



# Volunteering in Cape Town

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Cultural Exploration

## SUMMARY

From June 15 to July 13 I volunteered in Cape Town, South Africa through GVI, an international volunteer organization. During my time in Cape Town, I volunteered at a library program for three weeks, where I worked with children aged 3-14. I lead several math lessons and worked with other volunteers to educate the students on personal health and development. For my final week in Cape Town, I volunteered in the Creches, which are the equivalent of kindergarten in South Africa, where I assisted the full-time teachers in lessons, outdoor activities, and classroom management. My experience allowed me to travel abroad for the first time, explore a unique culture, and discern if I would want to teach for a short time after graduation,



## SPICES

Service – Volunteered in systematically oppressed areas to educate youth in math and English.

Cultural Exploration – Gained a greater understanding of the impact of apartheid on the local Cape Town communities.

## HERBS

Volunteering with children required tremendous Resilience and required me to provide Support for my fellow volunteers.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

Intercultural Confidence - Gain an understanding of cultural norms.

Communication Skills – Maintain a blog for the first time.

Self-Reflection and Awareness – Discern future vocation in education.



## IMPACT

The impact that we had on the local community included providing a place for students that weren't in school, because of their winter break, a place of safety to learn, grow, and have fun. The assistance we provided to the local Creches also is based upon a sustainable model to ensure that the teachers in the classrooms can learn effective tools for pedagogy and classroom management. The impact of the cultural understanding I gained of post-apartheid South Africa cannot be overstated. Volunteering and touring the townships, encountering locals that lived through apartheid, and exploring the historical sites allowed me a first-hand encounter of an incredible culture with an infamous history.

## ADVICE

Two pieces of advice I would give other students is to ensure that you know exactly what you are going to be doing and to attempt to gain some professional credential with your volunteer experience.