



Wild Coast Schools Project

Project Description



On the Wild Coast of the former Transkei Homeland, volunteers will play a significant role in one of two increasingly important educational programs within the Eastern Cape in South Africa, namely Computer Literacy Skills and Sports development.

With all transfers, meals and accommodation set amongst a lagoon dune forest, this project combines cultural and adventurous elements to provide volunteers with a unique and unforgettable South African experience...

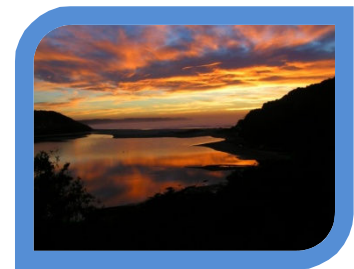
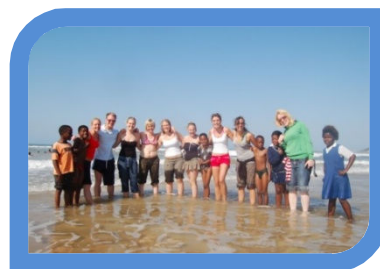
Situated between Durban and East London on the east coast of South Africa, the Wild Coast region forms the coastal belt to the former

Transkei homeland. Under the National Party's apartheid government, initiated from the early 1950's – 1994, a segregated society, based on race, was the system of rule. The homeland states were initiated by the government to ensure control over the movement of non-white South Africans and assist with the monopolisation of the economic sector to the white population. Homelands, such as the former Transkei, remained deliberately under-developed regions in which the dominant white economic sector could draw on a consistent labour pool who were largely denied access to equal opportunities within society and were therefore unable to challenge the monopoly at an academic and economic level.

The region today remains for the most part an un-developed, rural enclave within the greater South Africa. Access to effective education, resources and equal opportunities are leading challenges facing the communities of the Wild Coast. The Wild Coast, with its strong amaXhosa culture, vibrant population and environmental significance, is a destination of recognised developmental importance in the newly established democratic South Africa.

The project's main objectives are to:

- Equip rural and peri-urban schools with networked computer labs (a multi-phase project)
- Continue development of appropriate teaching aids and support structures for both teachers and learners
- Teach basic computer skills in a classroom environment
- Develop sport projects at selected schools
- Environmental and aesthetic upliftment of schools



Project Description – continued...

Computer Literacy

The peri-urban and rural schools of South Africa have found themselves in the restrictive scenario of “equal education” policies in a country consisting of vastly different levels of development. One of the major areas to be overlooked within the education system is that relating to the technology fields. Computer Literacy, considered in today’s developed societies as a basic human right, is only in its infancy in the Wild Coast region.

In the few schools that have electricity, very few have computers, and those that have computers have been left to develop in a vacuum with inappropriate and non-existent support structures for the maximising of the resource potential they have. The project is committed to supplying schools with computers and putting into place the necessary training and continued support for these schools to allow them to produce competitive learners for the demanding technological world of adulthood.

Interactive Sports Development



The sport’s initiative is an exciting drive to introduce and develop on-going growth and appreciation in the sporting arena in socio-economically challenged areas of the Wild Coast. For the most part, schools lack the resources and the capacity to provide effective sports opportunities for their learners.

The program strives to create a formal sporting framework where new sport’s disciplines, teamwork and the understanding of sport etiquette are developed. In a country such as South Africa, sport is able to encourage not only a healthy lifestyle, but also develop necessary social skills and peer understanding that is essential to the stability and well being of our society.

Volunteer efforts will be focussed on a number of local Xhosa rural schools, some of which are described below:

Bulugha Farm School – Primary Grades 1 – 7

This wonderful school is home to over 200 pupils, the majority of whom have to travel many miles to attend lessons each day. The staff and children at Bulugha are incredibly warm and welcoming, and very excited about this project. Each of the schools’ three classrooms hold pupils from two different grades at any one time, with one teacher giving different lessons to two groups at the same time.

The school borders a game reserve so it is not unusual for pupils to see giraffes, zebra and other wildlife during their school day. Along with computer literacy, volunteers can also assist with the schools feeding scheme, which ensures that all learners have something to eat at lunchtime. Bulugha also has a garden, which is incorporated into environmental education lessons, and provides some food for the kitchen.

Chintsa East Primary School

In the fast growing township of Chintsa East a community school is being transformed by the help of volunteers. In 2007 Volunteer Africa assisted the school to convert a classroom into a fully functioning computer lab; improving the future prospects of the learners through computer literacy. Come and see for yourself the work carried out by volunteers, including the feeding scheme eating area, life giving rain water collection system and rugged play ground equipment. Also experience life in a real African township where the school staff are welcoming, the learners are adorable and every volunteer warms to the amazing Nokuphumla, the Grade R teacher.

Ngxingxolo Primary School

At the start of the post-apartheid era the community’s school was built brightening the future for the whole village, by contrast Ngxingxolo is a beautiful old rural amaXhosa village still following the traditional ways. Since 2008 Ngxingxolo (each of the ‘x’ is said as a click) is proud that it is the first school in the area to have a computer lab and receives the support of international volunteers to teach computer literacy. Mama Tofu, a ‘local hero’ just turned 90 years, will tell you about her struggle to get a school in the village and now how excited she is that future generations are learning amazing new things because of computers. It is easy to fall in love with this idyllic rural settlement and never want to leave.

Environmental Education Action Projects

When capacity allows, volunteers always want to be involved with initiatives improving the local environment in which we live and work. Projects have included creating a mini-wetland, building outdoor play equipment for children, working in the school gardens and Project Clean-up.

Who can apply?

This project is open to all applicants aged between 18 and 45 years old on arrival.

A good understanding of English is required.

Volunteers should have appropriate computer skills (basic word-processing, spreadsheets etc) and it would be of benefit to have some volunteers with a background or interest in education.

Volunteers should have a reasonable level of fitness and an interest in sports..

How long can I stay?

Placements are scheduled throughout the year to coincide with the South African school timetable, with a minimum stay of 2 weeks - you can stay on this project for a maximum of 6 weeks; please refer to our web site for available dates and durations.

If you wish to stay in South Africa for longer than 90 days, be sure to check out the FAQ section of our web site for information on obtaining Visa's or extending your 90-day Visitor's Permit.

Where is the Wild Coast Schools project and how do I get there?

The Wild Coast Schools project is located close to South Africa's Indian Ocean coastline (the Wild Coast) near the village of Cintsa in the Eastern Cape.

Getting there...

You should aim to arrive at East London Airport on your chosen start date (always a Sunday).

Good value domestic flights can be booked for connecting to East London from Johannesburg or Cape Town. Please let us know if you would like us to book these for you.

A member of the project team will be there to welcome you when you land at East London Airport.

If you are adding the optional Cape Town Week...

You should aim to arrive in Cape Town on the Monday before your chosen start date.

- When you arrive in Cape Town, a member of the AVIVA team will be there to welcome you at the airport and escort you to AVIVA House.
- After your week in Cape Town, we will fly you to East London to join the Wild Coast Schools – the cost of your return flight to East London is included with your Cape Town Week.

When you book a placement using our simple online booking form, we will email you your AVIVA username and password. This will allow you to login to your personalised 'MyTrip' page on our web site and check your full itinerary, which includes recommend arrival and departure dates.



Working routine...

Normal school routines will be followed so your weekends and evenings will be free for other activities. All transport is provided to escort you to and from the schools.

Food and accommodation facilities...



You will be accommodated in shared accommodation (two to five to a room) in cottages in the village of Chintsa East. The cottages are within two minutes of the beach and lagoon, and are complete with toilet and shower facilities. Bedding and linen is provided.

All your meals are provided. The cottages are equipped for breakfasts on a 'help yourself' basis. A variety of foods are available for volunteers to make packed lunches and dinners are cooked by our staff.

You will also have free access to canoes, boogie boards and beach accessories. Surfboards and wet suits are also available for hire (at very good rates).

The bird life is plentiful and there are a number of beautiful forest and coastal walks in the area. Buccaneers also offer horse rides on the beach, surf lessons and sunset river cruises and their famous themed dinners during the week (Mexican, Indian and traditional Xhosa meals!).

In Chintsa East village you will find a number of small stores and where you can purchase personal items, extra food, drinks and so on.

Along with support from the on-site team you will also have access to the following facilities at their Buccaneers HQ:

- 24 hr personalised contact person available
- Internet, Fax, phone and post facilities (reduced rates for volunteers)
- DSTV (Satellite TV)
- A safe for storing valuables, passports, flight tickets etc.
- A travel centre
- Bar and lounge facilities
- Laundry service (free on Sundays, R30 every other day)

The Wild Coast in context...

Situated between Durban and East London on the east coast of South Africa, the Wild Coast region forms the coastal belt to the former Transkei homeland. Under the National Party's apartheid government, initiated from the early 1950's – 1994, a segregated society, based on race, was the system of rule. The homeland states were initiated by the government to ensure control over the movement of non-white South Africans and assist with the monopolisation of the economic sector to the white population.

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Weather...

The summer season covers October to the end of April when the sun is particularly intense, and the air hot and humid (especially December through February). The average summer temperature is 26°C.

A mild winter begins in May and ends in September. Although the days are generally sunny, the nights and early mornings can be chilly so long sleeve tops and your AVIVA fleece will come in handy then. The average winter temperature is 17°C.

Health...

Although no compulsory inoculations are required for travel to South Africa, we do advise that you ensure your Polio and Tetanus vaccinations are in date prior to arrival. Please note: a Rabies vaccination is not required.

You must also ensure that you have adequate medical/travel insurance for the duration of your stay in South Africa, see the FAQ page on our web site for more details.

Consult your doctor before volunteering if you are pregnant or on medication.

The Wild Coast is a non-malarial area.



Packing for your trip...

Your clothing should be easy to wash and dry and should preferably not need ironing. Avoid synthetics, which can be very uncomfortable in hot weather.

Take a set of casual but smart clothes for the occasional evening out in a restaurant or pub.

Hiking boots and trainers will also be very useful.

For the winter months you are advised to bring some warm clothes as the early mornings and late evenings can be very cold!

Sunscreen is an absolute must, along with a hat and UV protected sunglasses.

If packing a sleeping bag is difficult, these can be purchased in Cape Town before you join your project. Prices for a standard sleeping bag range from R150-R500 depending on how much insulation you prefer.

Hand Baggage: (Normal limit 5-7kg depending on airline)

Passport
Visa (if required)
Tickets
Insurance Policy
Mobile Phone
AVIVA Contact Numbers
Wallet/Purse
Approx R500 in cash for initial spending money
ATM & Credit Cards (Don't forget your PIN's)
Photo ID Driving Licence (if you plan to hire a car at any time)
Toiletries/Make-up
Medicine (if required)
Book/Magazine for the flight
Camera, Film/Card, Batteries
Binoculars – plenty of bird & monkey life in the area, as well as opportunities for whale & dolphin spotting.
ipod / mp3 player – don't forget your charger
UV Filter Sunglasses if you wear glasses or contact lenses, be sure to bring an extra pair!
Student ID Card (student discounts are available on a variety of attractions in Cape Town)

Suitcase: (Normal limit 20-64kg depending on airline)

Casual / sports trouser bottoms / Jeans
Shorts / Skirts / Beach-shorts / Bikini
Blouse / Shirts / Polo / T-Shirts
Sweater
Jacket – Preferably windproof/waterproof
Trainers / Walking shoes / boots / Beach Sandals / Flip flops
Sun hat with a wide brim
Underwear
Sunscreen
Electric Razor/Hairdryer
Washing Gear & Toiletry bag, Toothbrush & Paste
Towels
Books for 'relaxing' during free time
Comfortable old clothes for use during project time
Sleeping bag for overnight rural village visit and adhoc camping trips
A torch/head torch

'Cape Town Week' accommodation...



If you are adding the optional Cape Town Week, you will spend the week in one of our volunteer lodges, which both provide a safe, secure home from home for volunteers who are working at local projects or taking time-out from projects further afield to explore Cape Town and the Western Cape.

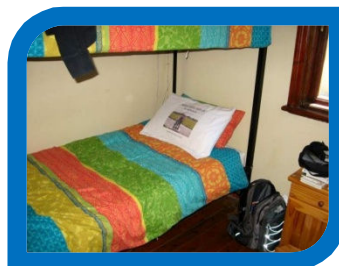
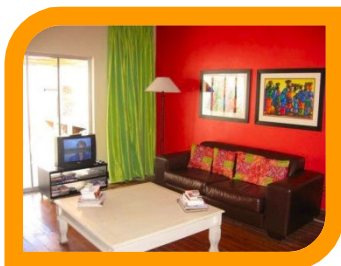
We have two volunteer lodges in Cape Town, one in the suburb of Observatory, and the other close to AVIVA Head Office in the suburb of Table View.

Both lodges are close to main bus routes and good value taxi services are available for access to the centre of Cape Town and the rest of the Western Cape.

Close by you will find a wide range of shops and restaurants.

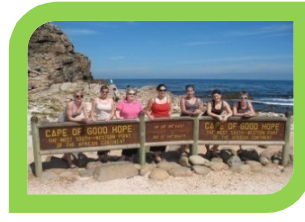
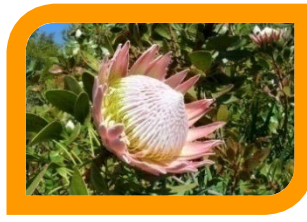
Each house is comfortably furnished with all the facilities you might expect to help make your stay as enjoyable as possible.

- A full-time Volunteer Coordinator (Mon-Fri 8am-5pm), who is also available for emergencies during evenings, weekends and Public Holidays.
- Separate Male and Female dormitory accommodation - spacious with good quality mattresses, bedding and linen provided.
- Full kitchen facilities - Oven, fridges, microwave, toaster, kettle and everything you need for preparing great South African food!
- A selection of cereals, yoghurts, milk, bread, margarine, tea, coffee, sugar etc are provided for you to create your own breakfast every day.
- A telephone for incoming calls.
- Comfortable lounge with a Hi-Fi, Satellite TV and DVD.
- A lockable cupboard for your valuables and groceries.
- Showers and toilet facilities.
- Premises are cleaned and inspected daily (Mon-Fri)
- A private garden for entertainment/relaxation complete with breakfast tables, a built in braai (A South African style bbq) and at the Table View House, a large pool.
- Both AVIVA Houses are Wi-Fi Hotspots and each has a computer for you to access the Internet. You can purchase Internet credits at a cost of 45 cents per Megabyte using your credit card (minimum R30 purchase). This is much cheaper, and more convenient than going to a local Internet cafe!
- Extra storage cupboards for luggage and personal items.
- Each AVIVA House is safe and secure with electrical fencing and a magnetic lock on the entrance gate.
- You will be issued with a coded magnet key to allow you to come and go 24 hours a day.



Your Wild Coast Schools Project includes...

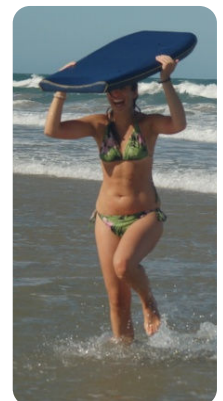
- East London Airport collection and drop-off.
- A comprehensive welcome brief from a member of the on-site team.
- Accommodation in a cottage close to a lagoon bordering the Indian Ocean.
- All your meals during your project.
- Transfers to and from the rural schools.
- Advice and support from our experienced team during your stay.
- Our booking service for all attractions and events.
- An attractive certificate recognising your contribution to the Wild Coast Schools project.



If you would like to spend some time with us in Cape Town, you have the option of adding a special 'Cape Town Week' to your stay. Everything below is included with the Cape Town Week:

- Cape Town Airport collection and drop-off.
- Return flights between Cape Town and East London.
- A welcome brief from a member of the AVIVA team.
- 7 nights' accommodation at AVIVA House in Cape Town with self-service breakfasts.
- A full-day Peninsula Tour which includes lunch, visits to Hout Bay, Chapman's Peak Drive, Cape Point, Simon's Town, Boulders Beach Penguin Colony and much more. An incredible day rich with history and some of the world's most beautiful scenery.
- A half-day Cultural Tour, a fascinating introduction to South Africa's recent political history before and after Apartheid, includes highlights of Khayelitsha, South Africa's second largest township after Soweto.
- A full-day tour to the beautiful mountains of the Cape Winelands including the Paarl, Franschoek and Stellenbosch regions. Chocolate, Cheese & Wine tastings and lunch are included.
- Our booking service for all attractions and events.
- Advice and support from our experienced team during your stay.

Please note: If you are joining the project via Johannesburg without the Cape Town Week, we can assist you with arranging accommodation, airport transfers and domestic flights before and after your project. Please ask at any time before you arrive and one of our team will be very happy to help.



How do I book a placement?

1 You can make an application using any of the following methods...

- ✓ Apply online using the simple booking form on our web site - www.aviva-sa.com/booking.php
- ✓ Email your requirements to - info@aviva-sa.com
- ✓ Call one of our friendly team during office hours on +27 (0) 21 557 4312
- ✓ Fax your requirements to +27 (0)86 634 2063
- ✓ Chat to us online directly from our web site!

2 We will reply to your application by the next working day...

When you book a placement, we will send you a login username and password which will allow you to access your personalised **MyTrip™** page on our web site. With **MyTrip™** you will be able to:

- ✓ View and check your full itinerary, which includes recommended arrival and departure dates.
- ✓ View useful information relevant to your trip.
- ✓ Approve your quote & make secure payments on line.
- ✓ Update your personal information and travel details (when you have them!).
- ✓ Get useful advice about qualifying for discounts, fundraising and much more...

3 Pay your deposit...

- ✓ When you are happy with everything, you can secure your placement by paying your deposit.
- ✓ The rest of your volunteer fee only needs to reach us 4 weeks or more before you arrive in South Africa.
- ✓ Many volunteers take advantage of this time to raise funds towards their trip with our complimentary Fundraising Pack (available on request to confirmed volunteers).

4 Contact us at any time for help and advice...

- ✓ We guarantee you a prompt response to your enquiries. Our friendly, professional team in Cape Town have a wealth of experience and are on hand to assist you with all aspects of your journey.

Some useful notes about your trip...

- If, when booking your international flights, you find that you can get a cheaper flight that arrives earlier, or leaves later than the dates we recommend, we can arrange extra accommodation for you to match your flight dates. This is often worthwhile, as the cost of extra accommodation can be far outweighed by savings on your flight ticket.
- Please don't worry about what time your flight arrives in South Africa as we can arrange your airport transfer for any time of day. We also monitor expected landing times for inbound flights, so if your flight is early or delayed, we will still be there to welcome you.
- During your stay, we provide all accommodation, airport transfers and project transfers so you won't need to worry about finding your way around a new country.