



Ghana

Bonkro, Ankasa and Conservation

15 Days

Our journey through Ghana is a meaningful blend of cultural immersion, community service, and adventure. From exploring Accra's vibrant markets and learning about sustainable innovation, to biking through remote villages and working on impactful conservation projects in Ankasa Reserve, we experience the heart of Ghana. We connect with local communities, contributed to important initiatives, and end our trip with well-deserved relaxation on the stunning Gold Coast. It's a memorable adventure of learning, service, and lasting connections.



Learn more about our
Carbon Labels

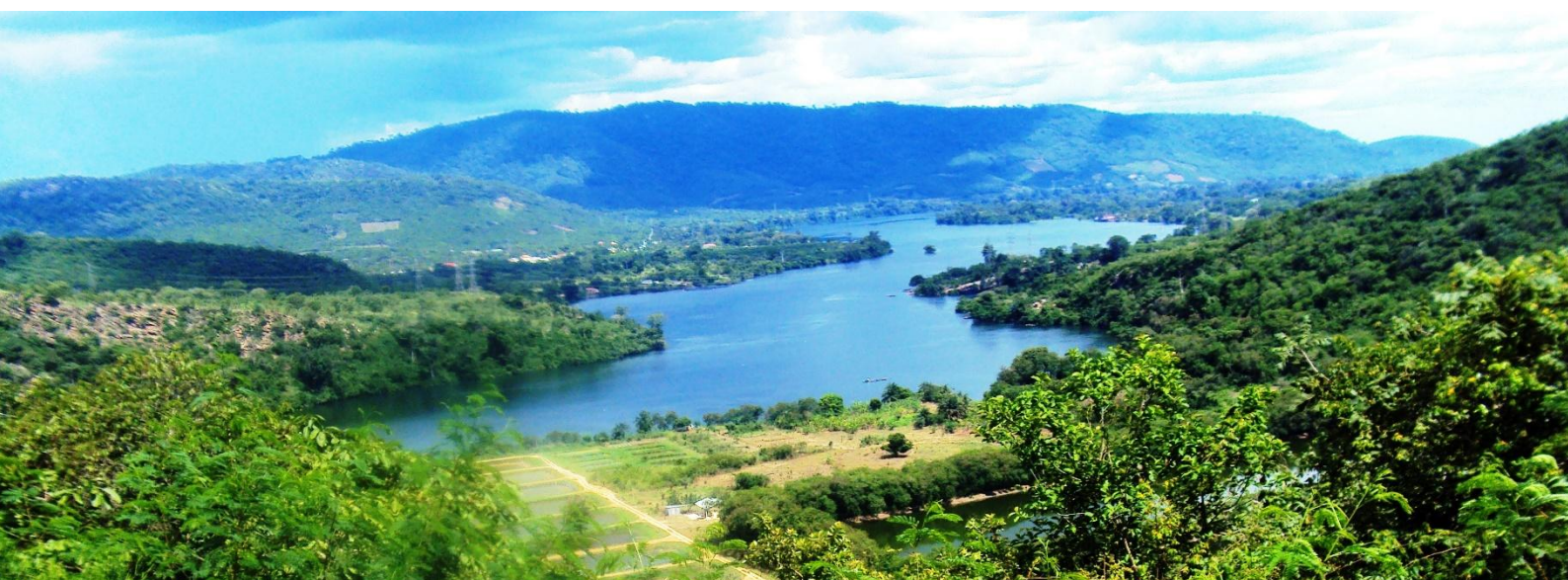
Your Recommended Expedition Itinerary

Day 1	UK to Accra An early evening arrival into Accra, Ghana's capital city. A famous warm Ghanaian Akwaaba (welcome) awaits as we are transferred to our accommodation. As most flights arrive in the evening we check in and meet for an official welcome, orientation and safety briefing before we head to bed for an early night.	LD
Day 2	Accra City We begin our first day in Ghana with a visit to Trashy Bags Africa in Accra, a local initiative turning discarded plastic sachets into durable products, while creating jobs and tackling waste. After touring their facility and seeing the team in action, we pass through the iconic Black Star Gate and stop at Independence Square. From there, we explore the bustling Makola Market to experience everyday life and local trade. In the afternoon, we leave the city and journey toward our project site in Bonkro, stopping for lunch on the way. We arrive by early evening, receive a warm welcome from the community, check into our guesthouse, and gather for a pre-dinner briefing on the days ahead.	BLD
Day 3	Markets, Biking and Local Cooking Class We hop on our bikes for a 90-minute ride to New Edubiase, where we're welcomed by the head chef from our community guesthouse. After deciding over breakfast which local dishes we'll prepare for dinner, we split into groups, grab our shopping lists and money, and head to the local market to buy ingredients - testing our bargaining skills along the way. Lunch is enjoyed at a roadside stall before cycling back through lush secondary rainforest and remote villages to Bonkro. After some time to relax and refresh, we join our community chefs to cook dinner in teams, learning how to prepare traditional dishes. It's a fun, hands-on introduction to life in the village, ending with a well-earned meal and great company.	BLD
Day 4	Bonkro Project - Fair Trade Cocoa, Black Soap & Gari Each morning, we'll take turns in small groups preparing a traditional Ghanaian breakfast, guided by local cooks. Today, we begin volunteering on a project based on current needs within the community. This could be a mix of helping at a school, the community, or have a conservation focus. Later in the afternoon, we shift our focus to one of Ghana's proudest exports - cocoa. We visit a local family farm that sells to the Kuapa Kokoo Cooperative, a Fair-Trade organization supporting farmers with fair prices and better working conditions. We'll learn how cocoa is grown, harvested, and used not just for chocolate, but also for making products like black soap. We'll even taste fresh cocoa fruit, a local treat, and try our hand at making gari, a staple food similar to couscous. We end the day back at our accommodation, enjoying dinner and the peaceful rhythm of village life.	BLD
Day 5	Bonkro Project - Hiking, Picathartes and Pangolins We start early, with some of us helping prepare breakfast again before a full morning and early afternoon dedicated to our projects. In the early evening, we set off on a special hike into the rainforest to visit the nesting site of the endangered White-necked Rockfowl (also known as the Yellow-headed Picathartes)—one of the world's most sought-after bird species. These projects were originally started to protect this rare bird and its habitat, made famous by Sir David Attenborough. As we wait quietly near the rocky nesting cliffs, our guides will also keep watch for	BLD



pangolins, the world's most trafficked mammal and a key species we help protect here. We return to the guesthouse for dinner.

- Day 6** **School Project - Football and Movie Night** BLD
- We begin with an early breakfast before heading into our final morning of service work, making sure we complete our project goals. In the late afternoon, the energy shifts as we head to the school sports field for a friendly football and volleyball match - Ghana vs. England style! Our students split into two teams to take on the local players, cheered on by the whole village. After the match and trophy handover, we return to freshen up and enjoy a delicious local dinner. The evening ends with a magical experience: our outdoor cinema night. Students prepare popcorn as we welcome nearby communities to watch a classic African film under the stars.
- Day 7** **Kakum, Kayaks, Drumming & Dance Lessons** BLD
- Before breakfast, we head to the forest edge for a meaningful activity—planting trees to help offset the carbon footprint of our journey. Each of us will plant three native species from the project nursery, helping restore degraded land and support long-term conservation. After breakfast and final goodbyes to the community, we travel south to the coast. On the way, we stop at Kakum National Park for an unforgettable walk across the rainforest canopy walkway - seven suspension bridges, 40 metres high, offering breathtaking views over the tropical forest. From here, we continue toward Brenu Akyinim, where we board kayaks for the last leg of the journey. In teams we paddle 5km across a shallow lagoon and finish with a fun race to reach the beach first. After walking through the fishing village, we arrive at our beachfront lodge, where we enjoy a drumming and dance session with local performers. We finish the evening with dinner under the stars and a bonfire.
- Day 8** **Biking and Ankasa Forest** BLD
- This morning we head west toward the Ivory Coast border to reach Ankasa Reserve - Ghana's only wet evergreen rainforest and one of West Africa's most biodiverse habitats. After arriving at a nearby village, we switch to bikes for a scenic hour-long ride to the forest, passing through stunning landscapes before reaching our riverside campsite on the edge of the reserve. Once there, we set up our tents, settle in, and take time to relax and acclimatise before starting our project work the following day.
- Days 9 -11** **Rainforest, Wildlife, Community or School Projects** BLD
- Over the next three days, we'll work on our chosen school project, supported by our local team and in partnership with the Ghana Wildlife Division. Most projects focus on conservation and wildlife, but some may involve supporting local communities and schools - depending on current needs identified before our arrival. While here, we'll be staying at Ankasa Reserve Lodge, a simple but scenic base set along the river at the edge of the rainforest.
- Day 12** **Beach Relaxation and Team Building Games** BLD
- After a relaxed breakfast at the lodge, we say farewell to Ankasa and the team who've hosted us so well. We travel back toward Ghana's Central Region, stopping for lunch in Takoradi, before arriving in Brenu Akyinim for a fun-filled afternoon of beach games and relaxation. It's the perfect chance to unwind and recharge, ending the day with dinner on the beautiful shores of the Gold Coast.



Day 13**Beach Clean, Cape Coast Castle, Baobab Foundation and Batik**

BLD

We start early with a pre-breakfast beach clean, walking the shore to collect plastics and waste. The recycled plastics will be donated to Trashy Bags to support local recycling efforts. After breakfast, we visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of Cape Coast Castle. We tour the castle and its haunting dungeons, including the “Door of No Return,” learning about Ghana’s painful history in the transatlantic slave trade. Lunch is at the Baobab Children’s Foundation, where local cooks trained in catering serve a variety of healthy dishes. The afternoon is spent at a batik making workshop with Global Mamas, where we learn traditional techniques alongside local women artisans. We create our own batik cloth, which can be tailored into a custom garment to take home. We return to our beachfront lodge for our final evening, enjoying a beach party with a local DJ - a perfect celebration to end our journey.

Day 14**Elmina Markets, Boat Builders, Castle and Fantasy Coffins**

On our final day in Ghana, we enjoy a relaxed breakfast on the beachfront, before exploring the vibrant fishing town of Elmina. We visit the local fish market, watch traditional wooden boats being built, and mingle with the fishermen bringing in their daily catch. A visit to the historic Castle of St. George offers insight into Ghana’s colonial past and the transatlantic slave trade. After our tour, we travel back to Accra, stopping for lunch on the way. In Accra, we visit the famous Fantasy Coffins, where unique coffins celebrating the lives of the deceased are crafted. Our final evening meal together is at a local restaurant, a chance to reflect and say goodbye before we transfer to the airport for our departure.



What's included:

- International flights
- All accommodation, transportation and activities
- All food as described above
- Local, bi-lingual, first-aid qualified STC leader
- Parent and student trip launch presentation
- Pre-travel training programme
- ATOL financial protection
- Emergency Medical & Repatriation Insurance
- Group first aid kit and prescription meds pack
- BS8848 safety management and risk assessments
- Detailed pre-departure information and kit lists
- Comprehensive teacher travel packs
- Permanent operations team in your destination
- 24-hour UK operational support whilst overseas
- Donations to two carbon & conservation charities
- Free Fairtrade t-shirt for every participant and teacher
- Free travel guide book to your destination



What's not included:

- Transport to airport in UK
- Drinks (advice will be given on purification of water)
- Visas or tourist cards if required
- Any required inoculations or Covid tests
- Personal spending money
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters (ask for guidance)
- Airport departure taxes paid locally
- Personal effects and cancellation insurance

A word about Responsible Tourism

On our expeditions and educational journeys, we strive to connect teachers and students with the people they meet, nurture the cultures they experience and protect the beautiful environments they are lucky enough to explore.

Trees for Life

For more information on some of the steps we take as a company to make our operations more sustainable, please visit: <https://www.thestc.co.uk/travel/what-do-we-do/>



Physical Rating for this trip: Grade 2



Some low level physical activities included in your trip, including walking on uneven terrain, maybe a morning/afternoon trek of two to four hours. That said, no physical preparation is required to make the most of the tour. High humidity and temperatures can occur at certain times of the year.

Cultural Rating for this trip: Grade 4



Students joining trips at this level will find the comforts of home are more of a rarity – or viewed another way, a welcome luxury. English is unlikely to be widely spoken and the food will be quite different to home, perhaps for extended sections of the trip. You should observe local customs so not to cause offence. You'll be exposed to signs of poverty and accommodation in some locations is likely to be basic. Whilst a challenge, destinations and trips at cultural level 4 are also a fantastic opportunity to see a very different part of the world.



Travel Safety & Other Expedition Training

Preparing students and teachers for their upcoming adventure is an opportunity to teach important life skills and a vital part of our overall approach to safety management. Please ask for your quote for the training schedule specific to your expedition. Topics covered will include:

Responsible Tourism workshop

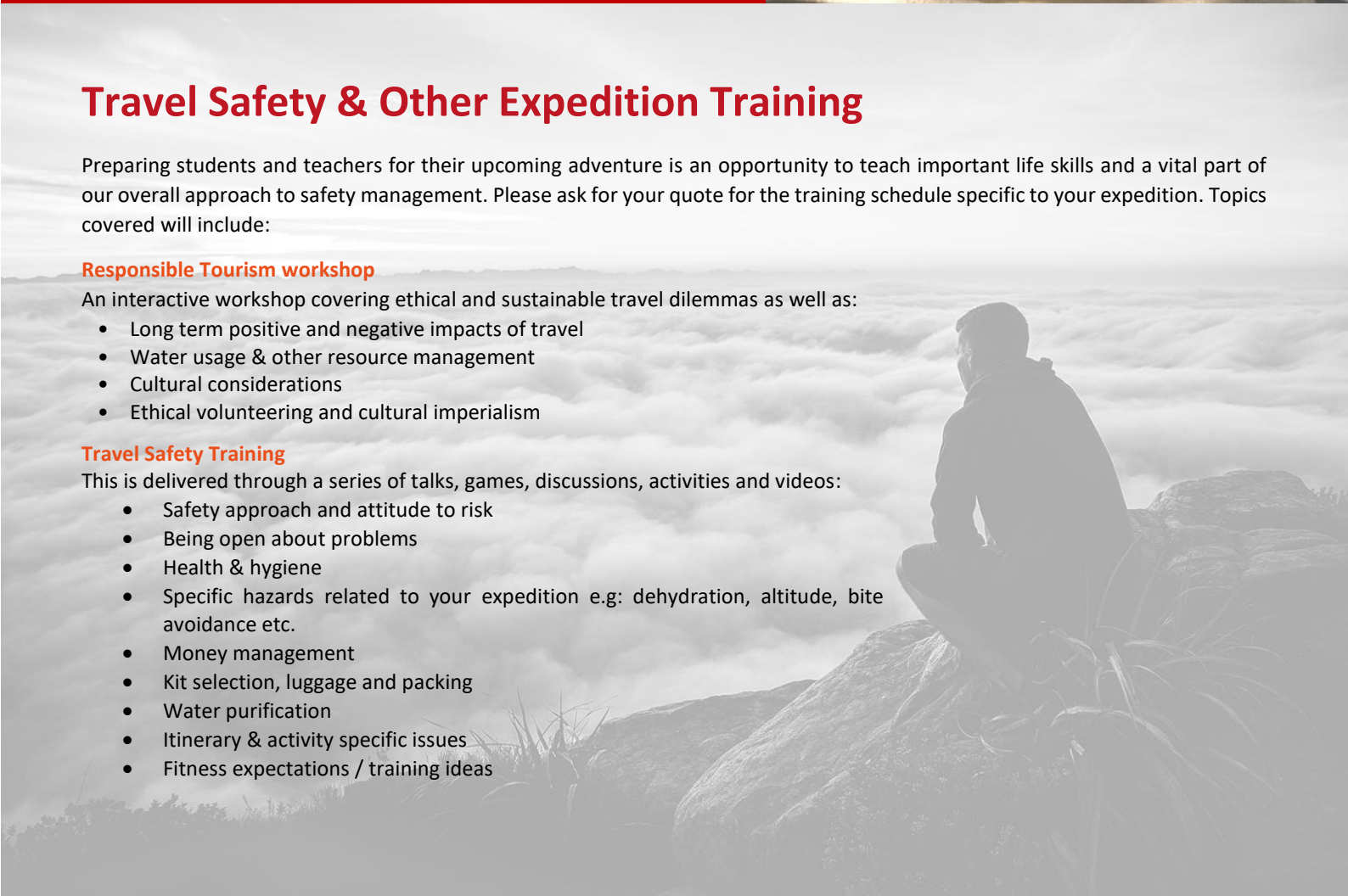
An interactive workshop covering ethical and sustainable travel dilemmas as well as:

- Long term positive and negative impacts of travel
- Water usage & other resource management
- Cultural considerations
- Ethical volunteering and cultural imperialism

Travel Safety Training

This is delivered through a series of talks, games, discussions, activities and videos:

- Safety approach and attitude to risk
- Being open about problems
- Health & hygiene
- Specific hazards related to your expedition e.g: dehydration, altitude, bite avoidance etc.
- Money management
- Kit selection, luggage and packing
- Water purification
- Itinerary & activity specific issues
- Fitness expectations / training ideas





A journey of 1,000 miles...

Starts with a single step... Contact us now to start your expedition journey

1 Ask for your personalised quote & further information

If this itinerary doesn't quite scratch your expedition itch then let us tailor-make one for you. Our wealth of experience and expert in-country contacts means we can design an adventure that's just right for you and your students. Contact us for more information and a detailed quote.

2 Ask for risk assessments and marketing materials

We can provide initial risk and threat assessments to help you with your expedition approval process. Ask for posters and your Pre-Booking Information Pack too.

3 Arrange an expedition launch evening

This is a chance for students and parents to hear more about the expedition with a comprehensive information evening covering the itinerary, safety management, the build-up to the trip and lots more. There is also plenty of opportunity for questions.



The home of the modern, innovative school expedition, where a sustainable, ethical approach guarantees unique experiences and a life enhancing adventure.



"I am being completely serious when I say that I won't ever run a school trip without you guys. I trust you and your team completely - and the in-country staff that you carefully cultivate and train are a cut above the rest."

Teacher feedback, King's High Warwick

Contact Us:

STC Expeditions, 6b King Street, Exeter, EX1 1BH

t: 01392 660056 | e: schools@thestc.co.uk | w: www.thestc.co.uk

