

# *The Cultural Explorer*

## **Zulu Empowerment Projects**

**Sept 4-25, 2010**

3-week trip: 2 1/2 weeks volunteering with 3-day safari

Sept 4

Welcome to Johannesburg. As everyone will be arriving at different times and you will all be tired from the international flight, a casual dinner and an orientation meeting will be held at or near the hotel that evening.

Sept 5-6

We will be in Johannesburg for 2 days. Johannesburg will give you a feel for the country and history of apartheid through our visits to the Apartheid Museum, Constitution Hill, downtown Johannesburg, and the now vibrant township of Sowetto. Our accommodations will be at cozy, Afro-chic Peech Hotel—a good central location for walking to the Rosebank Mall and the African Craft Market or the trendy Melrose Arch area. The opening dinner celebration will be held at Moyo on Sunday evening—offering you a heady mix of African cuisines, music, plus a chance to get acquainted with your fellow travelers.

Sept 7

Settle back and enjoy the scenery—today we wind our way through the rolling farm land, villages, and small towns of rural South Africa on our way south to Eshowe. We will stop for a picnic lunch (and a walk) along the way. Overnight at the George Hotel.

Sept 8-10

Welcome to the fascinating town of Eshowe. You will jump right into your volunteer work after an orientation tour of Eshowe and the surrounding area. Our accommodations will be at the George Hotel, a lovely small hotel near the center of town. Plan to spend time at the hotel bar for a chance to meet and chat with the very friendly locals.

Sept 11-12

On Saturday and Sunday you will get to know the Zulu culture with educational excursions into a nearby village with the local “only white” Zulu Sangoma (traditional healer). You will spend some time with the villagers, take a nature walk in the forest in the center of town, tour the old British fort, and have dinner at the delightful Adam’s Outpost restaurant.

Sept 13-17

Week of volunteer projects. Evening events and excursions TBD.

Sept 17-20

Enjoy an exciting weekend safari in Hluhluwe Umfolozi Game Reserve. Established in 1895, this is the oldest game park in South Africa along with nearby St Lucia Reserve. Umfolzi is set in the heart of Zululand where Zulu kings such as Dingiswayo and Shaka hunted and put in place the first conservation laws. Today, Africa's 'Big Five' (lion, elephant, leopard, buffalo and rhinoceros) stalk the flourishing savannah. Game viewing is the principal attraction here. Viewing ‘hides’ overlook

pans and waterholes, enabling you to observe wildlife at close range. The park covers some 227,221 acres and contains an immense diversity of fauna and flora. Umfolozi Reserve is characterized by hilly topography and the northern section of the game reserve is noted for its wide variety of both birdlife and wildlife.

Sept 21–24

Volunteer projects-- with outings during the week to special cultural events and many more opportunities to meet with the locals.

Sept 25

We have come to the end of the trip. You will not want to leave!  
Ground transfer to Durban/Johannesburg International for departure.

**Costs: \$6,000 per person sharing (costs can be lowered depending on accommodations). Single supplement: \$1,000**

This trip is ALL INCLUSIVE for any group activities--that includes transfers to and from airports, all ground transportation to and from projects, all food and wine or liquor, all group excursions and tours, and all baggage assistance.

Not included: INTERNATIONAL AIR-- arrive Johannesburg, depart Durban/Johannesburg: any transportation apart from the group activities, laundry or cleaning, meals or beverages apart from group activities, optional personal excursions, tips for guides, tips for house keeping, and any special requests not part of group activities.

## Projects

### John Montgomery Aids Foundation Activities

#### Activities

Work with children 5-12, cooking, cleaning and caring for the children. Help with homework, read stories, play games or sports, and simply have conversations with them. You will be giving them much needed attention and affection.

#### Working Hours

Flexible but generally from 9-3. Other time is free.

#### Getting to your project

You will be driven to and from the projects daily. They are all within ten minutes drive from your accommodations in the town of Eshowe.

#### Requirements

Minimum age 18

#### History

The focus of the foundation is to assist the affected and infected orphans of the AIDS pandemic in Kwa-Zulu Natal. At present the foundation raises funds to educate and feed the children and to find accommodation for those who are destitute. This is becoming difficult due to the increasing orphan population and the costs of school fees and food.

This project was started by Judia MaDonda in 2004. MaDonda had started doing community work in 1987 working with the University of Natal, Child Welfare and Noah. In 2004 some Norwegian missionaries built her a house where she had been looking after 12 children in her own inadequate room. From there Hiram Higgins, a Presbyterian minister in Eshowe, found funds from John Montgomery in Ireland to build the orphanage. Eshowe Rotary Club and other local organizations helped fund and run the organization. At present the over 55 children are fed by ZuluFadder and funded by the same organization.

## **King Dinizulu Creche**

### **Activities**

Teach, feed, read to and play with the children ages 2-5.

### **Working Hours**

Flexible but generally from 8-3. Other time is free.

### **Getting to your project**

You will be driven to and from the projects daily. They are all within ten minutes drive from your accommodations in the town of Eshowe.

### **History**

This well run creche in King Dinizulu suburb accommodates over 150 children and is run by Prudence Nyawo and her 9-member team. Children's ages are from 2-5 years old. Prudence started the creche in a small house in 1994. This house was inadequate for the numbers of children she was looking after. The Creche was built by Eshowe Rotary Club in 1991 with funds from local people, other organizations and the German government. This creche serves a valuable service to the community. Parents drop off their children from 7 am. Officially it closes at 12:00 but parents can collect their children up until 3 pm.

## **Teach English**

### **Working hours**

Flexible but generally from 8-3 or after school. Other time is free.

### **Getting to your project**

You will be driven to and from the projects daily. They are all within ten minutes drive from your accommodations in the town of Eshowe.

### **Requirements**

Maximum age 16

### **History**

There are literally thousands of Zulu children of all ages wanting to learn English in the Eshowe area. They have been taught English at school but need tutoring and interaction as they get no chance to put these lessons into practice. This is probably the best lift-off a Zulu child can get to propel them into job situations when they leave school. Being competent in conversational English really puts many opportunities within their grasp. We have earmarked 5 schools as our primary target, all within 10 kms of our headquarters in Eshowe.

## **Refurbish Rural Classroom**

### **Activities**

Rebuild, sandpaper, varnish chairs and desks. Repaint and repair classroom: walls, windows, curtains, black boards and shelves. Volunteers to assess the classrooms that need refurbishment and to do costing and logistic planning. Funds for refurbishments to be provided by third party. Our hosts will assist with planning and sourcing of funds.

### **Working hours**

Flexible but generally from 9-4.

### **Getting to your project**

You will be driven to and from the projects daily. They are all within ten minutes drive from your accommodations in the town of Eshowe.

### **Requirements**

Maximum age 16

### **History**

All classrooms are ECAG classrooms that need attention. These are original classrooms that are much older. CVP does not provide funds or material however the Rotary club in Eshowe can assist in obtaining funds from other donors. What can be refurbished will depend on the budgets on hand.

## **Community Vegetable Garden**

### **Working hours**

Generally 10-2. Other time free.

### **Getting to your project**

You will be driven to and from the projects daily. They are all within ten minutes drive from your accommodations in the town of Eshowe.

### **Requirements**

Growing sustainable gardens -- help the members of the Zulu community to be self-sufficient. Not only can they enjoy the healthy vegetables and fruits but they can also organize co-ops to sell the produce. Good project for gardeners of all ages.

## **Skill Center Project**

### **Working hours**

Will vary. Some evenings involved.

### **Getting to your project**

All transportation provided to and from the Skill Center provided.

### **Requirements**

Interest and willingness to teach a marketable skill to young people or adults.

### **History:**

The Skill Center is a very successful project started by the Eshowe Rotary Club several years ago.

The main purpose of the Skill Center is to provide effective vocational training mainly of lower but also of mid-level manpower. There is also a provision for people who never participated in formal education or who have a low level of academic proficiency.

This is a very special project where you can teach your specific skills to someone as a vocational skill. For example: teach auto mechanics, sewing, weaving, knitting, art, jewelry making, carpentry, computer skills, writing or woodworking, etc.

Or you may prefer to brainstorm business ideas with the participants and encourage entrepreneurship! Sometimes all people need are some good basic ideas and to be shown some possibilities. We are only limited by our imaginations on this one.

## **Some interesting facts about Kwa-Zulu Natal/ZULULAND**

Zululand, historic region and home of the Zulus, covers about 10,000 square miles in NE KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Zululand is bordered by the Indian Ocean on the east, by Mozambique on the north, and by Swaziland on the west. The terrain rises from a low coastal plain to the foothills of the majestic Drakensberg Mountain range. There are several game (animal) and forest reserves in this area.

Although some corn is grown, the Zulu economy depends primarily on cattle raising. Zululand's two major commercial crops, sugarcane and cotton, are generally cultivated on coastal plantations. Sugar milling and some paper making are virtually the region's only industries. There is also considerable exploitation of wattle and eucalyptus.

The Zulus, who belong to the southern branch of the Nguni-speaking peoples, constitute the majority of the population, and Zulu is the main language. Many Zulus still live as members of a traditional extended family in a fenced compound (kraal), headed by the oldest man. Members of the family occupy beehive-shaped huts in the enclosure of the kraal, within which the cattle are kept penned. The prolonged absence of a majority of the men, many of whom are employed in the distant cities and mines of South Africa has, however, weakened Zulu society. The name Zulu originally denoted a people that, migrating southward, reached the area around the Tugela River in the late 17th century.

The Zulus became historically important in the early 19th century under Shaka, whose conquests reduced many neighboring people to vassalage and caused others to flee. His successors soon encountered the Boer settlers migrating north into Natal as part of the Great Trek. The Zulu chief Dingane ambushed and killed about 500 Boers in 1838. In revenge the forces of Andries Pretorius killed about 3,000 Zulus in the Battle of Blood River. Subsequent Boer intervention in Zulu domestic affairs led in 1840 to the overthrow of Dingane and the crowning of Mpande, who became a vassal of the Boer republic of Natal.

The British, who succeeded the Boers as rulers of Natal in 1843, encountered the hostility of Mpande's son, Cetshwayo. After he ignored an ultimatum that he submit to British rule, Great Britain launched an attack on Zululand in 1878 and, although suffering several grave defeats, finally triumphed in July 1879. Faced with continuing Zulu rebellions, the British annexed Zululand in 1887; it became part of Natal in 1897.

The Bantustan (black "homeland") designated by the government of South Africa, in accordance with the Bantu Self-Government Act of 1959, to be the Zulu homeland was named KwaZulu [land of the Zulus]; it was made up

of isolated tracts of land, forming only a part of historical Zululand. It was, therefore, neither geographically unified nor territorially homogeneous. The area north of the Tugela River, where the largest tracts of Zulu territory lie, formed the hub of KwaZulu. Ulundi was the capital. Slightly more than half of South Africa's Zulu population lived in KwaZulu, which also had Xhosa, Sotho, and Swazi minorities.

The Inkatha movement, an indigenous association whose membership consists primarily of Zulu migrant workers, has played an important and controversial role in the political life of South Africa since 1975. Inkatha and its leader, Mangosuthu Gatsha Buthelezi, were accused of collaborating with apartheid forces in the South African government, and long-standing hostilities between Inkatha and the African National Congress (ANC) led to bloodshed in the black townships of Natal. In April 1994, just before national elections, Buthelezi agreed to abandon a boycott and have his Inkatha Freedom party participate. In return, the KwaZulu region was given autonomy under Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini, with Buthelezi as his prime minister, while at the same time being incorporated into the new KwaZulu-Natal province. Attempting to stay above politics, the king subsequently distanced himself from Inkatha. Violence and political feuding between Zulu supporters of Buthelezi and Zulu partisans of the ANC continued in the mid-1990s but largely subsided in the last years of the decade.

Some websites of interest:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zulu#The\\_modern\\_Zulu\\_population](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zulu#The_modern_Zulu_population)

<http://www.visitzululand.co.za>

<http://www.zulu.org.za>

<http://www.eshowe.com/>

## About Eshowe

Its cool, elevated position on a hilltop overlooking the hot and humid coastal plain gives Eshowe its serenity but the Dlinza Forest around which the town wraps itself gives Eshowe its spirit. Dlinza Forest is a declared nature reserve but tracts of the beautiful, high forest as well as patches of wild flowers and grassland are dispersed throughout the leafy avenues of the town.

Blessed with this abundant natural diversity, Eshowe residents boast that that there is a tree in flower every day of the year in their town.

This lush environment and refreshing climate has always attracted human habitation and no less than four Zulu kings have at some stage lived here, though Eshowe probably owes its modern beginnings to the Norwegian missionaries who established a station here in the mid-19th century.

During the Anglo Zulu War of 1879 British soldiers used the mission as a fort and were besieged by the Zulu army for 10 weeks.

During the Zulu Civil War a few years later, Eshowe became the British military headquarters and a large peacekeeping force of 3, 000 British troops was encamped in tents at Fort Curtis for about 16 years.

There was a rush of trading ventures to cater to the needs of such a large garrison and during this period it was made the capital of the colony of Zululand. No evidence of Fort Curtis remains--it occupied a large area in the vicinity of the present Eshowe Sports Club-- but the town remains a busy commercial hub long after the departure of the last British soldier.

Today it continues to charm visitors and Eshowe was recently voted amongst the top 10 towns of South Africa by a popular travel magazine.

***Evening activities and other excursions will be announced when you sign up.  
Don't miss out on this opportunity to really make a difference.  
Call us today to discuss how you can join us on this remarkable service journey  
to South Africa!***

Pat Walker  
Founder

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