



Tourism Geographies and Spatial Distribution of Tourist Sites in Ghana

Pius Siakwah, PhD
Department of Tourism and Hospitality
School of Business and Economics, University of Johannesburg
Email: siakwahp@tcd.ie

Abstract

Appreciating and advertising the spatial distributions of tourist sites is one of the core challenges and opportunities for policy makers and development experts to promoting sustainable tourism sector development in Ghana. This article critically provides picturesque, geographical and spatial uneven distributions or patterns of tourism resources in Ghana in order to try to unpack the key potentials in the country's tourism space. The review is based on a comprehensive analysis of tourism literature and policy documents in Ghana. The goal in this article is thus a modest attempt to provide a picturesque view of the uneven geographies of tourism in Ghana. Trends observed in the country's tourism space in relation to disaggregating groupings destinations or tourism spaces into natural or man-made (socio-cultural heritage) and rural and urban. The analysis showed that tourism sites are distributed spatially in Ghana, and the sites can be classified in natural sites like parks and game reserves, rivers, mountains; and man-made or socio-cultural resources such as castles, museums, cultural heritages, artefacts and historical experiences. These resources are however, are poorly marketed, globally and locally. Effective marketing and coordination among actors and institutions can help promote tourism and sustain it in Ghana for the benefit of the people and future generations.

Keywords: Tourism, geographies, spatiality, distribution, Ghana

Introduction

Tourism has recently been vital in the development in what are termed developing economies. However, since the tourist resources are spatially distributed across spaces in countries, and geographies, this entails understanding the spatial dimensions of tourism and geographical unpacking of the uneven patterns and distribution of resources as key socio-economic development (Rogerson, 2014). There is the need to appreciate how tourism resources are distributed between natural and socio-cultural and urban and rural resources. Basically, tourism with its focus on travel movements and the transfer of peoples, goods and services spatially and temporally is "essentially a geographical phenomenon" (Williams, 2009: 19). Hall (2013: 601), thus observed that geography "has long had a significant place in tourism research". This is to unpack the diverse spatial distribution of tourism resources and their potential impacts, both nationally and locally. In one of the earliest surveys of the literature by geographers, Pearce (1979) identified six major areas of interest for geographical research in tourism – spatial aspects of supply, spatial aspects of demand, the geography of resorts, patterns of movements and flows, tourism impacts, and models of tourist space. Thus, in the 1970s, Pearce (1979: 247) noted that "geography of tourism was mainly concerned with the spatial differentiation of tourism and the recognition of general regularities in its occurrence". Rogerson (2014: 1) a renowned researcher, recently noted that understanding the spatial dimensions of tourism is one of the core challenges



for geographers involved in tourism studies and analysis of uneven patterns of tourism to specifically unpack key trends in tourism space economy.

The World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) 2015 noted that tourism is important to Ghana, representing 6.7% of GDP in 2014 when considered in terms of investment, supply chain effects, and induced income impacts (see Deichmann and Frempong 2016). International visitors to Ghana annually is expected to increase from the current 950,000 to 1.5 million by 2024 (Frimpong-Bonsu 2015). It is posited that international tourism accounts for 5% of Ghana's total employment, and 4.6% of exports (WTTC 2015). Tourism is a key source of foreign exchange, employment and revenues. In 2013, the Travel & Tourism sector directly contributed US\$3.19 billion, representing 6.67% of GDP (Frimpong-Bonsu 2015). Despite its contributions for national development, the tourism sector is faced with various challenges. Kolo and Madichie (2013) examined the key challenges facing small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the Sub-Saharan African (SSA) international tourism marketing strategies, highlights tourism, both domestic and international, in all genres (ecotourism, leisure tourism, medical tourism) as potent forces for economic development in SSA and Ghana. Because of the contribution of tourism to national development, over the past three decades, Ghana has sought to use tourism as means of diversifying its economy. This is line with the re-emerging acceptance of tourism as a pathway to development in developing economies (Boakye et al. 2013). Substantial resources have been invested in tourism by the government and stakeholders, and the sector has had diverse socio-economic impacts in Ghana. Ghana's Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Creative Arts (MOTCCA) ensures the development and promotion of tourism in the country¹. Its role is to 'provide a firm, stable policy environment for effective mainstreaming of Ghanaian culture into all aspects of national life and to ensure the strong emergence of a vibrant creative economy to improve and advance the tourism industry' (MOTCCA 2017).

There is however, limited comprehensive data and marketing of the diverse spatial tourist sites, their location and potentials. This analysis is aimed at providing a comprehensive directory of the various tourist sites, their location, history, unique features and how the tourists can easily navigate the areas for maximum satisfaction. the goal in this paper is modest, namely to provide a picture of the uneven geography of tourism across Ghana. trends observed in the country's tourism space were in relation to disaggregating groupings destinations or tourism spaces into natural or man-made (socio-cultural heritage) and rural and urban. In addition to this introduction, the rest of the paper discussed the context of the study area and research methods; geographies of tourism in Ghana—spatial distribution of natural tourism sites in Ghana (natural parks, game reserves, mountains, rivers and dams); socio-cultural and man-made tourism sites in Ghana, including castles, forts, cultural heritage, monuments and museums; and finally, the conclusion summarizes the marketing of spatial distribution of tourism in Ghana.

Context of Study Area and Research Methods

Ghana has a population of 26 million and is situated in West Africa, bounded on the east by Togo, Ivory Coast to the west, the north by Burkina Faso, and the Gulf of Guinea in the south. The country is endowed with gold, diamonds, timber, fish and more recently oil, which are vital to its economy. Besides the natural resources, the country is of significant historical importance with regards to slavery, colonization by the British and emancipation and liberation struggles that were conducted between 1884 and 1957. Ghana has a relatively thriving democracy with diverse natural and historical tourist sites and it is fascinating to analyse the distribution of these tourism resources and their implications for national and local development. The Ministry of Tourism of

¹ <http://www.motcca.gov.gh>



Ghana, exercises overall responsibility and oversight for the tourism sector, working through the Ghana Tourist Board (GTB), its principal implementing agency and the Ghana Tourist Development Company (GTDC), which handles public investments in the sector (Akyeampong 2009: 4).

The methodology employed in this article was qualitative and data for this study was collected from a range of policy documents, reports and published papers such as the Ghana National Tourism Development Plan, Tourism Act, and Cultural Policy. These works were critically reviewed, and the data was thematically analysed through discussing and describing tourism sites, local and potentials based on the themes associated with the tourism resources and sites. Triangulation, the combination of diverse data sources increased the credibility and trustworthiness of the findings.

Geographies of Tourism in Ghana

Tourism has become extremely important in national development, especially for African countries. Most African economies have not fully explored their tourism potentially due to the inadequate development of the sites and marketing. Ghana's tourism has continued to contribute significantly to national development in spite of teeming challenges that confront the sector. Potentially tourists seemed not to be aware of the diverse tourists' sites in the country, both natural tourism sites and rich socio-cultural heritage that could be harnessed. These tourist sites are spatially distributed across space in Ghana. Identifying and understanding the spatial distribution of tourist sites (Fig. 1) in Ghana will help to appreciate how to harness the sector for Ghana's development.

Institutional actors and sectoral collaboration are important in development, coordination and marketing of the various tourist sites for maximum benefits to accrue. Adu-Ampong (2017) noted that institutional collaboration is key to tourism planning and development in Ghana. Three crucial issues that needed to be coordinated included: vision of tourism development shared among stakeholders; collaboration and coordination within the public sector and between the public and private sector; and the factors that constrain or facilitate collaboration and coordination (Adu-Ampong 2017).

In Ghana, there is a low level of collaboration between tourism institutions, within the public and public-private sector actors, notwithstanding a shared awareness among the various institutions and actors of the benefits of collaboration. The main thrust has been the unresolved unplanned nature of tourism in developing countries (Hall, 2008) or the very centralized manner of it (Yuksel et al., 2005; Tosun, 2000; Tosun and Jenkins, 1998). It is clear based on the evidence in the literature that the benefits of tourism can accrue to developing countries if the state encourages participation in the planning process (Hall, 2011, 2008, 1998, 1994; Jeffries, 2001).

Current planning strategies like inclusive, flexible, community-driven and systematic planning aim to sustain tourism as mechanism for socio-cultural and economic development to ensuring lasting benefits to destination countries (Adu-Ampong 2017; Marzuki and Hay, 2013; Simao and Partidario, 2012; Connell, Page and Bentley, 2009; Hall, 2000).

Fig. 1. Tourism Map of Ghana



Tourist Map of Ghana, 2017. Source: <https://goo.gl/images/sq6oGf>, 08/01.2018.



These approaches to tourism planning, while not effortlessly implementable due to socio-cultural factors, provide a framework for encouraging collaboration in the tourism planning and marketing of spatially distributed tourist sites. As a country, tourist sites are spatially distributed making them visible for potential tourists is thus important in efforts to promote the sector for development.

Spatial Distribution of Natural Tourism Sites in Ghana

Ghana has some of the amazing natural sites that can be harnessed for tourism development. These sites are dispersed across the country with unique features, characteristics and potentials/challenges. Over the past 60 years, various governments in Ghana have initiated programmes that are aimed at promoting the various tourist sites scattered across the country. Akyeampong (2009) noted that based on the various policies and attitudes, three epochs can be distinguished over the 50-year period in Ghana: the era of state activism, when the state acted as an entrepreneur (1957–1966); an era of state indifference when economic crisis pushed tourism to the side-lines (1966–1985); and finally, the era of deregulation, where the state has facilitated tourism development through neoliberal economic policies (1985–2007). Currently, there is a focus on collaboration and coordination among and between state and private sector institutions and actors. The Ghana Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission oversees national parks, while the Museums and Monuments Board takes charge of the castles, forts and other heritage sites and private sector actors such as the hotel, transport and service providers has been active in compliment state efforts in tourism development. Boakye, Annim and Dasmani (2013) observed that travel patterns of Ghanaians bear and inherent hallmarks of domestic tourism, although the degree of travel is low, the frequency of repeat visits is high and social imperatives dominated the motives for travel, while key socio-demographic variables, especially age) were found to influence travel propensities somewhat significantly.

Mole National Park: The Mole National Park is Ghana's largest wildlife protected area with diverse animals and birds. Located 146 km south of east Tamale in Northern Ghana, the Mole National Park established in 1958, covered 4577 km² of protected savannah and forest land. It received its legal status as a national park, however, in 1971 (Akyeampong 2009). Interestingly, the park is an abode to the African elephants, leopards and rare birds such as the white-backed vulture. The Konkori Escarpment in the west of the park has panoramic sights and overlooks waterholes which serves as drinking spaces for animals. There are waterfalls along the Kparia and Polzen rivers in the area. Further, the Larabanga village located in the south of the park has a centuries-old Sudanese-Style Mosque. Also, attractions for tourists are the Safaris in the park – Foot/Drive and Day/Night. The Foot Safari entails walking through the park to view animals/birds like antelope, kobs, elephants, baboons, hartebeests, warthogs, buffaloes and monkeys. Driver Safari comprises a ride on/in a Jeep to observe more animals than when walking because it covers a large space². The Night Safaris are also undertaken into the wild, with a chance to observe nocturnal animals. These safaris are led by armed guides for adventure escorts. Basically, the animals can be observed from the roof of the jeep or the inside. Memorable animals that are likely to be observed on night safari are buffaloes, hyenas, roan antelopes, leopards, elephants and hartebeest. There is also a Tree Hide viewing platform built on strong trees in the park that allows tourists to get a close feel of nocturnal wildlife. Birds' chirpings and the cries of hyenas and baboons are exciting experience for animal lovers in the Mole National Park. In 2013, the Ghana National Tourism Development Plan (GNTDP) (2013–2027) identified that while economic activities such as exploiting oil, cocoa, and gold are important, the tourism sector has increasingly become critical in employment generation and poverty reduction in Ghana by 2027.

² <http://www.molemotelgh.com/dsafari.php>, accessed 12.21.2017.



Kakum National Park: The Kakum National Park is situated in the Central Region of Ghana near Cape Coast. It covers 360 km² of Ghana's dwindling rainforest. Initially established in 1932, it was meant for timber extraction. It was however, officially opened as a national park in 1994 when United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Ghana Government provided support to the Ghana Heritage Conservation Trust to guarantee its sustainability. The park assists to protect the rainforest area that housed some of the endangered mammals such as elephants, bongo antelopes and primates like the Diana Monkey. The Park is also rich in its diversity of butterflies and avian species, including African grey parrots and hornbills. It also has a Canopy Walkway that is suspended 30 meters above the ground and provides treetop sights of the forest and animals. As part of the development of the park in the past, Conservation International (CI) and USAID gave financial and technical assistance for the enhancement of receptive facilities at the Kakum National Park, as well its management (Akyeampong, 2009). Ecotourism, focusing especially on Kakum National Park is promoted as part of the tourism development efforts. Feasibility study and preliminary 5-year management plan for Kakum as an ecotourism destination was conducted under a United Nations Development Program (Dudley, 1995, 1990).

The Nzulezo Village: Nzulezo Village (Nzulezu) is situated near Beyin village in Jomoro District, 90km west of Takoradi, Western Region. Nzulezo overlooks and built over Lake Tadane on silts and platforms. The settlements consist of stilt-supported structures which are integrated seamlessly with the water-dominated natural landscape. The main economic activity of the inhabitants in the area is agriculture, and fishing is also important, but it is principally a secondary activity. This raises questions why Nzulezo is built over the water in the first place. However, according to the locals, the lake protects them against certain risks such as fire. In 2000, Nzulezo was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and has been major tourist attraction site in Ghana. The village was nominated as a World Heritage Site due to its status in anthropology circles, additionally it is one of the few ancient settlements on stilts and platforms left globally. Nzulezo preserves a wealth of local traditions connected with the cult and customs of Lake Tadane. The bank of the lake is the site of religious rites, and Thursday are observed as sacred day. It is forbidden to use and work on the lake on this specific day. Recently the area is opened to tourism though with constraints, with visitations allowed only once a week). Nzulezo is also mainly reached by canoe. Uniquely however, despite being located on a lake, the village has a church and school situated in the area.

Aburi Botanical Gardens: The Aburi Botanical Gardens is located in Aburi in the Eastern Region of Ghana. It occupies 0.648 km² of land area and was opened in March 1890. Before the garden was established in 1890, the area was the site of a sanatorium built in 1875 for the then Gold Coast Government officials. Governor William Branford-Griffith, a Basel Missionary cleared that land around the sanatorium to start the Botanica Department. The gardens played a significant role in encouraging cocoa production in Southern Ghana, by supplying cocoa seedlings and information about scientific farming methods to farmers. After *Hevea brasiliensis* was introduced to Aburi from Kew Gardens in London in 1893, the garden was used to promote rubber production. The unique arrangement of the trees and relatively cold environment is conducive for tourists, especially international ones, when the general weather in Ghana is extremely hot often rising to 40 degrees centigrade in summer

Volta Lake and Akosombo Dam: The Lake Volta is a largest man-made lake in terms of surface area contained behind the Akosombo Dam in Ghana. It covers a surface area of 8,502km² and 3.6% of Ghana's land area, with a catchment area of 385,180 km², shore length of 4,800 km and inflows from Black, and White Volta. With a water storage capacity of 124,000,000 acre-feet, the Lake Volta is one of the largest man-made lakes in the world. Lake Volta is the world's third largest man-made lake by volume. The lake is formed due to the construction of the Akosombo Dam was



first conceived by the geologist Albert Ernest Kitson in 1915, but actual construction commenced in 1961 and completed in 1965. Ghana's first president, Kwame Nkrumah aimed to use the power from the dam to promote industrialization. The Akosombo Dam is a hydroelectric dam on the Volta River in a gorge at Akosombo, managed by the Volta River Authority. The construction of the dam flooded part of the Volta River Basin, leading to the subsequent creation of the Lake. Its initial main purpose was to provide electricity for the Volta Aluminium Company (VALCO) at Tema in Ghana. Original power output was 912 megawatts, but it was upgraded to 1,020 megawatts in a retrofit project in 2006. The dam supplies electricity for most of Ghana and some export to Togo and Benin in the past for foreign exchange. The flooding however, that created the reservoir displaced most locals and had a significant environmental impact. It is estimated that 78,000 people were relocated to entire new towns/villages. A further 120 buildings were destroyed from flooding of 7,800 km² of land area. Lake Volta is important means transportation through ferries and cargo watercraft. Lake Volta has a vast population of fish. It has a tourist sites where tourist cruises (Dodi Princess) visit, including the Dodi Island. Dodi Island is 5km off the shore of Lake Volta. Islands within the lake are Dodi, Dwarf, Kporve, and Digya National Park within lies on the west shore of the Lake Volta. Frimpong-Bonsu (2015) noted that tourist sites such as the lake can be exploited and marketed to promote national development.

Digya National Park: The Digya National Park is the second largest national park and the oldest protected area in Ghana, located in the Brong-Ahafo Region. It was created in 1900, but gained national park status in 1971. At the time when the government acquired the park, there were settlements in the area – mostly fishermen and farmers. There is still some encroachment of the park. In 2006, 49 settlements were evicted. A patrol-based system was established in 2005 to curb illegal activities in a park that is the only wildlife territory to border the Volta Lake in Ghana. The park is home to primate species and elephants belonging to some of the less studied species in Africa. The area has the second largest elephant population in Ghana, with more than 236 bird species. It is an interesting natural habitat for holiday makers.

Lake Bosumtwi (Bosomtwe) is the only natural lake in Ghana. The lake is situated within an ancient impact crater, about 10.5 km in diameter and it is estimated to be 1.07 million years old (Pleistocene period) (Mohammed 2014). It is about 30km of Kumasi, the capital of Ashanti Region and a famous recreational area. There are about 30 villages near the lake, with a combined population of 70,000. The Ashanti people consider Lake Bosumtwi as sacred. According to traditional belief, the souls of the dead come to the lake to bid farewell to the god, Asase Ya. Because of this, it is only permissible to fish in the lake from wooden planks. The legends say that in 1648, an Ashanti hunter, Akora Bompe from the city of Asaman was chasing an injured antelope through the rainforest, and suddenly the animal disappeared in a small pond. This body of water saved the animal's life and the hunter never got the antelope. The hunter settled close to the water and started catching fish from the pond. This place he named 'Bosomtwe', meaning 'antelope god'. The large dead trees standing offshore of the lake, are assumed to be over 300 years old. There is a traditional taboo against touching the water with iron, and modern boats are considered inappropriate as well. Current environmental challenges, including overfishing, growing population increased demand for fish and farming along the banks also threatens the lake's sustainability. The lake is a popular resort, with locals swimming there, and also going fishing and taking boat trips on it.

Boti Falls is a twin waterfall (male and female) located at Boti in Yilo Krobo District in the Eastern Region of Ghana. Boti Falls is located 17km north-east of Koforidua. River Pawnpawn which forms the falls takes its source from Ahenkwa-Amalakpo before falling over the igneous rock outcrop at the Boti Langmase (origin of the fall's name). It is noted that the fall was hidden in the forest until it was discovered by a white catholic priest, and he used the base of the falls as an



entertainment ground³. The upper falls and lower falls (male and female) are unique features of the Boti Falls. When the volume of the water is high during the rainy season, the two falls (male and female) meet at 'a mating ceremony'. This ceremony is 'graced' by a rainbow that is often formed by the splashing water. In order for visitors to observe such beautiful 'mating' ceremony, they have to descend over 70 steps. The steps offer exercise for tourists and the plunge pool formed at the base of the falls is refreshing for cooling down for tourists who want to take a bath. Two other attractions that can be of interest for visitors are the Umbrella Rock and the Three-Head-Palm Tree. The Umbrella Rock at Boti Falls can shelter 12 to 15 people. Tourists visit the place yearly to have a feel of nature – the Fall, Umbrella Rock, and Three-Head-Palm Tree.

Wli Waterfalls: The Wli Waterfall is located 20km of Hohoe in the Volta Region. It is the highest waterfall in West Africa, with a height of 80 meters. Locally, the fall is called 'Agumatsa' waterfalls – "*Allow Me to Flow*". The Ewe for the area has a rich culture that adds to the beautiful waterfall. A walk through the forest of the Agumatsa wildlife sanctuary offers a chance to see a large colony of fruit bats, butterflies, birds, monkeys and baboons. A large colony of bats can be viewed clinging to the cliffs and flying in the sky. The stunning and mesmerizing nature of the waterfall and the serenity of the environment is unique, and this attracts tourists globally. The Waterfall Lodge sits on a terrace for a magnificent view of the beautiful waterfall and Ghana's highest summit, Mount Afadjato (880m). There are some tasty local foods and opportunities to explore the beautiful surroundings through either walking or biking.

Mount Afadja is the highest mountain in Ghana, with an elevation of 885m. The mountain is situated in the Agumatsa Range in the Volta Region, Ghana at Togo's border. It also overlooks the Volta Lake. Basically, 'Afadja' is the name of the mountain, whereas 'to' in Ewe means mountain, hence, it is called 'Afadjato' by the indigenes. Thus, the correct name is 'Mount Afadja' since 'Mount Afadjato' will be a repetition. The name of the mountain is derived from the Ewe word *Avadzeto*, meaning "at war with the bush" due to an alleged presence plant causing skin irritation by the mountainside. The nearby peak, Aduadu (900m) is higher than Afadjato. The nearby Tagbo Falls and Wli Falls are also tourist attractions.

Kintampo Waterfalls: The Kintampo Waterfalls (known as Sanders Falls during the colonial period) is one of the highest waterfalls in Ghana. It is located on the Pumpum River, a tributary of the Black Volta, 4km north of Kintampo on the Kumasi-Takoradi Road. This waterfall, one of the main natural attractions in the area, is hidden in the forest and it is formed by 3 main drops, where the longest drop measures 25m in height, and after several steps and cascades, the river falls about 70m. It is an interesting space for tourists, both local and international.

Tafi Atome Monkey Sanctuary is a popular ecotourism project in the Volta Region. The Mona Monkeys are native to the area, and are traditionally considered sacred. However, as residents converted to Christianity, the taboo on killing monkeys are ignored, leading to declining numbers. In view of the ecotourism potential based on the monkeys in the area, the village worked with American Peace Corps Volunteers to establish a sanctuary. Proceeds from the Tafi Atome Ecotourism Project are being reinvested in the community, including construction of a medical clinic. There is a guesthouse on site and food services are provided as well. Excellent guided tours of the forest and its monkeys are provided to tourists by professional area experts.

Paga Crocodile Pond is a sacred pond in Paga, 44km outside Bolgatanga in the Upper East Region, Ghana. It is inhabited by West African Crocodiles with some of them up to 90 years old. Due to the friendliness of the reptiles, it is a popular site among tourists and the pond currently relies on tourism to ensure the feeding of the crocodiles remain fed and healthy. The crocodiles are so tame that local children swim in the pond alongside them. The locals ascribe the origin of the

³ <http://touringghana.com/boti-falls/>, accessed 12.21.2017.



pond to once a dying man who was brought to the pond and survived after drinking from the pond, hence it was declared as sacred and that no harm should be done to the crocodiles. Another story stated that a man was trapped against a water's edge by a lion, and he bargained with a crocodile that none of his children would harm its kind if it would kill the lion. It is also believed that the souls of the people of Paga resides in the crocodiles. It is an offence to kill crocodiles or eat their meat in Paga. The crocodiles at Paga are very friendly and visitors can sit, touch and also take photographs with them. The crocodiles roam freely throughout the ponds, and are brought to the shore when the guides whistle loudly. Tourists can then take photographs while holding the crocodile's tails, after feeding them with a chicken. Other tourist attractions in the area include the Paga-Nania Slave Camp, the mystery Dam of Kayoro (Kukula) and the Nasaga Game Reserve.

The Kumasi Zoo (Kumasi Zoological Garden) is in the heart of Kumasi, Ashanti Region. The zoo occupies 1.5km² (370-acre) area between the Kejetia Bus Terminal, Race Course and the Kumasi Centre of National Culture. The zoo was established in 1951 and officially opened in 1957 by the Asanteman Council to conserve nature and display indigenous wild animals. It has 40 distinct species of animals, with individual animals numbering over 135. The zoo exhibits about 60 animal species, including buffalo, chimpanzees, primates, elephants, lions, reptiles and birds⁴. A notable feature of the zoo is the thousands of bats that rest on trees in the area. Ghana's wildlife assets are basis to expanding ecotourism, additionally to cultural and historical attractions.

Shai Hills Resource Reserve is located along the Tema–Akosombo Road. It is 17km of Accra, making it the closest wildlife reserve to the capital. The reserve is in Doryumu in the Shai-Osudoku District, Greater Accra Region and populated with monkeys. It was established in 1962 with an area of 47 km². It was made a Game Production Reserve in 1971. The protected area was home to the Shai people before they were ejected by the British in 1892. The monkeys are a beauty to watch for tourists.

Achimota Forest Reserve is in the heart of the City of Accra. But the land area recently has been competing with city dwellers for space recently. It is now a place for prayer camps, walking and training grounds for certain security companies. The Achimota Eco-Park Concept provides an opportunity for eco-tourism and environmentally-friendly venture worthy of development⁵.

The Legon Botanical Gardens was established in 1950. The 50-hectare expanse of greenery that recently underwent a makeover, added a creative play centres, 110-kilometer canopy walkway for a repertoire of family-friendly activities in a beautiful, dynamic outdoor forest and space. Nature and fun collide at the Legon Botanical Gardens. Originally, the Legon Botanical Gardens covering approximately 123 acres of land is mainly for scientific research for the Department of Botany of the University of Ghana. They contain plant unique species of the tropics and semi-tropics, including a collection of palms. In addition to the plants, landscaping and horticultural services, there are facilities in the gardens for picnics for various social groups.

Beaches and Resorts: Beaches and resorts are unique relaxation spaces in Ghana. Notable ones included–Labadi Beach Resort (La Pleasure Beach) and Bojo Beach (Accra), Sajuna Beach (Atimpoko, Eastern Region), Coconut Glove Resorts (Accra and Elmina–Central Region), and Ada Beach (Greater Accra). These natural resources located across Ghana, and complimented by socio-cultural heritage and monuments make the country a unique place for tourists.

⁴ <http://ghananet.weebly.com/kumasi-zoo.html>, 12.21.2017.

⁵ <http://www.fcghana.org/page.php?page=283§ion=0&typ=0&subs=286>, 12.21.2017.



Socio-Cultural and Man-Made Tourism Sites in Ghana

The rich social, cultural, political, historical and natural resources of Ghana are important tourism resources that can be harnessed for development. These tourist sites are spatially distributed across Ghana. Castles, forts and rich diverse custom and heritage sites are key tourist potentials. Recognizing the unique importance in national development, the World Heritage Convention of UNESCO has designated Ghana's castles, forts and noteworthy monuments and cultural spaces as World Heritage Monuments. The World Bank and the UNDP are involved in Ghana's tourism development efforts through the provision of infrastructure, while the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) and UNESCO sponsored the Slave Route Project, that was launched in 1995 in Ghana to preserve and documents relics of the Atlantic Slave Trade to break the silence on slavery and sensitize current generations on the trade and its impacts (Akyeampong, 2009). Marketing these historical sites, monuments and relics are vital for the country's future sustainable tourism development.

Elmina Castle: The Elmina Castle (Feitoria da Mina) is one of the castles that were built in Africa by the Portuguese. In 1481, King João II decided to build a fort on the coast of Ghana to protect the trading routes of the royal monopoly. The Elmina or São Jorge da Mina (St. George of the Mine) Castle was built in 1482 in the coast town of Elmina. It is first European slave-trading post in Sub-Saharan Africa (Sonne, 2010; George, 2003). Trade between Elmina and Portugal (and the rest of Europe) grew throughout the decade following the establishment of the trading post. The building materials for the fort were shipped to the Gold Coast. These supplies included heavy foundation stones, pre-fitted form roof tiles and six hundred men (mostly local labour). Elmina Castle originally served a hub for gold trade (hence, the name 'Elmina' – the mine). But by the 1500, the castle had also become a slave trading base. Persons captured from the interior of the Gold Coast, and the rest of the continent were held as prisoner in the castle and shipped to the colonies. In 1637 however, the Dutch took over the castle, and continued to use it as part of their slave trade operations until 1814, when the practice was abolished by the Netherlands. Established as a trade settlement, the castle came the hub of Atlantic Slave Trade, serving as a depot for slaves mostly sold to the Americas. Elmina Castle, thus played a significant part in the West African Slave Trade (Sonne, 2010).

The castle acted as a depot where slaves from different Kingdoms in West Africa, were often captured in the interior by the slave-catchers and sold to the Portuguese in exchange for goods such as textiles and horses. The castle's infamous 'Door of No Return' serves as a reminder of how humans were transported and resold in the Americas and other colonies. Slaves were shackled and crammed into the castle's dank, poorly ventilated and dark dungeons. The floor of the dungeon was often littered with human waste due to poor sanitation and inadequate water supplies. The men were separated from the women, and the captors regularly raped the helpless women. Beyond the 'Door of No Return', there is a small tunnel that leads through the walls of the castle and out to the boats, and proceed to the courtyard, standing in front of a heavy black door with a skull and cross bones carved over it where rebellious prisoners were locked without food or water to die of dehydration⁶.

In 1872, the Dutch Gold Coast, including the Elmina Castle became a possession of the British Empire. Britain colonised the Gold Coast until independence was granted in 1957, and the castle was handed over to Ghana. Currently, Elmina Castle is a famous historical sit and a key filming location for Werner Herzog's 1987 drama film on the slave trade – *Cobra Verde*. In 1979, it was

⁶ <http://www.travelmag.com/articles/ghanas-elmina-castle/>, 12.21.2017.



designated as UNESCO World Heritage Site⁷. Touring the castles in Ghana conjures up images of a horrific and decadent past, and Elmina Castle provides more sordid story. The castle is worthy to tour, both in memory of those who passed through its gates and as a reminder against future atrocities. Prominent structure visible in the courtyard of the castle is the church, 500m away from male slave dungeons. Elmina Castle is preserved as a Ghana National Museum and it was designated as a World Heritage Monument under UNESCO in 1979. It is a pilgrimage place for African Americans to reconnect with cultural heritage.

Cape Coast Castle: The Cape Coast Castle (originally called Carolusburg) is a European-built fortress situated on the central coastline of Ghana. Since its initial construction in 1652, it served as a trading post for European nations and the seat of British colonial administration of the Gold Coast⁸. Cape Coast Castle is one of about forty 'slave castles or forts' built on the Gold Coast (Ghana) by European traders. The first fortification at this site out of wood was in 1653 by the Swedes. In 1654, the castle was rebuilt with stone. And though it was originally built for trade in timber and gold, it was later turned into a Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade post. Caerloff, in 1650 succeeded in acquiring permission of the King of Fetu to establish a fort at Cabo Corso (meaning 'Short Cape' in Portuguese, later corrupted as 'Cape Coast' in English). The control of the castle exchanged hands between the Dutch and Fetu chiefs. After death of the Fetu King in 1663, the Dutch permanently occupied it. The British, however captured in 1664 during the prelude to the Second Anglo-Dutch War, reinforced and named it 'Cape Coast Castle'. It became the capital of British Gold Coast. The English Chartered Company of Adventurers expanded and strengthened the fort to be comparable in size and strength with the nearby Elmina Castle.

The castle is also of other historical prominence. In the early 1750's a primary school for local children was founded at the castle. In 1757, during the Seven Years' War, a French naval regiment bombarded the castle and damaging it. Between 1760 and 1790 the castle was however, reconstructed by the British Committee of Merchants to its present form – a loosely pentagonal fort built of locally quarried sandstone with low curtain walls, several polygonal bastions and 3-storey ranges of buildings. It was equipped with three slave dungeons (2 for males and 1 for females) from where 70,000 slaves were shipped to the New World each year. The castle is reputed as one of the largest slave-holding sites in the world during the colonial era where slaves, were mostly traded to the British by Asantes in return for alcohol and guns. In 1803, the castle was besieged by the towns-people after a dispute with a British merchant. In 1824 the British Governor, Sir Charles MacCarthy was defeated by the Asante army, and he consequently committed suicide. His skull was taken to Kumasi where it was reportedly used as a drinking cup. George Maclean was governor of Cape Coast Castle from 1830 until 1844. Maclean was charged with putting an end to slave trade. He made peace with the Ashantis (Treaty of 1831), instituted a judicial system and encouraged fair trading. Both George Maclean and his wife, Letitia Landon are buried in the castle courtyard. In more recent times, the castle served as a museum and the regional headquarters of the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board. In 1979, it was recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site⁹.

The fortified trading posts, founded between 1482 and 1786, and spanning approximately 500 km along the coast of Ghana between Keta in the east and Beyin in the west, the castle linked trading routes established by the Europeans¹⁰. These castles and forts were built and occupied at various times by traders from Portugal, Spain, Denmark, Sweden, Holland, Germany and Britain. They served the gold trade of European companies, but they later served a slave trading posts, hence, they have histories to Americas. They contain a unique 'collective historical monument'–

⁷ <http://historylists.org/architecture/7-amazing-forts-fortresses-and-castles-in-africa.html>, 12.21.2017.

⁸ <http://www.blackpast.org/gah/cape-coast-castle>, 12.21.2017.

⁹ <http://historylists.org/architecture/7-amazing-forts-fortresses-and-castles-in-africa.html>, 12.21.2017.

¹⁰ <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/34>, 12.21.2017.



a monument not only of the ills of the slave trade, but also to nearly four centuries of pre-colonial Afro–European commerce. They represent, significantly and emotively, the continuing history of European–African encounter and the African Diaspora. Table 1 provides a snapshot of vestiges of the past remain of castles and forts for visitors to discover, including relics, historic sites and monuments. The Tourism Act 2011, established the Tourism Development Authority to regulate the tourism industry and to promote the sustainable development of the tourism industry internationally and within the country (Ghana Tourism Act, 2011), including these old historic sites. The Tourism Development Authority’s functions included: ensuring safety and security tourists; pro-poor, sustainable and responsible tourism; ensure collaboration with public, private and international agencies; and establish standards, guidelines and codes of practice in operating tourist enterprises and attractions (Ghana Tourism Act 2011).

Table 1: Summary list of Castles and Forts in Ghana

| Location | Castle/Fort Name | Purpose |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Ankobra–Western Region (WR) | Fort Elise Cartage | Built by the Dutch in 1702, only traces ruins are now visible. |
| Axim–WR | Fort S. Antonio | Portuguese trading post, 1502. Destroyed by the towns people in 1514. Second fort built by the Portuguese in 1515. |
| Begin–WR | Fort Apologia | Dutch Lodge, 1660. British fort built between 1750 and 1770. Reconstructed between 1962 and 1968. |
| Princess Town–WR | Groot–Friedrichburg or Fort Holland. | Danish Lodge, 1658, fort built in 1683. |
| Takrama–WR | Fort Sofia Louis | Lodge built by Branderburgers in 1690, English fort 1691. Present day: Only the foundations are visible. |
| Akwida–WR | Fort Dorothy | Built by Branderburgers (Germans), 1685. Present: In ruins. |
| Dixcove–WR | Fort Metal Cross | Fort on the bay (Dick's or Dickeys Cove). Work commenced in 1683 and completed in 1698. Restored 1954-66. |
| Butri–WR | Fort Batensteyn | Swedish Post 1650–2. Dutch Fort, built 1656. |
| Sekondi–WR | Fort Orange | Built by the Dutch probably in 1642. |
| Shama–WR | Fort St. Sebastian | Built as a Dutch Lodge, 1526. Portuguese Fort, 1590. Restored 1954–7. |
| Komenda–WR | Fort Vrendenburg | English Trading Post, 1682. |
| Elmina–Central Region (CR) | Elmina Castle or Fort St. Jorge | Portuguese reached Elmina (Del Mina) in 1471. Built by Portuguese in 1482. First European fort on the Gold Coast, improved before 1500. |
| Elmina–CR | Fort St. Jago (Conraadsburg) | Chapel built between 1555 and 1558 by the Portuguese. Turned into a lodge and watch tower. Restored 1956–60. |
| Elmina–CR | Watchtower | Presumably Dutch but of unknown date, restored 1956–60. |



| | | |
|-------------------|--|---|
| Cape Coast–CR | Cape Coast Castle | Built as a Lodge by the Dutch, 1630 on an abandoned lodge of the Portuguese. Extensively rebuilt before 1757–80. Present day: Cape Coast Castle Museum. |
| Cape Coast–CR | Fort Victoria | Built by the English in 1702. |
| Cape Coast–CR | Fort William | Built by the British in 1819–20. |
| Cape Coast–CR | Fort McCarthy | Built by the British 1822. |
| Cape Coast–CR | Fort Nassau | At Mourie. Dutch Post and Lodge, 1598. |
| Anomabu–CR | Fort William | Built by the Dutch 1640. Restored 1954. |
| Kormantse–CR | Fort Amsterdam | Dutch trading post 1598. Dutch lodge built 1631, fort rebuilt by the English in in 1645. |
| Amoku–CR | Ankaful, Saltpond | French Post, built in 1786. |
| Tantum–CR | Tantum Fort | English post intermittently occupied from 1662. English post built c. 1724. |
| Apam–CR | Fort Leysaemheydt or Patience | Built by the Dutch 1696-1702. |
| Senya Beraku–CR | Fort de Goede Hoop (Fort of Good Hope) | Dutch Fort established 1667. |
| Accra | Fort James | Portuguese Lodge built in the middle of the 16th century (probably by 1576). |
| Accra | Fort Crevecoer (Ussher Fort) | Dutch Post built in 1642. |
| Accra | Christianborg Castle | It was built in the 1660s by Denmark-Norway. A Portuguese fortified house – 1550. Swedish Lodge built in 1652. Rebuilt and used as a residence of the British Governor of Gold Coast, 1877–1957. Residence of the Prime Minister of Ghana and Government House in 1957. |
| Teshie–Accra | Fort Augustaborg | Dutch Post in 1730-40's. |
| Prampram–Accra | Fort Vernon | British Post built in 1740. |
| Ada–Accra | Fort Kongenstein | Portuguese Trading Post, 16 th Century. |
| Keta–Volta Region | Fort Prinsenstein | Danish Trading Post, 1714 th Century. |

Source: https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/tourism/castles_overview.php, 12.25.2017.

Besides the castles and the forts, which are mostly located on the coast of Ghana, there are other historical sites that are of tourist significance. **The Salaga Slave Market** is located in Salaga, the capital of East Gonja District in the Northern Region, Ghana. The name ‘Salaga’ comes from a Dagomba word ‘*salgi*’, meaning ‘to get used to a place of abode’. Historically, the Salaga market served as a transit point for trade via the Sahel and Yendi. This facilitates the transport of cattle and groundnuts from Yendi, through the Salaga Market to other parts of the country, including a



transit point for kola transport from Ghana to Northern Nigeria. During the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, the Salaga Slave Market served as an important market from where slaves are transported to the coastal towns for export to the Americas. A market in Jamestown is referred to as the 'Salaga Market' since it served as a slave market for slaves from Salaga in Northern Ghana.

The National Museum of Ghana: The National Museum of Ghana has been operational since March 5th, 1957. It is managed by the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board (GMMB). The museum has three primary collections; archaeology, ethnography, and art, which tell the story of Ghana's rich cultural history¹¹. Objects in the archaeology section range from the stone age period to recent historical past. Those on permanent exhibition at the ethnography gallery include chief's regalia, indigenous Ghanaian musical instruments, gold weights, beads, traditional textiles, stools and poetry. The GMMB oversees nine main museums, including the National Museum. The museums are the National Museum, Accra (1957), The Museum of Science and Technology (MST), Accra (1963), The Volta Regional Museum, Ho (1973), The Cape Coast Castle Museum, (1974), The Upper East Regional Museum, Bolgatanga (1991), The St. George's Castle (Elmina Castle) Museum (1997), The Ussher Fort Museum (2007), The Fort Apollonia Museum of Nzema Culture and History (2010), and Fort San Antonio Museum, Axim (2012)¹². Apart from their regular exhibits, the museums organize special exhibitions. The National Museum provides technical assistance to the WEB Du Bois Centre Museum, Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park Museum, Police Museum (Accra), Military Museum (Kumasi), Prempeh II Jubilee Museum (Kumasi), and Manhyia Palace Museum (Kumasi). It is interesting to visit this heritage sites to explore Ghana's rich culture and history. There are other museums providing insight into specific traditions and histories of various ethnic groups in Ghana.

The Manhyia Palace is the seat of the Asantehene of Asanteman, located at Kumasi. Opoku Ware II built the new palace close to the old one used by the current Asantehene, Osei Tutu II. The palace was built in 1925 by the British after the Third Anglo-Ashanti War in 1874 when the British destroyed the original one built by the Asantes. It is recounted that The British were impressed by the size of original palace and the scope of its contents, including the 'rows of books in many languages'. The British demolished the royal palace with explosives in the events in the 'War of the Golden Stool', but when the Asantehene Nana Prempeh I returned from exile in the Seychelles Islands, the building was given to him for use as a residence. This was because the old palace was burnt in the Yaa Asantewa War where the Asantes refused to offer the Golden Stool to the then Governor of the Gold Coast. Two kings lived in the palace – Otumfuo Prempeh I and Otumfuo Sir Osei Agyeman Prempeh II, the 13th and 14th Asantehene. The old palace was converted into a museum in 1995 after the new palace was built. The architecture of the palace is akin to the Kingdom of Asante building plans of the early 1900s. In 1995, an outhouse was added to the original palace to serve as a gift shop and a courtyard that showcases statues of past kings and queens of the Ashanti Kingdom.

Manhyia Palace Museum: The Manhyia Palace was converted into a museum and opened in August 1995 by Otumfuo Opoku Ware II after the British built a new one after the old one was destroyed in the War of the Golden Stool. Opening of the museum was part of activities marking the Silver Jubilee of his accession to the Golden Stool¹³. Several artefacts are displayed in the museum, including furniture used by the kings, the bronze head of Sir Osei Agyeman Prempeh II, and life-sized wax effigies of some of the kings and queens. Tourists to the museum can view a series of video-presentations on the rich Asante culture history and the gold-work of the Asante Kingdom. These comprise gold weights, bracelets and pots for gold dust that were removed from

¹¹ <http://www.ghanamuseums.org/national-museum.php>, 12/28.2017.

¹² <http://www.ghanamuseums.org/museums.php>, 12.28.2017.

¹³ <http://manhyiapalacemuseum.org/>, 12.28.2017.



the palace by Lord Baden Powell in 1896. There are life-sized effigies of Nana Prempeh I, Nana Yaa Akyaa and Yaa Asantewaa who in 1900 led the uprising and last of the Seven Asante Wars against the British¹⁴. Thus, exhibits in the museum included images of Agyeman Prempeh I (1888–19931), Sir Osei Agyeman Prempeh II (1931–1970), Nana Ama Serwaa Nyarko (1945–1977), Opoku Ware II (1970–1999), Nana Afia Kobi Serwaa Ampem II (1977 to date), Nana Yaa Akyaa (1880–1917), Nana Yaa Asantewaa and Osei Tutu II (1999 to date). There are regalia, photographs, medals, furniture, drums and palanquins that are over two hundred years, a battle dress which dates to 1900 and objects of historical significance¹⁵.

W.E.B. DuBois Centre: The W.E.B. Du Bois Memorial Centre for Pan-African Culture is a memorial place, and also a research facility and tourist attraction in Accra, Ghana¹⁶. It was opened in 1985 and dedicated in memory of W.E.B DuBois, the African–American Pan–Africanist, who became a Ghanaian and spent latter parts of his life in Ghana at the invitation of Kwame Nkrumah. He was then compiling the Encyclopedia African. The centre is the former residence of DuBois, where he died on 27 August 1963. It houses a museum with part of Du Bois’ personal library, collection of his works and a shrine that shelters his grave and ashes of the wife Shirly Graham DuBois.

Larabanga Mosque: The Larabanga Mosque is built in the Sudanese architectural style in Larabanga, a village in Northern Ghana in 1421. It is the oldest mosque in Ghana and one of the oldest in West Africa (referred to as the ‘Mecca of West Africa’). The mosque is located in the Islamic town of Larabanga closed to Damongo in the West Gonja District. It is situated 4km south of Mole National Park. The World Monuments Fund has contributed to its restoration, and it is listed as one of the 100 Most Endangered Sites. The mosque has an old Quran, believed by the locals to have been given as a gift from heaven in 1650 to Yidan Barimah Bramah, the Imam at the time based on his prayers. The mosque, built with mud and reeds, has two tall towers in pyramidal shape, one for the mihrab which faces towards Mecca forming the facade on the east and the other as a minaret in the northeast corner. These are buttressed by twelve bulbous shaped structures, which are fitted with timber elements. Unlike mosques situated in urban settings in West Africa, the Larabanga Mosque is comparatively small and located in the rural area. The style is based on the Great Mosque of Djenné. Larabanga is one of eight ancient and highly revered mosques in Ghana. It is a place of pilgrimage. According to a legend, in 1421, an Islamic trader named Ayuba had a dream while staying here, near a ‘Mystic Stone’, instructing him to build a mosque. Strangely, when he awoke, he found that the foundations were laid, and he proceeded to construct the mosque. There is a belief that he left instructions that he should be buried close to the mosque and that after three days, the baobab that would shoot up on his grave was to be preserved from generation to generation.

Independence Arch: The Independence Arch is part of the Independence Square and contains monuments of Ghana’s independence struggle, including the Arch, Black Star Gate, and the Liberation Day Monument. The Independence Square is the second largest City Square in the world after the Tiananmen Square in Beijing, China. The Arch is guarded to protect it from destruction and people from taking unnecessary pictures around the area. Visitors are however permitted to take pictures. It is bordered by the Accra Sports Stadium and the Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park. The construction ended in 1961, and named ‘Black Star Square’, the site for Ghana’s Independence Day parades – 6th March every year. The square was commissioned by

¹⁴ <http://manhyiapalacemuseum.org/>, 12.28.2017.

¹⁵ <http://manhyiapalacemuseum.org/the-museum>, 12.28.2017.

¹⁶ <http://webduboiscentreaccra.ghana-net.com/>, 12.28.2017.



Kwame Nkrumah to honour the visit of Queen Elizabeth II¹⁷. It hosts major national public gatherings and festivals and is generally a beautiful place to visit.

Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum: The Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum and Memorial Park is situated in Accra. It was the site where Nkrumah declared Ghana's Independence (Polo Ground) in 1957. The Memorial Park was created in 1992 by President J.J. Rawlings, and Nkrumah's remains were brought to be housed there. The mausoleum was designed by Don Arthur, and houses the body of Fathia Nkrumah, the wife of Nkrumah. It meant to represent an upside-down sword which in Akan symbolizes peace. The mausoleum is clad from top to bottom with Italian marble, with a black star at its apex to symbolize unity. The interior of the mausoleum boasts marble flooring and marble grave marker surrounded by river-washed rocks. A skylight at the top in the mausoleum illuminates the grave, and to reflect off the marble to show its beauty. The Mausoleum is surrounded by water which is a symbol of life – conveys a sense of immortality for the name, Kwame Nkrumah. It shows that even in death, he lives on in the hearts and minds of subsequent generations. The memorial park is spectacular for its magnificent architecture and of historical significance as the last resting place of Ghana's first president, the Pan-Africanist and African Personality for the 20th Century, specifically 'Man of the Millennium' by a BBC poll in September 2000¹⁸. He is pictured with great personalities such as Jawaharlal Nehru, Mao Zedong, Fidel Castro, Nikita Khrushchev, John F. Kennedy, Sir Alec Hume, Queen Elizabeth II, Harold Macmillan, Pope Pius XII, President Nasser of Egypt, and several other world leaders.

The National Theatre: The National Theatre was established in 1992, located in Accra and built by the China as a gift for Ghana. The theatre is governed by the National Theatre Law 1991, PNDC Law 259. It is a building on 11,896m² land area, sited near the junction of the Independence Avenue and Liberia Road. The building has a complicated construction moulding, with novel exterior features and looks like a gigantic ship. It houses the National Dance Company, National Symphony Orchestra, and National Theatre Players. The **Efua Sutherland Children's Park** in Accra is not far from the National Theatre. It is an urban park featuring slides, merry-go-rounds and rides such as a Ferris wheel and a train. The 12-acre green space in central Accra is one of the city's largest parks. Situated in the city centre and proximate to government ministries, the national theatre and hotels. It is an exciting place to visit.

Rattray Park: The Rattray Park is a recreational and a modern amusement park in Kumasi, the Garden City. It was inaugurated by President John Dramani Mahama and the Asantehene Osei Tutu II on June 20, 2015. The park was christened Rattray in honour of Captain Robert Sutherland Rattray, a Scottish who was the Assistant Colonial Secretary in the Gold Coast and clerk to the Legislative Assembly of Accra in 1919. The park's facilities include an artificial lake, a golf cart, children's playground, a gym, dancing fountain, restaurants and cafeterias.

Ghana Paragliding Festival: The Ghana Paragliding Festival has become an integral part of the annual Easter holiday celebrations in Ghana. The festival attracts both Ghanaians and foreigners to the three-day aerial fun, ceremony and music. The festival can be traced back to March 2003 when the then Minister of Tourism and Modernization of the Capitol City, Jake Tonka Obetsebi-Lampsey visited the Kwahu Ridge as part of familiarization tour of the country, and witnessed the festival organized by Walter Nesor, Ghana's first Paragliding Festival in 2005. It was later launched by Alhaji Aliu Mahama, Vice President of the Republic (2000–2008). Tandem paraglider pilots gather from around the world to fly locals and foreign visitors to view the beautiful scenery in the Kwahu Ridge in the Eastern Region of Ghana.

¹⁷ <http://ghananet.weebly.com/black-star-gate-independence-square-accra.html>, 12.28.2017.

¹⁸ http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/people/highlights/000914_nkrumah.shtml, 01.01.2018.



Makola Market: The Makola Market was constructed in 1924 and stands at the heart of the urban life of Accra and commerce. The market is the main wholesale and retail marketplace in Accra, the epicentre of trade in the country and one of the nation's most important social and cultural institutions. It was destroyed on 18 August 1979, 55 years after its creation. The J.J Rawlings government agreed on the demolition of the market because the Makola is viewed as an area of hoarding of goods which negatively impacted the national economy. Makola Market is currently the heart of national business and informal livelihoods. The scenery and activities epitomize the resilient of the ordinary Ghanaian for survival. Together of other tourist sites, these natural and socio-cultural resources can be marketed efficiently to national development.

Conclusion: marketing spatial distribution of tourism – Ghana

The Tourism Act 2011, established the Tourism Development Authority in Ghana, to regulate the tourism industry and to promote sustainable development of the tourism, internationally and locally (Ghana Tourism Act 2011). The Tourism Development Authority's functions included: take appropriate measures to ensure safety and security of sites and tourists; promote pro-poor sustainable tourism; ensure collaboration among public, private and international agencies; and establish standard guidelines and codes of practice for running a tourist enterprise and attractions (Ghana Tourism Act 2011). These can help to coordinate the various tourist resources and attract visitors. Akyeamong (1996) highlighted three motivation (imperatives) for Ghanaians' tourist-related trips: peer, cultural and social. However, Boakye, Annim and Dasmani (2013), posited that due to globalisation, the distribution of travellers has become wider and more specialised, hence, understanding the incidence, purpose and patterns of travel provide policy makers with valuable information in a bid to manage not only the movement between and within spaces but also prominently, the impacts of the interactions on the origin and destination.

Appreciating and advertising the spatial distributions of tourist sites is one of the core challenges and opportunities for policy makers and development experts to promoting sustainable and meaningful gains from the tourism sector, especially in developing economies. This paper critical provide a guide for geographical and spatial distributions or patterns of tourism resources in Ghana to unpack the key potentials in the country's tourism space. The review is based on an analysis of tourism literature and policy documents in Ghana.

The analysis showed that tourism sites are distributed spatially in Ghana, and these tourism sites can be classified into natural sites such as parks and game reserves, rivers, mountains and beaches; and man-made or socio-cultural ones like castles, museums, cultural heritages, artefacts and historical experiences of the country. These resources are however, though have potentially, have been poorly marketed and presented to the globally. Effective marketing and coordination among the various actors and institutions can therefore, help to promote the tourism industry in Ghana. The goal in this article was modest, namely to provide a picturesque view of the uneven geographies of tourism in Ghana. Trends observed in the country's tourism space in relation to disaggregating groupings destinations or tourism spaces into natural or man-made (socio-cultural heritage) and rural and urban.

The analysis showed that the castles and places of historical significant, especially to slavery, African emancipation attracted the most tourist. However, these tourist sites are poorly marketed and maintained which negatively impact their overall socio-economic contributions, nationally and locally. Given tourism's significance to Ghana's economy, it is imperative that efforts are channelled into improving the collaboration and coordination between tourism agencies, institutions, and actors and the marketing and creation of awareness of the diverse tourist sites in Ghana. As Ghana seeks to improve its tourism potentials, knowledge of spatial patterns and



distributions of tourist sites should assist policy makers and service providers in market segmentation, planning, and product expansion to international and local tourists.

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