

## Historical and Tourist Attractions

The Mole National Park, in Damango, West Gonja District, is a 4840 square kilometre reserve for animals such as elephants, buffaloes, wild pigs, antelopes, apes, birds and about 400 other species. The park has a motel with a restaurant, a bar and a swimming pool. This park, which is serviced by Forest Rangers, can best be visited with maximum satisfaction in the dry season. Tamale, Daboya, Sabari, Nasia, Mole, Bui, among others, have exotic birds suitable for bird watching for pleasure. The savannah vegetation has a scenic beauty of its own, glowing off rare species of flora and fauna. Baobab trees and ant-hills are part and parcel of this savannah's natural vegetation. Other aspects of the savannah scenery are the Nakpanduri and other hilly areas of the northern parts of the region, particularly the Gambaga Escarpment.

## Festivals

The most important traditional festival in the region is the Damba, a by-product of Islam, which has lost its religious origin of celebrating the birthday of Prophet Mohammed.

The Damba celebration is also a mix of music, dance, excitement, horsemanship and regal pageantry, climaxing the Naa Damba. The region is the home of the Fugu textile, the centres of production being Tamale, Gushiegu and Yendi.

## Shrines and Groves

There are sacred groves that are traditional nature reserves created around shrines. Notable among them are the Jaagbo and Malshegu Sacred Groves. The Jaagbo Shrine, situated 30 kilometres from Tamale, consists of about 25 acres of conserved and preserved vegetation of medicinal herbs and near extinct and mysterious plants. Among the vegetation of the grove is the mystery tree with marks of the hooves of a horse. The Malshegu Sacred Grove is at Katalga, about 12 kilometres from Tamale.



## Architecture, Archaeology and Culture

The region is well known for its peculiar architecture of round huts with conical thatched roofs, which provide a particular scenic view. Among the relics of the past, which throw considerable light on the history of the people of the region, are the archaeological sites at Yikpa Bonso, in the West Mamprusi District, with relics of the Komos which dates back to the nineteenth century (19th C). Other relics of interest in the region are at Jentilkpe and Kpaesemkpe.

