



CAPE RADD

RESEARCH & DIVER DEVELOPMENT

WHAT IS CAPE RADD?

Cape RADD is a marine research station that serves as a platform for research and early career training in the False Bay area of Cape Town, run by a team of passionate conservationists and scientists. We specialise in projects that monitor and investigate the biodiversity of a global hotspot home to more than 3500 endemic marine species and the incredible African kelp forests. We also utilise citizen science as a method of community engagement and public contribution to spread excitement, interest and passion for the marine world to the wider public.

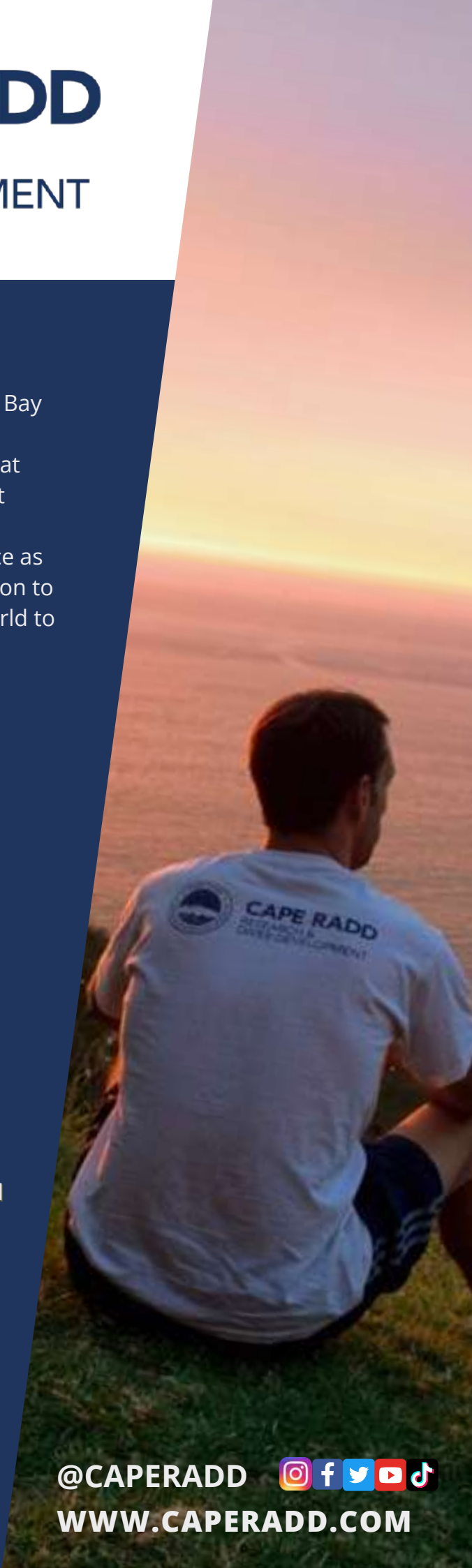
ETHOS AND MISSION STATEMENT

As a marine research and education facility Cape RADD aims to better understand marine environments through research objectives using a variety of techniques with a particular focus on measuring biodiversity. We aim to give early career conservationists exposure in citizen science projects, community engagement, public involvement and spreading awareness of the biodiversity crisis our planet finds itself in today. At Cape RADD volunteers will be exposed to local marine research, conservation and education initiatives. To raise awareness and interest in marine conservation issues facing False Bay and South Africa as a whole. We support and co-ordinate applied marine research that informs conservation management decisions with scientific advice and data collection. We aim to provide educational and engaging marine programs and materials for schools, Universities, the greater public and other learning groups, by involving and collaborating to install a sense of community with other conservation organizations and research institutes in the region to ultimately expand the reach, impact and awareness of marine science and conservation both locally and globally, spreading awareness and compassion for our oceans, and to educate the next generation of marine conservationists.

"Stop counting your dives and make your dives count!"

@CAPERADD     

WWW.CAPERADD.COM



Meet our team!



Mike Barron

Co-founder and Course Director

Mike is a marine biologist, conservationist and PADI master scuba diver instructor. Originally from the UK and having studied at the University of Bangor, Mike has travelled the world diving and experiencing many ecosystems, their inhabitants and collaborated with many scientists on a number of interesting projects. Mike's background was in shark deterrent behaviour and completed a post grad degree through Pretoria University. Mike has years of experience working and diving with many different types of shark species and scientific communication with the public.

In 2017 Mike together with his long-time colleague and friend Dylan set up Cape RADD. Mike now runs the dive logistics of Cape RADD and co-wrote the marine science field course for Cape RADD's early career science students. Mike is now involved in a number of local and international collaboration research projects investigating the biodiversity and health of the False Bay region. Mike works closely with conservation volunteers.



Dylan Irion

Co-founder and Course Director

Dylan, who hails from Maryland, USA is a marine scientist and Save Our Seas Foundation project leader, working towards a PhD that aims to unravel the drivers of white shark population dynamics in South Africa. He is a passionate freediver and SCUBA diver, and volunteers as a Sea Rescue crew member. Dylan's particular area of interest lies in the statistical interpretation of large data sets, specifically in white shark movement and ecology. Dylan wrote and instructs analytical workshops for Cape RADD students and is involved in a number of local and international collaboration research projects investigating the biodiversity and health of the False Bay region.

Meet our team!



Jessie Barron
Social Media and Student Liaison

Jessie has always been a wildlife lover and manages the social media platforms for Cape RADD. She is also a budding photographer, SCUBA diver, freediver and hiker. Jessie is on hand for student needs ready to assist with trips, travel and anything else you might need whilst on the programme with us.



Gareth Fee
Marine Guide and Dive Master

Gaz is a Marine Biologist, PADI Dive master and budding underwater photographer. He has a passion for the underwater world and the diverse forms of life within it. He is currently completing his Honours degree at the University of Cape Town studying Octopus behaviour.

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@CapeRADD

Volunteer Programme Overview

Cape RADD's Marine Conservation Volunteer program was designed as a conservation and community focused pillar of the Cape RADD Research and Education organization. The volunteers program focuses on citizen science research projects, community awareness, conservation projects and education outreach.

Volunteers will be involved in our citizen science initiatives where you will join our biologists on various snorkel project trips observing and monitoring endemic fish and shark species along the Cape Peninsula. Collecting data and taking Photo IDs of the small shy shark species. Volunteers will also be involved in our micro plastics projects looking at densities of micro plastics in the surrounding waters.

These long-term monitoring projects and conservation programs depend on volunteer contributions to record and collate data, communicate and engage with the public and join in local environmental events to increase the impact and further our work in the field. This allows Cape RADD volunteers to contribute to the research, education and conservation of the marine world as much as possible.

You will first be given presentations on the various work involved and explore the benefits of using citizen science as a scientific monitoring effort, biological talks such as shark biology and ecology, tagging and tracking white sharks and many more interesting topics. Volunteers will be involved in community outreach in local schools and community events to spread their passion and newly developed knowledge of the marine life of the area. Beach cleans and in water harbour and sea wall cleans are organized to raise awareness of the pollution issues and make a positive difference to the local area. Assist with the local museum on a marine conservation exhibition which you will be involved in designing and contributing to. Head out on sunset Paddle board trips, help with seal movement and kelp distribution mapping, and join our False Bay Expeditions on board our research vessel.

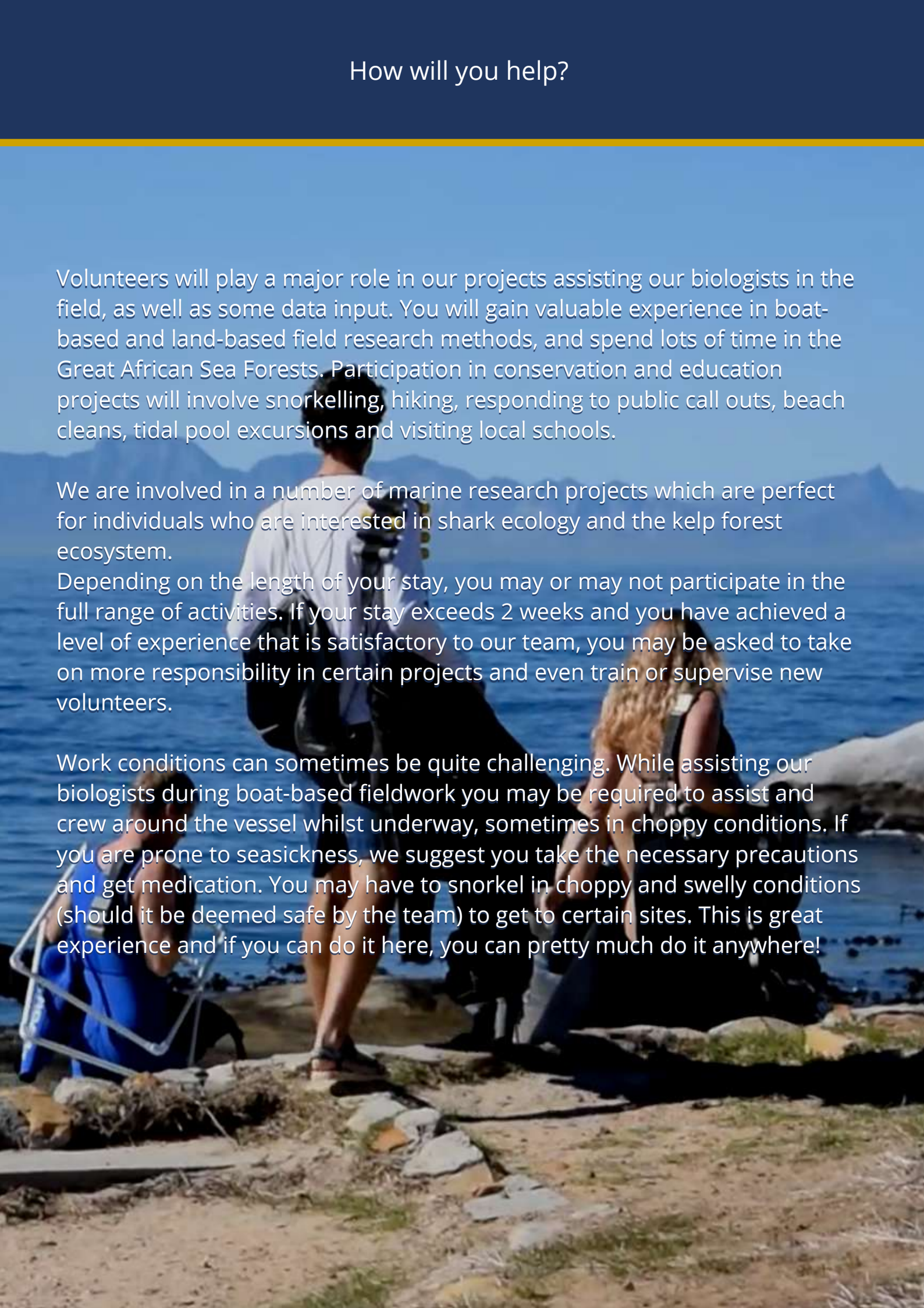
How will you help?

Volunteers will play a major role in our projects assisting our biologists in the field, as well as some data input. You will gain valuable experience in boat-based and land-based field research methods, and spend lots of time in the Great African Sea Forests. Participation in conservation and education projects will involve snorkelling, hiking, responding to public call outs, beach cleans, tidal pool excursions and visiting local schools.

We are involved in a number of marine research projects which are perfect for individuals who are interested in shark ecology and the kelp forest ecosystem.

Depending on the length of your stay, you may or may not participate in the full range of activities. If your stay exceeds 2 weeks and you have achieved a level of experience that is satisfactory to our team, you may be asked to take on more responsibility in certain projects and even train or supervise new volunteers.

Work conditions can sometimes be quite challenging. While assisting our biologists during boat-based fieldwork you may be required to assist and crew around the vessel whilst underway, sometimes in choppy conditions. If you are prone to seasickness, we suggest you take the necessary precautions and get medication. You may have to snorkel in choppy and swelly conditions (should it be deemed safe by the team) to get to certain sites. This is great experience and if you can do it here, you can pretty much do it anywhere!



How will you help?

Hiking to view sites, performing behavioural observations from mountains may be physically demanding and mentally fatiguing. Not everyone is cut out for particularly intense and physical work, BUT we always take individual interests and ability into account, we do not expect you to be uncomfortable or outside your limits. It is important to let the RADD team know of physical or any other issues/ illness at the start of the stay and if something occurs during the program.

The work of a wildlife researcher and conservationist is often ruled by the weather, and therefore we must stay flexible and patient with what mother nature throws at us. Daily schedules do change regularly at the last moment if weather conditions are not suitable, for this reason we do not have set schedules, we work based around the weather forecasts and projects which can be done at the moment in time.

Being based on a peninsula we are lucky that most the time we can jump to the other side of the point to hide from big seas and winds often. On days where sea field work is not possible, there are lots of indoor or shore-based work to be done, from analysing video data, inputting shark sightings or biological knowledge presentations by one of our scientists. If we receive reports of strandings or unusual animal behaviour/sightings we will try our best to re-arrange and get to the action fast.

Projects & Activities volunteer will be involved with:

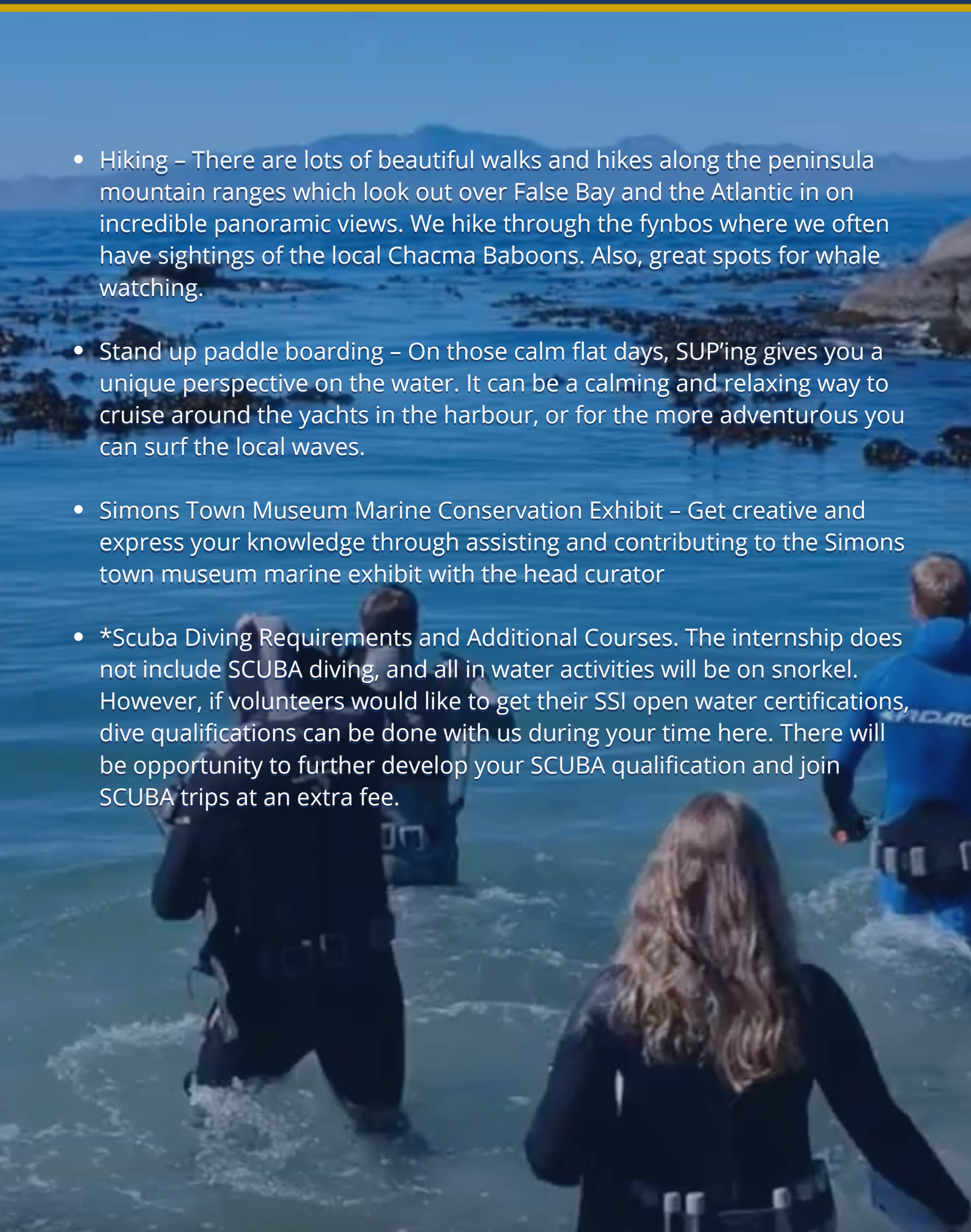
- Shark abundance, diversity and movement assessments
- The applications, pros and cons of Citizen Science
- Endemic fish and shark Surveys (snorkel)
- Kelp forest sampling
- Shark tagging and tracking workshop + practical
- Micro Plastic sampling field work
- Public outreach: Conservation education initiatives in local schools and at public events.
- External public events: When there are public lectures available in the area, we take the volunteers to learn more about the research taking place in False Bay and the greater area.
- Investigating intertidal rock pools
- Fish, Mollusc, shark, cetacean biology and ecology presentations
- Shark egg collection and recording
- Shark Sighting Data input
- General maintenance of equipment and gear maintenance
- Assist with local marine conservation and education museum curation
- Introduction to freediving (learn the basics of this skill to develop your snorkel surveys)
- Drop Camera fish diversity field work + video analysis

Activities included:

- Citizen Science Fish and Shark survey – Learn all about the endemic species in the area and help marine biologists collect observational data and photographs for our long-term monitoring projects
- False Bay Expeditions – From time to time, volunteers will be invited out on boats to search and photograph the marine Big 5 (sharks, whales, dolphins, seals + penguins), and deploy underwater cameras to record the marine life on the bottom of the reefs.
- Citizen Science Micro plastic river sampling – Assist with water and sediment sample collection with our marine biologists investigating the extent and effects of micro plastics in our river systems funnelling into False Bay.
- Octopus Research Project – Assisting Cape RADD Scientist in search of mollusc shells which have been predated on by Octopus, investigating drill hole accuracy and prey preferences.
- Marine Education School visits – Talk to the local school children about marine life + conservation. Activities and arts and craft projects, eco bricking.
- Beach cleans – Get involved in the local community and clean the beaches of their plastic waste. This plastic can be collected to be recycled, eco bricked or used for art projects as an environmental art piece.
- Plastic Sea Clean (snorkel) – The plastic on the beach eventually ends up back in the sea, so we get in the water and do some plastic search and collections, whilst observing the fish and the kelp forests.

Activities included:

- Hiking – There are lots of beautiful walks and hikes along the peninsula mountain ranges which look out over False Bay and the Atlantic in on incredible panoramic views. We hike through the fynbos where we often have sightings of the local Chacma Baboons. Also, great spots for whale watching.
- Stand up paddle boarding – On those calm flat days, SUP'ing gives you a unique perspective on the water. It can be a calming and relaxing way to cruise around the yachts in the harbour, or for the more adventurous you can surf the local waves.
- Simons Town Museum Marine Conservation Exhibit – Get creative and express your knowledge through assisting and contributing to the Simons town museum marine exhibit with the head curator
- *Scuba Diving Requirements and Additional Courses. The internship does not include SCUBA diving, and all in water activities will be on snorkel. However, if volunteers would like to get their SSI open water certifications, dive qualifications can be done with us during your time here. There will be opportunity to further develop your SCUBA qualification and join SCUBA trips at an extra fee.



Orientation, training and work schedule

No previous experience or training is required to participate in any of our projects. It is however recommended that you are able to swim, and have a reasonable level of physical fitness. Some beneficial volunteer qualities:

- General interest in marine biology, research, conservation and education
- Enthusiastic, positive, mature and independent attitude willingness to learn and work well within our small team
- Flexible and adaptable due to the weather dependent nature of fieldwork or tasks at hand
- Willingness to perform tedious behavioural observations and willingness to perform tedious data entry duties
- Ability to communicate fluently in English (both written and oral)

Once you have arrived and settled into the RADD Pad, our volunteer coordinator will give you a brief orientation of the program.

Work Schedule

Due to the weather-dependent nature of our work, we plan each week's activities the weekend before but usually give updates at the end of each day as to the next day's plans. The standard volunteer working week at Cape RADD is Monday to Friday, from 09h30 to 16h00, except on a boat trip day which may end later or earlier depending on what we see and what we are doing, or if there is a particular event we are attending.

Some days will involve more work and longer hours, while others are more relaxed and easier. You are expected to be ready at the time specified on the volunteer Whatsapp group the night before. Evenings and weekends are your leisure times. If you want advice or would like assistance booking trips you can let the RADD team know and we will gladly assist.

Research

Research projects at Cape RADD are the product of varied interests and objectives. As such, the specifics of what we're working on may change as projects are completed and new questions are raised. We have several on-going, long-term projects that will always contribute to our monitoring of the ocean ecosystem. In addition to these we also dedicate time to short-term projects investigating the biodiversity of the False Bay region. As a volunteer, you will gain hands-on experience working in the marine environment and you will regularly assist our research team during in water, boat-based or land-based fieldwork. Our current research efforts focus on monitoring endemic fish, sharks, rays, octopus and the kelp forest ecology itself. The specific projects we run are detailed below. During your stay you will assist in some or all of these projects.

Research Projects:

Fish abundance and diversity survey

This project uses a standardised roving diver/snorkeler technique to record the presence and number of species encountered during a dive. This involves some basic species ID skills before heading out to search for as many fish and shark species as possible. You will be armed with data slates and a camera. This long-term monitoring project aims to monitor biodiversity and abundance on the temperate reef systems of South Africa.

Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV) Deployment

Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV) is a non-invasive technique for monitoring species abundance and diversity. The use of bait in this process serves to attract individuals for sampling but can introduce a bias in which species are attracted. Recent findings show that the use of bait can reveal cryptic species that wouldn't otherwise be visible, but can also attract species from outside of the target habitat-type. This project aims to quantify differences in species composition and abundance when using different types of bait.

Shark and ray egg case hunting

The endemic species of sharks and rays in this area lay eggs, and empty cases often get washed out onto the beaches and rock pool. You will be involved in regular dedicated beach-based surveys in search of these egg cases. You will also assist in the preparation, identification and measuring of these egg cases. This will add to a long-term data set that will also assist in determining which and when shark and ray species are present in the area, assisting in conservation efforts of these endemic species.

Research

Impact of cleaning regimes on species richness of tidal pools in False Bay

Health and safety necessitate that the Cape Town tidal pools must periodically be cleaned to remove slipping hazards and other sources of potential injury. Several methods have been used including chemical based, solutions, physical removal, and whitewashing. No studies have yet assessed the impact of these cleaning methods on the life found in the tidal pools. This collaboration with researchers from the Department of Environmental Affairs and students from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology aims to assess the impact of cleaning methods on the species richness found in the pools.

Micro Plastics sampling

We have two methods of sampling marine micro plastics in the False Bay area. The first is to take sediment samples from beaches by dipping the samples into buckets of water and sieving through to separate the plastics. The other is deploying our Manta trawl to sample the water from our research vessel. The Manta Trawl weighs 18 pounds and is 1.5 meters wide. The mouth of the trawl is 60 centimetres wide, with two 45-centimetre floating wings on either side. It is made of aluminium and wood with 3 meters long, fine-mesh net. It is towed alongside our research vessel to capture floating plastic on the water's surface while filtering debris through a fine-mesh net.

Then we collect and count what we find in the sieve and separate the plastics into size and type categories and record the data.

Oceanographic Research Institute (ORI) shark and fish tagging project

The Oceanographic Research Institute's Cooperative Fish Tagging Project (ORI-CFTP) is a long-term collaborative marine environmental project with the overall aim of ensuring the wise and sustainable use of southern Africa's marine line fish resources. It involves the voluntary cooperation of conservation-conscious anglers (i.e., anglers who voluntarily tag and release fish they catch) and the marine angling public at large who report the majority of the recaptures (i.e., a fish that is recaptured with a tag in it).

Conservation projects and education programme

Beach Clean-Ups

Being a part of a bigger community of environmentalists and conservationists, we often participate in local cleaning events or create our own on the beautiful beaches of the Cape Peninsula or in the city area.

Tiny plastic particles (micro plastics) get broken down and end up in the marine food-chain. This project not only keeps our beaches clean and healthy, but raises awareness to the polluting issues and sets a good example for the community. We take data slates out and record our findings, which gives data on things like what types of plastic, brands, distributions etc.

Marine Evenings

We regularly host 'marine evenings' where our scientists, marine biology field course students or Conservation volunteers give short talks and presentations on past experiences and conservation projects they have been involved in or an area of particular interest they would like to share with the public audience.

Education programme

Passing on our passion and enthusiasm for protecting and promoting the marine biodiversity as an asset to the local community is very important. This is to help the next generation understand the importance and value in the marine world on their doorstep so they want to engage and protect it for future generations. This involves giving talks to school kids, tourist groups, charities, business leaders and the general public who we aim to inspire and spread the word of marine conservation, promoting the area as a biodiversity hope spot.



Accommodation, house rules, transport and communication

ACCOMMODATION

You will either be in your own room or in shared dorm style rooms, depending on the number of volunteers that month. Accommodation is Self-catered and you will have a student shared kitchen with everything you need. You will be taken to the local grocery store whenever you need to get supplies.

Laundrette facilities are available in town which we can drop off you're washing and pick it up as needed. You may be required to pack a lunch for some activities, but the Volunteer Coordinator will inform you of the work schedule ahead of time.

The RADD Pad is located within walking distance to small convenience stores, a pharmacy and a variety of cafés and restaurants.

HOUSE RULES

Upon arrival at the RADD PAD you will receive a hard copy of the house rules. You are expected to read through the document and follow the rules during your stay. If the rules are not followed there will be consequences and you may be asked to leave the program.

TRANSPORT

We will transport you to program activities in one of the RADD vehicles. Rental cars and taxis are available for your evening and weekend activities (at your own expense), ranging from economy to premium class. We highly recommend you do not use local taxi's and only use Uber or Bolt Taxi apps for your convenience.

COMMUNICATION

We suggest acquiring a local mobile sim from one of SA's "pre-paid" options (Vodacom, MTN, Cell C, Telkom and Virgin), which are inexpensive, to be used to communicate with our volunteer coordinator. For this your phone must be unlocked for international Sim use. You can use your own sim if your network allow international use, however this can be costly.

There is internet access at the volunteer house. You are welcome to use your own laptop or tablet. Communication is key as you need to be aware of the day to day planned activities. The volunteer coordinator will communicate the weekly schedule. You will also be added to the volunteer WhatsApp group where you will receive final confirmation of each day's planned activities the evening before. Bear in mind, planned activities often change due to the weather dependent nature of fieldwork. If you are still unsure of any plans for the next day, please ask the volunteer coordinator. Photos and activity suggestions will also be shared on this group.

Weekend activities and location

WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

It's not all work, during the weekends and afternoons you will have the chance to explore and experience the beautiful Cape Peninsula, the city of Cape Town and surroundings, being only 40 km from the city centre, you can climb Table Mountain, check out the incredible beaches and nature hikes on the western coast of the city, or just relax at the waterfront marina at one of the many restaurants and bars. At the weekends there will be the opportunity to go further afield; maybe take a safari trip to a local game reserve, go on a world-famous wine tasting experience in one of the wine regions or visit Robben Island to reflect on African history in the prison where Nelson Mandela was incarcerated for 27 years. There is so much to do and see in Cape Town.

Weekends are your own leisure time and any activities that you take on will be at your own expense (and risk). There is a file in the RADD Pad lounge which contains brochures of some amazing outdoor activities available in the region. For assistance in booking weekend activities please get in touch with the Cape RADD team, please let us know by no later than Wednesday of that week and we can make the necessary bookings on your behalf.

Activities available include skydiving, scuba diving, Wine Tasting, horseback riding, Climbing Table Mountain, Sailing, Kayaking, rock climbing, shark cage diving, Cape Point tours, blue and mako shark dives and so much more. Activities can be organised by the house and volunteer coordinators. Transport to events will however be paid by the volunteer(s) unless planned otherwise.

LOCATION

The Cape RADD headquarters are situated in cosy Simon's Town, False Bay; nestled in an area of spectacular beauty that features stunning beaches, incredible marine life, and a mountainous backdrop – just 40 km from Cape Town's city centre. Simons Town is home to one of the most protected beaches in Cape Town, Long Beach, perfect for diver training and equipment testing. The coast of South Africa is a well-known hot spot for marine diversity, boasting numerous shark, cetacean, seal and fish species, as well as kelp forests, natural reef systems and artificial habitats in the form of shipwrecks. The biodiversity of the region can be attributed to the oceanographic conditions and habitats created by the meeting of two major ocean currents, the cold Benguela current which travels down the West coast and the warm Agulhas or Mozambique current from the East coast. This location gives us access to both the Atlantic and Indian side of the Cape Peninsula and offers a fantastic variety of habitats and species to observe, study and conserve. False Bay is one of the most varied and diverse areas in the world for marine life and plays host to an abundance of species large and small, from an eclectic array of colourful nudibranchs, sponges and sea anemones to mega-fauna species including the humpback whale, seven gill sharks and of course the iconic white shark. The False Bay area offers superb dive sites and a mixture of marine habitats from rocky reef, soft corals and wreck diving to kelp forests and off shore blue water diving.

What to bring

WHAT TO BRING:

Clothing

Please use the below recommended clothing list as a guide as you prepare for your experience. All items on this list are not essential and the list is only a suggestion. Please bear in mind season of travel when packing – even South African winters can get very cold!

Recommended Kit List

- Short sleeve shirts
- Long work trousers and shorts (Or work trousers with zip-off longs)
- T shirts
- Hiking Boots/comfortable walking shoes for hikes (a good, closed pair of comfortable trainers will do fine)
- Rain jacket (a "must have" as it can rain all year round)
- Sweat shirt/Fleece (Winter months pack plenty)
- Warm jacket/ warm windbreaker (it can get very cold on an open research vessel - even on a summer evening)
- Daypack rucksack
- Socks
- Warm Hat (in winter only) /Hat for sun protection (all year round)
- Sandals / comfy shoes to wear after work hours
- Bath towel/Beach towel/ Swimming costume
- Toiletries - Tick / insect repellent/ suncream

OTHER USEFUL ITEMS:

- Snorkelling equipment (if you have your own, otherwise it will be supplied by Cape RADD upon your arrival)
- Binoculars (a definite "must-have" as you will miss out if you do not have a pair)
- Good torch
- Water bottle
- International travel adapter, Mobile phone, camera and chargers
- Spare batteries
- Sunglasses
- Personal medical goodies
- Sunscreen (even when it is cold you can burn). Remember you can also always stock up on this once you here
- Bank card
- Laptop/tablet
- Notebook and pens
- Books/movies/music
- Games/cards etc. for entertainment during the evening

Important information

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is your own responsibility to arrange for insurance before you fly out. Not all travel insurance companies cover volunteering and adventure activities (which you may very well want to do during your weekends with us). Please ask if your preferred travel insurance company will cover you in full. Companies like Go Walkabout (for UK residents) and World Nomads specialize in insurance cover for the adventure traveller (yes you are one if you are coming to us!) and you can claim online from them.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

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Jessie - +27 749395620 / Whatsapp +44 7854217126

GETTING ABOUT

Uber App

Bolt App

Simons Town Shuttle Service - Marius - +27 794864228

BANKING

Simons Town has plenty of amenities and facilities available in the surrounding area so you won't be short of banks and ATMs should you need to. The best way to handle your finances while you are out here is to have a credit card/debit card, and to draw cash from an ATM as and when you need to.

There is also no need to keep a large amount of cash on you – rather just draw on a weekly basis for the week ahead. Please tell your bank that you will be using your card in South Africa before coming.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Before arrival you should have signed our student information form which contains a waiver/release as we do work at sea, however you will always be accompanied by trained professionals with health and safety/first aid qualifications. False Bay does also have its own hospital if this is necessary in an emergency situation.

A tetanus vaccination before you fly out is recommended for your own piece of mind (not crucial but always good to have when travelling). No other vaccinations are needed (unless you are coming from a yellow fever country yourself).

Cape Town is also a malaria-free zone

BOOKING YOUR FLIGHTS AND TRANSFERS

Overseas volunteers will fly into Cape Town. From there, the project staff will arrange to pick up and take volunteers to the volunteer house. The airport transfer charge is R400 (approx £20). The journey time is usually around 45 minutes. A valid passport with at least 2 blank pages in it is necessary to enter South Africa. Since visa requirements vary from country to country, please check with your local embassy as to whether a visa is required to enter South Africa. Please check your tourist visa requirements, although in general you will be given a tourist visa on arrival, say you are travelling on holiday. You will need to know the address you are staying at for this. We can also supply a letterhead to confirm the purpose of your trip for any COVID travel restriction requirements (however this is generally not needed anymore). Please let the project know the times of your arrival and departure so that they can aid you with airport transfer.

CULTURE & HISTORY

This project is based in Cape Town allowing great access to both the city life and all its conveniences and facilities as well as the beauty and wilderness of the peninsula.

You may have heard of Netflix's Oscar Academy award-winning documentary film *My Octopus Teacher*. The film won the Best Documentary Feature at the 2021 awards. If you haven't already watched it, we highly recommended you do! Not only is it an amazing film filled with excellent insight into nature and our interactions with it, but it also offers a great insight into this project. The kelp forests of False Bay provide the backdrop to this amazing film and gives an amazing insight into the sorts of experiences you might have on this project! The False Bay Great African Sea-Forests have also recently made the list of Bloomberg's 7 new wonders of the world. Bloomberg has devised its new list for a post-pandemic reality, where "those with a thirst for adventure should go by a new list". It has looked all over the world for those places relatively untouched or unexplored by humankind, with marvels including "archaeological and natural treasures spanning far wider than the ancient Greek world and catering to all types of modern explorers".

False Bay was also confirmed as a Mission Blue Hope Spot in 2004 by Dr Sylvia Earl and Cape RADD are now the Mission Blue Champions for the False Bay area.

General information

Marine conservation volunteers are welcome to join the project at any time during the year, though the activities volunteers will be able to undertake will vary depending on the weather and time of year.

January to March are typically the warmest months, so suncream and hats are advised. Temperatures range from 15 – 30 degrees Celsius. Water temperature averages 16-22 degrees Celsius.

From April to June, the weather is still mostly warm, though evenings are cooler. Temperatures typically range from 12 – 25 degrees Celsius. Water temperature averages 14-18 degrees Celsius. October to December holds weather conditions similar to April to June.

The winter months of July to September can reach temperatures of 20 degrees Celsius, though the nights cool off rapidly. Warm clothes are suggested as a result as there is no central heating in South Africa. Water temperature averages 12-16 degrees Celsius. Although Humpback whales and Southern Right Whales can be spotted all year round, during winter months they are seen on a more regular basis as the whale season enters full swing.

Summer months in South Africa: November – April

Winter months: May – October (mornings and evenings are very cold – mid day generally lovely and warm). Please keep in mind that South African houses are not equip with central heating systems for winter. Bring sufficient warm clothing if you are coming out during SA winter months.

- Currency in South Africa is South African Rand (see www.xe.com for current exchange rates).
- Voltage 220v, plugs round three pin plug – International adaptors required.
- Immigration into South Africa requires two completely empty pages in your passport alongside each other, which is valid for further 6 months.
- *** When completing the immigration forms upon entering South Africa, you must state that you are a tourist on holiday. Please do not mention volunteering as this can be mis constructed by the officials as working, for which you need a special visa.
- Please note we do not offer ANY refunds for unused time at Cape RADD. If you decide to leave early for whatever reason, your unused time will not be refunded.
- Age limit for buying alcohol is 18 years. Please consume responsibly at all times.
- In the unfortunate event of any emergency medical attention during your experience, doctors and hospitals in South Africa will require immediate payment. Although you are covered by your insurance it is recommended that you take a Credit Card to cover any unforeseen eventualities, which can be reclaimed from your insurance company, upon your return.
- **For any further information on Cape RADD check out www.caperadd.com**