SANKOFA
NIU IN GHANA,
WEST AFRICA
MAY 16 – JUNE 4, 2012

This study abroad program is coordinated by the Northern Illinois University Study Abroad Office (SAO), in conjunction with the NIU Center for Black Studies.

_Sankofa_, a Ghanaian term from the Akan language, is commonly translated as, "We have to know the past to know the present and to foresee the future". The literal translation is "go back and fetch (retrieve) it." This meaning is based on the Ghanaian belief that one must know his/her past and bring those lessons into the present in order to secure the future.

**PROGRAM DATES:** The program will officially begin on Monday, May 16 in Accra, Ghana. In order to be in Accra on May 16 students must depart from the U.S. no later than Sunday, May 15, 2012. The program will end in Accra on Saturday, June 4, 2012.

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR:** Dr. LaVerne Gyant is director of the Center for Black Studies and associate professor in Adult Higher Education at Northern Illinois University, where she teaches classes in both adult/higher education and Black Studies. Dr. Gyant has been involved with the Ghana program since its inception. She has significant travel experience that includes travel to several countries in Africa, as well as Peru, Columbia and The Philippines.

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW/OBJECTIVES:** The primary purpose of this program is to provide participants with the opportunity to explore aspects of the historical, cultural and artistic foundations of West African civilization. It will provide students the opportunity to personally experience the riches of Ghanaian life and culture, while also engaging in a cross-cultural educational experience at the University of Development Studies, Tamale, Ghana. The program will provide an effective mix of classroom lecture and outside experiential engagement as the core of the study abroad experience.

The Republic of Ghana, roughly equivalent to Oregon in size, lies almost in the center of the countries bordering the Gulf of Guinea. To the east lies Togo, beyond which lies Benin and Nigeria. On the west is Cote D’Ivoire, and to the north, Burkina Faso. Although English is the official and commercial language, several African languages and dialects are spoken in Ghana, including Twi, Fanti, Ga, Ewe, Dagbani, Gonja and Nzima.
**PROGRAM SITES:** The program will take place in Ghana, West Africa at the University of Development Studies, Tamale. Tamale is one of three commercial capitals in the Northern Region of Ghana and is the site of a number of NGOs.

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Students will have the opportunity to visit historic monuments such as the slave dungeons at Elmina and Cape Coast, explore the kinte weaving and wood carving villages, visit the cultural center of Ghana in Kumasi, as well as experience and observe the use of traditional African religion by a traditional priest. Additionally, there will be visits to the traditional palace of the King and Queen of Ashanti, as well as a visit to the W.E.B. DuBois Center in Accra.

**PROGRAM AUDIENCE:** This course is open to all undergraduate and graduate level students in good standing according to University policy. Students who expose themselves to the cultural richness of Ghana will be forever changed, regardless of academic classification or major. **Space is limited and qualified applicants will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis.**

**INSTRUCTION METHOD:** Sessions will include morning lectures on African history and culture, as well as lessons in Twi (the indigenous language for the majority of Ghanaians). Professors from the University Development Studies at Tamale will provide lectures and other educational support for the program. Additionally, students will be participating in several community service projects.

For the NIU students, there will also be one required session that will be held in DeKalb in order to receive academic credit. One session (pre-lecture) will be held prior to leaving for Ghana. Times for this meeting will be coordinated at a later date. While in Ghana, students will attend classes five days a week for approximately six hours per day.

The assignment for the class will be a travel journal documenting the student’s experience during the three-week period. This journal will be turned in for review and feedback upon return to NIU. Other assignments associated with the class lectures and field trips are designed to enhance the student’s cultural experience and not for evaluation purposes.

The course will offer graduate and undergraduate credit. The graduate portion of the course will explore issues and concerns related to community development and higher education in Ghana.
PROGRAM ACADEMIC CREDIT: All participants will be required to enroll in one of the following NIU undergraduate or graduate courses. The courses taken while participating in this program cannot be audited.

HONORS CREDIT: Qualified students may also elect to receive Honors credit for any study abroad course(s) with the approval of Professor Gyant. For more information please contact the University Honors Office.

UNDERGRADUATE CREDIT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Semester Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IDSP 219</td>
<td>Introduction to African Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description: Introduction to the African continent: its art and cultures, social and educational structures, history, economic development, political dynamics, and current crises.</td>
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OR

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IDSP 302</td>
<td>Topics in Black Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Description: The intellectual, methodological, and paradigmatic traditions in Black studies related to a specific topic with a broad interdisciplinary perspective or scholarly and artistic research, practice, and theory pertaining to people of African descent. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 semester hours when topic varies.</td>
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GRADUATE CREDIT

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Semester Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IDSP 501</td>
<td>Study Abroad Programs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description: Course work undertaken as part of an approved university study abroad program. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 semester hours.</td>
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INDEPENDENT STUDY/RESEARCH PROJECT: Individuals desiring to earn three additional hours of undergraduate or graduate credit may do so by engaging in an independent study-research project under the direction of Dr. Gyant, program director. The research report should be at least 10 pages for undergraduate credit and 15 pages for graduate credit.

Requirements for Independent Study/Research Project: In order to obtain project approval applicants must:

1. Relate the project to a topic or subject introduced during the program.
2. Complete and submit the project for final evaluation to Dr. Gyant no later than July 15, 2011

Participants who enroll for the independent research project will receive 3 semester hours in one of the following NIU courses:
UNDERGRADUATE CREDIT

**IDSP 493 Afrocentricity** 3 semester hours

**Description:** Capstone course for the minor in black studies. Focus on developing tools for research on Africana populations.

Pre-requisite: IDPS 219, IDSP 300, and consent of director.

GRADUATE CREDIT

**IDSP 501 Study Abroad Programs** 3 semester hours

**Description:** Course work undertaken as part of an approved university study abroad program. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 semester hours.

**HEALTH:** Maintaining good health is of paramount importance when studying overseas. Changes in climate and the fast pace of travel may cause health problems abroad. When considering a study abroad program it is important for students to be aware of the things that can affect their health, thereby permitting students to enjoy their time abroad more fully. General good health is required for this program since students will be doing a great deal of walking every day over various types of terrain.

**APPLICATION AND ADMISSION PROCEDURES:** The program is open to undergraduate students, graduate students, and students-at-large who meet the NIU general admission requirements, and who are interested in African Studies and/or Educational Psychology from a Cross-Cultural Perspective. Currently enrolled students must meet College of Liberal Arts course GPA requirements. Graduate level students must also meet NIU Graduate School admission, course and GPA requirements.

Students must be in good academic standing at the time of application. Students who are on academic probation are not eligible to participate in study abroad programs. **Applicants must participate in the entire program and satisfy NIU undergraduate or graduate admission and course requirements.**

Students cannot have any encumbrances against their NIU records. Any encumbrances placed on a student’s records by NIU (i.e. the Graduate School, Undergraduate Admissions, Bursar’s Office, Accounts Receivable, Registration and Records, Health Services, Parking Services, etc.) must be cleared before a student is granted admission to a study abroad program.

For undergraduate students to be admitted to the program, an applicant’s official transcript must be on file in the NIU Study Abroad Office. Students who are currently enrolled at NIU, or who have previously enrolled at NIU, do not need to request an official transcript; the Study Abroad Office will make this request on behalf of the applicant. Students who want to participate in the program and earn academic credit from NIU who have not previously enrolled at NIU, or who are not currently enrolled at NIU, should ask the Registrar at their institution to forward an
official transcript as soon as possible to the Study Abroad Office. (Student-issued transcripts and photocopies are not acceptable.) Questions relating to the admission requirements or transcripts should be directed to the Study Abroad Office.

Students who desire to obtain graduate credit must either be admitted to a graduate program within the NIU Graduate School, or be admitted to the status of a “student-at-large” (SAL) within NIU’s Graduate School. For students to be admitted to the program for graduate credit, the applicant’s official transcript must be on file in the NIU SAO. Students who are currently enrolled at NIU, or who have previously enrolled at NIU, do not need to request an official transcript. However, students who will participate in the program in order to earn academic credit as an SAL (students who have not currently enrolled, nor are previously enrolled at NIU) must provide a transcript from the baccalaureate institution and from any institution at which graduate credit has been earned. This document must be provided to the SAO before a student can be admitted as a SAL to the program.

APPLICATION FORMS AND DEPOSIT: Applicants must submit the following at the time of application:

1. Application for NIU Administered/Faculty Directed Study Abroad Programs
2. Student Application Agreement
3. Release of Disciplinary Records and Information Form
4. Course Preference Form
5. $200 application fee/deposit
6. A clear and readable copy of the first page of your SIGNED passport
7. FOUR (4) passport size photograph (vending machine type photos are not acceptable)

APPLICATION FEE/DEPOSIT: Each application must be accompanied by a $200 check or money order made payable to NIU. NIU students also have the option of authorizing the Business Manager of International Programs to charge the $200 application fee/deposit to their account at the NIU Bursar’s Office. The $200 is broken down into $100 for the non-refundable application fee and $100 for a program deposit. The $100 deposit is refundable only if the participant withdraws prior to the withdrawal deadline indicated on the program materials or for medical reasons if the withdrawal is after the withdrawal deadline. Both the application fee and the deposit will be applied to the total balance of the program cost. Applications that are not accompanied by the $200 application fee/deposit will be returned to the sender. (This $200 is also required of individuals who will be applying for financial aid.)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday, March 16, 2012. This deadline is critical in determining whether there are enough students enrolled in the program for it to operate. The minimum number of students needed to operate the program is 10. Students should not delay applying for the program to wait to see if it will operate or not. Nor should students delay applying for a passport for this reason. When you apply to the program it’s critical that you also apply for a passport. In addition, if students do not apply by March 18 then it will delay everyone’s ability to purchase airfare at a reasonable price.
ACCOMMODATIONS AND MEALS: Participants will reside at guest houses (hotels) with private bath and toilet facilities. Some meals will be provided throughout the period of residency. (Refer to the Tentative Daily Schedule for specific details regarding housing and meals.)

AIR TRANSPORTATION: Individuals will be responsible for making their own travel arrangements between the U.S. and Accra and for purchasing their own tickets from a travel agent or airline of their choice. (Travel insurance is strongly recommended.) Participants should keep in mind that in order to arrive in Accra in time for the official beginning of the program on Monday, May 16, they should plan to depart the U.S. no later than May 15.

LAND TRANSPORTATION: For program-related travel the group will travel by coach. This transportation is provided as part of the NIU program cost. (Refer to the Tentative Daily Schedule for specific details regarding other program-related transportation.)

PASSPORT – IMPORTANT! -

All participants MUST possess a valid passport by FRIDAY, March 30, 2012.

If you do not have a passport by April 1 then you will be responsible for applying for a visa to enter Ghana on your own.

Potential participants in the Ghana program who do not currently possess a valid passport must apply for one immediately. Processing time for passports has increased and can vary significantly.

If you do not already have a passport or have not yet applied for a passport, it is IMPERATIVE that you do so immediately and is strongly recommended that you have your application expedited. Information on processing times, how to apply for a passport and how to expedite your application can be found on the U.S. Department of State website at http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html.

Foreign passport holders may need special visas for travel and are responsible for obtaining all necessary visas.

Important Note: U.S. passports must be valid SIX months beyond the intended stay overseas.

VISA: A valid passport is required by March 30, 2012 in order to obtain a visa to enter Ghana. Applicants will be provided with visa application forms in their acceptance packets. These forms must be completed and turned in with your acceptance paperwork. The NIU Study Abroad Office will collect visa applications and required documents and submit them to the
Embassy of Ghana in Washington, DC on the group’s behalf. Note: Students who do not have their passport by April 1 will be responsible for obtaining their own visa.

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT I.D. CARD (ISIC):** The ISIC is provided as part of the program cost. The International Student I.D. card can, among other things, provide discounts on international airfare. Students will receive an application and instructions for obtaining this card when accepted into the program.

More importantly, the International Student Identity Card also includes a limited health and accident insurance policy which is only valid outside the U.S. Students will have to pay bills at the time of treatment and will be reimbursed later.

**PASSPORT AND ISIC PHOTOS:** Students may have their passport and/or ISIC photo(s) taken in the NIU Study Abroad Office. Photos are $3.00 for the first photo and $2.00 for each photo after that. After the first two photos, photos must be purchased in multiples of two. Photos are usually developed while you wait. Study Abroad Office hours are 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (closed over the lunch hour) and 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.

**HEALTH REQUIREMENTS/VACCINATIONS:** In order to enter Ghana, students will be required to obtain yellow fever, DPTt, tetanus, and MMR immunizations (if not current). Additionally, students will need to obtain anti-malaria medication such as Lariam, and any other immunizations required by the World Health Organization for international travel.

Contact the NIU University Health Service at least eight weeks before departure for the program to allow time for immunizations to take effect. The NIU University Health Service can advise students on what immunizations are required and can administer most immunizations. Most immunizations require a fee. Consult the Travel Clinic several months before you travel. Some vaccines need to be given over a period of months, so participants in this program must **START EARLY!**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>NIU PROGRAM COST:</th>
<th>The program cost pays for the following cost-related services:</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Accommodations and two meals daily while the group is in Ghana.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Land transportation in Ghana.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Admission fees to cultural and historical sites visited as part of the daily schedule.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Fee for acquiring the visa to enter Ghana.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• International Student I.D. Card.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• NIU tuition for undergraduate or graduate credit.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• NIU major medical insurance.</td>
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<td>PROGRAM COST:</td>
<td>$6,175</td>
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All prices quoted are subject to change. The information contained in the program documents and forms is presented in good faith and is believed to be correct as of the date presented. Northern Illinois University reserves the right to amend, modify, revise, or delete any information appearing in these documents, including but not limited to the cost of the program.
Non-NIU students should consult with their home institutions regarding additional costs that may apply to study abroad. Non-NIU students are responsible for any study abroad charges imposed by their home institution.

**ADDITIONAL COSTS TO PARTICIPANTS:**
- Air travel between the U.S. and Ghana
- Cost of acquiring a passport (approximately $130).
- Immunization fees
- $40 Undergraduate application fee for non-NIU undergraduate students.
- Independent travel and visa costs associated with independent travel.
- Expenses for free-time pursuits.
- Expenses and purchases of a personal nature.

**NIU UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION FEE:** (Applies to Non-NIU students only):
There is a $40 non-refundable Undergraduate Application fee for students applying to NIU for the first time. If you are currently enrolled at NIU as a degree-seeking undergraduate student, you are not required to submit this payment.

If you are applying to NIU for the first time you will be provided with a link in your acceptance packet that will guide you to the online NIU Undergraduate Application. In the online application you will be asked to pay the $40 application fee by credit card or check.

**FINANCIAL AID:** As a participant in a study abroad program through NIU, applicants may be eligible for: Pell Grant, SEOG, Perkins Loan, PLUS Loan, Subsidized or Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, MAP Award or your privately awarded scholarship with consent of awarding organization. Tuition waivers do not apply. Please contact Pamela Rosenberg, the International Programs Business Manager, Williston Hall 407, (815) 753-9530, prosenberg@niu.edu for more information.

**WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM:** Applicants withdrawing from the program after March 16, 2012 will not be refunded the $100 program deposit.

Applicants withdrawing from the program after this date will also be held accountable for any funds obligated to overseas vendors and agents on the applicant’s behalf. This provision is in effect even if the applicant has not submitted the $100 deposit or additional payments, and if the applicant is applying for financial aid.

If the applicant must withdraw after March 16, 2012 for medical reasons, funds obligated on their behalf to overseas vendors can only be refunded if:
1) The request is submitted to the Study Abroad Office in writing and accompanied by a signed statement stating that travel is not advised from a physician on the physician’s letterhead; and
2) NIU is able to obtain refunds from overseas vendors and agents.
CANCELLATION OF THE PROGRAM: The Study Abroad Office reserves the right to cancel this program if the minimum required enrollment is not attained. If prior to the commencement of the program, a U.S. State Department Travel Warning is issued for Ghana, all applicants will be notified promptly of the warning and the possibility of cancellation of the program. If, during the course of the program, a U.S. State Department Travel Warning is issued for Ghana, students will be promptly notified of the warning and the advisability of canceling the program.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALTER OR CANCEL THIS PROGRAM AS MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 15</td>
<td>Depart O’Hare International Airport (ORD) for Accra, Ghana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, May 16</td>
<td>Arrive Accra, Ghana&lt;br&gt;Bus to hotel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 17</td>
<td>City tour of Accra&lt;br&gt;Lunch on your own&lt;br&gt;Visit University of Ghana, Legon for a guided tour and interact with faculty and students.&lt;br&gt;Afternoon visit to Makola Market and The Arts and Crafts Market.&lt;br&gt;Dinner on your own</td>
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<td>Wednesday, May 18</td>
<td>Depart after breakfast for Aburi&lt;br&gt;Lunch at Aburi Gardens on your own&lt;br&gt;Continue to Ho in the Volta Region&lt;br&gt;Arrive by evening and check into hotel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 19</td>
<td>Depart after breakfast to visit Tafi-Atome Monkey Sanctuary near Nyagbo.&lt;br&gt;Lunch on your own&lt;br&gt;Visit Wli waterfalls&lt;br&gt;Return to hotel by early evening&lt;br&gt;Dinner on your own</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, May 20</td>
<td>Check out of hotel and depart Ho for Amedzofe&lt;br&gt;Lunch on your own&lt;br&gt;Depart Amedzofe for a scenic drive to Biakpa&lt;br&gt;Arrive by later afternoon&lt;br&gt;Rest of the day is free&lt;br&gt;Dinner on your own</td>
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<td>Saturday, May 21</td>
<td>Depart after breakfast to hike along the Kulugu River trail&lt;br&gt;Lunch on your own&lt;br&gt;Afternoon is free&lt;br&gt;Dinner on your own</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 22</td>
<td>Depart Volta Region for Tamale&lt;br&gt;Stop en route to visit Yendi, the capital of the Dagomba State&lt;br&gt;Lunch on your own&lt;br&gt;Arrive Tamale later afternoon&lt;br&gt;Afternoon is free&lt;br&gt;Dinner on your own</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, May 23</td>
<td>Depart after breakfast for Bolga.&lt;br&gt;En route stop at Navrongo to visit the Mud Cathedral of the Catholic Church&lt;br&gt;Lunch on your own&lt;br&gt;Depart Navrongo for Tamale&lt;br&gt;En route stop at Bolgatanga to visit the Bolgatanga Market&lt;br&gt;Dinner on your own</td>
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| Tuesday, May 24    | Depart after breakfast for Wa, capital of Ghana’s Upper West Region  
                    En route stop at Wechiau, famous for its Hippo Sanctuary  
                    Lunch on your own  
                    Continue to Wa to visit the Wa Naa’s Palace  
                    Check into hotel by late afternoon  
                    Dinner on your own |
| Wednesday, May 25  | Depart after an early breakfast for Mole, home to the largest forest reserve in Ghana  
                    En route stop to visit the Larabanga Village to interact with the local people  
                    Lunch on your own  
                    Later afternoon gaming view of Mole National Park  
                    Dinner on your own |
| Thursday, May 26   | Depart after breakfast for Kumasi, hub of the Ashanti Kingdom  
                    Stop at Kintampo waterfalls  
                    Lunch on your own  
                    Late afternoon arrival in Kumasi  
                    Dinner on your own |
| Friday, May 27     | Breakfast  
                    City tour of Kumasi. Includes visit to Manhyia Palace and Palace Museum, National Cultural Centre, Prempeh II Jubilee Museum and Okomfo Anokye Sword site  
                    Visit to Kumasi Central Market  
                    Visit to University of Science and Technology School of Art and Sculpture  
                    Dinner on your own |
| Saturday, May 28   | Depart after breakfast to visit Nana Abass and the “Black and White Powers Shrine”  
                    Visit to Ashanti craft villages  
                    Return to Kumasi for lunch on your own  
                    Rest of day free  
                    Dinner on your own |
| Sunday, May 29     | Depart for Elmina  
                    En route stop at Assin Manso  
                    Arrive Elmina later in the afternoon  
                    Lunch on your own  
                    Proceed to Elmina Castle  
                    Dinner on your own |
| Monday, May 30     | Depart after breakfast to visit Kakum National Park  
                    Lunch at a local restaurant on your own  
                    Visit Cape Coast Castle and the West African Historical Museum  
                    Rest of day is free  
                    Dinner on your own |
| Tuesday, May 31    | Depart Elmina for Axim  
                    Arrive in Axim and have lunch  
                    Board a local canoe to explore the mangrove jungle of the Ankobra River  
                    Dinner on your own |
**Itinerary subject to change.**