

INDEPENDENT TRIPS

Cape Town & Garden Route Voluntour 15D/14N

Cultural

15 Days / 1 Country

South Africa

Departure city: **Cape Town, South Africa**

End city: **Cape Town, South Africa**

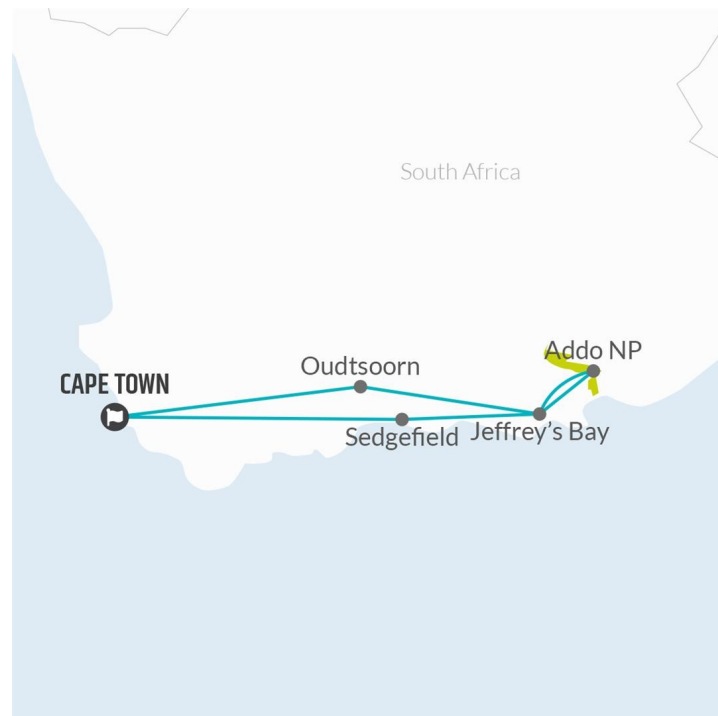


HIGHLIGHTS

- Spend a week working with disadvantaged children
- Enjoy beautiful Cape Town and spend some time on the beach
- Travel the unforgettable Garden Route
- See extraordinary wildlife

Spend an unforgettable two weeks in South Africa! Discover beautiful Cape Town, volunteer with disadvantaged children, go canoeing in the Wilderness Route, drive along the magnificent Garden Route, try local delicacies, go on a game drive to spot the Big Five, explore the Cango Caves, and more!

MAP



What is included



Independent Trips

Include all of your accommodation, transport and experiences on a pre-set trip that you can customize to perfectly suit your travel needs.



Accommodation: 14

- 14 nights in hostels



Transport: 3

- Van Cape Town airport pick-up & drop-off
- Airport transfers, tour transport All transfers by road



Meals: 20

- 14 Breakfast(s), 5 Lunch(es), 1 Dinner(s),

What is not included

- *Other meals/drinks
- *Personal expenses
- *Optional activities
- *Tips
- *Travel insurance
- *Flight tickets
- *Visa fees

*Prices for optional activities are subject to change at any time without prior notice. Please confirm these prices before departing on your trip.

Additional information

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Activities can be reordered or exchanged in case of or due to weather or unforeseen conditions.

Volunteer Information:

Volunteers will help in the daily running of the programs for example:

- Teaching lesson plans to children in the preschool (colors, letters, shapes, art, etc.) as well as teaching English through play and vocabulary stimulation. (Training is provided)
- Stimulating smaller children in the younger groups with developmental toys, touch and by speaking English to them, we hope it will help them learn faster when they get to the older groups. English is compulsory in later education. The earlier they learn, the more they benefit. (Training is provided)
- Assisting with the tasks at the preschool such as cooking, cleaning, feeding and hygiene
- Supervising children at all times during outdoor or free play
- Helping with events
- Fundraising - This can be done in advance to assist the program! Please contact us for more information on how you can help before you arrive!
- Administration, lesson plan preparation, developmental activities, research, etc. This is mostly done after project hours in preparation for upcoming days. You may be required to do some of these tasks in your free time.
- Helping with the baby room – changing diapers, feeding babies, putting babies to sleep as well as basic stimulation through play
- Assisting in the vegetable garden where we grow fresh produce for their meals
- Helping with washing up after meals, cleaning classrooms, washing bedding and toys
- Maintaining a safe and hygienic environment for the children at all times

Volunteers will work 5 days a week. Some days volunteers will work a full 8 hours and other days 4 to 5 hours, depending on the needs of the project.

Project tasks may sometimes seem repetitive – but your efforts will make a huge difference. Enjoy the project locations, your fellow team members, and the fact that you are helping to make a difference in the community development of South Africa.

Example volunteer itinerary:

- Monday: *Educare (Morning) & Weekly Meeting/Training (Afternoon)*
- Tuesday: *Educare (Morning) & Vegetabel Garden (Afternoon)*
- Wednesday: *Educare (Morning) & Cleaning Resources (Afternoon)*
- Thursday: *Educare (Morning) & Fundraising (Afternoon)*
- Friday: *Educare (Morning) & General Duties (Afternoon)*

Please note that from time to time there can be unavoidable changes to projects. These can be caused by weather, conservation priorities, materials supply, or because ongoing projects have progressed more quickly or slowly than originally planned. We ask you to accept the changes – we are sure that you will enjoy the replacement projects just as much.

What can you bring to the volunteer project?

If you would like to bring something for the children at the other projects please consult your volunteer leader once on project. Some useful items we always need:

- Stationery – arts and crafts for preschoolers, school supplies for older children
- General hygiene products such as soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes (mostly children's toothbrushes), face cloths
- First aid items – plasters, bandages, antiseptic ointment, etc
- Old clothes – all sizes but especially for children and babies
- Old toys

If you are planning on buying something for the children, rather wait until you are here as then you will have a better idea of the community needs. Goods are also often cheaper in South Africa than overseas – not to mention that it saves you carrying it around with you! Your volunteer leader will be happy to go shopping with you for the required items. Most of our project requirements change from time to time. For more accurate information regarding project needs, please feel free to contact us.

Meals:

Volunteers will receive 3 meals a day. This includes:

- Breakfast (cereals, fruit, yogurts, toast and spreads)
- Lunch (bread, cold meats, salad, cheese, spreads and fruit)
- Dinner (hot meal such as a traditional South African BBQ (braai) and stews (potjies). All dinners will include a meat, starch and vegetable.
- Tea and coffee will be available, all other drinks will be at own expense

A generous amount of food will always be served. If snacks are desired there are several grocery stores nearby. There are refrigerators available for volunteers' personal food and soft drinks.

NOTE: Let us know if you have special dietary needs (e.g. if they are vegetarian or have any allergies) prior to arrival. Participants with very specific dietary needs may be required to supplement their meals at their own expense.

Accommodations:

Volunteers will stay in one of our volunteer houses with bedrooms sleeping 2 - 5 people. All houses are facilitated with electricity, hot water, a kitchen, one or two toilets, a bathroom with a shower, beds with linen (no towels). Male and female volunteers will share rooms unless otherwise requested. Volunteers are responsible for keeping their own room and volunteer house tidy. Two to three times a week a cleaning lady will be there to clean the house and change linen. The volunteer houses are at walking distance from shops, restaurants, entertainment, bus stops and the beach.

Packing List:

- Warm clothes – Many people have the perception that it is always hot in South Africa. However, May through to September are our winter months and it can get quite chilly with an average temperature ranging from 5 degrees Celsius at night to 15 degrees Celsius during the day. So, please make sure to pack enough warm clothes if you plan your trip in that period. We do not have indoor heating in South Africa!
- Old clothes – bring comfortable clothes that you don't mind getting dirty to work in
- Sunscreen (and a sun hat in summer)

- Prescription medication if needed
- Basic first aid requirements

If you need anything else upon arrival, you will be within walking distance from several shops.

NOTE: *The most important things to bring are a sense of humour, patience, an open mind and a positive attitude!*

Itinerary

Day 1: Cape Town, South Africa

Cape Town Airport Pick-up & South African BBQ - Saturday (D)

On arrival in Cape Town Airport you will be transferred to your accommodation, where you will be welcomed by our friendly staff and checked into your room. The hostel is within walking distance from all bars, restaurants, the beach, shops and transport terminals. Table View is famous for kitesurfing, water sports and its amazing views of Table Mountain from Kite Beach. In the evening you get to fill up on a delicious traditional South African BBQ – Called a Braai; while you meet up with other travellers from all parts of the world. Overnight in Cape Town.

Day 2: Cape Town, South Africa

Cape Town Walking Tour - Sunday (B)

Start the day with breakfast at your accommodation and then meet with one of the hostel staff member that will teach you about the bus system before you head out to discover Cape Town City Center. Go on a walking tour and visit places like the Castle of Good Hope and the Grand Parade, learn about life under apartheid in South Africa at the Parliament Buildings and the District Six Museum, and go shopping for African arts and crafts in Greenmarket Square and St George's Mall.

Then you can go to the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront to have a drink and try the delicious seafood of its restaurants, or head to Robben Island or Table Mountain (not included). Return to Table View and join the staff, guests and locals in one of the beachfront restaurants - all within rolling distance from the hostel where you will be spending the night.

Day 3 - 7: Cape Town, South Africa

Volunteer Program - Monday- Friday (5B/5L/5D)

Start volunteering today. You will spend the next days helping in the settlements with disadvantaged children who come from extreme poverty. Volunteer work may include helping the children with homework, English, lesson plans, administration, developmental activities or the vegetable garden.

*Please request the overview DOC of the project before you arrive to get more insight and see if you can prepare for classes or bring anything along for the kiddies.

Day 8: Cape Agulhas, South Africa

Garden Route Roadtrip - Kayamandi - Simonsig- Cape Agulhas Saturday (B)

Say goodbye to Cape Town and prepare to begin your incredible Garden Route Roadtrip.

Start your day driving through the roads between the Cape Winelands toward the tranquil Overberg region, and make a stop at Kayamandi to try the tea or home-made gingerbeer and a variety of local delicacies from Xhosa.

Travel to picturesque Simonsig and enjoy a bubbly tasting meanwhile you take in the beauty of your surroundings. Then, continue towards historic Franschhoek to try some fine wine paired with hazelnut, cranberry or rich mint chocolates. If you want to try something different, you have the option choose an optional wine and biltong pairing instead. Have some time to enjoy the town's restaurants, cafés, galleries and quaint shops.

Go back to the road and head to Cape Agulhas, Africa's southernmost point. Take some great pictures, enjoy the view, and dip your toes into the cold water (beware of the stingrays) before transferring to your accommodation for the night.

Day 9: Cape Whale Coast - Hermanus - Cape Town, South Africa

Hermanus Hike, Penguin Colony and Cape Town - Sunday (B)

In the morning, travel to the coastal town of Hermanus, known for its winding cliff paths. Go on an hour hike before enjoying the rest of the morning to explore on your own. You can hop on an optional whale cruise in (seasonal) or join a guided sea kayaking experience.

Later, transfer to Betty's Bay to see the impressive penguin colony of Stony Point. Overnight in Cape Town.

Day 10: Cape Town, South Africa

Cape Town to Sedgefield - Wilderness Lagoon Canoe Tour - Monday (B)

It's an early start today as you depart towards the Garden Route. Drive through mountain passes and fertile micro-climates with enchanting vineyards and rolling farmlands, and make a stop at Riviersonderend to try the local home-baked pastries like the milk tart. Arrive in Albertinia and continue towards Wilderness, a beautiful national parks. Canoe on the Wilderness lagoon and watch the bird life as you glide over the water.

After this, we head to the sleepy hollow town of Sedgefield or Knysna, the final destination of the day. Take your first swim in the Indian Ocean, enjoy some sundowners and enjoy a good night's sleep.

Day 11: Sedgefield - Jeffreys Bay, South Africa

Sedgefield to Jeffreys Bay, via Knysna and Tsitsikamma National Park - Tuesday (B)

Travel again today to the holiday town of Knysna. Take a quick drive to the Knysna Heads, where the sea crashes below the massive sandstone cliffs – a great photo opportunity. Next is the ultimate adventure activity on this tour – the world's highest bungee bridge jump at 216 mts high. This optional activity (at extra cost) is a must do for anyone who wants that rush of adrenaline.

Next, travel to the tranquil Tsitsikamma National Park where you can explore the marine reserve with its unique combination of dramatic coastal and forest landscapes. Walk along forest trails to a suspension bridge and find a quiet spot from where to absorb this beauty.

Go back to the road and drive towards the seaside town of Jeffreys Bay – the surfer's paradise.

Day 12: Jeffreys Bay, South Africa

Addo Elephant National Park Game Drive & Jeffreys Bay - Wednesday (B)

Wake up early and transfer to the Addo Elephant National Park, which was proclaimed in 1931 to provide a safe haven for the few wild elephants that survived government-sponsored culling in the early 20th century. Today the elephants reached their hundreds, thanks to the efforts of the National Parks Board and a unique vegetation type – subtropical thicket, or valley bushveld. Go on a game drive where your expert guide will help you spot the Big 5 (elephant, rhino, lion, leopard and buffalo).

Return to Jeffreys Bay and spend some free time. You can go shopping at J'Bay's surf village, learn to surf, try sand-boarding, or go horse-back riding at a nearby secluded beach.

Day 13: Jeffreys Bay - Oudtshoorn, South Africa

Jeffreys Bay to Oudtshoorn - Klein Karoo Ostrich Farm & Cango Caves Tour - Thursday (B)

Leave the ocean behind and head inland towards the Klein Karoo. Once you arrive in the country town of Oudtshoorn, take a quick tour of an ostrich farm and learn more about the world's largest bird. From here, visit the Cango Caves – an illuminated wonderland of subterranean magic and mystery, with passageways and chambers meandering far below. You can choose between the Heritage Tour -if you want to take it easy- or the Adventure Tour -if you want more action-

Later you can go for a 4x4 game drive at Buffelsdrift Private Game Reserve for a possible sighting of resident rhino and giraffe (not included and depending on availability). Overnight in Oudtshoorn.

Day 14: Oudtshoorn - Stellenbosch, South Africa

Oudtshoorn to Stellenbosch - Orphaned Elephants, & Route 62 - Friday (B)

Start the morning with an unforgettable experience: an optional stroll with rescued elephants in Buffelsdrift Private Game Reserve. An expert guide will teach you about the orphaned elephants, where you will interact with these huge and lovable creatures. Feel the texture of their rough skin; scratch behind their ears, and even get a gentle trunk hug too.

Make your way back to Cape Town along South Africa's famous country road, the Route 62. Capture the beauty of high mountains, twisting passes, rugged Karoo plains, vineyards and orchards. Make an stop at a famous wine pit stop to sample Port-style wines en route to Stellenbosch, where you will spend the night

Day 15: Stellenbosch, South Africa

Stellenbosch Check-Out - Saturday (B)

Have breakfast this morning and check-out from your accommodation. We wish you a safe journey onwards!

