

Spring Break 2007 Global Learning Expedition to South Africa

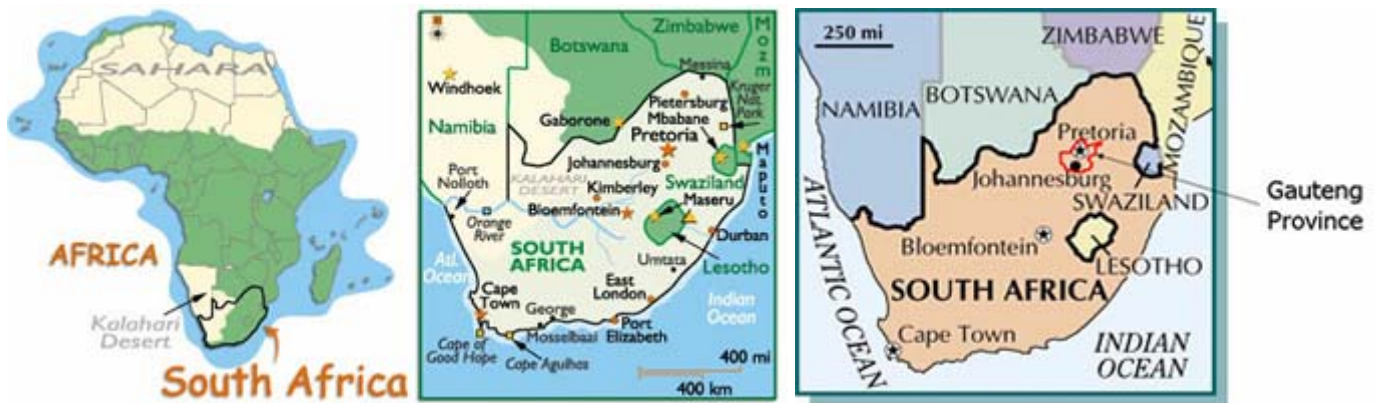
The Global Learning Expedition to South Africa will provide a group of volunteers with a semester-long experience centered on the intersection of community service, education and human rights. In the US, participants will learn about a particular community issue within Gauteng Province, South Africa, during a 7-week, non-credit course. In early March they will then participate in a spring break excursion (March 8 – 18, 2007) to South Africa where they will volunteer 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 townships of Soweto and Pretoria.

1. Leadership Development Seminar

We will be conducting a 2-day training seminar to develop organizational leadership ability with 12-15 young women from the community. The seminar will utilize the PRIZM Toolkit provided by our partnering organization.

2. Creating a Community Learning Center

We will also be installing a small community learning center in the nearby Kagiso Baptist Church. 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.



3. 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. Imagine how hard life must be for those people in our country who can't read English: 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 who can read and write English. Volunteers don't replace good teaching, they 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.

Summary			
Project length		What's included	
Minimum length	10 days	TEFL Training (Online) http://www.englishclub.com/teach-english.htm	Orientation
Requirements		Insurance	Yes

More details about your project	
Activities	Working one on one with children. Human rights retreat with 14-16 year-old girls.
Working Hours	Monday to Fridays, 9am to 1pm. at the orphanage. Afternoons (2-5) spent at Kagiso Baptist Church or Bulelani Primary School.
Resources	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.
Accommodation	Apartments located in the middle class area of Randburg—Randburg is central to Sandton and Johannesburg with easy access to the N1 highway and JHB INT Airport
Food	You will be responsible for buying your own food during trips to the site and on tours.

TYPICAL TRIP INTINARY

Day 0: (3/8) Flight From the USA to South Africa

Day 1: (3/9) Met at the airport by a representative from the Carroll Shaw Memorial Center
Settle in at hotel and recuperate after 16-18 hour flight

Day 2: (3/10) 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

- **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)
- Visit to SANTOS RESTAURANT in Soweto



Day 4: (3/11) Trip to Carroll Shaw Memorial Center and Kagiso Baptist Church—1 hr from Johannesburg

Day 5: (3/12) Safari Day: Trip to **Plinesburg National Park** or **Lesedi Cultural Village**, an African experience in the heart of the bush, only 25 minutes from Johannesburg

Day 6: (3/13) Volunteer at Carroll Shaw Memorial Center and Kagiso Baptist Church

Day 7: (3/14) Volunteer at Carroll Shaw Memorial Center, Kagiso Baptist Church and Bulelani School

Day 8: (3/15) Volunteer at Carroll Shaw Memorial Center, Kagiso Baptist Church and Bulelani School

Day 9: (3/16) Volunteer at Carroll Shaw Memorial Center and Kagiso Baptist Church

Day 10: (3/17) 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.

Day 11: (3/18) 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 at "own risk." Visits to game reserves as well as sport, diving and other sporting activities are done at own risk.
- We may make changes of the travel itinerary at our discretion.

JO'BURG TOUR

1st 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).

2nd 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)

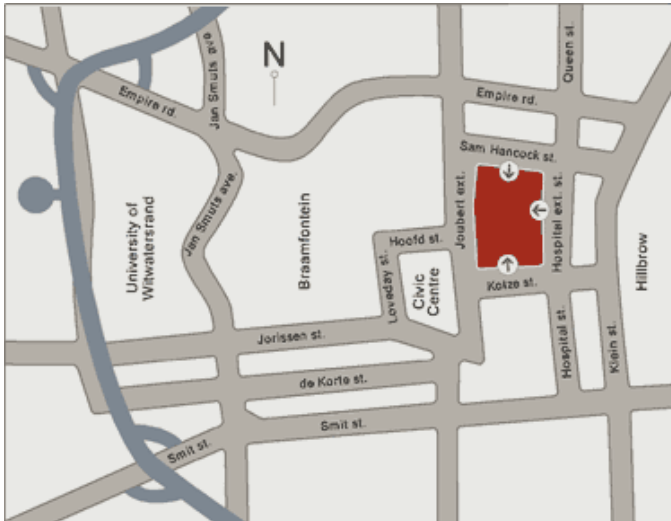
The Robben Island Museum has a dedicated Education Department. The standard school tour is 3.5 hours long, including the two half-hour ferry rides. A visit includes:

- 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.