

Volunteering

2024

South Africa
Namibia



sikhula sonke
growing together



SATSA
The Voice of Inbound Tourism

WYSE TRAVEL CONFEDERATION



YEAR OUT GROUP

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As with our projects, we are very happy that international volunteers have returned in great numbers in 2022 after the pandemic. The crisis has hit our projects hard and volunteers are needed now more than ever.

For 2023 we have introduced a number of new and exciting projects that provide a unique experience to volunteers and support a good cause. These are, after all, the two main criteria for choosing the projects we support.

As responsible travellers, our volunteers are strongly advised to arrive fully vaccinated and follow all current travel health advice to ensure your own

and others safety. Some of the communities we are working with are vulnerable and deserve special protection.

We have 28 years of experience in bringing young international travellers to South Africa and 14 years of experience in sending volunteers to projects. As a local provider, we pride ourselves on being involved with and knowing all our projects personally.

We look forward to getting to know you and to supporting you through this experience.

Yours sincerely,

Wolfgang Graser

Alexander Kratochwil

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 work at 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 located 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

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 and Namibia. 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.

Our story

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 seeing these organisations thrive with the volunteers but also noticing how the volunteers themselves benefit hugely from the experience.

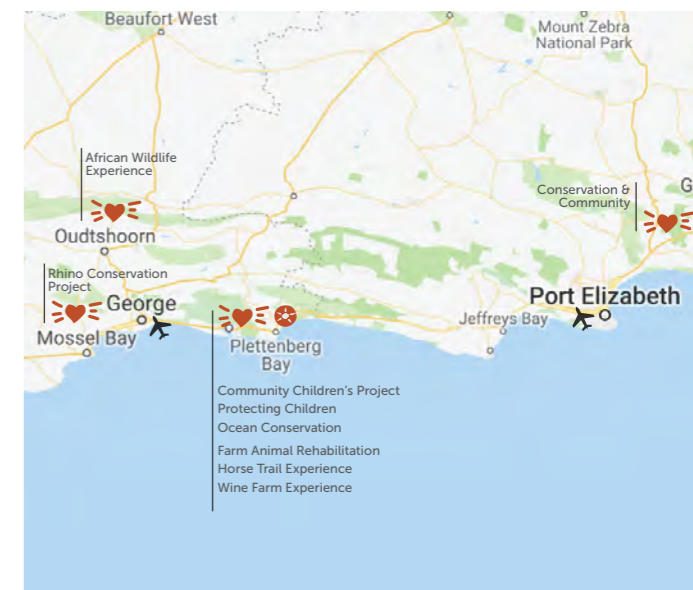
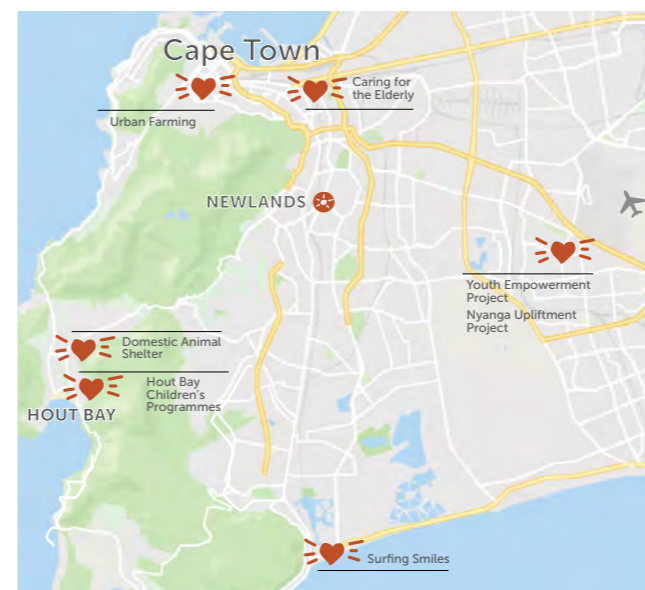
Over the years, we developed Good Hope Volunteers into a larger and more professional organisation. With our passion for communities, animals, and the environment,

we have developed Good Hope Volunteers into a top service provider in this field.

Since the onset of the world-wide COVID-19 pandemic in late 2019, a new challenge to sustainable tourism has been issued, and even more so to our projects. Some of them have had to close due to underfunding or lack of international volunteers.

Today we support around 30 projects in southern Africa. Most of them are able to welcome volunteers again; some are only available to volunteers who are fully vaccinated. 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.

Project locations



Social volunteering



Caring for the Elderly

Cape Town, South Africa
from 18 years from 2 weeks
your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥ all year round

Choose this if you love working with the elderly

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 socioeconomic backgrounds.



Community Children's Project

Near Plettenberg Bay, South Africa
from 18 years 2 - 12 weeks
your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥ Feb - Nov

Child programme on the Garden Route

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.



Hout Bay Children's Programmes

Hout Bay near Cape Town, South Africa
from 18 years from 4 weeks
your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥ Feb - Nov

Combines two projects; well run

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 the children.

Social volunteering



Youth Empowerment Project

Cape Town, South Africa
from 18 years from 2 weeks
your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥ Feb to Oct

Help, where help is most needed

Helps to support and develop emotionally, well rounded children and youths, who are then able to make positive life choices and become contributing members of society. This is done by providing the best children and youth programmes where all can achieve and succeed in life, which encourages everyone to become empowered to make the right life choices and accept accountability for these.



Social & conservation volunteering



Medical Project

Omaheke Region: Epukiro, eastern Namibia
from 18 years 2 - 12 weeks
your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥ mid Jan - mid Dec

Medical volunteering

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. However, having medical experience is by no means a requirement to take part. Anyone is welcome.



Nyanga Upliftment Project

Cape Town, South Africa
from 18 years 2 - 8 weeks
your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥ mid Jan - mid Dec

Township programme

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 there is a great need for volunteering.

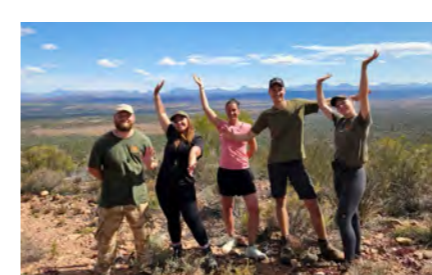


Protecting Children

Plettenberg Bay, South Africa
from 21 years from 2 weeks
your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥ mid Jan - mid Dec

Assist children while enjoying the Garden Route

Caring and loving volunteers help the staff at this unique organisation empower vulnerable children coming from situations of abuse, neglect or exploitation, from the surrounding district. The facility provides temporary statutory residential care for about 30 children, aged between 3 and 18 years, who are all under a child protection order, where 95% of them have developmental deficits and associated behavioural challenges.



African Wildlife Experience

Near Oudtshoorn, South Africa
from 18 years from 2 weeks
your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥ all year round

Conservation of African wildlife

A project that believes in a world where humans and nature can live together in harmony. Volunteers will have the opportunity to work with some of the most amazing wildlife species in Africa such as lions, rhinos, elephants, giraffes, cheetah, meerkats and many other indigenous species. Volunteers live and work on a working game reserve.



Conservation & Community

Paterson, South Africa
from 18 years from 2 weeks
your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥ all year round

Combine social with conservation volunteering

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.



Elephant Conservation

Karas District Helmeringhausen, Namibia
from 18 years from 2 weeks
your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥ Jan to mid Dec

Help to preserve the desert elephants

The sole objective is to conserve Namibia's free-roaming desert elephants and to ensure the safety and security of the communities who live alongside the local elephant herds. Volunteers provide immediate and practical support to communities, whilst learning and benefiting wildlife conservation. A unique and magical back-to-basics experience in the Namib Desert.



Surfing Smiles

Muizenberg, near Cape Town
from 18 years from 4 weeks
your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥ outside school holidays

Help giving kids a brighter future

Aiming to give children from disadvantaged communities the best chance at living life to the fullest. This is done by promoting an active and healthy lifestyle and at the same time underlining the importance of staying in touch with nature. The goal is to allow these children access to sustainable employment after school to truly lift themselves out of poverty and positively impact their communities.



Primary School Project

Closest town: Windhoek, Namibia
from 18 years 4 - 12 weeks
your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥ mid Jan - mid Dec

Primary school teaching

This primary school offers free education to children of the marginalised San Bushmen community, who would not normally receive any form of education. Providing this solid foundation of education means that these students are some of the first in Namibia to enter into mainstream schools.



Urban Farming

Cape Town, South Africa
from 18 years from 2 weeks
your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥ all year round

Farming project in Cape Town

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.



Ocean Conservation

Plettenberg Bay, South Africa
from 18 years from 2 weeks
your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥ mid Jan - mid Nov

Assist with serious research

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.

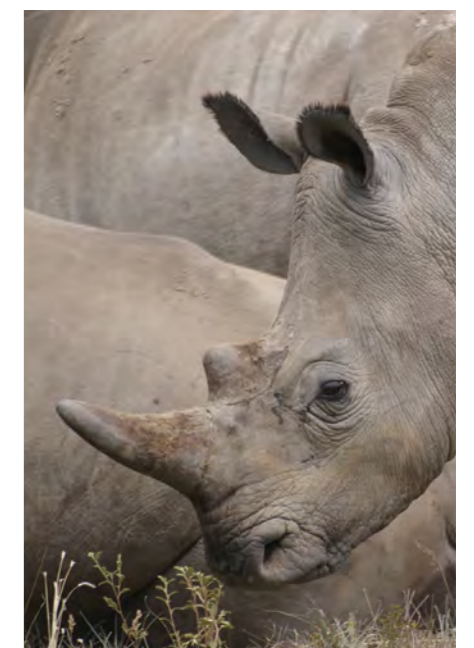


Wildlife Conservation

Closest town: Windhoek, Namibia
from 18 years 2 - 12 weeks
your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥ all year round

Wildlife in Namibia

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.



Conservation volunteering



African Cat Sanctuary

Stanford, South Africa
from 18 years
your impact: ♥♥♥♥

2 - 12 weeks
all year round

Well-managed project

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.



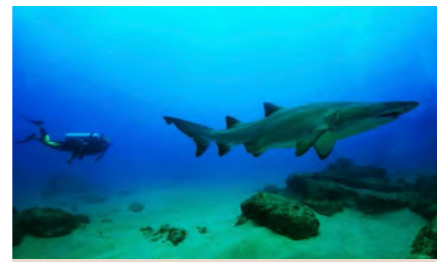
Rhino Conservation Project

Mossel Bay, South Africa
from 18 years
your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

from 2 weeks
mid Jan to mid Dec

Wildlife monitoring and field research

This is a great opportunity to get involved in the conservation of African wildlife and ecosystems. Not only are volunteers directly involved in protecting and studying African wildlife and ecosystems, but they also undergo educational sessions where the focus is on teaching the bigger picture through a better understanding of conservation biology, animal behaviour, animal ethics and tourism, human-animal coexistence, and the many areas of conservation.



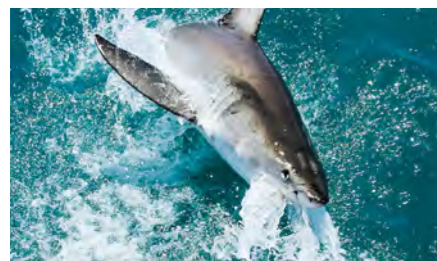
Scuba Diving Conservation

Sodwana Bay, South Africa
from 18 years
your impact: n/a

2 - 12 weeks
Jan - Nov

If you love diving

Those who can't dive will have a dive course first. Volunteers dive every morning during the week, collecting photographic data on turtles, mantas, whales and ragged-tooth sharks. Later in the day the collected data will be entered into a database.



Shark Project

Closest town: Gansbaai, South Africa
from 18 years
your impact: ♥♥♥♥

from 2 weeks
all year round

Observe these fascinating animals

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.



Other categories



Domestic Animal Shelter

Hout Bay near Cape Town, South Africa
from 18 years
your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

from 2 weeks
all year round

For the love of domestic animals

This centre is a pro-life, nonprofit organisation whose core aim is to rescue, rehabilitate, reunite 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.



Ms Megan Burger, Volunteer Manager:

"I believe volunteering embodies the South African philosophy of 'Ubuntu', which translates to 'I am because we are.', with the emphasis on compassion and community.

Volunteering represents the opportunity to contribute positively to society, offering one's time, energy and knowledge to uplift communities in need. Volunteering plays a pivotal role in initiatives addressing challenges like poverty, inequality, as well as animal and environmental conservation.

There is immense potential for Good Hope Volunteers in the coming years. I hope to see an expansion of projects and becoming a leader in sustainable and long-term improvements in the lives of those we commit to, assisting in creating a more empowered and resilient society."



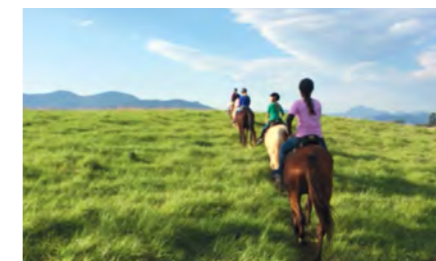
Farm Animal Rehabilitation

Near Plettenberg Bay, South Africa
from 18 years
your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

from 2 weeks
mid Jan - mid Dec

For the love of farm animals

This heartfelt project's mission is to relieve the suffering of overworked and abused carthorse donkeys by providing them with a forever home. The sanctuary is dedicated to the wellbeing of all rural animals, rescued from farms and a life of hardship. Animals at the sanctuary include donkeys, horses, cattle, ostriches and even a domesticated zebra, all rescued from suffering.



Horse Trail Experience

Near Plettenberg Bay, South Africa
from 18 years
your impact: n/a

from 2 weeks
mid Jan - mid Dec

If you love horses

Provide care and assist in the all-round functioning of the stables and outride & polo horse herd based along a 260-ha estate along the beautiful Garden Route. Some are well-experienced trail outride mounts, others are still in training, needing additional attentive care, handling and lunging.



Wine Farm Experience

Near Plettenberg Bay, South Africa
from 18 years
your impact: n/a

2 - 12 weeks
mid Jan - mid Dec

Work on a wine farm

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.

Add-on projects in Namibia

These projects can be added to Wildlife Conservation and Medical Project for a duration of 1 week or longer.

Namib Wilderness Experience

Based in Namibia's south, bordering the Namib Naukluft Park. Home to an array of desert-adapted wildlife, this project encompasses 330 km² of desert scenery in which volunteers assist the onsite team by getting involved in vital conservation activities while enjoying the beautiful surroundings.

Wine & Wildlife Experience

Located at the foot of Namibia's Naukluft Mountains, this project is a desert oasis and also boasts one of the world's driest vineyards. It is a prime conservation site for the monitoring of wildlife species and due to its location this project has evolved to introduce the beautiful landscape into daily adventure activities, combined with data collection in support of conservation monitoring.

Rehabilitated Wildlife Monitoring

Located more in the north, this project comprises 350 km² of prime wildlife habitat. It is home to an array of wildlife species and the main role of this site is to provide a second chance and forever home to a great many rescued and rehabilitated animals. This includes wildlife coming from a variety of human-wildlife conflict cases across the country.

Animal Husbandry Sanctuary

This wildlife sanctuary is located about 30 km away from the Medical Project in the east of Namibia. The sanctuary is almost 50 years old and caring for the many animals will be a wonderful experience for animal lovers. Volunteers at the Medical Project can also choose to spend time here on their weekends.

Coastline Preservation

Located close to the coastal town of Swakopmund on the Namibian coast, this site focuses on beach clean-ups, as well as helping any wildlife in need. It is run by a designated project manager with a passion for and experience in marine biology. Volunteers can also do some adventure activities during their 7 days that will enhance their experience.

Combine volunteering with a language course



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.

If your level of English already meets the minimum criteria, you may want to combine an English language course in the morning with volunteering in the afternoon.

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.

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.



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