



## Community and Bush Adventure Program in South Africa



Your 2-week African adventure begins with 2 nights in the world-famous township of Soweto, where you'll immerse yourself in the local culture by exploring the community on foot or by bicycle. Enjoy traditional food, drinks, and music to get into the African spirit.

### 1. Babies in the Bush

This unique Early Child Development (ECD) project is situated on a farm in a Big Five Game Reserve, one hour from Johannesburg. The project provides holistic care to support the growth and development for children of all ages. We work either directly with children or indirectly by empowering their caregivers.

Born from a deep passion to provide a clean, nurturing, and stimulating environment, the Baby

Safe House is a sanctuary for little ones who deserve more than being left in their cots all day. At our facility, we create a space where babies receive the attention, care, and developmental stimulation they need to thrive during their most critical early years. From fostering primary development to ensuring every baby gets the best possible start in life, we are breaking barriers and setting a new standard of care.

More than just a haven for babies, the Baby Safe House also serves as a practical training centre for caregivers. Here, caregivers learn hands-on approaches to provide proper care and stimulation for infants and toddlers—empowering them with skills to nurture a brighter future for every child under their care.

### Your role:

- Your role will be to play, entertain and stimulate the babies.
- Changing of nappies, bathing and creaming the little ones, feeding the babies, cleaning facilities, washing clothes and bedding.
- Contribute to gardening and maintenance tasks.
- Teaching basic movement skills for preschool children, which includes singing, dancing and playing with children.
- Help teachers to make teaching aids and prepare for creative activities and special events.
- Making food and material for special events.

## 2. After school project

The second project is to support the local staff during after school hours. You will be working with children aged 7 to 15.

The local NGO's facilitate training programs and workshops with 22 of the Day Care Centres in the surrounding area meaning we directly impact over 2000 children. As a result of limited resources, many children have not been stimulated as needed in early childhood development and lack the basic gross motor skills they need. They introduced a sport program that teaches basic movement and motor skills to these children. We have seen a big improvement already, happier, healthier children.

The center hosts between 40 and 50 children from Monday to Friday, from 1pm to 4pm. The children need academic support, and you will help with homework.

Your missions may include:

- Helping with homework
- Teaching various knowledge to the children
- Interacting and offering a variety of fun and creative activities (workshops, games, sports)
- Helping teachers create educational materials
- Supporting the local staff in their daily duties

## Creative & Administrative Support:

- Assist teachers in creating teaching aids, preparing for creative activities, and organising special events.
- Sort and distribute donations, assist with recycling projects, and prepare food and materials for events.
- Maintain cleanliness in the daycare and playgrounds, including washing clothes, bedding, and cleaning facilities.

### 3. Farm

Finally, you can get involved in the farm project. The host family owns and manages the farm where many activities await you.

The farm has 2 horses, milk and egg production.

Many construction projects are planned, and you will be able to take part in them:

- Roofs
- Sanitary facilities
- Showers
- Library
- Additional housing for supervisors and future volunteers

Your missions are broad and varied, here are some examples of tasks to complete:

Contribute to different construction projects

- Help with recycling projects
- Take part in gardening and creating tunnels for the orchard
- Assist with daily farm tasks

## Special skills required:

- Ability to adapt to sudden change in all areas
- Ability to work with young children
- Be self-confident and apply discipline
- Creativity and problem Solving
- Patience
- Be able to work in a group
- Entertain children with minimum resources
- Ability to adapt and to respect the different cultures

## Big five in the Bush Experience

You'll live as a game ranger, balancing thrilling safaris with conservation work. This immersive experience in the African bush allows you to learn from expert guides, contribute to conservation efforts, and enjoy the tranquillity of the wilderness.

Morning Safari: Track the "Big Five" in open game viewer. BushWalk: Explore the flora and fauna with experienced nature guides .

Conservation Work:

- Participate in tree cutting, clearing roads
- Contribute to alien plant control
- Give environmental talks with local schools

**Community Tour:** Visit various local entities and artists

**Evening Campfires:** Sleep out under the stars, share stories and experiences around the campfire.

## Soweto Experience

**Soweto Cycling Tour:** Explore Soweto's neighbourhoods and learn about its rich history

Traditional Beer Tasting Ceremony "The Circle of Unity":

- Learn about traditional jewellery, clothing
- Taste home-brewed drinks like Sorghum beer (Umqhomboti) and sweet Maize drink (Mageu).

## Your accommodation

**Volunteer House:** shared rooms between 2-3 volunteers. Communal lounge and kitchen and bathroom. Towels and toiletries **are not included**.

## Meals

3 meals a day are included in the program (Breakfast, lunch and dinner). This includes a selection of local fruit, cereal, bread and cheese with various protein options

## Arrival dates and orientation:

- Arrivals every Thursday for FREE three-day Johannesburg Orientation
- Projects start every Monday
- Duration is a minimum of 2 weeks (exception can be made for families)

**3 days Johannesburg Orientation** - covers everything the volunteers need to know about staying in South Africa (from social skills to transport and safety)

## Language requirement:

**Basic English.** volunteer needs to be able to communicate with both staff and children