



# Learning Journey to South Africa

January 22-28, 2017

Synergos is offering our next generation philanthropists a learning visit to one of the key countries of our work – South Africa. Rich in history, culture and stunning natural beauty, South Africa has been the stage of fascinating social transformation since the fall of apartheid in 1994.

Participants will be able to draw parallels to their home countries as we look at issues of inequality and social isolation, and seek to understand the systemic challenges of our times. The group will meet with local philanthropists to learn about their role in this complex context and the strategies they employ in their work. Moreover, we will seek to understand the bridging legacy of late Nelson Mandela, and meet with South African leaders who are working to change the scenario through collaborative approaches.

The trip will conclude with a short retreat to reflect on the newly gained knowledge we acquire and learn how to apply the learnings into our own work.

## Schedule and Activities

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**Sunday, Jan 22**

Arrive in Johannesburg

13:00 Optional: Lunch and afternoon visit to Maboneng, a newly revitalized urban area of Johannesburg with flourishing African culture, arts, music and gastronomy.

19:00 Welcome dinner and overview of our visit.

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**Monday, Jan 23**

8:00 Breakfast and South Africa overview with Synergos Fellows and colleagues

11:00 Visit to Soweto, a Johannesburg township and a center of resistance in the times of Apartheid. Soweto came to the world's attention on 16 June 1976 with the Soweto Uprising, when mass protests erupted over the government's policy to enforce education in Afrikaans rather than their native language. Police opened fire in Orlando West on 10,000[33] students marching from Naledi High School to Orlando Stadium. The rioting continued and 23 people died on the first day in Soweto, 21 of whom were black, including the minor Hector Pieterse, as well as two white people, including Dr Melville Edelstein, a lifelong humanitarian.

The impact of the Soweto protests reverberated through the country and across the world. In their aftermath, economic and cultural sanctions were introduced from abroad. Political activists left the country to train for guerrilla resistance. Soweto and other townships became the stage for violent state repression.

We will visit the former home of Nelson Mandela, now a museum.

In Soweto we will also visit the Johannesburg Welfare's Othandweni Grannies Programme, which applies the principles of Ubuntu and Social Connectedness to overcome the social isolation of marginalized children.

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**Tuesday, Jan 24**

8:00- 16:00 Systems thinking learning session and site visits to social projects

Evening – dinner with local philanthropists (also invited Graça Machel, Mozambican politician and humanitarian, Mandela's wife and former First Lady of both South Africa and Mozambique).

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**Wednesday, Jan 25**

"We are all Africans" - visit to Maropeng, the Cradle of Humankind and reflection with Senior Fellow Christa Kuljian, author of [Darwin's Hunch](#)

Maropeng means "returning to the place of origin" in Setswana, the main indigenous language in this area of South Africa. The Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site about an hour from Johannesburg. Our ancestors have lived in this area for more than 3-million years. By coming here, you are coming to the birthplace of humanity. Welcome home!

Flight to Cape Town: South African 2021, departing JNB at 17:15

Dinner

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**Thursday, Jan 26** Morning: Site visit with the Community Development Foundation Western Cape. CDFWC is a non- government volunteer-driven, charitable organisation that aims to strengthen its geographically defined community – the Western Cape – by facilitating philanthropy. Its unique approach is to partner with donors through designated funds or defined-interest funds to build permanent endowments which are used to support community projects.

Afternoon: Visit to Robben Island with conversation about race, Mandela’s legacy and bridging leadership

Dinner with members of the Synergos network.

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**Friday, Jan 27** Day retreat at !Khwa ttu (<http://www.khwattu.org/>)

The !Khwa ttu San Culture and Education Centre is a centre of San culture and heritage that provides tailor-made training for young San women and men of Southern Africa.

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**Saturday, Jan 28** Scenic drive & visit to the Cape of Good Hope

Closing lunch

Our program will end by 14:00 so you may book a flight departing after 17:00

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The price for participation in the learning journey is US\$3,000. This includes hotel, meals, airport transfers and on-the-ground logistics. It does not include airfare and travel insurance. We recommend that you book the Wednesday, Jan 25 JNB-CPT flight together with your other flights.

Please sign up by December 30 by emailing Daniel: [ddomagala@synergos.org](mailto:ddomagala@synergos.org).

