

Summer Escapes Ghana

Program: Summer Escapes – Ghana

Arrival and departure: Accra International Airport

Duration: 28 Days

Accommodation and Meals: Hostel, host family, Ghanaian food three times a day

Program Fee: \$1799 for 4 weeks including 7 days guided tour

Arrival Date: June 28, 2009

Departure Date: July 29, 2009

June 29 – July 28, 2009

One of the most beautiful and flourishing lands on earth, Ghana is popularly known as the jewel of Africa. The sun dappled beaches, the lush green landscape with evergreen palm trees and the ethno-linguist groups like the renowned Ashanti, make Ghana a truly interesting travel destination. With Global Crossroad's Summer Escapes in Ghana, participants will have the opportunity to volunteer for a great cause and visit the tempting locales that surround Ghana – getting a true-to-life picture of Ghana and enjoying and experiencing Ghanaian hospitality and generosity.

Orientation, Language and Cultural Immersion in Accra (7 days)

Accra, the capital city of Ghana, will be the first stop in your Ghanaian Summer Escape experience. Discover the rich history, folklore, and customs of Ghana with basic Twi language classes and explorations of the legendary life and wonders of Accra and its surrounding places. Uncover the richness of Ghana's generational old artistry – the colorful kente cloth of the Ashanti, gold mining, wood carving, drum-making, cloth-printing, and weaving.

June 28: Airport pick-up and welcome of the volunteers at the Accra airport and transfer to their respective accommodations

June 29: Orientation Day – A brief orientation (approximately 2-3 hours) will be held on topics such as Ghanaian language, history, culture, politics, geography, religion and necessary health precautions. Volunteers are encouraged to bring forth issues and discuss and gather as much information as possible.

June 30: Ghanaian language classes begin. Learn greetings, pronouns and short expressions. In their free time, volunteers can visit the market and commercial areas.

July 1: Ghanaian language classes continue (2-3 hours). Learn more pertaining to verbs, adjectives, adverbs, family relations, food and drinks, and how to express appreciation.

July 2: Accra city tour through the principal streets of Accra. The first destination will be the National Museum containing artifacts of pre-historic origin and relics of chieftaincy are displayed. Continue onto a guided tour of the Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park, where Ghana's independence was declared.

July 3: Ghanaian language classes continue. In the afternoon, volunteers will also go to a local food market and buy goods (asking about prices using the language they have learned).



July 4: Drive to Shai Hills for game-viewing, where participants can observe different kinds of animals such as antelope, monkeys of various species, birds, etc. Continue to Aburi – a century-old botanical garden. The remainder of the day is available to participants to admire the greenery and beautiful landscapes.

July 5: Closing of Ghanaian language program, evaluation, and departure for project.

**Community Service Project: Work in Orphanage in Accra and Volta Region
July 6-July 20**



For the next 14 days, volunteers will go to different orphanages located in either Accra or the Volta Region. Volunteers will be subdivided in many small groups. Global Crossroad will place 2-5 volunteers in one orphanage depending upon the number of children. As a volunteer in the orphanage project, you will teach English (3-4 hours a day) in the orphanage or schools (when the children attend school during the day). You will help the children by educating them on issues of personal hygiene and sanitation – helping them to brush their teeth, showering, etc. In your free time (mostly in evening), participants can organize games, drawing lessons, singing, dancing, and other creative,

educational and extra-curricular activities. In the evening, you will help the children with their homework, monitor their academic progress, and make sure that the children complete the next day's homework assignments. If you do not want to teach in the school during the daytime, you can offer to take care of the children who stay at the orphanage (who cannot yet go to school). Your help is also expected in the dressing of the children, food distribution, kitchen, garden, cleaning and various administrative duties.

July 21: Closing of community service project and preparation for final week's travel.

Explore Volta, Central and Ashanti Region of Ghana (7 days)

Explore the Volta, Central and Ashanti regions together with Ghana's relics of past civilizations, the historical sites, legendary national monuments, and the forts and castles that recall more than five centuries of European influence – standing as ghosts of the past slave trade. Participants will be seeped in the deep, abiding traditions and artful culture of the Ghanaian people upon which their society still thrives upon today.

July 22: Visit Wli Waterfalls – the largest in Ghana, these waterfalls' the sheer grandeur are amazing site to behold. The spectacular white water of the Agumatsa River thunder about 60 meters down steep cliffs into a large pool below. The massive mountain formations – comprising of soaring peaks and rock walls which are part of the Akwapim-Togo Mountain – also quite picturesque.

July 23: A day visit to the Monkey Sanctuary at Tafi-Atome. Tafi Monkey Sanctuary (a sacred grove) is a traditional conservation area backed by statutory enforcement in co-operation with local communities. It is located in the Volta Region of Ghana and home of Mona and Patas monkeys. These monkeys are found in a remnant patch of forests, which has survived fire and human disturbance. These monkeys are regarded as gods and as such the natives do not kill them. They are protected by tradition.



July 24: Cultural visits of Kumasi: visit the Manhyia Palace Museum, see a film presentation that

introduces you to the rich culture, history, and wealth of the Asante king, visit the durbar of chiefs and where the king of Asante sits at the Manyia Palace to learn more about Asante chieftancy and culture.

July 25: Visit the craft villages that surround Kumasi for the famous Kente cloth at Bonwire (origin of kente), Adinkra textile printing at Ntonso, and wood-carving at Ahwiaa. Each craft village has a particular claim to artistic fame. Bonwire is the capital of the Kente cloth, while Ntonso boasts the Adinkra cloth. Ahwiaa produces outstanding carved figures, including Ghana's traditional fertility doll, and Kurofuforum specializes in the casting of brass.

**In the afternoon, volunteers will leave for Kukum and Cape Coast.*

July 26: Visit the Kakum National Park – a semi-deciduous tropical rain forest. Enjoy a walk on one of the only four canopy walkways in the world, which offers you a bird's eye view of the forest. Or trek on the Kenton trail and get to know the medicinal value of the various African tree species.

July 27: Visit the slave castles of Ghana – Elmina Castle, the first and largest European edifice on the coast of West Africa, built in 1482, and the Cape Coast Castle, which became the seat of British colonial administration until 1877. The history of black slavery unfolds as participants tour these history-filled castles.

July 28: Last day in Accra. Tour the home of Dr. W.E.B. Dubois, the African-American who spent the last few years of his life helping to build the foundations of a new state, Ghana. Attractions at the W.E.B. Dubois Memorial Center for Pan-African Culture include his tomb, a museum, a library, and a very interesting narration.

Program fee covers

- First night of hotel stay (not food)
- Accommodations in hostel, host family, hotel, camp (28 Days)
- Local food three times a day (28 Days)
- Local transportation (primarily local buses)
- Airport receive/transfer to hostel
- Entry fees
- Insurance
- Service of leader for entire project period

Program fee does not cover

- Any room/food before or after the program
- Water, soft drinks during project and travel (outside of those accompanying provided/included meals)
- Any tips to guides, gifts to host family or projects
- Personal expenses

Program itineraries are merely samples and may change to meet the needs of the volunteers and changes in the field conditions. This itinerary will be revised and finalized during orientation in Accra.