Traveling Into Ghana's Interior - Is Very Different From the Coast

Mary O'Brien Cordill September 1976



Our trip was very interesting and cheap. The country up north is very different from the coast. The large city gives way to small villages consisting of round mud huts with thatched roofs. They are tan in color and grouped in small clusters of five or six. As it's now the rainy season (winter) everything is very green. It's so beautiful- tall trees towering over a forest of huge leafed plants. Many birds of different types dart through the trees. Occasionally a graceful arc of birds will go by in a "V" formation. You get a real sense of the infinite creativity of God in all the variety of creation.

Our trip up to Ouagadougou, the capital of Upper Volta, took two days. First we travelled by bus to Tamale, 12 hours from Accra. We stayed over and the next morning took a bush wagon (one-third the size of the bus but crammed with almost the same number of people). From Bolgatango to Po we took a teo-tro, something like a small pick-up truck with a tent on top. This should have carried us to Ouago, but at Po the driver couldn't pay the duty on his kola nuts so he said we all had to wait until the next morning when he'd have the money. So there we were in the middle of the road with no place to go. Luckily it was at a police checkpoint so as each car drove up we asked if they would cake us. Finally two very nice ladies and a man gave us a ride. We arrived about 10 p. m.