



# TEACHING MUSIC GHANA

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**AKWAABA - which means "welcome" - is never more meaningful than in Ghana. The Ghanaian people are among the friendliest in Africa. So ... AKWAABA to this beautiful country!**



From the moment you step out of the airport in Accra, you will realise that you have landed in Africa! En route to your accommodation, you'll pass by run-down shacks on dirt roads, and half completed buildings with people all around you selling anything and everything whilst waiting at the traffic lights.

There is no mundane routine here: you are now on 'African time' and every thing is far wilder, much more relaxed and completely different! The air is filled with a warm equatorial breeze and unusual aromas and sounds; a mixture of charcoal, debris and fufu or beny slowly cooking over an open pot along with the chitter-chat of the tribal language of Twi being spoken. You then realise that you have finally arrived in Ghana.

Ghana is very much isolated from what goes in the Western world. While walking around the streets of Accra you won't find any Beckham shirts, Mc Donald's or any other touristy gimmicks - just real people living real Ghanaian lives.

**Ghana is warm, friendly and remarkably safe. If you are looking for a truly authentic African cultural experience, Ghana certainly will not disappoint you!**

## TEACHING MUSIC

Music plays an important part of Ghanaian life and Ghana is a wonderful country to experience music. The music in West Africa has many similarities with Latin American music. This is mainly because Latin American music originated from West Africa due to the slave trade.

Although music is extremely popular amongst the children at the schools in Ghana, it has been dropped from many schools due to lack of funding. So the music taught by the volunteers is outside of the curriculum and generally taught as extra curricular activity. Volunteers teach music either at a primary or junior secondary school. Both schools are very different in their resources and facilities that they can offer the children. The junior secondary is blessed compared to many other Ghanaian schools and has music facilities available; the primary school however is extremely poor and only has the bare essentials - desks and a black board. They



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generally have no music facilities, which can make the work that the volunteers do even more challenging but doubly rewarding. In the past we've had volunteers who have brought out their own instruments and even created basic instruments with the children as part of the lesson.

Volunteers are given plenty of support from the ground organiser and the schools are keen to help in any way they can. Because of the challenging environments, volunteers need to be driven, self-motivated and be able to think on their feet, but also have a relaxed approach (as nothing runs to schedule in Ghana!) and more essentially, a good sense of humour. Although volunteers will teach music, they must be prepared to also assist with other classes like teaching English as due to the lack of funds, the time can be limited for the subject.



This project is a wonderful opportunity for the children and the participant, and the schools truly embrace the volunteers for the time and energies put into bringing music into the schools again, the way it should be in Africa.

Volunteers will really get involved with the music, for example one volunteer had been out in Ghana for less than a month and was already teaching music to every class in the school! She is officially the school's sole music teacher and is running a school choir for the children. The children have reacted wonderfully to this type of lesson and they have already performed their new skills at a local funeral. They are now practicing for a big Christmas concert, which will be full of singing and dancing. This shows what a positive impact just one volunteer can have on a school and the children that are growing up in this environment.

### ACCOMMODATION

Your accommodation will be in either at Kwabenya or Darkuman which is about 6 miles from the city centre. You will most likely stay with a host family. They will look after you superbly and often our volunteers comment how they feel more like being part of the family than a guest! At times you may even be embarrassed to receive such generous hospitality. By far the vast majority will do their best to make you feel happy and part of their family. For the more independently-minded volunteer we also work with host families who will feed and house you, but for the most-part leave you to your own devices.



The houses are fairly basic but will have all the basic facilities like kitchens and bathroom, telephone, television, radio and running water.

### VISA

We will send you all the necessary forms and information and make the process very easy for you.

## FLIGHTS

You can book your own international flights or we can book them for you. You will fly into Accra where you will be welcomed by our Travellers Organiser. They will take you to your family and settle you in for the period of your induction. After that you'll be taken to your school.

All flights we arrange have changeable return tickets because many of our volunteers choose to extend their stay. Changeable return tickets enable you to do so, within the limits of your visa, of course.

## GHANA – GENERAL INFORMATION

**Currency:** Cedi (c) = 100 psewas.  
£1.00 = c13,603 (as at 15/07/03, but exchange rates may fluctuate).  
A pint of beer can cost 5,000 -15,000 Cedis which is about 40p-£1.10

Soft drinks like Fanta cost about 2,000-10,000 Cedis which is about 14p-74p  
A packet of cigarettes can cost about 15,000 Cedis is £1.10p  
So it can be cheap for a good night out.

**Full country name:** Republic of Ghana  
**Area:** 238,540 sq km (93,030 sq mi)  
**Population:** 19.7 million  
**Capital city:** Accra (pop 1.3 million)  
**People:** Akan (44%), Mole-Dagbani (16%), Ewe (13%), Ga (8%), Guan, Gurma, Gonja, Dagomba  
**Language:** English (official language), Ewe, Ga, Twi  
**Religion:** Christian (60%), Muslim (15%), traditional African religions (25%)  
**Government:** Parliamentary democracy  
**President:** John Agyekum Kufuor



## ACCRA – THE CAPITAL CITY

Accra, on the coast of the Gulf of Guinea, is both big-city hectic and African laid-back. Accra may not be one of the prettiest cities by Western standards, but there is something else this African city has that makes up for lack of planning and fancy buildings.

It is a wonderful city to experience. It is full of character, has a warm feel, is extremely friendly and feels very safe. It also has some great beaches!

Spend a few hours in the breezy capital of Accra and you'll swear the wind and waves off the Gulf of Guinea have infused the land and people with equatorial warmth. It is a city that is young, wild and full of soul and here you'll sample the true African spirit. During the day, the streets are full of market stalls and vendors



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where you can browse and buy mouthwatering foods, colourful Kente cloth, beads, or baskets. Don't forget to practice your haggling!

During the night the city comes alive with the traditional Ghanaian 'spot' bars and the sound of live drumming music in the warm night air. Village-specific festivals and events occur throughout the year.

*Accra itself is fascinating, very different from home. Very noisy, dusty and hot, but really colourful and vibrant. Particularly impressed by the palm trees, amazing variety of little stalls and shops and the women balancing huge bundles on their heads! We've felt very safe so far - very little hassle from people, most of whom have been really welcoming.*

Caroline Allen – Law Placement



### The next step

If you would like to join us on one of our exciting projects then please fill in either an online application form at our website ([www.travellersworldwide.com](http://www.travellersworldwide.com)) or one that is attached to our brochure. Once you have booked and confirmed your place we will send you detailed pack information regarding your placement and country.

**I do hope you join us and please do call or email if you have any questions at all about this or any of our other projects – 01903 502595 or email [info@travellersworldwide.com](mailto:info@travellersworldwide.com)**

**If you would like to know more about Travellers in general, or about any of our other projects we run in over 18 countries worldwide, please visit our website at [www.travellersworldwide.com](http://www.travellersworldwide.com)**

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