

HISTORY OF SOUTH AFRICA

Heritage Jewellery

“It’s not just jewellery, it’s history”.





You are in possession of an original piece from *'The History of South Africa Jewellery Collection'*.

This jewellery has been inspired by South Africa's wide-ranging historical and cultural legacy. She is a land rich in natural treasures and majestic landscapes where many different cultures co-exist, earning its people the affectionate nickname of 'The Rainbow Nation'.

It is with great pride that this unique jewellery has been created commemorating South Africa and her journey thus far.





KHOISAN PEOPLE

The earliest humans evolved on the Central African plains, hunting and gathering food, using tools chipped from stone. Millennia later, some of their descendants moved southward to become the San people; nomads who hunted, fished and lived in small loose groups. Their rock art adorns caves all over South Africa. Later the Khoikhoi arrived; a more homogenous group of pastoralists who kept cattle and sheep, and settled in the Eastern and Western Capes.

These two groups interacted, intermarried and thereafter were referred to as the *Khoisan*. About 1,500 years ago, the first wave of Nguni farmers came from West and Central Africa, bringing with them millet, sorghum, sheep and cattle and skills in working metal. These migrants became the Zulu and Xhosa nations. They settled along the Southern coastal belt, where they also intermingled with the Khoisan. These were the main groups in south-eastern Africa when the Dutch arrived at the Cape in 1652.



JAN VAN RIEBEECK

In the 17th century the Dutch East India Company established the first European settlement in the Cape, as a half-way station for provisions and maintenance for its merchant sailing ships making long and perilous trips to the East.

On 6th April 1652, Jan van Riebeeck arrived as its Commander, and his three ships, the *Dromedaris*, *Reiger* and *Goede Hoop*, carried personnel and supplies for this desolate outpost.

He became regarded as the founding father of the Afrikaner people, with his image appearing on South African stamps and currency until the advent of a democratic state in 1994.



1820 SETTLERS

In 1806 the Cape became a British Colony. The Industrial Revolution in England created vast social and economic problems and many sought to emigrate. The British government agreed to assist groups of prospective agriculturalists to emigrate to the Cape, ostensibly to provide opportunities for them to become successful farmers. However the government's sole motive was military, and without any adequate preparations settlers were placed in the harsh and inhospitable terrain of the Eastern Cape to '*Take root or die*'.

They were drawn into the government's attempts to secure the Eastern frontier, by then home to the Xhosa people. Many years of hardship and involvement in Frontier Wars ensued, but the influence of these British Settlers on the subsequent history of South Africa has been immense.

The Albany District, with evocative villages and the city of Grahamstown, remains the focus of English culture and a major educational centre.



VOORTREKKERS

The Voortrekkers (trail blazers) were early frontier farmers of Dutch and French origin who left the boundaries of the Cape Colony, trekking out on epic journeys into the inlands of South Africa.

During the 1830s some 14,000 hardy and independent pioneers set out in their iconic mode of travel, their ox wagons, to escape conflict with the Xhosa and the irksome regulations of the British government at the Cape, particularly in the light of the '*emancipation of Slaves*' in 1838.

Their leaders such as Piet Retief, Louis Trichardt, Andries Pretorius and Pieter Uys are Afrikaner heroes, and this exodus, known as the Great Trek, is seen as a defining point in Afrikaner character and history.

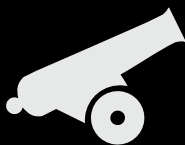


THE ANGLO-ZULU WAR

This fierce and bloody war in 1879 was brought about by the British colonial authorities' resolve to crush the might of the Zulu kingdom under their king, Cetshwayo. Britain's reasons were complex but Cetshwayo's army was seen as a threat to the planned federation between the Cape, Natal and the two Boer republics.

A crushing ultimatum was issued to Cetshwayo, which he ignored, and war was declared. The British and colonial troops suffered a major defeat at Isandlwana, where one of their three invading columns was engulfed and destroyed by the surging and mighty Zulu impis. A small band of British troops then staged a heroic defence of the hospital at Rorke's Drift. In subsequent battles Cetshwayo's army was defeated despite fierce resistance and the war finally brought an end to Zulu independence.

Today, people from all over the world visit the battlefield sites such as Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift, drawn by the passion and heroism of the many thousands of men slaughtered there.



ANGLO-BOER WAR

In 1899 a bitter and scarring war began between Britain and the two Boer republics of the Transvaal and Orange Free State. The causes of the war were primarily economic, as Britain eyed the riches of the Transvaal gold mines.

Britain at first used conventional military tactics, unsuited to the terrain of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State and the highly mobile Boer guerrilla forces. Disease casualties added heavily to battle losses.

The British adopted the bitterly resented 'scorched earth' policy and also interned civilians in concentration camps. The two Boer republics were forced to accept defeat in 1902, losing their independence. They became British colonies with a promise of limited self-government and in 1910 were incorporated in the new Union of South Africa.



GOLD AND DIAMOND MINING

South Africa's mining industry was established in 1867, on discovery of a diamond on the banks of the Orange River. When the diamond-bearing Kimberlite pipes were discovered, the first great rush of prospectors began.

This intensified when gold was found at Pilgrim's Rest and Barberton and came to its peak when the rich gold reef at Langlaagte was discovered, sparking the growth of the Witwatersrand Goldfields.

South Africa remains a leading gold and diamond producer and is the world's richest source of numerous other minerals such as platinum, chrome and manganese. It is also a leading supplier of titanium, zirconium and coal.



APARTHEID

Racial discrimination had roots in colonial times and became entrenched under successive governments. With the election of 1948, the National Party came to power and set about implementing its policy of '*separate development*' by extending existing racial segregation, making it more comprehensive and applying it more rigorously. Draconian legislation was introduced and at its height, Apartheid enforced discrimination in almost every aspect of life for the Black majority (Black, Coloured and Asian people).

All residential areas, schools, hospitals, public transport, beaches and parks, daily activities and social interaction, were segregated and vastly inferior public services were provided for Black people. They were deprived of their citizenship, legally becoming citizens of one of ten tribally based self-governing homelands called Bantustans; they were not allowed to own land in White areas.

The iniquitous programme of Forced Removals brought misery to millions. Apartheid officially ended with the democratic election of 1994 and the advent of a democratic order in South Africa.



NELSON ROLIHLAHLA MANDELA

Nelson Mandela, one of the world's most loved and famous individuals, was born into the Madiba clan of the Tembu in Transkei on the 18th July 1918. He was a qualified lawyer, anti-apartheid activist and became the leader of the ANC's armed wing. At the Rivonia trial in 1964 he was found guilty of sabotage and spent 27 years in prison, mostly on Robben Island.

National and international pressure led to his release on the 11th February 1990. Mandela went on to lead the ANC into negotiations and a peaceful settlement which ensured the ending of apartheid, the establishment of a democratic government, and the elections of 1994. In 1993 Mandela and F.W.de Klerk, the State President at the time, were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Mandela was thereafter elected as South Africa's first black President in 1994, a post which he held for one term, until 1999.

This celebrated political leader, known by his clan name 'Madiba', became a worldwide icon of reconciliation and goodwill. He passed away at his home in Johannesburg on the 5th December 2013 at the age of 95.



TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Achieving truth and reconciliation in the wake of the painful apartheid years was regarded as a priority after the 1994 democratic elections.

A commission, headed by Archbishop and Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu, was set up by Nelson Mandela to bring to light wrongdoing by governmental and non-governmental institutions and individuals which caused gross violations of human rights. It sought to help resolve the pain, injustice and conflict of the past and to grant amnesty to those who made full disclosures.

In comparison with similar commissions set up elsewhere, South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission is generally considered to have accomplished a level of healing and harmony and is regarded as a model by the international community.



HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

South Africa's tumultuous history has led to various forms of government. From 1910 to 1994 Parliament was elected mainly by South Africa's white minority. Notable changes began with the Tricameral Parliament in 1984. This changed when, following four years of negotiations, the 1993 Interim Constitution was adopted.

After the 1994 election the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa was developed and approved by the Constitutional Court on 4 December 1996. It took effect on the 4th February 1997.

The Constitution is the supreme law of the land and South Africa's constitution is highly regarded internationally.



SOUTH AFRICAN CAPITAL CITIES

The Republic of South Africa is the southernmost independent national state on the African Continent. It is divided into nine provinces with 2,798km of coast line with the Atlantic and Indian Oceans meeting at its tip, slightly west of Cape Agulhas.

South Africa has three capital cities. Cape Town, known as the Mother City, is the Legislative capital and the seat of Parliament. Pretoria, known as Jacaranda City is the Executive and Administrative capital and the seat of the President and Cabinet. Bloemfontein, the City of Roses is the Judiciary capital and the seat of the Supreme Court of Appeal.

Johannesburg, the City of Gold, is by far the largest city in the Republic. Whilst it is not one of South Africa's capital cities, it is the seat of the Constitutional Court that has the final word on the interpretation of South Africa's Post- Apartheid Constitution.



THE BIG FIVE

The phrase Big Five was coined by the Big Game Hunters of the early 19th century and refers to the five most difficult African animals to hunt and the degree of danger involved, rather than their size.

The Lion, a majestic animal, is a symbol of power, courage and nobility. The Leopard is the most allusive as they have nocturnal feeding habits and a secretive nature. Pound for pound it is the strongest of the large cats and is capable of dragging prey heavier than itself high up into a tree.

The African Elephant is the largest land mammal on Earth and can weigh up to 6,000kg with a lifespan of 60 - 70 years. There are two species of Rhinoceros in Africa. The Black Rhino are browsers, using their pointed upper lips like a miniature elephant trunk to twist branches off trees and shrubs. The White Rhino has a wide mouth and mainly eats grass; they are the more abundant of the two. The African Buffalo is considered the most dangerous of the Big Five, with wounded animals reportedly ambushing and attacking their pursuers.



TABLE MOUNTAIN

This is one of South Africa's iconic landmarks. The highest point on Table Mountain is 1,086 metres (3,563 ft) above sea level, located towards the eastern end of the plateau and marked by Maclear's Beacon; a stone built in 1865 by Sir Thomas Maclear. It is, for early pioneers and many subsequent visitors to South Africa their first view of the country. This magnificent backdrop to Cape Town is home to the outstanding local indigenous flora known as the Cape Fynbos Kingdom. It is a World Heritage Site and an estimated 2,200 species of plants are confined to Table Mountain - more than exist in the whole of the United Kingdom.

Table Mountain is popular with walkers as well as serious climbers though most visitors choose to reach the summit with its breathtaking view by cable car. This great engineering success officially opened in 1929. It is operated, maintained and regularly modernized by the Table Mountain Aerial Cable Car Company and to date over 20 million people have experienced this spectacular trip.



THE SPRINGBOK

The Springbok is South Africa's national animal. It is a medium sized antelope that stands about 70 to 87cm high, mostly russet brown with a white underside, the colours separated by a distinctive brown belt. Springbok males weigh between 33 to 50 kg and the females between 25 to 40 kg. They can reach running speeds of up to 90km/h; can pronk (leap) 3.50m and long jump up to 15m.

The country's national rugby team is called the Springboks, a name that lost its adverse political connotations when Nelson Mandela proudly wore the Green and Gold Jersey in his careful building of South African unity.



THE PROTEA

The Giant or King Protea is the largest of all the proteas and is South Africa's national flower. The Protea genus contains a variety of different species and was named after the Greek god 'Proteus' who could change shape at will.

It is widely distributed in the southwestern and southern parts of South Africa in the fynbos region. Proteas are a beautiful component of the Cape Fynbos, the smallest but most diverse biome of the world's six floral kingdoms. The unique Cape Floral Kingdom has Unesco Natural Heritage status because of its biodiversity. Proteas are also known as Suikerbossies (sugar bushes) as their nectar attracts birds.

The King Protea is the emblem of South Africa's national cricket team.

THE ROAD AHEAD

South Africa remains a developing country, with hope very much alive for a land overflowing with riches, unique character and great natural beauty.

“Ubuntu”, an African tribal term synonymous with Nelson Mandela meaning humanity to others, is adopted by South Africa and its passionate people; I am what I am because of what we all are.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu philosophically described “Ubuntu” as ‘It is the essence of being human.

Your heritage jewelley is symbolic of journeys past and inspiration for the road ahead.





JANE OLIVIA DESIGNS

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