

Sikulu's & Harambe's Journey Through Africa

A Publication for Children & Parents



We Started With Zimbabwe



This month, Harambe and I are visiting Southern Africa. Our journey starts in Zimbabwe, where we came across some fantastic ruins called Great Zimbabwe Ruins. From there we visited South Africa and Madagascar.

The Great Zimbabwe Ruins are huge! They span 1,800 acres and have a radius between 100 and 200 miles. To get a feel for the size, it is equivalent to a piece of land 3 miles by 3 miles.

The name Zimbabwe means House of Stone, which is fitting because the ruins are completely made of stone. They were built between the 11th and 15th centuries. What is still standing is all stone, with any other organic materials having long since been destroyed.

Zimbabwe Trades With China



The people of Zimbabwe also traded with China, which is on the other side of the world.

Our guide told us that the ruins can be broken into three distinct architectural groups. The Hill Complex, the Valley Complex and the famous Great Enclosure. In the Great Enclosure alone, there are over 300 individual structures. Depending on the type of structure determined who lived inside. The large and more elaborate structure was for the king. Sizes went down as the status of the family went down. The center of the city (structure) was the least desirable place to live. It is also where trading and shopping at marketplace like area happened.

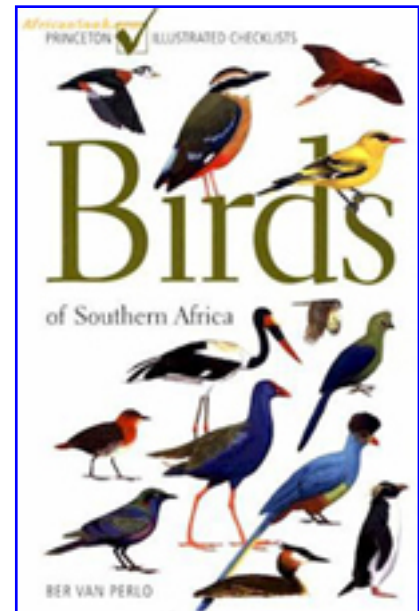
Archeologists have found remains of Chinese pottery and Arabian coins among other things.

Week Two of Our Travels

Hi kids, this is Harambe. While we were in Zimbabwe, we also visited Victoria Falls. Victoria Falls sits on the border of two countries that begin with Z! Zimbabwe and Zambia. Not many countries can say that!

Victoria Falls is the largest waterfall in the whole world. And with being the largest, it is very loud. Sikulu and I had to shout in order to hear each other when we were close to it. The water was beautiful and reflected sunlight off its droplets.

There were also a ton of new and exciting animal species for us to look at. There were colorful birds of every shape and size flying about. White rhinos roamed the lands, as well as buffaloes, antelopes and elephants. We asked the elephants if they knew Mudia, who was our friend. They didn't, so we moved on to enjoy some more scenery.



This book and many other items are available for purchase and reading from AfricanMarket.com



Macufe African Cultural Festival

When we left Zimbabwe, we headed to the Macufe African Cultural Festival in South Africa.

In case you didn't know, I love to play music. I'm not really good at it, but I love trying out all instruments. My hands are too big to play some of the instruments, like the harmonica, but I try anyway.

This is a ten-day festival full of music, drama, theatre, poetry and dancing. Sikulu loved watching the dancers. I enjoyed the jazz and gospel music.

It was fun. Someone said it's the biggest festival in Africa, and it sure looks like it. There were over 140,000 people from around the world there.

We found out that South Africa has had four recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize throughout the years. Recipients include Albert Lithuli, Bishop Desmond Tutu, Nelson Mandela & F.W. deKlerk.

The country also had a long battle with discrimination and apartheid, but now things are improving and everyone seems to get along.



"Sikulu & Harambe in a throng of people at the concert"

Some cool people we met or heard about:

South Africa is also preparing for the 2010 FIFA World Cup. People are really excited and can't wait to see soccer in their country. We played soccer (or football as it is known here) with some of the kids. We had a great time.



"Sikulu & Harambe playing football (soccer)"

Professor Christiaan Barnard was a doctor who studied organ transplants. He performed the first liver transplant in South Africa in 1959. He then performed the first ever human to human heart transplant in December 1967. He was integral to the advancement of other organ transplant surgeries.

Thandie Newton is an award winning actress who has been in 22 movies. She has won awards like the BET Award, BAFTA, Black Reel Awards and Image Awards. We liked her best in the movie 'Crash'.

Frankie Fredericks is famous for his athletic abilities. He is the only person from Namibia to win an Olympic medal. He won the silver medal in the Barcelona Olympics in 1992 for the 200m run and in the 100m run.

Interesting Facts



Did you know that over half of the world's chameleons are found in Madagascar? Madagascar isn't just the name of a movie, but it is an island near Africa's eastern side. Madagascar is home to 59 species of chameleons that only live in Madagascar and nowhere else! There are 20 more species on the island that can live in other countries, giving Madagascar half of the 150 chameleon species as residents.

Madagascar is home to so many chameleons because of its climate. Chameleons are reptiles and reptiles are warm-blooded animals. Meaning they need the sun's warmth to be active during the day. Madagascar also is home to lush plants and forests, which chameleons prefer for their habitat.

Chameleons are known for changing colors, it is a partial myth. Chameleons do change color, but it is not because of its surroundings. They actually change their color when they're angry or happy or just want to say hi to friends. Isn't that cool? I wish I could change my color anytime I wanted.