



SUGGESTED READING & MEDIA

SOUTH AFRICA & VICTORIA FALLS

Field Guides & Natural History

Stuarts' Field Guide to Mammals of Southern Africa by Chris Stuart & Mathilde Stuart (6th Edition, 2025, Field Guide) - A newly updated and comprehensive guide to the region's land and marine mammals, with identification features, behavior, habitat, tracks and current distribution maps.

The Kingdon Pocket Guide to African Mammals by Jonathan Kingdon (2nd Edition, 2016, Field Guide) - A compact safari guide covering African land mammals, with illustrations and distribution maps useful for identifying species encountered at MalaMala and beyond.

Sasol Birds of Southern Africa by Ian Sinclair, Phil Hockey, Warwick Tarboton, Niall Perrins, Dominic Rollinson & Peter Ryan (5th Edition, 2020/2021, Field Guide) - One of the region's standard bird guides, updated with revised illustrations, distribution maps and species information for South Africa and Zimbabwe.

The Safari Companion: A Guide to Watching African Mammals by Richard D. Estes (2nd Edition, 1999, Natural History) - An excellent guide to interpreting mammal behavior on safari, including social behavior, territoriality, courtship, predator-prey interactions and care of young.

Field Guide to Fynbos Fauna by Cliff Dorse & Suretha Dorse (2023, Field Guide) - A focused guide to more than 400 mammals, birds, reptiles and frogs of South Africa's fynbos biome, particularly relevant to the Cape Peninsula and Cape Point.

Southern African Wildlife by Mike Unwin (3rd Edition, 2022, Natural History) - An accessible overview of southern Africa's mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates, with useful context on ecology, conservation and wildlife viewing.

Conservation

Hope for Animals and Their World: How Endangered Species Are Being Rescued from the Brink by Jane Goodall with Thane Maynard & Gail Hudson (2009, Conservation) - Stories of species recovery and the scientists, conservationists and communities working to prevent extinction. Especially relevant to the conservation partnerships and organizations encountered throughout this program.

South African History & Contemporary Society

Long Walk to Freedom by Nelson Mandela (1994, Autobiography) - Mandela's essential account of his life, imprisonment, the struggle against apartheid and South Africa's transition to democracy.

Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood by Trevor Noah (2016, Memoir) - A funny, moving and revealing account of growing up in South Africa during the final years of apartheid and the transition that followed.

The Inheritors: An Intimate Portrait of South Africa's Racial Reckoning by Eve Fairbanks (2022, Nonfiction) - Through the lives of three South Africans across generations, Fairbanks explores how apartheid's legacy continues to shape identity, opportunity, race and power.

Kaffir Boy by Mark Mathabane (1986, Memoir) - A firsthand account of growing up under apartheid in Johannesburg's Alexandra township and the realities imposed by racial segregation.

Literary Fiction

The Promise by Damon Galgut (2021, Literary Fiction) - Winner of the 2021 Booker Prize, this multigenerational novel follows a white South African family across the decades surrounding the end of apartheid, examining land, race, obligation and change.

Ways of Dying by Zakes Mda (1995, Literary Fiction) - An acclaimed novel set during South Africa's turbulent transition from apartheid, blending township life, political change, loss and resilience.

Zoo City by Lauren Beukes (2010, Science Fiction) - An award-winning urban fantasy set in Johannesburg, blending crime noir with a vivid portrait of the contemporary city.

Victoria Falls & Zimbabwe

Victoria Falls and Colonial Imagination in British Southern Africa: Turning Water into Gold by Andrea L. Arrington-Sirois (2017, History) - A historical examination of Victoria Falls and the forces that shaped it into one of Africa's earliest major tourism destinations.

Nervous Conditions by Tsitsi Dangarembga (1988, Literary Fiction) - A landmark Zimbabwean coming-of-age novel exploring colonialism, education, gender and cultural identity.

Podcasts & Audio

The 90 Second Naturalist with Thane Maynard, Cincinnati Public Radio - Brief natural-history and conservation stories hosted by Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden's Thane Maynard.

Green Noise, Episode 4: "Defending the Deep: The Penguin's Plight" (CapeNature, 2024) - A conversation with SANCCOB senior veterinarian Dr. David Roberts on African penguin rescue, rehabilitation, marine protected areas and species conservation.

The Conservation Station, Episode 2: "Knee-Deep in Carcasses: Why We Need Vultures" with Kerri Wolter of VulPro (2025) - An introduction to the ecological importance of vultures, the threats they face and VulPro's conservation work.

Films & Documentaries

Penguin Town (2021, Netflix Documentary Series) - Follows endangered African penguins in Simon's Town as they mate, nest and raise chicks in the same coastal community visited on this trip.

My Octopus Teacher (2020, Documentary) - Filmed in the kelp forests of False Bay near Cape Town, this Academy Award-winning film offers an intimate look at the marine ecology of the Cape Peninsula.

The Last Ranger (2024, Short Film) - A South African story centered on rhino poaching, rangers and conservation, offering relevant context for the wildlife-protection challenges explored on safari.

Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom (2013, Feature Film) - A dramatization of Nelson Mandela's life from his early years through imprisonment and South Africa's transition to democracy; useful background for Robben Island, Soweto and the Apartheid Museum.

Have You Heard From Johannesburg (2010, Documentary Series; PBS broadcast 2012) - A deeper history of the international anti-apartheid movement and the global campaign to isolate the apartheid regime.