



## **Sister Cities Trip**

### **Tema, Ghana**

**June 11, 2023 to June 18, 2023**

**Prepared for**  
Loudoun County Delegation



## Overview

From June 11, 2023, to June 18, 2023, an official delegation from Loudoun County is scheduled to visit Ghana. The trip aims to establish a Sister Cities relationship between Loudoun County and the city of Tema. During the trip, the delegation will have opportunities to better understand the area's cultural and historical significance. The trip will also provide opportunities for business development. The economic development staff will participate in meetings with local industry executives to explore investment opportunities. The purpose of this document is to provide a detailed overview of the itinerary to date. A final itinerary will be provided to the delegation immediately before the trip. This version contains over 90% of the information needed to understand the critical meetings for the trip. This document also provides insights into how to prepare for the trip logically and culturally.

## ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE INFORMATION

### Depart: Sunday, June 11, 2023

United Airlines: Flight #996 (787 Dreamliner)

- 6:45 p.m. departure from Dulles Airport
- Flight time: 10 hours, 20 minutes (overnight nonstop flight)
- Strongly recommend arriving at the airport at least 2 hours before the flight departs.
- Transportation: Hotel staff will transport the delegation to the Labadi Beach Hotel ( No 1. La Bypass, Accra, Ghana +233 302-772-501)

### Depart: Saturday, June 17, 2023 (arrives 18 June)

United Copa Airlines Flight # 997 (787 Dreamliner)

- 11:30 p.m. departure from Kotak International Airport in Accra, Ghana
- Flight time: 10 hours, 50 minutes
- Arrival Sunday, June 18 (at approximately 6:20 a.m.)
- Transportation: Hotel staff will transport the delegation to the airport



### Hotel

Labadi Beach Hotel

**Address:** No 1 La Bypass, Accra, Greater Accra Region, Ghana

**Phone number:** +233 302-772-501



## Elected Officials and Staff Itinerary

For efficiency in traveling as a group, we ask that you arrive at the hotel lobby 10-15 minutes before the departure time indicated in the daily itinerary below.

### MONDAY, JUNE 12 (DAY 1)

*Morning attire: Travel attire*

*Evening attire: Business casual*

Morning	Arrive 9:05 a.m. (4 hour time difference ahead of Eastern Time USA). Labadi Beach Hotel staff to provide transportation from airport to hotel.
Afternoon	Free time to recover and prepare for business/government meetings.
Evening	Business dinner (full Loudoun delegation), Africa Investment Gateway Group (Billy Bilson)

### TUESDAY, JUNE 13 (DAY 2)

*Morning attire: Business with suit/blazer*

*Evening attire: Business casual*

8:45 a.m.	Depart Labadi Beach Hotel for Tema (approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes)
10:30 – 11:00 a.m.	Working Meeting between Mayor of Tema: Yohane Amarsah Ashitey and this team.
11:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Signing of the MOU between Mayor Ashitey and Chair Randall. There will be photos taken and in attendance there will likely be US Embassy officials (possibly U.S. Ambassador Virginia Palmer), Tema Officials and team delegations from Tema and Loudoun County.
11:30 – 12:00 p.m.	Transportation to lunch location with Loudoun delegation and Tema Officials
12:00 p.m.	Lunch at the Alisa Hotel in Tema
Afternoon	Return to Labadi Beach Hotel
Evening	Dinner (on your own)



## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14 (DAY 3)

*Meeting attire: Business with suit/blazer*

*Evening attire: Business with suit/blazer or dress/evening gown*

7:30 a.m.	Depart hotel for media event with Ghana television
8:30 a.m.	Depart media event for <a href="#">Orthopedic Training Center of Ghana</a>
10:00 a.m.	<p>Tour Orthopedic Training Center of Ghana and lunch with staff and residents at OTC to discuss the cultural reasons physically challenged children are shunned in Ghana and how Loudoun can assist with greater understanding for these children.</p> <p>Loudoun Resident Kobby Okum's non-profit, the <a href="#">Ghana Impact Project</a> partners with OTC to help provide resource to support groups of largely forgotten physically challenged individuals in Ghana through the provision of much needed resources (medical, physical, educational, psychological, etc.) as a way of offering them opportunities to integrate into society.</p>
12:30 p.m.	Depart Orthopedic Training Center of Ghana for Accra High School
2:00 p.m.	Tour Accra High School and meet with group of students about educational experiences and differences between Ghana and the United States. Meet with staff and administrators.
3:30 p.m.	Return to hotel
5:00 p.m.	Depart the Hotel for the Reception (full Loudoun delegation)
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.	<p>Ambassador Reception (full Loudoun delegation) Single Location Promotion Reception organized through US Embassy in Ghana</p> <p>Location: Deputy Chief of Mission Residence in Accra</p>

## THURSDAY, JUNE 15 (DAY 4)

*Non-meeting attire: Casual*

*Evening attire: Business casual*

9:00 a.m.	Depart hotel	
9:30 a.m.	<p>Arrive at the Accra Arts Centre</p> <p>Website: <a href="http://visitghana.com/shopping/location/center-for-national-culture/">visitghana.com/shopping/location/center-for-national-culture/</a></p> <p>Distance from hotel: 19-minute drive</p> <p>Visit Accra Arts Centre to see traditional Ghanaian arts and crafts. Your visit to the middle part of Ghana will take you to Manhyia Palace, where the Asante king sits in session every sixth Sunday heralded by a procession of dignitaries with exuberant drumming and horn blowing.</p>	
12:00 p.m.	Depart Accra Arts Centre for Cocoa growers	
1:00 p.m.	<p>Visiting Cocoa growers to see the fermentation and drying process in rural Tema (full Loudoun delegation)</p> <p>With a cocoa heritage dating back to 1879, Ghana is renowned for both the quality and quantity of its cocoa, the main ingredient in chocolate. The traditional method of fermenting cocoa beans in plantain and banana leaves instills a unique flavor while the country's quality control system provides consistency. Midunu Chocolates are artisanal handcrafted chocolates. Made with Ghanaian cocoa, they feature the flavors and essences of Africa. Taste the subtle infusion of the bounty of the African continent – fruits, spices, coffee, teas, and tisanes. These complex flavor profiles embody the beautiful patchwork of Africa's culinary heritage.</p> <p>Followed by a visit to Midunu Chocolates in Accra.</p>	
3:00 p.m.	Depart Midunu	
4:30 p.m.	<p>Arrive at Bioko Chocolates</p> <p>Bioko is dedicated to crafting gorgeous and delightful chocolate using Ghana's famed Forastero cocoa infused with mostly local ingredients.</p>	
5:30 p.m.	Return to hotel	
Evening	Dinner (on your own)	



## FRIDAY, JUNE 16 (DAY 5)

*Day trip attire: Casual*

*Business meeting attire: Business*

9:00 a.m.	Bus departs to Door of No Return (please note this is a 3 hour drive)
3:00 p.m.	Depart Door of No Return at 3:30 p.m. and head back to hotel (please note this is a 3 hour drive)
Evening	Dinner (on your own)

## SATURDAY, JUNE 17 (DAY 6)

*Attire: Casual*

9:00 a.m.	Depart hotel for W.E.B. DuBois Centre in Accra
9:15 a.m.	 A large, golden-colored bust of W.E.B. DuBois, a prominent African American civil rights leader and Pan-Africanist. The bust is set against a backdrop of green trees and a building with a yellow roof. The text "DU BOIS MUSEUM" is visible on the building.
	W.E.B. DuBois Centre in Accra highlights the history of Gold Coast, Afro - American and the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. The Centre is located on immaculate grounds of serene beauty, tucked away from the hustle and bustle of the metropolis, Accra, which surrounds it near the city's center.
11:00 am	Depart to lunch
3:00 p.m.	 A large, white, multi-story building with a distinctive architectural style, featuring arched windows and a prominent chimney. It is set against a clear blue sky.
	Historic castle with beautiful garden that stands as a symbol of what a nation can achieve if it looks past its history and to its future
5:00 p.m.	Depart to hotel
8:00 p.m.	Depart hotel for airport (flight departs at 11:30 p.m.) Labadi Beach Hotel staff to provide transportation from hotel to airport.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 18 (DAY 7)

*Attire: Casual*

6:20 a.m.	Arrive Washington Dulles International Airport
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## Business Development Itinerary

### MONDAY, JUNE 12 (DAY 1)

*Morning attire: Travel attire*

*Evening attire: Business casual*

Morning	Arrive 9:05 a.m. (4 hour time difference ahead of Eastern Time USA). Labadi Beach Hotel staff to provide transportation from airport to hotel.
Afternoon	Free time to recover and prepare for business/government meetings.
Evening	Business dinner (full Loudoun delegation), Africa Investment Gateway Group (Billy Bilson)

### TUESDAY, JUNE 13 (DAY 2)

*Morning attire: Business with suit/blazer*

*Evening attire: Business casual*

8:45 a.m.	Depart Labadi Beach Hotel for Tema (approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes)
10:30 – 11:00 a.m.	Working Meeting between Mayor of Tema: Yohane Amash Ashitey and this team.
11:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Signing of the MOU between Mayor Ashitey and Chair Randall. There will be photos taken and in attendance there will likely be US Embassy officials (possibly U.S. Ambassador Virginia Palmer), Tema Officials and team delegations from Tema and Loudoun County.  Yohane Amash Ashitey (Mayor of Tema) <a href="mailto:yashitey@gmail.com">yashitey@gmail.com</a> Frank Asante (Mayor's office) <a href="mailto:asanteburg72@yahoo.co.uk">asanteburg72@yahoo.co.uk</a>
11:30 – 12:00 p.m.	Transportation to lunch location with Loudoun delegation and Tema Officials
12:00 p.m.	Lunch at the Alisa Hotel in Tema
Afternoon	Return to Labadi Beach Hotel
Evening	Dinner (on your own)



## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14 (DAY 3)

*Meeting attire: Business with suit/blazer*

*Evening attire: Business with suit/blazer or dress/evening gown*

9:15 a.m. Leave for the business development meetings with local prospects at La-Palm Royal Beach Hotel (Kwafie Room).

**External Participant(s):**

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PaaEkow Quansah, Commercial Specialist (+233(0)59-691-243 | paaekow.quansah@trade.gov)

10:30 a.m.

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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11:30 a.m.

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12:30 p.m.

Lunch at the hotel

1:30 p.m.

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2:30 p.m.

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5:00 p.m.

Depart the hotel for the reception

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Ambassador Reception (full Loudoun delegation) Single Location Promotion Reception organized through US Embassy in Ghana

Location: Deputy Chief of Mission Residence in Accra



## THURSDAY, JUNE 15 (DAY 4)

*Meeting attire: Business with suit/blazer*

*Non-meeting attire: Casual*

*Evening attire: Business casual*

Morning and Afternoon	Business development meetings with local prospects at La-Palm Royal Beach Hotel (Kwafie Room). Gold Key Services (US Commerce Department to set business meetings)
10:30 a.m.	 A large black rectangular redaction box covers the time period from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. It is divided into several horizontal sections of varying lengths, suggesting a detailed schedule that is being withheld.
11:30 a.m.	 A large black rectangular redaction box covers the time period from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. It is divided into several horizontal sections of varying lengths, suggesting a detailed schedule that is being withheld.
	 A large black rectangular redaction box covers a list of attendees, which includes "operators/ consultants, other stakeholders from the academia and other training institutions." The redaction box is positioned above the 1:00 p.m. entry.
1:00 p.m.	Visiting Cocoa growers to see the fermentation and drying process in rural Tema. (full Loudoun delegation)
Afternoon	Afternoon: business meetings
Evening	Dinner (on your own)



## FRIDAY, JUNE 16 (DAY 5)

*Day trip attire: Casual*

*Business meeting attire: Business*

Morning and Afternoon Potential business development meetings with local prospects

Evening Dinner (on your own)

## SATURDAY, JUNE 17 (DAY 6)

*Attire: Casual*

12:00 p.m. Data Center Executives

5:00 p.m. Depart to hotel

8:00 p.m. Depart hotel for airport (flight departs at 11:30 p.m.)  
Labadi Beach Hotel staff to provide transportation from hotel to airport.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 18 (DAY 7)

*Attire: Casual*

6:20 a.m. Arrive Washington Dulles International Airport



## Fast Facts, Travel Requirements, Culture, and Delegation

- The Ghana currency is the "Cedi" ( 1 US Dollar = 12 Ghana Cedi)
- Proof of Covid Vaccine required for entry
- Proof of Yellow Fever Shot required for entry
- Ghana Visa is required for entry
- Malaria pills are highly recommended.
- Hepatitis A & B shots are highly recommended if not already administered to you
- Diphtheria, Tetanus, & Pertussis shot (1 shot) highly recommended.
- No more than \$10,000 US dollars cash can be brought into Ghana.
- English is widely spoken. Akan and Twi are the most widely spoken languages among the indigenous population.
- Former British Territory, Independence in 1957
- History of Ghana Link: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_Ghana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Ghana)
- Always use your right hand to shake hands, give and receive items, and to eat.
- Always greet people from right to left. The exception is when greeting a chief in a formal setting, where you should greet the chief first.

### Loudoun Delegation Members:

- Chair Randall
- Supervisor Saines
- Supervisor Glass
- Chief of Staff Matt Rogers
- Chief of Staff Kent Erwin
- Thaddeus Randall
- Buddy Rizer
- Beth Erickson
- Kingsley Obaji

### Government Meetings shall often include:

- Tema Mayor Yohane Amah Ashitey
- Tema City Council
- US Embassy Staff
- US Ambassador to Ghana Virginia Palmer
- Ghana President Nana Akufo-Addo (tentative)
- Ambassador Peter Pham
- US Deputy Chief of Mission Nicole Chulick



## Experience Accra

Named "Africa's capital of cool" by the New York Times, Accra is known for its colorful textiles, contemporary art, popular nightlife and entertainment scenes. Accra has also been announced by TIME Magazine as one of the World's Greatest Places 2021. The following pages feature some other points of interest to visit.

### Omama Royal Chocolate



**Address:** 22 Mensah Wood Ave, Accra  
**Phone:** +233 501 322 584  
**Email:** info@omamachocolategh.com  
**Website:** omamachocolateghana.com  
**Distance from hotel:** 18 minute drive from hotel

Made from the finest Ghanaian Cocoa, Omama Royal Chocolate is the best for you. It's 100% premium Ghana Cocoa which come in various sizes and flavours. Omama Royal Milk Chocolate and Omama Royal Dark Chocolate. Arguably the world's richest real chocolate. Proudly made from 100% premium Ghana Cocoa.

### National Museum of Ghana



**Address:** 2 Barnes Road, Central Accra  
**Phone:** +233 30 222 1633  
**Email:** info@momaa.org  
**Website:** ghanamuseums.org  
**Distance from hotel:** 21 minute drive

In the capital, Accra, visitors can learn about colonial times at the National Museum, opened in 1957 as part of Ghana's independence celebration.

### Accra Zoo / Achimota Forest



**Address:** JQGW+4Q Accra, Ghana  
**Phone:** 059 155 0051  
**Website:** accrazoo.business.site/  
**Distance from hotel:** 25 minute drive from hotel  
Very interactive zoo where you are able to get up close and personal with the animals. The guides are very knowledgeable and helpful.

## Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum and Memorial Park



**Address:** GQV+9M8, Accra, Ghana

**Website:** [visitghana.com/attractions/kwame-nkrumah-memorial-park/](http://visitghana.com/attractions/kwame-nkrumah-memorial-park/)

**Distance from hotel:** 15 minute drive

The Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum and memorial park, dedicated to the nation's first prime minister and first president. The memorial park is a favourite with local people, while the mausoleum is a testament to the progress that Ghana has made since independence.

## Black Star Square / Independence Arch at Independence Square



**Address:** GRX4+HV Accra, Ghana

**Website:** [visitghana.com/attractions/independence-square-1/](http://visitghana.com/attractions/independence-square-1/)

**Distance from hotel:** 13 minute drive

Large city square with monuments commemorating the occasion of Ghanaian independence.

## Jamestown Lighthouse



**Address:** 600 Bruce Rd, Accra, Ghana

**Website:** [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamestown\\_Lighthouse](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamestown_Lighthouse)

**Distance from hotel:** 21 minute drive

Jamestown is an old settlement where time seems to stand still. Jamestown and the surrounding area of Bukom is a happening place. While there, you can visit Brazil House art space, a local culture hub which is also the ancestral home of the Tabom people; Osu's Christiansborg Castle best enjoyed with a cold Club beer and a big plate of jollof with red fish; or Jamestown Café, a newish addition to the neighborhood and a magical little sanctuary in this bustling part of the city.

## Asomdwe Park, Accra, Ghana



**Address:** GRX7+24R, Accra, Ghana

**Website:** [asomdwe-park.business.site](http://asomdwe-park.business.site)

**Distance from hotel:** 20 minute drive

Asomdwe Park is the venue which holds the mortal remains of the Late Former President of Ghana Prof. J E A Mills. It is a very cool and serene environment for quiet time meditation. This place gives you a memory of a peaceful President who was loved by Ghanaians. It contains animals like ostrich, ducks and other birds.

*Photos provided by tripadvisor.com and destinations' social media pages.*