



YFU SOUTH AFRICA
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Discover our new Volunteer Programmes in South Africa and Namibia!

The volunteer programmes offered by YFU South Africa are an opportunity for young people from anywhere in the world, aged 18 or older, to explore South Africa and/or Namibia as a volunteer. We work with a number of local non-profit and community organizations who offer the following volunteer placement options:

- **Option 1:** Working with children in a daycare or after-school programme in Cape Town, South Africa, while living with a local host family. Duration: 3-6 months.
- **Option 2:** Working in a seabird and penguin rescue and rehabilitation centre in Cape Town, South Africa, with accommodation in a nearby volunteer guesthouse. Duration: 3-6 months.
- **Option 3:** Working in an after-school childcare and community centre in a small town in Namibia, while living with a local host family. Duration: 3-6 months.
- **Option 4:** Working and living on a farm in a rural area of Namibia, specializing either in agriculture, hunting or hospitality/tourism. Duration: 3-6 months.

Combination option: Volunteers who would like to do a programme with a longer duration can choose to combine two or more options (subject to availability). Shorter programmes can also be arranged on an individual basis.

Our volunteer programmes are open to high school graduates, university students and young professionals who want to expand their horizon, discover a new country and culture, and gain practical experience in a meaningful way within the support structure of the YFU programme. On the following pages you will find more information about each programme option, as well as the corresponding application requirements and other details.

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Application Requirements & Information

While we understand that a volunteer programme is often seen as a 'gap year' and an opportunity to travel and explore the world, it is important to keep in mind that participating in a volunteer programme, especially in the community-based options where you work with vulnerable children, requires a high level of **maturity, responsibility and dependability**.

While volunteers are welcome - and encouraged! - to use their off-days to have fun, travel and explore, it is important to keep in mind that the programme is a learning experience and an opportunity for **personal development**. It is not just a holiday. Volunteers are expected to work on a full-time basis and according to the needs of the organization they are placed with.

Upon arrival, all volunteers receive a comprehensive **on-arrival orientation** by YFU and/or by their host family/ volunteer accommodation, as well as the project in which they are placed. Volunteers are expected to adhere to the **rules and policies** of the programme and the various organizations involved, and to act as positive role models for other volunteers.

Applicants must be **over the age of 18**, preferably 20 or older. Applicants are expected to have a good command of the **English language** and must be prepared to work on a full-time basis, and to assist with a variety of tasks around the project. It is important for volunteers to be able to work in a team with both local and international staff and volunteers. Previous experience in childcare/ working with animals or other other types of volunteer experience are an asset, but not a requirement for participation.

Volunteers in the community-based programme options (options 1 and 3) will be working with vulnerable children and are therefore required to provide a **police clearance certificate** as part of their application documents. This is a government requirement for any person working with childcare organizations. The police clearance must be obtained in the volunteer's home country prior to the start of the programme.

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Application Requirements & Information

Just like any other YFU programme, our Volunteer Programme is offered in line with YFU's Global Standards, offering an educational and enriching cultural experience in a safe environment and with on-going support through YFU.

As part of the volunteer programme package, YFU South Africa provides the following:

- Airport pick-up upon arrival and transport to the accommodation
- Accommodation with a host family (options 1 and 3), in a guesthouse close to the volunteer project (option 2) or on the farm where the volunteer is working (option 4)
- Daily meals (except for option 2)
- Post-arrival orientation by YFU and/or the host family and volunteer project
- A personal contact person who will offer support throughout the programme
- On-going support and emergency assistance
- Participation in local YFU activities and events (depending on the region and country)
- Re-entry orientation at the end of the programme

YFU in the volunteer's home country will take care of the international travel arrangements and insurance, assist with the visa application and prepare volunteers for their time in South Africa and/or Namibia.

Depending on the time of the year, as well as availability, volunteers might have the opportunity to join the cultural trips that are offered for the participants of the YFU high school programme. These include a 1-week stay on a farm in South Africa's Limpopo province, a 2-week 'cultural exchange' to a small rural village in South Africa's Eastern Cape province, and a 2-week trip to Namibia.

Additional expenses not covered by YFU

The following costs are not included in the programme fee:

- Daily transport to and from the volunteer project (except for option 3)
- Personal expenses such as toiletries, clothes, activities, travelling etc.
- Option 2 (seabird and penguin rescue) does not include meals
- Medical expenses not covered by the health insurance
- Excess luggage or flight changes requested by the participant for personal reasons
- Additional travel and accommodation costs for any personal trips or travels
- Additional travel costs for participants who choose to combine the volunteer options in South Africa and Namibia (flights and transfers from/to South Africa/Namibia)
- Visa application fees and visa extension fees for programmes longer than 3 months

Please contact YFU in your home country for further information about the programme fees, as well as the general application and participation requirements.

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Option 1: Community and Childcare Programme

Duration: 3-6 months

Location: Cape Town, South Africa

Volunteer project: Volunteers are placed with either a daycare centre for pre-school children, or with a project working with abandoned and neglected children.

Special requirements: Video interview, applicants must provide a police clearance certificate from their home country.

Accommodation and meals: Volunteers live with a South African host family in the Southern Suburbs of Cape Town, in a quiet residential area. Volunteers may have their own room or share a room with another volunteer, depending on the number of volunteers on programme. Homecooked meals are provided by the host family and the family dinners are always a wonderful opportunity to talk about your day and learn more about South African culture. The family has been hosting international volunteers for many years and receives a small stipend to cover the cost of accommodation, meals, water and electricity for volunteers.

Transport: Volunteers will use one of South Africa's popular ride-sharing services (e.g. Uber or Bolt) to travel to and from their volunteer project on a daily basis. Depending on the location of the project, the cost usually ranges from 2-8 EUR per day and can be shared with other volunteers if more than one volunteer is placed at the same time.

Working hours: The working hours depend on the volunteer project, but they typically range from approximately 8:00 to 15:00. Volunteers work five days a week but may sometimes be required to assist with events or special projects that take place on weekends, or in the evenings.



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Option 2: Seabird & Penguin Rescue Programme

Duration: 3-6 months

Location: Cape Town, South Africa

Volunteer project: Volunteers are placed with a rescue and rehabilitation centre for coastal seabirds and penguins. They can choose from three different specialization options, working either with the various seabirds, or with the younger/ older penguins.

Special requirements: Video interview, applicants must complete additional application forms provided by the volunteer project.

Accommodation and meals: Volunteers live in a small guesthouse located in the quiet and safe area of Flamingo Vlei in Table View. It is only 10 min away from the volunteer project (walking distance) and offers shared accommodation in 4-sleeper dorms. Volunteers may have their own room or share a room with another volunteer, depending on the number of volunteers on programme. Volunteers have access to a communal bathroom, as well as a communal kitchen and lounge with a TV. The property has a garden and a pool which volunteers can enjoy on the hot summer days. The dorm rooms are cleaned once a week and fresh bedding is provided on a weekly basis. If volunteers prefer to stay in a private room, this can be arranged at an additional fee.

Transport: Volunteers can either walk to their workplace or use one of South Africa's popular ride-sharing services (e.g. Uber or Bolt).

Working hours: Due to the nature of the work, this project is more intensive in terms of the volunteers' working hours than the other options. Volunteers are seen as full members of the local team and usually work 8-9 hours per day on 5-6 days a week. However, the working hours also depend on the number of animals that are currently cared for at the centre, so the workload can be lower/higher at times.



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Option 3: After-School Childcare Project in Namibia

Duration: 3 months (6 months possible with a visa-extension trip to South Africa)

Location: Usakos, Namibia

Volunteer project: Volunteers are placed with a community-based after-school centre for primary school children (6-14 years old) in a small town in Namibia's Erongo province.

Special requirements: Video interview, applicants must complete additional application forms provided by the volunteer project and provide a police clearance certificate.

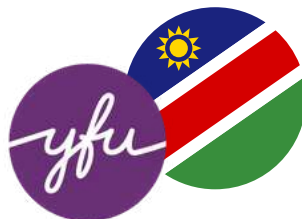
Accommodation and meals: Volunteers live with the family that runs the volunteer project and are part of the family for the duration of their stay. Accommodation is provided in two shared rooms and volunteers also have access to the rest of the family's home. Volunteers may have their own room or share a room with another volunteer. Meals are shared with the family and volunteers usually take turns preparing dinner during the week. The family has been hosting international volunteers for many years and receives a small stipend to cover the cost of accommodation, meals, water and electricity for volunteers.

Transport: Transport to and from the volunteer project, which is located at the outskirts of the small town, is provided by the host family on a daily basis.

Working hours: Since the project offers after-school care, volunteers usually work in the afternoons and use the mornings to prepare activities for the children, and to assist with other project-related tasks. The weekends are normally free, but volunteers may be asked to participate in additional activities from time to time. In addition to homework assistance and other educational activities for the children, the centre is also very involved in the local community and organizes programmes related to family counselling, HIV prevention, and other aspects of community and family life. Other projects include the collection and distribution of donations and warm meals.



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Option 4: Live and Volunteer on a Farm in Namibia

Duration: 3 months (6 months possible with a visa-extension trip to South Africa)

Location: Witvlei, Otjiwarongo and other rural areas in Namibia

Volunteer project: Volunteers live and work on one of several farms in Namibia's rural areas. Some of the participating farms specialize in agriculture, while others focus on wildlife and hunting, as well as tourism (e.g. running a guesthouse on the farm).

Special requirements: Video interview, applicants must complete additional application forms provided by the volunteer project and provide a police clearance certificate.

Accommodation and meals: Volunteers live on the farm, either in the family's home or in volunteer/ staff accommodation. The exact accommodation arrangements depend on the farm and may vary in terms of rooms and availability. Volunteers may have their own room or share a room with another volunteer. Meals are provided by the farm and are usually shared with the family and/or the workers or other volunteers. The farms receive a small stipend to cover the cost of accommodation, meals, water and electricity for volunteers.

Transport: Transport to and from the farm where the volunteer is placed is arranged by YFU at the start and the end of the programme.

Working hours: Volunteers usually work 4-8 hours per day on five days per week, depending on the nature of the work on the farm, as well as the time of the year. The arrangements for weekends or off-days depend on the farm. In some cases volunteers may have the weekends off, while other farms (especially those involved in tourism) may require volunteers to work on weekends and have their days off during the week.



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Are you ready to embark on the journey of a lifetime?

Contact your local YFU organization and apply today!

Find your local YFU organization [here](#).

We look forward to welcoming you in South Africa and/or Namibia!



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