

Cradle of Life: The Story of the Magaliesberg and the Cradle of Humankind

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By Vincent Carruthers

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The Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site, in the heart of the Magaliesberg Biosphere Reserve, is the jewel in SA's evolutionary crown. An area “of outstanding universal value”, it has attracted worldwide interest and furnished key evidence about where, when and how we came to be. The greater Magaliesberg area is peppered with some 200 caves and has a unique geology, history and biodiversity. For decades now, specialists have been combing the area to uncover evidence of our heritage. Carruthers guides readers along a timeline, from the birth of our planet to 21st-century developments. Along the way, he documents the formation of our landscapes and the emergence of life, the rise of hominins, the stone and iron ages, early settlement, migrations, wars and modern developments in the Magaliesberg – the entire evolution of life up to the present, as we know it. Vividly illustrated with photographs, maps and diagrams, *Cradle of Life* portrays the intrigue and importance of the site, taking readers on a magical journey of discovery.