



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

# SOUTH AFRICA



## STREET KIDS: SOCIAL WORK AND CARE WITH CHILDREN IN KNYSNA

Work at a Youth Development Centre in a township on the outskirts of the beach resort of Knysna, helping out with anything from basic schooling, such as reading or writing, to community projects, job skills and life skills lessons.

You'll help to provide a caring environment where guidance and assessment is offered to children living on the streets and children at risk.

The purpose is to prepare youngsters to re-enter mainstream schooling and domestic home life again and to give them the skills that will enable them to become a fully functioning, employable member of society.

***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!**

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**Prices:** From £795 excluding flights.

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

**Duration:** From 1 week to 12 weeks or longer, subject to visa requirements

**Start Dates:** All year round - you choose your start and finish dates. *This project is not available between 15th December and 15th January.*

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

**What's Included:**

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

**What Not Included:** Flights, Insurance, Cost of Visas (if a visa is required), Return transfer to airport.

## SUMMARY

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### WORK CONTENT

#### THE CARE PROJECT:

You'll work closely with the children at the Centre helping out in any area you might be needed. The school term programs are run with a more educational aspect, focusing on life and job skills. The whole purpose of the various programs run by the Centre is to get them ready to be taken back into the mainstream schooling and domestic home life again, if it is at all possible. Some of the youth though have been out of school for so long that the chances of them finishing their school education are very bleak. It is for this reason that it is important for them to still keep up numeracy and literacy classes.

The programmes are all presented in a fun, experimental manner with an outcome based learning environment. There are also arts and crafts programmes, computer classes, sewing and baking as part of the weekly schedule, as well as sport coaching in soccer.

#### THE ADP PROGRAMME:

ARE YOU STUDYING OR QUALIFIED IN PSYCHOLOGY, COUNSELLING OR SOCIAL WORK?

If yes, you'll be very interested in the Adolescent Development Programme (ADP) which the organisation is currently focusing on. . The ADP programs tackle subjects like self-image, anger management, peer group pressure, substance abuse and other similar topics. If you have any specialised skills, you may also be able to assist with training staff who lack training in your specialist area. For example, a current volunteer is a qualified Psychiatric Nurse who specialises in the early detection of mental disorders and he is assisting in training the staff in this area. And you may be able to contribute new ideas and ways to develop the ADP Program. Contributions like this are of enormous benefit to the organisation and the community!

In the school holidays the Centre caters for local children from the immediate community and run a holiday program. The holiday program is more fun based and can take the form of talent shows, art lessons, sports days and movie days. During the school holidays the Centre does not focus on numeracy and literacy as they let the permanent youth that attend the Centre also have a holiday from school work.

The Centre is fairly laid back, because the youngsters are there out of choice. They are quite a lively bunch but love interaction with our volunteers and it is very easy for volunteers to develop a strong connection with the youth. The centre has a very warm, friendly feel with the fulltime staff immediately making you feel like part of the family.



The best way to describe this project is to let one of our previous volunteers tell you about it in her own words. Joanne Pogorelsky volunteered at this Centre in Knysna, and this is how she describes a typical day on her project (but please note that this is one volunteer's experience and your experience may vary according to current circumstances:

*"The day for me started with a 7:10 pickup and drive in the Travellers bus to Percy Mdala where I waited for the Centre to open. I walked over the Centre at about 8am. I used this time to get updated from staff on anything that may have happened after I had left the day before or prepare and plan an appropriate activity for the day or week.*

*The kids would arrive by foot or be collected in the Centre van by the driver. Theoretically the day has a plan and overall structure but in true African style, this was flexible and at times overlooked.*

*In theory the day would look something like: Arrive, wash/shower, devotion, eat, activity (skills based), free time, activity, eat, and free time, sport or cooking/cleaning. The activities included beadwork, card making, adult education classes around numeracy and literacy, sports, gardening, cooking, religious teachings etc.*

*My favourite time was devotion where seemingly unruly, non-cooperative difficult to engage children became respectful, took their hats or head coverings off (which usually would never happen), closed their eyes and pronounced every word in Xhosa, Afrikaans or English. Often they would sing, naturally harmonize, dance and or play the drums during this time and you could feel the energy of these children as if it were tangible. My fondest memories are of the pure devotion sessions where the children appeared to lose their attitude and bravado and enjoy themselves.*

*I would leave at 2:00, being picked up by the bus again, but the Centre went on for another couple of hours. Then of course, its home to bed, it's an early start in the morning if you want to get in the shower before school.....*

*I saw my role as to assist, educate and empower the staff to care for the children and thus empower the young people to want to improve their situation and future, and it was extremely satisfying to be an integral part of this."*

## **EXTRA ACTIVITIES YOU MAY BE ABLE TO INCORPORATE INTO YOUR PROJECT**

You may also have the opportunity to provide help and support to the local community through the various afternoon activities we have to offer. This is an excellent way to immerse yourself in the African culture, but most importantly to give a caring hand to the local community. The activities could range from helping out at:

- **The Safe House:** Make the afternoons fun and exciting for these lovely children by playing games, helping them with homework and just being there to give them the attention that they so appreciate.
- **After-school drama or sports** - Take some time out after school to set up after school sports or drama clubs, the children love it and it's a great way to get to know them better in a relaxed and fun environment. If you'd like to set up a drama or sports club, please let us know when you apply so that we can arrange it with the school before you arrive.)
- **Other community projects** - Past volunteers have helped to paint the outside of a crèche that was in desperate need of a lift. The crèche is now looking very cheerful with brightly coloured walls. A jungle gym was donated to this orphanage and volunteers also helped to put it together for the crèche too! There may be other similar projects available at the time you're there that you might want to participate in.
- **Township soup kitchen:** On days that your school roster might allow you to finish a little early, our volunteers sometimes help at a local township soup kitchen

***"Not a single day has passed that I haven't thought about the centre and wished I was still there. It has been impossible for me to describe my time there because it was absolutely indescribable in every way."***

**Gina Rizzo Bishop**



*“A real experience of a life time to remember for ever! My experience in Knysna is definitely not one I’m going to forget in a hurry it will be with me for ever! I met a lot of amazing people who I will never forget!” Zoey Marshall*

## ACCOMMODATION

### THE VOLUNTEER HOUSE:

The volunteer house in Knysna is within walking distance of the town, yet set against a natural green belt. The bird life is prolific and often the local Vervet monkey troop comes to visit to entertain the volunteers with their antics. The sunset views from the top balcony of the volunteer house of the Knysna lagoon are beautiful and great way to relax after a day working at your placement or to catch up on your tan in the summer. See photo on right-hand side.

The house is large and spacious and also has a self-contained flat downstairs for couples and families. y volunteer placements. The bedding in the two same sex dorms and the towels in their ensuite bathrooms are changed regularly every Friday by our much loved cleaner, pretty, and there is plenty of cupboard space to store your clothing.

Facilities include a kitchen kitted out for cooking, dining area, a few bathrooms, TV, DVD player, free Wi-Fi, garden and several wooden verandas.

There is an outside courtyard and garden in the secure grounds where you can have a typical South African barbeque known there as a ‘braai’. Make sure you try the local spicy sausage known as ‘boerewors’ and the Karoo lamb chops are to die for on a ‘braai’, but if fish is more your thing, a fish ‘braai’ with South African ‘snoek’ is a must.



### FOOD:

You'll be given a food budget which will cover your basic essentials (but not extras like alcohol, snacks and eating out). The kitchen has all the cooking amenities that you might need to take advantage of preparing meals with some of the great seafood, meat, fresh fruit and vegetables South Africa has to offer.

There are supermarkets and local shops where you'll do your food shopping.

There are plenty of excellent restaurants within walking distance that offer the most incredible local and international cuisine which our volunteers rave about. Knysna is also famous for its oysters and even has an annual Oyster Festival where everyone eats and drinks far too much!

The waterfront and marine is beautiful and full of restaurants and cafes with cuisine that ranges from breakfast, coffees, cakes and snacks, through to sumptuous meals and various different nationality menus.



## 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](mailto: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.

# 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. When you lie on the beach and watch dolphins jumping the waves, you'll think you're in Paradise.

## LOCATION:

Knysna is approximately 500km from the beautiful capital city of Cape Town and voted South Africa's favourite town 4 years in a row! Its mountainous backdrop, impressively sized estuary and indigenous forests really give the town a natural feel to it. Although it still has that 'small-town' feel, Knysna is growing rapidly, and has all the amenities you could ask for such as banks, hotels, internet cafés, cinemas and shopping malls.

About 20-30 minutes' drive away from Knysna you'll find Plettenberg Bay (better known simply as Plett), which is a bit smaller than Knysna, but equally stunning. Its' pure white beaches stretch as far as the eye can see and there is a lot to do, from whale and dolphin watching, to hiking trails and awesome nightlife.

The Garden Route is famous for all sorts of activities from adrenalin sports such as bungee jumping, skydiving and shark cage diving to more relaxed pursuits such as hiking, quad biking in the forest or visiting one of the many animal sanctuaries in the area. Your local Travellers liaison will be happy to assist you in finding interesting things to do and places to see so make the most of it!

Knysna nestles on the banks of a beautiful lagoon in the heart of the 'Garden Route' of South Africa. It is surrounded by a natural paradise of lush indigenous forests, tranquil lakes and golden beaches, making it a real natural wonderland. Knysna is a vibrant town, buzzing with creativity and energy, and the pulse of good music. It's a place where you can enjoy the mellow atmosphere of street cafes, watching the world go by. The main street is very leafy with trees along the pavements and it has a wonderful holiday atmosphere with sun umbrellas everywhere.

Most cafes have outdoors seating areas overlooking the street or on the pavements, with colourful sun umbrellas - a perfect place to sit with the sun on your face, watching passers-by ambling along, sipping a steamy cappuccino or staving off the heat with a cold drink.



## 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!**

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