

BRA FIE/COME HOME

The Door of Return: A 10-Day Cultural and Heritage Experience in Ghana

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Question 1

What type of cultural activities are involved with this trip?

Answer: There are a wide variety of cultural activities on your Door of Return Experience including:

- Welcome Home, Libation and Blessings Ceremony
- Naming Ceremony
- Door of Return Journal
- Door of Return Remembrance Candle Ceremony
- Twi Language Workshop
- Batik and Textile Design Workshop
- Traditional Ghanaian Cooking Workshop
- Time Capsule Activity
- Planting Activity
- Introduction to African Drumming Workshop
- Introduction to African Dancing Workshop
- Performance by Nkabom Cultural Troupe
- Adinkra Stamping
- Kente Weaving
- Elmina Castle
- Manhyia Palace
- Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park
- Shai Hill Resource Reserve

(subject to availability in specified location)



Question 2

What is included in the trip costs?

Answer: The price per participant is \$1980 based on a minimum of 12 travelers (airfare is not included)

Price includes:

- Project OKURASE Facilitator/Tour Director with the group from arrival in Ghana to departure from Ghana
- Private ground transportation (bus or van)
- Hotel/Lodge/Homestay accommodations for 9 nights (twin or triple travelers per room of same gender)*
- All group meals and safe drinking water throughout the trip
- Professional English-speaking guides
- Community-based project activity cost
- Cultural/educational presentations and activities (subject to availability in specified location)
- Entrance fees
- Customary tips
- Comprehensive Emergency Medical Insurance (with \$0 deductible)
- Political & Security Evacuation Insurance and Natural Disaster Evacuation Insurance
- Registration of all US residents with the US State Department 'Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)
- 24-hour emergency on-call phone assistance by Project OKURASE staff during trip

Price does not include:

- Airfare
- Standard baggage fees and airline upgrades and associated fees
- Travel documents (passport, visas, etc.)
- Optional Trip Cancellation/interruption insurance
- Personal spending money
- Travel vaccinations and medications
- Personal expenses (such as laundry at the hotel)
- Food and snacks apart from the three meals provided



<p>Question 3</p>	<p>Do I need vaccinations to go on this trip?</p> <p>Answer: The yellow fever vaccine is the only legally required vaccination for entry into Ghana. In most cases, this vaccine is only available through travel medicine clinics or county health departments by appointment and should be obtained at least 10 days prior to landing in Ghana. Upon receiving your vaccination, the medical clinic will provide you with a certificate of immunization against yellow fever which you must bring with you to Ghana since it is required for entering the country. It is highly possible that you will not be allowed in the country without your yellow fever immunization card.</p> <p>In addition, participants should strongly consider getting a typhoid vaccine prior to travel to Ghana. This vaccine is not required for entry into Ghana but is highly recommended.</p> <p>Please review the Centers for Disease Control website for current public health information and recommendations and consult with your doctor about any recommended immunizations and precautionary health measures for travel to Ghana based on your health history and status. Please keep in mind that some vaccinations require a series over time or require time to reach maximum effectiveness so please make an appointment with your healthcare provider as early as possible.</p>
<p>Question 4</p>	<p>What are the accommodations like?</p> <p>Answer: While we do everything we can to make sure our guests are comfortable during their stay in Ghana, the lodging and accommodations are different than what you might expect to see in more developed countries. Our main objective is to make sure that lodging facilities are clean, safe, and well-kept so we ask that you embrace the opportunity to experience a different way of living while you are in Ghana.</p>
<p>Question 5</p>	<p>Is this trip open to people of all ages?</p> <p>Answer: Participants must be at least 7 years old. If a participant is under 18 years old they must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.</p>



Question 6

Are there any passport considerations and do I need to get a travel visa in advance?

Answer: A passport is required for travel to Ghana. If you do not hold a current passport, be sure to start the application process well in advance of the trip as it may take more than 6 weeks to obtain. Your passport expiration date must be a minimum of 6 months after your return date.

You will need to obtain a visa from the Ghana Embassy prior to traveling to Ghana. Upon completing the online registration process on the Project OKURASE website, we will send you a customized visa invitation letter which you must include in your visa application packet. We will also send you a Travel Manual which has detailed information to assist you with your VISA application. If you are applying for a single-entry visa (good for 90 days from the time of issuance), we recommend that you apply for your visa with the Ghana Embassy six weeks prior to your departure date. If you plan to travel to Ghana and stay for more than 60 days, we recommend that you apply for a multiple entry visa which is good for an extended period of time. Note: Do not apply for your visa (single entry) too far in advance before your trip since they expire 90 days after the time that they are issued.

Current VISA fees are \$60 for a single-entry visa (which must be used within 90 days from date of issue) and \$100.00 for a Multiple Entry Visa. The associated fees are subject to change, so please consult the Ghana Embassy website.

Question 7

Who will lead this group?

Answer: Our leaders are trained as group travel facilitators. They have experience traveling in Ghana and with Project OKURASE groups. They are fluent in English. They work with the best guides from the local area to ensure you have a wonderful experience. Our leaders treat their groups like friends, showing travelers both the major highlights and the local treasures.



Question 8

What type of food is typical of Ghana?

Answer: People in Ghana love to eat and take great pride in the food that they cook and provide. Ghanaian cuisine is celebrated not only in Ghana but in other parts of the world where it's hearty and spicy taste has influenced many dishes far from the continent of Africa.

The food in Ghana is mildly spicy and delicious! Breakfast fare is usually omelets and oatmeal and lunch and dinner will include a starch like rice or Ghanaian yams in addition to chicken or fish, and beans, the customary proteins eaten in Ghana. There is typically no dessert served but each meal will feature the best fresh fruit you have ever tasted—pineapples, mangoes, papayas, bananas, coconuts, etc. plucked right off the trees nearby.

Question 9

What languages are spoken in the areas where we will be going, what is the currency, and what is the weather like?

Answer: Ghana is a country that welcomes guests from all over the world. The national language is English, but the most common spoken local languages are Twi (“Chree”) and Ga. A useful app for mobile devices is NKYEA, (Twi for travelers).

The currency is Ghana Cedis (“CEE-dees”) and the symbol is indicated as ‘GH¢’.

The temperature averages 25-33 degrees Celsius (77-91F) with year-round sunshine.



<p>Question 10</p>	<p>Will any daily activities be physically challenging?</p> <p>Answer: Reasonably healthy travelers with positive attitudes should not have problems dealing with the heat, conditions, or amount of walking that is inherent to travel in Ghana. However, we ask that you evaluate your personal medical needs before committing to traveling. While medical facilities are available in Ghana, at times we will be a good distance away from the nearest hospital where medical practices, hospital facilities, and availability of medicine are very different from your home country.</p> <p>If you have any questions about whether a Project OKURASE trip is appropriate for you, please consult with us about your concerns and check with your physician for their recommendation. While we promise to do all in our power to keep you safe while in our care, we can't guarantee that we will have access to the medical tools necessary to accommodate all medical needs.</p>
<p>Question 11</p>	<p>Will my electronic devices work in Ghana?</p> <p>Answer: Plugs and current in Ghana are designed on the UK model (220V/240V) with a 3-pronged plug Type D or Type G. Electrical appliances that support 220V/240V will require plug adapters and those that don't support 220V/240V will require a combination voltage converter/plug adapter. Individual and combination converter/adapters are inexpensive and available at discount stores and online.</p>
<p>Question 12</p>	<p>Should I purchase travel insurance for this trip?</p> <p>Answer: Project OKURASE purchases emergency health and evacuation insurance for all travelers who live in the US as part of your registration fees. Your policy will cover only the days that you will be in Ghana for a scheduled Project OKURASE trip as specified in your trip itinerary.</p> <p>Trip cancellation insurance is not provided by Project OKURASE. If you want to purchase trip cancellation insurance coverage, you will have the opportunity to do so from the Project OKURASE travel insurance provider upon receiving your policy information after we purchase your emergency medical and evacuation coverage. You may also choose to purchase trip cancellation insurance directly from an insurance provider of your choice.</p>



Question 13

Do I need to purchase my own airline ticket?

Answer: You will be required to arrange your own transportation from your home location to/from the airport and a round-trip flight to and from Ghana at your expense. Prior to purchasing your round-trip airline ticket, Project OKURASE will provide recommended flight information (dates, times, and flight numbers) so all group participants may arrive into and depart from Ghana at the same time which is very important. Flight information will be reflected on the trip itinerary that you will receive upon registering for the trip online.

Due to the high cost of fuel and transportation, you will be asked to pay any additional costs associated with transporting you from the airport to the first scheduled itinerary destination or to the airport at the end of your trip. If you purchase a different arrival or departure flight than the ones that Project OKURASE recommends for you and/or your group.

Question 14

Is the water safe to drink?

Answer: You absolutely **MUST NOT DRINK, BRUSH YOUR TEETH, OR RINSE YOUR MOUTH WITH THE LOCAL WATER.** Drink only treated bottled water or “sachets” (plastic bags of treated water). These are the only options for drinking and brushing teeth that are “pure water.” Project OKURASE will provide its visitors with ample supplies of pure water sachets for drinking.