

Join us and become a Good Hope Volunteer



Be passionate about a cause

All of our projects provide services vital to the communities and the environment in which they are based. Volunteers play an integral part in the services offered, and your help is needed! A portion of your fee goes towards the upliftment of the community or project you're working on as well as your passion to serve, so you get to leave Africa knowing you have made a difference!

Anyone can get involved

We have selected and developed projects which take place in environments that are suited to all, whether you are a tourist, a solo traveller, a student, or coming as a family. We offer everything from budget experiences to premium projects. All you need in order to apply is a good command of the English language and be at least 18 years of age. Our projects attract volunteers from dozens of different countries, allowing you to make life-long friends from across the globe.

We will find the right project for you

Applying to Good Hope Volunteers is free! Allow us to walk you through our application process to best determine which projects will be most suitable for your goals and needs.

We come highly recommended

For over 20 years, the Good Hope brand has been creating experiences and supporting students and volunteers from all over the world. We have been actively involved in changing the lives of thousands of students embarking on the adventure of a lifetime through meaningful travel in southern Africa. Read through some of our many testimonials to see for yourself!

We offer a wide variety of project options

We offer projects in South Africa, Namibia and Botswana. The experiences range from community-driven social projects to those that focus on environmental and conservation initiatives. Wherever your passions lie, Good Hope Volunteers will match you up with the right project at a fair cost.

We are passionate about volunteering

We are an experienced and motivated team with years of practice operating and travelling throughout southern Africa. We are small and flexible enough to meet your personal needs but also large enough to offer you a full range of support services. We will be on hand to help you every step of the way, from visas to airport transfers, accommodation options to advice and around the clock on-the-ground support.

Good Hope Volunteers in Cape Town

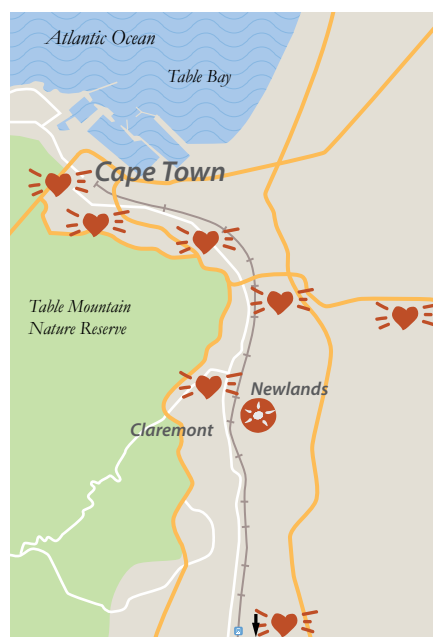
Facts

Cape Town

- Population: 3,74 million
- Great for almost any kind of outdoor sports
- Sunny, young and vibrant

GHV Services

- 3-day orientation
- Accommodation at our own volunteer house
- Meals (optional)
- Bus transfer to projects where necessary
- Regular visits by our support coordinator
- GHV activity programme
- Local support



Athlone Children's Home



Social project
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

from 8 weeks
from 18 years

The Children's Home provides full-time care for up to 49 babies and children from 0 - 5 years old. The children are either neglected, abandoned, abused or orphaned and are accepted at the home irrespective of HIV status, race or gender. Volunteers help with care, feeding and education activities in and out of the classroom.

Cape Nature Conservation

Social & conservation project
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥ from 2 weeks
from 18 years

Volunteer at a reserve that aims to promote the conservation of the indigenous fauna and flora of the Zandvlei wetland in Muizenberg. The programme is very broad and every day will be a new adventure. Interact with people from across Africa and make a difference in the conservation of the reserve.

Caring for the Elderly

Social project
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥ from 2 weeks
from 18 years

This organisation aims to provide all its residents with the highest standard of care and nursing within a homely environment, and to promote quality of life, the maintenance of independence, and the preservation of dignity. Volunteers work with residents who come from all walks of life and socio-economic backgrounds.

Children's Hospital

Social project
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥ from 2 weeks
from 18 years

This is a voluntary support group to South Africa's largest children's hospital. It seeks to provide assistance and care for the patients and their families. The project is committed to helping make the hospital experience less traumatic for the young patients that are treated there.

Nyanga Upliftment Project

Social project
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥ from 2 weeks
from 18 years

Volunteers joining this multipurpose facility can assist with education and social welfare programmes as well as outreach work focused on health and economic development. This project is set in Nyanga, a township in Cape Town where the need is great.

Photography Course

Voluntourism
1 week
from 18 years

Under the guidance of a professional photographer, learn and develop new and exciting photography skills. Practice what you learn in and around Cape Town, visiting hot spots and local volunteer projects. Capture your memories while making a difference during your adventure!

Safe Haven

Social project
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥ from 2 weeks
from 18 years

This organization supports children and their immediate family in a dignified and compassionate manner and also provides a safe haven for abandoned and abused children. Volunteers join a variety of projects supported by the organization during their experience. For this project it is important to be flexible and take initiative.

Special Needs Care Centre

Social project
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥ from 2 weeks
from 18 years

This centre exists for a small percentage of the many marginalized people in the Cape Town community and provides specialized care for 90 profoundly intellectually and physically disabled citizens. Make a real difference in the life of someone who needs it most!

Teaching Centre

Social project
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥ from 2 weeks
from 18 years

This is an early intervention literacy programme. It supports children who are at risk in learning to read. To do this, the programme focuses on language enrichment, offering extra help and remedial assistance to children. This project runs during school hours but volunteers can choose to assist directly in the school as well.

Urban Farming

Social project
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥ from 2 weeks
from 18 years

Set in the heart of Cape Town, this unique urban farming project will allow you to experience sustainable farming, education, and health promotion. The project encourages change in the way the public sees food production and purchasing and also teaches the community where our food really comes from, and how it can benefit and sustain the city and the families that live here.

Good Hope Volunteers in Hout Bay

Facts

Hout Bay

- Population: 18.000
- 30 min. from Cape Town
- Great for outdoor sports

GHV Services

- Accommodation at a local back-packers
- Transfer to the projects
- Visits by our support coordinator
- Local support



Domestic Animal Shelter



Conservation project
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥ from 2 weeks
from 18 years

This centre is a pro-life, nonprofit organisation whose core aim is to rescue, rehabilitate, re-unite and re-home lost, abandoned, abused and neglected dogs and cats. Volunteers make a marked difference to the lives of the animals here and need to have patience and a deep love for the work they will do.

Hout Bay Children's Programmes



Social project
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥ from 4 weeks
from 18 years

This project caters for the children in a developing community near Hout Bay. As a volunteer, you spend mornings caring for young children while their parents are at work. Afternoons are spent in an aftercare programme that assists older children with their homework and creative activities once school has finished. Meals are also provided daily for all the children.

Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary



Conservation project
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥ from 2 weeks
from 18 years

This incredible sanctuary on Cape Town's doorstep offers rehabilitation and a home to over 400 species of birds and small animals. The organisation is underfunded and understaffed and volunteers make a valuable difference to the animals that call this centre home. There are more than 100 spacious landscaped walk-through aviaries, allowing intimate closeness with nature.

Good Hope Volunteers along the Garden Route

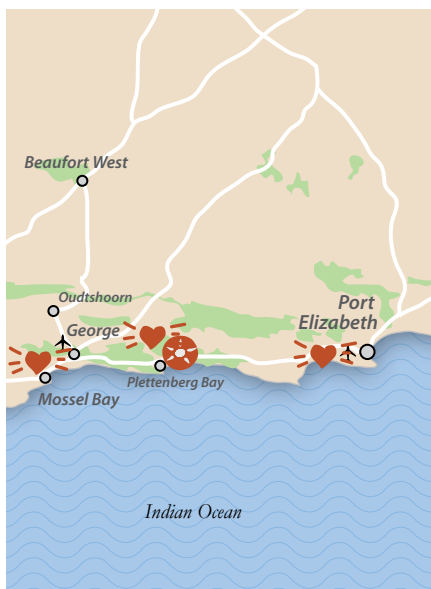
Facts

Garden Route

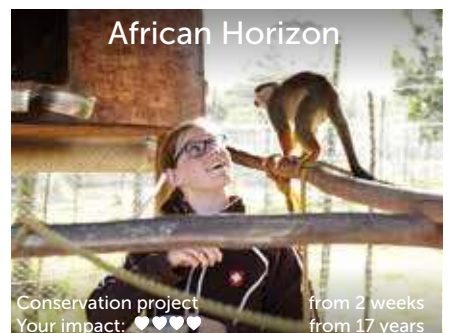
- Popular coast line
- Holiday resorts
- Lots of outdoor sports and activities

GHV Services

- Accommodation at a local back-packers or at the project
- Bus transfer to projects where necessary
- Regular visits by our support coordinator
- Local support



African Horizon



Conservation project
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥ from 2 weeks
from 17 years

Volunteers help to care for orphaned and injured animals in the sanctuary. These animals have been brought here by members of the public for rehabilitation and, where possible, are released back into the wild. Situated on the Garden Route, the project is well located for exploring this unique terrain or doing a variety of sports in your free time.

Community Children's Project



Social project
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

from 2 weeks
from 18 years

Work in a rural township community on the Garden Route where you will support children from the ages of 2 to 6. Volunteers provide basic day care and assistance with daily developmental programmes. This project requires lots of hands-on work both in the classroom and outdoors.

Game Reserve Conservation



Conservation project
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

from 2 weeks
from 18 years

From this rare location in the middle of 4 game reserves on the Garden Route, join other volunteers to learn about conservation, environmental management and game-ranging from some of the most experienced professionals in the business. You also have the opportunity to learn from local veterinarians about the care and protection of wild animals.

Horse Trail Experience



Voluntourism

from 3 weeks
from 18 years

These beautiful animals have spent the majority of their lives in cruel and unjust hands. And now they are able to spend the remainder of their time in peace along the Garden Route. A magical project for all horse and animals lovers. No previous experience is necessary. Enjoy this unique way to see this part of South Africa on horseback.

Jeffrey's Bay Kindergarten



Social project
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

from 4 weeks
from 18 years

The project centres around a nursery school for disadvantaged children. The project provides education and stimulation and relies on basic aids to teach the children and provide an educational experience for them. The project is located in Jeffrey's Bay where you can have fun on the beach and enjoy surfing in your spare time.

Ocean Conservation



Social & conservation project
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

from 2 weeks
from 18 years

This foundation is dedicated to the conservation of the marine environment in South Africa through research, willingness to help, and dedication. You can make a real change for the future of South Africa's beautiful coastline and at the same time enjoy seeing whales, dolphins, seals and seabirds in their natural habitat.

Family Dairy Farm Experience



Farm Stay

from 2 weeks
from 18 years

The farm is a family-run dairy farm that has successfully grown from its original mixed-agriculture and milk production activities to a highly popular farmstall and coffee shop offering a wide assortment of produce for retail and in-house consumption, plus an established horticultural seedling and plant retail nursery.

Protecting Children



Social project
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

from 2 weeks
from 21 years

Caring and loving volunteers help the staff at this unique organisation empower vulnerable children. The focus is to provide quality education and developmental programmes so that children reach their full potential and grow to become leaders in their communities.

Surfing with Kids



Social project
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

from 2 weeks
from 18 years

This programme teaches surfing to underprivileged youth from a rural area. Surfing keeps them out of trouble and away from drugs by giving them support to develop. Volunteers learn to surf and at the same time teach kids to surf; assist with beach games, yoga, and swimming lessons; and help with after-school homework.

Wine Farm Experience



Farm Stay

from 2 weeks
from 18 years

This farm is a family-run boutique wine estate that has successfully grown in size and reputation since its beginnings in 2008. They also assist the historically disadvantaged local community by constantly helping community members to participate in the local economy.



Good Hope Volunteers in southern Africa

Facts

South Africa

- Population: 55 million
- One of the most beautiful countries in the world

Namibia

- Population: 2,1 million
- Fascinating landscapes and unique beauty

Botswana

- Population: 2,3 million
- Incredible wildlife and friendly people

Services

- Orientation at the project
- Accommodation at or close to the project
- Transport where required
- GHV Support



African Cat Sanctuary



Conservation project
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥

from 2 weeks
from 18 years

This sanctuary creates a safe and secure home for captive-bred big Cats and raises awareness about the ethical and holistic treatment of animals. This 40-hectare paradise provides a beautiful home for the animals and volunteers are involved in their day-to-day care and protection as well as the education of the public to the plight of Africa's Big Cats.

Bush School & Wildlife Orphanage



Social & conservation project
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

from 2 weeks
from 18 years

The mission of the bush school is to educate and inspire local children to value their environment and stimulate community development. This project is also an orphanage for young and injured animals from the Kruger National Park area.

Centre for Endangered Species



Conservation project
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥

3 weeks
from 18 years

This facility is dedicated to the survival of rare, vulnerable and endangered species, particularly rhinos and cheetahs. The programme aims to equip volunteers with the ability to actively participate in the conservation of wildlife in the Kruger National Park area.

Community & Wilderness Outreach



Social & conservation project
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥ from 4 weeks from 18 years

This is a unique project that focuses on building relationships between communities, families, and the animals and owners of game reserves in rural Botswana. It also offers support programmes and educational outreach activities in the hopes of bridging the delicate gap between all members of this unique environment.

Conservation & Community



Social & conservation project
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥ from 2 weeks from 18 years

This project offers a rare opportunity to combine community development and environmental protection. Volunteers will work directly with children from a local care facility as well as support environmental conservation efforts on a working game reserve.

Lowveld Rehabilitation Centre



Conservation project
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥ from 2 weeks from 18 years

Originally designed as a home for orphaned, poisoned or injured wildlife, this centre's main aim is to rehabilitate wildlife that can be reintroduced to their natural environment. Unfortunately, some of the animals in their care, due to their injuries, will never be able to return, and now live out their days in peace at the centre.

Medical Project



Medical project
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥ from 2 weeks from 18 years

The project is committed to improving the lives of the San community through education, health care and improved living conditions. The project is a great choice for volunteers with an interest in health care, community service, nutrition and medicine.

Shark Project



Voluntourism
from 2 weeks from 18 years

An ocean-based project which aims to unite scientific research and public participation in the protection of South Africa's great white shark. Volunteers are primarily here to work closely with sharks and tourists and in doing so increase awareness of these wonderful creatures.

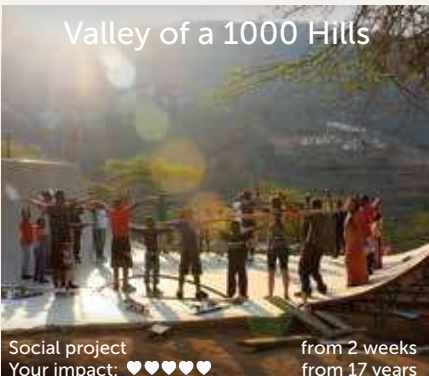
Sports for Development



Social project
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥ from 8 weeks from 18 years

Use sport to provide children and at-risk youths in Namibia with valuable skills and opportunities. Volunteers with any interest in sport and development can make a big difference and inspire the champions of tomorrow. Staying in Windhoek allows you to discover this city and its surrounding treasures.

Valley of a 1000 Hills



Social project
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥ from 2 weeks from 17 years

Through skateboarding, this project brings together people from diverse backgrounds. Skateboarding gives rural and vulnerable youths self-esteem and pride. It keeps them off the streets and out of trouble and brings them a sense of freedom, possibility and purpose.

Wildlife Conservation



Conservation project
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥ from 2 weeks from 18 years

Their vision is an Africa where humans and wildlife can live and thrive together. Their mission is to conserve the land, cultures and wildlife of Namibia and rescue species threatened by an ever-shrinking habitat.





Good Hope Volunteers

In 1994, Wolfgang Graser and Alexander Kratochwil moved from their home in Vienna to the beautiful city of Cape Town. They quickly fell in love with this vibrant city and its friendly, smiling people. They first opened an English language school for foreign tourists to learn English, but soon they discovered that behind the shiny places there are enormous problems and challenges that this country faces for historic reasons. They met with organisations that assist government in the struggle for a better life and a better environment.

When you see what these organisations do, it's not difficult to feel moved and share in their desire to help. They can't solve all problems overnight, but they do make an impact and do change people's lives on a daily basis. What they need, though, are volunteers who share their passion to help and who want to make a difference.

In 2009 we started to supply some of these organisations with international volunteers. What we specifically loved was not only to see these organisations thrive with the volunteers, but also

noticing how the volunteers themselves benefit hugely from the experience.

In 2016, Vanessa Randon joined us to develop Good Hope Volunteers into a larger and more professional organisation. She holds an undergraduate degree in Marine Biology and a postgraduate degree in Physical Oceanography from the University of Cape Town. With her passion for communities, animals and the environment, she developed Good Hope Volunteers to a top service provider in this field.

It is the love for South Africa and the international travellers that pushes us daily to provide the best possible meaningful experience to the volunteers, but also to support our projects with what they need to do their jobs and to grow into a brighter future.

Today we support around 40 projects in southern Africa. If you are looking for a life-changing experience, then allow us to assist you in finding the most suitable project on our website and beyond.



Combine volunteering with a language course



Agency Stamp

When you volunteer, it is essential that you are able to communicate clearly with your supervisor, colleagues and the people you are helping. A good command of English is therefore required for all projects.

If you need to brush up on your English skills, add a language course before you start volunteering. Doing this will also give you a chance to get accustomed to the country before you start at your project.

Our sister company, Good Hope Studies, operates an English language school from two campuses in Cape Town: one campus is situated in the leafy residential area of Newlands and the other is in the vibrant city centre on a pedestrian walkway.

We offer short-term and long-term programmes for General English as well as exam preparation courses, business courses and a teacher training centre.

Our school is well-known for the professional yet relaxed environment in which learning is both challenging and fun. Students from up to 50 different countries benefit from our courses each year.