Buy a donkey!!!! You might be wondering why I am telling you to “Buy a donkey”. Well, this is the correct pronunciation of saying “thank you very much” in Afrikaans: “Baie dankie”.

Hello South Africa! On top Table Mountain.

Baie Dankie!! Buy a donkey!! Thank you very much!!
Street dancers and Lion’s Head, Cape Town-South Africa
The Town Ship and University of Cape Town

These two diverse worlds are just a few miles from each other. This was completely eye opening and unreal.
Baie Dankie!! Buy a donkey!! Thank you very much!!
My trip to Cape Town, South Africa was quite an adventure. I had the honor of volunteering at two places, Nomzamo, meaning “safe place”, an orphanage for babies and toddlers, and Oakhaven, an elder home.

At Nomzamo, I could not take any pictures of the children, but I have attached some photos of the facility and staff. My experience was filled with laughter, giggles, hugs, feedings, and booboo checks. The majority of the children were brought in by their parents because they were unable or no longer able to take care of them due to advanced Aids or poverty conditions.

At Oakhaven, I did not take any photos, due to the advice of the director to not bring in a bag and camera, due to the recent high theft at the facility. My time at Oakhaven was filled with talk story sessions and assisting the Occupational Therapist with activities. On a day when the OT was out, I held a craft class and we made cards and pin wheels. Because South Africa was in its winter months, many residents had colds and were developing pneumonia. I taught them how to make pin wheels - my whimsical spinoff idea of the Incentive Spirometer (an expensive deep breath exercise device that is used in hospitals to prevent pneumonia).
On weekdays, and after volunteering hours, we were enriched with the history and politics of South Africa. I learned a great deal about this country and I am very thankful that I got the opportunity to have this experience.
District Six Museum,

http://www.districtsix.co.za/frames.htm

Some of the last houses spared from destructions of District Six.
District Six today

New apartments are being built for the victims, or the families of the victims, of the destruction of District Six.

However, due to many families and their low economic status, they are unable to afford buying into these new developments. They have first choice to buy, but no means to do so.....there is still something wrong with the politics in South Africa!!

Where were the people forced to move to? The Town Ships (the dust ridden windy flat land on the other side of Table Mountain):
Goat-head anyone... The local African’s love their dried goat heads called “smilies”.

I had two weekends off and filled them with as much sightseeing as possible. Not only was my volunteering wonderful and enriching, but the connections I made with the other volunteers (like minded individuals) were wonderful. I hope you enjoy the pictures of my Cape Town adventure.
I love BIG animals!
From left – Olivia (pre-med), Christie (currently working on her masters in social work), me (currently working on my nursing degree), Lydia (pre-law), me again, Travis (pre-med), Kevin (pre-law), Gabbie (nutrition), Cody (financial analysis), Tamar (working on her degree in art therapy), Olivia again, Kristine (also currently working on her masters in social work), me again, Marina (women’s empowerment), Christene (pre-med), Molly (working on a teaching degree), and me again.
My soul was enriched by the smiles and giggles of the babies and my mind was enriched by the stories and hugs of the elderly. My heart and soul will forever be touched.

Cheers, Carly