wander accra, ghana



WEST AFRICA'S CULTURAL CAPITAL

BY JOCELYN C. ZUCKERMAN

Summer is showtime in Ghana's largest city. From June 7 through 15, the Environmental Film Festival stages openair screenings around Accra, and in July, the Pan African Festival—celebrating its 20th anniversary this year draws music and dance fans from across the continent.

"EVERYONE GOES TO LABADI BEACH ON SUNDAY TO RIDE HORSES, LISTEN TO LIVE MUSIC, OR RELAX OVER A STAR BEER."

Marcia Leach, AFAR.com



Greet a Ghanaian with the word ayeeko ("eye-yeh-koo") and you'll earn instant street credibility. Translated as "well done" and "congratulations" and used as a salutation, the word—also spelled *ayekoo* and *ayikoo* comes from the Twi dialect of the Akan language. Twi is the most widely spoken language in Ghana.

The treehouse-like Buka is a favorite among residents for traditional West African dishes such as moin moin (a Nigerian bean pudding), jollof rice (made with tomatoes, onion, and chili), and the peanut-heavy groundnut soup with guinea fowl.

Off 10th Lane, next to the former American Embassy, Osu, 233/(0) 30-278-2953, thebukarestaurant.com



Afia Beach Hotel's 29 bungalows sit along the shore beneath arching palm trees. Snack on swordfish with fried plantains at the restaurant, and purchase handmade mudcloth and appliqué fabrics at the gift shop.

From \$85 for an ocean-view double. Liberia Road, 233/(0) 30-268-1465, afiavillage.com



NIGHTLIFE

After a few frames at the Harbin Bowling Club, which also offers arcade games and pool (321 Beach Rd., Teshie), head to the Container. The bar is housed inside a shipping container, and the Hiplife beat (a regional style that blends jazz, reggae, funk, and hip hop) drives the outdoor dance floor. Oxford Street, opposite Papaye restaurant

Proceeds from Global Mamas' merchandise go back to the local women who make the items. Choose from straw-andbead figurines; batik dresses, pictured above; and tote bags fashioned from recycled candy wrappers. 14th Lane, behind the Koala grocery store, Osu, 233/(0) 24-453-0467, globalmamas.org