



Ghana

Joined the Commonwealth in 1957 - visited by the Queen in 1999



Ghana (formerly known as the Gold Coast) is a West African nation on the Gulf of Guinea

Pop: (2012) 25,366,000 Capital: Accra Area: 238,537 sq km

Apart from the Kwahu plateau and the hills stretching to the south-east, Ghana is a fairly flat country drained by the River Volta and its tributaries. The Akosombo dam (completed 1966) holds back Lake Volta which covers 8,502 sq km - the largest man-made lake in the world by surface area and the third by volume. The dam produces energy to smelt bauxite into alumina. Gold and diamonds are other important minerals.

Ghana has a savanna climate in the grasslands of the north changing to tropical rainforest in the south which is ideal for the cacao tree which produces cocoa, one of Ghana's important exports. In 2012 Ghana became a major oil and gas producer which has helped economic growth.

Ghana is rich in animal life with elephants, hippos, waterbuck, eagles, kites, hornbills, crocodiles and manatees many of which are protected in its six national parks.



Cocoa harvest

The cocoa pods grow straight from the branches of the cacao tree

