

## South Africa Trip

by

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Alhamdulillah, all praise belongs to Allah The Creator The Sustainer The most Compassionate. After a long year of studying under Maulana Ikraam from IQAMA Madrasah for their first year of the Alim course; the four students packed their bags for a two weeks exam trip to South Africa. Luqman Najib, Abdur Raheem Haase, Hakim Najib and Yusuf Khan embarked on a trip to visit their associate Madrasah, Darun Na'im, and their future madrasah, Madarasahtul Arabiyah Islamiah.

The students arrived on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November, despite being jet lagged they entered the exam rooms the next day on Monday the 12<sup>th</sup> November in Darun Na'im. The Australian students were doing back to back exams for the next two weeks compared to the South African students who did their exams throughout the year. Alhamdulillah, due to the doa's and the mercy of Allah, the students were able to do the exam with ease. On top of their written exam, the Australian students were given an oral exam for the Darun Na'im teacher's to critically analyse how in depth the knowledge of the Australian students were in regards to Arabic Grammar and translation.

A part from being a trip for exams, they were in classes at either Darun Na'im with the principal, Maulana Allie Goder, or in Madarasahtul Arabiyah Islamiah with the principal, Mufti Taha Karan himself. This was a great honour and privilege for first year Australian students to sit in Mufti Taha Karan company and learn by him as students from every year in the madrasah flocked just to sit in his company. This was only from the mercy of Allah.

As IQAMA madrasah is always trying to improve themselves and the syllabus, Maulana Ikraam and the students who are also teachers at IQAMA madrasah sat in the two madrasahs to see how a successful madrasah is run in South Africa so that lessons can be taken and used to improve IQAMA madrasah in Australia. Two special trips were organised for Muallim Luqman and Mualimah Magmodah; the first was to the girls hafiz academy Jamia Tul Qura (JEQ), for inside knowledge and know how as to how to specialise in the girls hifz. The second trip was to Qari Mahdi hifz academy for boys, Darul Quran, which the visitors from Australia were welcomed with two nasyid performances and beautiful Quran recitations. At the Darul Quran, the Australian guests sat by one of the great and elder sheikh of Cape Town, Sheikh Musa Titus. After the visits to the madrasahs all around Cape Town, IQAMA madrasah is ready for 2013 with a syllabus to benefit its students.

Maulana Ikraam took the students to Auwal Mosque, the first mosque built in Cape Town, again the students were privileged to sit by a great Sheikh, Sheikh Fuad to learn about some of the history of muslims in South Africa. The Australian visitors were extremely fortunate that Maulana Taha was able to take them to see handwritten Qurans which dated back to 1804 and 1805. This was a great privilege as it was currently being restored and no outsiders could see it.

On the last day of the trip, Maulana Ali Goder held a first year graduation for the Australian students at the house of his father, Sheikh Moosa Goda. Besides receiving their certificates of completion they were also given textbooks for their second year syllabus and individual Quranic ayats for them to memorise and ponder upon. All students did exceptionally well, with Yusof Khan getting an average mark of 99%, whilst Hakim Najib, Abdur Raheem Haase and Luqman Najib all receiving an average mark of 97%.

The trip was comprehensive with learning and studying, but the students also had some time in the afternoon to do some sightseeing such as the popular Table Mountain, Cape Point (where the Atlantic and Indian Ocean meet), Ocean Views and Strands. As the journey drew to an end, the students are reminded that everything came from Allah and that only through sincerity will their endeavours be successful.