



YOUTH 4 CONSERVATION
CONNECTING YOUTH TO NATURE

EXPERIENCE AN ADVENTURE WITH IMPACT

Explore the majestic South African coast where you will be directly involved in learning about, and contributing to, the conservation of South Africa's **Marine Big 5: whales, sharks, seals, penguins and dolphins.**

Contact for more information

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Youth 4 Conservation

SOUTH AFRICA

MARINE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERING



THE MARINE BIG 5

South Africa offers exceptional opportunities to view these animals all across the Western Cape Province from the Garden Route to Cape Town itself.



DOLPHINS



PENGUINS



WHALES



SHARKS



SEALS

ACTIVITIES

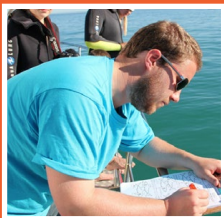
You will be immersed in the activities of a marine conservationist - volunteer with marine scientists and experts while being exposed to some of the world's most iconic marine species.

RESEARCH

Be exposed to cutting edge marine research with well respected scientists and learn about key challenges and debates being tackled in the marine sector.

Participate on a research vessel and learn about shark identification, collect important data on estuarine birds, collect shark eggs on the beach and learn about ongoing monitoring studies of the Marine Big 5.

All data collected will feed into the research studies being conducted by the conservation agencies in the area.



CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Different activities are undertaken depending on the needs at the time, but will include exposure to a wide range of projects aimed at protecting the marine environment.

Activities are likely to include helping out at the penguin sanctuary, building fishing line bins that are then distributed along the coast to prevent pollution, beach clean-ups and engaging in marine awareness programmes.

There may also be opportunities to be exposed to unique conservation activities that are happening at the time, such as animal rescues or releases, but this is not guaranteed.



DISCOVER

Learn about marine species big and small - from the tiny intertidal creatures to the massive whale - the world's largest marine mammal. You will have the opportunity to engage in discussions with experts on a wide diversity of topics - from the impact of climate change on the marine environment to the specific challenges facing different marine species.

In addition, you will have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to shark-cage dive! While contributing to shark identification, it also exposes you to the role of ecotourism in furthering the objectives of conservation. If time permits, there is also star-gazing, a documentary night and a local hike.



AWARENESS & EDUCATION

Engage with young learners in the adjacent community to expose them to marine science and the beauty of the marine environment.

Work together and get excited about marine conservation and the role that each individual can play to make a real difference on the ground. You could be inspiring future leaders!



WILDLIFE

This is the only coastline in the world where you will have the opportunity to observe five iconic marine species: great white sharks, southern right whales, dolphins, cape fur seals and the endangered African penguin. In particular, it is one of the most accessible populations of great white sharks in the world!

While some sightings are seasonal, boat trips will give you an excellent opportunity for wildlife viewing at sea.



CAMP LIFE

Fully equipped cottages are available that include a bathroom and small kitchen to keep your snacks. There is also a large communal area that is the perfect place for unwinding between activities or in the evening. It has a large lounge, entertainment area with foosball, board games and pool table, and there is a lovely swimming pool in the garden.



TRAVEL

Local flights from main centres within South Africa (for example, Johannesburg and Durban) will be organised to Cape Town International airport. Land transfers from Cape Town are approximately 2.5 hours to the town of Gansbaai. Small groups and school trips can travel on flexible dates whereas individual volunteers (18+) will be transported early on Monday mornings.

International flights: Please note that all international volunteers will need to arrive to Cape Town the Sunday before their Monday pickup. In addition, do not book return flights before 19h00 on the last day of your programme.

CLIMATE

Average day temperatures in summer (Dec - March) range from a minimum of 15°C to a maximum of 28°C.

In winter (May - Aug), average day temperatures are 17°C to 23°C, but during a cold front it can get as low as 10°C. Cape winters tend to see more rain, but there are still plenty of sunny days with clear blue skies.

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS

Special diets are catered for whenever possible, so please contact us for special requests. Local grocery stores are accessible for individual volunteers who will be doing some of their own self-catering.

PACKING LIST

This will be provided at the time of booking to assist with the dilemma of what to bring. Clothes are climate dependent but the general rule is to layer, (especially in winter), and to make sure to pack a swimming costume and non-slip shoes.

There are times, particularly in winter, when there may be no sea-days due to the weather.

In these circumstances, alternate activities and excursions can be explored (although some will be for your own personal account).

ADDITIONAL INFO



ITINERARY

A typical programme for all our volunteers will include a range of research and conservation projects that provide a comprehensive marine experience.

A sample 7-day school group itinerary can be sent to you upon request.

It is important to note that the itinerary is flexible and can be adapted to a particular group's interests and needs.

For example, one particular school group may be interested in conducting research activities that can later be incorporated into a school project.

The opportunities are endless and our conservation experts are more than happy to work together with you to build an unforgettable experience.



SCUBA DIVING

For our individual volunteers (18+), with a minimum two week stay, you have the opportunity to participate in a NAUI accredited SCUBA diving course.

This is your chance to enjoy kelp dives, blue and mako shark diving and research dives! This is an optional extra, and cost includes registration, the e-learning package (done prior to arrival), all equipment and dives.

Medical approval is required prior to arrival. Contact us for more information.

ELECTRICITY AND INTERNET

Electricity supply is 220/230 volts AC 50 HZ. Wifi is provided for free at the volunteer lodge.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL

All participants should obtain their own medical advice prior to arrival and are required to have medical insurance in the case of an emergency. Gansbaai is not a malaria area.



OBJECTIVES & IMPACT

Youth 4 Conservation partners with a local marine conservation organisation that works in the Gansbaai area and has received numerous awards and accolades in relation to their internationally recognised research and conservation initiatives. We have established a collaboration with the joint interest of exposing youth to the power of the marine environment and inspiring them to become future marine scientists and/or active citizens in protecting this fragile ecosystem.

All activities undertaken in this youth volunteer programme will directly contribute to the objectives of our partner, whether it is collecting data for existing research studies, participating in conservation projects or engaging with young learners in adjacent communities.

Our ultimate goal is to catalyse the youth to understand and engage in marine conservation issues - ultimately making a real contribution to the future of our seas, the species that live there, and the people whose livelihoods depend on it.



WHY US?

We specialise in high schools, youth groups, small groups of individuals and families'.

We only partner with conservation programmes that aim to achieve sustained positive impacts on the ground.

We provide authentic 'hands-on' multi-day experiences, organised from start to finish.



OUR EXPERIENCES

At Youth 4 Conservation, we are passionate about supporting meaningful conservation work and exposing school groups and young adults to life-changing experiences.

We work with:

- high school groups (between 6-8 participants)
- small groups of youth travelling independently
- individual young adults

RATES

Refer to **our website** or contact us directly for the rates for our different experiences.

In order to promote African conservation adventures to local youth, we offer special rates to SADC residents (Southern African Development Community).

Rates for school groups include all travel costs, whereas travel costs are quoted separately for international volunteers.



WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Local flights (for school groups only)
- Private transfer from Cape Town to Gansbaai
- Accommodation (shared cottages)
- Food (all meals for school groups; some self-catering for individuals)
- Boat trips
- All other activities
- Marine conservation presentations & discussions
- Engagement with top researchers & scientists
- Shark-cage diving
- Volunteer certificate to add to your CV or resume
- Branded peak hat
- In-country support

WHAT'S EXCLUDED?

- All flights for international volunteers
- Travel insurance (including medical and cancellation)
- Visas (if required)
- All items of a personal nature (snacks, non sea-day excursions, SIM card, etc).



TESTIMONIALS



"Everything was amazing! This experience was insightful - it helped me figure out that conservation is a field I would like to pursue. It was also wonderful to meet new people and make new friends." - Student

"My daughter loved this programme. She had an amazing time! She learnt a lot from the facilitators who had extensive knowledge in their area of expertise. She had new experiences everyday and made great new friends. She had only positive adventures and I would definitely recommend this programme." - Parent



"This was a life-changing experience for my son. He particularly enjoyed being immersed with the PhD students who could answer all his questions — and for him to work out how they make their passion into a job." - Parent

"I learned a lot through this experience. The team were amazing - they felt like close friends." - Student

"This whole experience was life-changing. I have always wanted to do something like this as part of my bucket list! Thank you to every member of the team - who are so passionate about their work." - Student

