

Ghana



General statistics

Population: 24,233,431 (2010 estimate)
Area: 238, 535 Km²
Independence: 6 march 1957 (United Kingdom)
Capital: Accra
Other/previous name: Gold Coast
Government: republic
Administrative language: English
Currency= Ghana cedi (GHS)
GDP: 37,481 billion USD
GDP per capita: 1,542 USD
Calling code: +233
Motto: "Freedom and Justice"
Anthem: God bless our home land Ghana

Minerals: Gold, industrial diamonds, bauxite, manganese, silver, limestone, oil.

Ghana is bordered by Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Togo



History

Ghana was inhabited in pre-colonial times by a number of ancient predominantly Akan kingdoms, including the Akwamu on the eastern coast, the inland Ashanti Empire and various Fante and non-Akan states, like the Ga and Ewe, along the coast and inland. Trade with European states flourished after contact with the Portuguese in the 15th century, and the British established the Gold Coast Crown colony in 1874 over parts but not all of the country.^[10]

The Gold Coast achieved independence from the United Kingdom in 1957, becoming the first sub-Saharan African nation to do so, and the name Ghana was chosen for the new nation to reflect the ancient Empire of Ghana, which once extended throughout much of west Africa. The word *Ghana* means "Warrior King" and is derived from the ancient Ghana Empire. Ghana is a member of the South Atlantic Peace and Cooperation Zone, the Commonwealth of Nations, the Economic Community of West African States, the African Union, and an associate member of La Francophonie. Ghana is the second largest producer of cocoa in the world and is home to Lake Volta, the largest artificial lake in the world by surface area

Climate

The climate in most of Ghana is wet and dry tropical. Wet and dry tropical climates are marked by warm to hot temperatures throughout the year, and abundant rainfall in only one season. This condition is especially noticeable in northern Ghana, because of less annual rainfall and the strictly seasonal nature of the rain. Although this region receives 30 to 40 inches of rain annually, severe dry spells exist from November to March. Most of Ghana receives 40–60 inches of rain annually, characteristic of savanna regions.

A large portion of the West Coast of Africa, and of Central and Eastern Africa, is characterized by this same pattern of rainy seasons and dry seasons (wet and dry tropical climate).

A second climate region exists in southwestern Ghana. It has a rainy tropical climate—hot temperatures throughout the year and abundant rainfall (over 80 inches), well distributed throughout the year. Ghana has warm to hot temperatures throughout the year because of its proximity to the Equator and its relatively low elevation. The average annual temperature in Accra, Ghana, is 80 degrees Fahrenheit (27 degrees Celsius).

The northern section of Ghana has hotter temperatures and some seasonal temperature variations because it is farthest from the moderating influence of the ocean, and closest to the Sahara.

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