

Volunteering

South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Tanzania, Zanzibar

2025



sikhula sonke
growing together





In 1995, we founded Good Hope Studies as an international language school in Cape Town. The idea was to bring young adults to this exciting and beautiful city and for them to learn about the language and the culture.

In 2009 we started with volunteer projects. As beautiful as Cape Town and the whole of South Africa are, there are nevertheless some communities in need. Even such a long time after the end of apartheid, there is still a great amount of poverty in former disadvantaged areas and communities.

A huge number of NGOs are doing their best to help, but with low budgets, their impact is limited. Local and international volunteers are donating their

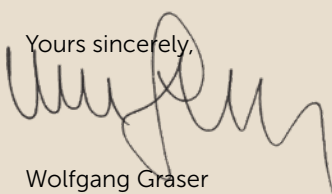
time and know-how to assist these NGOs.

At Good Hope Volunteers we are looking for projects which provide a safe and organized environment for international volunteers to contribute in a meaningful and positive way to local communities and conservation projects.

It is very important to us that both sides benefit equally. Volunteering is about giving and taking. While you give your time and efforts to a project, you also greatly benefit from learning about different cultures and interesting people. Volunteering can only work if people meet on an equal footing.

When booking a volunteer project from Good Hope Volunteers, you can expect to be well informed about the experience upfront, to work at a project that is safe and organized and allows you to make a meaningful contribution.

Allow us to help you find your favourite project and start an experience that can change your life.

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, Namibia and Botswana. 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.

Projects in Cape Town



Caring for the Elderly

Social Project
Availability: from 2 weeks, all year round
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

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.



Domestic Animal Shelter

Animal Project
Availability: from 2 weeks, all year round
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

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.



Healing through Horses

Social Project
Availability: from 3 weeks, mid Jan - mid Dec
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

Serving people and animals

This project helps better the lives of adults and children living with severe intellectual and physical disabilities through therapeutic horse riding and training. Classes aim to promote the social wellbeing and to improve the quality of their participants lives and learning abilities through training, exercise, recreation and rehabilitation. Over 9.500 have benefited since 1973.



Hout Bay Children's Programmes

Social Project
Availability: from 4 weeks, Feb - Nov
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

Combines two projects; exceptionally 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.



Nyanga Upliftment Project

Social Project
Availability: 2 - 8 weeks, mid Jan - mid Dec
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

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.



Rugby and Learning

Social Project
Availability: 2 - 8 weeks, mid Jan - mid Dec
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

Help underprivileged children

The primary aim is to bridge the resource gap between children from lower-income areas, and those from more affluent backgrounds. It provides access to education, sports; especially rugby; literacy, and IT resources, ensuring that challenges the children are faced with, are addressed early on in their lives. This creates opportunities and a safe space to learn, play and grow.



Urban Farming

Social Project
Availability: from 2 weeks, all year round
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

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.

Projects in Cape Town



Women's Refuge

Social Project

Availability: from 2 weeks, Feb to Oct

Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

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.



Mr Ross Muir, Volunteer Manager

Just as volunteers seek experiences that are culturally rich, environmentally sound, sustainable and involve encounters that help and love local people in South Africa, my childhood was a lovely mix of a small local community and the rich expanse of a game reserve. I am genuinely committed to social development and environmental sustainability and found myself volunteering at various NGO projects myself during my well-travelled teenage years. It is thrilling to build strong relationships and partnerships with some of the extraordinary projects and to introduce young volunteers to the richness they have to offer.



Mrs Vuyokazi Currie, Assistant

I care deeply about making life better for everyone in different communities and protecting our natural environment. My heart lies in helping people who face tough challenges in their daily lives, especially young people who need support to reach their dreams. I love working with local groups to create positive change, whether it's helping kids or making sure everyone has a voice in important decisions. Working together with others to solve social and environmental problems brings me joy, and I believe that when we help each other while caring for our planet, we make our communities stronger and better for everyone.



GHV Volunteer House

Volunteers of all projects in Cape Town stay in the GHV Volunteer House. There are single and twin rooms with shared bathrooms, a communal kitchen for self-catering, a lounge area and a garden with a pool.

The GHV Volunteer House is located in a popular student area close to the University of Cape Town. It is close to a large shopping mall, restaurants, pubs, a gym, cinema, banks etc.

Volunteers stay here together and share their experience. The daily transfer to the projects also starts from here.

Once a month, Good Hope Volunteers organises a group activity and volunteers can participate in the activity programme of the language school nearby.

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.

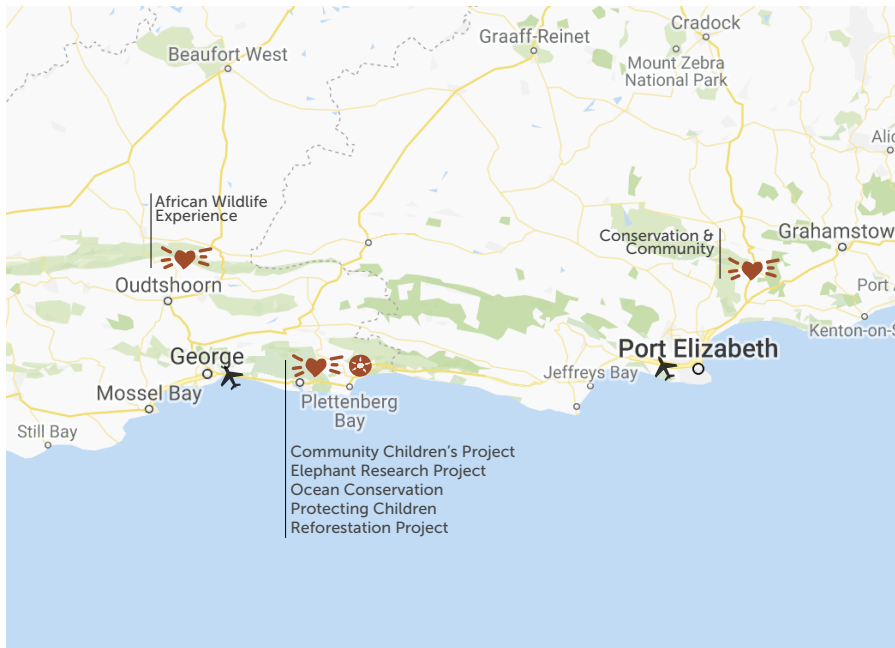
In 2009, we started to supply some of these organisations with international volunteers. What we specifically loved was not only seeing these organisations thrive with the volunteers but also noticing how the volun-

teers 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.

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.

Volunteering along the Garden Route



African Wildlife Experience

Social & Conservation Project
Availability: from 2 weeks, all year round
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

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 and many other indigenous species. Volunteers live and work on a working game reserve.



Conservation & Community

Social & Conservation Project
Availability: from 2 weeks, all year round
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

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.



Community Children's Project

Social Project
Availability: 2 -12 weeks, Feb - Nov
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

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.



Elephant Research Project

Plettenberg Bay, South Africa
Availability: 2 - 12 weeks
your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

Help to research and protect elephants

Volunteers are directly involved in elephant research and aid in providing information that relates directly to the welfare and management of semi-captive elephants. Volunteers learn a significant amount about elephant biology, social dynamics, behaviour, husbandry, welfare as well as how research practices are conducted. They will also most likely have fallen in love with the herd!



Protecting Children

Social Project
Availability: from 2 weeks, mid Jan - mid Dec
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

Assist children while enjoying the Garden Route

Help the staff at this unique organisation empower vulnerable children coming from situations of abuse, neglect or exploitation. 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.



Ocean Conservation

Conservation Project
Availability: from 2 weeks, mid Jan - mid Nov
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

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.



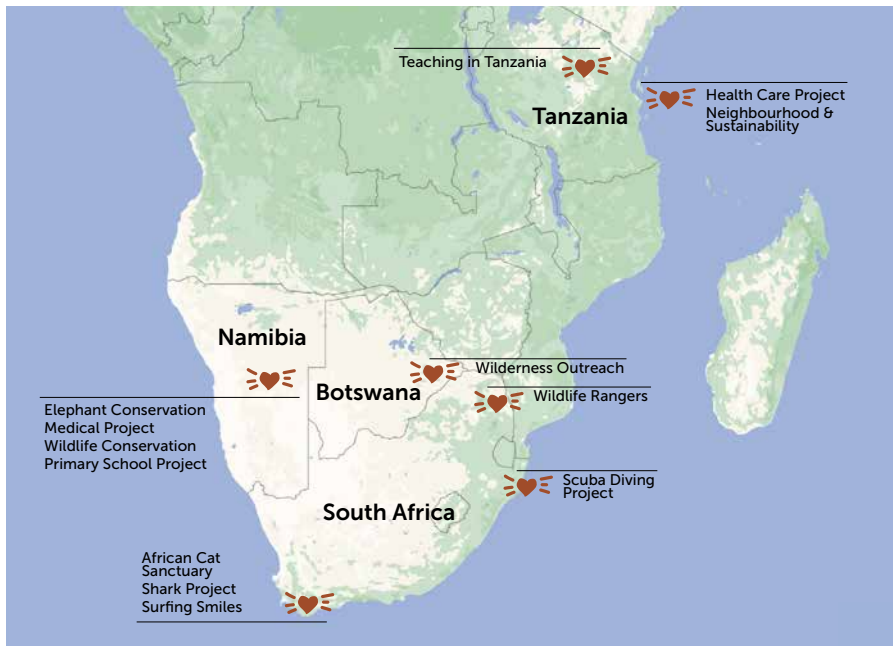
Reforestation Project

Conservation Project
Availability: from 2 weeks, all year round
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

Immerse yourself into South Africa's indigenous Afrotemperate Forest

The Garden Route is famous for its diverse landscapes, from lush forests to dramatic cliffs and golden beaches. However, alien vegetation poses a significant threat. Volunteers play a vital role in restoring the ecological balance and water stability, forest regeneration and protecting the region's rich biodiversity.

Volunteering in Southern Africa



African Cat Sanctuary

Conservation Project in South Africa
Availability: 2 - 12 weeks, all year round
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

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.



Scuba Diving Conservation

Conservation Project in South Africa
Availability: 2 - 12 weeks, Jan - Nov
Your impact: n/a

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

Conservation Project in South Africa
Availability: from 2 weeks, all year round
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

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.



Surfing Smiles

Social Project in South Africa
Availability: from 4 weeks, outside school holidays
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

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.



Wildlife Rangers

Conservation Project in South Africa
Availability: from 2 - 12 weeks, all year round
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

Become an assistant Field Ranger

"To Learn and to Teach" are the objectives on which this project is founded and the basic principles that drive all its activities. It's main aim is to obtain a greater understanding of wildlife and the environment in which it thrives. It provides the opportunity to be a part of the research and monitoring teams on the reserve and to work and be educated as an assistant Field Ranger.



Wilderness Outreach

Conservation Project in Botswana
Availability: from 2 weeks, Jan to mid Dec
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

Experience the wilderness of Botswana

The project focuses on the tracking and observation of animal movement and habitats on a Game Reserve. The focus is on significant large tree species, e.g. Baobabs, Leadwood and the impact mammals and human land use may have on these. Volunteers get very much involved providing hands-on support and contribute to an environmental education programme.



Elephant Conservation

Conservation Project in Namibia
Availability: from 2 weeks, Jan to mid Dec
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

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 benefitting wildlife conservation. A unique and magical back-to-basics experience in the Namib Desert.

Volunteering in Southern Africa



Medical Project

Social Project in Namibia
Availability: 2 - 12 weeks, mid Jan - mid Dec
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

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.



Primary School Project

Social Project in Namibia
Availability: 4 - 12 weeks, mid Jan - mid Dec
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

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.



Wildlife Conservation

Conservation Project in Namibia
Availability: 2 - 12 weeks, all year round
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

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.

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.



Health Care Project

Jambiani, Zanzibar
Availability: from 2 weeks, all year round
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

Medical volunteering

Limited access to quality and affordable healthcare as well as the scarcity of medical equipment and supplies contributes to a significant number of health problems in Tanzania. To actively participate in the medical program some medical experience and/or background is required.



Neighbourhood & Sustainability

Jambiani, Zanzibar
Availability: from 2 weeks, all year round
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

Serve the community in its needs

Environmental cleanliness and care for the surroundings are paramount in the community and thus a big part of the project. The programme will involve assisting the community depending on the needs at the time of your stay. This is the perfect way to immerse yourself into the life and culture of the people you will work for and with.



Teaching in Tanzania

Arusha, Tanzania
Availability: from 2 weeks, all year round
Your impact: ♥♥♥♥♥

Primary and Secondary school teaching

Several primary and secondary schools throughout the Arusha district are in need to have English learning programmes organised so you'll get the opportunity to teach various subjects alongside local teachers and engage the kids in various activities to help them thrive.

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, close to popular tourist attractions like the V&A Waterfront with spectacular views of Cape Town.

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.



Agency Stamp