

Forever Connected Ghana Artisans Trip

Itinerary Overview (14 Days)

Dates: Last Week of June – First Week of July

Location: Accra, Ghana (and surrounding areas)

Program Overview

The Forever Connected Ghana Artisans Trip is a 14-day immersive cultural, historical, and leadership experience designed to connect youth to the African diaspora through hands-on learning, reflection, and community engagement.

Participants live together in a supervised team setting and engage daily in structured activities that combine history, artisan learning, and leadership development.

Daily Experience Framework

Each day follows a consistent rhythm:

- **Morning:** Breakfast and preparation
- **Midday:** Artisan workshop or historical exploration
- **Night:** Dinner; and Leadership circle, reflection and discussion

Sample Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival and Orientation

- Arrival in Accra
- Transportation to housing
- Welcome dinner and program overview and expectations

Day 2: Cultural Grounding

- Introduction to Ghanaian culture and norms
- Visit to local Art Center Market
- Leadership discussion: Identity and expectations

Day 3: Artisan Experience – Bead Making

- Hands-on training with Ghanaian bead makers
- Learn symbolism and cultural significance
- Reflection: Craft, culture, and identity

Day 4: The Movies and Basketball

- Visit to local cinema and basketball court
- Leadership discussion: Identity and expectations

Day 5: Artisan Experience – Kente Weaving

- Visit to kente weaving village
- Observe and participate in weaving process
- Discussion: Tradition, storytelling, and legacy

Day 6: Culture and Commerce

- Visit, Makola Market, the Largest Marketplace in Accra
- Reflection circle: History and personal connection

Day 7: Artisan Experience – Wood Carving

- Hands-on session with wood carvers
- Learn tools, techniques, and symbolism
- Leadership discussion: Creativity and discipline

Day 8: Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park

- The park has a museum that hosts rare artefacts relating to Ghana's independence. Reflection circle: History and personal connection

Day 9: Artisan Experience – Brass Jewelry

- Learn brass casting
- Explore meanings behind cultural symbols
- Reflection: Values and communication

Day 10: A Free Day (No Planned Activity)

Day 11: Artisan Experience – Cowrie Jewelry Creation

- Learn from cowrie shell jewelry artisans
- Discussion: Identity, adornment, and cultural expression

Day 12: Community Engagement & Closing

- Group service or community interaction
- Final reflection circle
- Closing dinner and celebration

Day 13: Revisiting

- Revisiting the experiences that were most endearing.
- Final reflection circle
- Closing dinner and celebration

Day 14: Departure

- Final breakfast
- Travel to airport
- Return to the United States

Key Program Elements

- 5+ Artisan Workshops
- Historical Site Visits (Osu Slave Dungeon, Kwame Nkrumah Memorial)
- Daily Leadership Circles and Reflection
- Cohort-Based Living Experience
- Ghanaian Guides and Cultural Facilitators

Outcome for Participants

Students return with:

- A deeper understanding of Black history and the African diaspora
- Increased confidence and leadership awareness
- Stronger cultural identity and sense of purpose
- Meaningful peer and mentor relationships