

Planetwalk Africa

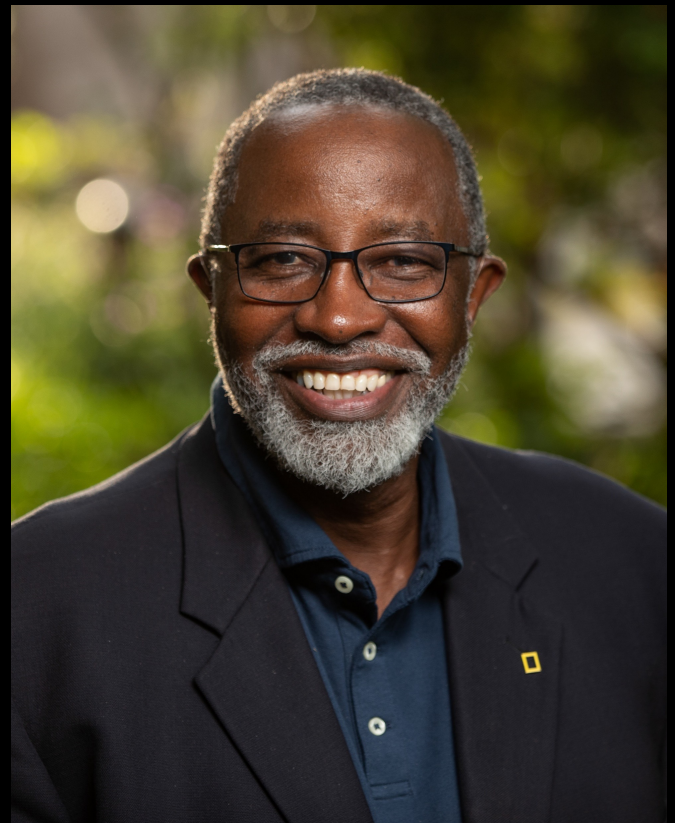
CAPE TOWN TO CAIRO with Dr. John Francis



At the age of 77, most people reflect on the steps they've already taken. Dr. John Francis is not one of those people. With a bright glimmer in his eye and deep hope in his step, he is as alive, curious, and eager to create positive change as ever. By walking. This time, across Africa. Back to his roots – and the roots of humanity – to collect data, spread kindness, and put hope into action.

With Planetwalk Africa, John returns to humanity's birthplace with many intentions. To collect climate data, connect continents, and unlock invaluable wisdom for future-forward solutions. In February 2023, John walked the first 100 miles from Cape Point to Gordon's Bay, South Africa. In early 2024, he plans to walk 1,000 more, the next leg of his 6,000-mile journey towards Egypt. By putting his feet in motion, John walks for children everywhere, those with the most to lose (and gain) with the present state of our global climate. By co-creating this walk with anyone compelled to join, he communicates that together we hold our greatest solutions.

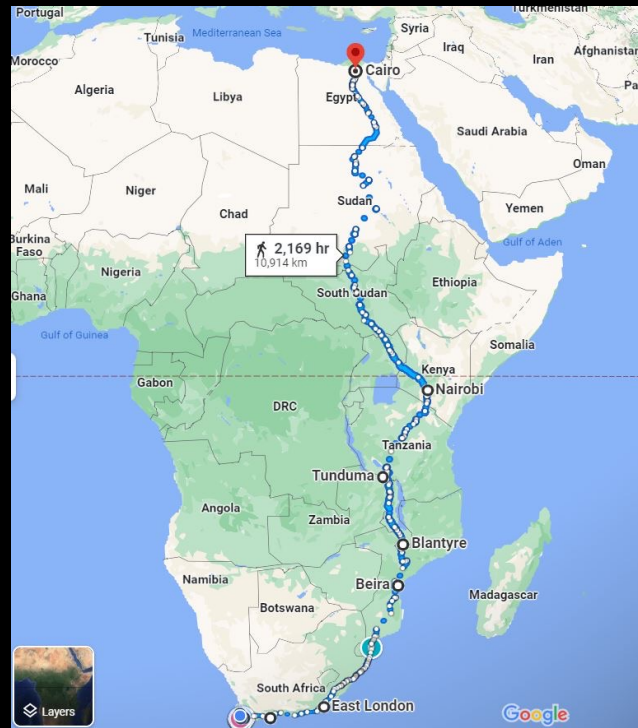
We are all touched by the effects of pollution, global warming, and the loss of species and habitats. We are also, John reminds us, part of our environment, not separate. The environment encompasses how we relate to our planet and one another. How we treat each other is our first opportunity to treat the environment sustainably or even understand what sustainability means. Kindness is powerful.



"As we aspire, so shall we become," John joyfully reminds us. Aspiring to sustain our world for future generations, he shows us how to replace passive despair with active empowerment. Through a proven set of tools and methods that address and shift our global crisis, the Planetwalker puts his feet where his heart is. Cultivating an intimate relationship with our home and its inhabitants, one step at a time.

Yes, the environment is science. And yes, the environment is also human and civil rights, economic and education equity, and gender equality. Oppressing or exploiting one another inevitably manifests in our physical environment. And here we are today, in the midst of an extreme crisis. For this reason, we walk, a moving demonstration of care – for each other and our planet.

Planetwalking, the movement John began in 1972, is journeying across geographical and interior landscapes – a moving prayer for continued life. It is also a means of collecting scientific and societal data. By partnering with [GLOBE](#) (NASA's Earth System Science Program for Global Learning & Observation to Benefit the Environment), advanced technology will be used to record quantitative and scientific data, offering immense benefits for climate scientists. John's all-ages curriculum for outdoor exploration – Planetlines – offers a tangible means to approach walking as an essential vehicle of communication and compassion, while collecting qualitative and quantitative data. By cultivating an intimate relationship with place by treading intentionally across our planet, students, teachers, and citizens become more inclined to respect and care for it. Replacing passive despair with active empowerment.



Having spent his life walking great distances across a great deal of our globe and 17 years in silence learning the art of authentic listening, John is one of today's most influential voices for people and planet. With each step, he reminds us that we constitute a single global community sharing one home. And that together, we hold the keys to our continued survival. With Planetwalk Africa, he sets out to start a movement of science, education, technology, and kindness that will last long after he's taken his last human step.



If a 77-year-old man can walk the continent where humanity began, exploring how to heal our greatest wound and create a living future, so can we. So can you. Aspire with us! Join us with your finances, force, and feet.

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