



**mothers2mothers**  
*Immersive Experience*

**Monday 25th to Wednesday 27th February, 2019**

*“I learned more about mothers2mothers in one  
afternoon, than I had in the last five years”*

**- Martin Schwab, GGC Member**



The mothers2mothers (m2m) Global Giving Circle (GGC) brings together a global group of like-minded individuals, who are committed to supporting families, to not only survive, but thrive. By making a sustained financial commitment, the GGC ensures that m2m can continue its vital work, and grow to become one of the major players in shaping the future health of families in sub-Saharan Africa.

If you aren't a member already the GGC Immersive Experience will give you the chance to see for yourselves the amazing results that can be achieved when we work together.



## *What is the GGC Immersive Experience?*

From **Monday 25th to  
Wednesday 27th February  
2019**, m2m will be hosting  
its second GGC Immersive  
Experience. We are delighted  
to be inviting you to join us on  
an unmissable journey, in the  
birth place of m2m,  
**South Africa's Western Cape.**

Over three days, you will meet  
the extraordinary women who  
are single-handedly changing  
lives. You will spend time with  
the clients they serve, and  
see for yourself the incredible  
impact m2m Mentor Mothers  
have and why their role, in  
some of the most marginalised  
communities in the world, is  
absolutely critical.



## *A look back at the GGC Immersive Experience 2018*

In February 2018, m2m's GGC members travelled to Cape Town, to see for themselves the impact of their support.

The group travelled to Khayelitsha where the first Mentor Mothers began work in 2001. We visited m2m clinics to meet the families we work with and to follow the incredible journey Mentor Mothers make. We spent time in clients' homes, and saw how the GGC's support of m2m programmes is really making a difference.

In small group conversations with m2m's programme experts we heard why Early Childhood Development is really working hard to support positive life outcomes and we spoke with the South Africa and Lesotho Country Directors about the importance of female leaders in Africa.

On the last night the group reflected on their experiences. They explored how by working together, they can effect change not just for HIV-positive mothers, but for entire communities across sub-Saharan Africa.



*“I believe strongly that seeing and touching the work of mothers2mothers catalyses deep passion and love for what we do. Spending hands-on time getting to know the team and feel the programmes, sharing experiences with committed peers – all of this in an incredible setting in Africa – makes the immersive, really intimate experience, so special.”*

– Frank Beadle de Palomo, President and CEO of m2m



## Allison's Story



*Allison Mitchell recently joined the GGC after taking part in the Immersive Experience*

*"This February, I had the privilege of joining the m2m Immersive Experience. Words cannot describe what I witnessed during the three days that I spent experiencing the front line with everyday heroes.*

I had the incredible opportunity to visit the sites and homes where m2m Mentor Mothers work. I don't think you can prepare yourself for the overwhelming experience of walking into a South African township. From the moment that I entered the first clinic, I felt overcome by the sheer number of people in medical need. My impression turned a corner when we were welcomed by Mpho, an m2m Mentor Mother. Mpho told us that when she first started working in the clinic in 2009, there were 140 babies delivered HIV-positive, every year. Since 2011, only one baby has been born HIV-positive in that clinic.

On the last day of my experience, I had the opportunity to sit in on an m2m support group, and to speak to expecting mothers. What inspired me was how one of the younger Mentor Mother's boyfriends sat side by side with her saying that he was HIV-negative, but that he supported her and their baby 100%, because he believed in her, and cared about the health of her and their unborn child. Her HIV-positive status did not turn him away – on the contrary, he was proud that she was part of the m2m programme.

Change is happening, and I departed South Africa knowing that m2m is helping to transform lives and the future of the world for the next generations. It was a humbling and inspiring experience that will stay with me for the rest of my life – words cannot do it justice."



# *Example Itinerary*



## **Day 1**

Arrive into Cape Town. Spend the morning exploring the extensive grounds of Babylonstoren. Perhaps take a hike into the exquisite surrounding countryside or visit the Garden Spa. That afternoon, join the m2m team and Country Directors as they take us on a journey from where m2m began in 2001, to where we are today. In the evening we'll be joined by m2m CEO and President, Frank Beadle de Palomo, who will take us through what's in store for the following day.

## **Day 2**

Today we set off to see Mentor Mothers in action. We start by visiting health clinics where we meet some of the women who are changing lives every day. We then head off to visit clients at home. Here we experience how it feels to spend time in a Mentor Mother's shoes, and watch as they navigate their way through numerous challenges, whilst also finding joy and hope in their role as advocates for change.

In the afternoon sitting in small groups under the trees we are joined by some of our programme specialists, who together are shaping the future of m2m. We look at the challenges we are facing, and what building blocks are needed to reach the next level of impact.

Dinner gives us the chance to reflect on everything that we have seen and heard and to pledge support to mothers2mothers. We will end the day with an understanding of how crucial the GGC is, and how it is fundamental to helping our Mentor Mothers deliver their amazing work.



# Useful Information



## ***How much does it cost?***

Costs are based per couple and are £2,400/\$3,200.

If you are joining us as an individual, the cost is £1,800/\$2,400.



## ***What's included?***

Included in the package are two nights accommodation at Babylonstoren; a welcome dinner on Monday evening; all meals on Tuesday including our pledge dinner, and a farewell breakfast on Wednesday; and transfers (depending on flight times).



## ***What's not included?***

Flights, food and drink outside of the meals set out above and activities outside of the Immersive Experience itinerary.



## ***How do I get there?***

For suggested flights please see page eight. Transfers from these flights will be included in the cost. If however you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, an Uber from Cape Town Airport costs approximately ZAR450.



## ***Where will we be staying?***

Just 40 minutes from Cape Town, guests will be staying at Babylonstoren, an historical Cape Dutch Farm, set within the stunning landscape of the Cape Winelands. Home to award-winning wines, the eight-acre kitchen garden and restaurant are destinations in their own right, but waking up here is the ultimate privilege! To find out about this thoroughly enchanting hotel visit: [www.babylonstoren.com](http://www.babylonstoren.com)

# Suggested Flight Options

## Departing from New York

**Outbound** Sun, 24 Feb 2019

 **08:05**  
JFK — 20h —→ **11:05<sup>+1</sup>**  
CPT

**Return** Wed, 27 Feb 2019

 **21:20**  
CPT — 22h30 —→ **12:50<sup>+1</sup>**  
JFK

## Departing from London

**Outbound** Sun, 24 Feb 2019

 **21:30**  
LHR — 11h35 —→ **11:05<sup>+1</sup>**  
CPT

**Return** Wed, 27 Feb 2019

 **21:20**  
CPT — 12h —→ **07:20<sup>+1</sup>**  
LHR

## Departing from Los Angeles

**Outbound** Sat, 23 Feb 2019

 **21:05**  
LAX — 24h40 —→ **07:45<sup>+2</sup>**  
CPT

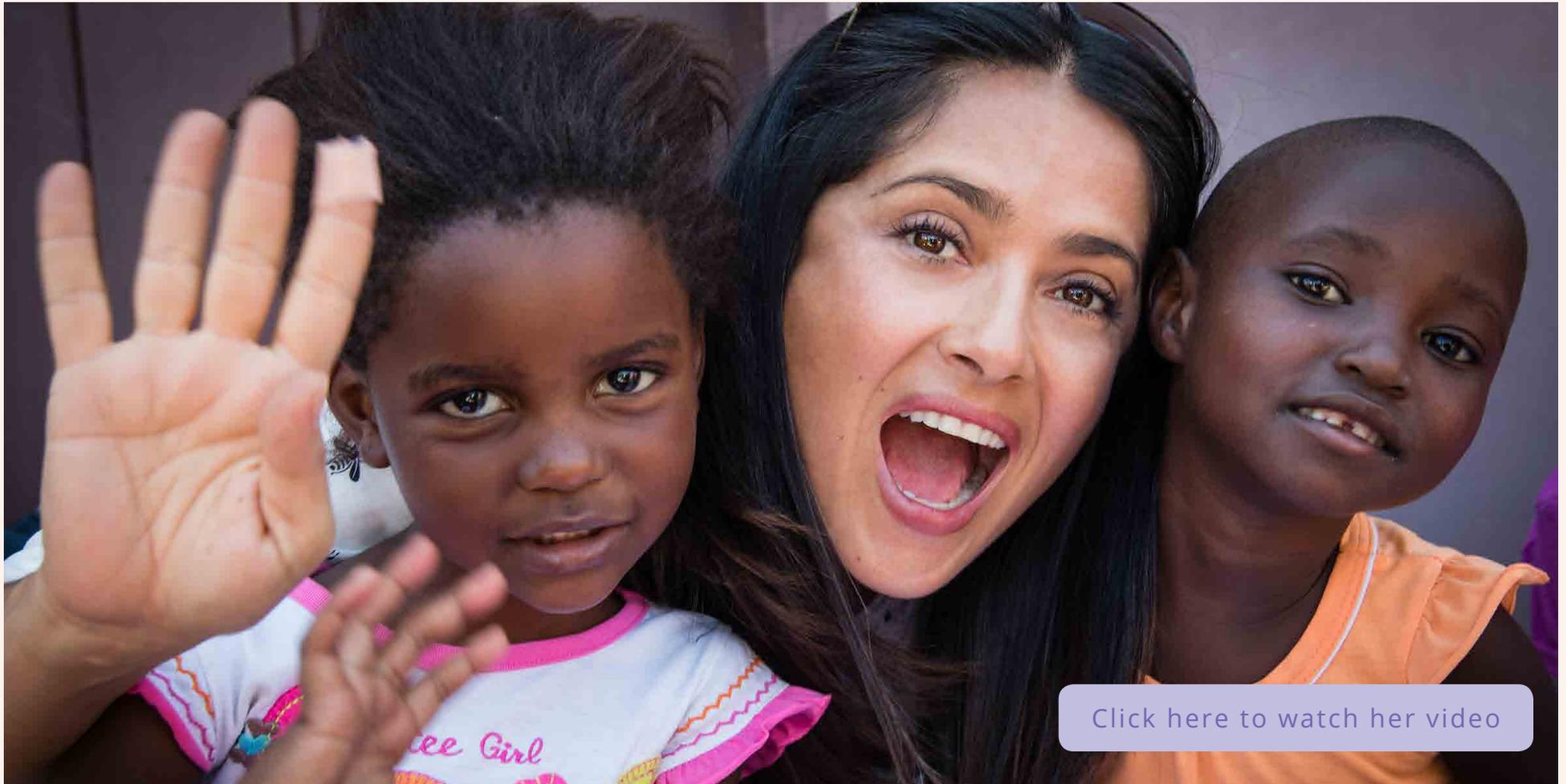
**Return** Wed, 27 Feb 2019

 **21:20**  
CPT — 26h35 —→ **13:55**  
LAX



## *Salma Hayek Pinault visits m2m*

Academy Award nominated actress, and m2m Patron, Salma Hayek Pinault, visited several of our sites in South Africa last year. There she witnessed first-hand the important work of m2m's Mentor Mothers—the fearless, HIV-positive women who are determined to stop mothers passing HIV onto their children, fight stigma, and ensure that all families thrive, not just survive. To find out what you can expect on your trip, take a look at her video below.





*“This year was the first time that my husband and I got to spend dedicated time with leaders of country programmes, hearing first hand about what makes their programmes special, opportunities they see on the horizon and challenges they’re preparing for. I felt more connected to the roots of the organisation than ever before.”*

- Leslie Brunner, GGC Member

If you have any questions at all about joining the GCG Immersive Experience please don't hesitate to contact Katie Stokes at [katie.stokes@m2m.org](mailto:katie.stokes@m2m.org) or on +44(0)203 867 7120. We hope you choose to join us for what will be an incredible journey.

