

Community Children's Project



Overview

Location	Kurland Village, Plettenberg Bay, South Africa.
Duration	From 2 to 12 weeks.
Dates	from February to end-November.
Capacity	Max. 4 volunteers at one time
Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimum age: 18.• You must have an Upper Intermediate level of English.• Special skills: You need an evident affinity for youth where a smile and patient understanding helps bridge gaps.
Your impact	♥♥♥♥♥
Documents required	Enrolment form, curriculum vitae, letter of motivation, passport copy, proof of medical insurance, police clearance certificate.
Day of arrival	Sunday.
Day of departure	Sunday.



Highlights

- Make a meaningful difference by bringing joy to the lives of adults and young children alike while working with inspirational people from the general community.
- Get acquainted with the local cultures of rurally based Afrikaans and Xhosa speaking people who share English as a common second language.
- Experience the many areas of natural beauty in the immediate Plettenberg Bay region and broader Garden Route district.
- Choose from a long list of outdoor and adventure activities to add to your experience – including the world’s highest bridge bungy, swimming with seals, marine safari’s, river-rafting, sky-diving and many more.
- Enjoy a comfortable, busy yet supportive home-stay environment (with all needed mod-con’s), surrounded by open agricultural pastures and indigenous forests away from the usual routine of urban living.
- Make new friends from all over the world.

Project information

This historically disadvantaged but non-the-less vibrant, multi-cultural rural township community in the greater Plettenberg Bay region, has been supported by this project since the early 2000's. The community was particularly hard hit by the impact of Covid as local business operations cut back on their activity levels and general unemployment soared to worrying new heights. From necessity, much needed feeding schemes were set up to help sustain the hard-pressed community through the very uncertain times. And although the worst of times appear to have passed, the community remains in need of valued support on a variety of fronts while it slowly rebuilds.

Through the Covid cycles and related lockdown levels, school attendance was restricted, and libraries closed - proving particularly detrimental to youth education & development. This now requires some substantial input in fields such as general literacy & numeracy to help make up the glaring gap that developed. To this end regular after-school workshops for different grade levels are being held to encourage learning and other craft or hobby interests.

Despite these massive disruptions, and the personal setbacks experienced by many, the community has been both resilient and innovative methods of sustainment were pursued - vegetable growing, sewing, home and hand crafts etc. Currently there is only ONE community kitchen required, now operating three mornings a week and providing meals for +/- 600 weekly meals for those still reliant on support. Ongoing hands-on support of existing and new vegetable growing projects - whether at individual homes or community allotments - plays a crucial role in lessening dependence on outside sources and welcomes sustained input from the team of locally resident and visiting volunteers.

The learner mentor-centre, based at the primary school in pre-Covid times, received external funding support to relocate to a now dedicated centres within the community. These developments have enabled the continued needed support to village learners who

* attend the local primary school to Grade 7, plus

* those in the senior grades who commute daily to senior schools outside of our immediate area.

The IT based centre provides plenty of scope for volunteers to assist learners of all levels with much needed



development in numeracy, mathematics and the sciences, as well as assist with homework and project research.

The community also has two long-established non-governmental youth-care facilities, one registered for 100 and the other for 60 pre-school children. Both facilities, driven by concerned, passionate individuals who provide basic day care and formative developmental programmes for children aged between 2 and 6 years old, have battled through the Covid pandemic and are operating at vastly reduced capacity levels. Volunteers engaging with the pre-school youth do everything from formal formative level class input, outdoor sport & recreation activities, feeding & cleaning through to the learner rest time after the midday meal.

Participation in their routines of youth development and care activities cannot be taken for granted but will be subject to the applicable access rulings in place at the time.

Under 'normal non-Covid' conditions, the volunteer will have an immediate, hands-on involvement lending support to routine daily activities in the classroom and outdoors, as well as with the daily feeding programme, plus outdoor play and rest periods. You will be encouraged to participate in the activity planning process, making use of available resources and/or those newly acquired. While your volunteer experience could include rotation through two vastly different child development centres, your involvement will make a real and meaningful difference where it is most evident and required – helping prepare the foundation needed by village children for their eventual transition to the more formal public sector education facilities.

The children's home language is mainly either Afrikaans or Xhosa (although there are some other minority languages) but English, as a common second language, is increasingly understood from age 5 years upwards.

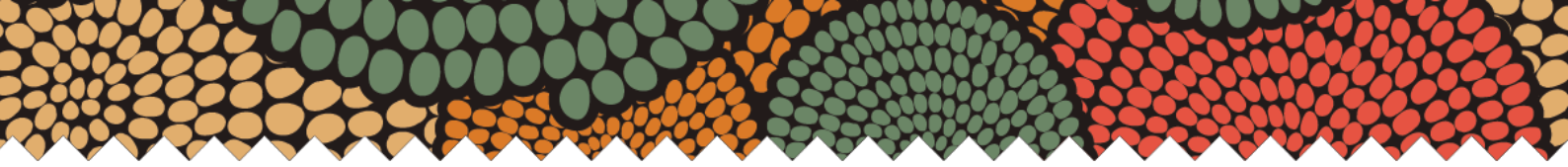
The two pre-schools have received newly erected classroom facilities - the longer established school has a new structure on its existing premises, while the second now has new free-standing units on nearby land dedicated to its future development. Both facilities are thus in need of support to equip and commission these new buildings, as well as develop and maintain the external areas to include grassed recreation areas, gardens, outdoor play equipment. There is thus plenty of scope for hands-on work to include general painting, decorating, and gardening of flowers and vegetables.

Generally, many of the pre-schoolers are collected by their older siblings and taken home after 2pm, which results in low numbers at the pre-school in the early afternoon. Volunteers may remain there until later in the afternoon OR move to the learner centres. Additionally, volunteers get involved with community feeding programmes and then help out on selected youth activities at the community library or sports centre. Involvement in these projects will extend the time in the field to approximately 15:30-16:00.

Programme details

Covid has substantially disrupted what was once taken as 'routine' but also introduced new needs and opportunity to the community. Under existing circumstances, the volunteer routine is widely varied around the pre-school, the community feeding scheme on 3 mornings a week, vegetable growing, facilities upgrades and commissioning plus the school term and holiday activities of the respective mentor-centres. A great degree of flexibility is required.

As the pre-school centres volunteers will again be participating in formative input processes so will be expected to assist with and supervise the children engaged in developmental activities such as joining dots, colouring in, improving manual dexterity by using scissors to cut and paste, building models, learning the alphabet and to count, recognising script, singing, dancing, group activities and outings to the play-park.



You will also assist in meal preparation, meal dispensing and tidying up thereafter, and also maintaining discipline when it's group activities or quiet-time.

You will soon be integrated, become familiar with the routine your knowledge improves, may well be delegated selected responsibilities at times, which you will be required to execute independently.

Your role

A routine programme from Monday to Friday could be as follows:

- 07:00: Breakfast.
- 07:45 – 07:50: Transfer from your accommodation to the project.
- 08:00 – 12:30/13:00: Participation in morning routine activities of the currently operational feeding scheme and mentor-centre, and when Covid regulations permit, the pre-schools according to their programme.
- 12:30 – 14:00: Finalisation and distribution of meals, tidying up and lunch-time break.
- 14:00 – 16:00: Afternoon programme activities (mentor-centre, sport or any other hands-on activities) and then transfer from the project to your accommodation.
- 16:00/16:30 onwards: Leisure time.
- 19:00 – 19:30: Dinner with the team and leisure time.

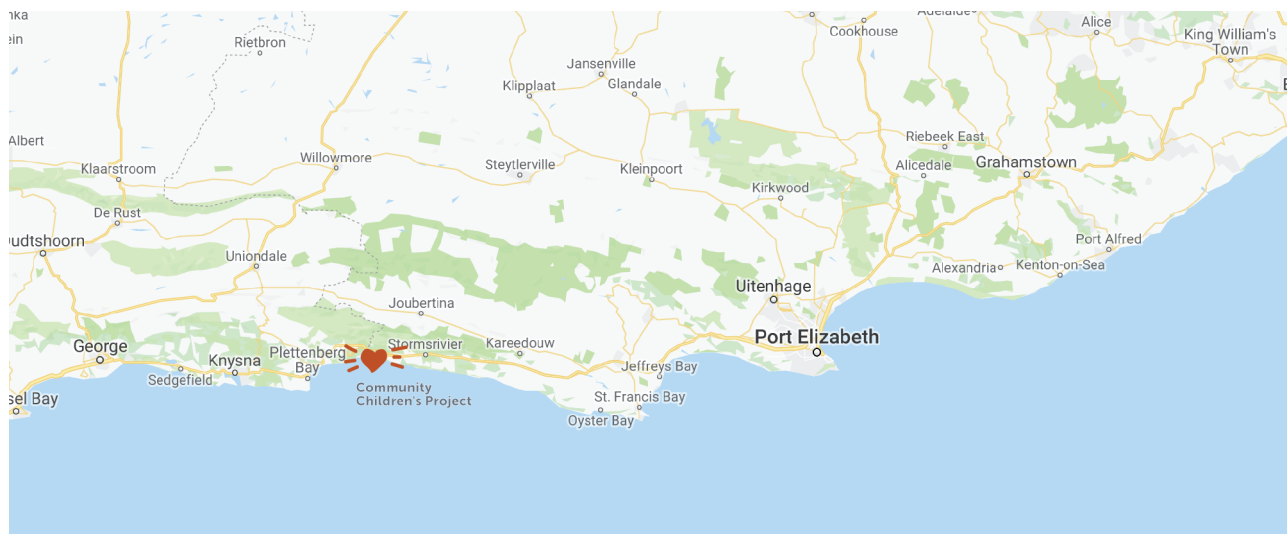
Weekends are usually off.

Any public holidays, whether falling on weekdays or weekends, will follow the Saturday/Sunday routine unless prior arrangements have been mutually agreed for you to participate in activities and take time off during the week in lieu of the weekend or holiday time worked.

It is important to note that this description serves as an example only. The daily tasks and challenges depend on the volunteer, the time of year and the work that needs to be done. The final job description can therefore vary substantially from the above.

This highly varied and flexible project can be emotionally draining. It is important that you are aware of this before applying for this project. We will assist you during your stay to make sure that you are coping with the experience, but you need to be mentally prepared to be open to the challenge.

Project location



The project is situated in Kurland, a rural township about 20 km from Plettenberg Bay.

Getting to and from the project

You need to arrive at George Airport where you will be collected by a dedicated transfer service provided on both your arrival and departure.

Arrival

Airport pick-ups are arranged on Sundays between 8:00 and 17:00.

Departure

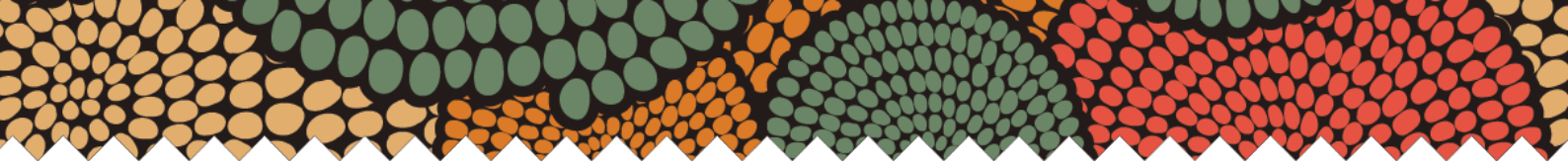
Departure transfers to the airport are also offered on Sundays between 8:00 and 17:00.

Accommodation

You will stay in an established general accommodation venue based in The Crag, a rural suburb of the greater Plettenberg Bay/Bitou Region. The accommodation is set in a 5-hectare small-holding amidst indigenous forest and open grazing pastures and about 25 minutes from the main town of Plettenberg Bay. You are accommodated in fully equipped, shared two-bed rooms, with bedding & towel provided, so will, when required, be sharing with another volunteer of the same gender. There are numerous bathrooms across the property's facilities for communal access and use.

Volunteers have full use of our well-equipped guest kitchen plus the two verandah areas - with large fireplaces - of the main homestead building. It is here that guests and hosts gather for social interaction and where evening meals are served for all to enjoy.

Kindly note that the main homestead is the accommodation base of the family of one of our team members and due to COVID and privacy considerations, is not open to anyone beyond the verandah area. On the grounds is a large group entertainment area complete with an under-cover combination plunge-pool/hot tub (the latter only fired up on request for special occasions), a bar facility (the bar itself is a prop from a period movie filmed in our area) plus an outdoor braai (BBQ) area. We have a tradition of declaring Friday's



“Braaiday” so have regular local residents visiting for sundowners and a braai to mark the end of the week with our team and guests. The property also provides a golf practice putting green and a proper boule/petanque track where guests soon get to know their co-guests.

Free Wi-Fi is available at the main homestead and entertainment areas only. Bedding is changed weekly and you are free to use the washing machine when you wish to launder your clothing, the cost of this being to your own account.

The Crag has two general dealers where daily consumable purchases are made but these are not within comfortable walking distance of the accommodation. Should you require transport to Plettenberg Bay for special shopping purchases, or to other venues for leisure and pleasure activities, please talk with the permanently resident accommodation team who will assist with transport arrangements, which will be at an individual cost.

Meals

Three daily meals are provided. You will make your own breakfast and lunch (continental breakfast; lunch consists of sandwiches which you prepare yourself). For dinner, you will be provided with a hot meal usually taken with all residents at the facility. All meals are eaten in the verandah area or the outside entertainment area when required.

Both vegetarian & vegan options, as well as any special dietary requirements, are available.

Free time

- Friday evenings: Traditionally, a braai (BBQ) takes place on Fridays with the meal served around 20h00. The outdoor hot tub is often fired up for this evening. You are also free to make arrangements to head into Plettenberg Bay if you wish to enjoy the nightlife there.
- Saturdays: Generally, this is a free day so open to individual choice. Please note: shops, but not supermarkets, close at 13.00 on Saturday and Sunday.
- Sundays: As on Saturdays, you can enjoy free time.

The project is situated in an area where the country’s best activities are offered. You are well placed to participate in a variety of fun activities that can be done over weekends and during your free time in nearby areas like The Crag, Nature’s Valley, Plettenberg Bay & Tsitsikamma, and then, should time permit, other areas of our beautiful Garden Route. Within an hour’s drive of your accommodation base you can go bungee jumping, skydiving, whale watching, swimming with seals, adventure boating, kloofing, kayaking, horse-riding, zip-lining, rappelling/abseiling, visit nearby animal sanctuaries and a game-reserve, enjoy local wine estates, restaurants, farm stalls and café’s, plus a long list of highly recommended hikes offering excellent forest, coastal and mountain views, and many more.

To participate in these activities, just speak with the project coordinator or a member of the team at the accommodation and they will assist you with the necessary arrangements.



Local transport

Daily transport to and from the nearby farm is provided.

Transfers to town and/or any selected leisure/pleasure activity venues during your free time can be arranged – with the costs of these services being to your own expense.

What to bring

There are no special requirements in this regard, but we recommend bringing pocket money/credit and debit cards, personal toiletries plus a leisure/beach towels, any prescribed medication, sunscreen, mosquito repellents, travelling and practical working clothes, e.g. full length trousers – jeans or cargo pants, long shorts, t-shirts and secure closed shoes/boots for work, a warm and/or waterproof/windbreaking top or jacket, walking shoes, sandals/slops for after-hours wear, books/laptop, camera, and any items of a personal nature. All these items (and anything else you might need, such as a local SIM card) are readily available locally or in Plettenberg Bay.

Your commitment

Please be aware that in applying for a volunteer project, you are making a firm commitment to the project. Our projects depend on the volunteers. It is necessary that you take this commitment seriously.

Some projects will appoint specific responsibilities to you; others are less structured and require the volunteers to use their initiative. If you prefer the one type over the other, please ask us for the most appropriate project for your preference.

Your daily presence is required and working hours are to be followed strictly. Not fulfilling your obligation can result in your dismissal from the project.

Cell phone use during working hours

We kindly ask that you refrain from using your cell phone during work hours as this will distract you from doing the work at hand. Due to strict privacy laws, taking photographs of people, particularly children, is in most cases prohibited.

We also ask that you consult with the project team onsite to receive guidance and advice on the taking of photographs while at the project. Please ensure you follow this advice as it is for your own safety as well as the safety of the children whom we support with our social projects.



What to wear

You are asked to wear sensible clothing and to be culturally sensitive of the communities you are working with. You are expected to wear modest clothing, which includes jeans, leggings, long shorts and long skirts. Closed shoes are advisable, especially when working outdoors. Underwear is not to be seen under any circumstances.

Not acceptable are low cut tops, short shorts/shirts, bikinis and swimwear, belly tops, shirts/t-shirts with no sleeves for male volunteers as well as flip flops or no shoes.

Please also do not wear any camouflage patterned clothing.

Insurance

Travel insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out full personal insurance cover.

This should include protection against theft and against loss of fees, should the whole or part of a programme or activity or accommodation not be attended.

Medical insurance

You are required to take out medical insurance before travelling.

You must ensure that you are covered from the day of departure in your home country to the day of arrival back in your home country. The minimum coverage must be US\$ 100.000 and, as part of the enrolment process, you will need to email us a copy of your insurance policy documentation.

Safety

HIV, AIDS, TB and other chronic diseases are major public health concerns in South Africa. You should be aware that you are working with children who could be infected or affected by a chronic disease. You are advised to take the necessary precautions.

Your assignment to the project will be during routine operational hours from Monday to Friday, but may, on special occasions, extend to some early evening events such as a talent show, musical, prize-giving etc. During all of these times you will be working alongside full- and part-time members of the organisation and in their company. Please note that you will not be expected nor permitted to leave their company unaccompanied at any stage – even when invited by a third party – unless this is cleared in advance.



Health

No vaccinations are required except for travellers going to the north-eastern areas of South Africa, where anti-malaria precautions are recommended. Clients should consult their doctor for recommendations.

A yellow fever certificate is compulsory for those persons who have travelled from, or intend travelling through, countries in the yellow fever belt:

Africa: Angola, Burundi, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Rwanda, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda.

South America: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guyana, Guyana, Panama, Peru, Surinam, Venezuela, Argentina and Paraguay.

Bring medication just in case you suffer from any travel-related illnesses, e.g. stomach upsets, since your body needs to adjust to the change in food and water during your first few days in South Africa.

Bring medication just in case you suffer from any travel-related illnesses, e.g. stomach upsets, or allergies since your body needs to adjust to the change in food, water and pollen count during your first few days in South Africa.

It is important to keep in mind at all times that HIV and Aids are widespread diseases in South Africa.

The project is situated in a malaria-free area so no anti-malarial drugs are required.

Make sure you are up-to-date on routine vaccines before every trip. We recommend that you make contact with your local vaccination services. The vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine and polio vaccine. In addition, we recommend Hepatitis A, typhoid and rabies. You can get hepatitis B through sexual contact, contaminated needles, and blood products, so this vaccine is recommended if you might get a tattoo or piercing.

Please contact us at Good Hope Volunteers should you have any questions about this.

What's included / not included

Included:

- Project placement
- Airport transfer on arrival and departure (George Airport)
- Accommodation (shared rooms, breakfast, lunch and dinner)
- Daily transport to and from the project
- A donation towards the project
- Good Hope Volunteers welcome pack
- An orientation at the beginning of your volunteering
- Electronic certificate (printed copy on request)
- Local support, including a 24-hour emergency number
- Wi-Fi

Not included:

- Any other transport
- Laundry
- Personal toiletries and towels
- Excursions for leisure & pleasure
- Meals and refreshments on outings

Visa

You can volunteer in South Africa on a visitor's visa for up to 90 days.

Nationals from certain countries (e.g. Brazil, Switzerland, Germany, Australia, France, the Netherlands, Spain) will receive their visa when entering South Africa. Other nationals need to apply for a visitor's visa at a South African Embassy in their home country before travelling.

If you come to South Africa on a visitor's visa, you can extend once by another 90 days.

If you plan to come for more than 90 days, you need to apply for a volunteer visa at a South African Embassy in your home country. Please ask us for the necessary documents for your visa application.

For the latest information contact the South African Embassy or Good Hope Volunteers.