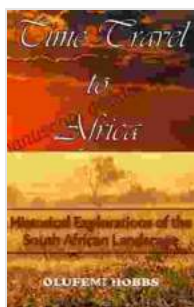


Historical Explorations of the South African Landscape

The South African landscape has been shaped by centuries of human exploration and discovery. From the early Portuguese voyages of the 15th century to the modern scientific expeditions of the 21st century, explorers have ventured into this vast and diverse land, seeking to understand its secrets and exploit its resources.



Time Travel to Africa: Historical Explorations of the South African Landscape by Jane DeNeefe

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English
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Screen Reader : Supported
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Early Portuguese Voyages

The first Europeans to explore the South African coast were the Portuguese. In 1488, Bartolomeu Dias rounded the Cape of Good Hope, becoming the first European to sail around the southern tip of Africa. Dias's voyage opened up the sea route to India and the East Indies, and the Portuguese quickly established a trading post at the Cape of Good Hope.

Portuguese explorers continued to explore the South African coast in the 16th century. In 1503, Antonio da Saldanha discovered Table Bay, which would later become the site of Cape Town. In 1510, Francisco de Almeida explored the east coast of South Africa, as far as Delagoa Bay.

The Dutch East India Company

In the 17th century, the Dutch East India Company (VOC) became the dominant European power in South Africa. The VOC established a permanent settlement at the Cape of Good Hope in 1652, and over the next century, the Dutch gradually expanded their control over the interior of the country.

VOC explorers played a key role in mapping the South African landscape. In 1659, Jan van Riebeeck explored the Breede River Valley, and in 1689, Simon van der Stel explored the Cape Flats.

British Exploration

In 1795, the British took control of the Cape of Good Hope from the Dutch. British explorers continued to explore the South African interior, and in the 19th century, they made a number of important discoveries.

In 1806, David Livingstone discovered the Victoria Falls. In 1858, Henry Morton Stanley explored the Congo River, and in 1871, he found Dr. David Livingstone at Ujiji, on the shores of Lake Tanganyika.

Scientific Expeditions

In the 20th and 21st centuries, scientific expeditions have played a major role in exploring the South African landscape. These expeditions have studied the country's geology, ecology, and climate.

In 1935, the University of Cape Town launched the first major scientific expedition to the Drakensberg Mountains. In the 1950s, the South African National Committee for Oceanography (SANCOR) began a series of oceanographic expeditions to study the South African coastline.

The exploration of the South African landscape has been a long and fascinating journey. From the early Portuguese voyages to the modern scientific expeditions, explorers have ventured into this vast and diverse land, seeking to understand its secrets and exploit its resources.

The South African landscape is a testament to the human spirit of exploration and discovery. It is a land that has been shaped by centuries of human interaction, and it is a land that continues to inspire and amaze.



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