

WHV – Preserving Cape Coast Castle

Forts and Castles, Volta, Greater Accra, Central and Western Regions, Ghana

PROJECT DATES

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (1979) 28 August – 07 september 2025

THE SITE - These fortified trading posts, founded between 1482 and 1786, and spanning a distance of approximately 500 km along the coast of Ghana between Keta in the east and Beyin in the west, were links in the trading routes established by the Portuguese in many areas of the world during their era of great maritime exploration. The castles and forts were built and occupied at different times by traders from Portugal, Spain, Denmark, Sweden, Holland, Germany and Britain. They served the gold trade of European chartered companies. Latterly they played a significant part in the developing slave trade, and therefore in the history of the Americas, and, subsequently, in the 19th century, in the suppression of that trade.

OBJECTIVES - The project aims at contributing to the preservation of Ghana's rich cultural heritage, specifically the Forts and Castles, Volta, Greater Accra, Central and Western Regions which include Cape Coast Castle. This involves engaging local communities in the preservation and promotion of their cultural heritage, fostering community-led initiatives for sustainable development, and promoting cultural exchange. The project also seeks to facilitate international collaboration, share knowledge and skills in cultural heritage preservation, empower young people to become ambassadors for heritage preservation, and align with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

ACTIVITIES - The activities of the project will focus on the preservation of the forts and castles, involve community members, and promote youth empowerment and education. By engaging volunteers, the project aims to carry out conservation work, raise awareness about the historical significance of the site, and build local capacity for continued preservation. These activities are intended to ensure the forts and castles are maintained for future generations, to stimulate local development through heritage tourism, and to foster a deeper appreciation for cultural heritage among participants and the broader community.

PARTNERS – Ghana Museums and Monuments Board; Ghana Tourism Authority; Local Traditional Authorities.

International Christian Youth Exchange (ICYE)

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