



# SAFE AND SMART

## OKUAPEMAN



# SAFE SMART OKUAPEMAN

Odwira festival once again welcomes Okuapeman, the people of Ghana, Africans from across the Diaspora as well as friends from the world over, to an experience of its deep cultural traditions, educational merit, technological savviness, eco-tourism and enduring heritage. Dubbed "SAFE and 'SMART" Okuapeman, this year's Festival is set to combine the bright cultural drumbeat at the heart of the Odwira Festival, with the greenly scenery, while promoting a digitally Smart and Safe Akuapem. Ewo Wo Nsem means literally, 'It is In Y/Our Hands. Amidst the global Covid-19 pandemic and with the installation of the newest youngest Paramount Chief in Ghana; OSEADEEYO KWASI AKUFFO III, the theme for the Odwira 2020 is A Safe Smart Okuapeman by delivering 3 distinct and mutually related goals.

- Culture, Identity and Leadership
- Smart Learning
- Smart Togetherness

Welcome to  
#Odwira2020  
#SafesmartgreenOkuapeman  
#Ewo Wo Nsem





# IT'S ODWIRA TIME

Nearly every town in Ghana has a kind of festival they celebrate annually. "ODWIRA" is the biggest annual festival for the people of Akuapem and Akwamu. Originally, towns in Akuapem which celebrated this great event were only Akropong, Amanokrom, and Aburi. In fact, only the Akans in the area celebrated it. In recent times; however, many things have changed and most Guans who had "Ohum" as their main festival, now celebrate "Odwira" in their own special way. Akropong "Odwira" is celebrated exactly 40 days after the last 'Awukudae' in the Akan Traditional calendar – and nine (9) 'Awukudae' make one full calendar year.

The Festivities cover a whole fortnight during which many age long traditions and customs, which had been handed down by our forefathers are observed.

Odwira is an Akan word which literally means PURIFICATION. It is therefore assumed that the name "Odwira" was adopted principally because it is during this festival that the Omanhene and all occupiers of stools in the area 'purify' their stools, "feed" their ancestors, thank them for all the blessings bestowed on the people during the outgoing year and "pray" to the gods and ancestors for good health, long life and prosperity in the ensuing year.



# OUR STORY OUR HERITAGE

Founded in 1730, today, Okuapeman is 290 years old. The original 17 towns of the Kingdom, comprising of the descendants of the Guans, Okere, Akwamu, Ga, Krobo and Akyem peoples, are located some 25 miles from Accra and a scenic 1,500 feet above sea level.

In the 1850's, Okuapeman became the First center for western education and religion established by the Basel Mission Society away from the coastal areas. For 290 years, the peoples of our Ridge organised in 5 unique Divisions under the Paramountcy, have delivered many Firsts. The First Botanical Gardens; the First Gold Coast indigenes trained in western education and religion outside the coastal areas including David Asante, the First ordained Minister of what is now the Presbyterian Church; Okyeame Boafo Akuffo, the First State Linguist for Ghana's First Prime Minister, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah. In addition, Okuapeman is home to the First commercial farm for cocoa and the First Center of Research for Traditional Medicine.





The original 17 towns of Akuapem were – Akropong; Amanokrom; Aburi (including Atweasin); Larteh; Ahwerase; Mamfe; Abotakyi; Mampon; Tutu; Obosomase; Berekuso; Adukrom; Awukugua; Dawu; Abiriw, Aseseeso and Apirede.

Adonten – Aburi, Ahwerase and Berekuso (Akwamu descendants). Aburi was founded by Opare Petepirebi, a hunter. Prior to being renamed, the original town was called Nkunkren it was marked as situated between the current Aburi and Nsawam and referred to on some maps as Kunkunu.

Nifa- Adukrom, Abirew, Apirede. Abonse, Awukugua and Dawu (Guan descendants)

Benkum – Larteh, Mamfe, Tutu, Mampong, Abotakyi and Asantema/Obosomase (Guan descendants)

Gyaase – Amanokrom (Akyem descendants)

Adonten No 1/Kuronti – Akropong (Akyem descendants).

During Odwira festival our forefathers who, through wars, laid down their lives to save Akuapem are remembered. It is also a unique occasion for family and friendly re-unions, and the patching up of long – standing rifts, feuds, and petty quarrels.

It is a festival which joins together the people and afford them the opportunity for mirth and jollity. Although, there are few occasions during “Odwira” for the mourning and deep remembrance of the departed, the festivities are full of gaiety and grace. The pomp and pageantry which normally characterize the events single out Akuapems as a people who are proud owners of a fountain of rich culture and enviable traditions.





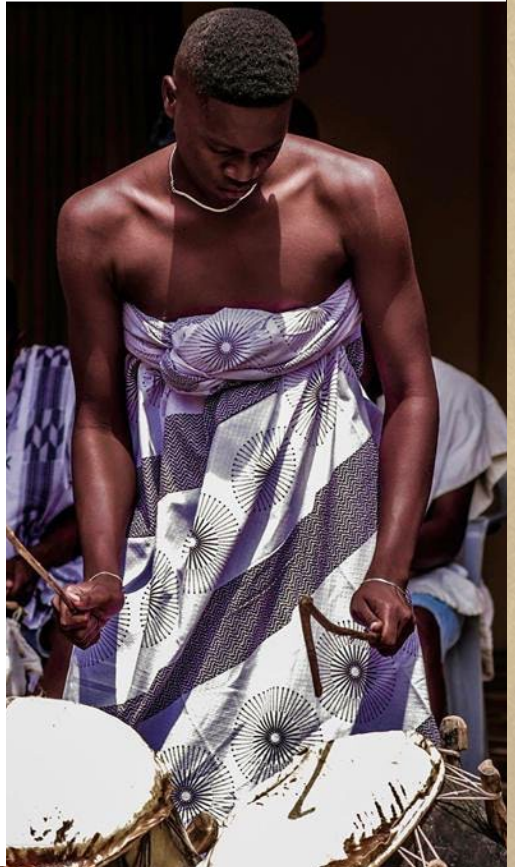
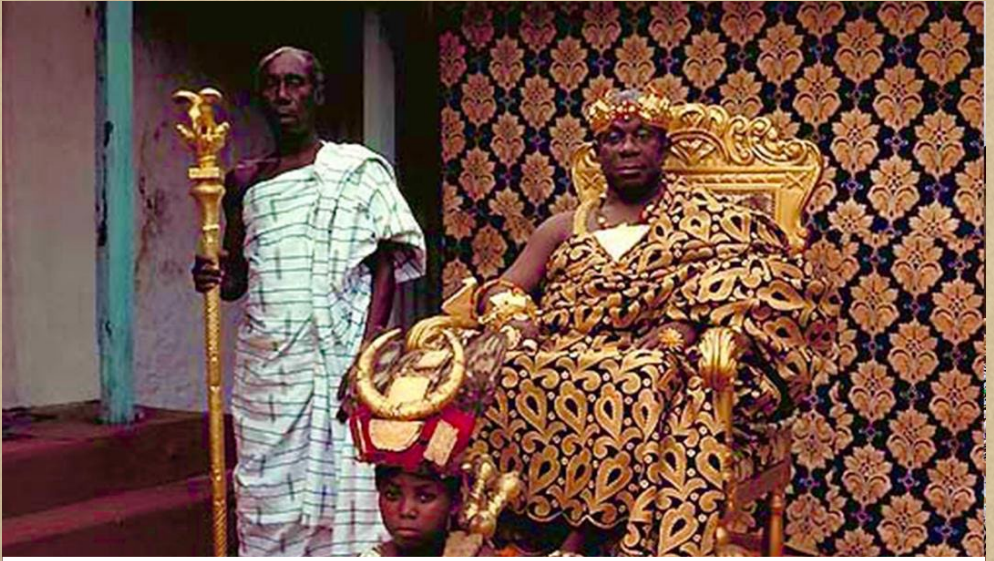
# BEYOND THE RETURN

This year's celebration of the Odwira Festival again coincides with the new "Beyond the Return, Ghana 2020" program which celebrates our African Sons and Daughters who after 400 years since the first enslaved Africans arrived in Jamestown Virginia have returned to their mother land to build with their knowledge and expertise.

The Beyond the Return program therefore makes it a perfect time to experience Odwira and to learn our unique culture as well as get the opportunity to engage local and traditional leaders in helping to build our homeland with their expertise.

We welcome home our brothers and sisters, once thought to be lost to the tide and beyond recall, yet now returned to us. Indeed, our rejoicing and thanksgiving to the Ancestors is increased by your home-coming to Okuapeman.







## Safe, Smart and Green Odwira 2020

#safesmartgreenokuapeman #odwira2020 #odwira festival

    Akuapem Odwira Festival / @okuapehene