

# Protecting Children



## Overview

**Location** Plettenberg Bay, South Africa.

**Duration** From 2 weeks.

**Dates** All year round.

- Requirements**
- Minimum age: 21.
  - You must have an Upper Intermediate level of English.
  - Special skills: You need a love for children and you should display sensitivity and empathy.

**Your impact** 

3 hands: Elements of tourism are added to the volunteer experience. You will be making an important contribution.

4 hands: Your work will make a difference, but elements of tourism are added to the experience.

5 hands: The project is an NGO and depends on volunteers. Your work will make a real difference.

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

**Day of arrival** Sunday.

**Day of departure** Sunday.



## Highlights

- Bring joy and make a difference to the lives of the children.
- Work with inspirational people from the community.
- Experience the Garden Route's natural beauty.
- Get to know the Xhosa culture.
- Take part in amazing activities outside the project.
- Make new friends from all over the world.

## Project information

The project has been active for over 15 years and is home to children who are there for various reasons, ranging from having no home of their own, having parents who cannot afford to look after them, or having been abused. These children were potential, or actual, street children but with a lot of love and care the project has managed to get them all to go to school on a daily basis. These are children who really did not want to be on the streets, but had no other option.

The children receive clothing, three meals a day, homework supervision, counselling, camps, art lessons, sports activities and outings. Those children who do have a family to go back to are helped by social workers who work on rehabilitating the children and then re-uniting them with their respective families. Once a child has left the shelter, the staff constantly visits the family and school to make sure all is well and provide any assistance. The shelter's open-door policy allows children who are not coping or who are experiencing further difficulties to return and live at the shelter.

The project has developed services in three areas:

- A child and youth care centre, which provides full time residential statutory care. This centre has capacity for 30 children who are referred to the project via the children's court, having been deemed in need of care and protection. These children have all been victims of abuse, neglect or circumstance. Once placed at the project, the children begin a stabilisation programme and are under the constant supervision of the child & youth care workers who, in turn, are supervised by a senior social worker.
- An early childhood development (ECD) centre that seeks to empower vulnerable children and their parents from disadvantaged communities. The ECD centre forms part of the project's prevention services. In 2015, they had 106 children registered, all receiving a holistic ECD programme.
- A drop-in centre that provides day care services and life development programmes to children who are at risk of a life on the streets.

The project has a wonderful, very dedicated, long-standing committee and staff members, but they do need financial support to ensure the continued success of their project. This has been an ongoing community development project and their continued success relies on sponsorship and donations.

## Programme details

Volunteer services include cooking daily meals for the children; sewing curtains or sweaters; providing teaching skills, counselling or sports coaching and shelter maintenance.

You are encouraged to create new games and activities that will stimulate and inspire the young girls and boys, e.g. crafts, art, music, dancing, etc.

### Your role

You will work from 08:00 – 14:00/15:00. On some days it may happen that you will be asked to stay until 16:00. Times depend on the needs of the centre on those specific days and what activities are planned for the children in the afternoons.

Daily tasks could include:

- Cooking a meal for the children on a daily basis.
- Sewing curtains or sweaters.
- Providing teaching skills.
- Helping with homework and educational games.
- Music and singing.
- Art and dance.
- Counselling.
- Sports coaching.
- Maintaining the shelter.
- Mowing and trimming play areas at the Children's Shelter and Youth Centre.

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

## Getting to and from the project



The Protecting Children project is situated in an eco-sensitive location, about 12 km east of Plettenberg Bay.

You need to arrive at George Airport where you will be collected by the volunteer staff. Transport is provided on both your arrival and departure on any day between 08:00 and 17:00.

Alternatively, you can fly directly into Plettenberg Bay. Limited flights are available on Cemair (<http://www.flycemair.co.za/>) which flies directly to Plettenberg Bay from Cape Town and Johannesburg each week. Please let the Good Hope Volunteers coordinator know if you need more information on these flights.



## Accommodation

You will live in a backpackers based in The Craggs, a rural suburb of greater Plettenberg Bay. The backpackers is set in a 5 hectare small-holding amidst indigenous forest and open grazing pastures. You are accommodated in shared rooms and/or in under-cover luxury Safari bow-tents that come fully equipped with carpets, beds, linen, electric blankets, lights etc. You will, where required, be sharing with one or two other volunteers. There are numerous bathrooms for communal access and use. The main homestead is equipped with an office, TV lounge, two kitchens plus a large verandah, with a residents' bar, and two fire-hearths for those chilly nights. It is here that guests and hosts gather for social interaction and where evening meals are served for all to enjoy. Immediately adjacent is an outdoor braai (BBQ) area, while close by, is a combination plunge pool/hot-tub (the latter fired up for Fridays) plus a golf practice putting green and a proper boule/petanque track where guests soon get to know their co-guests. Bedding and towels are provided and your laundry will be regularly done on a wash and fold basis by the housekeeper. Free WiFi is available at the main homestead area only.

### Meals

Three daily meals are provided. You will make your own breakfast and lunch (continental breakfast; lunch consists of self-made sandwiches). For dinner you will be provided with a pre-prepared hot meal usually taken with all residents at the facility. All meals are eaten in the verandah area or the outside entertainment area when required.

A vegetarian option is available and it is also possible to cater for special dietary requirements.

## Free time

The project is situated in an area where the country's best activities are offered. You are surrounded by amazing activities that can be done over weekends and during your free time. Activities can take place in Plettenberg Bay, The Craggs, Tsitsikamma, George, Mossel Bay, Oudtshoorn, etc. You can go bungee jumping, skydiving, whale watching, swimming with seals, adventure boating, kloofing, kayaking, horse-riding, shark cage diving, or do a tree-top canopy tour, visit the waterfall Zipline, elephant and snake sanctuaries, wine estates, and many more.

To participate in these activities, you can contact the project coordinator or the staff at the backpackers and they will assist you with the necessary arrangements.

## Local transport

Daily transport to and from the project will be provided.

Transfers to town during your free time can be arranged – but this will be at your own expense.

## What to bring

There are no special requirements in this regard but we recommend bringing pocket money, toiletries, any medication, sunscreen, mosquito repellents, travelling clothes, warm jacket, walking shoes, books/laptop, camera, any items of a personal nature, etc. All these items (and anything else you might need) are 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 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.

The project is situated in a malaria-free area so no anti-malarial drugs are required.

## Safety

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

## What's included / not included

### Included:

- Project placement
- Airport transfer on arrival and departure (George Airport)
- Accommodation (shared rooms, breakfast, lunch and dinner, laundry)
- Daily transport to and from the project
- Good Hope Volunteers welcome pack
- Weekly site visits by our coordinator
- An orientation at the beginning of your volunteering

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- Electronic certificate (printed copy on request)
  - Local support, including a 24-hour emergency number
  - WiFi

### Not included:

- Any other transport
- Excursions

## 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.