

# Sankofa Caravan of Hope



Time: 2020 (?) Summer

Duration: 6-8 weeks

Route: Road Journey from Cape Town to Cairo

Participants: A gender, age, class, nationality, class and ethnically diverse group of people.

Itinerary: Of priority, places of historical and knowledge interest. (This is not a safari!) Looking to the past, present and future of who we are as humanity.

Outputs: Blog posts, articles, media coverage, documentary, social media.

Funding: Donations, crowdfunding,

Purpose: The idea takes inspiration from the Twi word Sankofa, which means ‘go back and find it.’ Sankofa also refers to the Asante Adinkra symbol represented either with a stylized heart shape or by a bird with its head turned backwards while its feet face forward. Where is the heart of humanity? When did we lose it? Can we live a future free of violence? All violence? The history of humanity has been a history of some the most horrific atrocities. There has never been a moment where humanity has taken a moment to heal from the wounds we have inflicted. So, all yesterday’s traumas are revisited in our tomorrows. Humanity has become a fixed morphing point. We are trapped in a loop of yesterday’s evolving horrors. What we see as progress is merely the digitisation of what we have always done. Exploitation. Destruction. Dehumanisation.

And this is very evident in how we gather, articulate and transmit knowledge. With Africa always been the extreme manifestation of these distortions of knowledge.

The Sankofa has 3 exploratory frames:

- Rethinking who we are and what knowledge is,
- Rethinking how we know humanity and how we know what we know about humanity,
- Thinking about how we change.

As we build tomorrow's history, we have a responsibility to permanently excavate the past, so that when those who arrive after us come home, there will be something for them to return to. If, as scientists agree, Africa is where humanity started, we have a responsibility to go back and find our humanity. If the future is to be free, we cannot be weighed down by the chains of the past. Both the past and future must be freed in the present.

Places of interest to visit:

#### South Africa

- Robben Island museum, Cape town
- District Six Museum, Cape Town
- Taung Heritage Site, Cradle of Humankind, Johannesburg
- Apartheid Museum, Johannesburg
- Isandlwana, Battlefields Route

#### Botswana

- Gcwihaba Caves, Botswana

#### Zambia

- Livingstone Memorial, Zambia
- Chambeshi Monument, Zambia

#### Malawi

- St. Michael's and All Angels Church, Blantyre, Malawi,

#### Tanzania

- Olduvai Gorge & Laetoli, Tanzania
- University of Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

#### Rwanda

- Kigali Genocide Memorial, Rwanda

#### Uganda

- Makerere University, Uganda
- The source of the Nile, Uganda
- Kasubi Tombs, Uganda

#### Kenya

- University of Nairobi, Kenya
- Fort Jesus, Mombasa, Kenya

## Ethiopia

- Lalibela, Ethiopia
- Gondar Castle, Ethiopia

## Egypt

- Cairo University, Egypt
- The Pyramids of Giza
- The Nile Delta, Port Said and Alexandria, Egypt.