Zwela

Stories from the road

Real family adventures, told by a photographer and an illustrator who have lived them.

Zwela Journals is a small studio in Barcelona making travel journals for children. Behind it are two South Africans who have spent years exploring with their kids, from wild camps in Botswana to campervans in Spain.

Misché is a writer and photographer, and a former river and safari guide. Kat is an illustrator and designer who has doodled her way across the world. Together they have turned their family travels into three children's travel journals, a South African edition published locally, journalling workshops for kids, and a lot of stories.

We write and talk about travelling with children: the wild places and the city breaks, the plans that went perfectly and the ones that did not, and how a simple journal helps kids slow down, notice more and remember where they have been.



Walking into the sunset

I am because we are.

Ubuntu runs through everything we make. Travel shapes the people we become, and the way we travel shapes the places and communities we visit.



Up the dunes



Looking a little closer



Climbing the baobab

Story ideas

Stories we would love to write for you.

1 Wild camping with kids in Botswana

BOTSWANA · ADVENTURE

Elephants strolling past the tent, a football match on the salt pan at sunrise, and what it really takes to camp in the wild with children.

2 The first family safari

SOUTH AFRICA · SAFARI

What a safari day actually looks like with kids, how to keep them engaged on a long game drive, and where to find a malaria-free safari.

3 Cape Town with kids, beyond Table Mountain

SOUTH AFRICA · CITY

Penguins at Boulders Beach, a day down the peninsula to Cape Point, sundowners and the places two Capetonians take their own children.

4 Rooftop tents across Namibia

NAMIBIA · ROAD TRIP

Three of the wildest campsites we know for families, and why a slow self-drive is one of the best trips you can take with kids.

5 Down the Orange River by canoe

SOUTH AFRICA · ADVENTURE

A multi-day paddle through the Richtersveld with children, from childhood memory to passing it on to the next generation.

6 The trip that went wrong

SPAIN · CAMPERVAN

A Mosquito Apocalypse in a campervan in northern Spain, and why the unplanned moments are the ones children remember.

7 Raising kids who notice the world

FAMILY · JOURNALLING

What children actually remember from a family trip, and simple ways a travel journal helps them slow down and look closer.

8 The secret legends of Barcelona's Gothic Quarter

SPAIN · CITY

Thirteen geese in a cathedral cloister, a turtle mailbox and a Roman city beneath the streets: our home city, seen through a child's eyes.

We can supply

Finished features or interviews, our own photography and illustration, journalling prompts and printable activities for readers, and a review copy of any of our journals.



What did you find?



Catching a wave

From South Africa to Barcelona, with love

About Zwela Journals

A shared South African heritage brought Misché and Kat together in Barcelona, and that is where Zwela is made today. Every journal carries a little South African heart, a little Mediterranean light, and a lot of love for the kids it is built for.

The journals draw on years of travelling across Southern and East Africa, Europe and beyond with children. Zwela also runs journalling workshops for kids in bookshops, schools and festivals, and designs custom journals for safari lodges and hotels. A portion of every book sold supports conservation and education projects.



Misché



Kat



Take note of the little things

Misché

Co-founder, writer and photographer. A former river and safari guide, with a lifelong love of travel, storytelling and chasing sunrises.

Kat

Co-founder, illustrator and designer. Grew up in South Africa and has doodled her way across the world since.

Press contact

hello@zwelajournals.com · zwelajournals.com · Instagram @zwelajournals

Review copies, high-resolution images and interviews with Misché and Kat are available on request.

Why Zwela?

Travel is more interesting when you notice more. Knowing a little more makes you look a little closer, and when you record what you discover, the experience stays with you.

For every kind of family adventure

Not your usual travel journal.

Each Zwela journal is a travel guide, activity book and keepsake in one: maps to dream over, guides and discoveries, thoughtfully prompted journal pages, games for the in-between hours, and a daily gratitude check-in. Illustrated by hand and printed in full colour.



Kids Worldwide Adventure Journal

For any trip, anywhere

A multi-trip journal that holds many adventures, with world maps, biome guides, food passports and bucket lists.

- Ages 7 to 12
- 151 full-colour pages

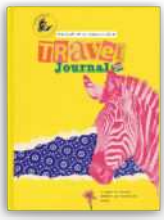


Kids African Safari Journal

For safaris across Africa

Wildlife and bird identification, tracks in the sand, the rules of a game drive, and room for the first lion at dawn.

- Ages 6 to 12
- 136 full-colour pages



Kids South African Travel Journal

For a trip to South Africa

From Cape Town to Kruger: local words to try, culture and food, beaches, bush and mountains, and games for the road.

- Ages 7 to 12
- 126 full-colour pages



SOUTH AFRICAN EDITION

Adventure Guide for Kids: the Local, Lekker edition

Published in South Africa by Rockhopper Books

Everything in the South African Travel Journal, plus bonus pages and local discoveries for families exploring their own country.

A local expert in every journal

Real stories from women in conservation.



The Black Mambas

African Safari Journal

An all-women anti-poaching unit protecting rhinos in the Greater Kruger since 2013.



Lewyn Maefala

South African Travel Journal

Leads the Bush Babies programme, teaching children around Kruger about wildlife.



Dr Rebecca Cliffe

Worldwide Adventure Journal

Founder of The Sloth Conservation Foundation, building sloth bridges in Costa Rica.

Available at zwelajournals.com and on Amazon worldwide. The Local, Lekker edition is available in South Africa from Rockhopper Books.