

STUDY ABROAD

SUMMER 2023

STUDENT REFLECTIONS



MY NAME IS KHAFRU THOMAS, AND I AM A SENIOR CONCENTRATING IN MASS COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA ARTS AT ALBANY STATE UNIVERSITY. Greetings Everyone! I had the amazing opportunity to study abroad in the country Ghana, located in West Africa. My study abroad program coordinator was Dr. Anthony Owusu-Ansah, and I also took a History of Minorities in America course through the History program at Albany State.

Ghana, often referred to as the "Gateway to West Africa," is a captivating and culturally rich country located on the west coast of Africa. Prior to embarking on my study abroad journey, I undertook extensive research to familiarize myself with Ghana's culture, history, and educational system. I also attended orientation sessions that equipped me with the necessary tools to navigate cultural differences and make the most of my experience. With a history dating back to ancient civilizations, Ghana is a land of traditions, diversity, and warm hospitality. Ghana is a captivating blend of history, culture, natural beauty, and progress. Its welcoming people, diverse traditions, and historical significance make it a must-visit destination for those seeking a deep and enriching experience in West Africa. Whether exploring its cultural heritage, engaging with its communities, or admiring its landscapes, Ghana leaves a lasting impression on all who have the privilege of discovering its treasures.

Me and the group I was with participated in two different tours. The first tour was of Cape Coast Castle. Cape Coast Castle is one of about forty "slave castles", built on the Gold Coast of West Africa by European traders. The second tour was of Elmina Castle. Elmina Castle was erected by the Portuguese in 1482 as Castelo de São Jorge da Mina, also known as Castelo da Mina or simply Mina, in present-day Elmina, Ghana, formerly the Gold Coast. It was the first trading post built on the Gulf of Guinea, and the oldest European building in existence south of the Sahara. The tours didn't really bracket with the program per say, but it related to my discipline because during the tour I was recording our tour guide and getting good angles of the castle for my documentary.

My study abroad trip to Ghana was an unforgettable journey filled with academic enrichment, cultural immersion, and personal growth. It broadened my horizons, challenged my perspectives, and fostered a deep appreciation for diversity. Studying abroad in Ghana was a transformative experience that I will carry with me throughout my academic and personal journey.

