

Athlone Children's Home



Overview

Location Athlone, Cape Town, South Africa.

Duration From 8 weeks.

Dates All year round from mid-January to mid-December.

Requirements

- Minimum age: 18.
- You must have an Upper Intermediate level of English.
- Special skills: It is an advantage to have worked with children before. You need a love for children and you should display sensitivity and empathy.

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 Thursday.

Day of departure Saturday.

Highlights

- Your willingness to assist and gain experience is very rewarding for both you and the children.
- Giving love is the best gift you can give, sharing this costs nothing but means the world.
- Teach kids about your country, your culture and learn more about theirs.
- Spend your days playing with kids in the South African sun.
- Experience amazing tours and adventures in and around Cape Town.
- Get personal support from the volunteer coordinator.
- Make new friends from all over the world.

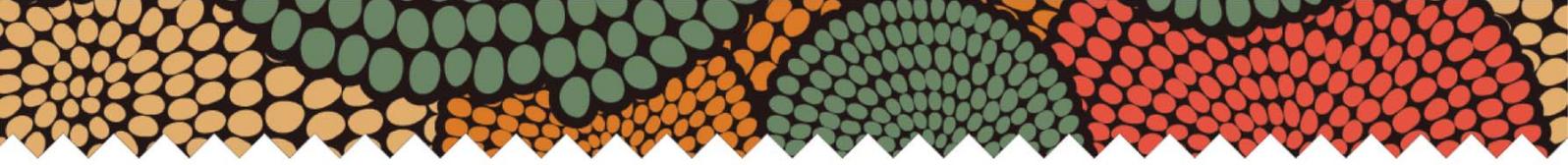
Project information



Athlone Children's Home provides full-time care for 49 abandoned, abused and neglected children from birth to 5 years old, irrespective of race, religion or HIV status. It strives to create a warm, friendly environment where the children can grow emotionally, physically and socially. The home is registered with the Department of Social Development and receives a subsidy for each child they care for. Through the assistance received from volunteers, they are able to provide these children with much needed individual attention. They care for the children until they can be placed back with their families, or sometimes with foster families; however, in certain cases where home circumstances have not improved or no suitable foster families have been found, they are transferred to other children's homes.

In order to facilitate the process of reintegrating the children into the community, a weekend and holiday hosting programme is run. Families and individuals who have been screened take one or more children out for the day, weekend or holiday.

They have an onsite school for the older children, which they attend every weekday. Three teachers run the school, with the assistance of volunteers. A panel of volunteer doctors regularly examines and treats the children when they are ill. Children who indicate behavioral or developmental problems receive specialised care from various clinics in the area.



Programme details

Abandoned children need individual attention – more than the hard-working staff can give all the time. Due to the fact that 49 little energy filled kids are running around, your support makes a big difference in their lives, as they thrive under the individual attention you, as a volunteer, can give them. All they need is someone who smiles at them, wipes their noses and helps them peel their oranges. You can help to make their home a happier place.

Your role

Monday – Friday (Wednesday is off), from 08:30 – 17:00.

Depending on which age group you are placed with, you assist with the following:

- Feeding, bathing, dressing.
- Arranging of age-appropriate indoor and outdoor activities.
- Help with play sessions, games and outings for smaller groups of children.
- Accompany children on doctor's/hospital visits.
- Assist with tidying children's bedrooms.

You will also get to go along with children on special outings arranged for them and you may also arrange outings for children themselves.

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 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

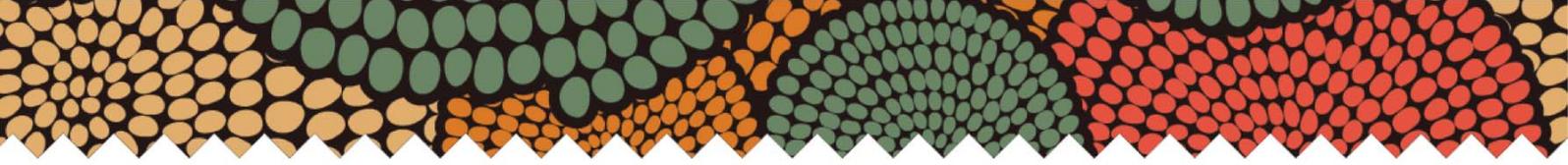
You will live at the Volunteer House. It is a private house in an upmarket residential area and consists of rooms with 2 single beds and 2 bunk beds. There are 4 bathrooms to share, a communal kitchen, a dining room, a lounge with TV and DVD and a beautiful garden with a swimming pool. A commercial laundry service is close by. Bedding is provided. Towels are 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 by bus from the Volunteer House to the project and back.

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.

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 Compicare, 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

Because the Athlone Children's Home cares for children who are HIV positive, you will receive a copy of their HIV policy on arrival, highlighting the fact that Universal Precautions are to be used at all times when working with any bodily fluids, including when changing nappies. Gloves are available in work areas. Any accidental contact with bodily fluids is to be reported immediately.



What's included / not included

Included:

- Project placement
- Airport transfer on arrival
- Accommodation (Volunteer House: shared room, shared bathroom, self-catering)
- Daily bus 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
- 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 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, 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.

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