

## Forts and Castles



**Elmina Castle** was erected by the [Portuguese](#) in 1482 as **Castelo de São Jorge da Mina** (*St. George of the Mine Castle*), also known as *Castelo da Mina* or simply *Mina* (or [Feitoria da Mina](#)) in present-day [Elmina, Ghana](#) (formerly the [Gold Coast](#)). It was the first trading post built on the [Gulf of Guinea](#), and the oldest European building in existence south of the [Sahara](#).



**Cape Coast Castle** ([Swedish](#): *Carolusborg*) is one of about forty "**slave castles**", or large commercial forts, built on the [Gold Coast](#) of West Africa (now [Ghana](#)) by European traders. It was originally a [Portuguese](#) "feitoria" or [trading post](#), established in 1555. However in 1653 the [Swedish Africa Company](#) constructed a timber fort there. It originally was a center for the trade in [timber](#) and [gold](#). It was later used in the trans-[Atlantic slave trade](#).



. **Osu Castle**, also known as **Fort Christiansborg** or simply **the Castle**, is a castle located in [Osu, Accra, Ghana](#) on the coast of the [Atlantic Ocean's Gulf of Guinea](#). The first substantial fort was built by [Denmark-Norway](#) in the 1660s, though the castle has changed hands between Denmark-Norway, [Portugal](#), the [Akwamu](#), [Britain](#), and finally post-Independence [Ghana](#), and was rebuilt numerous times

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