



Rim of Africa®

TRAIL OF NO ORDINARY EXPERIENCE

✓ Rim of Africa Trail (South Africa)

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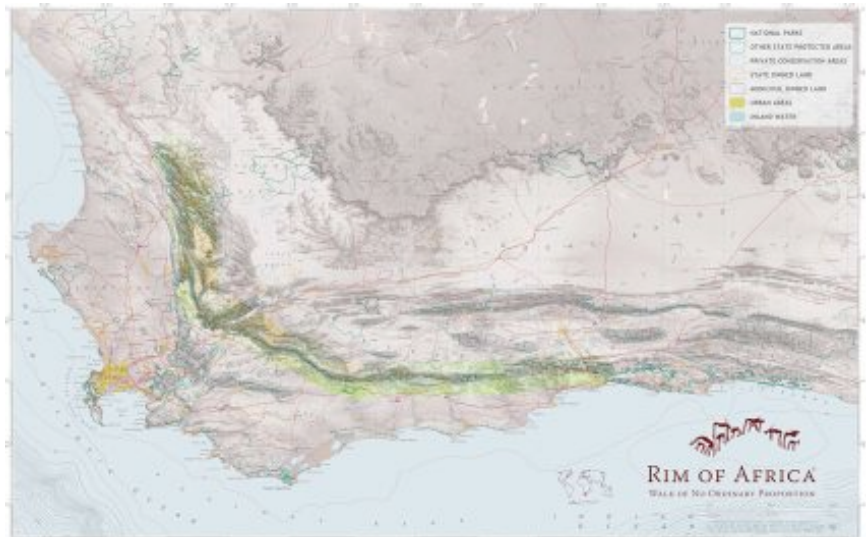
Website: www.rimofafrica.co.za

Rim of Africa Trail

The Rim of Africa is a mountain passage through wild space. The vast World Heritage Site of the Cape Floral Kingdom is at the heart of this trail, as it follows the Cape Fold Mountains from the North to the East. Walking the Rim of Africa or a section thereof is an opportunity to spend time reconnecting with the grandeur and unique biodiversity of these mountains.

The Rim of Africa Trail is a trail initiative stretching across the full extent of the Cape Fold Mountains and consists of close to 650km of mountain walking. The vision is to engage and negotiate with landowners and relevant stakeholders, to identify, manage and promote a sustainable walking route, which is recognized as a scenic and biodiversity corridor, that contributes to rural livelihoods and mountain conservation for the benefit of all. The experiences of the trail foster personal and cultural reconnection to nature.

The trail passes through many areas of privately owned land. We've worked tirelessly to establish access agreements to this land, and have engaged with communities along the route to establish strong bases of support along the trail.



The Rim of Africa encourages and works towards the creation of a conservation and protected environment buffer zone either side of the trail route. The trail links many existing nature reserves and mountain areas across the Cape, creating a corridor of protected land.

Rim of Africa is a non-profit NGO with an independent board of trustees, it is funded by private donors and money raised through guided trails.

Types of Trails available on the Rim of Africa

Traditional backpacking: self-guided

Slackpack hiking: guided, food supplied and packs portaged between camps

Theme Trails include:

Elders Trail

Storytelling Trail

Trails for Conservation Heroes

Youth Rite of Passage Experiences

How the Rim of Africa Trail started in 2007

The seed for the trail was planted in 2007 with a meeting between Galeo Saintz and Ivan Groenhof. Ivan had walked across a vast tract of the Cape Mountains on his own as a rite of passage process, when the idea for the trail came to him. The first fundraising trail took place on stage 1 and 2 in April 2009. Today the Rim of Africa has a National Geographic Young Explorer completing the entire trail and the first person to do so in conjunction with the founders.

In 2009 Rim of Africa made contact with the Appalachian trail and the Te Araroa in New Zealand with the suggestion to create a Global Network / Association of Mega-Distance Trails. We are most excited that we have been invited to be part of the World Trail Network, and believe it can play an important role for hiking and trails across the globe.

We invite dedicated mountain lovers and trail enthusiasts to visit the beautiful Cape of Good Hope and its remarkable world Heritage Site of the Cape Floral Kingdom, where the Rim of Africa Trail is the thread that links many biodiversity and scenic jewels.

Finally, walking is the great adventure. Each year new hikers are drawn to this adventurous trail, and each year we welcome back others who are continuing their journey. This trail is no ordinary walk, but a vast mountain canvass of experience in a wild space filled with freedom and wilderness.



- ✓ A short introduction of the participant with a picture.



Name : Galeo Saintz

Position/ Department: Co-founder Rim of Africa Trail, South Africa

When not working on book projects, or pursuing his PhD, conservation adventurer Galeo Saintz is the dynamic trailblazer and collaborator behind South Africa's longest conservation hiking experiences, the Rim of Africa Trail, the Eden to Addo Corridor Hike and the Rhino Reality Expeditions.

Although he is more likely found walking in the dust of rhino to help raise awareness to end the demand for rhino horn in Asia, or on a remote mountain in such wild places as Patagonia rock climbing with friends, Saintz is dedicated to the organisations he has helped establish and brings a depth of quality and value to the innovative NGO projects he collaborates with to make a difference in the world.

Since 2005 Saintz has helped develop and host unique nature focused expeditions to raise funds and awareness for conservation projects. In 2012 he established South Africa's first walking festival, the Cape Garden Route Walking Festival. In 2013 he embarks on another unique conservation awareness expedition, this time highlighting the plight of Africa's lions, and the need to establish peace between humankind's actions and nature.

www.rimofafrica.co.za, www.galeosiantz.com, www.walkingfestival.co.za, www.rhinoreality.org.

Description of Presentation

How the Rim of Africa has created South Africa's longest trail initiative without any funding, through offering fundraising trails. How we work with many private landowners to secure access for the route. The inspiration behind a trail of 'no ordinary experience'. The significance and importance of wilderness experience in fostering personal and cultural reconnection to nature.

How a National Geographic Young Explorer is putting the trail on the map through a multi-media trail journal. In 2013 the final sections of the Rim of Africa will be opened. Empowering local communities and trail leaders. Why we need trail leaders for private land. How a mega-distance trail can influence an ecological worldview and support deep personal change in people and contribute towards conservation and tourism. The importance of pilgrimage, wild-time and silence when walking. The presentation aims to be a visual feast while being both inspiring and insightful.