



# YALE ALUMNI SERVICE CORPS

## CAPE TOWN 2019



### **Newsletter No. 1**

**April 2019**

**YASC Cape Town 2019**

Greetings YASC Participants!

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this year's return trip to YASC's Cape Town, South Africa.

Our team this year is comprised of 48 volunteers: Yale Alumni, family and friends, and new and returning YASC alumni. We have an amazing trip planned with some incredible and diverse volunteers. We are looking forward to building upon the work we started last year in Philippi.

This is the first of a few important Newsletters that you will receive leading up to departure. The Newsletters contain pertinent information regarding travel, project assignments, itinerary, and much more. Please take the time to read them.

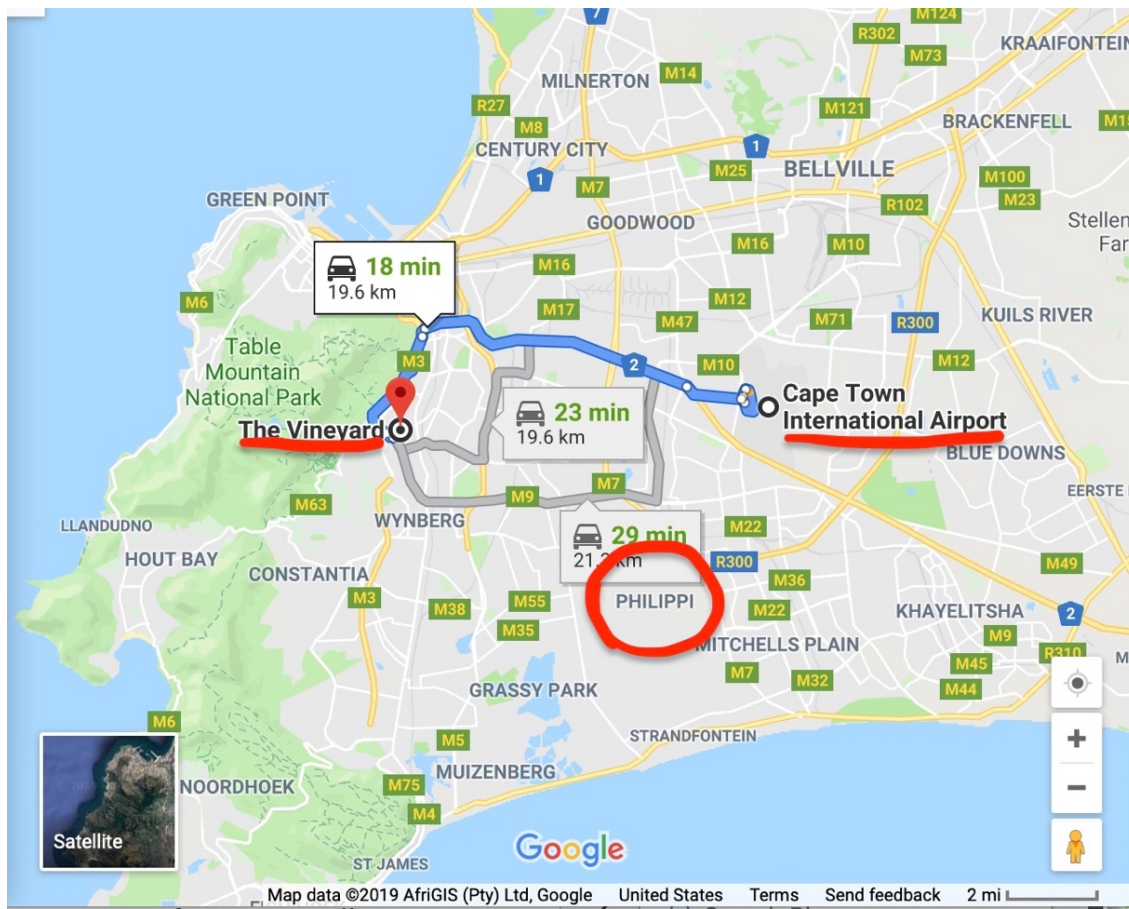
My name is Liz Jordan '88 and I am your Trip Leader for this program. The rest of the Team includes Director of Yale Alumni Service Programs, João Aleixo, our ground partner NGO, Amandla Development and its Director Scott Clarke '02', as well as our local logistics coordinator, Spirit of Africa.

A brief background on myself: This will be my fourth YASC trip as a volunteer. I was a YASC volunteer in Brazil in 2017 and Public Health project leader for the 2018 Brazil trip. Last year I led the Women's Health project in Cape Town. I am a practicing OB-GYN hospitalist in Seattle, Washington and have a particular interest in global health.

Joining us on this year's trip again is the esteemed, João Aleixo. He is Director of Yale Alumni Service Programs having led YASC since its inception in 2008. He has been on numerous YASC trips and he is an invaluable part of our team.

Both João and I are happy to answer questions or address any concerns you may have leading up to our departure as well as during the trip. My contact information is provided at the end of this Newsletter.

### **TRAVEL TO AND FROM CAPE TOWN**



It is time to start booking your flights to Cape Town if you have not already done so. You are responsible for booking your international flights to and from Cape Town. Airfare and travel arrangements are not included in the YASC registration fee. Note that unlike last year, you are also responsible for arranging your own transportation to the Vineyard Hotel from the airport.

The hotel is a short distance from the Cape Town airport and is accessible by Taxi or Uber. Volunteers are expected to arrive by the afternoon of **Thursday, July 25th** There will be dinner provided Thursday evening. The program will end after breakfast **on Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>**. All other transportation that is part of the program itinerary is provided by YASC. While a detailed itinerary will be provided later on, please refer to the general itinerary that is on our website for reference: <https://yalealumniservicecorps.org/current-trips/2019-service-trip-cape-town-south-africa/itinerary>.

Trip insurance is strongly advised and not provided by YASC. Trip insurance can protect you from unattended medical emergencies or changes in your travel plans. We advise you to inquire with your health insurance provider as well for overseas health coverage policies. Unfortunately, YASC cannot recommend certain insurance vendors. Your air carrier may provide the option to purchase trip insurance or you may also consider comparing trip insurance vendors. Here is a link to a comparison website for reference: <https://www.squaremouth.com>

### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

We will be staying at the lovely and picturesque Vineyard Hotel, in the Newlands neighborhood of Cape Town. YASC expects ALL volunteers to stay at the **Vineyard Hotel** with the group during the dates of the program. Many of the program events, project planning, as well as meals occur on the hotel premise. If you decide to stay at the Vineyard additional dates beside the specified program dates, you may book your rooms by emailing Cailin Human from Spirit of Africa at: [cailin@spiritofafrica.co.za](mailto:cailin@spiritofafrica.co.za) (this way you will be able to obtain the group discounted rate). Room and roommate assignments will be provided upon arrival at the Hotel.

### **WEATHER**

It will be winter in Cape Town when we arrive. The weather will be variable from hour to hour. I recommend bringing layers of clothing and prepare for some rain. Unlike last year, we are not anticipating a drought. In Cape Town in July/August average temperature are highs in the mid 60's and lows in the mid 40's.

### **VISAS**

The great news is that if you are a US citizen, a VISA is not required to enter South Africa. You do need a valid passport so make sure your passport is not expired or expiring during the trip. **You should also ensure that you have at least 2 empty pages in your passport.**

### **TRAVELING WITH A MINOR**

#### **Very Important info about traveling into South Africa with a minor:**

If both parents are traveling with a minor, you **MUST** bring an original copy of the child's birth certificate, and in the event the child is traveling with only one parent, you must bring IN ADDITION to the birth certificate, an affidavit of consent. PLEASE refer to the US Embassy website for more details about traveling with minors. Your child will not be allowed in the country if the appropriate documents are not present upon entrance at customs. Other travel

information to South African can be found on the US Embassy and Consulates in South Africa website.

[https://za.usembassy.gov/m\\_16042015/](https://za.usembassy.gov/m_16042015/)  
<https://za.usembassy.gov>

### **TRAVEL HEALTH**

Please consult with your health care provider and/or travel clinic regarding what vaccines and recommendations for health care needs you need specifically for the trip. YASC cannot provide specific medical advice to its volunteers.

The CDC has an excellent travel website that provides information for any country you may be visiting. I strongly advise you take a look.

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel>

### **PROJECTS**

Project assignments and project leaders will be announced soon. We are currently continuing to work with Amandla and the community of Phillipi on formalizing the projects. They will continue to be refined and developed with the help of your project leader. We will provide you with the necessary information for your project and your specific assignment soon. We are trying to honor your first-choice project preferences but cannot guarantee them.

### **TRIP EXTENSIONS:**

Detailed and updated Extension trips will be provided soon by Spirit of Africa.



### **To Do's List**

1. Please make sure to turn in your signed **Release Form** to João.  
We cannot allow volunteers to participate in the trip without them.  
You can fax or email them: FAX 203-432-8144, [joao.aleixo@yale.edu](mailto:joao.aleixo@yale.edu)
2. If you haven't already done so, please submit a lovely **photo** of yourself for our YASC Cape Town Directory.
3. Please join us for our first **Orientation ZOOM Call Meeting:**  
**Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm EST**

Scott Clarke, Director and Founder of Amandla Development, will provide a brief introduction to Amandla and Philippi.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/855310920>

One tap mobile

+16468769923, 855310920# US (New York)

+16699006833, 855310920# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 855 310 920

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/acunbF19vb>

Stay tuned for more important Newsletters to come!

Liz



Lisbeth (Liz) Jordan '88  
YASC Cape Town 2019 Trip Leader  
[Lizcapetown2019@gmail.com](mailto:Lizcapetown2019@gmail.com)



João Aleixo  
Director, Yale Alumni Service Programs  
[joao.aleixo@yale.edu](mailto:joao.aleixo@yale.edu)