

My time in Cintsa by Jemma Smith

Well, I volunteered with VA32 for three months and I think it was probably the best 3 months of my life! I worked in Cintsa school teaching ICT to the kids. The kids are all very welcoming and you can have so much fun with them. We also run sport for the kids 2 afternoons a week and teach ICT to adults from the township two nights a week. All in all it was a truly amazing experience- the place, the project and the people are all amazing! I would highly recommend it to anyone, it is an experience you will never forget!

Cintsa by Kirsty Louise Agnew

Howzit Howzit!! Lekka lekka. :)

I spent 6 weeks in Cintsa primary school and wish I had spent longer. I met some fantastic people and learnt so much. The schools are so great and I loved my time over there. The kids are amazing and put a smile on my face everyday. The VA 32 group are doing such a brilliant thing and I will definitely be returning. As well as teaching the children we also set up an adult literacy class which is so rewarding and the adults of the village are so appreciative of everything. I had the time of my life and recommend it, as it is the most amazing thing you will ever do :) xx

Cinsta by Hannah Dixie

I had the most fantastic time of my life with VA32. I made some brilliant friends, went to some stunning places, but most importantly met, and had the privilege to be able to teach, some truly inspiring children. I really regret not having stayed longer and I'm going to try my best to come back because of it! The kids are so lovely, so eager to learn, and so grateful for anything you can give, which means it's an absolute pleasure to teach them. But none of this could happen without the hard work and complete support of everyone at VA32, particularly Mike and Karen, and Mike and Jo. Without them none of this would be possible. If any future volunteers are doubting whether to do this for one minute then don't! I can guarantee you won't regret it. Feel free to message me for any more info. Another big thank you to VA32, for giving me an experience that I will never forget. I miss you all already!

### VA32 by Priya Vansia

I was only in Cinsta for four weeks, and I really wish I could have stayed longer. The work that VA32 do is amazing, and even if it sounds cheesy, I really felt like I was making a difference!

It's not like other volunteer projects that I've heard about, where it's all for the volunteers and just so you can say you've done it -- the teaching we did had a huge impact on the children and the school. In fact, in the school I worked at, a lot of the time, if it hadn't been for the volunteers and Mike (one of the school coordinator people) there would be no teaching whatsoever.

And the children are lovely. They all really appreciate you for being there and they are all so eager to learn.

As for Cinsta itself, I've said it before and I'll say it again, it is paradise. All the people, from Karen and Mike in the office, to the people at the local shops and bars, are so welcoming and friendly and I felt like I was at home within a week. It is the most rewarding experience I could have asked for and I would do anything to go back!

### Volunteering by Amy Mallaby

What can I say, the time I spent volunteering with VA was fantastic!!! I will never forget the 2 months that I spent there. The children were wonderful and they are so eager and willing to learn it just adds to the experience. Before leaving the UK I had very little teaching experience and was slightly worried if that would matter, it doesn't. A lot of people come straight from college with no teaching experience, VA helps and supports you every step of the way. I couldn't have hoped for a better group of people. Thank you guys!!!!!!

You meet some amazing people, from Mike and Karen in the office, who are incredible people to the children who are lovely. You also make great friendships with other volunteers. I know that I had the best time in Cinsta and although I was moving on to somewhere else I was so sad to leave, it felt like leaving home all over again. If I ever get the chance to go back I most definitely will, not only because the project does a tremendous amount of good for the local community; but that everybody really appreciates the important things in life. The things that matter.

### Vollies by Kayleigh Huck

Hey there. I did month with VA last summer. It was the most amazing experience of my life. I did the wild coast conservation program and had a month crammed with experiences and fun activities. You get to meet fun and interesting people out there...whether you go on your own or with friends. You get to feel like you're really helping out and making a difference. So much interaction with the animals there, with raising the lion cubs and playing with the cheetahs being the most exciting part. its an experience u can't miss out on!!! I would go back any time and the people that help you to organise it are gr8. Karen and mike even helped us to organise a trip away to Cape Town for the weekend. Thank you all for an awesome time xx

### My love for VA by Rosie Hunter

Ok, I admit it, I was greedy, I was an ink vollie (wild coast conservation) AND a teacher vollie but I don't regret it for a minute!! I had the time of my life in Chintsa - both projects were really worthwhile and loads of fun. Looking after lion babies at Inkwenkwezi really was in a different league, along with getting up and a little too personal with a buffalo. Ink manages to combine a variety of truly unique experiences with making a real difference with conservation. Being a teacher is amazingly rewarding because the kids are brilliant, really involve you in their worlds and appreciate you teaching them! Learning how to prepare lessons and teach is also really valuable. All the people involved in VA are real legends and are incredible at what they do and I can guarantee that you will make friends for life. All i can say is I've been back....xxx