



Saving The Hungry

SOUTH AFRICA – THE RAINBOW NATION

Day 1

Welcome to **Johannesburg**, City of Gold or 'eGoli', called this because it was once a gold-mining town. Your driver will meet you at the airport and take you on a leisurely 50-minute (45 kms) luxury coach ride through Johannesburg's suburbs as you make your way to your accommodation.

Your home for the next 5 days will be located on a farm divided into three villages ideal for volunteers. The farm is set in open fields with a river running through it. Explore, swim and enjoy a quiet afternoon as you prepare for your evening BBQ in true African style! Please note accommodation is simple and clean. Our trips are NOT designed to be a 4-star experience!



Day 2

Your first full day in South Africa, your guide will take you to **Soweto** to help you understand the history and apartheid of this great country. By understanding the past, you will find your volunteer experience more satisfying.

Soweto is South Africa's largest and most infamous township. From the late 19th century until the end of apartheid in 1994, townships were underdeveloped urban areas reserved for non-whites, Indians and Coloureds.

Soweto borders the city's mining belt in the South. This once black community, is infused with the history of the struggle against apartheid and abuzz with the energy of the city of gold, **Soweto** is a must-see! Lunch will be a buffet and just before coming home we will stop for a drink at the local "Shabeen" (Tavern)





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Day 3,4,5 and 6

After breakfast, your bus will take you to another township – but this time to build a home. Poverty is hidden in rural areas and townships also known as “shanty towns” because the homes are made from plywood, corrugated metal, sheets of plastic and cardboard boxes.



Today many residents have limited access to food, housing, transportation and education. Affordable housing is a major concern, particularly when they have a family to feed and more than 60% of their income goes towards food.

Saving The Hungry’s goal is to change a family’s life by building them a home that will keep them dry and safe. Finding multiple generations and extended family members living under one roof is not uncommon.



Day 7

Today you visit one of South Africa’s cultural villages and enjoy a unique, interactive insight into tribal ways of life. Zulu, Xhosa, Basotho, Tswana, Shangaan and Ndebele cultural villages enable the visitor to engage in everything from crushing maize to enjoying traditional dance. You will also get to experience a lunch that offers a variety of 10 diverse types of meats. These include pork, lamb, beef and game meats such as crocodile, zebra, giraffe, impala and ostrich. (Vegetarian dishes are also available)

Tonight, we transfer to a local guest house on the East side of Johannesburg which will make it easier for our 6:00am pickup.



Saving The Hungry



Day 8, 9 and 10

As the sun comes up you will be leaving for the Kruger National Park – the flagship game park for South Africa! Located 7 hours away from our volunteering site.

On the way we stop at one of the most scenic areas of South Africa, where the mountains separate the Highveld from the Lowveld. This includes Blyde River Canyon and God's Window which is a significant natural feature of South Africa and the third largest canyon in the world. Enjoy the natural wonders as we spend two hours taking in the breathtaking views.





Saving The Hungry

As you enter the Kruger Park gates look out for animals. Although we won't be going in search of them today you can often spot game as you wind through the bush to your rest camp. This bush rest camp will be your home for the next 3 days. Accommodation is simple, rustic but clean built to blend into the natural surroundings.



4:30am: Your morning **safari** begins before the rising of the sun. Enjoy a hot coffee, before setting out. The bus will take you on your first journey through breathtaking scenery in search of elephant, lion, white and black rhino, hippo, leopard and buffalo. (**times could change)

10:00am: Return to camp, and enjoy a hearty brunch, prepared by a safari cook. It's then time to relax or swim in camp while the animals sleep in the heat of the day. As the sun begins to set your qualified safari guide will take you out in an open safari vehicle.



Day 11

This morning your transfer leaves early to take you to back to Nelspruit where you will board your plane for your 2-hour flight to **Cape Town**.

Cape Town is known as the "coming-together of cultures, cuisines and landscapes" this city is breathtakingly beautiful crowned by Table Mountain. Learn to surf, go hiking, mountain biking, wine tasting, whale watching, sailing, explore castles or walk with penguins, this city has it all!

Late afternoon you will settle into your downtown hotel in **Cape Town**.

This evening you have the option of enjoying a sunset sightseeing tour of Cape Town which will take you to Signal Hill to watch the sun set or, a champagne boat cruise around the harbour.



Day 12

This morning you will make your way up **Table Mountain** via cable car (**weather permitting). Table Mountain, with its flat top is the most iconic landmark in South Africa. Photographers dream of the 360 degree-views across the city and ocean.

The top of Table Mountain has over 2,200 species of plants and fauna. Here you can see all the way to Robben Island where you will spend the afternoon.

Robben Island - From the 17th to the 20th centuries, Robben Island served as a place of banishment, isolation and imprisonment. Today it is a **World Heritage Site**, a poignant reminder to the newly democratic South Africa of the price paid for freedom. A ferry departs at 3:00pm where you will visit the infamous maximum-security prison, interact with an ex-political prisoner and enjoy a 45-minute bus ride with a guide providing commentary. 3.5 hours later the ferry will bring to back to the famous Waterfront where you can enjoy an evening shopping or enjoying a quiet meal at many restaurants.





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Day 13 (Option 1)

Today you are taken to the wine producing region of South Africa and the town of **Stellenbosch**. Oak-lined streets next to water furrows compliment the many fine examples of elegant Cape Dutch, Victorian and Georgian architecture which is on display. The **Stellenbosch Wine route** is the oldest and largest. You visit some of fine estates and sample some of the best wines in the world.



Day 14 (Option 2)

Morning

Ideal for those with families that love the ocean. The **Two Oceans Aquarium** is home to over 3000 creatures and 88 species. The award-winning aquarium boasts breathtaking exhibits some of which cannot be found in any other aquarium. Touch and feel the marine creatures and get up close and personal for a hands-on experience.



Afternoon

Cruise on the only authentic pirate ship in South Africa with a full crew of Cape Town pirates. This 60-minute cruise of the V&A Harbour sails along the Atlantic seaboard as far as the Sea Point lighthouse. Guests get to enjoy unforgettable experiences, including looking for dolphins and whales. On board facilities include a cash bar and a tented roof cover.



Day 15

Today's tour takes you to visit the Penguins at **Boulders Beach, Cape Point** (the romantic meeting place of the Atlantic and Indian oceans) and the **Cape of Good Hope**.

You'll spend the day exploring this spectacular nature reserve, part of the Cape Floral Kingdom World Heritage Site, with a stop en route at Boulders Beach to visit the African penguins located in their natural habitat.



Day 16

No activities are planned for the day. You will check out by 11:00am and spend the day wandering through the city. Or take a bus or cab to a nearby beach or spend the morning shopping at the waterfront.

Late afternoon we will be transferred back to the airport for our flight back to Johannesburg where we will spend the night at the Guest House East of the airport, in preparation for your flight back to Canada the next day.

Day 17

Time to go home. Your transfer will take to the Oliver Tambo International airport where you will catch your flight back to North America.



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Volunteering Costs \$330.00 (pp sharing)
Travelling, Accommodation and Sight Seeing Costs \$3061.00 (pp sharing)
Total \$3391.00 Canadian Dollars

Subject to currency changes

50% deposit required upon confirmation

Included:

- Transportation in and around the country
- All hotels
- Accommodation while volunteering
- Water while volunteering
- All meals while volunteering (breakfast, lunch and dinner)
- Breakfast is included in all accommodation while travelling
- Tea, coffee and snacks while on safari
- Breakfast and dinner while on safari
- 2 game drives per day with an expert guide (closed truck)
- 2 sunset game drives in an open safari truck
- Conservation Levy
- Internal flights to Cape Town
- All tours (full day and half day) including entrance fees (Booking is essential)
- Pirate Ship
- Two Oceans Museum
- Soweto and Apartheid Tour (includes lunch)
- Cultural Tour (includes lunch)
- Wine Country Day Tour and wine tasting
- Table Mountain Cable Car
- Kirstenbosch Gardens
- Penguins Beach/ Cape of Good Hope
- Sunset bus tour
- Champagne Boat Cruise

Additional Costs NOT included

- International Flights
- Personal travel insurance
- Laundry
- Other food not mentioned above
- Lunch and dinner (aside from when volunteering)
- Lunch while on safari (restaurants and take out available)
- Alcohol



Saving The Hungry

- Water and snacks
- Food you wish to buy for the local children (optional)
- Items of a personal nature
- Souvenirs
- Restaurant and driver tips
- Items not mentioned above

Q – How long before we leave should I book?

A - We have spots for maximum 20 people, so the sooner you book and pay a deposit, the sooner we can confirm your place on the team.

Q – Do I have to book my accommodation while travelling through Saving The Hungry?

A – If you would like to keep your costs down we suggest you book your accommodation through us. Saving The Hungry has negotiated lower rates with the local hotels and tour providers

Q – Do I need to stay with the team while volunteering?

A – Yes, this is not optional! Everyone needs to stay together to make it convenient for our partners to transport us.

Q – What deposit do I need to pay?

A – 50% deposit is required to book the hotels. South Africa is a popular destination and it fills up fast.

Q – When is the final payment due?

A – Final payment is required 60 days before you leave.

Q – Will I get my deposit back if I cancel?

A – No sorry deposits are non-refundable.



Q – Do I need a visa to travel to South Africa?

A – South Africa makes things easy for foreign travellers. Your passport must be valid for at least six months and you will need a whole free page for your visa.

Q – What is the average cost of eating and drinking in restaurants?

Restaurants	Average
Meal, inexpensive	R80 – R150.00
Meal, mid range restaurant (for 2)	R350 – R590.00
Domestic Beer	R18 – R35.00
Coffee	R18.00
Coke	R20 – R30.00
Water	R12.00

Q – What is the South Africa currency and conversion rate?

A – The South African currency is the Rand (You can exchange *Canadian* dollars in for Rand at all the big banks but you do need to order weeks in advance) For 1 Canadian \$ you will get around 9.70 rand.

A – Most places in South Africa will allow you to draw Rand from ATM's.

Q – How much money should I budget on spending a day?

A - \$100 Canadian Dollars per day would be a comfortable budget (additional sightseeing, liquor and souvenirs excluded)

Q – How much do I tip?

Y - Tour guides, cab drivers, waiters and porters generally expect a tip of 10-15% for a job well done.

Q – What kind of accommodation can I expect?

A – Lodging is clean but very simple and rustic. While volunteering the rooms have nothing more than a bunk bed, ceiling fans and a shelf. Once we start to explore the country the accommodation will range between 3 and 4 stars which is comparable to Canadian quality.



Saving The Hungry

Q – Is South Africa hot?

A – South Africa has typical weather for the Southern Hemisphere, with the coldest days in June–August. On the central plateau, which includes Johannesburg, the altitude keeps the average temperatures below 40 °C. In winter temperatures can drop below freezing, also due to altitude. During winter it is warmest in the coastal regions, especially on the eastern Indian Ocean coast. South Africa is a sunny country, averaging 8-10 daily sunshine hours in most regions.

Q – Is South Africa safe?

A – South Africa has a high level of crime between the citizens because of how the poverty and wealth levels are distributed. The most violent crimes tend to occur in townships and isolated areas and away from the normal tourist destinations. Most visits to South Africa are trouble-free, but you should take sensible precautions and not wander off alone after dark.

Q – What tours would you recommend?

A – The tours that we recommend are all built into the cost of the itinerary. Should you wish to book additional tours we can assist but they will be considered an “add on”. South Africa has a lot to offer which is why we build in all the most popular attractions. This way you will return home knowing you have experienced the best of what South Africa has to offer.

Q – How will I get around?

A – From arrival to departure all your travel is taken care of.

Q – What kind of clothing should I bring?

A –60 days prior to departure we will send you a list of recommended clothing.

Q – What vaccinations will I need?

A - Typhoid, rabies and Hep B and A are highly recommended. Malaria will be recommended by your doctor. Please let him know you are going to a malaria free game reserve.

Please contact your local health authority 90 days before you travel to set up an appointment to ask about vaccinations.



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Q – Who do I contact if I want to join a team or would have more questions?

A – Please contact Nigel Bragge at nbragge@savingthehungry.com or dbragge@savingthehungry.com