

## Sample Student Budgets for Africa

The following are *sample* budget guidelines for Africa (specifically Ghana), based on student peer advisor travel experience and research in reputable travel guides. Budgets obviously vary depending on a number of things (lifestyle, time of year, location, etc), but if nothing else these samples might help you to consider the types of expenses for which one needs to account when planning a trip abroad.

### Before You Go Expenses

Traveling to Ghana requires a lot of preparation. Below is a breakdown of necessary expenses you should anticipate spending

#### Plane Ticket

You can plan to spend around **\$1,200** for a roundtrip ticket to Accra.

#### Visa

As a United States citizen traveling to Ghana, you will need to purchase a visitor's visa before departure. You can purchase this visa from the nearest Ghana Embassy. The cost for a single entry visa is **\$50**.

#### Immunizations

When traveling to Ghana, you want to ensure your vaccinations are up to date.

<u>Hepatitis A:</u>	\$53 per dose (2-dose series)*
<u>Hepatitis B:</u>	\$62 per dose (3-dose series)*
<u>Polio Booster:</u>	\$59
<u>Typhoid:</u>	\$82
<u>Yellow Fever:</u>	\$125
<u>Malaria:</u>	Depends on medication selected

**Total: \$558**

\*Check your vaccination record as you may already have received these vaccines for school.

**Total Pre-Departure Expense: \$1,808**

### While You're There Expenses

#### Accommodation

The cost of accommodation in Ghana ranges tremendously depending on the city in which you are staying and the type of room you want to stay in.

#### *Rock Bottom (Below \$15 per night)*

Accommodation in this price range is readily available. Rooms will be small, simple, sometimes dirty, and bathrooms will be shared by others staying in the same hotel/hostel. Be extremely cautious that the rooms are safe by ensuring that the hotel is in a safe neighborhood (a guidebook is the best place to find this information), and that your room has a lock. May people

travel throughout Ghana on this type of budget, but be sure that safety is your number one guideline.

### *Cheap (\$15-\$25 per night)*

Most accommodation in this category will provide you with standard hostel-style rooms with a fan or a/c if you're lucky. Most rooms in this category will have private bathrooms, but as you get to the lower end, you may be sharing a bathroom with others.

### *Moderate(\$50-60 per night)*

Moderate accommodation can be found in any large city in Ghana (Accra, Cape Coast, Kumasi). In this price range, most rooms include a bathroom and air conditioning. Most will also have a restaurant from which you can either dine-in or order from.

## Things to See

There are many wonderful historical and natural sites to visit while in Ghana. Below is a list categorized by city.

### *Accra:*

- National Museum (**\$5**) – Has some displays about Ghanaian culture and history. You don't have to plan on spending too much time there, but it can be worthwhile if you plan on spending some time in Accra and have a free afternoon.
- Walking around Osu (**Free!**) – Osu is one of the most vibrant parts of Accra. You will surely meet many international young people as well as Ghanaians walking around and in the various eateries. At night there are often street performers playing music or dancing.
- Lighthouse (**\$0.30**) – You can climb to the top of the lighthouse located near James Fort and get a great view of the city and harbor.
- Labadi Beach (**Free!**) – Go for a swim or just hang out on the beach with locals and tourists alike. The beach can be very busy on weekends, however, so be prepared.

### *Cape Coast:*

- Cape Coast Castle (**\$7**) – In the heart of town and a nice place to walk to if you can make the trek. The attached museum has wonderful exhibits and it definitely warrants an afternoon visit.
- Kakum National Forest (**\$0.20**) and Canopy Walkway (\$10) – A short distance from Cape Coast, Kakum should not be missed. Spend a day walking through the forest with a tour guide and enjoy the natural beauty of coastal Ghana. The walkway is well worth the ten dollar investment if you aren't afraid of heights!
- Elmina Castle (**\$7**) – Also a short distance from Cape Coast is the town of Elmina which holds St. George's Castle. It is the oldest remaining building in Sub-Saharan Africa (built in 1482) and is a living legacy of the slave trade in Africa. Spend the afternoon and learn about this part of Ghana's history.

### *Kumasi:*

- Kejetia Market (**Free!**) – This is the largest open air market in all of West Africa. The market can be extremely overwhelming, but it is an experience you will

surely never forget. Be mindful of pickpockets and don't pick up items or negotiate for things you don't intend to buy.

- National Cultural Center (**Free!**) – Holds exhibits of a model Ashanti village, workshops, and a gallery.
- Manhyia Palace (**\$2.20**) – Palace of the Ashanti kings until 1974.

### *The North:*

- Mole National Park (**\$4.40**) – Out of the way from the rest of Ghana, but a beautiful place to spend a few days if you can. There is virtually no accommodation outside of the Mole Motel, so plan on spending **\$20 per night**.
- City of Larabanga – A small town near Mole National Park. You can spend the night on a rooftop star-gazing or inside a small guesthouse for **\$4.40 per night**. You can also rent bicycles and ride around the town.

## Getting Around

The cost of getting around Ghana, like anything else, varies widely depending on how far you travel and what method you prefer to use.

***Tro-tros (\$0.10 - \$10):*** The most widely used method of in-country travel by Ghanaians, tro-tros provide readily available but cramped shared taxi. Long-distance tro-tros will not leave until the van is full, so be prepared to wait once you arrive. Your bag must either fit on your lap or be tied to the roof, so be prepared for a cramped ride. Pre-determined start and end-points will indicate which tro-tro to take. Non-marked stops will be made and indicated by knocking on the side of the van or telling the driver.

***Taxis:*** A readily available transportation option in major cities. Be sure to negotiate your fare *before* getting into the vehicle. Taxis can be hired for short distances across town (**no more than \$1.10 within any city**), or for longer journeys across the country (**\$50 for Accra to Cape Coast, for example**). Use common sense when taking a taxi alone or at night, and try to travel in groups, when possible.

***Charter Busses:*** Routes with established start, rest, and destination points provide semi-scheduled and semi-reliable travel. Baggage can either be stowed in the undercarriage of the bus or on your lap.

**\* Prices above are estimates for March 2010**