READING GUIDE

Here is a brief selection of favorite, new and hard-to-find books, prepared for your journey. For your convenience, you may call (800) 342-2164 to order these books directly from Longitude, a specialty mail-order book service. To order online, and to get the latest, most comprehensive selection of books for your voyage, go directly to reading.longitudebooks.com/D925963.

ESSENTIAL

Item EXSAF361. Buy these 5 items as a set for $105 including shipping. 15% off the retail price. With free shipping on anything else you order.

Nelson Mandela

Long Walk to Freedom
1995, PAPER, 640 PAGES, $18.00
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 throughout. (Item SAF15)

Gerald Hinde (Photographer)

Big Five of Africa
2009, PAPER, 143 PAGES, $20.00
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. (Item AFR241)

Richard Estes

The Safari Companion
1999, PAPER, 459 PAGES, $30.00
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. (Item AFR06)

Alan Murphy

Lonely Planet Southern Africa
2013, PAPER, 808 PAGES, $34.99
This hefty practical guide to the nine nations of southern Africa, including Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Swaziland, Malawi, Mozambique and Lesotho. (Item SAF121)

Also Recommended

Marcelle Bienvenu (Contributor), Chris McIntyre

Botswana, the Bradt Safari Guide
2014, PAPER, 560 PAGES, $27.99
With comprehensive coverage of history, flora, fauna and practicalities, this fourth edition presents Okavango, Chobe, the Kalahari and other popular destinations in detail. (Item BOT18)

Martin Meredith

The Fortunes of Africa, A 5000-Year History of Wealth, Greed and Endeavor
2016, PAPER, 784 PAGES, $21.99
Covering the epic story of colonialism in Africa, Meredith’s magisterial history depicts empire-hungry kings, missionaries, tribal warlords, mining barons -- even modern multinational corporations. An expansive but entertaining read. (Item AFR327)

Allister Sparks

Tomorrow is Another Country, The Inside Story of South Africa’s Road to Change
1996, PAPER, 254 PAGES, $31.00
Sparks explores the extraordinary developments that led to multiracial democracy in South Africa, an essential key to understanding the country today. (Item SAF31)
Mark Owens, Delia Owens

Cry of the Kalahari, Seven Years in Africa's Last Great Wilderness
1985, PAPER, 352 PAGES, $16.95
The story of a family thrown out of Botswana for its stance on conservation. While their approach to conservation is controversial, there's no doubt that the Owens are dedicated to the wildlife of Southern Africa -- and are very good writers. (Item BOT10)

Rian Malan

My Traitor's Heart
2000, PAPER, 425 PAGES, $16.00
Afrikaner journalist Malan recounts his journey back to his homeland just before the collapse of apartheid. He grapples with the black and white heart of South Africa, drawing on the 300-year history of his family in Africa and legends of the Zulu nation, in this beautifully written and brutally honest story of return. (Item SAF19)

Robyn Scott

Twenty Chickens for a Saddle
2009, PAPER, 464 PAGES, $16.00
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. (Item SAF203)

Peter Allison

Whatever You Do, Don't Run
2013, PAPER, 272 PAGES, $18.95
Allison spins captivating tales of wildlife, camps and the life of a safari guide into a hilarious, slyly informative introduction to Botswana. (Item BOT29)

Wilbur Smith

Elephant Song
1995, PAPER, 472 PAGES, $7.99
A potboiler set in Zimbabwe, in which our hero, a native Zimbabwean producer of nature films, fights the murderous ivory-traders. (Item ZIM04)

Isabel Balseiro (Editor), Tobias Hecht (Editor)

South Africa, A Traveler's Literary Companion
2009, PAPER, 239 PAGES, $14.95
This diverse collection of short stories reveals South Africa through the eyes of its writers, including Nadine Gordimer, J.M. Coetzee and Alan Paton. (Item SAF236)

Alexander McCall Smith

The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency
2009, PAPER, 352 PAGES, $15.00
The delightful introduction to Botswana's formidable female detective, evoking the cultures, customs and texture of Africa. (Item BOT10)

Peter Godwin, Chris Johns (Photographer)

Wild at Heart
2007, HARD COVER, 176 PAGES, $65.00
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. (Item SAF130)

Kenneth Newman

Newman's Birds of Southern Africa
2010, PAPER, 538 PAGES, $26.00
This commemorative 10th edition celebrates the late author with a fully revised and updated version. Edits were done by his daughter, Vanessa Newman, to reflect the latest research, taxonomy and common names. (Item SAF29)

Vincent Carruthers (Editor), Kenneth Newman (Illustrator)

The Wildlife of Southern Africa
2017, PAPER, 320 PAGES, $23.00
With 1,200 color illustrations by a range of experts, this compact field guide includes all the birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects, fish and plants that a traveler is likely to encounter in southern Africa. (Item SAF59)

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