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What remains of Nelson Mandela? Monumental statues, creative young people, a highly specialized children's hospital for Southern Africa: following traces in Johannesburg.

Do you have allergies? Intolerances? Maybe you need sunscreen? Tour Guide Jeff stands in his office in a youth center and asks what a professional tour guide must ask. Then he teaches one how to greet - "Greeting is important in Alexandra" - and off we go, into the midst of one of the most infamous townships of Johannesburg: A tangled labyrinth of tiny shacks, children surround the visitors, you get Umqombothi a self-brewed corn beer and grilled chicken legs with chili to taste. And then, suddenly, you stand in front of a small house. Here, says Jeff, once was Nelson Mandela's first stop when he came to Johannesburg.

The house is inhabited and only a plaque commemorates the famous resident. Vis-à-vis his image is emblazoned on a wall – an advertisement of the local radio station. A museum across the street strands there unfinished since years.

It is one of the numerous places here where you meet Nelson Mandela. Right next to Alexandra lies Sandton, a noble quarter/district with a luxury hotel and a shopping paradise. Named after Mandela, monumental six-meter statue included. "Alex" and Sandton are famous: for maximum inequality in the smallest space.

**Construction site.** Then there is Soweto. Mandela's house is a museum now; the street is a small tourist attraction. Or Houghton, one of those quarters with villas set among palm trees that hide behind meter high walls with electric fences. There is Mandela's last residence. Colorful stones with greetings testify to the time when he was lying in his deathbed.

The last stop to visit is one Mandela would not live to see. It still is a huge construction site on the rise from which clouds of fine red dust rise up: the Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital. It was his last wish, says Nana Magomola, the deputy chairman of Mandela Children's Fund. She is sitting in her office together with two fellow activists, in front of the door of the former private estate a fountain bubbles, ibises walk through the green bushes in the garden. The philosophy here is all children are important. Because after all you never know who might be the next Mandela.

The highly specialized Children's Hospital will cost 100 million US dollars, 40 million US dollars still has to be raised. Overall, there are only four such institutions across Africa. Especially in the South, says Magomola, expertise lacks. Therefore pediatricians and nurses should be trained here now. The beds should be occupied by seriously ill children from all over southern Africa.

**Mi Casa.** Therefore a global and local fundraising campaign is in process, even children contribute. The construction is also supported by artists. Like Mi Casa. The House band, consisting of one white and two black singers from the townships, has won platinum several times, was on tour in Europe and half of Africa, played at the inauguration of Barack Obama in 2012. "Without wanting to seem arrogant, I think we are one of the best groups in Africa," says singer Joao Fonseca aka JSomething. What is their goal? "To become world famous. Not because of the girls and the money but for the influence. As Mandela said: If you want to change the country, you have to reach the youth "Already the mixed-ness of Mi Casa is a sign. "We make music that has a positive message. And this hospital is also a sign of joint effort. It is intended to give children hope."

Support also comes from Austria: On April 20, the South African opera singers Johan Botha and Pretty Yende will give a benefit concert at the Vienna Konzerthaus. Also Yvonne Chaka Chaka the "Princess of Africa" is drumming. The bubblegum-pop and anti-apartheid legend of the eighties is celebrating her 30 year anniversary on stage. She says she still has the scars of the wounds from her childhood, when white boys set dogs on her. She had been angry when Mandela finally got out of jail - and preached reconciliation instead of revenge. "But he was right. The country could have gone to the dogs."

Mandela's great legacy – is taken care of in a modern, flat timber work. The original office at the seat of the Mandela Foundation is untouched, an exhibition shows photographs, letters, the Nobel Prize. But not only that: also dialogue work is provided, says director Sello Hatang: With countries from Germany to Serbia and Cambodia, he is looking for ways to come together again after conflicts. Also xenophobia that has flared up in South Africa through poverty is a topic. And the crucial question: "How can you remember Madiba, without making him an icon? Icons have the problem that it is difficult to follow their example."

**Alexandra.** "Of course, Mandela is an icon," says Jeff, the guide in Alexandra. The 24-year-old grew up in the township, has made it to university, studied tourism. "When I introduced myself, at university all would ask me whether I have already seen a shooting today." Since then, he takes interested people through his neighborhood; many people from around Johannesburg would enter the township for the first time. The only incident was the asthma attack of a guest, he says. He sees it as his duty to help bridge the gap. "The people here are open. They just want to know where you come from and what you eat for dinner there."

## **The concert**

Yende and Botha help

On 20 April a "Tribute to Nelson Mandela" concert is held in Vienna. The South African soprano Pretty Yende and the South African-Austrian tenor Johan Botha sing arias by Verdi, Donizetti, Bellini, Puccini, Franz Lehár and Johann Strauss in the Konzerthaus.

Tickets: [www.konzerthaus.at](http://www.konzerthaus.at) or [www.oeticket.com](http://www.oeticket.com)

## **The Hospital**

The construction of the Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital in Johannesburg should be completed in 2016. It should be a highly specialized children's hospital free of charge, with an emphasis on oncology, cardiology and trauma care.

From all over southern Africa children should be transferred from local hospitals to the hospital with 200 beds. The partner is the Witwatersrand University, which has also made the land available. The aim is to bring back relevant expertise into the region and expand it.

A great emphasis is placed on the design of the hospital: Large windows, gardens and child-friendly art should support the healing process. Families of the children will also be accommodated on the premises.

The cost of construction amounts to 100 million US dollars, 60 million US dollars has already been donated. The South African Government will bear the costs for the operation.

Compliance Note:

The trip took place on invitation of the South African Embassy.

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