

Suggested Reading List for Southern Africa

Books

The Wildlife of Southern Africa (*Vincent Carruthers*)

An excellent and comprehensive reference guide to the fascinating fauna and flora of this region – with over 2,000 selected plants and animals of all sizes and varieties that are you're likely to encounter on your visit. Each chapter has been written by an expert in the field. Groups are colour-coded for easy reference and identification. Probably one of the most useful field guides you'll find for the southern African region. Perfect for any outdoors enthusiasts.

Africa's Top Wildlife Countries (*Mark W. Nolting*)

Africa's Top Wildlife Countries highlights and compares wildlife reserves and other major attractions in the continent's best countries for game viewing – making the planning of the journey of a lifetime easy! African countries, and the wildlife reserves within them, vary greatly as to the types and quality of safari experiences they offer. This is the only guidebook that effectively assists travellers in choosing the best destinations for the kind of wildlife experience they would most enjoy by comparing travel options among all the top wildlife countries.

Long Walk to Freedom (*Nelson Mandela*)

A very inspiring book to read while travelling South Africa is 'Long walk to freedom'. No trip to South Africa is complete without having read the autobiography of one of the country's greatest political leaders, Nelson Mandela. The Nobel peace prize winner and ex-president of South Africa describes his early life, his fight against racial oppression and his 27 years of imprisonment. It's definitely a must read for everyone that's interested in the history of South Africa, the fall of Apartheid and the vision and life of one of the world's greatest leaders.

Africa Safari: Into the Great Game Reserves (*Beverly and Peter Pickford*)

This book is filled with wonderful stories and experiences of African Safaris and all they encompass, from horseback safaris to floating above it all on a hot air balloon to the unmistakable sights, smells and sounds of this fascinating continent. It has eight chapters, each detailing a journey through the great wildernesses of Africa: South Africa (Kruger and the Kgalagadi), Namibia (Etosha, Damaraland and Kaokaland), Botswana (Okavango, Chobe and Linyanti), Zimbabwe (Mana Pools and the Zambezi), Zambia (North and South Luangwa), Tanzania (Ngorongoro and the Serengeti), Kenya (Masai Mara, Amboseli and Tsavo), Rwanda and Uganda (Parc des Volcans and Mgahinga).

A Complicated War (*William Finnegan*)

A brilliant, sometimes devastating eyewitness report of the civil war, sponsored by South Africa, that has killed a million Mozambicans.

Tales of Zambia (*Dick Hobson*)

This is a lovely book, cataloguing big moments in Zambia's history, as well as some of its quirkiest incidents and characters. It has sections on legends, mining, and the country's flora and fauna and is very readable.

The Scramble for Africa (*Thomas Pakenham*)

A well-written, meticulously researched history of the Victorian land grab in Africa. The book includes excellent portraits of the egomaniacal personalities that overran the continent.

Dispatches from a Fragile Continent (*Blaine Harden*)

Blaine Harden, who was the Washington Post's "bureau chief in Sub Sahara Africa" in Nairobi 1985-1989, reveals the darker, unsightly picture of Africa which is beginning to emerge in the media. This book is controversial and provokes thought about where Africa is going and what it is becoming.

Lost World of the Kalahari (Laurens van der Post)

Originally published in 1958, this poetic book is the story of a quest to find the San people in the remote desert. It has become a classic romanticized tale of an encounter between the literate European and “noble savage”: mystical, captivating and a useful record of a time.

Whatever You do, Don't Run: My Adventures as a Safari Guide (Peter Allison)

A light-hearted insight into what it is like to be a safari guide in Botswana.

Films

The Last Lions (13 January 2011)

The Last Lions is a 2011 African nature documentary film by National Geographic Society, videotaped and directed by Dereck and Beverly Joubert. It was shot at the Okavango Delta in Botswana. The film documentary focuses on a lioness named Ma di Tau ("Mother of Lions") as she battles to protect her cubs against the daunting onslaught of enemies to ensure their survival. The underlying message of the film is on the low population of large cats in the world and whether Ma di Tau and her cubs are among the last lions.

Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom (28 November 2013)

While this is not exactly a safari movie, it is about South Africa's most prominent figure. The film is based on South African President Nelson Mandela's autobiography of the same name, which chronicles his early life, coming of age, education and 27 years in prison before becoming President of South Africa and working to rebuild the country's once segregated society.

Africa (2 January 2013)

Africa, the world's wildest continent. David Attenborough takes us on an awe-inspiring journey through one of the most diverse places in the world. The mini-series visits deserts, savannas, and jungles and showcases some of Africa's amazing wildlife.

Birth of A Pride (2 December 2018)

In Selinda, Botswana, lions had been hunted to near extinction but, thanks to conservation, the number of lions has grown from two to over 60. Witness an incredible and heart-warming story of survival through the eyes of the lions that beat the odds. Follow six cubs as they navigate the world and learn to hunt, socialise and survive in the now flourishing wilderness.

Blogs

<https://blog.londoloji.com/>

<https://bushtales.africanbushcamps.com/>

<https://singita.com/blog/>