

Surfing Smiles



Overview

Location Muizenberg (close to Cape Town), South Africa.

Duration From 4 weeks.

Dates All year round.

- Requirements**
- Minimum age: 18 - 32.
 - You must have an Upper Intermediate level of English.
 - Special skills: You must bring a good attitude, have a love for the ocean and be passionate in teaching children surfing skills.

Your impact 🖐️🖐️🖐️🖐️🖐️

The impact of your volunteer work depends on the nature of the project. In addition, it may also depend on whether the project offers a full volunteering experience or a combination of volunteering and tourism. For details, please see the description of the project and what's included in the project fees.

Documents required Enrolment form, curriculum vitae, letter of motivation, passport copy, proof of medical insurance, police clearance certificate.

Day of arrival Saturday (Thursday if combined with a language course).

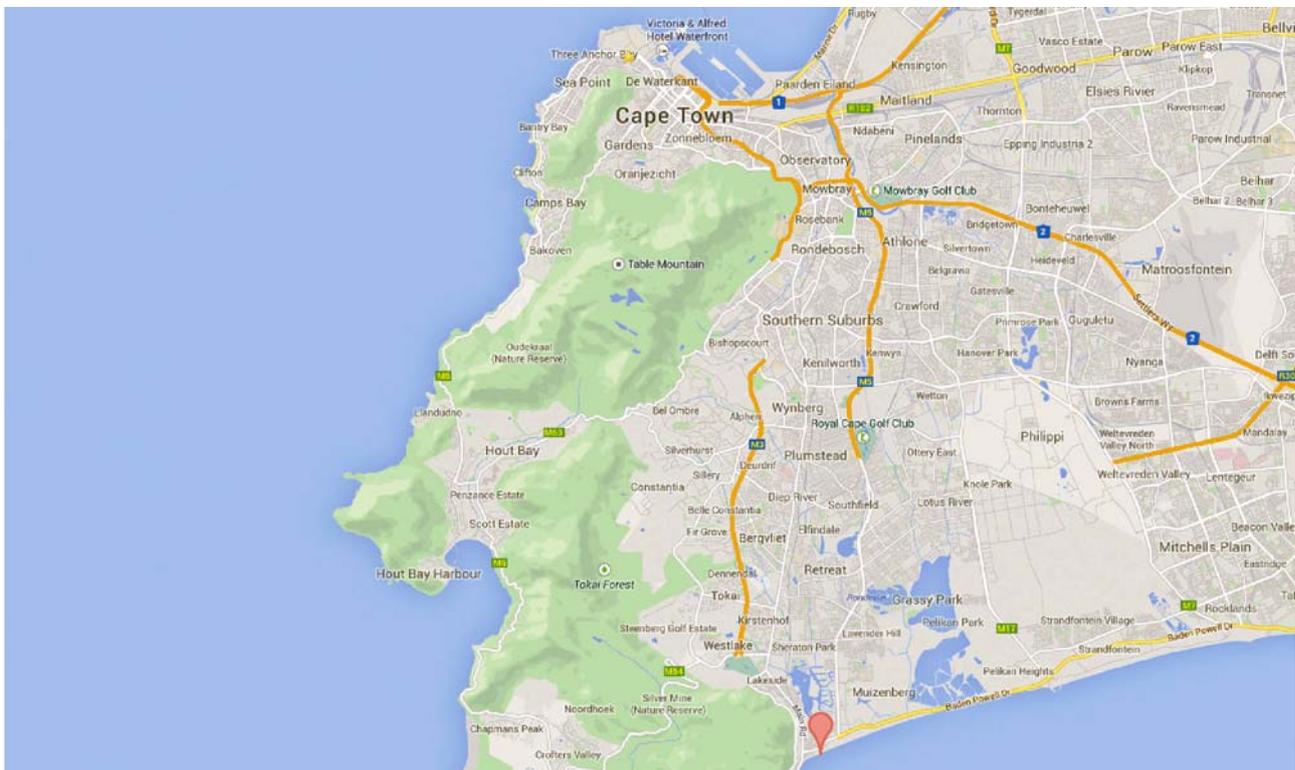
Day of departure Saturday.



Highlights

- Surf or learn to surf in the surfers' paradise of Muizenberg.
- Use surfing as a tool to change the lives of children.
- Help make a positive difference in society. Learn more about the Xhosa culture.
- Meet travellers from around the world.
- Experience amazing tours and adventures in and around Cape Town.
- Get personal support from the volunteer coordinator.

Project information



The Surfing Smiles project is an organization that aims to establish a way out of gangsterism, crime and drugs for children from disadvantaged communities. The 'way out' entails a new outlook on life, brought about by the love of surfing and the ocean.

The project wants to share surfing and the lifestyle and culture it offers with others, to make a positive difference in society by using surfing as a tool to change the lives of the projects' children and to make them ambassadors for change in their communities.

Getting to know the children from Masiphumelele township is like a breath of fresh air, they unconsciously make you realize just how much we all need to work together to survive and strive for a better future. These children are the sunshine in our lives and when you volunteer with them you'll be the sunshine in theirs! Use your newly learnt skills and apply them through interactive surf sessions with the children. The





project wants to give the children something to look forward to; give them hope; show them compassion; and most importantly, put massive smiles on their faces.

Currently, they are working with 12 children from Ukhanyo Primary in Masiphumelele. They hope to build long-lasting relationships with the children, develop their surfing skills, and help them get to the point where they too can teach others how to surf. They want to push them to become qualified surf instructors and perhaps start their own surf school one day.

In order to facilitate this, the project offers a unique surfing and volunteering experience to anyone with a love for the ocean, a sense of adventure and the will to give something back. At this project, you will not only get to experience the best Cape Town has to offer while learning to surf but also help make the project's dream a reality and change the lives of their children.

Programme details

There is a need for people to help children in struggling communities as they are faced with problems far greater than most of us can imagine. Along with being able to offer a new outlook on life, the project wants to share the stoke of surfing and have you standing up, riding and carving some lines. You will be required to absorb this knowledge and apply it through interactive surf sessions with the children. They want to use surfing as a form of communication and inspiration. This is something very unique that they would otherwise never have the opportunity to do. The project wants to give the children something to look forward to, to give them hope, to show them compassion and most importantly, to put massive smiles on their faces.

Your role

After breakfast, a typical day starts on the beach with a surf lesson with your coaches. You will have a bit of time to free surf after your lesson. This is followed by lunch and making packed lunches for the children. The kids finish school and are then brought to Muizenberg for their surf lesson.

You have a session with the kids where you pass on what you have learnt in your surf lesson. This happens every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. On Tuesday and Thursday you plan activities for the children. If the waves are really good, you will most likely go surfing.

Other activities include hiking, soccer, swimming, slack-lining, arts and crafts, beach clean-ups, etc. You will have brainstorming sessions and plan new activities. You will also help with social media and blog posting.

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.

Arrival

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

If you combine the project with a language course

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.





Accommodation

You will be staying at a backpackers' in Muizenberg. The backpackers' is located in the heart of Muizenberg and only a few steps away from the beach. It is equipped with dorm-style rooms, a communal kitchen, a lounge and dining area, shared bathrooms, outside & inside chill areas and free WiFi. Bedding is provided, towels are not provided. Laundry can be done at commercial laundry facilities nearby.

You will be able to relax in the afternoons overlooking the ocean, and head to the beach on the weekends for a surf at the world famous Muizenberg Beach across the road.

Meals

Breakfast and dinner is included from Monday to Friday.

Saturdays and Sundays are self-catering as well as at your own expense. There are great restaurants and bars all within walking distance.

If you combine the project with a language course

If you first attend a language course and then volunteer at this project, we recommend staying at our Volunteer House for the entire time. We also recommend our Volunteer House if you attend a language course in the morning and volunteer in the afternoon.

The Volunteer House 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

Muizenberg is melting pot for travellers from around the world as well as one of the top 20 best surf towns in the world. The backpackers is situated in the heart of Muizenberg, nestled between the mountains and the sea. There are nice places to go for drinks, watch live music, sing karaoke, watch movies, etc. You can also visit a penguin colony at boulders beach, book a full-day tour to the Cape of Good Hope, hike up Table Mountain or explore Cape Town (can be reached by MetroRail within about 40 minutes).

If you stay at our Volunteer House you can take part together with other volunteers and language students from Good Hope Studies 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

The project is within walking distance to your backpackers' accommodation.

If you stay at our Volunteer House you need to take MetroRail to get to the project every day. A weekly ticket costs about € 6,40 / US\$ 8. Alternatively you can also use Uber which has recently become popular in Cape Town.





What to bring

Surfing equipment is provided by the project but if you prefer to use your own wetsuits and surfboards, you are welcome to bring this along. Bringing warm clothes, beach clothes, towels, sun cream, hat/cap, shoes for hiking and sport is also recommended. Camera and laptop are not essential but could help with social media and organising activities.

Anything else you might need can be bought at local supermarkets in South Africa.

While there is no specific uniform, volunteers are asked to wear sensible clothing, e.g. long shorts and closed shoes. Hot pants, string bikinis and flip-flops are not suitable for work.

Medical insurance

It is required that you take out medical insurance before travelling to South Africa. For stays exceeding 90 days, it is compulsory to take out a South African medical insurance. We recommend NetworX from Compcare, which is specifically designed for people who visit South Africa for 3 to 12 months. You will receive an information leaflet and an application form together with your confirmation of booking.

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, 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, Zaire.

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

You will spend a lot of time in the ocean. Minor injuries may be sustained during surfing but the project team takes precaution and teaches you all the safety techniques to keep you out of harms way.





What's included / not included

Included:

- Project placement
- Airport transfer on arrival
- Accommodation at a backpackers (dorm-style room, shared bathroom, breakfast and dinner from Monday to Friday, weekends are self-catering)
- A donation towards the project
- Good Hope Volunteers welcome pack
- Weekly site visits by our coordinator
- An orientation at the beginning of your volunteering
- Electronic certificate (printed copy on request)
- Local support including a 24-hour emergency number
- WiFi

Further included if combined with a language course:

- Accommodation at the Volunteer House (shared room, shared bathroom, self-catering)
- Full-day excursion on the first Saturday

Not included:

- Local transport
- Any items of a personal nature

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, 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 visa at a South African Embassy in your home country. This visa is restricted to registered NGO's and therefore not available for this project.

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

