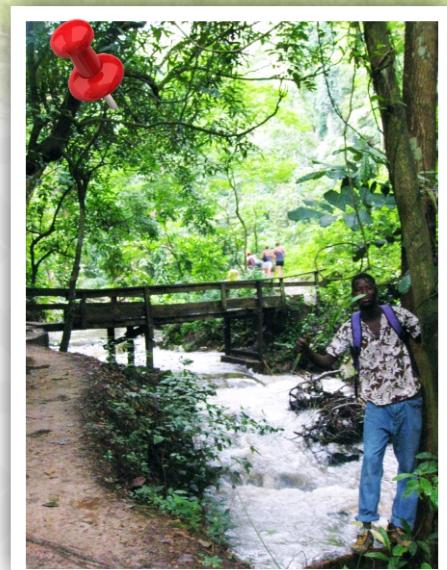
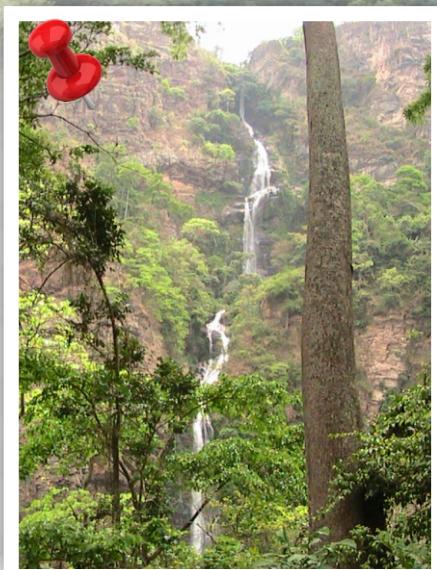


# Wli Waterfalls

THE HIGHEST WATERFALL OF WEST AFRICA



- ✓ Located in the Agumatsa Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ✓ Easy 30 minute walk to Lower Fall (50m) on a footpath through a forest crossing 9 bridges.
- ✓ Nature Education Trail on trees, birds and butterflies.
- ✓ Thousands of straw-coloured fruit bats nest at the adjacent cliff at the Lower Fall.
- ✓ Adventurous hikes to the Upper Falls with spectacular views.
- ✓ Pool to swim at the foot of both falls.
- ✓ Camping possibility at the Upper Falls.



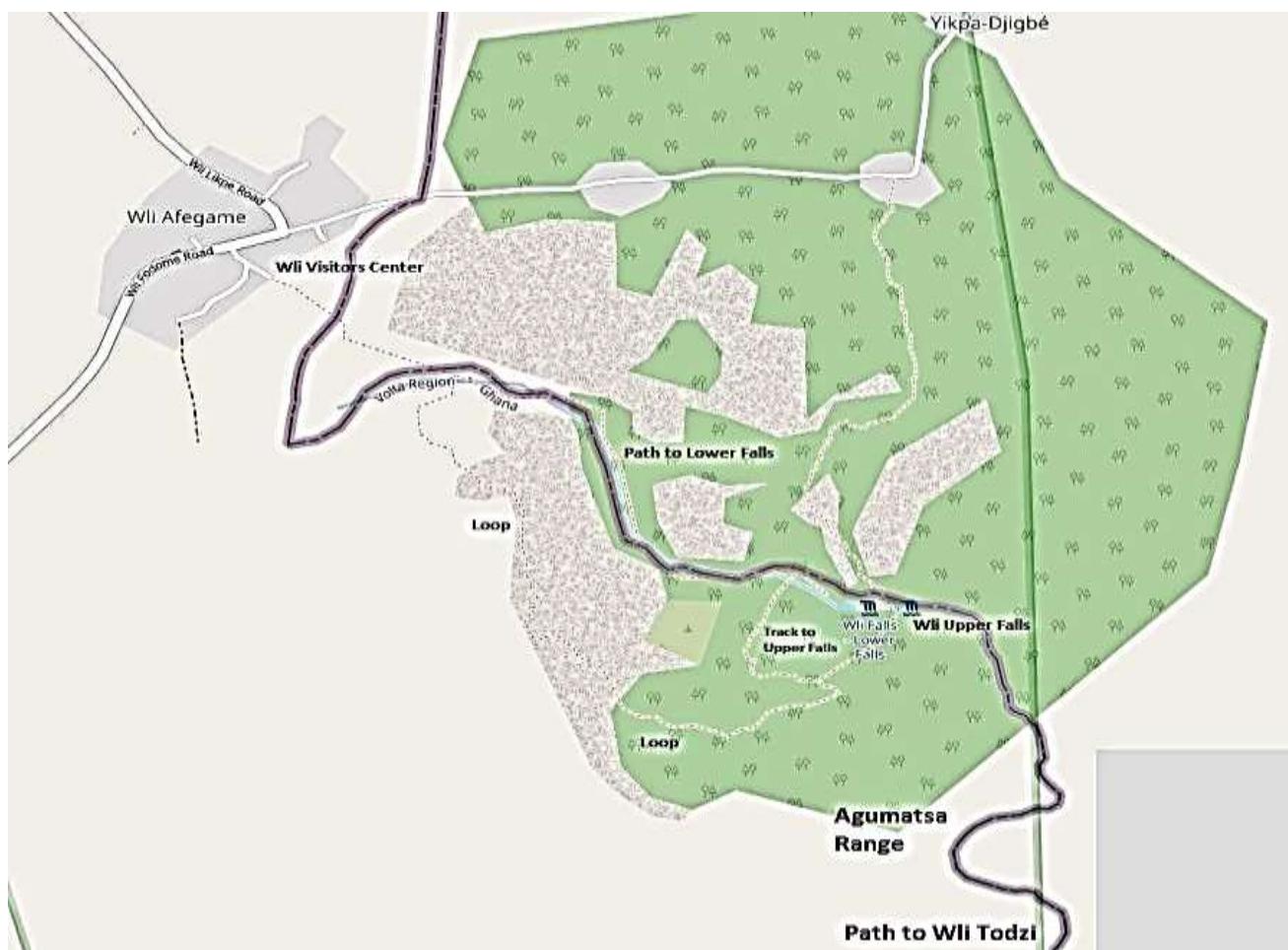
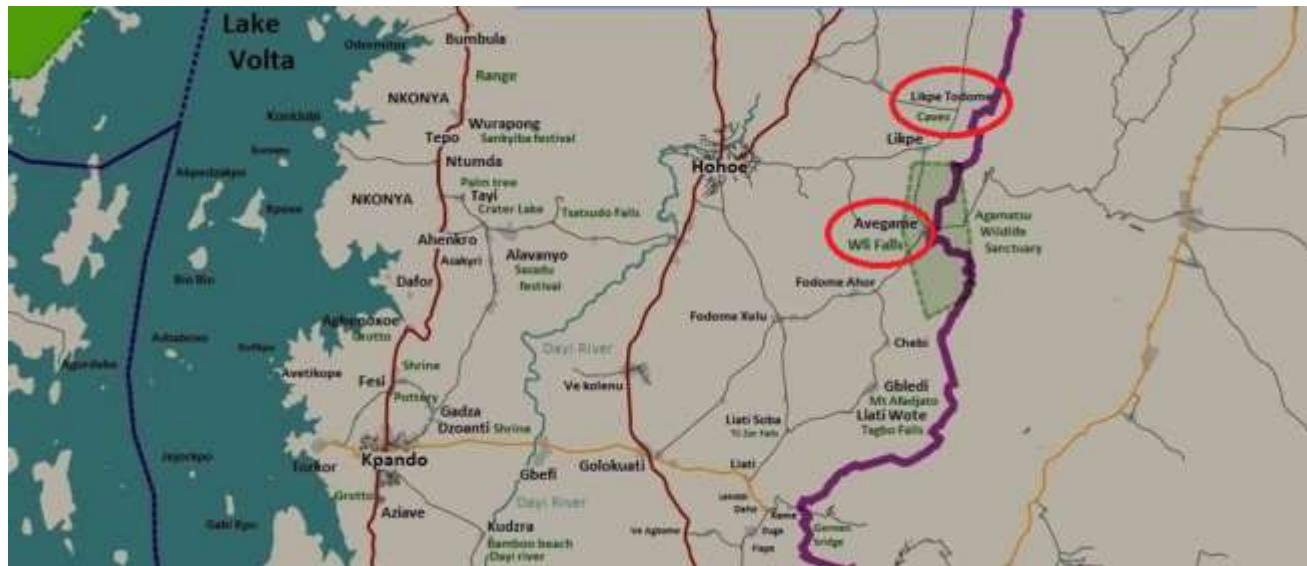
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- A must-visit natural phenomenon, located only 36 kilometers away from Kpando.
- The approximately 80 meters high Wli waterfalls are characterized by being the highest in West-Africa.
- Located in the Agumatsa Wildlife Sanctuary.
- This trip is a perfect escape from the busy streets.

## How to get there





### Lower Fall

- An easy, mostly flat trail that crosses two rivers and 8 bridges.
- After a tranquil 45 minutes hike going through the Agumatsa Wildlife Sanctuary you will reach the bottom of the lower fall.
- Besides seeing the impressive waterfall, you'll notice plenty of birds enjoying this source of life.
- The sanctuary counts about 200 different bird species and 400 butterfly species.
- And a large colony of fruit bats can be seen clinging to the cliffs and flying in the sky.



- ❖ You'll be able to swim in the inviting pool.
- ❖ This route doesn't require too much energy.
- ❖ The falls are most impressive from April to October.

### Upper Fall

For the more adventurous ones, two other routes are leading to the upper fall. The journey to the upper fall takes up more than 1 hour and will offer amazing scenery views. There are two routes available:

- ❖ The loop who is the easiest way to the upper fall
- ❖ Another challenging track is more steep and only accessible when it didn't rain recently
- ❖ The Upper Fall also offers opportunity to bathe in a pool.
- ❖ These routes require stamina and some decent footwear.



## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

- The upper and lower waterfalls are named the Wli waterfalls (pronounced as Vlee).
- It was found by a group of hunters who presumed the sound of the falls was a talking drum sounding and ran towards the noise only to find that it was a waterfall.
- Diving deeper into the meaning of the name, the Ewe language beautifully titled the waterfalls as Agumatsa Falls, meaning: "**Allow me to flow**".
- In the past, the falls have been identified with a different name. When the independence of the Republic of Ghana took place, the falls were named after one of the children of Ghana's first President. Known as the **Samia Falls** at the time, President Nkrumah owned his own lodge nearby the falls until his governance was overthrown in 1966.

## SPIRITUALITY

- The Wli waterfalls were of spiritual and cultural importance for the neighbouring communities. The falls are considered to be sacred as it holds a protecting spirit.
- The water helps the women to cure for being unfruitful. Every five days a priest will offer prayers at this holy place and on Easter special rituals are held.



## Community

- A visitor centre at Wli Waterfalls offers shaded seating, beverages, a nice gift shop and flush toilets. Other artisans often display their work outside.
- The Wli Waterfall is not only a tourist attraction but also plays a vital role in the life of the local community. Tourism is a significant source of income for Wli residents, and many families depend on visitors for their livelihoods. Local guides, artisans and food and drink vendors benefit from the influx of tourists who visit the waterfall every year.
- In addition, sustainable tourism and conservation initiatives are supported by tourism revenue. This helps protect the rainforest and preserve biodiversity around the waterfall. Tourists are encouraged to treat nature respectfully and appreciate the culture of the local people.