



Ubuntu Building Project

MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON RURAL COMMUNITIES
ASSISTING WITH BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Chintsa, Eastern Cape, South Africa



Ubuntu:

I am because We are...

Project Summary

Since 2005 VA32 have been working in the wider Chintsa community to assist in tackling inherent social and educational issues in developing South Africa. Often some of the bigger problems faced are centered around lack of infrastructure —the main reason for this being limited funds to build classrooms, community centers, crèches and other essential facilities.

The Ubuntu Building Project works in partnership with local communities in identifying needs in schools and communities and placing volunteers (skilled or unskilled) into high impact building, construction or maintenance projects.

Who Are Our Volunteers?

Highly motivated individuals with a willingness to learn new skills and get their hands dirty, who are ready and able to work long days of manual labour, are open minded and excited about working in a team. This project is designed for groups of 6 - 24 volunteers normally a two week project duration.

Volunteering is a two way teaching and learning exchange – the more you put in, the more you get in return. Africa is not a charity, you cannot change the world in a few weeks, but a few weeks will change your world

Volunteer Profile

Ubuntu Building Project volunteers need to be flexible, dedicated, ready to work hard physically and able to work in a highly motivated team.

Building and carpentry skills and experience are of a benefit but not a must. Due to the physical nature of work volunteers need to have a good level of fitness.

VOLUNTEER AFRICA 32° SOUTH

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The Project

At the beginning of the year VA32 meet with key community members to discuss current needs and appropriate projects in our surrounding villages. Identified projects are broken up into smaller set tasks which are then achievable by the various volunteer groups moving through Chintsa in the year.

Past Projects include:

- Building and maintenance of jungle gyms and safe play areas in nine rural schools, preschools and community spaces
- Building of two crèches
- Conversion of three containers into a classroom, medical centre and soup kitchen
- Building, renovation and upliftment of eleven classrooms
- Upliftment of kitchen and lunch area to support Friends of Chintsa feeding scheme
- Building of community sports ground including soccer field, volleyball and netball courts and a club house
- Creation of three community and school gardens
- Building of two ablution blocks in rural schools

Your Contribution

12—15% of your project fee is used to buy building materials on the project which you will be directly involved with.

Project Duration

Ubuntu Building Projects typically run for two weeks. Volunteers need to understand that even the smallest, most back breaking task is crucial to the entirety of the project. Even if you don't get to experience the completion of the project please remember that without the holes that you dug, all the bricks that you laid and the nails you hammered there would be nothing for the community to utilize and enjoy.



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Friends of Chintsa - Local Non-Profit Organisation

For larger construction projects fundraising is often required in addition to your contribution. Local non-profit organisation Friends of Chintsa is the conduit in which this is undertaken. Friends has an international network of supporters made up of past volunteers, present and past Chintsa residents and a wide variety of interested parties.

Community Interaction & How to Get Involved

The Ubuntu Building Project is centred around just that—the spirit of Ubuntu. During your time on project community interaction, skills sharing and learning are key to getting the most out of your volunteer experience. In addition to assigned project tasks you can get involved in other Friends of Chintsa projects:

- Take part in “Community Kids” sports development initiative one afternoon in the week
- Help Temie cook for local children in the Soup Kitchen at the weekend
- Join the UNSTRESSED Surf School down on the beach at the weekend where the local surf community run a surf development school for disadvantaged children



To find out more about Friends visit
www.friendsofchintsa.org



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Volunteer Life

Orientation

A pre-project familiarisation and orientation, will take place upon arrival in Chintsa. This will involve an introduction to the local area including visiting past Ubuntu Project sites, getting to know volunteer routine and house as well as a familiarization chat about life and what to expect in South Africa.

A project specific orientation will take place at the site of your project with our experienced team leaders. During this orientation the background of the project will be explained, it's current state, your aims as a group and future aims and functions of the project site.

Orientation is designed to help volunteers to settle into their new environment as quickly as possible and to understand where their energy and enthusiasm can be used best on project.



Accommodation

VA32 has a volunteer house in the small seaside village of Chintsa East. Overlooking Chintsa beach & lagoon volunteers will stay in shared accommodation (two or six per room). The house is within a few minutes walk of the beach & volunteers will have access to canoes, boogie boards and beach accessories through local backpackers Buccaneers. Accommodation has most mod cons (including daily visits from the monkeys!) and is fully serviced and managed by our house manager Nomakwezi.



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Meals

Breakfasts are **early and healthy**. Volunteers will have access to a self –help breakfast which will include fresh fruit, toast and jams, cereals, tea and coffee.

Lunch is in the form a packed lunch which includes a **sandwich and a piece of fruit** prepared by house manager Nomakwezi enjoyed on your project site in a beautiful rural village setting.

Dinners are scrumptious, home cooked, sit down meals. These will be prepared by VA32 staff and we cater for vegetarians at all times. Volunteers also have the opportunity to enjoy traditional Xhosa foods at our once off Xhosa Dinner Party. Other theme menus include a Mexican evening as well as a truly South African weekly “braai” (BBQ).

Important Note: Participants must advise VA32 of their dietary needs (e.g. vegetarian, allergic to nuts etc.) upon bookings. Participants with very specific dietary needs may be required to supplement their meals at their own expense.

Chintsa

There are several small restaurants and bars in the village that do specials for volunteers. Friday night is “fun night out” as all VA32 volunteers from the different projects usually meet up.

Local tour operator African Heartland Journeys (mother company to VA32) run surf schools, beach horse rides, game drives and quad biking which are all bookable through the VA32 office at a reduced rate for volunteers.

Local backpackers **Buccaneers** also welcomes volunteers to use their swimming pool, boogie boards, canoes, take part in their afternoon free activities and enjoy their bar. A great place to meet like minded travellers and plan future adventures!

The VA32 Office & Support Centre offers:

- o 24 hr personalised contact person
- o Professional, full time VA facilitators and project leaders to provide support & guidance
- o Weekly feedback, troubleshooting and planning sessions with co-ordinating team
- o Transport to and from projects
- o Free wifi in the VA32 office



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Program Fees & Dates

Program fees are dependent on group size, a minimum group of 6 pax is required.

Departure dates are available upon request.

What's included in the program fee?

- Airport transfers upon arrival and departure (Monday arrivals only)
- Accommodation in shared volunteer house
- Three meals a day whilst on project
- All project related transport
- Support of our experienced on-site project co-ordinator
- Welcome pack with all project info, and meal and drink vouchers for local Chintsa restaurants and bars, free wifi at the office

What's not included?

- Flights
- Personal Insurance
- Snacks, drinks and meals outside of project
- Extra excursions and trips

Recommended Add-on Tour

Ubuntu Building Project is a two week experience - to get the most out of your South African adventure we would recommend our

10 Day Cape to Kei Add-on Tour

which can be added before or after your volunteer experience.

For more info email Karen@volunteerafrica.co.za.



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