

First Hand Experience in South Africa 4 – 12 September 2010

South Africa's northern Limpopo province is home to a nature reserve and a world heritage site. But behind the beauty lies poverty – in South Africa, 48% of people live below the poverty line. This First Hand Experience will focus on building a much-needed community centre in Limpopo province. The centre will provide a library and information centre, a meeting place for the community to come together and discuss issues, and a training centre where children and community members can learn new skills. Your efforts will have a positive and lasting impact for years to come. You will also experience the best of South African culture, make new friends and take away memories that will last a lifetime.

You **will** change lives, including your own.

No experience is necessary, just enthusiasm, motivation and the desire to help make a difference.

A boy herds sheep in
Ga Molekane village,
South Africa.

Photo: James Oatway/Panos/ActionAid



Volunteers on ActionAid's First Hand Experience celebrate helping to build 23 homes in Belarpur village, Nepal, 2008.

Photo: Brian Sokol/ActionAid



Itinerary

Saturday 4 September

Meet your team at London Heathrow airport and fly to Johannesburg.

Sunday 5 September

On arrival we transfer to our hotel in Limpopo (5-6 hours away) where we rest and enjoy some free time before an afternoon briefing. Here we learn more about ActionAid and receive a detailed briefing from the site supervisor on the project. This is an excellent opportunity to meet the team and learn more about what you can expect.

Monday 6 September

Today we meet the local community members we will be working alongside to build the centre, and together we get to work! We will be given full training and guidance, and help is at hand at all times. We head back to our hotel at the end of the day for dinner and a short feedback session on the day's work.

Tuesday 7 – Thursday 9 September

Each morning we transfer to the build site for the day's work, digging, mixing cement or concrete, rendering and more. As we work alongside the local villagers who will be benefiting from these centres, we learn new skills and form friendships and memories that will last a lifetime. Expect lots of laughter, fun and singing along the way!

Friday 10 September

The final day of our build and an emotional day as we bid goodbye to new friends with an on-site farewell ceremony. This afternoon we have a debrief on the week's work and share our experiences. Tonight we enjoy a celebratory dinner at a local restaurant to mark the end of our once in a lifetime experience.

Saturday 11 September

Today we transfer from Limpopo to Johannesburg airport for the return flight to London Heathrow. En route we will enjoy stunning South African scenery.

Sunday 12 September

Arrive in London with wonderful memories – and the knowledge that your hard work will make a real difference to the community you have come to know.

Places are allocated on a first come, first served basis. Extensions will be available at an additional cost. This is a complex itinerary and subject to change. All flights and expedition arrangements are being undertaken by Charity Challenge (ATOL 6546).

www.actionaid.org.uk/experiences

For more information please call
020 7561 7571 or email
experiences@actionaid.org

Money matters

Registration fee: £300 (can be paid in two monthly instalments)

Minimum sponsorship: £3,100

Your trip costs are £1,695 and will be taken from your registration fee and minimum sponsorship.

Trip costs cover: all flights and transfers (excluding air taxes), accommodation, specialist travel insurance, all meals and drinking water, first aid supplies and medical backup, an English-speaking team leader with full local backup and support team, and carbon offsetting of your flights.

In addition you will need to budget for: airport taxes and any airline-imposed fuel surcharge (subject to change – to be confirmed 12 weeks prior to departure), any optional activities not mentioned in the itinerary, personal spending money, alcoholic and soft drinks, travel to/from UK airports, any vaccinations required (please see your GP for advice), tips for the support team.



ActionAid is a registered charity no. 274467.
This itinerary is printed on recycled paper.



“A fantastic challenge – a once in a lifetime experience! I knew from the outset it would be special but I had no idea it would be so hilarious, heart wrenching and unforgettable!”
Alan Offord, Nepal 2008 First Hand Experience

Photo: Brian Sokol/ActionAid

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First Hand Experiences

YOUR ITINERARY

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Children enjoy their lunch at the ActionAid-supported Mandela Educare Centre in Glenmore, outside Grahamstown, South Africa.

Photo: Gisele Wulfsohn/Panos/ActionAid