

Welcome to Ghana

December 29th, 2025

Accra, Ghana - Day 1

Hello and Akwaaba! My name is Connor, and I am a third-year Mechanical Engineering student with Engineers Without Borders at ISU. We began our trip on December 27th in Des Moines, Iowa. After two short flights, we arrived at Dulles International Airport in Virginia, where we spent the night at a nearby hotel. After breakfast the following morning, we visited the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, the Dulles counterpart to the National Air and Space Museum. There we saw the space shuttle Discovery (fig. 1), an SR-71 Blackbird, and an Air France Supersonic jetliner; a fitting start to an international engineering trip. Later that evening, we departed Dulles at 6:50 EST and arrived in Accra, the capital of Ghana, at 9:23 GMT this morning. So far, we have checked into our hotel and done some sightseeing. We had lunch at a local KFC, and tried some menu options you won't find in the US. We also visited a nearby mall to walk around, shop, and get a feel for daily life in Accra. Now, my roommate Bryan and I are taking in the view from our hotel window (fig. 2) and enjoying a couple of sodas we picked up at the mall (fig. 3). We plan to eat dinner at the hotel restaurant and turn in early to recover from travel and adjust to the time change, preparing for a full schedule in the days ahead.

fig. 1



fig. 2



fig. 3



December 30th, 2025

Day 2

Hello all! My name is Angela, and I'm a fourth-year environmental engineering student. I'm on the Water Distribution Team at EWB-ISU. Today was our 2nd day in Accra. We started the day at Raincoat Roofing Systems Limited, one of the companies that put together a bid for the Ullo Health Clinic roof. They gave us a tour of their warehouse and explained their systems (figure 1).

After Raincoat, we went to the Kwame Nkrumah museum, which is more of a park than a museum. There was a peacock roaming around (figure 2)! Once we'd seen everything in the memorial park, we drove past Black Star Square (we didn't get a chance to walk around it) on the way to an Accra market where we all learned the art of haggling. There was a stray cat climbing on one of the artisan's drums (figure 3). Once we were done buying, we ate lunch at a Chickenman Pizzaman restaurant, which is the a chain that raises and cooks their own chickens for their food. After that, we retired to the hotel to pack and rest up for our flight up to Wa tomorrow on our way to Ullo.



fig. 1



fig. 2



fig. 3

December 31st, 2025

Day 3

Hello and happy New Year! My name is John Beuter, and I am the travel team lead for this year's trip. I am from Ankeny, Iowa, and I am currently getting my master's degree in cybersecurity. While this is my second time in Ghana with EWB, this trip has been full of many great new and exciting experiences.

Today was the team's travel day to Ullo. We had our first and only flight of the day from Accra, the capital of Ghana, to Wa, the major city of the Upper West region. The flight is just under two hours, but in that time, we covered almost the entire length of Ghana. When we arrived in Wa, there was a noticeable difference in temperature from Accra. Being so far north, Wa is close to the Sahara Desert and far from the ocean's moisture. This means that, unlike Accra, Wa has intense dry heat, which provides a welcome break from the humidity we experienced on the coast. After landing in Wa, we still had about a two-hour drive before reaching Ullo. The van ride was comfortable, and we arrived in Ullo in time for a late welcome lunch where we were joined by our community partners Paul, Justin, and Zack. We used the remainder of the day to visit the clinic site and tour the work that had been done since the last travel team we had visited in May. Wrapping up our time at the clinic, we worked our way through town and to the High School campus. On campus, we had the opportunity to watch a local soccer match between the Ullo men's team and a neighboring community's club team. The match was a great introduction to Ullo, as it provided the team with a location and event where we could meet and interact with numerous community members, and enjoy some good competition.

We wrapped up our time at school shortly before the sun set. Our dinner consisted of chicken, goat, and rice, accompanied by tomato and garlic paste. After dinner, we spent our time discussing as a team what we would like to accomplish the following day, as our partners from KNUST, the local university we collaborate with in Ullo, were set to arrive the next morning. Once we had completed our work outline, we took a moment to prepare for the New Year's Eve celebrations being held in Ullo. There was a lot of excitement in the community.

New Year's Eve is primarily celebrated with religious services that span from 10 pm - 12 am. Our team was invited to celebrate at the local Catholic church. The service followed that general structure of a church service in the US, but it was interlaced with numerous dance performances and songs that involved the entire congregation. Now, one would assume that the celebrations would end not long after Mass completes, but Mass was more of a warm-up party. Upon returning from the church service, we observed that the compound we were staying in had been converted into a small music festival featuring a DJ and various musical artists. Crowds packed the front of the compound, and people lit fireworks as music blared. It was great to see everyone come together to celebrate and meet so many people from Ullo and the surrounding areas. While most of the team turned in for bed closer to 2 in the morning, the festival did not stop; in fact, the festival continued well into the early morning and did not stop until the team had their morning breakfast at 7.

