



Kusun

STUDY TOUR

DRUM • DANCE • SONG

IN GHANA WEST AFRICA

WHAT THE STUDENTS SAY:

'The Kusun Tour has been an overwhelmingly stimulating experience that I will be digesting for years to come. The reasons why we love, perform and share music have become all too abundantly clear here for me in Ghana'

David Ward – Canada

'Deciding to do the Kusun Study Tour was definitely the best decision I have ever made. The music was fantastic and the people so friendly. I was made to feel welcome and looked after fantastically the whole time I was there. My favourite memory is performing in front of about 300 people at a funeral after only 5 days of lessons!!! It was such wonderful fun'

Caroline Anderton - UK

'The Study Tour was a treat for all the senses. I can still feel the rhythms coursing through my veins; dancing and laughing so much it hurts; the spices on my tongue and the sun on my face. I will always remember the amazing Ghanaians – the teachers and the locals – who welcomed us into their lives so readily. I feel privileged to have been a part of this wonderful and unique experience.....Ghana has a permanent place in my heart'.

Alanna Maguire - Australia

DATES:

The four week tour will run in August / September. Please visit ghanadrumschool.com or contact jane@ghanadrumschool.com for exact calendar details of this year's tour.

TRAVEL:

Students must arrange their own flights to Ghana. All students will be collected from the airport. We will need to have all flight details so we can arrange the on-ground transfers. We can also assist with advice on airline/travel options.

COST:

For all tuition, accommodation, meals, ground transport, special performances, demonstrations and outings the cost is AUD\$3,800. All bookings require a deposit of AUD\$1,500.

ALL ENQUIRIES:

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Kusun

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August/September



KUSUN STUDY TOUR

August/September

Join us for the KUSUN STUDY TOUR to Ghana, West Africa. Four weeks of intensive workshops, tuition and performances in drum, dance & song with some of West Africa's finest traditional musicians and dancers.

The KUSUN – meaning living tradition in the GA language – study tours began in 1998 and have been growing and evolving since. With nearly 300 students participating over the years (with some returning 2-3 times). We have had participants from all over the globe with the common passion to explore this most amazing and generous culture.

The classes are under the guidance of Ghanaian master musician NII TETTEY TETTEH and one of Australia's leading percussionists, RAY PERIERA. The study group – 15-20 students – are taught by local musicians and artists how to play traditional music using traditional instruments; dance and singing and the derivation and cultural significance of the artforms. We offer group classes, but you can also have one on one sessions for those who wish a more intensive teaching programme.



NII TETTEY TETTEH started playing flute and percussion with traditional cultural group 'Ebani Sounds' at the age of 16. He was a founding member of the internationally acclaimed PAN AFRICAN ORCHESTRA, an innovative ensemble of traditional musicians re-interpreting traditional African music. A dedicated teacher, Tettey's workshops vary from simple chants to complex percussion and all are enriched by his explanations of the social context of these musical traditions.

Tettey and his group THE KUSUN ENSEMBLE – who are our teachers – are part of a new breed of Ghanaian contemporary cultural groups, and they tour extensively internationally.

The musicians, and the people of Nungua – where we live – take great pride in sharing their music and culture. The learning does not stop when classes finish; the students are introduced to a wide range of musical and cultural experiences including performances in the village by the elders and children's groups, as well as some of the premier Ghanaian traditional groups; demonstrations on flute, balafon, dundun, talking drum (we can also arrange for private lessons in specialist instruments); fetish ceremonies and festivals, and of course the final show in which we have the chance to perform the songs, dances and the rhythms we have learned during the four week course.



Sri Lankan born RAY PEREIRA has long been recognized as one of Australia's leading percussionists, performing and recording with many local and international jazz & contemporary artists. Ray has studied traditional drumming and percussion techniques in Cuba, New York and West Africa. He is currently working on many collaborations and co-ordinates a 40 member community drumming group called DRUMBALAYA. He is also a dedicated and generous teacher.

LOCATION:

The Kusun Centre is in the town of NUNGUA, which is about 15kms from the capital of Accra. It is an idyllic location by the sea, on the South Atlantic Ocean. Classes are held at our especially setout training ground, close to the beach.

PROGRAMME:

Tuition is **4 hours daily, 5 days a week** – Mon-Friday 9am-1pm. 10 master musicians and dancers – under the guidance of Nii Tettey Tetteh - provide all tuition. Students are placed into smaller groups dependent on ability and experience – advanced or intermediate or beginners – and each group will have 2-4 teachers to work with them. Private lessons by arrangement.

ACCOMMODATION & FOOD:

We live at the Kusun Centre – which is the guesthouse we have built. We have single rooms with private shower & toilet (also double rooms for couples). You will need to bring towels with you. The rooms will be serviced daily (or on request) and a laundry service can be provided at a small cost. Three delicious Ghanaian meals will be provided daily, prepared by the village women.

Vegetarians and most special dietary needs can be catered for.

VISA:

Visas are required for Ghana. You will need to apply for your own visa (in Australia the visa cost is approx **AUD\$100**). Jane will provide information on consulates and applications forms.

VACCINATIONS:

Yellow Fever vaccination is required to obtain Ghanaian visa. We recommend you consider vaccinations for Hepatitis A & B, Meningitis, Typhoid, Tetanus and anti-malaria medication.

DRUMS:

You will need a djembe and a kpanlogo (traditional Ghanaian drum) drums for classes. We are not able to provide drums for classes, but we have an arrangement with a local drum maker to deliver both drums, a bag of sticks, a bell and shekere for a cost of **USD\$180**. You are under no obligation to purchase your drums this way, we can suggest other options to you, but you must have drums for commencement of classes. Please note: students will be responsible for the freight/post etc of these drums back to their own countries.

