Bafut Palace is located in the heart of the Bafut kingdom in northwest Cameroon. With an estimated population of about 120,000 inhabitants, it is among the biggest Fondom (kingdom) on the Bamenda Plateau. The Palace has been the fulcrum of political power for over 400 years, and is still a center for religious rites and traditional ceremonies, headed by His Majesty Abumbi II, the eleventh Fon (traditional chief) of his line. Included on UNESCO’s Tentative List of World Heritage Sites in 2006, Bafut Palace is one of the most significant cultural heritage sites in Cameroon.

Achum shrine
The Achum Shrine is the spiritual core of the Palace and houses important fetishes. Built of wood and bamboo, and covered with thatch, the shrine is an impressive example of traditional religious architecture.

Museum
The guest house built during the German colonial administration is now a museum open to the public, displaying lots of objects representative of the Bafut traditions.

His Majesty the Fon Abumbi II
The paramount ruler remains very important as a religious and social leader of the Bafut community.

Abin festival
Since 1516, there has always been celebrated yearly, in late December. For one week prior to the festival, the community of Bafut, performs traditional dances, sacrifices to spirits and ancestors, ceremonies, etc.

The Grassfields cultural zone located on the high plateau of the West is characterized by numerous kingdoms of differing sizes, origin and complexity. There are about 108 palaces in the west province and at least half that number in the northwest province.
The Palace comprises over 50 buildings arranged around a shrine, which are used by the Fon, his wives, and the royal court. The entire site is surrounded by a sacred forest. From 1895 to 1900, Bafut resisted German colonisation, but after a long period of war, the Germans finally defeated Bafut and burnt down the complex and the central shrine in 1907. The Palace was rebuilt between 1907 and 1910 and its buildings represent both colonial influences and indigenous vernacular architectural styles.