

THE NORTHERN REGION

The Northern region is one of the three regions in Northern Ghana, the others being Upper East and Upper West Regions.

In 1905 Tamale became the capital of the Northern Province of the British colony of the Gold Coast. The north played a very important role in the Second World War. Two of the vestiges of that period are the old barracks and the old airport, which were built for military purposes. In addition to these, there is the monument to the royal wedding between King George V and Queen Elizabeth 1. Legacies of the regions historic past are also on offer for interested visitors.

For instance, archaeological sites in West Mamprusi have yielded interesting relics of the Komas from the 19th century. Besides the archeological sites, the Northern Region is a place where Africans in the Diaspora trace their roots. Though the castles on the coast may serve as the remaining reference points of departure for their ancestors. Nowhere in the country can you find more ancient slave markets and relics than in the Northern Region. The cultural features of the people in the North are as unique as they are diverse and so different from any other in and around the country. These include festivals and religion. Salaga for example was described as the emporium of West African trade at the height of its glory.

The uniqueness of the attractions in the Northern Region has been the main draw for tourists who are streaming to Tamale in numbers. The young and adventurous have found a different destination yet to be discovered by mass tourists. Besides the cultural diversity, which the Northern Region offers you, it is also a place for lovers of nature. Its natural features of scenic and beautiful vegetation contain some exotic species of flora and fauna and offer a different experience of nature and wildlife for the adventurous.

The savanna vegetation enhances the fantastic panoramic view from the Gambaga escarpment and Karamenga hills while offering opportunities for hiking, trekking and canoeing.

Nothing however, compares to the region's rich nature reserves. The Mole National Park for example is one of the largest and best developed National Parks in West-Africa. The 4,840 km² nature reserve is home to a variety of reptiles and mammals such as elephants, apes, antelopes, eagles and 400 other species of animals. The park also offers reception facilities and services, such as a hotel, restaurant, swimming pool, game viewing platform and safari.

