

Safe Haven



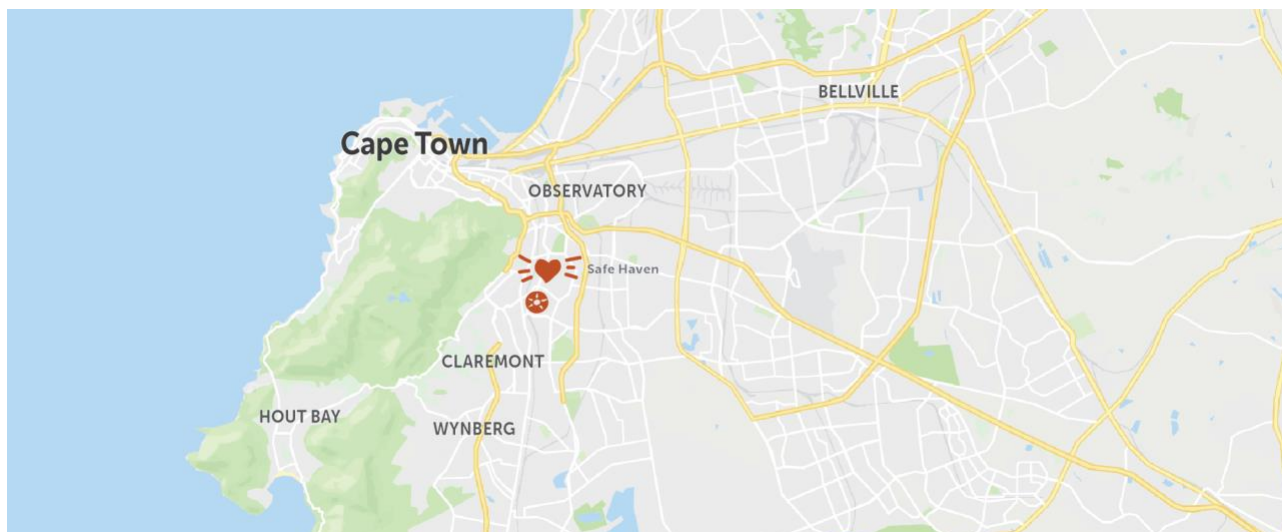
Overview

Location	Cape Town, South Africa.
Duration	From 2 weeks.
Dates	All year round.
Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimum age: 18.• You must have an Upper Intermediate level of English.• Special skills: You must be passionate about working with children.
Your impact	♥♥♥♥♥
Documents required	Enrolment form, curriculum vitae, letter of motivation, passport copy, proof of medical insurance, police clearance certificate.
Day of arrival	Thursday.
Day of departure	Saturday.

Highlights

- Work towards improving the quality of life of disadvantaged and ill children.
- Provide love, positive attention and lots of smiles.
- Help to create opportunities for all, regardless race, financial situation or gender.
- Experience amazing tours and adventures in and around Cape Town.
- Receive personal support from the volunteer coordinator.
- Share this experience with other volunteers from all over the world.
- Combine the project with an English language course and volunteer in the afternoons.

Project information



The Safe Haven Project was established in 2007. This project is an NPO that aims to help the less fortunate in South Africa by improving their quality of life. The project's focus is to provide positive attention, educational activities, play time and basic needs to mainly children and youth in various communities. This all takes place in a safe environment so that everyone involved can develop and grow.

The project supports various organisations in Cape Town, providing a safe haven to underprivileged, abandoned and abused children.

Programme details


This volunteer experience will be very rewarding if you are passionate about caring for children and can bring a positive, creative and proactive attitude. You will have the opportunity to interact with interesting people from all walks of life and get to know different cultures and religions.

Your role

Monday – Friday, usually from 09:00 – 15:30 (depending on the locations and travel time).

Please contact us to learn about the half-day option when combining this project with an English language course.

As a volunteer on this project, you will have a fun-filled volunteering experience in which no two days are the same. The project team plans a weekly schedule with some fixed days where certain organizations are visited, but will prioritize organizations where help is needed the most on other days.



Below are some of the different organizations you will visit and be involved in during your stay:

Langa Educare Siyakhanyisa

You will assist the teachers at this educare centre in the Langa township. Each day there are around 80 - 100 children, aged 4-5 years, who attend the educare centre. Help is needed as the teachers are understaffed and are not always able to support the children individually in their development. You will assist with their education by teaching them how to paint, write, complete puzzles and engage in other fun activities. You will need to be open to playing with them and also giving assistance at snack time and meal time.

City of Refuge: The Ark

This is a Christian-based community that provides a loving and caring temporary home as well as food and clothing to homeless, abandoned, abused or unemployed men, women and children. This special place houses up to 900 people. During the school term, you will be in the classrooms and assist the children with their daily tasks or help out in the pre-school classes. During the school holidays, you will assist the staff by helping with the holiday programme which takes care of the children.

School for the Deaf

You will assist a teacher (hearing) with a small group of children up to the age of 4 years old. These children are deaf and learn sign language in a very playful and encouraging way, so you will learn together with them. You will assist the teachers with various tasks and give individual attention to the children when needed. You will also help with snack time and lunch.

Atlantis Aftercare

Atlantis is a township in the northern part of Cape Town. We visit the aftercare programme on a regular basis, where children come to a local sports hall to do their homework and play. The aftercare programme also works to encourage mothers (and guardians) to get involved by coming to the hall to help. You will assist with meal time, homework support and outdoor activities.

School for the Blind

The school takes care of fully blind children, children with minimal visibility, albino-children and multi-disabled children. You assist the teachers with various tasks, play with the children and help wherever needed.

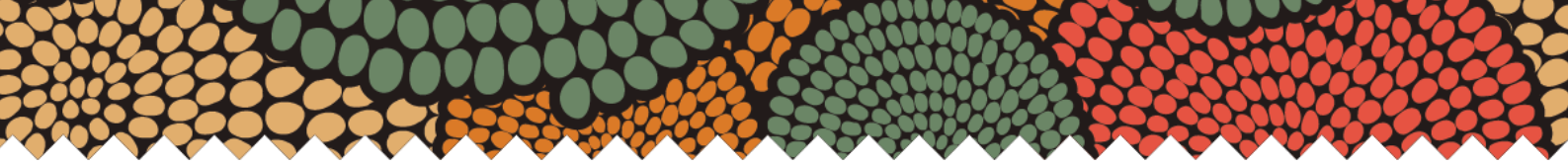
Hospitals and 'Home away from Home' visits

Often hospital and 'home-away-from-home' visits are conducted with the focus being to put a smile on a child's face during their hospitalisation. You will take care of and play with the children so that the parents get a chance to do something for themselves during this time.

What you do:

- **You give love, hands, attention and a smile:** sometimes just being there is enough.
- **You play:** all kinds of educational and fun games, sports and art activities.
- **You help:** with supervising, meals, homework and activities in aftercare facilities, so that the children stay off the streets.
- **You get things done:** arrange and give meals, build and paint playgrounds, furnish facilities, or any other way where hands-on help is needed.
- **You help create tiny miracles:** when wishes from a child, small or big, cross the project's path, they try to make them happen - a gown for a gala, sports equipment for a talented kid or even the simple things like school books and uniforms.
- **You connect & share:** by bringing organisations and people together to make things happen, this project creates possibilities, gives hope and an opportunity to learn from each other's experiences. Together we are strong!

It is important to note that this description serves as an example only. The daily tasks and challenges depend on the volunteer and the work that needs to be done. The final job description can therefore vary substantially from the above.



This project can sometimes be emotionally draining so you will get to choose which programme you would like to do again while you are with the Safe Haven team. It is important that you are aware of this before applying for this project. We will assist you during your stay to make sure that you are coping with the experience, but you need to be mentally prepared to be open to the challenge.

Arrival

You will need to arrive on a Thursday at Cape Town International Airport. Our driver will meet you at the airport and take you to your accommodation.

After an orientation meeting at the language school in Newlands on Friday, your first day of volunteering will be on Monday.

Accommodation

You will live at the Volunteer House. It is a private house in an upmarket residential area and consists of rooms with 2 single beds and 2 bunk beds. There are 4 bathrooms to share, a communal kitchen, a dining room, a lounge with TV and DVD and a beautiful garden with a swimming pool. A commercial laundry service is close by. Bedding is provided. Towels will be not provided.

Meals

Self-catering. The main shopping areas as well as restaurants, pubs, etc. are within walking distance of the Volunteer House.

Free time

Together with other volunteers and language students from Good Hope Studies you can take part in the entertainment programme of the Social Club. There are organised events, outings and tours most evenings and at the weekends. To find out about the current programme, go to www.goodhopevolunteers.com.

How to get to the project

There is a daily transfer to and from the different organisations which the project supports.

What to bring

There are no special requirements in this regard but we recommend bringing comfortable, practical clothes. Anything else you might need is readily available at local supermarkets in South Africa.

Your commitment

Please be aware that in applying for a volunteer project, you are making a firm commitment to the project. Our projects depend on the volunteers. It is necessary that you take this commitment seriously.

Some projects will appoint specific responsibilities to you; others are less structured and require the volunteers to use their initiative. If you prefer the one type over the other, please ask us for the most appropriate project for your preference.



Your daily presence is required and working hours are to be followed strictly. Not fulfilling your obligation can result in your dismissal from the project.

Cell phone use during working hours

Please note that the use of cell phones is strictly prohibited on all of our projects during work hours. This includes taking photos and instant messaging. This is for the safety of the volunteers as well as the safety of the children who are supported in our social projects. South African law states that the taking of photographs of children without direct parental consent is unlawful under the “South African Children’s Act (Appendix 4)”. Any volunteers found taking photographs of children and/or posting photographs of children will be presented with a written warning and asked to leave the project if the request is ignored.

What to wear

You are asked to wear sensible clothing and to be culturally sensitive of the communities you are working with. You are expected to wear modest clothing, which includes jeans, leggings, long shorts, and long skirts. Closed shoes are advisable, especially when working outdoors. Underwear is not to be seen under any circumstances.

Not acceptable are low cut tops, short shorts/shirts, bikinis and swimwear, belly tops, shirts/t-shirts with no sleeves for male volunteers as well as flip flops or no shoes.

Any volunteers found inappropriately dressed will be given a written warning and asked to leave the project if the written warning is ignored.

Medical insurance

You are required to take out medical insurance before travelling.

You must ensure that you are covered from the day of departure in your home country to the day of arrival back in your home country. The minimum coverage must be US\$ 100.000 and, as part of the enrolment process, you will need to email us a copy of your insurance policy documentation.

Health

No vaccinations are required except for travellers going to the north-eastern areas of South Africa, where anti-malaria precautions are recommended. Clients should consult their doctor for recommendations.

A yellow fever certificate is compulsory for those persons who have travelled from, or intend travelling through, countries in the yellow fever belt:

Africa: Angola, Burundi, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Rwanda, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda.

South America: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guyana, Guyana, Panama, Peru, Surinam, Venezuela, Argentina and Paraguay.

Bring medication just in case you suffer from any travel-related illnesses, e.g. stomach upsets, since your body needs to adjust to the change in food and water during your first few days in South Africa.

It is important to keep in mind at all times that HIV and Aids are widespread diseases in South Africa.

Safety

HIV/AIDS and TB are a major public health concern. You should be aware that you are working with children that could be infected.

COVID-19 protocols

All WHO and CDC health guidelines with regards to minimising the spread of COVID-19 need to be strictly followed.

The project will give you an orientation pertaining to specific guidelines that need to be followed but in general, please strictly adhere to the following:

- Cloth or medical grade face masks should be worn at all times in public areas.
(You should bring at least 4-7 masks with you from home that can and need to be washed and may be reused. The project will NOT give you face masks)
- You should keep a distance of at least 1.5m from other persons at all times.
- You should wash your hands regularly and avoid touching your face.
- Sanitise your hands often with a solution of at least 70% alcohol.
(Please bring hand sanitiser and wipes with you from home)
- If you cough or sneeze, this should be done away from others or in a bent elbow

What's included / not included

Included:

- Project placement
- Airport transfer on arrival
- Accommodation (Volunteer House: shared room, shared bathroom, self-catering)
- Daily transfer to and from the project
- Full-day excursion on the first Saturday
- A donation towards the project
- Good Hope Volunteers welcome pack
- Weekly site visits by our coordinator
- An orientation at the beginning of your volunteering
- Participation in the activities of the Social Club (extra charges may apply)
- Electronic certificate (printed copy on request)
- Local support including a 24-hour emergency number
- WiFi

Not included:

- Food
- Local transport
- Airport transfer on departure
- Laundry
- Any items of a personal nature



When combining with a language course

When you participate in a language course before you start at this project or when you participate in a language course in the morning and volunteer in the afternoon, the day of arrival is Sunday and the free full-day excursion on the first Saturday is not applicable.

Visa

You can volunteer in South Africa on a visitor's visa for up to 90 days.

Nationals from certain countries (e.g. Brazil, Switzerland, Germany, Australia, France, the Netherlands, Spain) will receive their visa when entering South Africa. Other nationals need to apply for a visitor's visa at a South African Embassy in their home country before travelling.

If you come to South Africa on a visitor's visa, you can extend once by another 90 days.

If you plan to come for more than 90 days, you need to apply for a volunteer visa at a South African Embassy in your home country. Please ask us for the necessary documents for your visa application.

For the latest information contact the South African Embassy or Good Hope Volunteers.