



GLE & Annual Conference Newsletter, 4 June 2008

It is almost time to go to Cape Town!

Registration for the GLE and Annual Conference are complete, with more than 400 participants from over 40 countries attending! This newsletter contains some practical information to prepare you for your exciting journey.

GLE Agenda

An overview agenda has been posted on the GLE Web site. It lists the major functions from Sunday evening until the closing of the expedition with a great meal and sharing at MOYO on Friday evening.

Cultural Presentations

The list of confirmed cultural presentations is posted on the GLE Web site. In order to make these evenings run smoothly, we would like to collect your electronic files before the event. Please bring your PowerPoints and recorded music to the registration desk when you check in for the conference (Friday-Sunday, 20-22 June). If you have your PowerPoint ready before 13 June, you may also send it to Paula Robinson by e-mail at probinso@globe.gov. Please contact Paula with any questions about the cultural presentation evenings.

T-shirt Exchange

The GLOBE Alumni have planned a really fun evening for us on Wednesday, 25 June. At this event, you will have the opportunity to exchange a t-shirt (or cap, or other apparel item) with another student. Please bring (do not wear) your clean exchange item when you come to dinner!

Your arrival in Cape Town

Travelers arriving on 19 June and later should look for the GLOBE signs and GLOBE welcome desk at Cape Town airport. (If you arrive before 19 June, you will be met by an individual with a "GLOBE" sign). Transport will be provided to your dormitory or hotel lodging. Dormitory check-in will be provided on arrival.

If you did not confirm your flight details in the registration system, including arrival date & time, departure date & time, and flight numbers, the transport coordinators will not be expecting you! Please contact Tribal Meetings as soon as a possible <globe@tribalmeetings.co.za> with this information so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

If you experience schedule changes, delays, or cannot locate the GLOBE signs, please contact Tribal Meetings by phone.

During Office Hours (Mon - Fri from 09:00 - 17:00): +27 (0) 21 422 5364

After Hours: +27 (0) 82 830 8000 (Muhammad Khan) / +27 (0) 84 595 3605 (Faiz Levy)

GLE & Annual Conference Registration

Hours and locations are as follows:

Friday, 19 June, 10:00-16:00, Graca Machel dormitory lobby

Saturday, 20 June, 9:00 - 18:00, Molly Blackburn Gathering Hall

Sunday, 21 June, 8:00 - 12:30, Molly Blackburn Gathering Hall

TRAVEL TIPS

Weather and Dress:

The average high/low temperatures for June in Cape Town are 18°C - 7°C (64.4°F - 44.6°F).

Neat, casual dress is recommended for conference sessions. School uniforms are acceptable for any events, but not required. A dressier outfit or national dress will be appropriate for the opening ceremony on Sunday and closing banquet on Friday.

For the field excursions, please be sure to bring sturdy shoes (water proof if possible), a hat, rain gear, and sun protection. The field days will go on, rain or shine! (Backup sites have been arranged in the event of a severe storm). Our GPO staff below is showing some examples of good field attire:



Personal Items

The dormitories are secure facilities, but it still makes sense to reduce the number of valuable items that you need to keep track of during the conference. Please limit your electronic devices to those that are absolutely essential. For those essential items, make sure you bring the appropriate adaptors and transformers (see Electricity below). The conference organizers are not responsible for the loss, theft, or damage of your personal items, electronic or other.

Dormitory Accommodations

The Graca Machel dormitory is very modern and well-equipped. A few optional items might make the dormitory residents more comfortable. Basic bed linens and towels will be provided, and will be changed once during the week, so it is not essential to bring these. One towel will be provided per guest, but it might be convenient to bring an extra towel. If you tend to be cold at night, warm night clothes or a blanket may be a nice addition to your travel kit. Basic soap is provided for the bath, but all other toilet items are the responsibility of the participants.

Money:

Currency used in South Africa is South African Rand or ZAR. Participants wishing to exchange foreign currency for South African Rand should plan to do this at the airport on arrival. Currency exchange and Automatic Teller Machine (ATM, or Bankomat) facilities are available at Cape Town International Airport (24 hours). For current exchange rate information please refer to Olson & Associates currency converter at <http://www.oanda.com/cgi-bin/nc>.

South African Rand (ZAR) will be needed to make purchases at the field day craft market at CPUT (North Field Sites), at the Cape Point tourist center (South Field Sites), and at campus snack outlets.

An ATM dispensing South African Rand (ZAR) is located on campus in Leslie Social Science Building. The ATM will accept most debit and Visa cards with PIN. There is no facility on campus for changing foreign currency into ZAR.

Most businesses will accept credit cards (mostly Visa and Master Card). Please note, if you plan to use your credit card in South Africa, it may be helpful to call your Credit Card Company or issuing bank to let them know the dates of your trip. Many card issuers will block transactions occurring outside your home country or region.

As on any excursion to an unfamiliar location, please be cautious and secure with your cash and credit cards. A wallet worn under your clothes, and never in a back pocket, will help deter pickpockets and casual theft. Purses or bags are more secure worn with the strap across the body, rather than over one shoulder. Do not allow a stranger to “assist” you at an ATM, and do not let your credit card leave your sight in shops and restaurants. Restaurants may bring a wireless system to your table to process your charge, or you can accompany the server to the register when your credit card is used. These simple precautions may help ensure that you have a safe and enjoyable trip.

Please note that traveler's cheques are usually NOT accepted at local businesses in South Africa.

Electricity:

South Africa's electricity supply: 220/230 volts AC 50 Hz.

Exceptions: Pretoria (230 V) and Port Elizabeth (200/250 V).

Most plugs have three large round pins, but some plugs with two smaller pins are also found.

You should plan on bring the appropriate adaptor with you to South Africa. Adaptors can be purchased at airports. Appliances made for use with 110V power will need a transformer in addition to an adapter. Please consult with a knowledgeable travel outfitter or electric specialist when choosing your adapter. The South African plug adapter is NOT included in many "universal adapter" kits.