

PROGRESS in the Townships



Hout Bay Music Project, teach children from poor communities in Hout Bay to play classical music

South Africa is a country boasting an abundance of attractions, from safaris to wine lands, which have combined to make it a very appealing destination for the visiting traveller. However, away from the usual tourist trail is a country still coming to terms with its recent political past and trying to address a myriad of social, education and health problems. Audley has worked with the Uthando project for just over a year now and here we explore the work of the charity from four different perspectives: the founder, the beneficiary, the visiting client and the staff at Audley.

James Fernie, founder of the Uthando project, on why he started the charity

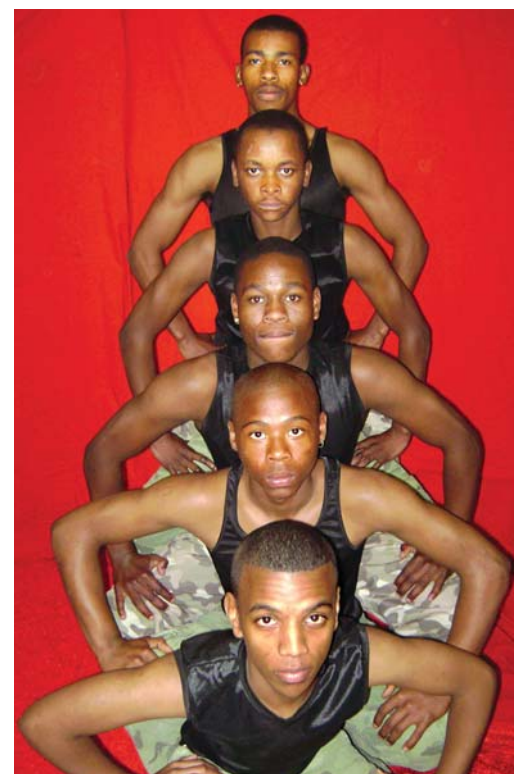
“ Growing up in South Africa during the 1980s, I developed a deep sense of compassion for the people victimised by the cruel system of apartheid. During my teenage years in the late 1980s, my quest to make a difference took the form of political activism and resistance, in those limited ways that I could, to the apartheid government. In 21st century South Africa, the new form of apartheid is poverty, a system imprisoning millions of people in a cycle of destitution. I want to do what I can to make a powerful and positive difference in building South Africa.

Conversely, I am passionate that visitors to this amazing country visit areas where the majority of the population are living, to learn about the issues confronting so many people while discovering the remarkable stories of people facing and overcoming adversity. Through the field trips that we offer, the traveller has an authentic and meaningful interaction with people in an area they would not otherwise visit. The projects gain financially, thus assisting in their operation and development. ”

Audley and the Uthando project

When we were researching a local charity to support, we had a few requirements they had to adhere to. Amongst those were that it helped to empower the black community and it avoided a voyeuristic 'township tour' experience for our clients. Uthando ticked all of these boxes and, as an umbrella organisation, supports projects that range from nursery schools, elderly care homes and human development through the arts, culture and sport.

Uthando is a non-profit organisation that receives a donation with every booking we make to South Africa and enables you, our clients, to see the progress that is being made at grass roots level through field trips.



Dancers at the Jikeleza Project

Jikeleza Dance Project



Gloria with Peter and Duncan from Audley outside Khumbulani day centre

The view from Gloria Bebeza, Khumbulani Centre, Khayelitsha

“ Khumbulani is a community-based organisation centred in Khayelitsha, Cape Town. We started the operation in 2001 to provide a soup kitchen, vegetable garden, home based care, support group and day care centre for children who are at risk.

We have been involved with Uthando for two years now and this brings some visitors to Khumbulani centre to witness the work that we are doing. We have seen the power of the tourist industry, to make big and good changes in our centre. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the tourists and Uthando for making a difference to our centre. The tremendous and kind contribution you have shown us, indicates the way you care for the wellbeing of our future generation.

Our special thanks again for assisting us, without you we would not be operating the centre. We look forward to a very long prosperous future working with Uthando South Africa. ”



Staff at Abalami Gardens

Edward Booth and Janet Pedder, both Audley clients, visited Abalami Gardens which is an Uthando funded project

“ Ted and I would like to say our sincerest thanks for the splendid excursion you took us on last month. It was the highlight of our holiday, we learnt such a lot from you and it was a real privilege to visit the projects. As a former educationalist I was fascinated by the pre-school facility Margaret was running and all the care and hard work she put into it. The work and produce of the Abalami Gardens was an example to us all and has encouraged me to plant vegetables in my own garden this year! And seeing the children dance at both centres we visited was a pure joy. I'll never forget the pride on the faces of the gum boot dancers. Please pass on our thanks to all concerned for allowing us to visit and giving so generously of their time. Please also thank Nokwanda for the recipe for the delicious vetkoeks! Uthando is such a worthwhile and inspiring project. ”



Bath time at the Mdzamanda Animal Clinic

The Audley specialists' views on the projects that they recently visited

Arista Midwinter

“ As a South African myself, I was a bit apprehensive at first on going on the Uthando field trip because I felt too guilty. I never considered going to certain areas to see how the people were making the best of their situation. Uthando helped me realise that people in the townships carry on with their daily lives no matter how hard things are for them. It was amazing to see their enthusiasm and whilst on this trip you really get to interact with all sorts of different people. Meeting the locals on this field trip was one of the most humbling experiences I have ever had! ”

Peter Felix

“ One of the things that struck me most about my visit with Uthando was the overriding generosity of the people from the townships involved in the projects. Visiting the organic vegetable growing at the Siyazama Vegetable Garden, it was wonderful to see how the ladies there were so proud to be helping, not only themselves to eat healthily, but also many people in the surrounding area and, in particular, the nearby schools. Seeing such generosity is really overwhelming and meeting the ladies there was one of the highlights of my tour. ”



James Fernie

There is no denying that there is a huge divide in terms of wealth but in terms of friendliness and the desire for a better future there is no divide at all. We invite you to share our experiences of meeting the people at the projects and also for them to share their experiences with you.

FACT file

An eight-night trip to the Western Cape, including a visit to one of the Uthando projects, costs from **£1,295 per person**. A more extensive 14-night tour, including the Cape and Garden Region, costs from **£2,200 per person**. For more information, please contact our South Africa specialists on **01993 838 550**.

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