

# Learning Tour Handbook 2018

## Africa Classroom Connection and Books For Africa

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### **Emergency contacts:**

call Claire at the Africa Classroom Connection office 612-767-4430 (press 0 and talk to anyone if Claire is not available) they will have ways to reach Henry and the group.

### **Non-emergency contact:**

Email [henry@africaclassroomconnection.org](mailto:henry@africaclassroomconnection.org) or [claire@africaclassroomconnection.org](mailto:claire@africaclassroomconnection.org)

Soon we will embark on what we hope will be the trip of a lifetime – filled with new sights, sounds, cultures, and the chance to make a difference in children’s lives. We are looking forward to introducing you to countries of extraordinary beauty, filled with big-hearted people who are surviving incredible obstacles. Yet they retain their optimism for the future. As Americans, we are often respected and admired there and we have a chance to share our culture and good fortune in a very meaningful way.

- Henry Bromelkamp.

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## Preparation

### Weather/Packing

South Africa is a large country with weather that is influenced by the cold current coming up from Antarctica (Cape Town), the hot Indian Ocean (Durban), and higher altitudes (Johannesburg). So conditions in our various destinations will vary greatly. Layers are your friend. Generally, in January and February, the weather will be warm (highs around 80 and lows around 60) and humid. It’s a little milder in South Africa than in Malawi. There may be summer rains as we’ll be there during the rainy season.

Casual clothes are fine for all of our activities. We have encountered ants in the rural Eshowe area and the game reserve, so long pants and high socks are advised. Bring sturdy walking shoes. Sandals may not be comfortable in rural areas where there can be mud and lots of dust.

When on safari, neutral colors are recommended, and those who plan on participating in the walking safari MUST NOT wear bright colors. Generally, shorts are less common in Africa than in the United States; you'll be surprised how many well-dressed people we see on the streets. In Malawi, women rarely (if ever) wear pants—it was illegal from the 1960's to 1990's, and is still frowned upon in rural areas—though travelers are understood to be different. Be sure to bring sunblock, a brimmed hat and sunglasses.

A camera with an optical zoom works better for photographing wildlife on safari than a smartphone camera. There are well-equipped shops in South Africa, and some in Malawi, so you can pick up needed toiletries and incidentals as needed.

The guest houses in Eshowe can do laundry for you for a small fee. So don't pack too much. The game reserve may also offer that service, but in many parts of South Africa, there is a taboo against washing another person's underwear (called 'smalls'). We'll have multiple days in most locations, so rinsing things in the sink is a good idea, use shampoo or bring a small amount of detergent.

Drink only bottled water except for in major South African cities at your discretion. Generally in South Africa tap water is safe enough not to worry about brushing your teeth or eating salads, but if you have a sensitive stomach stick to bottled water. In Malawi drink only bottled water which you saw opened yourself.

Originating from the US South African Airway uses the Piece Concept and you can travel with 2 free checked bags up to 50lbs each with maximum dimensions of 158 cm (62 inches) each. On a reservation where you have more than one ticket, if they raise any question at the airport you will just need to show them your original SAA/UA ticket that originates in the US and tell them you are traveling on the Piece Concept. More information at [www.flysaa.com](http://www.flysaa.com); choose "Plan your Trip" and then "Baggage". If you're flying on an airline other than United and South African Airways, please consult that airline's baggage policies

Plan your shopping in (1) Eshowe, where we will visit a bead workshop for grandmothers caring for the orphans of AIDs victims, and a museum shop with extraordinary Zulu baskets; (2) wood carvings and small trinkets at the Hluhluwe Game Reserve. You'll get better prices than in the big cities. Also (3) Malawi is famous for woodcarving, and the prices are very low. Tuck an extra duffel in your suitcase for this purpose because shipping is expensive.



Electrical power is 220/240V. Outlets are a hefty round three-prong style unique to South Africa. In Malawi outlets are the square three-prong type found in the UK and many former British colonies. **We will provide you outlet adapters for South Africa and Malawi** which can be used if your electrical equipment indicates it can be used at 110/120V or 220/240V (this is true of most laptops or cameras, but read the AC adapter or manual), but you'll need a transformer if your equipment is only for 110V.

**Packing Recommendations:** Past travel leaders' personalities shine through their recommended packing lists. Be sure to consult both for your optimal list.

**Weather:** The weather will vary within South Africa. Highs are expected between 60-70°F in the day and between 40-50°F in the eves. In Malawi, the average temps in August are 77°F in the day and 50°F in the evening.

**Macro note about packing:** As noted above, layers will be your friend. The goal is to pack lightly, which is more of a challenge for me than for Henry. Ultimately, I make last minute decisions about what stays and what goes when I try to get it all in my suitcase. Showers are available daily.

### Henry's Packing List

long pants that zip off to shorts  
slacks (for embassy meetings)  
long sleeve collar shirt (for embassy meetings)  
long sleeve tee shirt  
short sleeve casual shirt (2)  
short sleeve tee shirt (2)  
tank top  
underwear (4)  
socks (4 pair)  
walking shoes  
sandals  
running shoes, shorts, shirt, socks  
fleece  
light rain jacket or umbrella  
toothpaste/toothbrush/floss  
razor/shave cream  
skin cream  
sunblock  
sunglasses  
brimmed hat  
watch with alarm  
camera (camera w/optical zoom works better for photographing wildlife than a smartphone camera)  
compact binoculars (highly recommended for safari!)  
laptop computer (I need to, it has all the trip details!)  
cell phone (GSM for South Africa and Malawi - for communicating between vehicles)  
power adapters  
moneybelt/safetypouch  
passport (leave a scan or copy with family or office)  
driver license, international driver permit  
US\$100  
ATM card, Visa card, health insurance card  
printed copy of itinerary  
playing cards  
reading material  
teeny flashlight  
iPod/radio  
ear plugs  
family photos to show

### Barb's Packing List

Coats:

- My check of the weather did not indicate much rain. I will bring a small umbrella just in case
- Light fleece and maybe a light long underwear shirt as one of my layers—morning and evening safari drives can be chilly

Shoes:

- I strive for easy on/off for air travel
- Comfortable, sturdy walking shoes for Malawi, Johannesburg
- Most of our destinations are uneven and dirt terrain so nothing too fancy
- Pack as few shoes as possible
- I'll likely bring, one sturdy shoe, one fancy sandal and a sporty sandal

Hat

- Especially in Malawi where the sun will be more direct and the weather warmer
- On safari, the drives are in the early morn and the evening when the sun is less direct. Be sure any hat you want to wear has a chin strap so it does not fly off your head.

Shirts

- Remember that layers are you friend
- One sleeveless
- One short sleeved
- 2 long sleeved (likely one lightweight cardigan)

Pants

- One pair of jeans (Henry recommends against jeans because they are heavy, take a long time to dry (dryers are rare), etc. – I love my jeans)
- Casual pant – like the zip off kind – this will give you the option for shorts if you decide to wear them though shorts are not commonly worn by Africans and the weather won't likely be super warm
- Dressier pant for dinners in Eshowe and Jo'burg-chenos

Basics:

- undies, toiletries, feminine products – (remember the 3 oz rule if you plan to carry on your luggage)

Activity Bag (Long flights, car travel, lounge time on safari)

- Cards, Farkel, soduko, ipods and engaging conversation



*Henry packs light*

topics, mags (which can be left behind)

Hair management

- Headbands – I love my Buff (available at REI or Sahalie)
- Ponytail holders
- Possibly a compact hair dryer –depends on space

## **Time Zone and Sleep Preparation**

When we are in South Africa and Malawi in January and February, time is 8 hours later than in Minneapolis; at noon in Minneapolis it's 8:00pm in South Africa. (That becomes a 7 hour difference when we go onto Daylight Savings Time in our spring.) That will make it difficult to adjust your body to the new day/night cycle. The last four or five days before departure, go to bed an hour earlier each night, increasing the earliness each night, to help adapt to the new time zone. For example, four nights before departure go to sleep an hour earlier, then three nights before departure go to sleep two hours earlier, etc. and while on the plane try to stay awake during day time in Africa, and sleep when it's night time in Africa.

## **Customs and Immigration**

You'll need a passport that is valid for at least six months after your visit that has two blank pages that say "Visas" at the top. United States citizens enter South Africa freely with a passport stamp in the arrival airport, and enter Malawi with an entry visa purchased in the arrival airport for \$100 (bring cash for this). If you prefer, you can obtain your visas beforehand in the US.

## **Accommodations**

Hot showers are sometimes provided in a manner you're not accustomed to.

1. In some places, such as most places in Malawi, the water heater is left "off" most of the time when a hotel room is not occupied, and you need to turn it "on" when you check in and wait quite a while before the water is hot. In these situations, there's an electric switch on the wall outside the bathroom with a small red light next to it. If the red light is dark, flip the switch to make the red light come on, that indicates the water heater is "on." If convenient, turn it off when you're done or when you leave, to save energy and cost for the hotel.
2. Rarely, there is an "electric shower" where there is no water heater at all, but instead the shower head itself (which is the size of a coffee can) heats the water with a toaster-like electric

element. With an electric shower, there is no hot and cold spigot, just a single spigot. To operate it, first make sure any circuit breaker with a red light near the shower is "on." Then turn the spigot "on" quite far; that makes the shower head notice the flow and begin heating the water to lukewarm. Then turn the spigot to less flow, which makes the water hotter to your preferred temperature. The key with an electric shower head is to turn the water DOWN to get MORE hot.

## **Gifts**

It's understandable to want to share our abundance with those who have limited resources. But if you bring gifts, make sure they are things that promote education and understanding, and don't promote dependence. To avoid favoritism bring a large quantity of small items rather than a few more valuable things, and give the items to the teachers or principal for distribution, not to individual kids, to avoid singling out some children.

Bring reasonably durable things that have broad usefulness:

- Pens, toothbrushes (hundreds, not handfuls)
- Blackboard chalk!!
- Maps, photographs, dictionaries, thesauruses, atlases
- Educational toys or cards
- Soccer balls (bring deflated, with hand pumps!) are very popular

Avoid luxuries or consumables:

- Candy, money
- Toys requiring batteries or electricity
- Paper or tablets (they can be purchased in Africa)
- Pencils or markers (they don't last very long)

If you are traveling with books or magazines, don't discard them after reading them, but instead give them to people we meet along the way.

## **Safety**

Crimes of violence are unfortunately all-too-common in South Africa, but residents are victimized far more than tourists. It's important to make whatever preparations you can to prevent making yourself a target:

- Avoid jewelry except perhaps the most simple, or wear simple craft jewelry purchased in South Africa.
- Avoid stereotypically tourist clothing: baseball caps, American logos.
- Avoid suggestive clothing; generally South Africa and especially Malawi are more conservative than the US.
- We recommend having an under-the-clothing bag or money belt, or a zippered pants pocket. Avoid carrying a purse or prepare to have it secured and attached to you.
- All the places we are staying in urban South Africa have 24 hour security, including fenced parking with guards, which can be disconcerting for Americans, but it's commonplace and effective in preventing incidents, and as such is reassuring.

In South Africa the nationwide emergency number for the **police is 10111**.



In Malawi we will find a much quieter and less urban society, with little crime.

Throughout the trip the trip leader will have a mobile phone for emergencies. Tell your families they can contact Claire Barone 612-767-4430. If they reach Claire's voice mail, press 7 to transfer directly to her mobile phone, or if press 0 to talk to anyone at Bromelkamp Company. We will also provide you with a final itinerary shortly

before the trip that we recommend you share with your families.

## Money

Your trip charges will cover all transportation and most of your meals. You will need additional funds for some meals "on your own" and any incidentals or gifts you want to purchase.

**Don't bring more than \$200-\$500 cash** in crisp, new bills (old bills are suspected to be forgeries). Avoid travelers checks, as they are difficult to use in South Africa and almost impossible to use in Malawi. The best way to get money is to use your ATM Visa debit card, which will work in most South Africa or Malawi ATM machines. South Africa currency is called Rand (2015 about 14R=\$1), Malawi currency is called Kwacha (2015 about MK575=\$1). Prepare to have Rand/Kwacha for snacks, incidentals and tips. (Although you can tip in dollars if necessary. Tipping 20%, as we do here, is not customary most places in South Africa or in Malawi. Rather people typically round up by a few percent. In Cape Town, tipping is more similar to in the US.) Credit cards are accepted at tourist establishments, but not at most local businesses such as the aforementioned bead workshop and museum store, or at craft stalls along the road.

Call your bank and/or credit card issuers to make sure they know you will be traveling in Africa otherwise they may suspect fraud and disable your card. Ask if the bank charges a fee to get cash from an ATM machine outside their network (African banks don't add a fee) and ask them what percent the bank charges for currency conversion; this can vary from 1% to 3.5%. Based on the fees, you may want to consider getting an ATM Visa debit card with lower fees or no fee from a financial institution like a credit union. CapitalOne is one of the few companies that charges no currency conversion fee.

## Health

Here is a link to the state department's consular information page on South Africa. It contains links to lots of other resources.

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1008.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1008.html)

We encourage all travelers to research vaccination updates via the CDC web site as well. Most people will need tetanus and polio boosters before the trip.

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/south-africa.htm>

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/malawi.htm>

**Plan a visit to your travel clinic prior to departure.** Make sure to ask about and read the information on malaria. In South Africa in Eshowe or the Hluhluwe/Umfolozu Game Reserve malaria medication is not required, but you may wish to make your own decision about this. Malaria medication is definitely necessary in Malawi. There are three main options: (1) Malarone is a newer drug with few side effects and probably the most commonly prescribed. It's more expensive than Lariam and is taken every day. (2) Doxycycline is also increasingly popular. (3) Lariam (mefloquine) is cheaper and is taken once a week

beginning a week before possible exposure, but some people report serious psychological side effects. You'll also want to ask your doctor about being vaccinated for Hepatitis A and B which are associated with poor food hygiene. You should also ask for a general antibiotic (like Cipro or Zithromax) to bring with you for stomach problems.



It is highly unlikely to encounter rabies on our journey; however in any environment with wild animals, it is more likely than here at home. The challenge with rabies is that exposure untreated is nearly always fatal. Therefore, check if your travel clinic offers rabies vaccination. If you have the series of 3 pre exposure vaccines, and have a bite, it is a matter of getting 2 more vaccines. If you have not had any and have a bite, you will need rabies immune globulin along with the vaccines. Worldwide, rabies vaccine is easy to come by, but the immune globulin is more difficult. Check with your insurance plan which may very well cover some or all of it. While we are traveling, it's important to avoid direct contact with wild animals, especially bats; if you encounter them or are unsure, please tell the tour leader.

South Africa has good health care for those who can afford it in the major cities, but not rural areas. Malawi has very poor health care. If you are sick or injured, we will direct you to one of the major cities in South Africa for attention. In Malawi, this will probably mean flying to South Africa or home. If you are injured and we are not with you, ***it is important for you to be***

**very cautious about medical instruments and blood supply – because HIV is common, be sure any needles come from original packaging, and refuse any blood products unless you desperately need them or have assurances of their safety.** If you're severely hurt, it will be best to go home. Included in your trip, we will obtain travel insurance that will cover medical evacuation.

**Drink only bottled water** except for in major South African cities at your discretion.

**If there's a mosquito net, use it!** In areas where malaria is a problem, a respectable hotel will hang a mosquito net over your bed, usually tied in a big loose knot. Untie the big knot, and drape the net over the bedposts to cover the entire bed and tuck in the loose ends to keep mosquitoes away from you. You're most vulnerable when you're sleeping, and that's when the malarial mosquitoes are feeding, so this is your best protection against malaria.

Beware schistosomiasis <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/yellowBookCh4-Schistosomiasis.aspx>, also called bilharzia. Schistosoma parasites can penetrate the skin of persons who are wading, swimming, bathing, or washing in contaminated fresh water. Within several weeks, worms grow inside the blood vessels of the body and produce eggs. Some of these eggs travel to the bladder or intestines and are passed into the urine or stool. Within days after becoming infected, you may develop a rash or itchy skin. Fever, chills, cough, and muscle aches can begin within 1-2 months of infection. BUT most people have no symptoms at this early phase of infection. Left untreated it can result in terrible problems with your internal organs. It's easily treated. **If you are in contact with fresh water during our trip, be very sure to visit your doctors 6-8 weeks after we return home and tell the doctor you need to be tested for schistosomiasis.**

## Transportation

We will be traveling in rented mini-van(s) from Durban to Eshowe to safari and then in Johannesburg. Group leader(s) (and alternates) will be the drivers. In Malawi we will be in one or two rented vehicles. You won't need to drive unless you plan on diverting from the group or staying longer. If such case, an International Driver's Permit is required, you can get one or \$15 at AAA. Your US driver license is also required. In both countries, driving is on the left. Main roads in South Africa are excellent, but very rustic in the rural Eshowe schools area. Roads in Malawi are paved but poor to fair.

Our internal African flights (Johannesburg to Durban or Cape Town, and to/from Lilongwe, Malawi) are on South African Airways, a reliable full-service international airline, or within South Africa possibly on Kulula, a reliable domestic airline, with familiar Boeing and Airbus planes and services.

Public transportation (other than taxis or flying) in South Africa is unsafe. There is no public transportation in Malawi other than very expensive domestic flights and very old busses. If you plan on arriving early or staying after the group, use taxis or rent a car.

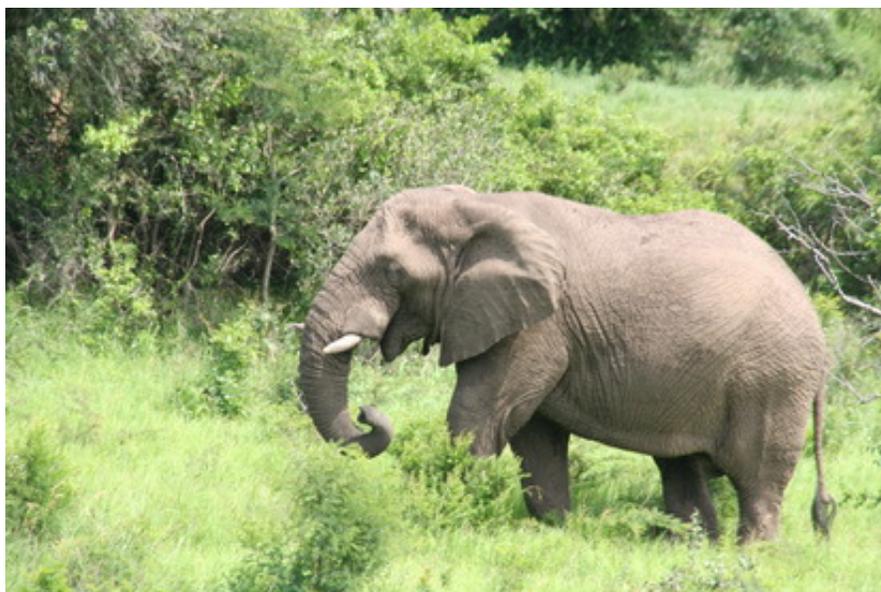
**We will purchase travel insurance for you** that includes medical evacuation. It provides coverage for unexpected cancellations or problems with connections or arrangements, but it also provides for you to be airlifted away in case of medical emergency. Check with your employer – Henry’s employer-provided life insurance includes medical evacuation.



### **Communications**

Telephones are widely available and reliable in South Africa. There are few public telephones in Malawi, but they are generally functional. In both countries, it’s very expensive to call inside and out of the country (about a dollar a minute to call the US from South Africa, more from Malawi) so don’t plan to make a lot of calls home.

Africa's mobile phone operators utilize the GSM system so most older US cell phones (which are CDMA) do not work. However if your phone is GSM compatible (anything T-Mobile, AT&T, newer Verizon phones, or most “smart” phones), verify the availability and cost of international



roaming with your service provider before you leave home, or contact your service provider to “unlock” your phone so you can buy an inexpensive “SIM card” when we arrive, then you’ll have your own phone but with an African number. You’ll be offered to rent a phone (\$35/week no minutes included) by your provider, or see offers at the airport on arrival, but avoid these; it’s much cheaper to simply go to an “MTN” shop in South Africa and purchase a \$25 telephone and “pay-as-

you-go” by the minute.

There are occasional Internet cafes in South Africa, and we may be lucky enough to find one in Malawi. In general, most places in South Africa have good internet availability and most places in Malawi do not. Henry will have his laptop along, so we can use that if we find a place with phone or wireless. Some of our accommodations will have limited Internet access, but expect

that it will be slow, and because the users pay by the minute for access, it will be expensive. So don't expect to check your work or home email frequently. We'll use Henry's laptop to occasionally update our Facebook page Africa Classroom Connection with photos and news for your families.

## Reading/Movie List

There are lots of good guide books for travelers to South Africa and Malawi (see Lonely Planet's *Southern Africa*). In addition, we can suggest some nonfiction, novels, and films that give a richer image of southern Africa. Get your books at Better World Books ([www.betterworldbooks.com](http://www.betterworldbooks.com)) which provides free shipping *worldwide* and contributes much of its profits to literacy programs such as Books for Africa; the free shipping makes it a great way to send gifts to your new African friends after your return to the United States.

## Fiction

Nadine Gordimer

*No Time Like the Present* (2013)

*The Lying Days*: Helen is a daughter of white middle-class parents in a small gold-mining town in South Africa. As Helen comes of age, so does her awareness grow of the African life around her. Her involvement, as a bohemian student, with young blacks leads her into complex relationships of emotion and action in a culture of dissension.

*The House Gun*: A house gun...a fact of ordinary life at the end of this century where violence is in the air. With that gun the architect son of Harald and Claudia has committed what is to them an unimaginable act – shot dead the intimate friend he discovered making love to his woman. And the relationship between the three is revealed to have unimaginable meaning.

*None to Accompany Me*: The story of two couples, one black, one white, whose relationships evolve as their homeland heads towards majority rule. At the center of the book is Vera Stark, a self-possessed, mature woman whose internal world reflects the changing political landscape of her country.

*A Sport of Nature*: Hillela is Nadine Gordimer's "Sport of Nature": a spontaneous mutation, a new type of untainted person, she is seductive and intuitively gifted for life. This is a sweeping story of her rise from obscurity to an unpredictable kind of political power.

*Burger's Daughter*: The story of a young woman's evolving identity in the turbulent political environment that has culminated in present-day South Africa. Her father's death in prison leaves her alone to explore the intricacies of what it actually means to be Burger's daughter.

*A Guest of Honour*: An English colonial administrator, who was expelled from a central African nation for siding with its black nationalist leaders, is invited back ten years later to join in the country's independence celebrations. As he witnesses the factionalism and violence that erupt as revolutionary ideals are subverted by ambition and greed, he is once again forced to choose sides, a choice that becomes both his triumph and his undoing.

J.M. Coetzee: South African novelist who received the 2003 Nobel Prize in Literature.

Barbara Kingsolver

*Poisonwood Bible*: a powerful, amusing, and tragic story of an American missionary family who comes to “do good” and never seems to learn the wisdom of African traditions.

Bryce Courtenay

*Power of One*: the story of a boy growing up in 1940’s South Africa, a story of constant challenges turned into opportunity, a victory of perseverance and human spirit, filled with colorful characters and warm humor. (Henry says it’s the best book he’s ever read.)

Alan Paton

*Cry, the Beloved Country*: a sobering but spirited story of life during apartheid, where individual endeavor or achievement was not rewarded by success or dignity.

Pamela Gien

*Syringa Tree*: Gien’s novel portrays the grinding imposition of apartheid in South Africa through the eyes and impressions of a young white girl. Lizzy Grace is 6 years old in 1963, when the story begins.

Lauren Beukes is a current (young) South African writer whose books give a sense of the gritty nature of urban/contemporary South Africa, with a science fiction flavor.

Zakes Mda is another younger contemporary author who uses current South Africa as a setting for his novels.

Mark Mathabane

*Kaffir Boy*: a great novel about growing up in South Africa under Apartheid.

## **Non-fiction**

Leonard Thompson

*A History of South Africa*: The best history of South Africa according to Peter. It is a history book, yet still a pretty easy read.

Henry Francis Flynn – wrote books on Shaka Zulu and the wars in Zululand.

Wendy Watson

*Brick by Brick: An Informal Guide to the History of South Africa*

Nelson Mandela

*The Long Walk to Freedom*: an autobiographical story of Mandela’s development as a citizen lawyer and leader of the antiapartheid movement.

Allister Sparks

*The Mind of South Africa*: a history of the country and apartheid, up to about 1990

*Tomorrow is Another Country*: covers the transition from Apartheid to the first free and fair election in great detail—really good, but also really detailed.

Rian Malan is a crime reporter whose books provide interesting insights into the impact of apartheid on South African society.

Donald Morris: history of the Zulu Wars

E. A. Ritter: history of the Zulu Wars

Thomas Pakenham: history of the Boer War

## Robert Rotberg

*The Founder: Cecil Rhodes and the Pursuit of Power:* A fascinating work on the life of Cecil Rhodes, covering the period from the 1830's to 1900 which is one of the most formative for all of South African history.

## William Kamkwamba

*The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind:* A remarkable true story about a Malawi teenager who built a windmill to make electricity so his sister could study at night. It will inspire anyone who doubts the power of one individual's ability to change his community and better the lives of those around him.

## **Film**

### *I Am Because We Are*

A movie Madonna made about her experience in Malawi. Heart-wrenching and heart-warming.

*Reconciliation: Mandela's Miracle:* Once considered a "terrorist," Nelson Mandela saved his country from bloody civil war and dismantled the system of apartheid through the spirit of reconciliation. This documentary features witness testimonials and archival footage.

*The First Grader:* In a remote mountain top primary school, hundreds of children are jostling for a chance for the free education newly promised by the Kenyan government. One astonishing new applicant is Maruge, a veteran in his eighties, who is desperate to learn to read at this late stage of his life.

*Invictus:* The story of Nelson Mandela's use of rugby as a national passion to unify and energize previously antagonistic racial groups. A beautiful display of the warm humanity of Nelson Mandela

*Searching for Sugar Man:* It is terrific and has a big South Africa piece in it.

*District 9:* A spoof about discrimination against aliens, illustrating with humor the injustices of South Africa apartheid.

*The Color of Friendship:* The story of a South African exchange student who finds herself assigned to an American family of a different race.

*Testing Hope: Grade 12 in the New South Africa:* A documentary about under-resourced schools in SA that do really well. The focus is on urban schools but might still be applicable for us.

<http://www.matricthefilm.com/index.html>

## **Music**

Here is a link to a news story on Peter Mawanga, a Malawi musician.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-22440966>

His first spoken words are about the need to educate the children.

## Financial Contribution

This is more than an African tourist trip. We want to show you a bit of Africa that isn't on the tourist track, and to see how regular Africans work hard for their communities, and benefit from our help. We are going to meet people who build schools through Africa Classroom Connection

<http://africaclassroomconnection.org> and past and potential recipients of books from Books for Africa <http://www.booksforafrica.org>.



As we described in our earlier emails, we welcome your contribution of \$1000 per traveler or more. Please keep in mind that our organizing efforts have been completely donated as volunteers, and that we'll be saving you hundreds or thousands of dollars by sharing our knowledge and experience to book inexpensive arrangements and meet amazing people. Learn a lot, enjoy the experience, meet wonderful people, and be as generous as you can. Thanks from the children of Africa.

**Itinerary:** See separate Itinerary