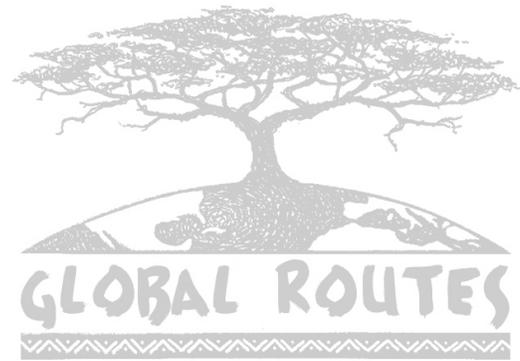


SOUTHERN AFRICA



The landscape of Southern Africa is as diverse as its people: desert plains become rolling hills, mountain ranges reach to rocky coastlines. The beautiful faces and voices of the Zulu, Xhosa, Siswati, and Tsonga peoples radiate an exuberance and passion for life that is awe-inspiring. Rising from the State-sanctioned racial segregation and harsh repression of Apartheid, the people of South Africa are on a difficult path. Rebuilding their country upon concepts of kindness and understanding, choosing forgiveness over retribution, preferring truth and reconciliation to revenge and anger, South Africa is bravely attempting to lead the world into the twenty-first century. Can they break free from the cycles of history? Guided by one of the most progressive constitutions ever written, South Africa copes not only with an oppressive recent past, but also with immediate infrastructure challenges and significant public health issues.

HIGHLIGHTS

Discover, explore, and enhance leadership and teaching skills by designing and leading an Interlocken-style Friendship Camp for young children.

Work with activists and artists to learn about the ongoing struggle for freedom in Soweto.

Volunteer at the SOS Red Cross Children's Village in Swaziland.

Develop a deeper understanding of the HIV/AIDS crisis in Southern Africa.

Expand language skills, learning phrases in isiZulu, Siswati, and more.

Learn first-hand about grassroots efforts to battle the devastating effects of poverty.



SOUTHERN AFRICA DETAILED ITINERARY

IN-COUNTRY ORIENTATION

Begin your adventure by exploring Johannesburg and South Africa's history of apartheid and revolution. Learn about South Africa culture, their values and the country's father, Nelson Mandela. You will then work with your group to design activities and games that you will later share with children during Friendship Camps. Become immersed in the South African culture and learn about service while at the Umbuyisa School of Art and Culture in Soweto Township.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE

After your orientation in Johannesburg, your group will travel to Swaziland, where you will work with Nhlanguano SOS Red Cross Children's Village in Nhlanguano, Swaziland. There your group will lead a Friendship Camp and volunteer with HIV/AIDS orphans in the village. Before leaving Swaziland your group will take a break from work to tour a game preserve.

Following your work in Swaziland, the group will travel to Lesotho, another small nation landlocked by South Africa. There you will begin your stay by taking in the beautiful scenery, and hiking in the Drakensburg Mountains. To complete the service portion of your program, your group will lead a Friendship Camp for the kids at the Malealea Land Trust, and work on a road-building project with local villagers.

TRAVEL ADVENTURES

The final days of your program will be filled with adventure and reflection. Your group will travel to Kruger National Park. There you will participate in a night safari, walking safari, and lectures from National Park rangers. You might spend a night sleeping under the stars near a dry river bed, with your guides keeping a watchful eye. One day will be spent trekking to the Skukuza Research station, where you will spend the afternoon with resident veterinarians and wildlife biologists. The last stop on your adventure will be Blyde River Canyon. There you will spend the night at Pilgrim's Rest. Finally the group will travel back to Johannesburg for group closure activities, reflection and a final banquet with your friends, where you will reminisce on your time in Africa and plan ways to transfer all your newfound knowledge back to life at home.

THE BASICS

Dates: TBD

Starting/Ending Point: Begins and ends in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Program Fee: Varies depending on group size and length of program

Group Size: Varies

Language Requirement: None

Accommodations: Group Living, Youth Hostels, Dorms and Camping