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Summer Study Tour Highlights Kenya Music Festival, Connections With Africa: Qatar Airways named the program's preferred international air carrier

The AFRICAN CONNECTIONS Research and Education Fund, Inc. (ACREF) has announced further details regarding its summer 2024 study tour in Kenya.

The sixteen (16) day journey will take place from August 8 to 24. The program will be based at the [Co-operative Retreat and Conference Centre](#) (CRCC) on the campus of [The Co-operative University of Kenya](#) (CUK) - in the upscale Nairobi suburb of Karen. The study tour targets college students, recent graduates, mid career professionals and recently retired persons.

Qatar Airways has been designated as the tour's *preferred international air transportation provider*, with special discounts offered to program participants departing via the 5-star¹ carrier's gateways in North America and the United Kingdom.

Highlights of the study tour include a very special day at the [2024 Kenya Music Festival](#), visits to Eldoret, Kisumu Naivasha and Mombasa and tours of facilities addressing East Africa's public health, transportation, energy, media, technology and education needs.

A visit to the [Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science of Technology](#) (JOOUST) is also included. Dubbed '*The Oasis of Knowledge*', JOOUST is named in honor of [Jaramogi Oginga Odinga](#) (1911 -1994), a prominent figure in Kenya's struggle for independence and the country's first Vice-President.

The largest festival of its kind in East and Central Africa, the **Kenya Music Festival** is an annual talent development initiative overseen by the Ministry of Education. Since 1948, preliminary competitions in music, dance and elocution have been held at the county and regional levels. The 2024 national festival, scheduled from August 3 to 14 in Eldoret, showcases '*the best of the best*' and provides a well recognized platform through which positive values are promoted and societal issues addressed.

At the end of the tour, participants will be given special opportunities to interact with Nairobi based students, community leaders, social activists and business persons during a one-day **Focus on Africa Public Forum**TM at the Co-operative Retreat and Conference Center. The theme of this meeting is: "*Where Do We Go From Here?: Africans and Americans in Tryin' Times*".

Special discounts on study tour registration are available to members of the **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)**, the **National Urban League**, **The University of California Trust (UK)**, **Black Professionals in International Affairs (BPIA)**, various national alumni organizations and subscribers to the **Los Angeles Women's Theatre Festival (LAWTF)**.

Further details regarding the Summer Study Tour can be found online at:

<https://africanconnections.com/Summer2024.html>

Via ACREF's integration with **PayPal's** Advanced Credit and Debit Card Payment Platform, well qualified participants have the option of paying registration fees for the study tour in monthly installments.

The online registration form can be accessed at: <https://tinyurl.com/46vvsxub>

Principal instructors for the Summer 2024 Study Tour are:



- **Dr. Denis Kamau Muthoni**, [The Co-operative University of Kenya](#) (CUK), Senior Lecturer of Supply Chain Management (CUK) and Director, Board of Postgraduate Studies (CUK)



- **Melvin H. Cox**, Lecturer, Merrill College, [The University of California, Santa Cruz](#) and President, The AFRICAN CONNECTIONS Research and Education Fund, Inc.

An optional four (4) day extension to Zanzibar (August 24 – 28) is also available and includes stays in [Stone Town](#) (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) and in [Nungwi](#).

Please Note: The deadline for registration has been extended to: **Friday, June 21st, 2024**.

The Summer 2024 Study Tour has been designed by [EDU Africa](#).

ABOUT:



- A federally recognized (501(c)(3)) nonprofit organization, **The AFRICAN CONNECTIONS Research and Education Fund, Inc.** (ACREF) was created in direct response to the numerous distortions, half-truths and omissions seen almost daily in the popular media regarding Africa, her people and the African Diaspora.

ACREF seeks to train and nurture a new generation of internationally focused "virtual griots" - multimedia historians, journalists, writers, technicians and photographers.



- **Qatar Airways** is the flag carrier of Qatar.

Headquartered in the Qatar Airways Tower in Doha, the airline operates a hub-and-spoke network, flying to over 170 international destinations across all six inhabited continents from its base at Hamad International Airport.

The only airline to be named [Skytrax](#) World's Best Airline six times, Qatar Airways is renowned for the high quality of its service across all cabin classes.

The airline currently operates a fleet of more than 200 aircraft. The Qatar Airways Group employs more than 43,000 people. The carrier has been a member of the [One World Alliance](#) since October 2013.



- **PayPal Holdings, Inc.** (PYPL) is an U.S. based multinational company engaged in the development of technology platforms for digital payments. Its solutions include PayPal, PayPal Credit, Braintree, Venmo, Xoom, and Paydiant products. The company operates as a payment processor for online vendors, auction sites and many other commercial users - offering an electronic alternative to traditional paper based instruments such as checks and money orders. PYPL was ranked 143rd on the 2022 "Fortune 500" list of the largest United States corporations by revenue. In 2023, Forbes ranked PayPal #17 among the Worlds Best Employers and in 2024, #3 among the Best Employers for Diversity.



- **The Co-operative University of Kenya (CUK)** is a public chartered institution of higher learning located in the Nairobi suburb of Karen. The university has a history that dates back to 1952 under the name School of Cooperation. The institution later changed to the Co-operative College of Kenya in 1967 and then to The Co-operative University College of Kenya, as a constituent college of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) in 2012.

On October 6, 2016, CUK was elevated to a fully fledged university by the 4th President of Kenya, H.E Uhuru Kenyatta. The university has seen student enrollment grow to the current level of 8,000+. A variety of graduate and undergraduate degrees - as well as certificate programs - are offered across three schools and two institutes.



- The team at **EDU Africa** is passionate about people, the environment, and education. The company believes that every journey to Africa, gives participants the opportunity to learn and transform. EDU Africa's exceptional team operates from four regional offices in South Africa, Kenya, Ghana and Zimbabwe. The company values the opportunity to build lasting relationships with local communities, partners, and clients from around the world.

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Keywords:

- The AFRICAN CONNECTIONS Research and Education Fund, Inc. (ACREF)
- Qatar Airways
- Kenya Music Festival
- The Co-operative University of Kenya
- EDU Africa
- PayPal
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- National Urban League (NUL)
- Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology
- Focus on Africa Public Forum™
- Black Professionals in International Affairs (BPIA)
- Los Angeles Women's Theatre Festival (LAWTF)
- The University of California Trust (UK)

¹ Qatar Airways is among the ten airlines worldwide currently given a 5-star rating by [Skytrak](#). The 5-Star Airline rating recognizes those airlines providing very high standards of Airport and Onboard Product, together with consistent and high standards of staff service across both the airport and onboard service environments.