



# Out in Africa

## **Volunteer work in South Africa!**

### *About This Project*

Out in Africa in Gwexintaba, is an absolute unique and challenging project situated in the beautiful surroundings of the Transkei. This is one of the few places in South Africa where time stood still. Up to three years ago there were no formal roads leading here and Gwexintaba was almost inaccessible for the outside world. Here you can sense the genuine traditional Xhosa culture (indigenous tribe and language). The founder of Out in Africa is Louis, a white South African adventurer who decided three years ago to settle in this Xhosa community. This was a very surprising and unusual act. As surprising was the reaction of the local tribal community who gave their consent for him to stay.

Louis set up this project with the purpose to uplift and help his community. Out In Africa is not supported by NGO's and is not subsidized by the government; they have depended solely on the aid and donations of volunteers and their network.

### *Location*

Gwexintaba is located an hours drive from Port St. Johns, a beautiful coastal village in the Transkei. Gwexintaba is a little village with grass-roofed huts made out of mud. Situated at 3000 ft above sea level, the village is surrounded by amazing vegetation, forest, streams and the awesome Magwa Waterfalls (see image).

Only a couple of families reside in Gwexintaba, generation after generation the tribal chief has descended from one of these families. The community has to contend with many challenges; no electricity and no running water are available. The people have to do their washing in the streams and try to provide by cultivating their own crops and keeping small live stock.





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### Needs

The people of Gwexintaba require all the help possible. English language deficiency and extreme poverty are examples of the problems the children of Gwexintaba are facing.

During your stay at out In Africa you can really make a difference in these people's lives.

There is, besides daily aid and assistance, also a need for financial support. Any possible gifts and donations provided by volunteers and their network of people are extremely appreciated. Instead of collecting goods and materials for donation, it is recommended to purchase and donate these on location.

### Why Out Of Africa?

This project is very diverse and challenging, in which you'll be dealing with the local community. You will get acquainted with the circumstances in which 70% of South Africans live today, and experience their culture and situation. Be prepared to face misery and poverty, low hygienic standards and an unimaginable difference in culture.

For this reason it is of absolute importance that volunteers are independent and mature individuals. Supervision and guidance are always available throughout the voluntary term.

Out of Africa promises to be an experience of a lifetime.

### Prerequisites

It is important that volunteers of the Out In Africa Project understand the importance of the following:

- Respect and guarantee the vision and mission of the project.
- To show respect towards the people and culture of Gwexintaba.
- Able to work independently.
- To show flexibility towards responsibilities, tasks and activities.
- Cope with primitive lifestyle and housing conditions.





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### Accommodation

You will move into Louis' rondavel (see image) which was built by previous volunteers and himself. It offers very basic accommodation and you will sleep in a shared space. You will take turns in preparing meals on the open fire and rain water is used for drinking water which is perfectly safe. Occasionally there will be electricity available, depending on the solar panels.

As you will be accepted as a member of the tribe, you will be protected by the community and treated as a community member during your stay.

### Tasks and Activities

- Take on sport activities with the children
- Create and construct sport and game facilities
- Grow and maintain vegetable garden
  - Planting vegetables
  - Helping at community gardens
- Helping out at school
  - Teach English
  - Looking after kids
  - Fixing up school
- Outings to surrounding villages
- Swim at the Magwa Waterfalls
- Lot of beautiful hikes

- Building work at volunteer house
- Saturday and Sunday are off
- It is possible to visit Port St. Johns  
(costs of transport and overnight are not included)

### Costs

The following prices include accommodation, meals, daily supervision, and cultural excursions to surrounding villages, nature hikes and transfer from Port St. Johns to Gwexintaba

The costs are:

<b>1 week</b>	<b>R 2000</b>
<b>2 weeks</b>	<b>R 4000</b>
<b>3 weeks</b>	<b>R 6000</b>
<b>4 weeks</b>	<b>R 7600</b>

All extra weeks will be charged R 1800 per week.

Because of the currency fluctuation the donations given should be made in South African Rand (ZAR). Currency conversion information can be obtained from [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com).





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The fees will be paid towards the following;

- Upgrading and maintenance of the school
- Maintenance of the rondavel used by the volunteers
- Expansion and development of vegetable garden
- Planting of trees
- Providing jobs and income for the local community

### *Guidance and Supervision*

You can expect daily guidance and supervision provided by Louis and a local coordinator. Together with them you will discuss and organize what you want and what you can do. They will gladly give you advice and guide you in everything you undertake.

### *Testimonials*

My memories of Gwexintaba are fond and bring a smile to my soul, the people and their simplicity are refreshing, and reminding me I don't need much in life to bring happiness to my heart. It was primitive, primal and highlighted the simplicity of the world, a truly magical place.

*It fed my soul - former volunteer Christine Carlin, Australia*

I think that day all us heard Africa calling! It certainly became a part of my heart and soul and I can't wait to get back to it – *former volunteer Carl Mehns*

Form more information you can contact us on; [www.khayavolunteer.com](http://www.khayavolunteer.com)

