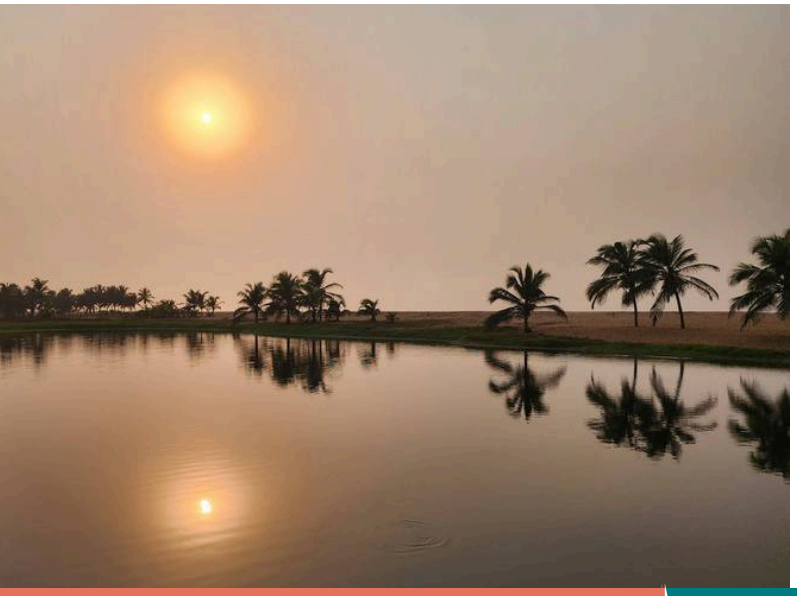
AFRICAN DRUMMING









RHYTHM POWER

OUR 17TH *tour*

UNITING CULTURES THROUGH MUSIC

MON 3rd JAN 2028 -
SUN 30th JAN 2028

GHANA, WEST AFRICA



3 Welcome
4 Study Program
7 Our Teachers
9 Extra Tuition
10 Drums & More
12 Accommodation
14 Entertainment, Shopping & Culture
16 Tour Rate, Deposit & Payment
17 Getting to Africa
18 Visas
19 FAQs
21 Bookings & Enquiries



WELCOME TO RHYTHM POWER

Join us on our 17th Tour to West Africa. If you've been considering a study tour to the motherland then now is a great time to realise your dream. Our Rhythm Power tour has welcomed over 300 drum and dance aficionados from all over the world with open arms.

We offer an enriching cultural and musical experience with a highly rewarding Study Program tailored to push your learning as far as possible. We are based in the idyllic Volta Region of Ghana at the seaside Meet Me There African Home Lodge. On top of your study program you can expect exciting cultural excursions and fascinating traditional festivals and ceremonies.

We're very excited to say that Josie Scott - a 12-time Rhythm Power devotee - will co-host/manage our 17th tour in conjunction with Simon Fraser. Josie has a long standing passion for Rhythm Power and has done several extended stints managing Meet Me There (MMT).

Happy drumming and dancing until we see you in West Africa!



CONTACT US

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TOUR DATES	Monday 3rd - Sunday 30th January 2028
RATES	AUD $7250 - $8750
VISIT US	African Drumming
ONLINE	Rhythm Power Ghana
SOCIAL	Facebook

STUDY PROGRAM

Our study program is geared to suit your individual needs. With classes graded for Beginners right through to Advanced/Professional levels, we will make sure you are grouped with similar level students.

Our teachers have decades of teaching experience and you'll be pushed to learn as much and as fast as you need.

We hold a 2-hour morning session and a 2-hour afternoon session. We also have group singing plus 'all-in' drum and dance sessions, where all the teachers and students come together.

This allows people who are focusing on drumming to still get their dance fix! You'll also have time for additional private tuition if you feel like pushing a little bit further.

If you prefer, you can choose to dance in the morning and drum in the afternoon. We teach different rhythms in the morning and afternoon sessions, so you won't fall behind on your drumming rhythms.

Whether it be drum, dance, or a combination of the two, you will be encouraged and challenged to excel as far as you want to go!



DRUM

We're bringing you the very best Djembe and Dun styles the region has to offer. From the ancient Malinke rhythms of Mali and Burkina to the funky contemporary arrangements on the streets of Ghana right now, our team of Master Drummers will push you as far and fast as you want to go.

Each class is led by one of our experienced Master Drummers and supported by an experienced Dun player. Explore the rhythms and songs of a variety of ethnic groups. You'll learn a deep catalogue of rhythms with accompaniments, breaks, solos and songs for each.

A key benefit of our program is our focus on the music in context. Drum and dance are inextricably intertwined in West African music, although they are often taught separately.

We will often bring the drummers and dancers together in the afternoon, allowing our team of Master Drummers to solo for the dancers in an all-in group session.

Students are welcome to play along as accompanists, support the music and boost their stamina. You'll learn by listening, deepen your understanding of rhythmic dynamics and hone the skills of soloing. Private Classes with all our teachers are available on demand on top of your regular classes.

WHAT LEVEL AM I?

It's important you maximise your learning experience whilst on tour. We want you to be learning on the edge of your capacity, while still feeling comfortable. If you're unsure what level you belong in, have a pre-tour chat to Simon.



DANCE

With two daily dance sessions you can expect to get VERY fit on this tour!

We will focus on learning the dances that accompany the rhythms taught to the drummers - A blend of ancient and contemporary grooves that are part of everyday ceremony and ritual across the musical landscape of West Africa.

You will work on improving form, endurance, and repertoire. Each arrangement will be broken down step by step, taking the time to master the postures and techniques for each rhythm.

You'll learn about the historical and cultural elements of the traditional dances as our teachers share how they continue to influence contemporary dance.

Dance classes are accompanied by live drumming of course!





TEACHERS

Study with the best artists and most experienced teachers in the region.

Simon's 30 years of touring through West Africa has cemented wonderful relationships with incredible artists and musicians who have dedicated their lives to their music.

Simon hand picks your teachers for the tour, ensuring you will get a great variety of education and inspiration.



KILELE AFRICA

Super talented and bursting with raw energy, Kilele Africa are Ghana's hottest traditional ensemble right now. "Kilele" means "welcome", and these musicians are all about sharing their joyous rhythm and dance with you.

Kilele is led by esteemed Master Drummer Mustapha "Weezy" Tettey, and comprises several members from the rich musical township of Nungua in Accra. Weezy generously shares his deep knowledge of the region's traditional music and carefully guides the rhythmic journey for all our drumming participants.



Together they are a remarkable synergetic ensemble who have nearly three decades of playing music together – in itself a rare achievement.



BURKINA AZZA

Burkina Azza (which means “Burkina Griot” in the Bobo language) is a talented ensemble based in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

Led by djembefola and multi-instrumentalist Adama Koita, the troupe is an outstanding collection of world class artists from Djibasso in the north west of Burkina, born into the musical world of the griots of Bwaba ethnicity. They are passionate about sharing their traditions and musical insight on our tour again, this is an opportunity not to be missed! You’ll also get to enjoy relaxing balafon and Ngoni evening jams with the Burkina guys - a real highlight of the tour.











EXTRA TUITION

There's plenty of time to really hone your technique, groove and stamina with our private lessons. With access to world class musicians and teachers, it's a great opportunity to focus on exactly what you need to maximise your learning. Private sessions are available on a variety of instruments including djembe, dun, balafon and ngoni, as well as dance.

Rates are given per person, per hour.

DRUM / DANCE (One on One)

Single Sessions	$40 pp
5 Session Pack	$180 pp

Drum classes can include an additional dun or bell player for an extra $15. Dance classes can be held with an extra drummer for a richer experience – keep in mind there is an inseparable relationship between drum and dance! Additional charge $15.

GROUP SESSIONS

2 or more people	$35 pp
Additional Dun support	$15 flat rate

*All rates are in $AUD, but payable in local currency on tour.



DRUMS & MORE

You'll need a djembe for the Tour and we are here to help!

Drums are available for hire or purchase. We offer a range of awesome drums from across the West African region. Our drums are carved and mounted by our good friends who we've been supporting since 1997.



DJEMBES FOR PURCHASE

PRIMO SERIES	SIZE	TOUR RATE	RRP
Premium hardwood djembes from Burkina Faso & I.Coast	12"	$400	$650
	13"	$425	$700
	14"	$450	$750

GHANA SERIES	SIZE	TOUR RATE	RRP
Quality Twenaboa djembes featuring traditional carvings	12"	$300	$470
	13"	$325	$490
	14"	$375	$550

HIRE

DRUM TYPE	TOUR RATE
Djembe (Ghana)	$125
Djembe (Hardwood)	$150
Duns	$175

*All rates are in $AUD.

Please answer these questions on your registration form so we can get the right drum ready for you.

1. Hire or Buy?
2. Djembe or Duns?
3. Hardwood (Burkina / I.Coast) or Ghana Shells*?
4. Preferred diameter
5. Your height

**Our hardwood djembes are top of the range and made from traditional djembe timbers. The Ghana drums are made from twenaboa, a medium density timber. These shells tend to have great bass ranges and offer good portability.*

DRUMS & MORE



OTHER INSTRUMENTS



KPANLOGO DRUM

SINGLE	$270



TALKING DRUM

SINGLE	$100



DUN SET

SHELLS & RINGS	$450
SKINNED	$750



AGOGO

SMALL	$10
MEDIUM	$15
LARGE	$20



SHEKERE

SMALL	$10
MEDIUM	$15
LARGE	$20

BAGS

DRUM TYPE	SIZE	TOUR RATE
Djembe	12-13”	$35
Djembe	15”	$40
Dun Set		$150



ACCOMMODATION

Ghana is an extremely safe country and our community is one of the most welcoming places you will ever visit.

We are situated in the Volta region on the coast of Ghana, 3 hours east of the capital Accra. We are based in between two fishing villages called Dzita and Agbledomi. The local Ewe people are known to be one of the friendliest and most welcoming tribes in Ghana. You will gain a rich insight into traditional African life and culture during your visit.

Meet Me There African Home Eco Lodge (MMT), is a not-for-profit lodge, which aims to support the work of the NGO 'Dream Big Ghana'. African Drumming has been a long time supporter of DBG and their local sanitation and education projects, and we love returning here every year to see how things are progressing.

MMT offers a fantastic seaside location with a huge salt water lagoon in the front yard - simply amazing! You will not find a more peaceful and picturesque location to drum the days away. The warm Ghanaian hospitality combined with an experienced kitchen team make it the perfect spot to stay for a month.







ACCOMMODATION

MMT has recently upgraded most of its accommodation. It is simply a wonderful place to stay.

Our options include 2 x Deluxe Lagoon Suites right on the lagoon that each accommodates a couple or twin singles. Three brand new high end, spacious Deluxe Nature Suites with lagoon views.
Two brand new more compact Deluxe Volta Suites with lagoon views.
One brand new 3 person spacious Family Suite.
One honeymoon double - the perfect couples retreat.
See the Tour Rates on page 16 for more information on room amenities and rates.

Accommodation is allocated on a first in, best dressed basis with your deposit. Let us know your first and second preferences and we will do our best to allocate to you. During the middle of tour we head back to Accra for a fun excursion weekend. For these 2 nights, all rooms are simpler, shared accommodation. There may be an opportunity to obtain a private room for an extra fee closer to arrival time (subject to availability).

Private Rooms are not available on this tour, as we are generally booked out. You can request one as a second preference, and if an opportunity arises, we will let you know. See our FAQs section for more information on accommodation.







FOOD ON TOUR

An absolute highlight of the tour is our In-house caterers: They prepare three delicious fresh meals every day, focusing on traditional local dishes and your favourite Western meals too. Our chefs hit the local markets to source ALL our fresh produce 3 times a week - expect lots of delicious sauces and fresh fruits, plus chicken and locally sourced fish. Vegetarians are catered for on request. See our FAQs section for more info on special dietary requirements.

SPA & MASSAGE

MMT has recently added a relaxing Spa and Massage facility where you can unwind with a deep tissue massage at the end of a hard drumming day!

MEET ME THERE'S ECO COMMITMENT

One of our main aims is to become as eco friendly as possible. We do this in a number of different ways but always look to get even better. Please see the Community Development page for more on this.



ENTERTAINMENT & CHILL

CEREMONIES & MUSIC

We take pride in offering a diverse entertainment package.

Showcasing a variety of original and eclectic acts, your stay will be interspersed with unique cultural experiences.

Ceremonies with music are woven into the fabric of everyday life in The Volta, and we will be there to take part in all kinds of special events. Weddings and funerals, spirit and voodoo ceremonies, live bands and more!





CULTURAL EXCURSIONS

Enjoy a cultural adventure with unique opportunities to experience ceremonies and events as they take place in the community.

Here are some of our tour excursions and events:

- Batik / Tie dye Workshop (optional)
- Mamashie Rasta Voodoo Ceremony
- Volta River Boat Trip
- Keta Slave Fort (optional)
- Jam Nights
- Local Market Trips
- Local Medicine & Farm Walk
- Community Involvement





GIVING BACK

The main source of income for locals is fishing and farming - most of the local people live on less than $1.40 per day.

By staying at MMT you'll be directly helping some of the wonderful ongoing projects that African Drumming supports through its sister NGO "Dream Big Ghana".

These include Reforestation and Sanitation toilet block building, plus the Learning Centre. Read more about Dream Big Ghana here

dreambigghana.org.uk

CHILL TIME

You'll be staying at one of the most relaxed and beautiful getaways you could wish for. Once your drumming has finished you can simply choose to lie under the palms by the water, swim, or read a book.

SHOPPING

There will be plenty of time to explore the local vibrant markets. Clothes, jewellery, art and craft – you can shop till you drop!

The streets of Ghana are safe and full of friendly people eager to walk and talk with you; it's easy to fall in love with the warmth and friendliness of the Ghanaian people. Taxi services are abundant and for just a few cents you can get a real African experience by jumping in a Tro Tro (small transit van) and skipping from place to place.



TOUR RATE

TOUR RATE (per person)

Deluxe Lagoon Suite: Twin/Double $8750 pp

Spacious traditional bungalows with open air ensuite, stunning views and private decking right on the saltwater lagoon
2 rooms available (for 2 people each)

Deluxe Nature Suite: Twin/Double $8250 pp

Recently built spacious private bungalows with lagoon and garden views, ensuite comprising an open air shower and compost toilet
3 rooms available (for 2 people each)

Volta Suite: Twin/Double $7750 pp

Twin or Double room with ensuite, flushing toilet and shower
2rooms available (for 2 people each)

Chief Bungalow: Twin/Double $7750 pp

Private bungalow with garden and lagoon views, with ensuite comprising of an open-air shower and compost toilet.
Perfect couple's / twin share option.
1 room available (for 2 people)

"Honeymoon" Bungalow: Twin/Double $7250 pp

Private bungalow with garden and lagoon views, with ensuite comprising of an open-air shower and compost toilet.
Perfect couple's / twin share option.
1 room available (for 2 people)

Note: As there are limited numbers for each room type - first in best dressed

The Tour rate does not include:
Airfares, Visas, Insurance or Drums

For those requiring private/small group transfers an additional charge will apply.
Private shuttle service can be arranged for early departures at your expense.

The Tour rate includes:
- Group Airport transfers
- Accommodation for 27 nights
- 3 freshly cooked meals a day*
- Group tuition
- Entertainment and excursions**

**Except for excursion weekend - see FAQs*

***Additional excursions may be offered and may incur additional fees*

CANCELLATION POLICY

Due to the nature of this tour and the advance commitments required with our suppliers, the following cancellation fees apply:

On or before 31st Jan 2027
$500 cancellation fee

Between 1st Feb - 31st May 2027
$1500 cancellation fee

Between 1st June - 30th September 2027
$3000 cancellation fee

On or after 1st October 2027
100% of tour cost, no refund

Bookings may be transferred to another participant, subject to approval.

PAYMENTS

A$3,000 deposit is required upon booking and secures your accommodation.
The remaining balance must be settled by 1st October 2027.

Payment can be made via EFT to
African Drumming Pty Ltd
BSB 033082
ACC 315567
A tour discount of 10% will apply to cash or money order payments.
Money Order from your local Post Office
Please make the money order out to
Simon Fraser and post to:
African Drumming
252 St Kilda Road, St Kilda
VIC 3182

GETTING TO AFRICA

FROM AUSTRALIA

Tour goers are responsible for booking and paying for their own airfare. Fares generally range from $2500 - $4000, depending on where you depart and who you book with. Keep in mind that prices tend to rise after the 30th of June.

Airline options include
Emirates, Qatar, Qantas, Turkish, KLM, Kenyan, Ethiopian

FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD

You are welcome to fly in from anywhere, however arrival time needs to be considered carefully so you arrive in time to join us for the bus ride from the airport. Get in touch with Simon pre-tour to plan your arrival.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Tour goers are responsible for their own travel and medical insurance. We recommend for everyone to take up a policy for peace of mind.

HEALTH CARE

Yellow Fever vaccination is mandatory for entering Ghana so please arrange this at least a month before you travel. Other medicines and vaccines are personal choices and should be considered in consultation with your travel doctor.

Stay up to date at smartraveller.gov.au



VISAS

All Tour goers will need a Ghanaian visa, which must be arranged personally before the commencement of the Tour.

APPLYING FROM AUSTRALIA

Visa applications usually take a maximum of two weeks to arrive, however given the Christmas/New Year break, we recommend applying before December to be safe.

When applying for a Tourist Visa, you will:

- Need to send your passport and proof of Yellow fever vaccination.
- Require a letter of Invitation from us, which we will send to you.

https://canberra.mfa.gov.gh/consular/visa-application/

APPLYING FROM OUTSIDE AUSTRALIA

Many Consulates around the world will require a “letter of invitation” which you should enclose in your application for a Ghanaian Tourist Visa. Please check your visa application form details or ask the consulate and let us know - we will email one through as soon as possible.

You will be required to submit your passport plus a yellow fever certificate when applying for your Visa.

REFERENCES

List us as your reference when applying for your visa.

Moses Zanleriba
Freedom Shop,
Arts Centre
High St
Accra, Ghana
Ph: +233 246860518

Christian Ganah
Co-Director - Meet Me There African Home Lodge
Dzita Agbledomi, Volta Region
Ph: +233 24350 7993







FAQ

IN TRANSIT

What happens when I arrive at the airport in Ghana?

We will be there to pick you up. Once you've cleared customs, make your way to the outside area at Arrivals. Simon, Josie and our team of teachers will be there to greet you. We will wait for all the touring students before jumping on the bus to our destination.

Where do your students typically come from?

More than 25 different nationalities have joined our tour! We invite everyone from all corners of the globe to Rhythm Power.

ACCOMMODATION & FOOD

What's the accommodation like? Are there single rooms?

Our amazing tour Eco-Lodge Meet Me There (MMT) has recently upgraded their accommodation.
We have 7 Deluxe double/twin Suites, a huge 3 person family room and a honeymoon bungalow too. Every room comes with an ensuite, and a compost toilet. See Tour Rates section for more info on our rooms.

We don't offer private rooms, as we're generally booked out with two people per room. If rooms at MMT are not full, private single rooms will become available and allocated on a first in best dressed basis. Additional charges will apply.

How secure will my valuables be at the lodge? Is there some way to keep things secure?

MMT is a safe lodge with security on site. All rooms have locks, and each room now has its own lockbox for keeping valuables and personal effects secure.

What is the accommodation like in Accra during the excursion weekend?

We come back to Accra for a two-night excursion in the middle of the tour.

Please note: for these two nights, all rooms are shared accommodation. Private rooms may be available at an extra cost (depending on availability). Breakfast is included for all of these days, as is dinner on Friday. Saturday lunch and dinner and Sunday lunch are not included, and are paid by each individual.

What access is there to power?

Every room has UK power outlets.

Is there Internet?

There is no Wifi at MMT, so we help you organise a SIM card to access browsing and calls (more on that once you sign up). You can top up your SIM credit as you go/ need.
If you want to use a laptop/tablet, then buy a large data bundle for your phone and use your phone to tether.

Can I bring a non drumming friend or family member along with me?

Yes, but as we are always booked out we have to charge the same rate for the tour.

If I have special dietary requirements can the kitchen look after me?

Vegetarian options available on request. Please discuss other dietary requirements with Josie.



FAQ

ON TOUR

Is the tour mainly drumming or can I focus on dance?

We build and evolve your study program based on what you would like to learn and how you'd like to balance it. Two 2-hour classes are available for either drum or dance each weekday. We also add all-in drum and dance jams each week to unite everyone at the end of the day.

Some students like to do a single dance session in the morning, then drum in the afternoon. We teach different rhythms morning and afternoon, so those dancers don't get behind with the rhythms.

How do I get the instruments, art and craft I buy back home to Australia?

It's easy to get excited by things like art, craft and beads, and spend up big on tour. Travel light to Ghana and you'll have more room to take home lots of goodies.

Drums are typically 6-9kg. By removing the hair, you'll have a great chance to get your drum into Australia through customs. Speak to Simon for more info on this. Check baggage allowances with your airline before you travel.

Tell us more about the Excursion Weekend in Accra

Always a tour highlight, this weekend is full of organised events and spontaneity! We will set off from Meet Me There after breakfast on Friday and hit the highway to Accra. We'll hit up a local live music venue on Friday night (dinner is covered), where you'll see some of Accra's best musicians in action.

Saturday is a flexible day with a guided walk through Makola market and onto the Arts Centre, that everyone is welcome to join. We will keep you up to date with local entertainment event options for Saturday night too.

Sunday will be a group trip to the best Art gallery in Accra before a stop (and lunch) at the shopping mall for all your western needs! Lunch and dinner on Saturday, plus Sunday lunch is not included. Breakfast is included for every day on tour. Uber and Taxis are really cheap for shared rides if you want to get out and explore.



Will I need a drum on the tour?

Yes - all drummers will need a djembe (or duns) which we have available for purchase or hire.

How much extra cash should I bring? What other expenses are there on the tour?

Pure water, soft drinks, beer, fruit and nuts are all around $3-5 a serving. A standard taxi fare into the local village (20 min) is $6. However, you may choose to take a Tro Tro (old van that stops every 200m) for $1-2. Our in-house laundry service is approx $10 for a bag.

Is there anything I can bring for donations that would be useful or valuable?

Stationery for the kids! Educational items like books. Flash drives. Soccer balls and footballs are always popular.

Do Australian phones work in Ghana?

Some Australian carriers may have reasonable bundles (e.g. Vodafone) but rates are expensive for other carriers (like Telstra) and connection may not in fact work at all.

For most people a local SIM card is the best option - they are great value and you get cheap local / international calls plus a data pack included. They need to be pre-ordered so please register for one with us before the tour. Make sure you UNLOCK your phone before you come to Ghana.

What is the best way to manage my money whilst on tour?

You can take your Visa card and withdraw local currency (cash). Remember to get enough to last you through to the excursion weekend (as it's a one hour drive to the closest ATM from MMT).

BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES

READY TO BOOK?

Please return the Sign Up form

CONTACT SIMON TO CHAT MORE

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facebook.com/RhythmPowerGhana

