



Travellers Worldwide is a leading International Provider of
Volunteering Programmes, Work Experience Internships
and Cultural Courses Abroad

SOUTH AFRICA



TEACH AND CARE FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM IN CAPE TOWN

Work in a Centre and Hostel for children with Autism, as a classroom and hostel assistant. You may be asked to help where children need special attention, or to work with a small group while the teacher works with another group.

School work varies with different age groups, but is based on the normal school activities – a great deal of one-to-one attention is needed and children learn basic skills. You'll also be able to help with supervised activities like swimming which is part of the daily summer curriculum. After school, you'll help with "play time" duty.

You will also be involved in indoor supervision of children. Autistic children have to be watched closely at all times, as they may react suddenly and unexpectedly.

Thank you for your interest in volunteering on this Project. Below is a description of what you can do and expect. You can volunteer whether you're taking a gap year, on a career break, retired, or on a holiday with a purpose. No matter what your age or experience, we look forward to welcoming you to the team!

WHAT DO YOU GET?

SELF-DEVELOPMENT:

- New skills, more confidence, a greater understanding of a different culture, invaluable personal and professional development.
- The enormous satisfaction of helping disadvantaged children and knowing that you made a difference to them.
- An entry on your CV or résumé that will put you head and shoulders above most others in the job market.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

- Your safety is our top priority. We risk-assess all destination countries, projects, accommodation and more to ensure that they are stable and safe.
- We have experienced local staff with 24/7 back-up and support who are there to assist you and look after you, starting with an in-depth induction on your arrival.

AN ADVENTURE!

- An exciting, never-to-be-forgotten adventure into Africa and the many diverse cultures in South Africa! And best of all ... **an unforgettable experience!**

2A Caravelle House, 17/19 Goring Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN12 4AP, UK
Tel: UK +44 (0)1903 502595, USA: 1-603-574-4935. Email: Info@travellersworldwide.com

TravelQuest Ltd t/a Travellers, registered in England & Wales, Registered Office: 7 Mulberry Close, Ferring, West Sussex, BN12 5HY, Reg. No. 3072191, VAT Registration: 786540201

Prices: From **£1,695** excluding flights.

Please see Full [Price List Online](#).

Duration: From 4 weeks to 12 weeks or longer, subject to visa requirements

Start Dates: All year round, subject to school holidays - you choose your start and finish dates.

Requirements: No qualifications or experience required, just lots of enthusiasm and a love of children...

What's Included:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| ▶ Arranging your Programme, | ▶ Full pre-departure support and assistance, |
| ▶ Payment Protection insurance | ▶ Accommodation |
| ▶ Certificate of Completion | ▶ Transfer to your on-site accommodation |
| ▶ Meeting you at the nearest airport | ▶ Local in-country team support and backup |
| ▶ 24-hr emergency support. | ▶ Free T-Shirt |
| ▶ Food | |

What Not Included: Flights, Insurance, Cost of Visas (if a visa is required), Local transport to and from your project, Return transfer to airport.

SUMMARY

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Autism is a severe, lifelong development disability and children affected by this suffer from a number of conditions. They have severe communication and language problems, they are unable to relate to other people and they display unusual and problematic behaviour. The extent to which a child is affected will vary from individual to individual. Autistic children need predictability in their lives. They cannot express their needs effectively and often have extreme reactions to changes in routine and unfamiliar events.

You'll work in a school for autistic children. There are 85 students and 35 of these children are live-in learners, staying at the school hostel overnight. The rest are brought in each day by their parents. The children are aged between 3 and 18 years and they are educated according to their ability, with some moving on to other schools later on.

The School has three hostels with children housed in age groups: the under 8's, 8-12's and 12-18's. There is a very happy atmosphere at the school and the teachers are extremely conscientious and kind people. There is a lot of love here! For some, the School provides the only opportunity of education for these children. The dedicated care received at the School gives these children a platform from which they can enter society with a secure place, despite the limitations of their autism.

The language of tuition is English, but Afrikaans is also used frequently in interpersonal conversation. A minority of the children speak Xhosa or Afrikaans at home, but all of them can understand English. Without the help of our volunteers the school would not be able to give the children the full attention and care that they deserve and need.

YOUR WORK AT THE SCHOOL

- On your arrival you will have a short Orientation during which you will learn about autism. This will include watching a video as well as meeting the teachers and pupils of the school. You will then be allocated to a teacher for the day. After this initial induction you may spend time in any of the classes for your first week, getting to understand the Centre. One of the teaching coordinators will then chat to you about how you are getting on and ask you to decide which of the classes you would like to assist in. You will be working along side the teacher, not alone.
- The majority of your work will be as a classroom and hostel assistant where you will be helping out in a variety of ways. You may be asked to help where children need special attention or to work with a small group while the teacher works with another group. Schoolwork varies with different age groups but is based on the normal school activities – a great deal of one-to-one attention is needed and children learn basic skills.



- Help is also very much appreciated at supervised activities like swimming which is part of the daily summer curriculum.
- After school hours, you'll be allocated a "play time" duty at the different hostels while the children play outdoors under supervision. You will also be involved in indoor hostel duties after this, which involve the supervision of children. Autistic children have to be watched closely at all times, as they may react suddenly and unexpectedly.
- The help and support given by volunteers is especially needed during preparations for the school concert – and on the actual night. This usually takes place in October and is the highlight of the children's school year.
- If there are any outings while you're there, you'll accompany the teacher and pupils. These can be many things, possibly even including a camping trip for a few days. The school loves arranging special events that the students will enjoy. The parents are also included in events like barbecues or concerts for what the school calls – "The Family".
- There will also be a certain amount of Admin work involved in your volunteering, such as photocopying for the teacher and also duties at the switchboard if the receptionist is absent - answering the phone, etc.



SCHOOL TERMS IN SOUTH AFRICA:

Dates for the **2015** school terms (semesters) are given below.

Term 1: 21 January – 1 April
 Term 2: 13 April – 26 June
 Term 3: 20 July – 2 October
 Term 4: 12 October – 9 December

Dates for the **2016** school terms (semesters) are given below.

Term 1: 13 January – 18 March
 Term 2: 5 April – 24 June
 Term 3: 18 July – 30 September
 Term 4: 10 October – 7 December

Please see a complete list of current public (bank) holidays for 2015 and 2016 at <http://www.publicholiday.co.za>

This project is not available during school holidays. Therefore, please compare the above school term dates to the dates of your placement. If a holiday falls during your placement, you should use this time to do any independent travelling and sightseeing. Generally the last week before terms end is given to exams and tests. This means that you will generally find your work load dropping during this week and you will usually find more free time than normal school time.

"I value any experience I get with children with disabilities but being able to work exclusively with Autistic children is a very valuable experience. I am learning new methods of dealing with challenging behaviour and different ways of working with Autistic children to help them as much as possible."

Kimberly Jones

"The best thing about the placement was undoubtedly the kids. Although they could be hard work at times, the huge smiles on their faces when you waved or said hello to them in the playground (especially the wee ones) would melt your heart...I had an amazing

time in South Africa, truly one of the best experiences of my life. It's a fantastic country, full of friendly people, and I'm definitely endeavouring to return at some point in the future. Many thanks to all at Travellers for making it possible. "

Karen Mackay

ACCOMMODATION

Nestled under the mountain near the city, is the trendy and arty suburb of Observatory, the student Mecca of Cape Town. We have chosen this location as an accommodation base and make use of a backpacker's lodge, where you will be staying. Its distance from the projects, safety conscious attitude and very friendly staff make this the ideal home away from home.

South African backpackers are unique and majority are run as a 'home away from home' in large houses, so there is always lots of space to relax and watch TV, read a book, or just sit by the pool and soak in the sun.

In Observatory, we use The Green Elephant backpacker's lodge, which has been running since 1994 and is spaced across 3 beautiful houses. The main house consists of dormitory style rooms, free unlimited wireless internet, a festive bar, a braai (BBQ) area and a swimming pool. The other two houses have private rooms (single and double rooms).



The lodge is situated in the heart of Observatory and a short (5 minute) stroll away from a large supermarket, internet café, restaurants, coffee shops, pharmacy and laundromat. The lodge is also closely situated to the main road, where busses and taxis are available literally at your doorstep.

You'll be staying in a dorm-style room in the main house, which consist of 6 beds each. The mattresses are great and all linen and towels are provided, but it's a good idea to bring your own beach towel. There is a laundry self-service area available at the lodge for R15/load (about £1), but there are also laundromats a few minutes' walk away that will wash, dry and fold for you.

The lodge has a 24-hour reception desk, and they pride themselves with long-term staff of up to 20 years. This translates into a safe environment with experienced staff, who are able to offer the best local advice to guests for trips & tours, restaurants and basically any local information on the Cape Town area.

The Green Elephant is also committed to low impact and sustainable tourism to preserve our natural beauty for future generations. They recycle everything from water (in grey water systems) to bottles, paper and plastic, which we strongly support!

FOOD:

You'll be given a food budget which will cover your basic essentials (but not extras like drinks, snacks and eating out).

All the lodge houses have fully equipped self-catering kitchens, with all the necessities to cook a good meal. If you aren't feeling up to cooking on any particular day, the lodge also does meals that can be paid for on the day. For example, Thursday nights are pizza nights, and they also do BBQ's on regular occasions.

WHY TRAVELLERS WORLDWIDE?

- Over 20 years' experience of sending thousands of participants overseas, plus the largest variety of flexible projects that are value for money!
- Accredited projects helps appeal to future employers

- Excellent support! And 24/7 emergency helpline for you and your family
- Your own dedicated Project Co-ordinator to answer all questions before, during and after your trip of a lifetime!
- Detailed information on your project and country and suggestions, safety guide, tips and checklists, via our EXTRANET, available from anywhere, 24/7.
- Free pick up from the nearest airport.

HOW YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

By joining a Travellers Program you enable us to keep donating money to worthwhile projects around the world; from clothing and feeding school children, building playgrounds or funding vital conservation research - your participation makes these donations possible.

Donations to **Bridge The Gap Foundation**. This Foundation was set up by us to donate directly to particularly worthwhile and necessary projects for children and animals around the world, and partners with other NGO's to raise match-funding for worthy projects.

The price of this project is a reflection of the following costs:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ✓ Accommodation and Food | ✓ Marketing (brochures, website design and maintenance, attending careers fairs, advertising, website listings and presentations) |
| ✓ Full pre-departure support | ✓ Project Research/Site Inspection |
| ✓ Meeting you at the airport | ✓ Staff Training/Equipment |
| ✓ Transport to the placement site | ✓ Donations to worthwhile project |
| ✓ Local in-country team support and backup | ✓ Free T-Shirt |
| ✓ 24hr emergency helpline | ✓ 24hr emergency helpline |
| ✓ UK administration | |

"Travellers is an amazing organization that offers life changing experiences to people of all ages, I will highly recommend it to everyone, and I will be planning another volunteer experience for myself as well as for my sons. Thank you so much for the experience of a life time!"

Deanne Peterson

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Got any questions? Please email us: info@travellersworldwide.com

Once you have applied for a placement, we'll contact you and send you our Welcome Pack. You'll also receive Log-on details and password for our Volunteer Extranet where you'll have access to all the documentation and information which we've put together to facilitate preparations for your adventure! Your Project Co-ordinator for your country will liaise with you throughout the arrangements process, as well as while you're on your placement and on your return home.

The documents you'll have access to also include a Country Fact file, Safety Guide and any manuals that may assist you on your particular programme (for example, Teaching Guide, Sports Manuals, Enrichment Suggestions for Animal Care, etc.). We do all we can to make your stay one that you'll never forget. As with all our destinations, the culture and heritage is different to what you're used to ... which, although one of the most exciting aspects of travelling, should be borne in mind. Self-reliance and independence are highly appreciated in all our destinations and will help you to make the most of this wonderful opportunity! This is a truly awesome, elegant and beautiful country.

On Arrival, your Introduction to the Country:

When you arrive you will be welcomed by a member of our South African staff who will take you to your accommodation and introduce you to everyone. During your first few days you'll be given an induction so that you can



learn about the country and its culture, as well as other useful information, like how to use the transport system, banks, safety issues, tipping, and lots more.

You will have weekends free and this will also allow some time for travelling and sight seeing.

THINGS TO DO IN SOUTH AFRICA

LOCATION, EXPLORING AND SIGHTSEEING:

The best advice you'll get from us is to try to see some of the country while you're in South Africa. It's big (huge!) and each different region is exciting and very, very beautiful. **Cape Town** is probably the most beautiful city in the world (I can say that, I grew up there :-). **KwaZulu-Natal** comes a very close second, albeit very different. **Knysna** is where South Africans go on holiday, which gives you some idea of how lovely the region is.

ACTIVITIES IN CAPE TOWN

Adrenaline Activities - Enjoy exciting and "real" adventures with an adrenaline twist!

- Abseiling
 - Sandboarding
 - Deep-sea Angling
 - 'Kloofing' (insanely jumping off very high cliffs into pools of water!)
 - Paragliding
 - Helicopter flips
 - Bungee jumping (just up the coast)
 -and a LOT, LOT more!!!!
- ❖ Township Tours - A visit to one of the many townships surrounding the city is an experience that will open your eyes to the way in which the biggest portion of Cape Town's population are living. Take a township tour of Langa, the oldest township in South Africa or Khayelitsha, the second largest township in South Africa. Township tours will usually be co-led by a resident in the area, showcase local industry and community projects and include a visit to a township bar or 'shebeen'.
 - ❖ Two Oceans Aquarium - Located in the V&A Waterfront, the Two Oceans Aquarium has lots of display tanks, interactive experiences, a touch pool and the highly popular predators' tank.
 - ❖ Cape Winelands - Wine lover or not, a visit to the Cape Winelands is an absolute must as the region is one of breathtaking beauty and majestic mountain backdrops.



HOW TO BOOK

TWO EASY WAYS ...

Complete a [booking form](#) online.

Telephone
01903 502595 (UK)
or
1-603-574-4935 (USA)



THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN OUR PROGRAMME!

We hope you'll join us!

Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

We're happy to help you plan your exciting adventure!

www.travellersworldwide.com | www.travelersworldwide.org