

Seeing the Traditional Ghanian Way of Life in the Teshie Village

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House of poor people in Teshie, Ghana

Being in Teshie (a small village in the country) was a good chance to experience the more traditional Ghanian way of life -- very different from the big city life of Accra. The old part of the town is built on rocks which jut out into the sea, thus the name Teshie, which means "stone" in Ghanaese. The houses are built in the traditional way, with an open courtyard in the middle for cooking, eating, washing everything from babies to clothes, catching an afternoon nap, etc., and surrounded by several small rooms for sleeping. As we walked through the town, a whole herd of kids began following us -- reaching out shyly to touch our hands at first, and finally in the end jumping and dancing and laughing all around us. The "mommies" are big and beautiful and always hard at work preparing food -- especially pounding "fufu" -- the meat and potatoes of Ghana. The women always seem to have a baby on their back, and two or three more at their sides!

In the afternoon we were treated to some fufu of our own (which, I must admit, tastes to me like a lump of raw bread dough) and a stew of fish heads, which according to custom, we ate with our fingers. Unfortunately, by the evening, I had a whopper of a stomach ache, but I can never tire of these experiences in the villages. The people have a deep spiritual nature. All day long on Sunday, the streets are full of the sounds of singing and dancing and drumming -- praising and loving God.