

Reach Out – South Africa

Welcome! Siyakwemukela! Welkom! Kamohelo! The Reach Out Spring Break to Durban, South Africa includes collaboration with Clowns Without Borders-South Africa. Clowns Without Borders is an artist-led humanitarian organization dedicated to improving the psychosocial condition of children and communities in areas of crisis through laughter and play. We'll spend one week of clown training with Yale alum and director of Clowns Without Borders- South Africa, Jamie McLaren Lachman. During this intense week of clown training, Jamie will be educating us on how to be a great clown and how to best interact with the children we will be performing for. No prior theater experience is necessary for this project; Jamie will be teaching us all we need to know!

The second week, we'll be going into rural townships to perform for schoolchildren. This unique immersion will address several facets of life in a developing country, and students will gain a contemporary understanding of both personal and public health issues; the economic, social, political, and cultural structures of South Africa; community-engaged art; and laughing at oneself. It is going to be a week that is very fun and exciting, while also emotionally difficult, as clowning is never as easy as it looks. The exact logistics of which schools we will be going to has yet to be worked out, but there is a chance that we will be clowning at a hospital in addition to the schools.

While the clowning and clown training takes up the bulk of our time, we end up having two free weekends and every night free to explore Durban and the surrounding areas. We hope to make at least one clinic visit during our trip, but we also plan on having a lot of time to learn about the great city we will be staying in. We will be in South Africa at an exciting time, just weeks away from the start of the World Cup. A lot

of the infrastructure will be recently renovated or created, and there are some gorgeous new stadiums to check out. There are also many great markets in Durban, where we can buy food, gifts to bring home, and some gifts for ourselves! Another great part of being in Durban is that the weather is always warm and it is right on the water, so there's always the option to hang out on the beach. Durban also has a very active nightlife that we can spend some time taking advantage of.

While there is plenty to do in Durban, we plan on spending the first weekend on a safari, as there are many beautiful game parks just a few hours from Durban. Hluhluwe Umfolozi Game Reserve is one of the game parks near Durban is home to white and black rhinos, leopards, lions, giraffes, elephants, and thousands of other species of animals. The second weekend may include a trip to Cape Town, where we can further explore the incredible country of South Africa!

The goals of this trip are to learn about the lives of children and families in South Africa. We also aim to get a better understanding of the political, healthcare, cultural, and social structures in Durban. Understanding the effects of diseases such as HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis is important to be a great clown and to do deal with serious issues with smiles and laughter. This trip is going to be extremely fun and incredibly rewarding!

Thank you! Siyabonga! Dankie! Rea Leboha!

Also, if you're looking for more information about Clowns Without Borders-South Africa, visit <http://cwbsa.org/>, and for more detailed information about the trip during Yale Summer Session, visit <http://cwbsa.org/node/134>.