



Cape Town – South Africa

National Profile



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Dear Volunteer

Thank you for choosing South Africa – as the destination to contribute in the development of world **WELCOME!**

The Volunteer Centre was established in 1979 and is membership based organisation, currently serving affiliate members organizations / partners and volunteers throughout the Western Cape – also in other provinces. The organization has worked with several international partners and we are the only organisation that provides voluntary opportunities across all sectors.

We are a registered (NPO – 003 383) and also have PBO Status (Public Benefit in terms of tax exemption). The Governing Board (Mancom) oversees the Manager and Staff team (currently 1 full time, 3 part time/ project volunteers). Some of the key Programmatic areas include – amongst other up skilling local and national youth volunteering with an integration of international youth to address some critical social issues faced in South Africa. South Africa has a rich history of voluntary action that has led to it taking on a variety of different forms. These forms tend to correlate to the period of political history as well as the socio-economic and cultural area from which people emanate. These forms include formal volunteering that is coordinated by volunteering organizations and traditional/cultural volunteering in which, in especially our marginalized communities, support is given to informal support systems and networks of mutual aid and self-help.

Within the context of this transition, volunteering in South Africa is also changing. The economic pressure that is being brought to bear upon society combined with a slow movement away from traditional values and the impact of HIV/AIDS is causing informal support systems and networks of mutual help and self-help to crumble. To catch up the shortfall, volunteering organizations have had to adapt their activities to formalize what were often unspoken relationships and activities that were taken for granted. The relationship between volunteers and volunteering organizations is also starting to formalize as a result. This change is providing the stimulus for changes in South Africa's volunteering infrastructure. This at any point does not mean that volunteering is for the "have helping the have not's" – it is a personal decision that runs two ways.

The Volunteer Centre would like to welcome you in our beautiful country and city full of diversity and explorations. We hope that you will enjoy and learn about country.

Regards
The Volunteer Centre – Team

PROFILE OF SOUTH AFRICA


Population	54,956,900 (2015 est)
Area	1.22 million sq. km (471,445 sq. miles)
Legislative Capital	Pretoria (Tshwane)
Economic Capital	Johannesburg and Cape Town
Language	South Africa has 11 languages: English, Afrikaans, Zulu, Xhosa, Southern Sotho, Tswana, Northern Sotho, Tsonga, Venda, Swati, Ndebele
International Dialling Code	+27
Religion	Christianity, Muslims, Hindus and Jews
Time Zone	GMT +2 hours, EST +7 hours (South Africa does not operate daylight saving, so from Apr-Oct, this becomes +1 hour and +6 hours) South Africa is in Central Africa Time Zone (CAT) .
Electricity	AC 220/230 volts. European or American appliances need an adaptor. You can find it in the numerous shopping areas
Currency	South African Rand (ZAR)



THE HISTORICAL - POLITICAL OVERVIEW

San (or Bushmen) hunter-gatherers originally populated the area now known as South Africa. Some 2000 years ago Bantu tribes, who had been living in the area south of the Limpopo River for the previous 1500 years, migrated southward and eastward towards the Cape.

The first permanent large-scale European settlement began in 1652 when the Dutch came to establish a halfway station for their ships travelling between Europe and the Orient. The Afrikaans language developed from this group of people, who became known as the Afrikaners. They built towns, planted crops and kept cattle with the help of their Malaysian slaves who introduced Islam and some fabulous cuisine to South Africa. Later a large group of French Huguenots escaping religious persecution joined the Dutch farmers. They were responsible for developing the vineyards in the Cape.

The English language came to South Africa when groups of English people arrived in 1820. At the height of the Industrial Revolution in England, the British encouraged people to emigrate and our country became one of those selected for this resettlement program. These settlers, who were largely middle class, introduced the factory system to South Africa. In reaction to the numbers of English settlers in the Cape, many of the Afrikaners took to their wagons in what has become known as "Die Groot Trek" (the great move). They settled in the North and Eastern parts of the country. Later, the discovery of diamonds and gold in these areas attracted people from all over the world and led to a large-scale development of trade, and further clashes with the English.

In the 1860's Indian laborers arrived to work on the sugar plantations on the East Coast. Since the pioneering work of Ghandi early in the 20th Century, this group has integrated itself into all sections of the South African society.

In the 20th Century, the Afrikaner nation was rebuilt following the Anglo-Boer War (between the British and the Afrikaners) early in the century. The National Party mainly supported by Afrikaners became the ruling party in Government in 1948, passing extremely racist laws which brought about "Apartheid" (apartness) - the grand vision was of all the people/ groups of South Africa living apart in their own separate homelands and areas. The minority White Government ruled over the Black majority, oppressing them and denying them the right to vote, human rights, education; etc. Apartheid was finally conquered through international pressure and the negotiation and the implementation of adult voting rights when South Africa went to the polls as a united nation for the first time on 27 April 1994. The ANC (African National Congress) won the elections by a wide margin and Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela became the nation's first black president on 10 May 1994. Important events highlighted during the Apartheid years and are today commemorated are:

SIGNIFICANT DATES: There is more!

Human Rights Day – 21 March

On the 21 March 1960, police killed 69 people at Sharpeville. They were protesting against the law pass and most of them were shot in the back. Some days later, the apartheid government banned black political organizations and many leaders went into exile or were arrested. This celebration is an occasion to commemorate the human rights violations victims and to make aware all the people about their rights. The Bill of Rights is a cornerstone of the democratic Constitution of South Africa.



Pic. Sharpeville massacre 21 March 1960

Freedom Day – 27 April



Freedom Day commemorates the first democratic elections held in South Africa on 27 April 1994

Pic. Nelson Mandela celebrates the victory of the election.

Youth Day – 16 June

On the 16th of June 1976 about 20 000 pupils from different schools in Soweto began a protest march against the introduction of the Afrikaans language as a compulsory in the educational system. In the wake of clashes with the police and the violence ensued during the next week about 700 of people were killed.



Pic. Hector Pietersen killed in Soweto, 1976

National Women's' Day – 9 August



This day commemorates the 9 August 1965 when women marched to the Union Building in Pretoria to protest against the pass law. This holiday is a reminder of the great contribution that women made to society and to achievements of social and human rights.

Pic. Women's' protest March, 1956

2. CAPE TOWN – WESTERN CAPE



CAPE TOWN is southern Africa's most beautiful, and most visited city. Indeed, few urban centres anywhere can match its setting along the mountainous **Cape Peninsula** spine, which slides into the Atlantic Ocean. By far the most striking – and famous – of its sights is **Table Mountain**, frequently shrouded by clouds, and rearing up from the middle of the city.



More than a scenic backdrop, Table Mountain is the solid core of Cape Town, dividing the city into distinct zones with public gardens, wilderness, forests, hiking routes, vineyards and

desirable residential areas trailing down its lower slopes. Here one will also find the University of Cape Town (internationally recognized) and the Groote Schuur Hospital (site of the world's first heart transplant in 1967). Cape Town is also a city of contrasts. It still retains the most racially divided residential areas (a remnant from our Apartheid past). The city also still reflects much of the colonial history of our past and the extremes of wealth and poverty which is also evident in other cities of South Africa.

The plains/wetland/prairie area which is known as the Cape Flats houses the stark dormitory townships and sprawling informal settlements where the majority of coloured and African black citizens live.

Unemployment, particularly amongst youth remains high (at approximately 25%) and the country's crime and violence statistics are amongst the highest in the world. It is evident; however, that South Africa's population is incredibly resilient and dynamic and is engaged in a period of intense developmental transition.



3. THE VOLUNTEER CENTRE AND ICYE SOUTH AFRICA

VOLUNTEERING IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN CONTEXT

South Africa has a volunteering profile, which is rich, diverse and deeply steeped in heritage. Many people acknowledge the contribution of volunteer action and the voluntary sector in our struggle for democracy. In fact, in South Africa today, we have the most towering icons of volunteering, in persons such as former president Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu and their peers.

The first real empirical evidence of the value of volunteerism in South Africa is demonstrated in the Johns Hopkins Study on *The Size and the Scope of the Non-profit sector in South Africa*, published in 2002, which deduces that local volunteers are contributing in excess of R5 billion worth of free service in the non-profit sector. The same report indicates that as many as 49% of the workforce in the non-profit sector are unpaid local volunteers.

These local volunteers are at work every day doing home-based care for HIV/Aids patients, they are administering life-saving TB drugs in their communities, they are taking care of homeless and destitute children, providing mental and physical therapy for those living with disabilities, they are counselling survivors of rape and domestic violence, preparing nutritious meals for the elderly and children, in school feeding schemes, mentoring and coaching learners who are struggling to cope, assisting mothers in breast-feeding clinics – the list is endless! Volunteers are saving our country money and they are saving lives.

Volunteering also brings benefits to the volunteers themselves- as they learn skills that make them more employable. Their self-esteem is enhanced and they become more positive and productive. This is vital in our situation where volunteers are often unemployed, job-seekers (women and youth), who have been demoralized by their fruitless search for gainful employment. Volunteering has been shown to unlock capacity and energy that enables people to assume control of their lives and circumstances

PROFILE OF THE VOLUNTEER CENTRE



The VOLUNTEER CENTRE'S Mission statement is predicated on its belief in both the power and impact of volunteering: ***The Volunteer centre exists to motivate and develop effective volunteering through consultations, training, information and placement services for the benefit of all.***

STAFF TEAM: VOLUNTEER CENTRE: 2015/16

The Volunteer Centre was established in 1979 and is membership based, currently serving a broad range of affiliate member organizations/ partners and volunteers. The organization is a registered NPO – (003 383) and also PBO status (Public Benefit in terms of tax exemption) – in terms of South Africa Non Profit and tax legislation. The Governing Board oversees the Manager and staff and team (currently 1 full time, 3 part time / volunteers).

Key Program Areas include:

- Consultation - Training and support to local organizations who utilize volunteers;
- Placement and recruitment services – for the benefit of all
- Youth exchange programmes and skills development: International Cultural Youth Exchange program (ICYE)
- Ongoing awareness communication and campaigns VCYC (Volunteer Centre Youth Clubs) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MagetCglJ2s>
- Language lessons – English – Afrikaans and Xhosa: 30 Hours for LT (12months) and 20 Hours for LT (6 Months)

Specific Expertise – Volunteer Centre is a recognized organization which works across all sectors in the development of the volunteering environment.

Staff – The Volunteer Centre is driven by volunteers who are diverse team with various skills and backgrounds most of them participated in our programs. There are one paid staff members and three volunteers. All staff members and volunteers embrace the ethos of volunteering and remain involved in various volunteering and community service outside of working hours.

Competencies and Motivation- The Volunteer Centre meets all governance and legislative requirements, holds a public Annual General Meeting and meets all annual financial and auditing certification requirements. The organization's structure is however not bound in bureaucracy and it is able to institute programmes and activities with ease. Motivation of servicing our partners, member organizations and most importantly – volunteers - remains priority – and would be the primary objective of participating in this program.



OVERVIEW ON WORK PROJECTS

Our projects are diverse and vary from working at a children's home to assisting the aged and the vulnerable, youth and sport, environment, admin –office work. All these projects involve working directly with a range of human needs.

IMPORTANT:

All of Volunteer Centre projects rely on volunteers, both local and international. You are not "just a visitor". In South Africa, volunteers are seen as **extension of staff**. You have important **responsibilities** and will need to take time off when the project agrees to you doing so.

Volunteer Centre, as far as possible, tries to corresponds as much information as possible, about your project – prior to arrival -. It is important that you are able to converse in and have an understanding of English.

What type of work will I be doing?

As a full time volunteer you are expected to participate as any other member of staff. Each project requires a volunteer to do certain tasks. This may be anything from cooking and housekeeping, helping in computer Rooms, to organizing a day outing for children or assisting the aged within their various needs. Volunteers are expected to be flexible and approach their tasks in an attitude of learning and open mindedness.

When will I work?

Volunteers usually work between 35 and 38 hours each week. The volunteers who live on-site may be required to work shifts or rota system where some work during the night (night shift) or at weekends.

Volunteers are entitled to two days off each week. You will also be given an annual leave, which should equal one week of holiday for every four months of work. Meaning a month for year worked.

Where is the location of the project?

Our projects location varies from city centre, townships to country side. The main areas where projects are located are Mitchells' Plain, Athlone, Rondebosch, Gugulethu, Khayelitsha and Langa. Volunteers who live with others at the same project often organize social activities together, however the access of public transportation after hours is not recommended. Volunteers who have the opportunity to use public transport during daytime should use this as a social activity experience.



OUR PROGRAM

ARRIVAL AND THE ORIENTATION PROCESS:

Volunteers are met at the airport and are transported to a backpackers/ hostel / host family. The first day of the volunteer's arrival is normally an opportunity to relax.

During the first week of orientation

As the 3 to 4 days of orientation resumes; a structured orientation programme is set out for the volunteer. Sessions are held on various subjects such as the South African lifestyle and culture; gender roles, history, safety and security, health (insurance), role and responsibilities of volunteering in South Africa, transport (using public transportation) and pocket allowance, project information and host family (accommodation).

As part of the orientation process - volunteers are required to prepare a 5 minute presentation disseminating information about themselves; their family (inclusive of pictures). This opportunity is granted for our "newcomer volunteer" to showcase their country and family. Once the volunteer has been orientated on all of the above sections, the volunteer will be taken to the project where they will receive in-depth orientation of their project.

*Orientation also includes: **Alternative tourism-***

- Educational excursions to cultural museums i.e. (Iziko museums, District Six)
- Visit to a local township and experience the township life Mzolis (restaurant) / 50 on Gugs, the Gugulethu 7 - have tea with a local and ex district six resident
- Afrikaans, English or Xhosa lessons at the campsite should you wish to continue this then the volunteer will absorb the cost.
- Dinner/ walk in the city centre

MID TERM EVALUATION:

The volunteer has a one-on-one session with the mentor. This is also an opportunity to meet with staff members and other exchanges from other Volunteer Centre projects (if possible) to discuss any problems they might have encountered, and to spend some time reflecting on experiences, and preparing for the second half of your project depending on the duration of the stay. From day to at least three days.

FINAL EVALUATION:

The final evaluation is the final time when the volunteers and their mentor, staff member of the Volunteer Centre take the time to discuss and evaluate the volunteering experience and help prepare the volunteer for the return back home. These sessions may take place at an overnight venue - or at the Volunteer Centre between 1-3 days/seminar/ camp



OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Volunteers are encouraged with the input of their mentor to organize an event or activity where all the volunteers of our organization can participate; this also means that volunteers are encouraged to meet once a month for check in and other planned activity

THE TRAVEL MONTH:

For every month volunteered, the volunteers are allowed 2 days vacation leave. However if the project closes during a particular time of year, the *volunteers will have to take compulsory leave* during the time project that the project is closed. (Please see a VC code of conduct document).

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS:

The various types of accommodation may include:

- Living with the family in a home stay
- A bedroom that you share with other volunteers in the project
- The accommodation is normally very basic but comfortable.
- Privacy might be a thing of the past!

WHAT SHALL I EAT?

In a home stay - Volunteers are provided with basic meals per day. Most volunteers who live at a project have access to the basic meals available at the project.

Please note that cost of living for the host families is high even though they are hosting you it is based on the interest and the experience that volunteers leave behind and also take with.

- The host family is obligated to provide a basic meal for the volunteer/s
- Should you wish not to eat the food for any other reason you will be responsible to cover this by yourself.
- Communication and openness on food situation is encourage as all house holds are different from each other
- Milk and bread are mostly basic foods and bought regularly (again please ask the host family) **while on the other hand** - Cheese – milk – beef- salads are mostly food for the privileged meaning “expensive”. – Breakfast would be basic – oats, wheetbix – bread for example. For dinner depending on the house hold and culture you might experience something different or familiar with
- In lunch time – bread – peanut butter –jam eggs will be probably available
- All other foods i.e. western is available at different shopping malls

THE VOLUNTEER EXCHANGES

PROFILE OF THE EXCHANGEE:

Volunteer Centre expectations of volunteers are that they:



1. Embrace the entire experience as a **learning opportunity**.
2. Have a keen sense of **Responsibility**
3. Demonstrate **Respect** for their new living and working environment
4. Be **Enthusiastic** in terms of all their living, working and learning opportunities.
5. Show **Commitment** to persevere with the volunteering programme despite the challenges that may be encountered.
6. Be able to **communicate** in basic English and an interest and ability in learning basic conversational local languages

LANGUAGE:

English is one of the most common languages used in South Africa. Most South Africans are able to converse in English and are able to understand what is being communicated. It is very important that volunteers are able to communicate in English in order to benefit from their volunteering activities.

AGE:

VOLUNTEER CENTRE accepts exchangees who are older than 18 years of age. (Provisions for-17) can be arranged. Older than 25 this too by provision is allowed.

CERTIFICATE OF GOOD CONDUCT (Police Certificate):

All volunteers exchangees must be honest, trustworthy and law abiding in character. In the case of volunteers who will work with young children it is essential to obtain a certificate from the Police in their home country, confirming that the volunteer does not have a criminal record. This is a requirement of all receiving projects, which insists on this certificate in order to ensure a safe environment for those with whom they work, many of whom may be children, or be most vulnerable and at risk. This certificate must be submitted the VOLUNTEER CENTRE, for onward transmission to the Work Placement.

WRITTEN DOCUMENTS/ REFERENCES:

Projects require two contactable references – these are also to be submitted with Application forms. One reference should be from an employer or teacher (confirmation of skills and qualifications) and the other reference confirms the character of the volunteer – and should be from someone who has known the volunteer for a long time. Both references should be from professionals and not from members of family or friends. References serve to confirm character, reliability, maturity etc. and should be in English.



Please note that a motivation letter and CV are documents which greatly enhance the volunteer's placement process and wherever possible, these should be submitted along with the incoming volunteers application form.

4. PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

FINANCES AND BANKING

Volunteer Centre may be responsible for handing pocket money/monthly allowances of volunteers – should this part of the arrangement with the sending organisation. ***NB!! Volunteers will not be provided with any allowance, should they choose to leave a designated project before a new work placement project has been identified changing of projects without any health reason will result into volunteers absorbing the travelling cost -***

South Africa has a world class banking system. There are banks, bureau de change and automatic teller machines in most parts of the country.

South African's big four banks:

- ^ Absa Bank
- ^ First National Bank
- ^ Nedbank
- ^ Standard Bank

Bank opening hours:

09:00 am – 15:30 pm (from Monday to Fridays)

08:30 am – 11:00 am (on Saturdays)

Banks at the airports adjust their hours to accommodate international flights.

Credit Card: all major credit card can be used in South Africa like; Diners Club, American Express, MasterCard, Visa, Maestro, Plus.

In some small towns, you may find you'll need to use cash.

- If for some reason you do not have enough money for your stay you will be able to use **Western Union Money Transfer** and ask your family or friends to send you extra money.

In most cases, your pocket money will either be paid to you in cash at the time of a site visit. In cases where this is not possible, alternate direct transfer arrangements will be made. Opening a bank account in South Africa has become quite challenging. Banks open accounts for volunteers staying for period of 12 or more months only. Volunteer Centre will liaise with volunteers with regard to travel allowances and cash which volunteers may need to receive also based on the federation minimal standards.



TRAVELLING IN CAPE TOWN

There are mainly five ways to move in and around Cape Town:

- 1) **Train (Metrorail):** is a safe, reliable and cheap transport means. It connects the city to the southern suburbs and reaches some renowned beaches, like Muizenberg and Simonstown. It is possible to buy train tickets at the train station ticket office in the daytime and it is more convenient to buy a season ticket. For further information about timetables and routes, see: <http://www.metrorail.co.za/>
- 2) **Bus:** it is commonly used and is slightly more expensive than train. There are a number of bus companies that offer their service in Cape Town like, Golden Arrow Bus service.
- 3) **Minibus taxi:** it is the informal “bus service” operating with neither timetables nor formal stops. There is no ticket office and the price of the service is paid directly to the driver on the minibus. The minibus is cheaper than ordinary bus and covers all the main city routes. Minibuses are very frequent in rush-hours. This service is not available at night.
- 4) **Taxi:** are hired at taxi ranks, hotels, in touristy areas and are popular in most populated places and streets or can be summoned by telephone, The taxi rate varies between companies and runs at about ZAR 10/km. It is advisable to ask for a fare estimate before you agree.
- 5) **Car:** other than international renting companies, you can find local one with very convenient price. Sometimes, buying and reselling a car can be the best choice, especially for a group of volunteers. Any driver's licence is accepted in South Africa; however vehicle hire companies may also require an international driver's licence. South Africans drive on the left-hand side of the road and the car therefore are right-hand drive vehicles.

A list of companies offering renting service is available at the following link:

<http://www.capetowntransport.com/carhire.htm>.

For more info about driving in South Africa, see:

<http://www.southafrica.info/travel/advice/driving.htm>

- ⤴ To get information about train and bus times/price, you can call the following number: **0800656463**.
Times and prices varies in week-end and holidays
- ⤴ To know more about transport in Cape Town, see:
<http://www.capetowntransport.com/>



INTERNET AND COMMUNICATION IN CAPE TOWN

Internet is commonly used in Cape Town and there are some wi-fi zones in shopping malls, restaurants and coffee shops. However, it is not so common for South African people to use the landline Internet at home.

However is it possible to buy a Internet USB Stick mobile in the mobile shops but the cost of the Internet air time is not very convenient. For instance a 1.2 Gig is about 289.00 Rand.

Not all the Coffee shops or Internet points have Skype installed on their computers; it depends on the different city areas. To call from South Africa to other countries, is it possible to buy a **World Call Card**. You can find the card as well as mobile air-time, in supermarkets, superettes, tobacconist's and gas stations.

Cell-phone

South Africa in one of the fastest growing mobile communications markets in the world.

The dominating multinational companies in the mobile landscape are:

- ▲ **MTN**
- ▲ **VODACOM**
- ▲ **CELL C**

NB – to buy a mobile SIM card, an internet USB Stick (Dongle) or a cell phone is required to show:

- Original passport
- Proof of residence in South Africa **

You will need to show the same documents on other occasions – for example – when hiring a movie; a car; or any other major purchases.

* A proof of residence can be:

- an electricity or phone bill with your names and address on it. Any utility bill will do.
- a letter form someone you stay with explaining that you live at the same address. A bill in that person's name will need to be supplied with the letter.
- if you don't have a formal address, you can write a letter explaining where you live, take it to a police station and ask for an affidavit as proof of residence. Sometimes a letter of invitation from your host organization stating your address of residence in South Africa can be accepted as a proof of residence.



HEALTH- INSURANCE INFORMATION

As an ICYE exchangee volunteers will be fully covered by a comprehensive health insurance in the event of any health problems or accidents during your stay. Volunteers are recommended to register at the local doctor or hospital closest to their accommodation, in case of emergency or any health problem. It is best to register upon arrival to avoid any delays, also identify closest hospitals/clinics. Volunteers are entirely responsible for posting – submitting their insurance information to the IO for reimbursement the Volunteer Centre will assist where can. It is advisable that volunteers read all the information regarding the insurance – Volunteer Centre will also explain such at the orientation camp.

SAFETY TIPS

In South Africa crime can be a problem. However, all that you need is just take some usual sensible precautions and follow basic safety rules. Below a list of safety tips that can be helpful to prevent dangerous situations and unpleasant troubles.

- ✓ There are areas known as “more risky than other”. Some areas should be visited in groups or with a recommended tour operator. Avoid wearing visible jewellery and carry cameras and big bags over your shoulder.
- ✓ Keep mobile phones and wallets tucked away where no one can see them
- ✓ Travel with certified copies of your documents and keep the originals in a safe place. It is possible to have copies of your documents certified at the nearest Police Station or at the Post Office.
- ✓ Keep a note of your credit card numbers and bank contact details and separate cash and credit cards.
- ✓ Do not walk alone in dodgy areas, especially at night and do not hitching a ride.
- ✓ If you live in hostel or in a facility populated by other people, keep your room locked at all times and store valuables (like, laptop) in a hide and safe place.
- ✓ Before start driving, plan your route and fuel consumption in advance. While driving, make sure to have your destination phone numbers on hand in case you get lost and keep the car locked at all times. It is also advisable to keep the car windows wound up and valuables locked in the boot.
- ✓ When using automatic teller machines (ATMs) do not accept an offer from a stranger to help you with transactions. In case your card gets stuck in the machine, you can approach the bank or call the helpline number to have it released.



- ✓ In case of lost passport and visa, report it as soon as possible to the South
- ✓ African Police Services (SAPS), as well as your country's embassy or consulate in South Africa.

Emergency Procedure

In the event of an emergency these are the steps to follow:

- Phone the police (if the situation so requires)
- Inform Volunteer Centre **immediately** THE Programme Coordinator: **Nozuko Masiba** on **0795099560**

Emergency numbers

Police (SAPS) Emergency number: **10111**

Mobile Phone Emergency number: **112**

Ambulance: **10177**

Wilderness Search and Rescue: **021 948 9900**

Office of the Consumer protection: **0800 007 081**

VISA INFORMATION

General information about Visa

1. Who is a South African visa for?

Visitors' visas are for international travellers (citizens of other countries) who have permanent residence outside South Africa and who wish to visit the country on a temporary basis for tourism or business purposes for a period of 90 days or less.

2. What is a South African visa for?

A visa simply indicates that your application has been reviewed at a South African embassy, mission or consulate and that the consular officer has determined you are *eligible to enter the country* for a specific purpose.

The visa will allow you to travel to a South African port of entry where an immigration official will then determine if you are allowed to enter South Africa and for how long you can stay for that particular visit.

Visitors are restricted to the activity or reason for which their visas were issued.

3. Period of validity of the visa.

On entry to South Africa, a visa is considered to be a visitor's permit. The permit's period of validity is calculated from the date of entry into the country and will be set out under the heading "conditions" on the visa label. You must ensure that you apply for the correct visa/permit.

Entry in the country may be refused if the purpose of visit was not correctly stated.



Note: Requirements for visitor's visas differ from country to country, and the requirements are subject to change. As each application is treated as an individual case and you should make enquiries with your nearest South African mission or consulate abroad or any office of the Department of Home Affairs to see whether or not you are required to apply for a visa.

Visa application

1. Visa Fee.

There is a fee charged for issuing a visa, and you should check the cost with the office as well as this is updated annually.

Visas are not issued at South African ports of entry, and airline officials are obliged to insist on visas before allowing passengers to board. If you arrive without a visa, immigration officials are obliged to put you onto a flight back to your home country.

* The fee is payable in different currencies in different countries.

2. Documents required to apply for a visa

- ⤴ A passport or travel document valid for **no less than 30 days** after the expiry of your intended visit.
- ⤴ The passport must have **at least one unused page** for entry / departure endorsements
- ⤴ A completed [Form BI-84](#) (application for a visa) – the form can be requested at the South African office (embassy) in your own country
- ⤴ Payment of the prescribed fee
- ⤴ A yellow-fever vaccination certificate, if required (yellow fever certificates are required if the journey starts or entails passing through the yellow fever belt of Africa or South America)
- ⤴ Statement and/or documentation confirming the purpose and duration of your visit
- ⤴ Two colour passport [photographs](#)
- ⤴ A return or onward ticket if you are travelling by air
- ⤴ Proof of financial means to pay for your living expenses while in South Africa in the form of:
 - Bank statements
 - Salary advances
 - Undertakings by the host(s) in South Africa
 - Bursary
 - Medical cover
 - Cash available (including credit cards and travellers' cheques)

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE (South Africa Home Affairs) FOR MORE INFORMATION ON VISA – SOUTH AFRICA HAS MADE SOME CHANGES REGARDING VISA APPLICATION AND EXTENSION OF THE STAY.



CHECKLIST BEFORE DEPARTURE

- A Valid passport
- Appropriate Entry Clearance / Visa for South Africa
- Letter of Invitation
- Police clearance certificate
- International Drivers licence (optional)
- Correctly issued flight ticket and confirmation thereof.
- A sleeping bag (optional)
- Warm clothes and good walking shoes
- All appropriate ICYE papers – including the National profile
- Small gifts from your country to give to people in your project / friends
- Music and games from your country for the camps
- Some information about your home country - pictures, brochures, maps, books, coins, recipes etc.

NB Do not bring too much luggage with to South Africa. Use a backpack it's easier and more convenient to store. Suitcases should be manageable and easy to carry comfortably.

Useful books, movies and websites (social)

Read and watch movies about South Africa, BEFORE arrival.

Research and read books about Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, Steve Biko. Watch many movies and documentaries about SA during your stay (Yesterday, Tsotsi, Classified people, Good bye Bafana, Red dust, In my country, District 9 – etc.)

Read - Cry the beloved country; My traitor's heart; Bang bang Club; Long walk to freedom, Invictus etc.

SMALL SOUTH AFRICAN DICTIONARY

Amandla: is a Xhosa and Zulu word meaning “power”

Bhuti: is a Xhosa word meaning “man”. It is usually used to address someone in a respectful way

Boer: is the Dutch and Afrikaans word for farmer

Boerewors: traditional sausages very popular in the South African cuisine. It comes from Afrikaans words *boer* (farmer) and *wors* (sausage)

Braai: is an Afrikaans word meaning “barbeque”. It is a very common habit for South African to have braai, especially during holiday or party-time. South Africa also celebrate the National Braai Day

Cape Doctor: a dry, strong, persistent South-East that blows on the South African coast from spring to late summer. The name is due to the fact that this wind was supposed to clear Cape Town from pestilence and pollution.

Coloured: heterogeneous ethnic group who possess ancestry from Europe, Khoisan and Bantu tribes, Indonesia, India, Madagascar, Malay, Mozambique, Mauritius, and Saint Helena. This group has been regarded from scientist as having the highest level of mixed ancestry in the world



Dankie: is an Afrikaans word meaning “thank you”

Enkosi: it a Xhosa word to say “thank you”

Lekker: is an Afrikaans word meaning something really nice; it is pronounced as “lekka”

Madiba: is the name of the clan of which Nelson Mandela is a member (it is usually considered very polite to use someone's clan name). This is one of the names he is used to be called by.

Taxi: small scale informal bus services operating with neither timetables nor formal stops

Molo: this is a Xhosa word meaning “hello”

Robot: traffic light

Rooibos: a herbal tea also called bush tea or South African red tea

Samoosa: a triangular Indian curry delicacy

Shame! : this expression usually means “you poor thing” or “I feel sorry for you!”

Sisi: it is a Xhosa word usually used to address respectfully a woman (usually, old)

Sprinboks: is the South African national rugby union team. It is on of the strongest team in the world league.

Townships: the word refers to underdeveloped urban living areas that during the apartheid were reserved to non-white people. Townships are mainly made up of informal settlements.

Toy!Toy!: picketing/protest

Tsotsi: a criminal gang member

Ubuntu: is a philosophical concept rooted in the Sub-Saharan Africa that is related to the people relationships. The bantu word of “ubuntu” means “benevolence towards other people” and this concept inspires a way of life based on compassion, solidarity and mutual respect. Frequently, it is common to explain ubuntu through the sentence: *Umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu (I am what I am because of what we all are).*

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR VOLUNTEERS - AND CONTRACT

Please note that a code of conduct is attached in document and should be signed by all volunteers and their project supervisor or managers. A copy will be sent to each party.