



WESTERN CAPE WEEKEND TRIP

There are several amazing weekend trips to get involved in during your time with PMGY in South Africa. Travelling over the weekends is a huge part of the experience as it gives you the opportunity to explore the country with fellow volunteers on the program.

With PMGY volunteers being based in the urban environment of Cape Town, they are usually able to organise trips independently without the need for our team to travel with them. There are many travel agents based in the city who can provide affordable and reputable weekend trip options to our volunteers, and they also allow for you to meet other travellers in South Africa. As a result, we have found participants to prefer the flexibility to explore all the opportunities available to them once they arrive in Cape Town rather than pre-organising trips only for people to want to change these plans once they arrive. You can therefore book weekend trips locally based on your budget, travel preferences and once you have met other volunteers on the program.

We have outlined a couple of popular weekend trip options to give you an idea of some of the trips you can get involved in during your time with us. We recommend participants do not make any firm commitments until they arrive in South Africa as participants will usually travel in a group and our team are a great resource to help you make plans!

It is common for volunteers to make weekend trip plans for a 3 day period when travelling further afield. This will mean choosing to miss a day from your volunteer project. Subsequently, you should give as much notice as possible to the local team and staff at the project to ensure they can approve your plans before you make any trip commitments and make alternative arrangements if necessary.

Day tripping simply does not do South Africa's Western Cape justice and, like all good tasting plates, this weekend trip delivers the very best of the region – from Cape Point, Winelands, Whale Coast and to the Tip of Africa; Cape Agulhas. You will taste local MCC and pair wines with biltong and chocolate in the Stellenbosch and Franschhoek regions, enjoy an optional kayak among marine life, meet penguins at Betty's Bay and meander along Clarence Drive.

The history, hospitality and the sheer diversity of flora, fauna and cultures in the Western Cape, together with a landscape that dramatically transforms with every curve of the road will take your breath away!

The weekend will be action packed as you explore local neighbourhoods, experience township culture with a visit to a local's home and view wild Atlantic waves crashing at the most southwestern point of Africa. You will be amazed at what you'll find beyond Cape Town.

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DAY 1 – CAPE TOWN – CAPE POINT – STELLENBOSCH

It's an early morning departure as we curve along the infamous Chapman's Peak Drive to Cape Point. On arrival, we will hike to the lighthouse through Cape Point's fynbos for views of Africa's most southwesterly point. You will then have a chance to chill like a local in Kalk Bay and take some time to grab a drink at a seaside pub or check out some of the bohemian shops in the area.

We will then head on to the local neighbourhood of Muizenberg where you can witness the colourful beach-huts and some cool surf spots along the Western Cape. The day will finish with you tasting your way through historic Stellenbosch. From the age-old trading store to hip artisan foodie stops for a chance to taste local treats like 'droë wors', rusks and dried fruit, Stellenbosch will not disappoint.



DAY 2 – STELLENBOSCH

Kayamandi will be the first port of call for the day as we visit an elder's home for a colourful slice of Xhosa culture and taste magwinya (vetkoek) and chakalaka. It will then be time to rehydrate as we raise a glass with an MCC tasting of the first bubbly ever produced in South Africa.

We will then make our way to Franschhoek to take in the farmers' market and explore the charming streets dotted within the restaurants. It's then time to hit the road for the last time of the day as we aim for sunset at Cape Agulhas - the southernmost tip of Africa where the Indian and Atlantic oceans meet.



DAY 3 – CAPE AGULHAS – HERMANUS – CAPE TOWN

Listen to the sound of crashing waves as you hike the dramatic winding cliff paths in Hermanus. Look out for dolphins and the rich bird life while surrounded by lush fynbos. This area is also known for spectacular land based whale watching from June to November.

You can then take some time to explore Hermanus at your leisure or if you want to adventure a little further then optional activities can be arranged such as an optional whale watching cruise (Jun–Nov) or sea kayak in search of marine life.

The last part of the trip will see us take the coastal scenic route along Clarence Drive, stopping to visit the Betty's Bay penguins and then reaching back to Cape Town by evening time.



ACCOMMODATION

You will stay at either guesthouse or backpacker accommodation on the Friday and Saturday night in either shared room or dorm format. The accommodation will be clean and comfortable. You'll have all the amenities you need such as western toilet and hot shower. Wi-Fi is also available, although it may be intermittent.

MEALS

You'll be provided with breakfast throughout the 3 days. Lunch and dinner are not included and will need to be budgeted for. The trip guide will be on hand to recommend some good places to eat across the trip. Water or any soft drinks are at own expense.

TRANSPORT

We will transport you by a private minibus. An experience tour guide will be on hand to accompany you throughout the weekend trip and you will have English-speaking tour guides to take you around all of the sites.