

GHV Homestay



Why GHV Homestay?

Staying with a host family gives you unique insight into the lifestyle of South Africans. You can learn so much about the country and its people while staying with a local family. Also, South African host families are well known for their friendliness and hospitality. So it's no surprise that homestay is a popular choice.

Your host could be a single woman, an older couple or a young couple with children. They will provide you with a room with a single bed, a wardrobe and a desk. You also receive breakfast and dinner and share the bathroom with the family.

In which area of Cape Town will I stay?

As public transport is not as efficient as in many cities of developed countries, we have selected families along the MetroRail line of the southern suburbs. MetroRail is a fast and reliable form of transport and our families are located within walking distance of a station. The southern suburbs are good residential areas where families live in houses with gardens or in apartments.

In addition to the southern suburbs, we also have families in the greater city centre area. Here, families mostly stay in apartments and you take the bus to get around.

What is Homestay-Plus?

If you want to experience more comfort at a host family, we recommend Homestay-Plus. Here you enjoy a private bathroom and a higher standard of living in general.

How do I get to my project?

Depending on the location of your family and the project, you can either travel by public transport or travel to our volunteer house from where we provide a bus transfer to the projects.

How can I socialise with other volunteers?

At the host family, you will most likely be the only volunteer. To meet up with other volunteers, you can either join the social programme that we organise for our volunteers and language students or visit the other volunteers at the volunteer house.



Travelling time

20 - 30 min. (max. 45 min.) to both campuses

Travel costs

ZAR 102 (€ 7 / US\$ 7,70) per week

Rooms

Single rooms, bathroom to share. Students travelling together can book a double room.

Meals

Breakfast and dinner or breakfast only. You help yourself to breakfast and have dinner together with the family.

Bedding

Is provided.

Towels

Are provided.

Laundry

Can be arranged with the family at an extra charge or at a commercial laundry service.

Wifi

Often available at an extra charge.

Pets

Most families have cats and/or dogs.

Deposit

You will need to deposit ZAR 1.500 / USD 100 / Euro 100 (credit card - only embossed cards are accepted; cash, if no credit card is available). This is to cover loss or damage at the school and accommodation and for cancellation charges for activities. The deposit will be refunded at the end of your stay.

Cancellation

Homestay or Residence accommodation booked with Good Hope Studies cannot be cancelled after arrival, unless booked for a duration of 9 weeks or longer. In the event of a cancellation, a 4 week notice period will apply.



Please read before travelling

South African people are known for their hospitality, and our host families particularly enjoy meeting people from around the world and making students feel part of the family. Make yourself at home in their home, but please also respect the family and their routines and habits. Read this information in order to know what to expect from your host family and what your host family will expect from you. Follow these guidelines in order to benefit the most from your stay.

Meals

Food in South Africa may be very different from food in your country. Your host family will serve South African food. If there is something which you do not like, and never eat, tell your family. Be adventurous and try new things. South Africans enjoy barbecues (braai's) in summer. As we have many cultures in South Africa, the food can be quite varied depending on your host family's culture. Families generally do not allow students to cook.

Breakfast

Breakfast is a light meal – fruit juice, cereal, bread/toast, jam, tea or coffee. Most host families work, which means they eat breakfast early. If you do not want to eat breakfast early, ask your host family where the cereal or bread is kept and prepare your own breakfast a bit later. Remember to check with your family how the appliances work before you use them.

Lunch

Your host family does not provide you with lunch. If you wish to take your own lunch to school, ask your host family if you can store it in the fridge or in a separate cupboard in the kitchen. Do not keep food in your room as it may attract insects. There are shops within walking distance of the schools where you can buy food. Sandwiches and light meals are also sold at the schools.

Dinner

Dinner is a more substantial cooked meal, where the family sit down together, and may be eaten anytime between 6 pm and 8 pm, depending on the particular family's routine.

Use this time to practise English. Try to be home as often as possible for dinner.

Missed Meals

Inform your family well in advance if you will not be home for dinner.

You will not be compensated for any missed meals at your host family. If you choose not to eat with your host family, you will not be refunded this money. You may not substitute meals either, e.g. have lunch instead of dinner.

Useful to know

Transport

Our families are either in walking distance of a MetroRail station or a bus stop. Uber has also become a very popular form of transport in Cape Town.

If a project can't be reached by public transport, we provide a bus service from the volunteer house. Volunteers staying with a family travel to the volunteer house in order to take the shuttle bus to the project from there.

Laundry

Laundry may either be done at the host family at an extra charge, or at a commercial laundry. The host family will arrange this with you directly.

Water & Electricity

South Africa is a water- and energy-scarce country. Please do not waste water, especially when bathing or showering, and please help save electricity.

Room and Bathroom

Your linen and towels will be changed and cleaned once a week by the host family, but it is up to you to keep your room neat and tidy. If you need to share a bathroom with the family, remember it is polite to leave the bathroom the way you found it. Have some consideration for the other people in the house and do not take too long in the bathroom.

Heaters

The host family will provide a heater for you during the winter months. Please use it economically and remember to switch it off when you are not in your room.

Absence

If you are going out, or will not be home for dinner, tell your family well in advance. Also let them know where you are going and the time you expect to be back. Never stay out late at night without informing your family. It is always a good idea to take down your host family's telephone number and give them your cellular number so that they can call you should there be a problem.

Be open minded

Cape Town is a melting pot of people from all over the world, with different



cultural backgrounds, different races and religious beliefs, age groups, and family-structures.

We try hard to find the best possible match between family and guest, but it is very important for all parties to remain open-minded. Matching all criteria perfectly, in this setting, is unrealistic.

We therefore ask you to remain open minded and respectful toward your family in all regards. Sometimes, the first few days can be difficult with many new impressions, different ways of doing things, different food, etc. but give yourself a chance to get used to things, and you will see that after the first week it will become much easier for you.

Most often, our students become good friends with their host families by the time they leave, and many have developed life-long friendships.

Emergencies

Call 107 from a landline in Cape Town for all emergencies. Give the operator your name, address and what the emergency is.

If you are not entirely satisfied

Talk to your family first. If there is anything they are not getting right, please give them a chance to correct it.

If talking doesn't fix the problem or you find it difficult to talk to them, please approach reception or our homestay manager. The homestay manager will

find the right way to address the issue, or will mediate between both parties.

The homestay manager will discuss the possibility of changing family.

If you are still not entirely satisfied, a

meeting with the General Manager can be arranged.

Should you feel that your complaint has not been taken care of, you can also contact your agent.

Important

- Please check with your host family:
 - Visits by friends.
 - Use of the telephone and the Internet.
 - If you come home late.
- Respect the family and their routines and habits.
- You are allowed to come and go as you please but please bear in mind that you are staying with other people and need to be polite.
- Remember to ask your family about the rules of the house (telephone and computer usage, playing of music, watching TV, meal times, alarm codes, etc).
- Always let your family know where you are going and how late you will be home. Take down their telephone number and give them your number in case of an emergency.
- Communicate your thoughts, likes and dislikes with your host family. This will help you with your English as well as open the lines of communication between you and your hosts.
- Do not smoke in a nonsmoking household unless the family says it is okay.
- You may not have an overnight guest.
- If you come home late, be mindful of the other people in the house. Come in quietly and do not disturb the other people in the house.
- Be independent. Organise your own tours and excursions or join the school's social programme.
- If you have a concern about your homestay accommodation, it is always best to discuss this with your host family first. Host families are open to discussion and might not even know it is a problem for you. So before a small problem becomes a big problem speak, to your family and try to come to an agreement. If you are still unhappy with your accommodation, please discuss it with the homestay manager at the school.