

A Journal of Light : South Africa (2025)

South Africa offered me its landscapes as one receives a rare and precious gift. Thank you for connecting me to this vibration.

An urban photographer at heart, this time I traded the graphic lines of the city for the infinity of the plains, where sky and earth seem to merge.

After Kenya, a new dream took shape: to explore the country's most iconic wildlife reserves (Kruger, Mpumalanga, eSwatini, Zululand...). The rainy season had just ended, revealing a dazzling nature. Tall grasses turned the search for animals into a mysterious game, an ancestral hide-and-seek between humankind and the wild. Some days, encounters were abundant; on others, we returned without a single animal image... yet always with our hearts overflowing with raw, immense, unforgettable landscapes. Sunsets that continue to shine within us, long after the journey.

The power of the waves, the delicacy of luminous water lilies, the strength of rhinoceroses, the anger of a patriarch elephant, the radiant smile of a young student... And the contrasts too: "tourist-trap" villages, concrete houses repainted too perfectly, isolated shops designed for visitors, lunches where cockroaches and sexist remarks mingled with everyday life, hotels encircled by barbed wire. Against whom? As much beauty as contradiction, all of which shaped this journey.

The colors of the sky, the density of the light, the heavy humidity in the air, the warmth of the ochre earth: every sensation carried the unique imprint of this vast land, four times the size of France. Along the roads, faces smiled at us—almost always. A few fleeting frowns, but mostly open gazes. Here, the traveler carries stories, and sometimes a modest enrichment. Respect is the only currency that truly matters.

This journey was also a precious pause, shared with Alexandre, my 17-year-old son, and my husband. These moments, like the images they inspired, are forever engraved in my memory.

Through my photographs, I hope to take you there... to the heart of a South Africa where beauty is lived as much as it is contemplated.

PS : The photographs of the chimpanzees were taken at the Chimp Eden sanctuary, established in 2006 by Jane Goodall and her institute, with the aim of rescuing chimpanzees who were victims of illegal trade, abuse, or traumatic living conditions. It is the only facility of its kind in the country.

An irresistible desire to linger for hours, studying these magnificent animals whose gaze is hauntingly human... and, in some small way, to help mend the wounds inflicted upon them by mankind. But the journey had to go on, and we had to leave.