



2009 Volunteer in Africa

Location	Ghana, Kenya, South Africa	
Start Dates	Varies throughout the year. Minimum 1-2 weeks; Maximum 12 months	
Program Fees	Starting from \$810 depending on projects selected and duration	
What's Included	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volunteer placement & arrival orientation - Most meals while on volunteer project - Basic accommodations in lodges, volunteer accommodations, thatched log cabins, bamboo huts, camping, or homestays, depending on project site - Comprehensive Medical Traveler's Insurance - Airport pickup/assistance depending on location of project -24/7 English speaking support before, during and after placement 	
What's not Included	International and local transportation Visa fees (if applicable)	
Projects Available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orphanage Assistance Rural community work Wildlife Rehab Clinic Construction/Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Welfare Education/Tutoring Environmental/Agricultural

Destinations & Projects Available

Ghana

A peaceful and welcoming country, Ghana satisfies one's appetite for both modern and traditional life. After your arrival pick-up at the Kotoka International Airport, you will start with an included arrival orientation in Accra and then travel to your host region. During the orientation, you will be introduced to the Ghanaian culture including language and cooking lessons, host family issues, safety, cross-cultural differences, project duties, immigration, health, money, transportation, and food matters.

A wide variety of projects are available throughout Ghana (ie: Accra, Cape Coast, Ashanti & Brong Ahafo region, Volta region, Northern/Upper East/Upper West regions, Eastern region) which may consist of: health care/medical/dental opportunities, orphanage assistance, social service, community development projects, HIV/AIDS assistance, agricultural/environmental/ecotourism, teaching/tutoring, computer literacy, sports/athletic coaching, eco-tourism and much more. If you have a specialized skill you want to share, please let us know and we will see if we can use it!

Your room and meals are included in your program. Most projects you will be living with a carefully selected and screened host family that has received foreign volunteers in the past, or some

volunteer projects have shared accommodations on site. Meals consist of beans, vegetables and rice, and you should budget to purchase your own bottled water (recommended.)

Kenya

Work at a local home for abandoned or orphaned children. Most of these children have come from poor families or parents affected by HIV/AIDS. Volunteers will be picked up at Nairobi's International Airport and transferred to the homes' site ~45 minutes drive. Assist the limited staff to care for these children. Organize recreational activities, educational activities, sports, arts, crafts, and be the nurturing heart and helping hand that can encourage the children and local staff. Additional projects of gardening/farming, administrative duties, medical skills, painting or providing maintenance/construction services are available.

Single females will be living on-site in a dorm-style room with other volunteers, and male and coupled volunteers will live with carefully screened and selected host families within 3 minutes walk with the home. Meals will be prepared and organized in a family-style fashion, consisting mainly of beans, vegetables, and rice.

South Africa – Community Center

Support children and their families with physical, social, emotional, spiritual, and mental needs in Limpopo Province, South Africa. This home is located ~450km North East of Johannesburg or 90km from the Kruger National Park. This home offers a holistic approach in serving underprivileged and orphaned children. There are two locations offering support to local schools and hosts community programs that provide a safe and educational haven for the children and their parents. Volunteers may assist with teaching/tutoring, organizing recreational and/or social activities, distributing food, clothes, and other necessities to the villages, gardening/maintaining the grounds, or helping with construction and cleaning projects. As most volunteer programs are centered around the local schools, please contact your Programs Coordinator for more information on available dates.

A volunteer apartment is available for participants to share. It contains a fully furnished kitchen, living room, bedrooms and a bathroom. On average, there are six volunteers that share the apartment together, which is more than enough space to live comfortably. Food is provided at the volunteer apartment with breakfasts and lunches typically self prepared, and then a cooked dinner is prepared and brought to the apartment by the local staff.

South Africa – Kapama Game Reserve

This program's aim is to equip volunteers with the aptitude and to actively participate in conserving the wildlife of Southern Africa. It is based in Kapama Game Reserve, home to cheetahs, wild dogs, Black-Footed cats, lions, African wild cats, Ground Horn Bills, Sable antelope, and more. You will be part of a 'hands-on' team which mediates the well-being of the animals at the center. Furthermore, you will have the opportunity to visit numerous places of interest and attractions in the area, including the renowned Kruger National Park. Included in the program is a unique and memorable experience of an elephant-back safari!

Volunteers are accommodated in thatched huts (2pax each) at a campsite within the boundaries of Kapama Private Game Reserve. Separate facilities are available for females and males. Three meals per day are prepared in the camp, which often develops in to a valuable team building experience. There is a kitchen with fridges in the camp, as well as barbecue facilities. Sundays are 'days off'

and are spent at leisure, with plenty of fun and adventurous activities (ie: hot air ballooning, river rafting, biking, horse riding, etc) available in the area.

Volunteers also have the opportunity to work in South Africa's largest primate rehabilitation centre! Also based in the Limpopo Province, the rehabilitation center offers hands-on opportunities with many types of primates, such as bushbabies, vervet monkeys (their speciality), orangutans, chimpanzees, and many other species of wildlife and birds that come their way! The center also hosts many community service programs and leads environmental education and outreach classes, so you may have the opportunity to work with the surrounding community and those traveling the world to be educated on the effects of humans on wildlife!

Accommodations and meals are provided on-site, and you will have several exciting opportunities to engage in elephant safari rides, day trips to the nearby world-famous Kruger National Park, microflights (paragliding with a motor), and to see the one of the oldest trees on Earth!

Zimbabwe

All placements are on hold at this time. Please contact your Programs Coordinator for more information.

Work at a wildlife Orphanage that offers a home to orphaned, abandoned and sick wild animals. The mission of this orphanage is to: 1) Preserve wildlife reared or born in captivity and to provide a home for the many injured, sick orphaned confiscated or abandoned wild animals; 2) Educate the public, especially children, through lectures and film series of the different wild animal species; 3) Teach people, especially children, to appreciate wildlife and not to take it for granted that they will always be there without care and awareness; 4) Research captive animals (ie: body growth and development, dentition and gestation periods, etc)

Learn and practice how to be a living example of nature conservation and in the wildlife. Duties include restoring and improving the grounds and facilities. Basic room and board are available at the Rehab Center's site for all volunteers to share.

Program Highlights & Benefits

Volunteering in Africa Offers:

- An unforgettable experience helping and improving at-need communities
- An opportunity to broaden your perspective and worldview
- An opportunity to participate in and learn African cultural activities (e.g.: language, cooking, crafts, music, dancing)
- Memorable travel experiences with the chance to see exotic sites you have always dreamed about
- The ability to make lifelong friends from around the globe
- A valuable work experience that strengthens your resume, exhibiting your diligence, independence, and intercultural experiences
- A great way to develop and support your self-confidence and interpersonal skills

Cultural Embrace Offers:

- **Guaranteed Volunteer Placement Prior to Departure**
Cultural Embrace pre-arranges your volunteer project before you leave home to ensure an easy and hassle-free transition to your new life abroad.
- **Accommodation Assistance**
Basic accommodation is provided in lodges, thatched log cabins, bamboo huts, camp sites, apartments, or homestays, depending on the volunteer project. All meals are provided, except on the first night of arrival (depending on location.)
- **Visa Assistance**
Cultural Embrace will assist you with information to obtain a visa, but we have no control nor the ability to guarantee government issuance and/or visa availability.
- **Arrival Assistance and Pick-Up**
We will arrange an airport pick-up and transfer for you, depending on the project.
- **Travel Insurance: Comprehensive Traveler's Insurance and Medical Coverage**
Our policy provides comprehensive medical coverage at your volunteer location. *Cultural Embrace* highly recommends additional travel insurance.
- **Cultural Embrace Kit**
Useful tips, advice, and information to prepare you for the amazing adventure of living and working abroad.
- **Full-time Representation**
Cultural Embrace provides English-speaking representation in the United States and your host country prior to, during, and after your placement.

Program Requirements

You must be at least 18 years of age. Or, if younger than 18, you must have parental or guardian consent

- Enjoy providing a service and working with others in a challenging environment
- Open to foreign cultures and living abroad
- High level of responsibility
- Dedication to the full term of commitment
- Criminal background check may be required by some projects and positions

2009 Program Fees

You can customize the length and activities of your volunteer project. Fees will vary based on each placement. For exact prices and more information, please contact us. Examples of popular volunteer programs include:

O-Orphanage/Streetchildren Assistance
T-Teaching/Tutoring
S-Social Welfare
M-Medical/Health

W-Wildlife Conservation
E-Environment/Agriculture/Eco-Tourism
C-Construction/Maintenance

Country/City	Projects	Costs (US\$/€)
Ghana		
<i>Throughout Ghana</i> Min: 4wks, Max: 12 wks	O, T, S, M, W, E, C	4 weeks - \$1625/€1136 Each add'l week - \$200/€143
Kenya		
<i>Outskirts of Nairobi</i> Min: 1 wk, Max: 12 mo	O, T, S, E, C, M	1 week - \$810/€626 Each add'l week - \$175/€131
South Africa		
<i>Community Center Limpopo Province</i> Min: 1 wk, Max: 12 mo	O, T, S, C, M	1 week - \$1130/€873 Each add'l week - US\$260/€201
<i>Wildcat Preserve Kapama Game Reserve Limpopo Province</i> Min: 3 weeks	W, T, S	3 weeks – US\$2855//€1945
<i>Primate Rehabilitation Kapama Game Reserve Limpopo Province</i>	W, E	1 week – US\$955/€738 Extra week- US\$335/€259
Zimbabwe <i>*All placements are on hold at this time</i>		
Min: 2, 4, or 6 weeks	W, E, C Min: 2 weeks Max: 12 months	2 weeks- \$1725/€1230 4 weeks - \$2655/€1893 6 weeks- \$3585/€2555

-Program available for all nationalities

-Please note-prices are subject to change according to world currency exchange rate.

How to Apply

1. Obtain the Volunteer Abroad **Application Forms & Procedures** documents in one of three ways:
 - (a) Download the forms from our website at www.culturalembrace.com
 - (b) Call **Cultural Embrace** at 1-512-469-9089 or 1-888-214-8570 (US/Canada toll-free) to have the forms mailed to you in 7-10 days.
2. Read the instructions carefully and complete all forms.
3. Submit your completed application packet to:

CULTURAL EMBRACE
7201 Bill Hughes Road
Austin, TX 78745 USA

Completed packet should include:

- Volunteer Program Application
- Signed Volunteer Agreement
- Copy of your passport (information page only)
- Copies of transcripts, diplomas, or certificates related to field of interest (if applicable)
- Resume/CV
- Cover Letter explaining what you want to do and why you want to provide a service in Africa
- Two References: preferably professional and/or character references
- Doctor's Certificate verifying that you are in excellent mental and physical health
- Copy of Police Clearance (obtainable from your community's local police station)
- Two 1½" x 2" official passport-size photos, signed on the back
- One smiling full-length photo of yourself
- US\$200 non-refundable deposit (credited towards your program fee)

Upon receipt of your application, a ***Cultural Embrace*** coordinator will contact you for a 20-30 minute phone interview. Once we accept you in to our program, you will receive an invoice for the remainder of your program fee. In order for us to contact our local partners to start your placement process, we require at least 50% of your program.

We recommend submitting your application and program fee at least 12-16 weeks prior to your desired start date in order for us to organize and arrange your volunteer placement.

****Cultural Embrace*** requires an expedited application fee for those applying 12 weeks or less before the desired date of departure. Applications received 8-12 weeks prior to desired departure date will be charged \$150. Applications received less than 8 weeks before the desired departure date will be charged \$250.

Frequently Asked Questions

1) *Why should I pay Cultural Embrace to volunteer?*

Cultural Embrace and our local partners specialize in arranging a guaranteed volunteer placement, housing and insurance prior to your departure. This will alleviate the troubles and stress of getting everything organized in a new country, so you will have more time and energy to spend on your volunteer project. Your time abroad will still be an independent and memorable one, but we are here to guide you to a safe, healthy and comfortable experience before, during, and after your adventure.

Fees vary according to project, destination, and length of stay. Most of the costs go toward operational project and field expenses, (ie: housing, food, transportation, supplies, etc) plus the administrative fees to cover office and local support (ie: legal, accounting, insurance, advertising, etc). ***Cultural Embrace*** does not add on any profits on their volunteer programs

2) *Where can I volunteer in Africa?:*

Volunteer projects are available in Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. All of the project locations are safe and will have English speaking local assistance from the minute you step out of

the airport. There are a variety of projects in each destination, which are listed above; consisting of: orphanage assistance, teaching/tutoring, social welfare, medical/health, wildlife conservation, environment/ecology, and construction maintenance.

3) *Where will I stay?*

Depending on your destination, you will stay in either a carefully screened and selected host family, or at volunteer housing at or near the project site. Most meals will be included at your volunteer site or with your host family, at least six days of the week. Sundays are typically 'rest' days and most locals attend church, so many volunteers cook their own meals or enjoy a meal in town. There are many cafes and restaurants that serve inexpensive yet clean, safe and delicious meals.

4) *What type of visa assistance does **Cultural Embrace** provide?*

Most visitors can obtain a tourist visa for up to 90 days at the country specific consulate or embassy. If you wish to stay at a destination for longer than 90 days, our local partners will issue you an invitation letter for you to obtain a visa for your preferred duration. Please note, that any visa fees are the responsibility of the applicant. And, while **Cultural Embrace** can assist you during the process, ultimately it is your responsibility to ensure that you have obtained the appropriate visa for your volunteer experience. **Cultural Embrace** has no control over the visa process and cannot guarantee that your visa application will be accepted.

5) *Do I need to get shots before traveling to Africa?*

Cultural Embrace requires a medical report for its application process, which would be a good time to talk to your doctor about which immunizations you will need to get before traveling. You should get your immunizations 4-6 weeks before traveling in order for the vaccines to take effect. Check out the [CDC's website](#) for the most current information on travel health.

6) *How long will it take to make my placement?*

We ask applicants to apply at least 12-16 weeks in advance of your desired start date. The placement may take less time than this, but we want to ensure that we have enough time to find a great placement for you! There are additional administrative fees if you apply less than 12 weeks in advanced, and we do not contact our local partners until we receive at least 50% of the program fee payment.

7) *What should I wear or bring to volunteer?*

Depending on the time of year and location of your placement, you will need to dress accordingly. Close-toed shoes are very important, as well as comfortable clothes. **Cultural Embrace** will provide you with more details in your **Cultural Embrace** pre-departure kit.

8) *Can I volunteer and/or live with a friend or partner?*

Yes, you can enroll in this program with other people, and we encourage it since it will enhance your experience and memories. Additionally, you will receive a discount for referring friends and family to join you on the same or other CE programs. Although you may state your preferences for shared housing, you will need to be flexible and respectful of local customs.

9) *When should I buy my plane ticket and does **Cultural Embrace** provide any resources to help with plane tickets?*

Plane tickets should not be purchased until after your placement has been confirmed. **Cultural Embrace** volunteers with consolidators and discount travel agencies that can help find cheaper tickets than those that are available to the general public.

10) What do I do when I get to my requested destination?

Cultural Embrace will provide you with a handbook prior to your departure with the names and contact information of your local representative, company, and other useful resources for your time in Africa. Additionally, you will have a bi-lingual local representative that will serve as your mentor and help you get acquainted with your local surroundings and volunteer placement.

11) What do I do if I have a problem or complaint within my volunteer placement?

You must speak to your local volunteer coordinator or representative to give them an opportunity to explain or investigate the situation. If the complaint still exists, please let **Cultural Embrace** (Austin office) know so we can mediate on your behalf.

For any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@culturalembrace.com or you can call us at 1-512-469-9089 or 1-888-214-8570 (US toll-free)

*Discover the Similarities. . .
Share the Differences. . .*

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