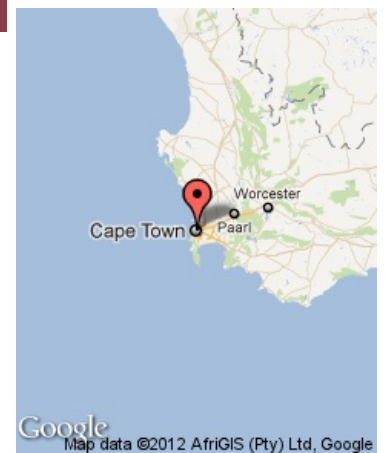


# Township Tour in Cape Town - Cape Care Route



## Highlights

Scratch beneath the surface and get to see a different side of South Africa on this one-day tour exploring Cape Town's townships. On this inspirational and informative trip, you'll see craft workshops, a women's housing project and an environmental centre.

South Africa's past certainly isn't one seen through rose-tinted glasses. But it takes a lot to keep good people down for long, and here in the Cape Town townships, local communities are really thriving. Faizal – the man behind this tour – established his business in 2003 when he realised that most tourism in the area wasn't benefiting the local people – the Capetonians on the Cape Flats. Faizal and his team now give tourists the chance to get to the heart of these communities. And through his efforts, he's stacked up six awards, so it's fair to say he knows what he's doing.

Out of adversity, great things grow - and these Cape Town townships are a glowing example of that. This one-day tour will give you a real insight into how local people have turned their lives around for the better. You'll meet one man who uses his artistic skills to create intricate flowers out of old tin cans – and is now able to support himself through his business. There's a women's housing project which was started by a group of women who saved any money they could because they wanted to go to trade school. And there's an environmental project where people learn about growing-your-own, and caring for the environment. As Citizen Smith would say, it's all about 'power to the people'.

## Is it for me?

This one's for people who like to delve a little deeper than the surface of things and see how a place really ticks. It's a very educational trip so could be great for a family with children who aren't solely focused on computer games. Other than that, what's most important is you're willing to step off the tourist trail and engage with local people and their way of life. It's inspiring, an eye-opener, and informative, and certainly makes food for thought.

## Accommodation

This is a one-day tour so there's no accommodation provided, and any food that you'll need – like lunch and refreshments – aren't included in the price of the trip, so make sure you bring some cash.

## Itinerary

### One-day Tour

You'll be picked up from your hotel at 9am and spend the day visiting community projects where people are working for themselves and each other to improve their environment. First on the agenda is the Guga S'Tebe Arts and Community Centre in Langa Township. Here, you'll see two workshops – one for metal and one for pottery. They both provide training and job-placements for local people, and if you like what you see, you'll also be able to buy a keep-sake.

Next up is the Tsoga Environmental Centre where locals are educated on green issues like recycling, growing-your-own and taking care of parkland. You'll also explore the township on foot with a tour-guide.

After this, it's on to Victoria Mxenge, a housing project which was set up by a group of women who saved their

Prices from

**35** GBP (half day) per person

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money and used it to go to trade school. These women are now empowering other women all over the country to do the same thing as they reach out to communities as mentors.

There's time for an optional lunch here.

The afternoon sees two more projects – the first a one-man success story called Golden Flowers. You'll see how he crafts intricate flowers from old tin cans, and as a result, has become totally self-sufficient. Lastly, you'll visit the Abalimi Bezekhaya project which teaches people how to grow their own food. It also supplies locals with trees and shrubs so they're able to take them back to their neighbourhood to create green spaces.

#### Half-day Tour

If you're not sure you're able to devote a whole day visiting the townships, then there is the option of a half-day tour instead. On the half-day trip you'll visit Langa Township and see the pottery and metal workshops and have a guided walk around the area.

### Details

#### Getting there

You will be picked up from your local hotel in Cape Town

#### Price includes

All entry fees, transport and tour-guide.

Lunch and refreshments are not included.

#### When is best

This tour runs from Monday - Friday all year round. Morning tours 0900 - 1300, afternoon tours 1330 to 1630.

Morning tours run on Sundays and Public Holidays.

#### Experience required

A reasonable interest is all that is needed

#### Travellers should bring

For yourself, just bring the usual, comfortable shoes and sun tan lotion. If you would like to bring gifts for the local school children, they would really appreciate stationery items to help them with their school work!

### Reviews (1)

#### Reviews of this experience

“ The tour was absolutely brilliant, it was just the 2 of us, and we had the opportunity to meet and discuss with many people working on community projects in the townships all around Cape town. The guide was very friendly and knowledgeable! ”

celine reviewing Township Tour in Cape Town - Cape Care Route