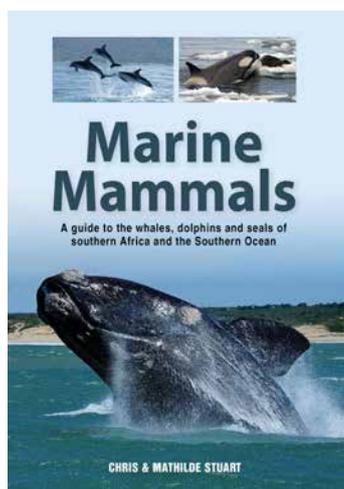


# Books

## Marine Mammals: A guide to the whales, dolphins and seals of southern Africa and the Southern Ocean

By Chris and Mathilde Stuart



This is a short and sweet little booklet, totalling less than 75 pages, but all you should need to identify the marine mammals of the region, providing you get a good look at some key features. It's easy-to-use and very colourful, containing a mixture of photographs and beautiful illustrations. The main species entries each have an informative description and a box listing details such as the weight, length,

blow height, tail fluke position when diving, lifespan and range. The best viewing opportunities are also highlighted. An introductory section covers the biological background, adaptations to aquatic life, and whale and dolphin behaviour, including breaching, spyhopping, lob-tailing and bow-surfing.

Chris and Mathilde Stuart have co-authored a wide range of books, field guides and mobile applications on African mammals, wildlife and conservation over more than three decades. Much of their time is spent travelling the world, searching for wild mammals and promoting conservation. Mathilde holds a doctorate from the University of Innsbruck, while Chris holds an MSc from the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

The recommended retail price (RRP) of the softcover booklet is R150, but it is also available as an e-book for R130.

## Palaces of Stone: Uncovering ancient southern African kingdoms

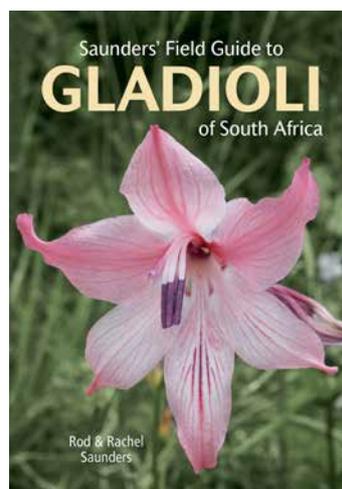
By Mike Main & Tom Huffman

This book brings to life the history of various African societies, from AD 900 to approximately 1850. By exploring a selection of sites, the authors uncover the emergence of ancient civilisations and reconstruct the meaning of the ruins they left behind. Woven into the narrative are stories of powerful political states, flourishing local economies, long-distance trade, and the destruction wrought by colonialism and modern-day treasure hunters.

The book's clear and colourful design, with many photographs, maps and boxes, ensure that its appeal is

## Saunders' Field Guide to Gladioli of South Africa

By Rod and Rachel Saunders



At the opposite end of the identification guide scale is this chunky and comprehensive book providing the first complete photographic record of the 166 species of gladioli found in our country. Although gladioli occur throughout Africa, Madagascar, Europe and the Middle East, South Africa is home to more than half the world's species.

The book follows the normal field guide format, with an introductory section on gladioli history, morphology and taxonomy, followed by detailed species entries with identification features and maps, as well as information on ecology, pollinators, similar species and conservation status.

Rod and Rachel Saunders were well-known botanists, widely respected for their knowledge of South Africa's indigenous plants. They set out to find and photograph every known member of the genus *Gladiolus* in South Africa, but their work on the book was tragically cut short when they were murdered during a field trip to KwaZulu-Natal in 2018. The book was therefore completed posthumously by Fiona C. Ross, a UCT Professor of Anthropology who established the Saunders Guide Trust to secure the Saunders' work on gladioli.

The RRP is R420 for the softcover book and R360 for the e-book.

not limited to readers interested in history. Its RRP is R240.

Mike Main is a management consultant, freelance writer and lay archaeologist who lives in Gaborone, Botswana, while Tom Huffman is Professor Emeritus of Archaeology at Wits University and a leading authority on precolonial farming societies in southern Africa.

