

# Vuk' Africa Tours



## Vuk' Africa Tours' Newsletter – September 2010

*Sanibonani!* Hello from South Africa!

**“I’ve never been so proud to be South African in my life!”**

— Vusi Kweyama

## SOCCER TIME – WORLD CUP FEVER

Wow! What an amazing time to be in South Africa! The World Cup, with a truly African flavour, came and went in June and July and put Africa on the world map with something positive. It built up pride for everyone here in South Africa and showed the world a different side of Africa. Despite South Africa’s reputation for high crime rates, we’ve hosted one of the safest World Cups in history!



It really has been a historic event, which has taken a step towards unifying a diverse-yet-segregated nation.

Vuk' Africa Tours is proud to have been part of the Africa experience for many tourists who came for soccer. Visitors flocked in from all around the world including Spain, Germany, France, Hong Kong, Argentina, Australia, and America. Our tours played a unique and important role for these visitors – they were shown the real South Africa, away from the soccer field and tourist attractions. It's a side of South Africa that's often hidden from view but one that I'm sure our visitors won't forget.



Here's what some visitors had to say:

“I loved the song and dance performance and just hanging out with the locals. The food was delicious and most definitely a memorable cultural experience.”

“I enjoyed learning about the culture and meeting a wonderful and generous family. The dancing was so fun! And our guide, Siyanda, was knowledgeable and very friendly.”

“Everyone in the family was warm and welcoming. This intimate gathering was well done. I enjoyed sharing stories and information about cultures. The games with the kids were very fun!”

“This is the best tour I have done in all of my 25 years on the planet!”

## **VukAfricaTours.com Has Launched!**

Vuk' Africa Tours is finally back online! The website has been a long time coming and we've crossed many challenges getting here (including a car jacking and stolen laptop, which meant that we lost the entire Web site and had to start over). Make sure you have a look at our site. It's packed with photos of the beautiful Valley of 1000 Hills, information about the people and the culture and all our tour options.





Here's a sampling of what you can see and learn on our updated site:

- How Vuk' Africa is lifting up the people of the Valley of 1000 Hills. [Click here to find out.](#)
- What the colours of a Zulu beaded love-letter mean. [Click here to find out.](#)
- What you'll do on an overnight home-stay tour. [Learn about our tours here.](#)

We hope our new site gives you a feel for where we are in the world and what we do. It's such a beautiful place here and we're so proud that our site is finally up again and that we can show it to you.

Vuk' Africa would like to say a huge thank you to Dylan Tovey, for his amazing effort and contribution in getting the website happening. This was a long and challenging project but he persisted and never ran out of energy. We thank Dylan for giving so generously. Without Dylan, this would not be possible!

## Join Us on Facebook

One of the best ways to keep up to date with everything that is happening in our Valley is to 'like' [our new Facebook page.](#)

On it, we post updates about projects we support and our tours. You can share your experiences and even get in touch with your tour guide again.

[Click here](#) to join us on Facebook.



## Take Part in Our Beadwork and Scholarship Program



Sis Patience proudly shows you an assortment of her beads.

Here in the Valley of 1000 Hills, we're working with some extremely talented women who make beautiful beads and jewelry. This group of unemployed women use their craft to generate income to support their families.

This beadwork project also contributes money to the Beyond Self Scholarship Program (BSSP), which provides scholarships to young people in the community who can't afford the things they need to get a good education (such as uniforms and text books). We also aim to give scholarships to higher education students beyond school. See more about BSSP scholarships [on this page](#).



This beadwork is stylish and unique to South Africa. To save you the effort and cost of traveling all the way to South Africa, you can now buy a variety of beadwork items and we will post it to you.

We also have our own designed, personalized bracelets, such as this one . . .



. . . each made with your name applied. (They're great for kids' birthdays!)

Our bracelets are also perfect for clubs, schools, businesses, teams, churches, and organizations. Bracelets cost R30 / AUD\$5, plus postage and handling. Email us with your order and we'll send you our banking details.

We also sell other beautiful, handmade jewelry including necklaces, earrings, and key rings. To see the selections and price list, [click here](#).

For more information about the beadwork and scholarship project, visit [Vusi's own Web site](#).

Every time you wear your beads, you can proudly remember the women that made them and the young people receiving scholarships through this project!

## Launching “Vuk’ Africa Trust Fund”

*“Our vision is to be an economic engine for not-for-profit initiatives in the communities we work, as well as an exposure tool to realise the talents, skills, and competencies of people in underdeveloped communities.”*

Here at Vuk’ Africa, we believe in the concept of social business; business that empowers people within their social context.

We believe that the partnership between locals and supporters is the key to social transformation. We also believe in accountability, transparency, and effective administration systems.

Since our beginning in 2004, Vuk’ Africa has been supporting local projects by donating profits from tours and exposing them to sponsors and supporters.

We’ve realized that to be really effective and efficient and have the greatest affect, we need to put new systems in place. The Vuk’ Africa Trust Fund is our response! We make a contribution for every person who goes on a tour with us and we provide a structure for visitors to contribute financially to the development of our beautiful community.

The Trust Fund, established this August, will distribute community grants twice a year to local organizations that have a strong focus on:

- ✓ Family building
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Youth
- ✓ Lifeskills and leadership development
- ✓ HIV / AIDS
- ✓ Crime

We share a vision for a preferable future for our community. We invite you to join us in our journey to get there!



The Thokomala drop-in centre, which feeds lunch to up to 60 children every day, is funded by Vuk’ Africa supporters.



The World Cup Entertainment Centre at Light Providers; funded by generous Vuk’ Africa supporters.



## Signing Off

It's times like this that I love working here in South Africa and the Valley of 1000 Hills. The sun is starting to shine again and our nation has a huge feeling of pride and accomplishment. The spirit of change is in the air! Things are happening at our partner organization Light Providers Youth Club. Vuk' Africa is excited to be part of it by supporting and funding it.

With the launch of the Vuk' Africa Trust Fund, we feel that we really are part of the change that we see here in our community.

Until next time, *salani kahle* (stay well).

From the Vuk' Africa Team:

*Ratie* (author), *Nosipho*, and *Vusi*

**“2010” – Africa’s time has come!**



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***Vuk' Africa is a cultural tourism organisation that seeks to empower, develop, and showcase developing communities in South Africa.***