

EDU AFRICA

TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING JOURNEYS



HERITAGE AND IDENTITY: EXPLORING DIASPORA CONNECTIONS

Malcolm X College
20 -26 April 2024 - Ghana



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

About Ghana

Ghana takes its name from the great medieval trading empire known as the Ghana Empire. It was founded by the Akan Ethnic group in the 13th century. The empire was rich in gold and traded widely with the Portuguese, Dutch, English, and others between the 15th and 16th centuries. This made it become known as the Gold Coast. The 17th century saw a shift into the slave trade, with devastating effects on the country and huge implications for modern world history. Ghana was the first African country south of the Sahara to gain independence from the colonial rule of the British in 1957. Its revolution was led by the nationalist and Pan-Africanist Kwame Nkrumah, and the country has since become a model for African economic recovery and political reform. Ghana is well known for being among the world's leading producers of high-quality sun-dried cocoa. Agriculture, forestry, and fishing employ more than half of the population. The country has a rich indigenous culture with people groups such as the Ewe, Fante, Nzema, and Ga Dambe, all with close ties to religion and institutions of chieftaincy. About 50 indigenous languages are spoken in Ghana, the major ones being Akan, Ewe, Ga, Dagaare, and Dagbani. English is the official language. Harvest season, marriage, birth, puberty, and death call for various festivals and rites. These occasions are seen as an expression of anti-colonialism in the 21st century.

This program explores concepts of heritage and identity through the exploration of Ghana's cultural and historical ties to the diaspora. While exploring Ghana's history, students will also have the opportunity to experience its vibrant culture through visits to local markets, traditional ceremonies, and music and dance performances. They will also have the chance to interact with local academic, business and cultural leaders to explore the linkages between the past, present and future of Ghana and its diaspora. This program provides an enriching and transformative experience that fosters cross-cultural understanding, personal growth, and a deeper appreciation for cultural heritage.

Educational Site Visits

- Fort William
- Essikado Palace
- Ashanti Traditional Buildings
- W.E.B. Dubois Centre

TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING JOURNEYS

EDU Africa aims to promote the process of student transformation by utilizing the unique context of Africa to help students broaden their intellectual horizons and grow personally, cross-culturally, professionally, and as global citizens.



LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this program, students should be able to:

1. Develop an understanding of various cultural perspectives and practices **(IC)**
2. Understand the impact of heritage on identity, and social cohesion **(IC)**
3. Engage in discussions and debates about cultural diversity, heritage preservation and global challenges **(IG)**
4. Recognize the interconnectedness of Ghana and the United States **(GC)**
5. Demonstrate increased personal self-awareness **(PG)**
6. Build confidence in expressing ideas and opinions in a culturally sensitive manner **(PG, IC)**
7. Enhance problem-solving and critical thinking skills in a multicultural context **(PD)**

Note: Specific learning outcomes and activities can be constructed in collaboration with EDU Africa's dedicated curriculum development team.

DAILY PROGRAM

Prior to departure		- EDU Africa facilitates virtual preparation sessions for participants, providing them with important health, safety, and cultural information before travel. - Students are to complete Transformation Questionnaire 1			
2024	Travel	Accommodation	Meals Included	Activities	Learning Outcomes Achieved
20 April	Arrive	Roots Hotel	D	Arrive in Accra Welcome Dinner	- -
21 April	Accra - Elmina	Golden Hill Parker Hotel	BLD	Depart for Central Region Fort William Kakum National Park University of Cape Coast	- 1, 2, 3 - 3, 6, 7
22 April	Elmina - Takoradi	Golden Hill Parker Hotel	BLD	Depart for Western Region Cape Coast Castle Nana Nketsia's Palace Naming Ceremony Bisa Aberwa Museum Evening Cultural Performance	- 1, 2, 4 3, 5, 6 1, 2, 4 2, 4, 5 1, 2
23 April	Elmina - Kumasi	Noda Hotel	BLD	Depart for Ashanti Region Assin Manso Manhiya Palace Kumasi Cultural Centre	- 1, 2, 4 2, 4 1, 4
24 April		Noda Hotel	BLD	Ashanti Funeral Ashanti Traditional Buildings Adanwomase	1, 2, 5 1, 3, 6 1, 3, 6
25 April	Kumasi - Accra	Roots Hotel	BLD	Depart for Accra Accra City Orientation Arts Centre for national Culture Guest Speaker: Wisdom Ativoe Farewell Dinner	1, 2 - 3, 6, 7
26 April		Roots Hotel	BLD	University of Ghana WEB Dubois Centre Diaspora African Centre Oxford Street	3, 4, 6 2, 4, 5 3, 4, 7 -

				Depart Accra	
	Depart Accra		BL	Final Reflection and TQ2 Jamestown Excursion Oxford St Depart Accra	5, 6, 7 - - -

Abbreviations, B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

This program engages students with the principles of the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:



LOCAL PROGRAM FACILITATOR AND/OR GUIDE

All EDU Africa programs are implemented by trusted program facilitators and/or guides. Our program facilitators and guides undergo an intensive 12-module training series. The training modules include details on EDU Africa's transformation goals, reflective practices, emergency procedures, child protection policies, and communication skills, among other elements. We source and carefully select our facilitators and guides from the region to ensure that they can effectively meet specific program themes and needs. Their embodiment of EDU Africa's values of friendliness, collaboration, innovation, stewardship, and learning helps them to holistically support both leaders and participants throughout their program. This guarantees that the planned itinerary and activities come to life. The assigned program facilitator/s and/or guides will be available at all times to assist with any student and educator needs, thus ensuring the smooth running of the program.

PROGRAM CONTRIBUTORS

Nana Nketsia



Nana Kobina Nketsia V is the paramount chief of the Essikado Traditional Area in the Western Region of Ghana. He is a highly respected traditional ruler who has played a significant role in promoting the cultural heritage of his people and advocating for their development. Nana Nketsia is also a historian and has authored several books on the history and culture of the Western Region of Ghana. He has received numerous awards and recognition for his contributions to Ghanaian culture, development and politics.

Wisdom Ativoe



Wisdom Ativoe is a Chartered Accountant and Senior Finance Executive with two decades of experience in various industries. He is currently serving as the Managing Director of Nerasol

Ghana Ltd. Apart from his professional work, Wisdom has been actively involved in Youth and Community Development for the past 25 years and has served on the Kente Festival Planning Committee of Agotime, the birthplace of Kente, since 1999. He offers unique insights into the workings of Ghana's economy and its diasporic connections.

POTENTIAL PROGRAM CONTRIBUTORS

Please note that the contributors listed below are subject to availability and organizational need at the time the program is due to start.

Professor Kodzo Gavua, University of Ghana



Professor Kodzo Gavua is an ethnographer, an archeologist and a musician. He is now working as an Associate Professor of Archaeology and Heritage Studies at the University of Ghana. Professor Gavua is passionate about public archaeology, anthropology of tourism, art history and material culture studies. In addition to his work at the University of Ghana, Professor Gavua established and now coordinates the A.G. Leventis Digital Resource Centre for African Culture in Accra.

Wisdom Komabu



Wisdom Komabu is a teaching associate at the University of Cape Coast Department of Music and Dance. Wisdom studied the Philosophy of Music Composition at the postgraduate level and is now a research assistant, lecturer and a choral conductor at the University. Wisdom is passionate about the history of Ghanaian music as well as its influence around the globe.

ACCOMMODATION

Roots Hotel

Located centrally in Accra, the Roots Hotel offers many facilities, including a restaurant, a café, a rooftop bar, and a fitness center. The rooms have twin beds, private bathrooms, and air conditioning. There is free Wi-Fi across the entire property and 24-hour support from the service staff. The Roots Hotel is conveniently located near the airport and serves as a good base from which to explore Ghana.



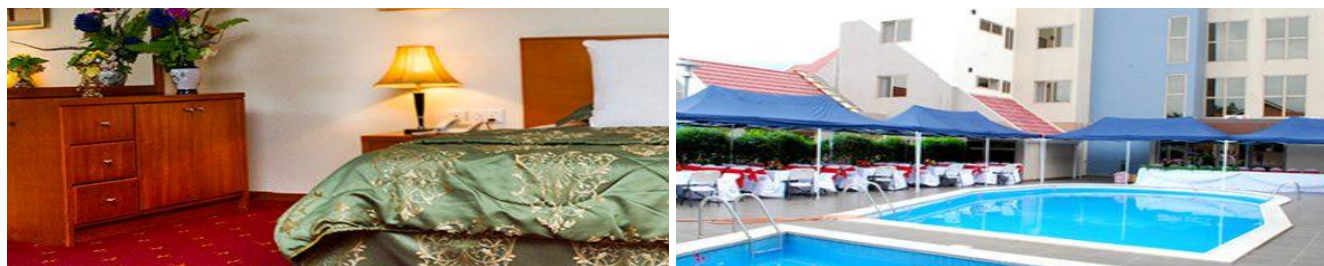
Golden Hill Parker Hotel

The Golden Hill Parker Hotel is situated on the Bantuma Hills overlooking Elmina, Ghana. The hotel boasts beautiful views and comfortable rooms. There is a pool for participants to relax in during their free time and a restaurant on site. All rooms have satellite TV, WiFi, air-conditioning and electronic safe and a hair dryer.



Noda Hotel

Away from the bustle of downtown Kumasi but still close to the city center, this hotel is situated in the Fumesua neighborhood of the city. The hotel rooms feature a flatscreen TV, minibar, air conditioning and a refrigerator. Free wifi access for guests makes it simple to access the internet. The hotel features a restaurant, an outdoor pool, and a lounge for possible meeting spaces and/or recreation time.



CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

EDU Africa Orientation

EDU Africa offers a comprehensive orientation session at the start of the program to kickstart the participants' acclimation period and prepare them for transformation. It is led by the local Program Facilitator who will support the group for the duration of their stay. The orientation provides a brief introduction to the immediate surroundings, contextualizes the country setting, and provides information pertinent to the group's safety and overall experience throughout the program. It builds on content introduced in virtual preparatory sessions and, in the event that virtual preparation did not occur, ensures that the learning experience(s) to follow is foregrounded within the transformative learning framework. The Program Facilitator will typically provide participants with an outline of the program at this stage and clarify the roles, responsibilities, and expectations with the participants while in-country.

Fort William Stopover

Louis Armstrong was born in New Orleans in the United States of America. However, his grandparents were slaves of Ghanaian origin. A stopover in Louis Armstrong's ancestral village brings home the reality of families affected by the slave trade and the emergence of the African diaspora. Participants visit Fort Williams, which was a center for British slave trading along the Gold Coast.

University of Cape Coast

The University of Cape Coast has two campuses and offers 210 areas of study; it is a public university on the water's edge of Cape Coast, Ghana. Ranked one of the top universities in Ghana and among the top 5 universities in Africa,

a visit to the University of Cape Coast is a great way to experience student life in Ghana and the home of many of the top Ghanaian academics.

Essikado Palace

Essikado Palace is a historic palace located in Sekondi-Takoradi, Ghana. It was built in the early 20th century by a local chief and was later used as a residence for the colonial governor of the Gold Coast. Today, the palace is open to the public and is a popular tourist attraction. Here students will take a guided tour of the palace and learn about its history and significance in the local culture.

Naming Ceremony

In Ghanaian culture, a naming ceremony is a significant event that celebrates the birth of a child and gives the child its name. The ceremony is usually held on the eighth day after the child's birth. Family and friends gather during the ceremony to offer blessings and prayers for the child's well-being. Participants will take part in a naming ceremony in Essikado Palace and have an opportunity to receive their own Ghanaian names. Here participants will get a first-hand insight into an important traditional practice and consider the impact of such traditions on the identity of local inhabitants.

Bisa Aberwa Museum

The Bisa Aberwa Museum is thought to be the largest private collection of artifacts, sculptures, and audio visual material in the world telling the African story. Created by filmmaker Kwaw Ansah, the museum has 2000 artifacts of African heroes as well as sculptures and photographs of the civil rights movement and important black personalities around the world.

Assin Manso

Also called the Ancestral Slave River Site, Assin Manso was one of the largest slave markets during the transatlantic slave trade. Ancestral grave sites, the Memory Wall of Return, and the Last Bath all demonstrate the path of slaves who were taken to work in the mines and plantations for the production of goods later shipped back to Europe. Viewing the sites, participants are struck with the grim reality of this part of Ghanaian history and the effect it still has on the country today.

Kumasi Cultural Centre

The Kumasi Cultural Center is a hub for exploring the rich Kumasi culture. Along with artifacts from the Ashanti Kingdom and houses of the Prempeh II Jubilee museum, the Kumasi Cultural Centre allows students to view first-hand the cultural arts of brassworking, woodcarving, pottery making, batik cloth dyeing and kente cloth weaving. Through conversations with local experts in the field, students gain insight into the creative culture of Kumasi.

Ashanti Funeral

In Ashanti culture, funerals are seen as an opportunity to celebrate the life of the deceased and to honor their ancestors. A funeral is a multi-day event that involves a series of rituals and ceremonies that honor the ancestors and the deceased. Here participants will witness part of the funeral proceedings and see, firsthand, how the Ashanti people maintain cultural traditions in modern times.

Ashanti Traditional Buildings

Recognized as a World Heritage Site, this site, near Kumasi, comprises 13 traditionally built buildings from the time of the Ashanti Empire. The buildings which were used as fetish houses and shrines are described as the "home of men and gods". They showcase the architectural style of the Asante Kingdom and are the last remains of the history and culture of the Asante people. Participants will receive a guided tour of the traditional shrines and learn about the Asante tribe's lifestyle and family norms.



Adanwomase Village

In the Ashanti area of Ghana, Adanwomase is a village known for its skilled weavers of the Kente cloth, traditionally worn by African royalty. With 50% of villagers working in the Kente industry, Adanwomase Village is a prime location for participants to learn about this traditional skill and its meaning for the people of Ghana, both as traditionally symbolic clothing and a current livelihood. Participants will learn of the history of Kente weaving and how the villagers' lives and production methods have changed over time.

Manhiya Palace

Manhiya Palace is the residence of the leader of the Ashanti people. There are two palaces in close proximity to each other. The first palace is now transformed into a museum and the second palace is the official home of the current Ashanti leader, Otumfuor Osei Tutu II. The museum holds artifacts from past royalty and the courtyard still hosts traditional celebrations today. A visit to the palace is a glance into the past and present life of an Ashanti King.

University of Ghana Campus Orientation

The University of Ghana is the oldest and largest of the thirteen Ghanaian national public universities. The university is comprised of the colleges of Health Science, Basic and Applied Sciences, Education and Humanities. Participants will explore and learn about life on campus.

Accra City Orientation

Accra, Ghana's capital city, is a bustling metropolis that offers visitors a unique blend of modernity and tradition. A city orientation will assist participants in navigating the city and appreciating its diverse offerings. This excursion serves to orient participants within Accra and introduces them to the history of Ghana through Accra's significant sites such as Independence Square and Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park and Mausoleum.

W. E. B. DuBois Centre

The W. E. B. Du Bois Memorial Centre for Pan-African Culture is, as its name suggests, a memorial, a research facility, and a tourist attraction in the Cantonments area of Accra, Ghana. It is named in dedication to W. E. B. Du Bois, an African-American historian and Pan-Africanist who became a citizen of Ghana in the early 1960s. He lived there in his last few years at the invitation of President Kwame Nkrumah, while compiling the *Encyclopedia Africana*. Here, students will explore the museum which houses part of Du Bois's personal library and a collection of his works.

Diaspora African Forum

The Diaspora Africa Forum is an African Union endorsed organization to unite the African diaspora and Africa. The Forum aims to strengthen the engagement of the diaspora in Ghana and to work with the African Union and its states towards the reintegration of the diaspora worldwide. Students visit the headquarters of the Diaspora Africa Forum and learn more about its work. Here participants will consider the nature of diaspora connections and the role they play in their communities as members of the diaspora.

CO-/EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Kakum National Park

The Kakum National Park protects an undisturbed virgin rainforest in Ghana and is located approximately 33 km north of Cape Coast. The park is a haven for nature lovers with a wide variety of flora and wildlife, including seven primate species, over 500 species of butterflies, and around 250 bird species. The Diana monkey, giant bongo antelope, yellow-backed duiker, and African elephant are the most notable endangered species protected by the park. One of the most popular attractions at Kakum National Park is the canopy walkway, which is suspended 30 meters above the forest floor and offers stunning views of the park's lush vegetation. The walkway is made up of seven bridges and stretches for over 350 meters.

Jamestown Excursion

Walking through Jamestown, the 'original Accra' with its old streets is a great way to orientate participants to the Accra surroundings. On the way, the participants have an opportunity to see the 19th century lighthouse, as well as Dutch built Ussher and James Forts. Participants then participate in a welcome ceremony at a Chief's palace and consider how this experience may be incorporated into a study abroad experience.

Oxford Street

A popular street in the Osu suburb of Accra, Oxford street is symbolic of the perfect place to experience daily urban life in Accra. With street vendors, restaurants and the bustle of a city street, Oxford street offers participants the opportunity to soak up the sights and sounds of urban life in Ghana.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

Transformation Questionnaires

EDU Africa's Transformation Questionnaires are pre-and post-test student self-evaluations designed to help gauge their transformation in line with EDU Africa's transformative learning goals. Students will complete Transformation Questionnaire 1 at the start of the program to provide a benchmark score against which we compare their results for Transformation Questionnaire 2 (completed at the program's end). A report will be drawn from the student data collected and shared with faculty in the weeks after the program has ended.

Reflection Sessions

Reflection sessions encourage students to think through, process, and make meaning of their experiences during the program. Through a combination of formal and informal reflection techniques, students will be asked questions and invited to engage in structured activities that will encourage them to articulate their thoughts and feelings, internalize any lessons or moments of growth, and ultimately, transform, in line with the program learning outcomes.

Some of the key points for reflection will include the meaning of heritage and "roots", the impact of heritage and roots on identity, and the similarities and differences between traditional and modern cultural practices in Ghana and the United States.

Pre-Reflection

Pre-reflections will be held before potentially traumatic sites. These reflection sessions will go over the historical context of the sites, to prepare participants with a level of understanding and cultural sensitivity to the sites. These sessions also aim to prepare participants for the various emotions and feeling that may arise during the activities and give them tools for emotional self-care before, during and after the experiences.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR FUNCTIONAL DIFFERENCES

We are committed to providing an inclusive and accessible environment for all our program participants by supporting functional differences, disabilities, and any other special needs. If participants have any specific needs that we might be able to accommodate during the program or have requirements for extra time or resources, please let us know in advance so that we can do our best to assist them. As part of our pre-departure processes, our Program Designers will ensure that participants complete our Participant Information Form which asks for details of any allergies, medical conditions, and other special needs.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Our Program Designers do their best to ensure that our programs are accessible to as many participants as possible. However, there may be areas in which an individual may not have access or cannot be accommodated with regard to a functional difference. This section lists some elements for participants to consider before they travel. Participants in this program should be aware of and be prepared for the following:

- Signing and adhering to the policies outlined in EDU Africa's Participant Agreement Form, which include protocols for Notifiable Medical Conditions such as COVID-19.
- Obtaining travel insurance (highly recommended) before travel. This should include adequate cover for baggage, curtailment, and provision for any forms of disruptions to travel due to Notifiable Medical Conditions such as COVID-19. *Please note that participants who choose not to take out relevant travel insurance must be prepared to directly cover any such expenses as stated above should they arise while they travel.*
- Obtaining medical insurance (compulsory) before travel. This should cover any potential medical expenses and the cost of repatriation should participants become too ill to participate, including helicopter rescue and air ambulance services, as well as cover any forms of medical expenses that may be incurred due to illnesses from Notifiable Medical Conditions such as COVID-19. *Please note that participants who choose not to take out relevant medical insurance must be prepared to directly cover any such expenses as stated above should they arise while they travel.*
- Carrying their own luggage as much as possible to minimize cross-contamination with germs (help will be available when necessary in adherence to any Notifiable Medical Conditions protocols)
- Dealing with ambiguity, for example, there may need to be last-minute unforeseen changes to the program itinerary
- Respecting and adhering to the communicated medical ethics relevant to the institutions they will be visiting or volunteering within
- Committing to ethical community engagement in accordance with the presented guidelines
- Adhering to general ethical boundaries if involved in a service-learning program
- Visiting potentially triggering or traumatic areas/sites such as Cape Coast and Elmina Castles and Assin Manso
- Living in a setting away from consistent internet connectivity for 8 days
- Coping with lack of electricity during scheduled and/or unplanned power outages, and any effects that this may have on the itinerary
- Learning to adjust to communicating and interacting with others who may have different accents, values, beliefs, cultures, and traditions for the duration of the program
- Interacting with materially poor environments (as evident, for example, through the appearance of general and housing infrastructure, modes of transport, clothing, etc.) and demonstrating respect and acknowledging dignity in all circumstances
- Being aware that they may be approached by people selling their wares or asking for food or money. While your local facilitator/guide will assist in managing these situations, participants should recognize that it is not impolite to say "no, thank you" and walk away.

ITINERARY FLEXIBILITY AND COST

The itinerary is correct at the time of submission. It is flexible and may be adjusted to meet students' needs. In all cases, we will do our best to preserve the quality of what is presented herein. However, we reserve the right to modify the itinerary, locations, accommodation facilities, and costs if any changes dictate. All quoted accommodation is subject to availability and confirmed numbers.

Cost for the program based on per person sharing:

Number of paying persons	Free of Charge Faculty (Land arrangements only)	Price per person (USD)	Single Supplement
32	8	\$2 050	\$350

What this includes:

- Virtual pre-travel preparation support
- All transport, fuel, tolls, and road taxes
- Full use of a vehicle for the duration of your program
- 24-hour services of an EDU Africa Program Facilitator and/or Guide
- All accommodation as listed above
- All meals as specified in the daily program
- All activities as listed above
- A US\$5 donation (on behalf of each participant) towards the reforestation of Brackenhurst Forest and other important ecosystems in Kenya.

[The Center for Ecosystem Restoration - Kenya](#) is a not-for-profit organization working to recover biodiversity in Kenya through the reforestation of the Brackenhurst forest and the restoration of other key Kenyan ecosystems. Through their donations, participants play an integral part in reversing the degradation of the African continent and ensuring that communities will be able to enjoy the benefits of these natural indigenous ecosystems for generations to come.

What this excludes:

- Wi-Fi (only available as provided by accommodations)
- All meals and drinks not specified above
- Laundry
- All flights
- All optional extra activities
- Travel and medical insurance
- Items of a personal nature, visas, and gratuities

#AFRICAMYCLASSROOM

info@edu-africa.com | www.edu-africa.com