

In the course of the minor programme “Crossing Borders” I went to South Africa and worked at the Lawnwood Snake Sanctuary in Plettenberg Bay for two months. Yes, you read that right – I worked at a snake sanctuary. Since I am a student of Psychology I carried out a study that aimed at finding out how people’s (often negative) attitudes towards snakes can be changed by the guided tours that are offered in the park. Improved attitudes towards snakes were believed to actually enhance people’s willingness to support snake conservation and therefore to contribute to our planet’s precious biodiversity.



*Figure 1 Weightlifting at work*

During my time in South Africa I met a lot of awesome people and even though I did not have the time to travel and see much of the country itself I experienced a lot of things I will for sure never forget. The country is very diverse with regard to its nature and landscapes, culture, religion and so on. I actually barely met anyone without a migration background. This is really great because the people in South Africa are – no matter where they come from – all incredibly open-minded and friendly. Something that also made my stay a lot easier for me was that even though the country has got 11 official languages, the main language that is spoken by nearly everybody is English.

I definitely enjoyed my time in South Africa and am already planning when to go there again. This country is for sure more than worth a visit and I left it with a lot of great memories and new friends that I would not want to miss.



*Figure 1 Spending Christmas Eve in South Africa*