



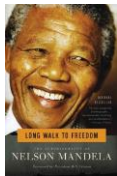
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READING GUIDE

SOUTHERN AFRICA

To enhance your travel experience, we've compiled a selection of favorite, new, and hard-to-find books about your destination. You can find these books online by clicking on the titles. Also feel free to visit your local bookstore or library for your reading materials.

ESSENTIAL

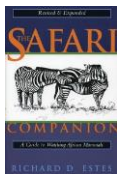


Nelson Mandela

[Long Walk to Freedom](#)

1995, PAPER, 640 PAGES

An unpretentious tale of an extraordinary life, Mandela's autobiography is essential reading for an understanding of South Africa. His grace and his love for his country shine.

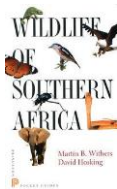


Richard Estes

[The Safari Companion](#)

1999, PAPER, 459 PAGES

An invaluable encyclopedic guide to Africa's mammals by a noted scientist, this perennial bestseller includes black-and-white drawings, an overview of each animal group and in-depth information. Written with the typical safari-goer in mind.

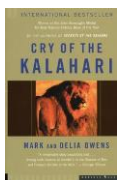


Martin B. Withers

[Wildlife of Southern Africa](#)

2011, PAPER, 272 PAGES

This Princeton Pocket Guide, featuring 400 color photographs by Withers and co-author David Hosking, covers all the birds, mammals, lizards and insects you are likely to encounter.

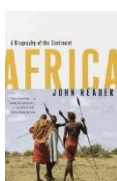


Mark Owens, Delia Owens

[Cry of the Kalahari](#)

1992, PAPER, 384 PAGES

The story of a family thrown out of Botswana for its stance on conservation. While their approach is controversial, there's no doubt that the Owens are dedicated to the wildlife of Southern Africa -- and are very good writers.



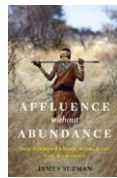
John Reader

[Africa, a Biography of the Continent](#)

1999, PAPER, 816 PAGES

With the ease of a practiced journalist, Reader weaves a masterful and lively tale of the continent, from ancient cultures to modern times. A splendid introduction to all of Africa.

ALSO RECOMMENDED

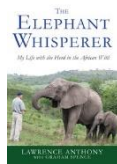


James Suzman

[Affluence Without Abundance, The Disappearing World of the Bushmen](#)

2017, HARD COVER, 288 PAGES

Suzman takes readers into the world of the San people of southern Africa, the longest-enduring civilization in human history that is well known for living privately, having few needs and living in harmony with the environment.

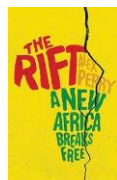


Lawrence Anthony

[The Elephant Whisperer, My Life with the Herd in the African Wild](#)

2012, PAPER, 368 PAGES

It had been nearly a century since elephants had lived in Southern Zululand, South Africa, where Lawrence Anthony founded his Thula Thula wildlife reserve. Yet one day a phone call changed all that. A troubled, unpredictable herd needed a new home. To save their lives, Lawrence took them in, and found that they had a lot to teach him about life, loyalty, and freedom. He tells of hair-raising fights with poachers, of elephants as surprise dinner guests, of raising a baby elephant, and more.



Alex Perry

[The Rift, A New Africa Breaks Free](#)

2015, HARD COVER, 416 PAGES

In this social study, Alex Perry argues that Africa is at a critical moment in gaining autonomy from international interference and stresses the world's misconceptions about the great continent.



Allister Sparks

[Tomorrow is Another Country](#)

1996, PAPER, 254 PAGES

Sparks explores the extraordinary developments that led to multiracial democracy in South Africa, an essential key to understanding the country today.

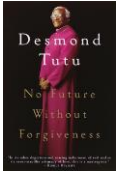


Peter Godwin, Chris Johns (Photographer)

Wild at Heart

2007, HARD COVER, 176 PAGES

This lush collection of full-color photographs tackles conservation, development and tradition in southern Africa. It's a well-illustrated portrait of the region by National Geographic photographer Johns and veteran journalist Godwin.

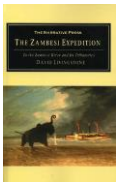


Desmond Tutu

No Future Without Forgiveness

2000, PAPER, 256 PAGES

Winner of the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize, Desmond Tutu writes with insight and compassion in this memoir of his work for reconciliation in post-apartheid South Africa.



David Livingstone

The Zambesi Expedition, To the Zambesi River and Its Tributaries

2001, PAPER, 433 PAGES

Livingstone's original account of his second expedition to Africa, first published in 1864 -- a sympathetic portrait of African peoples, rich in nature, culture and politics.



Alzada Carlisle Kistner

An Affair with Africa

1998, HARD COVER, 262 PAGES

A remarkable woman, with an unquenchable thirst for adventure, Alzada Carlisle Kistner evokes her experiences on five separate expeditions in Africa. Her various journeys include: Belgian Congo and Kenya (1960), Liberia and Ivory Coast (1962), South Africa and Tanzania (1965), Rhodesia and East Africa (1970) and Southwest Africa, Angola, Botswana & Namibia (1973).

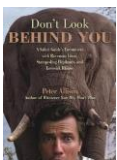


Alexandra Fuller

Cocktail Hour Under the Tree of Forgetfulness

2012, PAPER, 256 PAGES

Fuller returns to Africa in this shimmering memoir, focusing on her odyssey from the highlands of Kenya in the 1960s to the tumult of post-independence Rhodesia and life today with her husband on a farm in Zambia. Written with uncommon grace and generosity, the tale is peppered with family stories and photos. A New York Times Notable Book.



Peter Allison

Don't Look Behind You!

2009, PAPER, 256 PAGES

Subtitled A Safari Guide's Encounters with Ravenous Lions, Stampeding Elephants, and Lovesick Rhinos, this harrowing and hilarious travel narrative makes you feel like you're right there on safari.

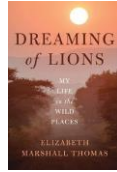


Sible Khumalo

Dark Continent, My Black Arse

2010, PAPER, 223 PAGES

Traveling the length of Africa (from Cape to Cairo) by public transport, Sihle Khumalo describes a journey fraught with discomfort, mishap, disillusionment, and ecstasy. A uniquely African travel story that (be forewarned) might inspire you to quit your job.

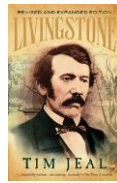


Elizabeth Marshall Thomas

Dreaming of Lions, My Life in the Wild Places

2016, PAPER, 320 PAGES

Thomas' sharply observed and candid memoir illuminates a lifetime of observing wild places. The renowned anthropologist discusses living with the Dodoth people of Uganda, studying wolves on Baffin Island and lions in Namibia.



Tim Jeal

Livingstone

2013, PAPER, 432 PAGES

An extensively researched and updated biography about the great European explorer. Jeal utilizes Livingstone's original field notebooks and letters to understand Livingstone's decision-making.

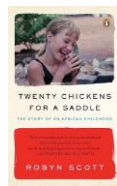


Wilf Mbanga, Trish Mbanga

Seretse & Ruth: The Love Story

2011, PAPER, 387 PAGES

This biography focuses on the Khama family, and in particular, Seretse Khama: a statesman, chief, husband and father. Facing great opposition, Seretse united with a white woman in marriage, mirroring the beliefs of the country itself, which has always placed an importance on social harmony.

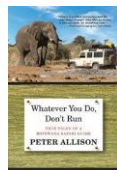


Robyn Scott

Twenty Chickens for a Saddle

2009, PAPER, 464 PAGES

Haphazardly schooled by her free-spirited mother and left to roam the bush, Scott writes with warmth and candor of her unconventional upbringing in Botswana, commenting on her Grandpa Ivor (personal pilot to the first president of Botswana), physician father's work, unfortunate pets, siblings and adventures.

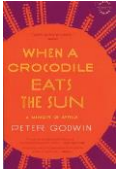


Peter Allison

Whatever You Do, Don't Run

2014, PAPER, 272 PAGES

Allison spins captivating tales of wildlife, camps and the life of a safari guide into a hilarious, slyly informative introduction to Botswana.

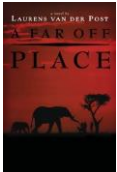


Peter Godwin

[When a Crocodile Eats the Sun, A Memoir of Africa](#)

2008, PAPER, 342 PAGES

Zimbabwean journalist Godwin draws on history, politics and travel in this powerful family memoir, the tale of his aging parents -- tough settlers who remained in Zimbabwe as the life that they knew crumbled around them. Set against the Robert Mugabe's brutal and enduring regime (Godwin's sister was killed during the war of independence).

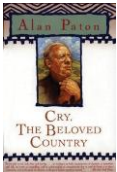


Laurens van der Post

[A Far Off Place](#)

1978, PAPER, 310 PAGES

The continuation of the tale begun with 'A Story Like the Wind' of Francois Joubert and Xhabbo. After a massacre, the protagonists and companions must make their escape across the Kalahari.

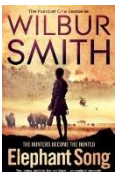


Alan Paton

[Cry, The Beloved Country](#)

2003, PAPER, 317 PAGES

The deeply moving story of Reverend Kumalo's quest for justice. First published in 1948, it is a striking, poetic tribute to the power of the individual and a trenchant indictment of apartheid.



Wilbur Smith

[Elephant Song](#)

2011, PAPER, 472 PAGES

A potboiler set in Zimbabwe, in which our hero, a native Zimbabwean producer of nature films, fights the murderous ivory-traders.

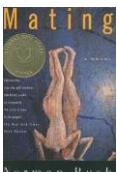


Alexander McCall Smith

[The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency](#)

2003, PAPER, 235 PAGES

Alexander McCall Smith's formidable, straight-shooting detective, Precious Ramotswa, makes her debut in The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency. A pleasure in every respect, the novel evokes the cultures, customs and diverse landscapes of Botswana -- even including Botswana's tremendous national pride (Mma Ramotswa, for her part, believes that Hell is a "terrible place, perhaps a bit like Nigeria").



Norman Rush

[Mating](#)

1992, PAPER, 480 PAGES

This comic novel evokes daily life in Botswana and skewers the notion of well-intentioned academics at large in the developing world. The description of a trek from Gaborone to the Kalahari is terrific. Winner of the National Book Award.

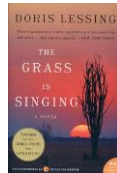


Don Pinnock

[Rainmaker](#)

2010, PAPER, 136 PAGES

Although fictional, this coming-of-age novel accurately reflects a crisis among young men in South Africa's ghettos. Ky, a young gangster, knows that township power is in the hand that cocks a 9mm gun. Forced to flee his community, Ky is saved from certain death in the gutter by Zimry, a shaman.



Doris Lessing

[The Grass is Singing](#)

2008, PAPER, 263 PAGES

The story of a white farm wife in Zimbabwe and her relationship with her African servant, the Nobel laureate's first novel is rich in local atmosphere.



Bryce Courtenay

[The Power of One](#)

2008, PAPER, 528 PAGES

This riveting novel tells of the coming-of-age of a six-year-old English boy in South Africa during the darkest days of largely pro-Nazi South Africa, based on the author's childhood.



Gerald Hinde (Photographer)

[Big Five of Africa](#)

2009, PAPER, 143 PAGES

Award-winning wildlife photographer Gerald Hinde's stunning photographs celebrate Africa's lions, elephants, leopards, rhinos and buffalos. Brief but informative text introduces each animal but the photographs (rightly) are the main focus. Size: 8 x 8 inches.



Ian Sinclair, Phil Hockey, Warwick Tarboton

[Field Guide to the Birds of Southern Africa](#)

2011, PAPER, 447 PAGES

This compact, comprehensive field guide features 200 dazzling color plates covering 950 species of birds from South Africa to southern Mozambique. Fourth Edition.



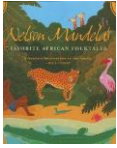
Jonathan Kingdon

[Kingdon Pocket Guide to African Mammals](#)

2004, PAPER, 272 PAGES

A conveniently compact edition of Kingdon's celebrated guide that includes information on distribution, ecology and conservation status, with 480 outstanding color illustrations and maps.

FOR YOUNG SAFARI-GOERS

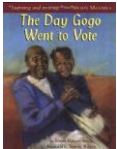


Nelson Mandela

[Nelson Mandela's Favorite African Folktales](#)

2007, PAPER, 144 PAGES

A team of folklorists, poets and authors present these wide-ranging, beautifully illustrated tales from all over the continent, including many stories from Mandela's youth.

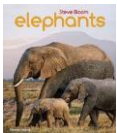


Elinor Batezart Sisulu

[The Day Gogo Went to Vote](#)

1999, PAPER, 32 PAGES

A richly illustrated, inspiring book for young readers. When black South Africans are finally given the right to vote, Thembi goes with his great-grandmother Gogo to vote for the first time in her life.



Steve Bloom

[Elephants, A Book for Children](#)

2015, PAPER, 64 PAGES

Alongside plenty of adorable photographs, this entertaining book explains everything about elephants, from why they flap their ears to how much they weigh and how much they eat. Written for children ages 4 and up.



Chris Johns

[Face to Face with Cheetahs](#)

2008, HARD COVER, 32 PAGES

Chris Johns, editor of National Geographic magazine, introduces young readers to a family of these cagey cats with stunning photos and adventure stories from the Okavango Delta.

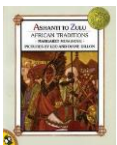


Cynthia Stierle

[Adventure Pack, Safari](#)

2016, HARD COVER, 56 PAGES

Perfect preparation for a wild safari, this activity book is packed with fun things to do: crossword puzzles, word-searches, a fact book, a picture viewer with images, 30 reusable stickers and 24 cards. For ages 4 and up.



Leo Dillon, Diane Dillon (Illustrators)

[Ashanti to Zulu, African Traditions](#)

1992, PAPER, 32 PAGES

A full-color introduction to 26 different African cultures, arranged from A to Z. Intended for kids ages 9-12, this classic won the Dillons their second Caldecott Medal for best illustration in a children's book.



Lauren St. John

[The White Giraffe](#)

2007, PAPER, 192 PAGES

Myth mixes with reality on a South African wildlife preserve when young Martine discovers a white giraffe and the dangers which threaten both the animal and its home. Middle readers.

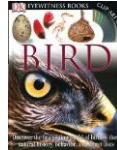


Lonely Planet Publications

[Lonely Planet Not for Parents Africa](#)

2013, PAPER, 96 PAGES

Jam-packed with photos, fun facts and goofy cartoons, this glossy guide with cool stuff to know about Africa is just the thing for eight-year-old travelers.

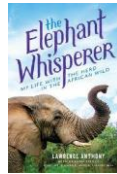


David Burnie

[Eyewitness Bird](#)

2008, HARD COVER, 64 PAGES

An introduction to birds, their evolution, biology and behavior, in the graphic Eyewitness style with hundreds of color photographs and drawings of feathers, wings, nests, eggs (and surprisingly few birds!).

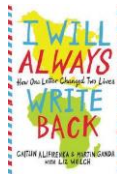


Lawrence Anthony

[The Elephant Whisperer, My Life with the Herd in the African Wild](#)

2017, HARD COVER, 256 PAGES

Set in Zululand, South Africa, Lawrence Anthony's true story of adopting a rogue herd of elephants is written for ages 10 to 13.

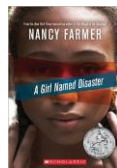


Caitlin Alifirenka

[I Will Always Write Back, How One Letter Changed Two Lives](#)

2016, PAPER, 416 PAGES

Alternating between the perspectives of all-American girl Caitlin and her bright pen pal Martin, this dual memoir covers their inspiring correspondence, showing differences between life in the West and in Zimbabwe. Young adult.



Nancy Farmer

[A Girl Named Disaster](#)

2012, PAPER, 309 PAGES

An 11-year-old embarks on a year-long odyssey from Mozambique to Zimbabwe in this gripping introduction to Southern Africa, the Shona and their ideas about the spirit world. The young adult book won the Newbery.



Jessica Khoury

[Kalahari](#)

2016, PAPER, 384 PAGES

A heated biological thriller that blends the challenge of survival with science fiction and the pangs of first love. When her father hastily leaves their tour group of five teenagers (to trail poachers) Sarah must keep them alive against starvation and a deadly virus.



Janice Warman

[The World Beneath](#)

2016, HARD COVER, 176 PAGES

Told from a child's perspective, this young adult novel is set in a wealthy, white neighborhood in South Africa as the country is swept up in political upheaval.