



Volunteer in an Orphanage in Cape Town, South Africa - Assist with childcare & educational activities in a township orphanage while exploring South Africa

Översikt

This volunteer project is in the heart of a township just outside Stellenbosh and only 35 minutes from Cape Town city centre. The project involves volunteering with children from birth to 8 years old who have been orphaned. Volunteers will be involved in implementing an educational program which focuses on fun, interactive activities in an informal environment. These activities will enhance the children's development in basic English conversational skills, arts, music and drama as well as their gross and fine motor co-ordination. This project will ensure that these children will be able to develop to their full potential in a safe, creative and caring environment. When volunteering at the orphanage there are also many opportunities to explore this beautiful part of South Africa.

Projektet

The children's home is in the heart of a township and was formed by Mama Lumka as a refuge for orphaned and disabled children. In the early days Mama Lumka would walk the township looking for children who had been severely neglected or mistreated. Some of these children had been locked up in a dark room with only a bucket as a toilet facility and food left on the floor. She would rescue these children and take them into her home where she would feed them and give them the love and care they deserved. Using a wheelbarrow to transport the children who were often suffering from various disabilities and unable to walk, she soon became known in the township as the 'wheelbarrow lady'.

When she eventually had 14 children living in her small modest home she met Chris Wilmont. He stepped in to help her raise funds to buy a property inside the township where she could build a bigger home to house all the children she had taken under her wing. Today this initiative has grown to include 5 separate houses each able to accommodate 8 children and a house 'mom', as well as a skills development centre to assist adults living in the community. The village continues to grow and aims to have 3 more houses by the end of the year which will increase the number of children in the village to 54. The children's home boasts an impressive vegetable garden and some chickens who supply all the eggs for the village. The long-term goals of the village are to become completely self-sufficient and to develop their own bakery so that they can employ more people from the community and supply the township with bread. They would also like to have their own educare centre and pre-primary school inside the village. GVI is actively involved in helping them achieve this through the development and implementation of this program.

Due to a lack of adequate funding the children's home is unable to employ qualified teachers to assist them. Most of the care givers in the village have only a very basic education and limited English. For many of the children English is not their first language and unfortunately one of the pre-requisites for children in primary schools in South Africa is that they have a good grasp of English, as this is the language used to teach all classes from Grade 4 upwards. Those children that are not able to understand English will fall behind. Mama Lumka wants to ensure that the children in the village get the opportunity to learn English which will ensure that they are well prepared for primary school. GVI aims to assist the home with developing and implementing an education program which will satisfy Mama Lumka's wishes and in time hopes to pass on the necessary skills to some of the care givers currently at the home. This particular program is unique to GVI and all funding and manpower comes directly from Global Vision International and its volunteers. Without the contributions and assistance from GVI and the volunteers this educational program might not exist, and these children may be left struggling to keep up once it comes time for them to go to primary school.

Vilken skillnad gör detta projekt?

GVI have paired up with a small but rapidly expanding children's home that caters for orphaned children. GVI will be designing an educational program to be implemented by GVI volunteers. Currently no such program exists and there is a desperate need at the home for extra hands and skills to help deliver and run these educational activities for the children.

Höjdpunkter

Volunteer and live in an attractive coastal village close to Cape Town and Stellenbosch, with direct exposure to local culture and communities. Optional side trips are available to Robben Island, Table Mountain, Cape Point and Penguins, Cape Town wildlife safari, wine tasting in Stellenbosch. For those travelling onwards there is easy access to the Garden Route and cheap domestic flights to Kruger National park from Cape Town.

Plats

Gordons Bay is a picturesque coastal village nestled at the foot of the Hottentot Hollands Mountain Range, just outside Stellenbosch and 35 minutes from Cape Town. The area is home to beautiful swimming beaches, magnificent wine farms and popular restaurants and bars. Gordons Bay is also the beginning of the scenic and well-known Garden Route, making this the perfect base to explore the best sites and activities the Cape has to offer.

Ute i fält

Your accommodation will be in modern apartments with no more than 4 people per room and within walking distance of the beach, shops and restaurants. There is electricity, hot and cold showers, and flushing toilets. Access to the internet is available nearby. Food is simple and nutritional and will be prepared for you each day.

*Ett av barnen som har fått glädjas
åt volontärernas hjälp.*



Livet på projektet

Your first day on the volunteer project will be spent learning about the different customs and cultures in South Africa, general life inside a township as well as some common Xhosa sayings. You will also be given the curriculum, ideas on lesson planning and some introductory information on child development and skills on how to handle young children. You do not need any particular training or prior experience as this will be provided for you once you arrive in country. The South African GVI Project Manager, interns and other volunteers will always be around to assist you or give you ideas.

Typical day

Each morning you will be collected from your apartment at 8:30am and transported to the orphanage in time to start your morning session which is from 9am - 12pm. Morning sessions will be divided into 3 parts with a variety of tasks including outdoor exercises and games, arts and crafts, story telling, music and drama activities. You will have an hour from 12 - 1pm to enjoy your packed lunch before starting the afternoon session which could include supervised free play, assistance with homework or working with some of the disabled children at the orphanage. You will be collected from the village at 15h00 in the afternoon and taken back to your apartment and will then be required to spend an hour or two each day preparing for the next days lessons.

Typical week

Volunteers will work Monday through to Friday. You will have weekly sessions with the project manager and intern to discuss any ideas or problems you may have and to plan for the following week. The work you will be doing will involve teaching basic conversational English by telling stories, singing songs and playing games. You will also need to plan and implement games and exercises for the children to help them develop their fine and gross motor skills. Resources, art materials, games etc will be provided for you once you get to Cape Town. If you would like to get involved in helping some of the disabled children in the village, you may have the opportunity to learn the skills you need to play with and handle these special children. Weekends have been left free for your own leisure so that you will have time to explore Cape Town and the local area.



På din lediga tid

Participating with GVI not only allows you to work on programs assisting disadvantaged communities or endangered ecosystems but it also offers wonderful opportunities to travel in the local area in your down time or further afield either before or after your program. Below is some information on trips and travel options in South Africa.

Optional Included Side Trips

Cape Town Cultural and Activity Weekend - This trip includes 2 nights in Cape Town near Long street so that you can sample weekend city life. On Friday afternoon you will travel through to Cape Town after finishing work at the orphanage. The Saturday is a free day and you may wish to take the opportunity to visit some of the following; Robben Island, Table Mountain, District 6 Museum, Castle of Good Hope or Green Market Square craft markets. Sunday includes a full day in Cape Point and a visit to the penguin colony. You will have the opportunity to explore the Cape Point nature reserve on mountain bike where you may see antelope, zebra, ostrich, seals and possibly even whales. During the day you will enjoy a picnic lunch on one of the reserves beautiful beaches.

Wildlife Safari - You will visit a private game reserve which hosts the big five (rhino, leopard, lion, elephant and buffalo) and is located one and a half hours from Cape Town. Here you will enjoy lunch and an afternoon safari before returning home. Transfers to and from Gordon's Bay are included.

Wine Tasting Trip in the Stellenbosh winelands— a tour of local vineyards with an opportunity to taste some of the locally produced wine.

Please note that anyone booking on this project for the two week option will need to extend their stay for two full days if they want to take part in all three side trips

Further Travelling Opportunities

South Africa has such a wealth of fantastic opportunities for further travel. Possibilities include the spectacular Drakensberg Mountains, the beauty of the Kalahari Desert, the historical Zululand, the vibrancy of Cape Town, the fantastic Southern Coast, the world-renowned National Parks of Kruger and Hluhluwe-Imfolozi, and many more.



Foton från projektet



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