

Animal rescue society near Cape Town, South Africa

Project Overview

Have you got a soft spot for animals?

If the answer is yes then South Africa is the country for you and this is the project! When an economy struggles the first charities to feel the pinch are those working with animals, so your efforts are much needed. This is a great society which provides food parcels, veterinary treatment and animal care education for those that could not otherwise afford it. It also works with children who have had extremely hard lives and aims to break the cycle of abuse by teaching them to care and be responsible for animals. You'll get a great opportunity to visit local communities and visit animals there, while for those considering a future in veterinary care there is valuable chance to help the resident vet, who requires daily help.



During 2010 why not combine an amazing time in South Africa with the once in a lifetime opportunity of the first ever World Cup in Africa? The atmosphere is guaranteed to be amazing and even if you aren't a football fan this really is something not to be missed. The World Cup is between June 11th and July 11th 2010 and all our Cape Town trips will be running as normal and believe us, this will be one of the cheapest ways you can experience both the World Cup and make a difference in this incredible country.

Trip Highlights:

- The amazing range of things to do - from surfing to hiking, partying to shopping - Cape Town has something for everyone!
- Working with the rescued animals - we guarantee you'll want to take one home
- Living in South Africa - an inspirational country with inspirational people

Your first week

Day 1 (Monday) – Arrive into Cape Town International Airport (airport code CPT)

Today you will be met at the airport and taken to our volunteer house in Fish Hoek. You'll need to arrive in before 4pm so that you're all ready for the orientation which kicks off at 5pm. The journey from the airport to Fish Hoek should take around 45 minutes and if you keep your eyes open you might get to see Table Mountain on the way! The orientation will take you through what it's going to be like at your project, do's and don'ts, how to stay safe and it's your prime opportunity to ask any burning questions that you haven't yet had answered. After the orientation you'll have some time to relax and prepare before your first day at the project tomorrow.

If you aren't able to arrange a flight to get you into Cape Town before 4pm then we'd recommend you fly in a day early. We can arrange an early airport pick-up for you including one night's accommodation, please give us a call for more information.

Day 2 (Tuesday) – Claws at the ready

Having had your orientation the previous day, you'll be shown the way to the animal rescue project bright and early today where you'll get to know the staff you'll be spending time with and shadowing for the first few days. Take time to get to know them and the animals as you'll be spending a lot of time together!

There really is so much to get involved in, so plan your time wisely and talk to the staff at the project to get a realistic idea of what you can achieve during your time here so that you're not overwhelmed by choice. One day you could be feeding, bathing and playing with cleaning the kittens, cats, puppies or the dogs, the next day could be walking the active dogs, or you could work alongside the resident vet – if you've got a strong stomach that is, because it's not for the faint hearted!

Days 3 to 5 (Wednesday to Friday) – Getting stuck in!

The rest of your week will be following your schedule of activities to get involved in, working alongside the trained staff, giving much needed attention and affection to these felines and hounds. Most of the animals have been rescued having been treated badly or abandoned so they are in need of some time with anyone who can give them affection and make them purr or woof wholeheartedly again.

Days 6 and 7 (Saturday to Sunday) – Free time

The weekends are your free time to rest and explore. There are so many things to see and do in Cape Town you'll struggle to get bored! There's a train line straight into Cape Town from Fish Hoek that take about an hour and you're close to Boulders Beach where the penguins hang out. There's also Table Mountain, Cape Point, Robben Island and that's without leaving the city!

Following weeks

Mondays to Fridays, 8.30am – 5.00pm, with a one hour lunch break, if you can tear yourself away from the animals, will be spent energetically at the project with your weekends free to fill with whatever you fancy! The team have close links with reputable tour companies so there will always be something going on.

Your Last Day (Monday)

Having said goodbye to all your new friends, both human and animal, you'll transfer back to the airport on this day. The return transfer from Fish Hoek to Cape Town International is not covered within your project fee but our regular transfer company will be able to sort the journey back for you, the costs will be around US\$35 / 250 Rand.

Fast Facts

Project Information

- Project Duration: Min 2 weeks - Max 12 weeks
- Project Costs: £739.00 for 2 weeks, £165.00 for every week thereafter
- Location of project: *Kommetjie, Cape Town*
- Arrival Airport: *Cape Town (airport code CPT)*
- Activities: *Various types of work with animals, including helping with feeding and facilities maintenance*
- Working Hours: *Flexible; usually Monday to Friday with shifts based on need, all other time is free*
- Getting to the project: *10 -15 minutes minibus taxi ride (budget approximately US\$15 per week)*
- Requirements: *Minimum Age 17*

What's Included

- Accommodation: *Shared dormitory room in volunteer house*
- Food: *Food is not included; you will need to purchase your own food (budget approximately US\$50 per week)*
- Airport Pickup: *Included on arrival date. Ask us for details if you're arriving early!*
- Training: *In-country orientation*
- Support: *Pre-departure helpdesk, Local in-country team and 24hr emergency support*

What's not included

- *Flights, Insurance, Visas, Return Airport transfer, Local Transport, Food*

Country Guide - South Africa

A little bit of history...

A journey into South Africa's history is to haul through periods of racial tension, oppression and hope. Its multicultural mix originates from the earliest settlers, the San (also known as Bushmen) and Khoi-Khoi tribes, followed by Bantu-speaking groups, and through to the swarm of European traders. The Dutch were among the first European settlers and arrived in the 17th century, establishing their presence through their own dialect, Afrikaans, and religion in the form of the Dutch Reformed Church. By the end of the 18th century, the British began to push their presence forward into the country's towns. It was a period of flared tensions with Zulu chief Shaka renouncing war on neighbouring tribes. Meanwhile, the Boers (Dutch Afrikaner farmers) and the British became locked in conflict; the Anglo-Boer War lasted from 1899 to 1902, ending with the British taking control of the Boer republics of Transvaal and the Orange Free State (OFS) and consequently ruling the country.



By 1910, the Union of South Africa was created and gave political power to whites, while blacks set up political parties in protest, the African National Congress (ANC) the best known. It ushered in the beginnings of apartheid, which became widely ingrained after the Afrikaner National Party came to power in 1948. Violence against protests from blacks was enforced and the black population were evicted to so-called Homelands. In the 1960s, leaders of the ANC were imprisoned, notably Nelson Mandela, and the country became isolated having left the Commonwealth and declaring its republic status. After a long period of racial divide and conflict, in 1989 FW de Klerk came to power with the aim to rid the country of apartheid and instil democracy. The following year, Mandela was released from prison and in 1994 became president after the ANC won the country's first non-racial general elections; the country also returned to the Commonwealth. The country's democratic stance has steered it toward a more harmonious future, though economic inequalities between whites and blacks exist, but as the most developed economy on the continent it is in a good position to reconcile with its past.

Best time to go...

Naturally, South Africa's seasons are the reverse of the northern hemisphere with summer heat burning from November to March and cooler winter temperatures from June to August. Temperature wise, spring (September to October) and autumn (April to May) provide a happy medium. Certain must-do activities are restricted to specific times of year: safari is best from June to September and the whale watching season is June to December. The busiest time, hence the most expensive, is during the summer months, while the major school holidays are during December and Easter.

Getting around...

Given the distances involved, flying is the most convenient way to travel between the main destinations, while land transportation can efficiently pick up the rest of the mileage for exploration in and around. There are an assortment of domestic carriers to choose from that fly the main routes, with most running from Johannesburg or Cape Town; these include South African Airways, Nationwide Airlines, Kulula and 1Time. Booking early is advisable to secure discounted rates.

There country also boasts a comprehensive bus network that covers the main cities; the road trip from Johannesburg to Cape Town is around 20 hours (compared to a 2 hour in a plane). The main bus companies are Translux, Greyhound and Intercap. Baz Bus is aimed at the backpacker crowd and provides a hop-on, hop-off service and also travels to remote areas. It's a good way to discover the picturesque patch of coastline that is the Garden Route, which it services en route from Cape Town to Port Elizabeth.

Train travel can work out longer than by bus, with the trip from Johannesburg to Cape Town edging toward almost 30 hours. If you're after a little luxury, try the Blue Train or the Rovos Rail for a taste of stylish travel.

Car rental is an attractive option thanks to the good road conditions, great scenery and the flexibility driving allows. The big car rental companies like Avis and Budget have outlets and it's essential to be fully insured and have a valid driver's licence. It's also a convenient way to get around cities as public transport can be unsafe.