**CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA**

**ELLEN SELLERS**

**Program:** University of Cape Town Exchange, Spring

**Ellen’s Majors:** Political Science, International Studies

**Academic Life:** The classes were comprised mostly of South African students and students from other nations near South Africa, such as Zimbabwe and Botswana. The courses were taught by local experts in their field - my Constitutional Law professor helped write the South African Constitution! Learning about my field from a non-Western, African perspective was invaluable to my educational experience and completely changed my worldview. For the first time in my life, the lessons I was learning in the classroom concerning human rights and politics of developing nations were also applicable outside of the classroom, which enhanced my interest greatly and gave meaning to my educational experience.

**Housing:** I lived in a beautiful house with ten other international students. The house had ten rooms, three bathrooms, a huge kitchen, two outdoor patios, laundry facilities, a front outdoor-gated area, a living room, and a loft. I was also lucky to have a balcony on my room with a view of Table Mountain. We had pomegranate, lemon, olive, and lilac trees in our back garden, which we ate from regularly. I lived with people from all over the world, which provided me with cultural knowledge not only from South Africa but France, Taiwan, Thailand, Germany, and Mexico!

**Advice for Someone Considering Cape Town:** If you are considering studying abroad in South Africa, be prepared to fall in love with the city of Cape Town. It combines the best of city life with some of the most astonishing natural beauty on the planet. If you are looking for an experience that is drastically culturally different from that of the United States or Europe yet still comfortable and easy to transition into, I highly recommend Cape Town, South Africa!

**A Useful Tip:** Completely leave your comfort zone. It is easier than you think to spend all your time with other Americans, and before you know it, your experience is over and you have not made any friends from your host country.

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Ellen above the clouds, watching the sunset over Lion’s Head from Signal Hill.

“Build relationships with people. Learn from those around you.”

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