



## **Volunteer to Teach at a Township School in Cape Town, South Africa - Teach children literacy and numeracy in one-to-one sessions while exploring the best South Africa has to offer**

### **Översikt**

This volunteer project involves teaching primary school children using dedicated one-on-one sessions to help bring them up to required standards. The aim is to give certain students extra attention as they have fallen behind the rest of their peers. Some of the children struggle to understand their teachers because their home language is not English. You will work through a specially designed 2 week program which has been developed by GVI and the local teachers. You will be assigned to approximately 8 students for each 2 week period and you will work with each of them individually for 25 minutes a day. Once you have completed the 2 week program with each student you will see a dramatic and measurable improvement in their abilities and the students should be more confident and comfortable once they return to their classrooms. This volunteer project is in the heart of one of the townships just outside Stellenbosh and only 35 minutes from Cape Town city centre.

### **Projektet**

South Africa has come through a great period of change over the last decade, but one of the most important areas of change to ensure sustainable development is undoubtedly education. Sadly more and more teachers who are working in previously disadvantaged communities within South Africa are discovering that many of their students are in fact unable to read. Education in these areas is not meeting the desired levels and has shown high failure rates. This could have a disastrous impact on the great achievements South Africa has made recently and in time will have a larger influence on the social, economic and human development in this country. Students are managing to move up through the system by simply memorising letters but are not in fact mastering the required levels of literacy and numeracy skills. This particular program has been designed by local teachers and GVI to tackle these issues. All funding and manpower comes directly from Global Vision International and the volunteers. Without the contributions and assistance from GVI and the volunteers this program might not exist, and these children may be left struggling to keep up.

Nomazamo is a township which developed approximately 14 years ago as an informal settlement in response to job possibilities in the rapidly growing residential and industrial area's of Strand and Somerset West. For most of these people their employment source was in the building industry which over time has sadly decreased leaving an estimated 60% of the inhabitants in Nomzamo unemployed. The effect of this is that many of the children who attend this primary school which currently educates 1800 students, have parents who have taken to the streets leaving their children unsupervised and fending for themselves. As a result these children are not getting the support at home or at school due to the combination of high student numbers per class and the absence of parental supervision. GVI and the teachers at the primary school hope to assist some of these children with the extra supervision they require through volunteer support. The volunteers will take part in this educational reinforcement program which is dedicated to individual attention and direction for students in this poverty stricken township.

## **Vilken skillnad gör detta projekt?**

Many of the primary schools in townships throughout South Africa suffer from classrooms which are severely over crowded. Many teachers are facing the challenge of having up to 50 students in their classroom which means that they are unable to give individual children in their classrooms the attention they require to develop and learn. In addition to the large class sizes, teachers are having to conduct lessons in English which is often not their home language. Some classrooms may have up to 11 different languages being spoken. GVI has partnered with a township primary school and is working in conjunction with the local teachers to design a program which can be implemented by GVI volunteers. The focus is on providing individual coaching sessions to those children that have difficulties reading and writing. In addition to helping them with their literacy and numeracy skills these one-on-one sessions should also help them with their English language skills and building their confidence.

## **Höjdpunkter**

Work 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 inside an estate 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.



## **Livet på projektet**

Your first day on the program 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, some introductory information on child development and skills on how to handle young children. There is no need for any particular prior training or 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 to give you ideas.

### **Typical day**

Each morning you will be collected at your apartment at 8:30am and transported to the primary school in time to start your morning sessions which are from 9am - 1pm. You should typically work with a total of 8 students in a 2 week cycle and there are usually 2 one-on-one sessions per hour. The children assigned to the program have been selected by their teachers as they require some extra coaching in either literacy or numeracy skills. Each student has a 25 minute session each day and during the 2 weeks will cover all the material set out in this specially designed program. They will also have the opportunity to ask any questions they may have and get some individual attention which they are not getting in their classroom. Lunch time is from 1 - 2pm when you can enjoy your packed lunch. After lunch there is time for a 1 hour meeting with the teachers to discuss the progress of each of your students and any extra material the teachers might need you to cover. You will be collected from the school at 15h00 in the afternoon and taken back to the apartment. Volunteers will then be required to spend an hour or two each day preparing for the next days lessons and writing up progress reports on each of your students. You will hand these reports over to their teachers once the students have completed the program.

### **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, literacy and basic numeracy skills. Volunteers can achieve this by reading stories, playing educational games and working through a curriculum and specific program which has been designed for you by the teachers at the school. Resources, art materials, games and the curriculum will be provided for you once you get to Cape Town. If you would like to get involved in helping some of the teachers with extra activities and sports coaching after school you will have the opportunity to do so. Weekends have been left free for your own leisure so that you will have time to explore Cape Town and the local area. 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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