherwise.**



## RESERVATION FORM

To reserve your place on tour, **please call Odysseys Unlimited toll-free at 888-370-6765**. Please have the information outlined below available to share with an Odysseys Unlimited Travel Counselor.

*If you prefer*, you may also complete this Reservation Form and mail it to Odysseys Unlimited's office. Upon receiving your request, a Travel Counselor from Odysseys Unlimited will contact you within two business days to review the tour information and provide you with a secure link to enter your credit card information. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA, or by personal check. If paying by check, please make check payable to **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.** and include with the form. Final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure.

Send to: **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.**

**Attn: Special Interest Groups**

**One Newton Place**

**275 Washington Street, Suite 300**

**Newton, MA 02458**

Tour Name \_\_\_\_\_

Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_

Pre- or Post-Tour Extension (as described on tour page): Please sign me/us up ☐

I/We would like to request \_\_\_\_\_ place(s). (Deposit amount is \$500 per person.)

Full Passport Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Full Passport Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Badge Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Please book my/our air from \_\_\_\_\_ I/We request an air upgrade to \_\_\_\_\_

I will share a room with \_\_\_\_\_ I request a single room (limited availability) ☐

I/We request an upgrade to a Highland Villa (for *Machu Picchu* to the *Galapagos* only) ☐