

*With optional 2-day extension: July 23, 2023 – August 3, 2023

Are you ready for an experience like no other? Join Black Alumni of MIT on a journey to discover the natural beauty, powerful history, and rich culture of Ghana. Led by our ground agent, Sunseekers Tours and our MIT Ghana alumni hosts, we'll take you on an unforgettable experience through the heart of West Africa and one of the key economic engines of the African Continent.

On our ten-day trip (with option to extend by two extra days), you'll have opportunities to network with MIT alumni, other local businesspeople, share ideas with high school and college students, and indulge in the arts, crafts, and cuisine that make Ghana special. Get ready to explore Accra, Kumasi, Tamale, rural villages, and the picturesque coast. See Ghanaian artifacts dating back to the Stone Age in museums and step into history with visits to Cape Coast Castle and Elmina Castle, where enslaved Africans were incarcerated and sold. Be a part of a traditional naming ceremony with a local village chief and experience the vibrant culture of Ghana.

But that's not all - we'll take you on a safari in Mole National Park, the largest nature reserve in Ghana, where you can witness stunning waterfalls, lush forests, and diverse animal life. And let's not forget about the people - Ghanaians are known for their warm and friendly personalities.

This isn't just a trip - it's a chance to connect with the history and impact of "the gateway to Africa." This once-in-a-lifetime experience will move you, delight you, and leave you with memories to cherish forever. Don't miss out on the adventure of a lifetime. Join us and discover the magic of Ghana!

DISCOVERY AND ENRICHMENT

Cultural & Tourism

- National Museum of History and . Ethnography
- W.E.B. Du Bois Centre for Pan Africanism
- Arts and Crafts market
- Dikan Centre at South La.
- Cape Coast Castle / Elmina Castle
- DONKO NSUO (the slave river)
- Manhyia Palace Museum
- Mole National Park / Mognori Village
- Northern Ghana Architecture

ACCOMMODATIONS

- 4 nights in Accra, Ghana -
- 1 night in Elmina/Cape Coast
- 2 nights in Kumasi
- 2 nights at Mole National Park

PRICES

0

Full Price for 10-Day Itinerary

- Double occupancy
- Single rate supplement 0 \$1398/person
- Second meal supplement (dinner)* 0 \$353/person

Optional

Full Price for 10+2-Day Itinerary

- Double occupancy 0
- \$2,752/person 0 Single rate supplement
- \$1,576/person Second meal supplement (dinner)* 0
- \$353/person

Payments

\$100 non-refundable deposit due with submitted registration

- 30% of total due by 15 April 2023 with 0 registration (20% cancellation fee)
- 30% of total due by 15 May 2023 0
- 40% of total due by 15 June 2023 0

Eligibility

- BAMIT Member (current dues paid) plus 0 one guest
 - Note: Maximum group size of 30

REGISTER

0 Registration

- To register, you must first check your membership status: Am I a Current BAMIT Member? 0
- If you are not a member, you may join BAMIT here: Join BAMIT 0
 - Once you have established your membership is active, you may use the link below to register for the Ghana trip

10-day trip

JOIN BAMIT

Higher Education, Science & Technology

- Senior High Schools in Accra (PRESEC)
- Practical Education Network (PEN)

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- Academic City University College
- Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST)

BAMIT / MIT Alumni Networking

- MIT Alumni Cocktail Dinner at Sky Bar 25
- MIT Alumni-Led business visits

Government & Policy

- Seat of Ghana Government – Jubilee House
- Ghana Enterprises Agency (GEA)

Business & Entrepreneurship

- Moringa Connect at Gbawe Zero
- **Express** Pay
- Kejetia and Kumasi Central Market

TRANSFERS AND MEALS Overland transportation with air-conditioned vehicles

- One way Tamale Accra domestic air fare 10 breakfasts Entrance Fees to all Tour Sites as listed in Itinerary **Included Features** Overland transportation with air-conditioned vehicle 0 \$2,442/person

 - Hotel Taxes 0
 - All Personal Expenses e.g., telephone bills, laundry, etc.
 - 0 Items not listed above as Included
 - *Lunches and dinners "on your own" (see meal 0 supplement estimate) 0
 - International Trans-Atlantic airfare 0

AIR Travel

Participants are expected to make own travel arrangements to Accra, Ghana:

12-day trip

- 0 Airlines with direct flight between USA and Ghana: **Delta Airlines United Airlines**
- Discount travel sites: www.kayak.com www.asaptickets.com

0

Visa Application - Embassy of Ghana

- 0

Not Included

- 0
 - Professional English-Speaking Tour Guide
 - Entrance Fees to all Tour Sites as listed in Itinerary 0
 - **Daily Breakfast** 0

Ghana Visa 0

Travel Insurance 0

OVERVIEW OF ITINERARY

Day 1: July 23 - Arrive at Accra airport, transfer to hotel, check in at 3PM, and enjoy a welcome dinner.



National Museum

Day 2: July 24 – Guided tour of Accra, old and new, enjoying museums and historical sites.



Jamestown Light House

Day 3: July 25 – Enjoy a day of networking. Visit a senior high school and talk with students in the morning. After lunch, meet with Ghanaian businessmen and women in various industries.

Day 4: July 26: - A day at your leisure to pursue your individual interests.



Cape Coast Castle

Day 5: July 27 - Hotel check out and drive to Cape Coast Castle and Elmina Castle for a comprehensive tour of these UNESCO World Heritage monuments. Check into the hotel.



Elmina Castle



Day 6: July 28 – Check out of the hotel and travel through farming towns and villages to Assin Manso, then on to Kumasi. Check into the hotel.



Ancestral Graves

Assin Manso River

Day 7: July 29 – Kumasi city tour, including museums, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology tour and meeting with faculty and alumni. Visit a nearby village and participate in a traditional naming ceremony.



Kintampo Waterfalls



Manhyia Palace

Day 8: July 30 – Check out of the hotel. Head to the northern part of Ghana, stopping on the way to see Kintampo waterfall. End the day at Mole National Park, Ghana's largest nature reserve. Check in to Zaina Eco-Lodge in Mole Park.



Day 9: July 31 - Early morning and late afternoon drive safaris in Mole National Park to observe animals, big and small, in their habitats. After breakfast, visit with the people of the Mognori Eco Village, just 15 km outside the entrance to the park.



Traditional Mud House

Elephants in Mole Park

Day 10: August 1 – Check out of Zaina Eco-lodge. Transfer to Tamale Airport for a 1 hour flight back to Accra. Upon arrival at the Accra Airport, individuals on the 10-day trip will be able to check in for their return flight out of Ghana. Individuals staying for the additional 2 days will be transferred to the hotel.

Day 11 [Optional 10+2 Day-Trip]: August 2 – Day is free for shopping, networking, or exploration on your own.

Day 12 [Optional 10+2 Day-Trip]: August 3 – Hotel check out at 12:00 noon, depart to airport.

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REGISTER

<u>10-day trip</u>

12-day trip

FAQS FOR TRAVEL TO GHANA

Visa requirements for travel to Ghana?

A visa is required for entry to Ghana for all American citizens. The Ghanaian government can change visa requirements at any time. It is best to use a travel documents service to make sure everything is prepared for your trip. **Proof of yellow fever vaccination is also required as part of the entry process**.

All visa applications **MUST** be completed online at <u>www.ghanaembassydc.org</u>. Please note that upon receipt of the hard copy of a **Regular** application at the Embassy, it will take **15-20** business days to process. The processing period for **Expedited** applications is **7** business days.

What else do I need to travel to and enter Ghana?

All persons entering Ghana must be in possession of a valid passport within six months of the expiration date and with at least two clear pages available for visa stamps.

COVID and health requirements for entry to Ghana

Effective 27 January 2023, all persons arriving in Ghana (Citizens, Residents, and Visitors) who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 will be exempt from any form of testing done either prior to boarding from originating country or on arrival in Ghana. Passengers not fully vaccinated will be required to present a valid NEGATIVE COVID-19 PCR test result 48 hours prior to departure from originating country and will be required to undergo mandatory COVID-19 testing on arrival at the Kotoka International Airport at no cost. You may visit <u>Ghana Airports</u> for most up to date information.

All visitors must have an up-to-date yellow fever vaccine (or medical waiver) to visit Ghana.

The CDC recommends that travelers going to Ghana take prescription medicine to prevent malaria. Depending on the medicine you take, you will need to start taking this medicine multiple days before your trip, as well as during and after your trip. Talk to your doctor about which malaria medication you should take.

All travelers should check with their primary physician or local **travel clinic** for up-to-date immunization information and requirements.

Safe Travel in Ghana?

Although relatively safe, travelers to Ghana are advised to take care when visiting Accra and other major urban areas. Incidents of theft have been reported in the country and travelers should keep their passport and other valuable items in a safe location for the duration of their visit. Public displays of wealth could attract unwanted attention and should be avoided where possible.

How to Pack and Prepare for Travel in Ghana?

Ghana is a tropical country with a warm/hot climate all year round. Our advice would be to pack lightweight layers in natural fabrics: linen, cotton, bamboo, and silk. The rainy season in Ghana falls between March and November and can cause much loss of lives and property. Travelers are advised to take care if visiting the country during this period and to check the safety of the local roads which may be severely disrupted by the constant downpours.

Items to pack include:

- Malaria pills. ...
- Insect repellant. ...
- Imodium, Advil/aspirin, etc. ...
- A rain slicker. ...
- Sunscreen....
- Good walking shoes/sandals. ...
- Daypack/light travel bag

All medicines and valuables should be packed in flight carry-on bags and not in checked luggage.

Travelers to the country should respect all local customs and dress codes and avoid behavior deliberately designed to cause offense. Beachwear should be kept to the beach and all travelers should wear clothing that does not attract any unwanted attention. No civilian may wear camouflage clothing as it is reserved for the military, and photographs of important government or military facilities are prohibited and can be removed and destroyed by the security services. Travelers should also remember to ask permission before taking any photographs of local buildings or people.

What is the electricity current in Ghana?

If the standard voltage in your country is in the range of 100 V - 127 V (as is in the US, Canada, and most South American countries), you need a voltage converter in Ghana. You can find voltage converters on Amazon. You can also consider a combined power plug adapter/voltage converter.

The travel adapter for use in Ghana is the same as for the UK.

Language

Ghana is a highly multilingual developing nation in West Africa. It has a population of over 25 million people with different ethnic groups. Ghana has about 50 indigenous languages (Dakubu, 1996), and the major ones are Akan, Ewe, Ga, Dagaare, and Dagbani, with **English as the official language**.

Time and Money?

Flights for the east coast (Boston/New York/ Washington, DC) range from 11 to 14 hours depending on stopovers. Cambridge, MA (EST) is 5 hours behind the center of Ghana (Accra).

The Ghanaian currency is the Ghanaian Cedi (GHS). The current exchange rate is 1 GHS = 0.08 USD.

1 USD = 12.347 GHS as of March 2023. Currency exchange rates can fluctuate so it is best to check the exchange rate closer to our departure date for accuracy. US dollars are not readily accepted for purchase and payment. The cedi is the only legal tender in Ghana. **Any bank issued chip-and-signature credit card can be used in Ghana.**

Additional questions?

Contact: Holly Carter PhD '77 hcarter@alum.mit.edu