

VOLUNTEER IN SOUTH AFRICA

"As a field worker assistant, you go around the nearby villages to check in on the sponsored kids, how exciting! Not only did I enjoy getting to see how the villagers live and what kind of lifestyle they have, I was able to ask Erick questions about his life, dreams and other cultural stuff." -Tracy G.



- **Who:** Volunteers over 18, or if younger than 18, with parental consent.
- **When:** Year round. Terms of 1 week to 3 months available.
- **Where:** Projects available in Capetown and East Chintsa.
- **What:** Environmental, Wildlife, Social Welfare, Health/ Medical, and Teaching projects available.
- **How:** First submit your Volunteer Application, interview, then submit payment for the program: starting from \$1250/ \$1580 (2 week term in CapeTown/ East Chintsa).

"Every country in the world displays some diversity, but South Africa, stretching from the hippos in the Limpopo River to the penguins waddling on the Cape, takes some beating. It befits its position at the southern end of the world's most epic continent, with more types of terrain than photographers can shake their zoom lens at." -Lonely Planet

Discover the *Similarities*...Share the *Differences*...



PERKS

Guaranteed volunteer placement.

Pre-arranged housing.

Basic International Traveler's Insurance including Medical.

Meals provided in most placements.

Airport Pick-up and Orientation for most placements.

Full-time English speaking pre-departure and local support from our team of coordinators.



Join Our Community to ask questions:



Read blogs from current participants or email us: info@culturalembrace.com

PROGRAM DETAILS & FAQs

Volunteer in South Africa Offers:

- Unforgettable first-hand experience helping and improving at-need communities
- An opportunity to broaden your perspective and worldview
- An opportunity to participate in and learn local cultural activities (e.g.: sports, music, cooking)
- Memorable travel experiences with the chance to see exotic sites you have always dreamed about
- The ability to make lifelong friends from around the globe
- A valuable volunteer experience that strengthens your resume, exhibiting your diligence, independence, and intercultural experiences
- A great way to develop and support your self-confidence and interpersonal skills



Cultural Embrace Includes:

- ✓ **Guaranteed Volunteer Placement Prior to Departure**
Cultural Embrace pre-arranges your volunteer project before you leave home to ensure an easy and hassle-free transition into your new life abroad
- ✓ **Accommodation and Meals**
Cultural Embrace pre-arranges and includes basic accommodation in lodges, thatched log cabins, bamboo huts, camp sites, apartments, backpacker hostels, or homestays, depending on the volunteer project. Two meals per day are provided at the minimum, and more depending on project.
- ✓ **Visa Assistance**
Please contact the South African Embassy or Consulate in your country to check details, or ask your *CE* coordinator. Please note that any visa fees are the responsibility of the applicant. And, while we can assist you during the process, ultimately it is your responsibility to ensure that you have obtained the appropriate visa for your work experience. *Cultural Embrace* has no control over the visa process and cannot guarantee that your visa application will be accepted.
- ✓ **Arrival Assistance and Orientation**
For most volunteer placements, airport pick-up will be included. In those instances where it is not, *Cultural Embrace* will provide you with detailed public transportation directions, or optional private airport pick-up is available for additional fees. Introduction to the area and the project overview by facilitating team will be provided upon arrival.
- ✓ **International Traveler's Insurance with Basic Major Medical Coverage**
Our policy provides basic medical coverage. Additional policies and premium plans are available at extra cost.

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PROGRAM DETAILS & FAQs CONTINUED

✓ **Cultural Embrace “Culture Kit”**

Before your departure, we will send you a cultural kit that is filled with useful tips, advice, information, and your insurance card to prepare you for your amazing adventure of living and volunteering abroad.

✓ **Full-time Representation**

Cultural Embrace provides English-speaking representation in the United States and South Africa prior to, during, and after your placement.

Requirements:

In order to participate in this volunteer program, *Cultural Embrace* requires that you:



- Be over 18 or able to provide parental or guardian consent
- Be open to foreign cultures and living abroad
- Possess a high level of responsibility
- Be dedicated to the full term of commitment
- Be a team player
- Enjoy providing a service and working with others in a challenging environment

2012 Program Fees:

You can customize the length and activities of your volunteer project. Fees will vary based on each placement. For exact prices and more information, please contact us. Examples of popular volunteer programs include:

T-Teaching/Tutoring
S-Social Welfare

H-Health/Medical
W-Wildlife Conservation

E-Eco/Environment Conservation

Location	Price (in US\$)
East Chintsa	T-\$1580 (2 week minimum) Add'1 wk: \$405
	W-\$1480 (1 week minimum) Add'1 wk: \$475
	S- \$1680 (2 week minimum) Add'1 wk: \$505
Cape Town	T, S, H, E-\$1250 (1 week minimum) Add'1 wk: \$445
	W (Great White Sharks) - \$1500 (1 week minimum) Add'1 wk: \$795

**Please note prices are subject to change according to world currency exchange rates.*

***Prices listed in US Dollars; AUD\$, CAN\$, £,€ accepted*

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Project Descriptions:

East Chintsa

Teach/Tutor/Mentorship

Support children and their families with physical, social, emotional, spiritual, and mental needs. Volunteer activities include working with local crèches (community centers for poor and disadvantaged children aged 2-6 years old) or at six local public schools teaching computer literacy and sports, improving environmental and aesthetic conditions, gardening and environmental education.



The main objective of the computer literacy program is to equalize education standards in rural and urban schools by improving computer literacy and preparing students to enter a demanding technological world. Through sports education, our volunteers also have an opportunity to guide students in developing discipline, teamwork, healthy lifestyle, and sports etiquette. The project's environmental service includes marine and coastal education, water sanitation, and playground development. Volunteers may also choose to focus more on English teaching and work exclusively with preschool children.

Volunteers live in shared accommodation (two or three to a room), with meals included, in beautiful volunteer houses overlooking a beach and lagoon. Canoes and boogie boards are available, and the monkeys tend to visit daily. Breakfasts consist of buffet-style fresh fruit, cereals, tea and coffee. Lunch is usually a self-made sandwich and fruit. Dinners are home-cooked, sit-down meals. Minimum 2 weeks (\$1580) + extra week (\$405); Maximum: 3 months.

Wildlife Project

Work on over 10,000 hectares of conservation area, and explore diverse wildlife and plantlife in inland, coastal, and marine environments. Volunteers will work with local and expert conservationists to tag, do further research, and preserve the wildlife of the area. Work includes tracking and researching the wildlife; and feeding, cleaning, grooming any injured or orphaned animals. Beach and optional recreational activities entertain the volunteers during the weekend.



Volunteers live in spacious permanent tents that sleep up to five and have private decks. There is also a stone and canvas communal entertainment and lounge tent. Three meals a day are provided, with occasional packed lunches for fieldwork.

Volunteers must be between the ages of 18 and 40, as the work is often physical and can involve long days. Minimum 1 week (\$1480) + extra week (\$475); Maximum: 3 months.

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Social Service/Angels' Creche Project

Take the opportunity to work within a local crèche (equivalent to our daycare system) and help support children "the Angels" between the ages of 2-6 years old. Provide support at the play-school. Minimum 2 weeks (\$1680) + extra week (\$505); Maximum: 3 months.

Cape Town

Wildlife Conservation

Participate in wildlife conservation projects to help preserve natural habitats of the local area. Projects include Great White Shark research. Get hands-on experience supporting staff and researchers trying to preserve the Great White Shark population. Includes airport pickup and transfer to Gansbaai with daily breakfasts & lunches. Accommodation and Minimum 1 week (\$1500) + extra week (\$795); Maximum: 3 weeks

Teaching/Social Welfare Development

Work in facilities that help the poor communities of an area. Provide support to orphans and/or at-risk children to learn values and life skills to become self-sufficient and obtain a higher level of education. Sample project: coaching soccer for high-risk youth; tutoring children and serving as mentors at the centers. Includes airport pickup on Thursday and 3 day orientation. Orientation consists of daily breakfasts & lunches, Cape Peninsula tour; volunteer social events. Service projects start on Monday. Minimum 1 week (\$1250) + extra week (\$445); Maximum: 3 months

Health/Medicare

Work in a welfare hospital for children recovering from critical illness. Background in computers, healthcare, and physical motor coordination considered a plus. Includes airport pickup on Thursday and 3 day orientation. Orientation consists of daily breakfasts & lunches, Cape Peninsula tour; volunteer social events. Service projects start on Monday. Minimum 1 week (\$1250) + extra week (\$445); Maximum: 3 months

Eco/Environmental Conservation

Work on an organic farm to help support at-need communities sustain themselves agriculturally and economically. Includes airport pickup on Thursday and 3 day orientation. Orientation consists of daily breakfasts & lunches, Cape Peninsula tour; volunteer social events. Service projects start on Monday. Minimum 1 week (\$1250) + extra week (\$445); Maximum: 3 months



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How to Apply:

1. Obtain the **Volunteer Abroad Application Forms & Procedures** documents in one of two ways:
 - (a) Download the forms from our website at www.culturalembbrace.com
 - (b) Call *Cultural Embrace* at 1-512-469-9089 or Skype: Cultural.Embrace to have the forms mailed to you within 3-4 days.
2. Read the instructions carefully and *complete all forms*.
3. Submit your completed application packet to:

Cultural Embrace
7201 Bill Hughes Road
Austin, TX 78745 USA



Completed packets should include the following:

- Volunteer Program Application
- Signed Volunteer Agreement
- Copy of your passport (information page only)
- University/College transcript
- Copies of diploma or certificates related to field of interest (if applicable)
- Resume/CV in English and English
- Cover Letter in English explaining why you want to volunteer in South Africa
- Two References: preferably professional and/or character references
- Doctor's note verifying that you are in excellent mental and physical health
- Copy of Police Clearance (obtainable from your community's local police station)
- Two 1½" x 2" official passport-size photos, with your name printed on each photo
- One smiling full-length photo of yourself (for local coordinator to identify you)
- US\$250 non-refundable deposit (credited towards your program fee)

Upon receipt of your application, a *Cultural Embrace* coordinator will contact you for a 20-30 minute phone interview. Once we accept you in to our program, you will receive an invoice for the remainder of your program fee. In order for us to contact our local partners to start your placement process, we require at least 50% of your program costs.

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We recommend submitting your application and program fee at least 3-4 months prior to your desired start date in order for us to organize and arrange your volunteer placement.

**Cultural Embrace* requires an expedited application fee for those applying 12 weeks or less before the desired date of departure. Applications received 8-12 weeks prior to desired departure date will be charged \$150. Applications received fewer than 8 weeks before the desired departure date will be charged \$250.



Frequently Asked Questions:

1) *Why should I pay to volunteer abroad, and where does my money go to with Cultural Embrace?*

Cultural Embrace and our local partners in South Africa specialize in arranging a guaranteed volunteer placement, housing and insurance prior to your departure. This will alleviate the troubles and stress of getting everything organized in a new country, so you will have more time and energy to spend on your volunteerism and living abroad. Your time abroad will still be an independent and memorable one, but we are here to guide you to a safe, healthy and comfortable experience before, during, and after your adventure.



You will be assigned an experienced Program Coordinator from our Austin, Texas office. He/She will provide personalized attention to help pre-arrange your volunteer placement, housing and travel needs. Our Program Coordinator will work with our in-country representative to match your requests and background skills with the availability and needs of the local projects. Once you go abroad, you will be assisted by our in-country representative, and will typically have a direct supervisor for your volunteer project, as well.

Fees vary according to project, destination, and length of stay. Most of the costs go toward operational project and field expenses, (ie: housing, food, transportation, supplies, etc) plus the administrative fees to cover office and local support (ie: legal, accounting, insurance, advertising, etc). *Cultural Embrace* does not add on any profits on their volunteer programs

2) *Where can I volunteer in South Africa?*

Volunteer projects are available in East Chintsa and Cape Town. All of the project locations are safe and will have English speaking local assistance from the minute you step out of the airport. There are a variety of projects in each destination, which are listed above; consisting of: teaching/

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tutoring, social welfare, medical/health, wildlife conservation, and environment/ecology.

3) *Where can I live?*

Depending on your destination, you will stay in either a carefully screened and selected host family, or at volunteer housing at or near the project site. Most meals will be included at your volunteer site or with your host family, at least six days of the week. Sundays are typically 'rest' days and most locals attend church, so many volunteers cook their own meals or enjoy a meal in town. There are many cafes and restaurants that serve inexpensive yet clean, safe and delicious meals.



4) *Do I need to get shots before traveling to Africa?*

Cultural Embrace requires a doctor's note for its application process, which would be a good time to talk to your doctor about which immunizations you will need to get before traveling. You should get your immunizations 4-6 weeks before traveling in order for the vaccines to take effect. Check out the Center for Disease Control's website www.cdc.gov for the most current information on travel health.

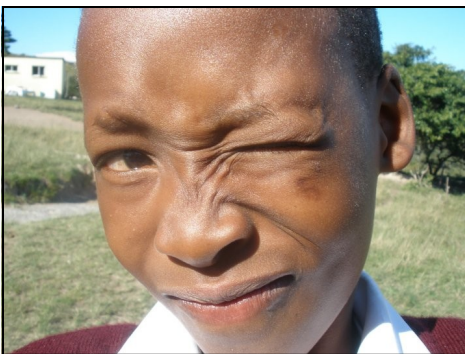
5) *What is the application process like, and when will I have confirmation about my volunteer placement?*

After C.E. receives your completed application, you will be assigned a personal Program Coordinator who will work with you through your departure and beyond. He/She will conduct ~30 phone/web interview (or in person, if applicable) to discuss your background, goals, and expectations of a volunteer placement. Then, you will receive an invoice for the remainder of the program, and once we receive at least half of this fee, we will send your resume/CV to South Africa to find available projects within your interest in South Africa.

6) *How long can I volunteer in South Africa?*

There is a two week minimum, and you may volunteer up to three months

8) *What type of visa assistance does Cultural Embrace provide?*



Visitors can obtain a tourist visa for up to 90 days at the country specific consulate or embassy. Please note that any visa fees are the responsibility of the applicant. And, while we try to assist you during the process, ultimately it is your responsibility to ensure that you have obtained the appropriate visa for your volunteer experience. *Cultural Embrace* has no control over the visa process and cannot guarantee that your visa application will be accepted.

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9) *What should I wear and bring to South Africa?*

Depending on the time of year and location of your placement, you will need to dress accordingly. Close-toed shoes and comfortable clothes are very important. However, we will provide you with more details in your *Cultural Embrace* pre-departure kit about your job and packing list.

10) *Can I volunteer and/or live with a friend or partner?*

Yes, you can enroll in this program with other people, and we can arrange your accommodations together in a double occupancy, or organize single rooms in the same area. Additionally, we encourage you to travel and explore your world with others. This enhances your experience and memories, and you can be rewarded for referring others to travel on a CE program.



11) *How long will it take to make my placement?*

We ask applicants to apply at least 3-4 months in advanced of your desired start date. The placement may take less time than this, but we want to ensure that we have enough time to find a great placement for you! There are additional administrative fees if you apply less than 3 months in advanced, and we do not contact our local partners until we receive at least 50% of the program fee payment.

12) *When should I buy my plane ticket and does **Cultural Embrace** provide any resources to help with plane tickets?*

Plane tickets should not be purchased until after your placement has been confirmed. *Cultural Embrace* works with consolidators and discount travel agencies that can help find cheaper tickets than those that are available to the general public. We also have a partnership with STA Travel (1-877-236-1048) for great student/youth rates, and they have a very nominal service fee if you need to make changes before or during your travel plans.

13) *What do I do if I have a problem or complaint within my volunteer placement?*

You should first speak with your project's supervisor or manager to give them an opportunity to explain or investigate the situation. If the complaint still exists, then please contact your bi-lingual local representative in South Africa, as well as let *Cultural Embrace* (Austin office) know so we may diplomatically mediate on your behalf. Please note that you will be assigned an in-country representative that will assist you with any questions or concerns. We also encourage you to fill out our program evaluations.

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14) *Is there someone I may speak to about their experience on this program, and being abroad?*

Yes, we have a network of current and past travelers that are happy to communicate with you. Due to confidentiality, please contact our Austin office to receive a list of names and contact information of participants and alumni that have agreed to be contacted by others. Additionally, we encourage you to check out, use, and get involved with our social media community. These community sites will provide great insight of what you should expect on your adventure abroad. Plus, we provide additional discounts to our community members!

Facebook Page (<http://www.facebook.com/CulturalEmbraceTravel>)

Twitter (<http://twitter.com/culturalembrace>)

Blog (http://www.culturalembrace.com/log/cat_South-Africa_blogs.html)

Youtube (<http://www.youtube.com/user/CulturalEmbrace1>)

A Few Words. . .

At *Cultural Embrace*, we want to facilitate experiences that, first and foremost, help individuals have a safe and healthy time abroad while becoming better acquainted with both themselves and the richly textured cultures of the world around them. Our partnerships with companies, non-profits, and NGOs grant program participants the opportunity to explore South Africa first-hand while adding valuable content to their resumes. Volunteering in South Africa is, putting it shortly, a tremendously edifying experience that is sure to leave you with lasting memories and a renewed sense of purpose. So do yourself a favor: call *Cultural Embrace* straight away and let us start planning your once-in-a-lifetime international adventure!

For any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@culturalembrace.com or by phone at 1-512-469-9089 or Skype: Cultural.Embrace.



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