

## Ghana: Children of Africa™

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Experience traditional African culture and village life and make a difference in the lives of children.



### Highlights

- Volunteer at a village primary school
- Relive history at the slave forts
- Learn about social issues facing women and children
- Visit a traditional medicine man
- Hike to the tallest waterfall in West Africa
- Get up close to African monkeys at a monkey sanctuary
- Hike on rope bridges through the treetops of a rainforest
- Learn traditional African dance and percussion



## **Ghana: Children of Africa™**

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Ghana is often called the heart and soul of West Africa because of its welcoming, passionate, and peaceful people. It is a particularly important place, because it is where many African-Americans can trace their roots.

Come discover the Volta Region of Ghana, an area well known for its traditional African religion, *kente* cloth weaving, storytelling, drumming, and dancing. Besides volunteering to help local children, you will immerse yourself in the vibrant African culture and visit the historic slave forts on Cape Coast.

### **Community Service**

Service is an integral part of this program. You will volunteer in rural village schools working with Ghanaian children. Many children do not have access to education and there is a lack of adequate facilities, books and qualified teachers. You may find yourself teaching a group of kids in a classroom with no electricity or even under a tree with only a chalk board and your own skills to share. You will build bricks to be used in the construction of classrooms as well as other hands-on projects.

### **Learning**

Through a variety of cultural activities, you will become immersed in this rich African culture. We'll participate in workshops such as cloth making, drumming, and Ewe language crash courses. Additionally, we will meet with inspirational grassroots leaders to learn how they are addressing the pressing issues facing Ghanaian women and children today.

You will have the unique opportunity to meet with local tribe members and chiefs to engage in a deep analysis of traditional religion, the social construction of gender, the tribal system of chiefs, as well as the distinctive history of Ghana.

### **Adventure**

During the week we'll visit some of the local sites, but on the first weekend we'll travel deep into the Volta Region where we'll hike to one of the tallest waterfalls in West Africa, visit a Monkey Sanctuary and learn how to weave kente cloth at traditional weaving village.

Students participating on the 21-day Flagship Program will spend the second weekend exploring the legendary and haunting slave forts including Cape Coast Castle and Elmina Castle. The Elmina Castle was one of the most frequented stops in the Atlantic Slave Trade, and today it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We'll spend the night at a beachfront hotel and hike along rope bridges through a rain forest.

### **Lodging**

Our Home Bases are private facilities near the beach town of Keta, three hours east of the capital city Accra. The facilities are located near the sandy beaches of the Atlantic Ocean. We live in gender-segregated rooms; each room has two bunk beds, allowing three to four students to share a bedroom and a private bathroom. The compound is beautifully furnished with authentic African decorations as well as a rustic kitchen and dining area.

### **Tuition**

Tuition includes all in-country expenses including lodging, meals, hotel during weekend excursions, transportation, all activities and entrance fees, community service materials, all excursions, backup medical insurance, and experienced program leaders. Tuition includes laundry service twice during the 21-day program, and once during the 14-day program. Tuition does not include the following: international airfare, souvenirs, snacks, laundry, phone calls, or medical expenses.

### **21 Day Flagship Program**

June 19 - July 9, 2012

July 4 - July 24, 2012

July 12 - August 1, 2012

July 27 - August 16, 2012

**Duration:** 21 days

**Tuition:** \$4,399

**Max. group size:** 28 students

**Service hours:** 60

**Location:** Keta, Ghana

### **14-Day Program**

June 18 - July 1, 2012

August 4 - August 17, 2012

**Duration:** 14 days

**Tuition:** \$3,199

**Max. group size:** 28 students

**Service hours:** 45

**Location:** Keta, Ghana



## Program Schedule

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**Disclaimer: Actual order of activities will vary by program session.** *The day by day itinerary detailed below is typical for what you can expect to experience, but not set in stone as work and activities vary depending upon the needs of our local community partners, various celebrations and customs, as well as the weather. This itinerary is designed to give you an example of what a day to day schedule would look like and provides a clear idea of the program experience. It may be changed during the summer as staff see fit and on the ground circumstances and opportunities change our course. Ghana will challenge you as students are expected to work hard and really be present for all that we do. You will get hot, dirty and bug bitten along the way, but your contribution to the rural community and to each other will positively impact everyone involved.*

**Day 1:** You fly into Accra, the capital of Ghana where you'll be met at the airport, by a GLA staff member. We'll drive approximately three hours to the GLA Home Base near the town of Keta where you'll meet the other students and get settled in.

**Day 2:** After a morning of orientation activities and reviewing the GLA Code of Conduct, we'll head out to explore the surrounding villages and walk along the nearby beach to get to know our new home for the next few weeks. You'll get familiar with the daily rhythms of life in the village.

**Day 3:** In the morning you will meet the children at your new community service site at a local primary school. You will spend time teaching children in subjects such as English or math. You can also work with the youngest children teaching songs and playing games. You will also be working on a hands-on project at the school such as building bricks or helping to refurbish a classroom. It is a lot of work but important for the development of the school. In the afternoon, you will participate in a crash course on Ewe, the local tribal language.

**Day 4:** Community service will continue at your local primary school. After a traditional lunch, you will meet with your host families and spend the afternoon immersed in local Ghanaian culture as you get to know your family. In the evening you will participate in a seminar to develop your leadership skills.

**Day 5:** After a morning of community service, you will go to a foster home nearby to play soccer with the children. In the evening we will have a local leader come to speak about the political and economic history of Ghana.

**Day 6:** After a full morning of service, you will visit a small corner shop to meet with a local seamstress. Here, you can design your own traditional African clothing. For dinner, you will have a traditional dinner of fish, rice, beans, and freshly squeezed pineapple juice. In the evening you will host a local chief to speak about the tribal system of chiefs and governance in the Volta Region.

**Day 7:** After a hearty breakfast we will depart for Ho, a small town about three hours from the GLA Home Base. You will visit New Seed International to hear from their founder about his vision for attacking HIV/AIDS in the local community and educating children. Later you will meet the founder of another NGO helping to educate pregnant teenagers and provide micro-finance opportunities for women.



**Day 8:** In the morning we will take a short bike ride to the forest and stop at a rural village there. We will visit the Tafi Aktomi Monkey Sanctuary where you can safely feed the monkeys as you enjoy a forest walk. We will hike up to the hidden waterfalls called Wii Falls and enjoy the scenery and plant diversity of a lush rainforest. You can enjoy a picnic lunch there and swim in the cooling water.

**Day 9:** This morning we will head to the Tafi Weaving Village to view the complex process of weaving cloths. We will head back to Home Base after lunch. In the afternoon you will hear from engaging traditional storytellers.

**Day 10:** Community service will continue at our schools. In addition to teaching, we will also help build bricks for local schools that don't have walls. In the afternoon you will have a drumming lesson, and hear from a speaker on polygamy and traditional practices. In the evening you will have a leadership session covering vision, mission, and goals.

**Day 11:** After a morning of service, you will visit the Keta Market. Here, you can view the food that is locally available in your village and learn more about the Ghanaian economy. Later you will visit a local beach where you can observe fishermen paddling off the shore in their huge handmade canoes.

**Day 12:** Community service will continue in the schools. In the afternoon, you will visit with our host families for the last time. In the evening, we will analyze the relationship between modern and traditional religion in the Volta Region.

**Day 13:** We will continue our work at the village schools and our two week students will say their goodbyes. In the afternoon we will visit Klikor, a local town that still practices traditional religion. You will learn about the beliefs, values, and traditional clothing of the people of Klikor. Later you will dine at a local restaurant to sample some delicious coconut rice before heading home.

**Day 14:** Students in the 14-day program will travel to Accra for some last minute shopping in the Accra crafts market and then be taken to the airport where our staff will help them get checked in for their flight home. The rest of the group will continue with the community service project and engage in leadership activities in the afternoon.

### ***21 Day Flagship Program Continues***

**Day 15:** Today we explore the nation's capital, visiting Independence Square where you will learn about Ghana's struggle for independence. You will also have time to browse the local craft market before we travel to our hotel near Cape Coast.

**Day 16:** In the morning we will rise early to travel to the Cape Coast Castle and the Elmina Castle, the historic slave forts where a large percentage of slaves being taken to the Western hemisphere were held until the 1800s. You will experience first-hand the slave dungeons, as well as walk through the Door of No Return. In the afternoon we'll hike along hanging rope bridges that take you across the treetops of a local rainforest.



**Day 17:** Today we will visit an international organization called Global Mamas, where you will interact with women engaging in micro-finance opportunities. Global Mamas give Ghanaian women the opportunity to be independent and escape poverty by helping them open their own small businesses. You will make your own batik cloth, which is a manual wax-resistant dyeing technique used to design cloth and artwork. After a delicious lunch, we will drive back to our Home Base.

**Day 18:** Community service will continue at the schools. In the afternoon we'll visit the Keta Municipal hospital and hear from local doctors about how they are combating HIV/AIDS and malaria. In the evening you will hear from a grassroots leader about current social issues facing Ghana.

**Day 19:** You will begin to wrap up your community service projects at the schools. In the afternoon you will hear about the history of the Anlo people and the importance of chocolate and gold in the Ghanaian society. In the evening we will have a leadership session on decision making and conflict resolution.

**Day 20:** Today you will say good bye to all the children at your service sites. In the afternoon we will gather on the beach to reflect on the experience and discuss ways we will take what we learned back home with us. In the evening, we will host a formal farewell banquet and party with Africa drums.

**Day 21:** After saying goodbye to the community, we travel back to the airport in Accra where the GLA staff will help you check in for your flight and see you off on your return flight home. program for high school students. Students come back transformed.

## About Global Leadership Adventures

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Global Leadership Adventures, established in 2004, is the premier international community service-learning program for high school students. Students come back transformed.

GLA is unique because of its focus on leadership development and first-hand learning about global issues. Students learn first hand from social pioneers around the world who are creating positive social change in their communities.

Students are taught to use their heart, as well as their head, to become agents of positive change across borders.

**GLA has been featured in:**

**The New York Times**

*seventeen*

**BALTIMORE TIMES ONLINE**

**The Boston Globe**

