

West Africa Discovery Ghana, Togo, Benin

16 days from \$9,779 total price from Boston, New York, Wash, DC
 (\$8,895 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.



A Zangbeto masked dancer performs at a 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. Dubois Center for Pan Africanism, 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” and their textiles. We also see the neoclassical 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, as 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 voodoo (Vodun), practiced particularly along the coasts of Togo and Benin. In a remote Togolese village, we attend a voodoo 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 time-honored methods. Then we cross the border into Benin, where we stop at a rural settlement to attend a Zangbeto mask dance performance, with singing, dancing and special demonstrations. Afterwards, we head to our coastal retreat, where we dine together tonight. *B,L,D*

Physical Activity Level



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	Hotel 2 Fevrier	Sup. First Class
6-7	Ouidah	Casa del Papa Resort & Spa	First Class
8-10	Akosombo	The Royal Senchi Hotel and Resort	Sup. First Class
11-12	Kumasi	Oak Plaza Suites	First Class
13-14	Elmina	Coconut Grove Beach Resort	First Class
15	Accra/ 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.

Day 7: Ouidah/Ganvié Once an active slave trading port, Ouidah today memorializes its ignoble past with monuments along the Slave Road 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 voodoo 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 18th 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 a 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 now is 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, the beads today 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 National Cultural Centre with its rich collection of Ashanti artifacts, including colorful kente cloths, set in an authentic reproduction of an Ashanti house. *B,L,D*

“TRAVELING WITH UCLA ALUMNI TRAVEL AND ODYSSEYS UNLIMITED IS A GREAT WAY TO TRAVEL TO PARTS OF THE WORLD WHERE INDEPENDENT TRAVEL WOULD BE A CHALLENGE.”

— ANN ’62 AND BOB NEESON

Day 12: Kumasi We continue our discovery of the “Garden City of West Africa” today with a tour of the Royal 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 African 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 1662-1867. 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 the world’s longest and highest canopy walkway. Then we visit 15th-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*



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

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

Tour Departs: September 23, 2026

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

Boston, New York, Washington, DC	\$9,779
Chicago, Philadelphia	\$10,079
Atlanta, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle	\$10,179
Charlotte, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Denver, Detroit, Miami, Minneapolis, Orlando, Phoenix, Portland (OR), Tampa	\$10,279
Land Only (transfers not included)	\$8,295

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 UCLA/Odysseys Unlimited tour (\$200 after 3 tours; \$300 after 10 tours)



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THE SMALL GROUP TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

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; services of a UCLA Lecturer or Host with a minimum of 15 travelers; 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 written 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 Africa's Wildlife, Egypt & the Eternal Nile, Journey through Vietnam, Macbu Picbu to the Galapagos, Southeast Asia Odyssey

<u>Prior to departure</u>	<u>Charge</u>
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 during the tour. If because of low participation 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), 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 will 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), as well as for our travel partners: for **international tours – your full name as it appears on your passport, 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 (international tours) or other form of government issued photo identification (domestic tours) 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. 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.

Smoking

For the convenience of the majority of our travelers, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. has a No Smoking policy (including e-cigarettes and vaping) on all tour buses. We will arrange sufficient rest stops so those who wish to smoke may do so.

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.

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, the UCLA Alumni Association 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.

Air Transportation

Your tour package includes round-trip airfare based on economy class from designated departure cities as shown. Airfares from other cities are available upon request. Airline upgrades at additional cost may be available on request for the roundtrip trans-Atlantic or trans-Pacific portion of your flights.

Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. In addition, we recommend that you not purchase your tickets until final payment is due. The UCLA Alumni Association and Odysseys Unlimited shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from tour cancellations or changes in international gateways, travel dates, or airline schedule changes.

If an air schedule requires an overnight stay in a gateway city, the cost of the overnight will be at your expense. **Please note that seat assignment on your flight is usually done at check-in. Odysseys Unlimited is unable to guarantee any seat assignments.**

When planning our tours, we contract with those airlines that we feel provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer more direct service, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates that enable us to offer you the best possible travel value. Please note that loyalty program mileage credits are issued at the discretion of the airline(s) and may not be available for the flights on your tour. If you prefer to make your own airline reservations, inquire about the "land only" price available on our tours.

Responsibility

The liability of the UCLA Alumni Association, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under its control. It serves only as an agent 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. The UCLA Alumni Association and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within its 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 line, and other independent suppliers. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary 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.

UCLA alum **RESERVATION FORM**

To reserve your place on tour, please complete this Reservation Form and email it to travel@alumni.ucla.edu, or fax to 310-209-4271.

Once this request is received by UCLA Alumni Travel, 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. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure. If paying by check, please make check payable to **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.** and include with the form.

Send to: **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.**
One Newton Place
275 Washington Street, Suite 300
Newton, MA 02458

If you have any questions, please call UCLA Alumni Travel at 310-206-0613 or e-mail travel@alumni.ucla.edu.

<p>Tour Name _____</p> <p>Departure Date _____</p> <p>Pre- or Post-Tour Extension (as described on tour page): Please sign me/us up <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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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 Ph. (_____) _____ Cell Ph. (_____) _____

E-mail _____ 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)

UCLA Alumni Travel is an advantage reserved for UCLA Alumni Association sustaining donors*.

Please select an option below:

- I am currently a sustaining donor.
- I have made a \$100 donation at travel.alumni.ucla.edu/donate.

*Sustaining donors include Gold, Life and Blue Members as well as anyone that has made a qualifying donation of \$100 or more to the UCLA Alumni Association Support Fund in the past year.