

Volunteer Visa Guide – South Africa

For UK & EU Residents – Step-by-Step Guide to Applying for a Volunteer Visa (Visitor Visa with Volunteer Endorsement or Temporary Residence Volunteer Visa).

1 Visa Options

- Visitor Visa with Volunteer Endorsement (Section 11(1)(b)(ii)) – valid up to 90 days, extendable in South Africa.
- Temporary Residence Visa – Volunteer Visa (Section 11(6)) – required for stays longer than 90 days, issued for up to 3 years.

2 Required Documents

- Valid Passport (30+ days after departure, 2 blank pages).
- Completed Application Form (DHA-1738).
- Letter from South African Host Organisation confirming volunteer role, duration, and accommodation.
- Proof of Financial Means (bank statements/sponsor letter).
- Medical & Radiological Reports (if stay exceeds 90 days).
- Police Clearance Certificate (if stay exceeds 6 months).
- Proof of Travel & Medical Insurance covering the stay.
- Flight Itinerary (return or onward ticket).
- Visa Fee (£ 50 – £ 70 UK, varies by EU country).

3 Application Process

- Apply at the South African High Commission (London) or South African Embassy/Consulate in your EU country.
- Submit all required supporting documents.
- Processing time: 4 – 8 weeks (longer for Temporary Residence visas).
- On arrival in South Africa, visa will be stamped in passport.

4 Important Notes

- This visa does NOT allow paid work – only volunteering.
- Apply for extensions at VFS Global offices in South Africa at least 60 days before expiry.
- Overstaying can result in being declared 'undesirable' and banned from re-entry.
- Participants must carry their visa and passport at all times while in South Africa.

5 Key Contacts

- South African High Commission, London – www.southafricahouseuk.com
- South African Embassies in EU – Check with the South African Embassy in your country of residence.
- Visa Facilitation Services (VFS Global) South Africa – www.vfsglobal.com

This guide is provided for informational purposes to assist UK & EU participants applying for a volunteer visa to South Africa. Always confirm the latest requirements with the relevant embassy or VFS office before applying.