

# Summer 2007 Global Learning Expedition to South Africa

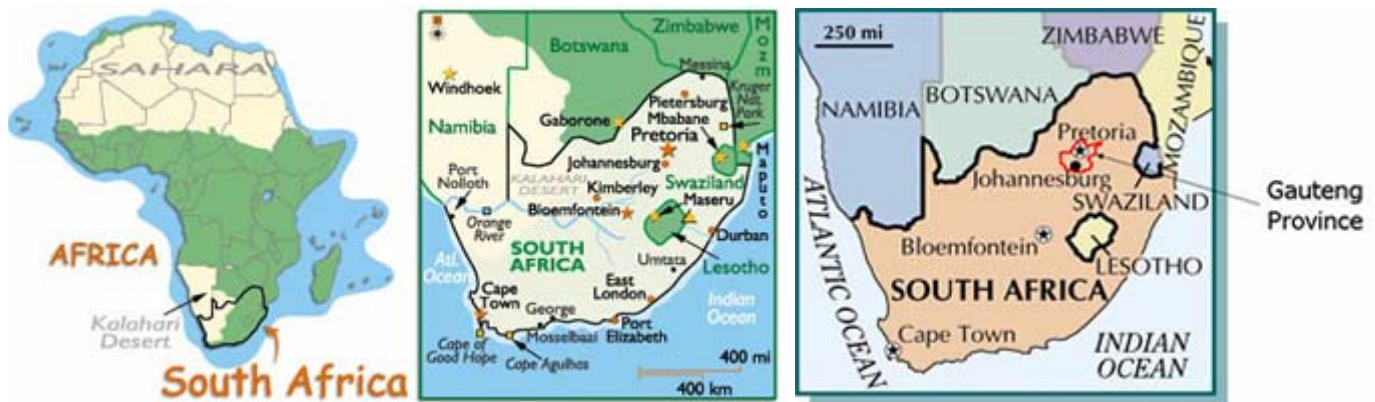
The Global Learning Expedition to South Africa will provide a group of volunteers with an experience centered on the intersection of community service, education and human rights. Participants learn about a particular community issue within Gauteng Province, South Africa by volunteering at a designated site. The program will be based in Johannesburg, with a brief stay in the Cape Town area. Participants will visit sites such as Robben Island, Cape of Good Hope and the township of Soweto.

## Community work with orphans near Johannesburg, South Africa

Your role will involve reading to the children and helping them to read stories and your influence as a literate and caring volunteer will help them to develop a love of books and see education as both accessible and achievable.

- Share your love of books with young children by volunteering at a residential home for orphaned children who have lost their parents to HIV/AIDS, violence or who have been abandoned.
- We also volunteer at a nearby primary school where a number of orphans attend school. Illiteracy is a major problem in South Africa with one in four adults unable to read; as a result many children are lacking the basic skills which would enable them to receive a full and rewarding education.

We will also be installing a small children's library in a nearby school. Mainly that will involve cleaning and prepping the room. We will have to fix up bookshelves, label and catalog the donated books and we expect to create a "computer corner" in the room.



## The "Culture of Reading Initiative"

The "Culture of Reading" child literacy initiative is a pilot program GLP has started in Randfontein and that aims to expand into further schools that want help within the next two years. The child literacy project helps children love books! By recruiting and training volunteers to help children aged 5-12 who find reading difficult.

Those of us that love to read have enjoyed privileges most of us have taken for granted:

- Parents who read bedtime stories,
- Books in English lying around the house,
- At the very least, an adult in the family *able* to read and write English.

Many South African children have parents who *can't* read or write English and who, therefore, can't read to them. Yet, without this, kids tend to fall behind their peers, losing confidence and self esteem. With the loss of confidence comes the loss of pleasure: kids who don't feel confident about their reading simply don't *like* reading, or books.

**Why the project needs volunteers:**

Literacy is a serious issue in South Africa. One in four adults is illiterate, and many children in schools are unable to read and write in English—the language of higher education and business. Imagine how hard life must be—they're frustrated every day by street signs, restaurant menus, and posters, they'll miss out on the entire world of computers, and they're not as employable as people literacy. Volunteers don't replace good teaching, but they definitely add to it.

**Your role as a volunteer:**

You will be placed with children pre-selected by the center/school. You will be helping the children to read through stories. You will read to all children at the school for half an hour on an individual basis. This will mean that your mornings are occupied with the children but you will have time to prepare the books for the next day before the afternoon program in the nearby primary school.

We will also be installing a small children's library in the school. Mainly that will involve cleaning and prepping the room. We will have to fix up bookshelves, label and catalog the donated books and we expect to create a "computer corner" in the room.

<b>Summary</b>			
<b>Project length</b>		<b>What's included</b>	
Minimum length (weeks)	2-3	TEFL Training (Online) <a href="http://www.englishclub.com/teach-english.htm">http://www.englishclub.com/teach-english.htm</a>	Orientation
<b>Requirements</b>	Insurance		Yes

<b>More details about your project</b>	
<b>Activities</b>	Working one on one with children, reading to them, encouraging them to read back and boosting confidence in speaking and reading English.
<b>Working Hours</b>	Monday to Fridays, 9am to 1pm. at the orphanage Afternoons (2-4) spent at Bulelani Primary School.
<b>Resources</b>	Resources are adequate, but volunteers will need to be creative or bring certain things from home. Any books, stationery or teacher training books would be appreciated.
<b>Accommodation</b>	Hotel
<b>Food</b>	Hotel. You will be responsible for buying your own food during trips to the site and on tours.

## TYPICAL TRIP INTINARY

Day 1: Met at the airport by a representative from the Caroll Shaw Memorial Center  
Settle in at hotel and recuperate after 16-18 hour flight

Day 2-3: Tours: Johannesburg => Sandton vs. Soweto



- **Johannesburg** is the most populous city in South Africa and the second most populous city in Sub-Saharan Africa, behind Lagos.
    - Visit to Gandhi's Square
    - Visit to Constitution Hill Museum
    - Visit recreation of the typical 1950s shebeen at MuseuMAfricA in Newtown
- MuseuMAfricA (Museum Africa) [http://www.joburg.org.za/aug\\_2002/museumafrica.stm](http://www.joburg.org.za/aug_2002/museumafrica.stm)



- **Sandton** is a predominantly white and very wealthy enclave to the north of the city center.
  - Visit to Mandela Square
  - Visit to the Moyo Restaurant in Melrose Arch

Visit to Soweto (<http://www.joburg.org.za/soweto/>)



- **Soweto** is a mostly black urban area to the south west of the Johannesburg City Centre.
  - During the apartheid regime, Soweto was constructed for the specific purpose of housing African people who were then living in areas designated by the government for white settlement, such as the multi-racial area called Sophiatown.
  - Today, Soweto is among the poorest parts of Johannesburg, however there have been recent signs of economic revival.
  - Visit to Mandela's home in Soweto (Mandela Family Museum)
  - Lunch in Soweto at SANTOS RESTAURANT

Day 4: Trip to Carroll Shaw Memorial Center and Bulelani School—one hour from Johannesburg

Day 5: Volunteer at Carroll Shaw Memorial Center and Bulelani School

Day 6: Safari Day: Trip to Plinesburg National Park

Day 7: Visit to Kagiso Baptist Church

Day 8-12 Volunteer at Carroll Shaw Memorial Center and Bulelani School

Day 12-14 Trip to **Cape Town**: Visit to Robben Island

[Table Mountain](#) - One of the world's most famous landmarks provides the city of Cape Town with a dramatic setting of unrivalled beauty. A cable car ride to the top of Table Mountain provides a spectacular and breath taking view of the city and harbour.

**AT THIS POINT IS A NATURAL "BREAK" FOR PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE TO RETURN TO THE USA EARLY**

Day 15-20 Volunteer at Carroll Shaw Memorial Center and Bulelani School

End of Program Bar-B-Que for participants and orphans

Day 21 Return Flight to USA

## Other Information:

- A visa is required for South Africa.
- The passport must be valid for min. 6 months after completion of the journey.
- At present no vaccination is compulsory. However, a doctor might be consulted.
- Participants are strongly advised to take out travel insurance covering personal accidents, medical expenses, loss of baggage and loss of deposit through illness.
- All travel documents are the responsibility of the participants, i.e. passports, visas, etc.
- All tours and safaris are the clients own risk. Visits to game reserves as well as sport, diving and other sporting activities are done on the clients own risk.
- Changes of the travel itinerary on discretion.



## JO'BURG TOUR

**1<sup>st</sup> Day:** The tour really takes off from Houghton, where you can see Mandela's house. We proceed along Munro drive to the northern suburbs viewpoint. After a brief stop, we proceed to Parktown, the area of the Randlords, where the old Victorian style houses still stand.

We will then visit Constitution Hill, the home of South Africa's constitutional court (See tour on next page).

Our next stop is the Top of Africa, from where we stroll to Gandhi Square\* and the mining hub of the city. Newtown is the cultural hub of the city; we end with a visit to Museum Africa then pass on to Sandton and Moyo restaurant. (\* We may also visit the Mahatma Gandhi Peace Museum at Tolstoy Farm, a property to the south-west of Johannesburg where he and his followers lived as a community in the early 1900s).

**2<sup>nd</sup> Day:** Starting off at Soccer city, home of the 2010 World Cup finals, we proceed to the elite part of Soweto. Contrary to that, we have a glimpse of a hostel, home to migrant laborers during apartheid and then a walk through the Baragwanath taxi rank including a view of the hospital.

A visit to an informal settlement is next. Thereafter, we go to Walter Sisulu Square of Dedication, where the Freedom Charter was adopted in 1955.

## ROBBEN ISLAND MUSEUM, CAPE TOWN



For nearly 400 years, Robben Island, 12 km from Cape Town, was a place of banishment, exile, isolation and imprisonment. It was here that rulers sent those they regarded as political troublemakers, social outcasts and the unwanted of society.

During the apartheid years Robben Island became internationally known for its institutional brutality. The duty of those who ran the Island and its prison was to isolate opponents of apartheid and to crush their morale. Some freedom fighters spent more than a quarter of a century in prison for their beliefs.

Those imprisoned on the Island succeeded on a psychological and political level in turning a prison 'hell-hole' into a symbol of freedom and personal liberation. Robben Island came to symbolise, not only for South Africa and the African continent, but also for the entire world, the triumph of the human spirit over enormous hardship and adversity.

### Robben Island School tour

Ferries depart at 9am, 10am, 12pm, 1pm, 2 pm and 3pm, weather permitting, from the V & A Waterfront in Cape Town. (For advance bookings: Telephone +27 (0)21 413 4208 / 9)

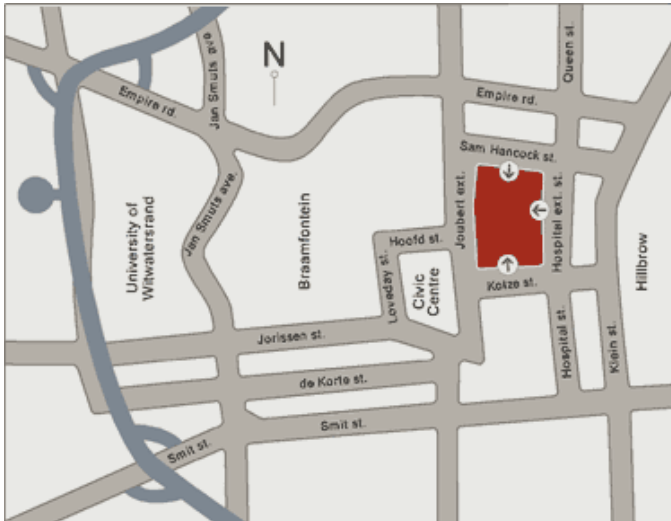
The Robben Island Museum has a dedicated Education Department. The standard school tour is 3.5 hours long, including the two half-hour ferry rides. A visit includes:

- A tour of the prison.
- Interaction with an ex-political prisoner.
- A bus tour of the Island.
- Seeing some of the Island's special wildlife, such as African penguins and rare bontebok.

**Constitution Hill** is the site of Johannesburg's notorious Old Fort Prison Complex, commonly known as Number Four, where thousands of ordinary people were brutally punished before the dawn of democracy in 1994. Many of South Africa's leading political activists, including Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela, were detained here. (Schools should book in advance through Obakeng or Ruth Tel: (011) 381 3100).

The Schools Program is a dynamic one and a half hour program that consists of:

- a tour of Constitution Hill led by an experienced education officer
- a debriefing session with learners and teachers, and
- follow-up activities to take back to the classroom



**Number Four** - The journey to Number Four, the dark heart of Constitution Hill, deepens the visitor's understanding of what it means to be placed at the bottom of the racial hierarchy and how the apartheid system made criminals of black men.

**The Mandela Cell** - View a film documenting Mandela's time at the Old Fort, and his emotional return to Constitution Hill some forty years later. The film is a poignant reminder of one man's ability to inspire change in the political and moral structure of an entire society.

**Gandhi: Prisoner of Conscience**, at Constitution Hill. The exhibition is on display in Number Four, the

notorious "Native Jail" and the first of many prisons in which Gandhi was incarcerated in South Africa and India.

A Century ago Mahatma Gandhi created a new form of peaceful protest, which he applied to powerful effect against the white rulers in South Africa, and later the colonial masters in India. Known as *Satyagraha* (truth force or Passive Resistance), this new style of politics empowered Gandhi followers to resist injustice in non-violent ways that demonstrate the superior morality of the protesters.

**Gandhi: Prisoner of Conscience** focuses on the years Gandhi spent in the fast-changing frontier town of Johannesburg from 1902 until 1914. It was in Johannesburg that Gandhi's main transformation from a shy and inexperienced lawyer into an extraordinary political leader took place. Given the exhibition's location, the special emphasis is on Gandhi's experiences inside jail and how these impacted on his evolving philosophy of Satyagraha.

Gandhi believed that going to jail was a necessary part of this struggle. He believed that the physical suffering he endured would make him stronger and more determined in this moral cause. In his autobiography, Gandhi described jail as 'a palace'. He loved the 'solitude and peace' of prison as this gave him 'the opportunity and time for meditation'. All in all, Gandhi spent some 2 338 days inside a jail cell in South Africa and India.

Visually, the exhibition charts Gandhi's transformation from a suit-wearing lawyer into a "prisoner of conscience" and then ultimately, just before his return to India, a man wearing a simple khadi cotton tunic. The gradual shedding of his smart attire, as represented in the images on display, mirrors his growing identification with the poor and oppressed.