



## The Africa Project

A PROGRAM OF THE ASSOCIATION OF YALE ALUMNI

YAMORANSA AND ACCRA, GHANA

JULY 27 – AUGUST 7, 2012 (EXTENSION TO AUGUST 10 – NORTH GHANA)

## NEWSLETTER #1

February 2012

Dear Fellow Volunteers:

Akwaaba to the first Yale Alumni Service Corps Program in Africa!

Are you ready to make a difference? Are you ready for an adventure? Are you ready to make friendships and memories that will last a lifetime?

Your time is here. And the same is true for the other 90 participants who have registered for the program so far<sup>1</sup>. It is so inspiring to see the enthusiasm for this visit to Ghana and the depth of interest in helping others.

You might be wondering - how should you prepare for this new and ambitious undertaking? You start by reading this “newsletter” - and all the newsletters that will be coming your way in the next few months. You think about the kind of talents and skills that you might want to share with the people of Yamoransa...you think about how you might want to partner with your other project team members...you think about creative ways to interact with children...in other words...we encourage you to think about how you would like to get involved... The enjoyment and fulfillment that you will get from this trip will be proportional to the time and energy that you invest in the trip before we leave -- the anticipation and preparation is a large part of the fun!

We are writing to you now because there is already so much news to share. We will try to anticipate all of your questions in the Newsletters<sup>2</sup> that we will send over the next few months. There will be many volunteer opportunities to explore as well as travel and project details to be explained, so please read carefully.

And enjoy!

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<sup>1</sup> We still have over two weeks for registration.

<sup>2</sup> This Newsletter has been sent to each primary traveler as well as the additional travelers for whom we have an email address. If you would like the additional travelers in your group to receive the Newsletters and other information directly, please send the email address(es) to [teresa.poteetzinn@yale.edu](mailto:teresa.poteetzinn@yale.edu)

## Yes - an Extension



The most exciting news is that we are offering an extension from August 7 - 10 so that we can share the experience of seeing the spectacular natural beauty of Ghana at Mole National Park and visit Kumasi, the home of the Ashantis. Not to mention, relax after our very intense program in Yamoransa. The expected cost for the extension is \$915 per person double occupancy including the airfare to Tamale and to Kumasi<sup>3</sup>. We will send an online registration form to you next week when we have a confirmed price.

HERE IS THE TENTATIVE ITINERARY:

### Tuesday, 08/07 ACCRA TO TAMALE TO MOLE

- 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. Breakfast
- 7:30 a.m. *Departure for airport to fly to Tamale*
- 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Visit Larabanga Mosque and other sites in Tamale
- 11:30 – 12:30 p.m. *Lunch*
- 12:30 p.m. Drive to Mole National Park
- 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Safari - Animals at the Park include elephants, baboons, hyenas, antelope, bushbucks, monkeys, warthogs and other smaller wildlife.
- 6:30 p.m. Dinner at Mole
- 8:00 p.m. Free time
- Overnight Mole Hotel



Larabanga Mosque

### Wednesday, 08/08 MOLE NATIONAL PARK

- 7:00 a.m. Safari ride
- 9:00 a.m. Breakfast at Mole
- 10:00 a.m. Optional activities such as guided walk, swimming, visit nearby sites
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. Optional activities such as guided walk, swimming, visit nearby sites
- 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Safari
- 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Dinner
- Overnight Mole Hotel



### Thursday, 08/09 TAMALE-ACCRA-KUMASI

- 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. Breakfast
- 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. Drive to Tamale
- 11:00 a.m. Flight to Accra
- 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch in Accra
- 2:00 p.m. Fly to Kumasi
- 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. Visit Manhyia Palace museum and sightseeing in Kumasi  
Possible audience with the Ashanti King
- 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Dinner
- Overnight Silicon Hotel in Kumasi



<sup>3</sup> There are no flights between Kumasi and Tamale so we take roundtrip flights from Accra. The flights are all quite short.

<b>Friday, 08/10</b>	<b>KUMASI - ACCRA</b>
7:00 – 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
10:00 a.m.	Fly to Accra
11:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Sightseeing and lunch in Accra possibly including National Museum, the Nkrumah Mausoleum and the Art Centre
6:00 p.m.	Return to airport
	<b>Departures</b>



Manhyia Palace – the seat and official residence of the Asantehene

## Orientation

What is it like to live in Ghana? Who will be part of your team for the Service Project(s)? How will you know what to do when you get to Accra? What supplies should you consider bringing? How can we support Yamoransa when we get back home?

All these questions and many more will be discussed on April 29 during our orientation and planning session. We will have guest speakers from most of our partner institutions including ONE, Unite for Sight, AFS, and the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Centre as well as experts from Yale. This is an amazing opportunity to learn about the work conditions, local area information, project planning including developing course curriculum, developing supply lists, and more...



Although certainly not mandatory, we highly encourage you and your fellow travelers to attend. Please let us know by email to [Kathy@edersheim.net](mailto:Kathy@edersheim.net) if you think you will join us for this orientation and planning session so we can plan the spaces. Note that if you would like to be a project leader, it will be VERY helpful for you to be in attendance.

Tentative agenda for Orientation on April 29  
Rose Alumni House 232 York Street

(Please join us for dinner on April 28 - 6:30 p.m. if you are available)

- 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. - Arrival
- 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. - Welcome and introductions - AYA and YASC
- 9:30 - 10:00 a.m. - Ghana Overview - AFS
- 10:00 - 10:45 a.m. - Educating leaders and Advocacy - ONE and Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre
- 10:45 - 11:00 a.m. - break
- 11:00 - 11:45 a.m. - Medical Research and Care in Ghana - Yale/Unite for Sight
- 11:45 - 1:00 p.m. - Lunch
- 1:00 - 1:30 p.m. - Projects overview - YASC
- 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. - Project team meetings
- 3:30 - 3:45 p.m. - break
- 3:45 - 4:30 p.m. - Project team report back

For those of you traveling to New Haven for the orientation, suggested accommodations are The Study at Yale, Omni Hotel, New Haven Hotel, or Courtyard Marriott which are all within walking distance.

## Flights

Please remember that we do not make flight arrangements to and from Ghana. You must arrive at the airport in Accra, Ghana no later than 2 p.m. on July 27. There are non-stop flights from Atlanta, New York and Washington, DC. You can also fly through Europe. The program finishes on August 7 or August 10 if you are on the extension. If you would like to stay in Accra for an extra night at the beginning or end, we can help make a hotel reservation as we get closer to the program.

## Visa

Yes, you need a visa to go to Ghana. You can go to a visa agency that will help you or you can apply for it yourself. Here are the instructions with slight annotations for our program from the Ghana Embassy website <http://www.ghanaembassy.org/index.php?page=visas>:

### **ALL VISA APPLICANTS ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS AND PASSPORTS FOR VISAS TWO WEEKS TO ONE MONTH PRIOR TO THE INTENDED DATE OF DEPARTURE.**

1. Types of Visa should be D - Tourist unless told otherwise by visa company
2. An applicant shall complete a visa application form in duplicate (2 copies) and attach **two(2) passport size photographs** which were taken not more than three (3) months from the date of submitting the application.
3. An applicant should possess a return air ticket, **which should be submitted upon request, in the case of an application for tourist visa.**
4. Not Applicable to you.
5. An application for a visa shall take not more than seven (7) business days to process. (But allow more time, just in case.)
6. Not applicable to you.
7. When an application for a visa is turned down, the visa-issuing officer is not obliged to offer any explanation. An applicant may however re-apply for a review.
8. **Visa Fees – NONREFUNDABLE**

Money order, Cashier's check or Certified bank check made payable to the Embassy of Ghana.

**Note: Personal and company checks are not accepted. Do not send cash in the mail.**



ECOWAS citizens (Economic Community of West African States) Gratis

- Single Entry Visa(must be used within 3 months from date of issue) \$60.00
- Multiple Entry Visa \$100.00
- Single Expedited \$100.00
- Multiple Visa Expedited \$200.00

An expedited/emergency service will take 72 hours.

**NOTE: If mailed a visa might take longer than twenty-four (24) hours to reach the applicant.**

9. Visa application fees are non-refundable.
10. In accordance with INTERNATIONAL SANITARY REGULATIONS **all persons entering Ghana must have a valid certificate of immunization against yellow fever.**

Do not submit your certificate together with visa application form. Keep it and present it at the port of entry in Ghana.

11. Submit the following documents:

- Completed visa application form – two copies
- Valid passport for at least six (6) months (Before Expiration)
- Evidence of financial support or letter of invitation from host in Ghana (not necessary though you can print your confirmation from AYA as proof of plans.)
- Visa Fee - money order, postal order, cashiers check or certified bank check
- Two passport-size photographs of applicant. Should be taken at least within the last three months (Very Important)
- Affix each photograph with glue on the top right corner of the application form.
- Applications submitted by mail must be accompanied by **prepaid self-addressed overnight, trackable envelope ( FEDEX) for return of passports. Only requests accompanied by certified prepaid return envelopes will be processed.**
- Send the completed application to:

- The Consular Section
- 3512 International Dr. NW
- Washington DC, 20008

12. These guidelines are subject to change as may be directed by the competent authorities in Ghana and apply to the Consulate General Office in New York.

**NOTE: APPLICANTS MUST INCLUDE THEIR PASSPORTS AS PART OF THEIR APPLICATIONS, AS ALL VISAS, IF ISSUED, ARE INSERTED INTO THE PASSPORTS.**

For further information please call:

(202) 686-4520 ext. 208 or e-mail: [consular@ghanaembassy.org](mailto:consular@ghanaembassy.org)

Good luck!

## *Vaccinations and Medical Preparation*

Some immunizations such as Yellow Fever are required for travel to Ghana and others may be recommended. We cannot provide medical advice, but we advise that you consult with your physician regarding immunizations.<sup>4</sup> It is best to do this several weeks before the trip, since some vaccinations are administered in installments and some medications may take time to order. Note that all of Ghana is considered a malarial area. We (Mark, Joao and Kathy) have taken anti-malarial pills for our planning trips. For general information about immunizations and health issues in Ghana, you should also visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website at

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

Of course, you should plan on bringing a sufficient supply of all the medications you take regularly.

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<sup>4</sup> Your doctor will certainly want you to be update on all standard vaccinations.

## Scholarships





Contributions to help others join us on this program as well as donations of supplies are welcome.

If you are applying for financial assistance to be able to join the program, please make sure that your completed forms are submitted to Joao Aleixo by mail or fax no later than March 1. Forms and submission information are on the Ghana program website.

## Everything Else and Future Newsletters

There is so much happening with the planning of the program that we can't begin to describe it here. We will provide a lot of information about Ghana, the projects, the teams and everything else in March. Meanwhile, watch the web – our Ghana program website at: <http://www.yaleservicetours.org/currtour/ghana12> for updates.

What can you look forward to reading about in the Newsletters over the next few months?

-  About Yamoransa
-  About the projects
-  About AFS-Ghana
-  About our partner organizations including University of Cape Coast, ONE, Unite for Sight, Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre,
-  About Yale World Fellows alumni in Ghana and Yale medical research in Ghana
-  What to pack
-  Hotel information for Accra
-  Kenkey, fufu, and banku – yum!

...and much, much more.

As always, feel free to get in touch with us if you have any questions or concerns – [kathy@edersheim.net](mailto:kathy@edersheim.net) or [mark.dollhopf@yale.edu](mailto:mark.dollhopf@yale.edu) or [joao.aleixo@yale.edu](mailto:joao.aleixo@yale.edu)

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