



KIT LIST AND INFORMATION DOCUMENT FOR MOLUMONG PONY TREKKING TRIPS

2 day, 3 day, 4 day village and 4 day Thabana Ntlenyana trips

South African ENTRY/EXIT regulations: On 1 June 2015, South Africa brought into effect new regulations applying ONLY to children under 18 years of age. Any child of any nationality will require the following when departing from or arriving in South Africa:

- 1) **A CHILD TRAVELLING WITH BOTH PARENTS:** A Birth Certificate which has the names of both parents on it. This must be either an original or a copy which has been certified by a Commissioner of Oaths. (In SA, a police station will certify such copies)
- 2) **A CHILD TRAVELLING WITH ONE PARENT ONLY:** The birth certificate as well as an affidavit (an official letter stamped and signed at a police station) from the non-travelling parent giving permission for the child to travel into and/or out of South Africa.
- 3) **A CHILD TRAVELLING WITH AN ADULT WHO IS NOT THEIR PARENT:** If the child is travelling with another adult, this person must produce the birth certificate as well as an affidavit from the parents giving the child permission to travel into and/or out of South Africa with this adult, copies of the parents' identity documents and their contact details
- 4) **A CHILD TRAVELLING UNACCOMPANIED:** If the child is travelling unaccompanied, the child must produce the birth certificate as well as an affidavit from the parents giving the child permission to travel into and/or out of South Africa and the parents' contact details as well as the identity documents and contact details of the person receiving the child in South Africa.

If you are unsure about any aspect of these regulations, contact us for clarity, or else contact your nearest South African embassy or if in SA, the nearest Home Affairs office.

NOTE that we have spoken to the station commander at the South African border post at Sani pass and he is inclined to be somewhat lenient to people on our tours, but he suggests that anyone unsure contact him directly to clarify their individual situation as follows:

Captain Dlamini of the Sani Pass border post on +27 33 7029000 or +27 33 7029001 or +27 33 7029002

BRING ALONG:

NB Please note that on all the pony trekking trips, your personal kit is carried by yourself in your own day pack on your back, not in saddle bags on the ponies. Kit should be therefore kept to a minimum.

Long pants suitable for riding (tracksuit pants work well).

Warm windproof and preferably waterproof jacket/ raincoat or rain suit or poncho.

Fleece jacket or top (or equivalent).

One or more change of clothes (depending on length of trip) wrapped in a plastic bag to keep them dry.

Sun hat.

Sun bloc cream.

Suitable footwear for riding and walking.

Swimming costume (summer)

Small towel.
Beanie or balaclava and gloves (winter).
500ml water bottle.
Torch or flashlight (a head torch is ideal).
Camera.
Personal medications and toiletries.
Refuse bag for your own rubbish

The following items are required for the Thabana Ntlenyana (3482m) 4 day trip only as it goes to extreme climatic areas:

Very good quality rain suit (jacket and pants)
Very good quality warm and windproof clothing suitable for high altitude (On the top of the Drakensberg and Maluti Mountains in Lesotho there is a possibility of snow and / or freezing conditions at any time of the year)
Very good quality sleeping bag (rated at least -5C) (wrap in plastic bag to keep it dry)
Plastic ground sheet (these two items will be carried on the pack ponies).
Roll of toilet paper and matches or lighter (to burn used toilet paper) securely contained in a zip lock plastic bag.
Tent – recommended although you can also sleep in the *motebo*
Roll mat to sleep on

MEALS:

All meals are provided on all pony trekking trips.
Day 1 on all tours: packed lunch, dinner
Middle days of all tours: breakfast, sit down lunch, dinner
Last day of all tours: breakfast, sit down lunch.
In-between snacks are NOT included and you can bring along your own (they may be purchased at Sani Lodge if required.)

DRAKENSBERG ADVENTURES MINIMUM IMPACT REFUSE POLICY

All your own refuse must be carried out with you. No toilet paper or tissue paper is to be buried, placed under a tree or rock, or strewn about above ground. Please bring your own refuse bag to discard any litter you generate on the tour ; ie plastic bottle, tissues, used toilet paper, plastic bags.

BASIC TOUR INFO:

Departure: From Sani Lodge backpackers at 9am on Day 1

Return: To Sani Lodge Backpackers around 5 - 5.30pm on day 2 (or day 3 on a 3 day tour)

Tour itinerary:

DAY 1: Common to 2, 3 and 4 day village tours: Travel up Sani Pass in our 4x4. Lots of stops along the way for birds, animals and flowers of interest. Stops for information on the history of Sani Pass, the geology, natural history and good yarns from days gone by. Superb views – ask your guide to stop for a photo anywhere you like. Cross into Lesotho. Travel along the Sani Flats. Visit the shearing shed to see shearing in action (sheep from October to end of January, goats in May). Travel to the top of the next pass beyond Sani, Black Mountain at 3240m. Interact during the day with shepherds. Travel over the Pass and down the other side, following the Sehonghong River valley. Lunch by the river, travel on and into the typical highland village country on to our riding base at Molumong Lodge. Meet the horse guide and the horses, saddle up and ride for 2 – 3 hours to Libibing Village. Accommodation in a rondavel and meals provided by a local family in the village.

NOTE: Accommodation in all three villages is in a large rondavel. There is no electricity or running water in any of the villages. A basin of water will be provided for bathing. The toilet is a “long drop” (pit latrine). Warm bedding is provided.

2 Day Trip: DAY 2: 2 – 3 hour ride back to Molumong next morning after breakfast following a different route. After lunch at Molumong, drive back to Sani Lodge including time for a drink at the Highest Pub in Africa on the way.

3 Day Trip: DAY 2: Full day's riding to another remote village, Malubelube where the set up is similar to that at Libibing. DAY 3: ride back to Molumong Lodge. After lunch at Molumong, drive back to Sani Lodge including time for a drink at the Highest Pub in Africa on the way.

4 Day Village Trip: DAY 2: Full day's riding to another remote village, Malubelube where the set up is similar to that at Libibing. DAY 3: another full day's riding to another even more remote village, Bobatsi with accommodation and meals again provided by the host family. DAY 4: ride back to Molumong Lodge. After lunch at Molumong, drive back to Sani Lodge including time for a drink at the Highest Pub in Africa on the way.

4 Day Thabana Ntlenyana Tour: Day 1: Drive only as far as No. 10 Riverside, settle in, then go for a walk into one of the neighbouring villages. See how people live. Visit the artefacts house. Visit the traditional healer (have a personal consultation if you like – small extra cost). Evening dancing and singing at No. 10 with a ladies group and a shepherds group. Delicious traditional Basotho food prepared by 'Me Nkune. Visit the newly established Shepherds' night School. Sleep the night at No. 10 Riverside. **NOTE: Accommodation is either in a 9 bed dormitory room or a 4 bed rondavel nearby. There is no electricity or running water at No. 10. A basin of water will be provided for bathing. The toilet is a "long drop" (pit latrine). All bedding is provided including warm duvets and hot water bottles.**

Alcohol: No. 10 Riverside is an alcohol free zone. We ask that you respect this and do not bring any alcohol on the trip. If you fancy an evening drink, our guide will drive you a few kilometres to a local outlet where you can purchase and drink your beverage. Thank you for your acceptance of this.

Days 2, 3 and half of day 4, ride to the highest peak in Southern Africa, Thabana Ntlenyana at 3482m.

Accommodation in a motebo or if you prefer, in your own tent. Motebo are often quite dusty and sleeping space can be cramped and uneven, so those with allergies may prefer their own tent. We can provide a limited number of tents for hire at R100 each for clients requiring them. We also have roll mats to hire at R20 each.

A pack horse is provided to carry sleeping bags, tents and other luggage. Return to No. 10 in time for lunch on Day 4, then drive back to Sani Lodge including time for a drink at the Highest Pub in Africa on the way.

Combination Option: It is possible to do some days of hiking and some days of horse-riding – in other words a combination of the Molumong pony Trek tour and the Molumong Village hiking tour. Contact us in this regard.

Toilet stops: Flush toilets at the SA border post, Molumong Lodge and the Pub, pit latrine (long drop) at the Lesotho border post, Libibing, Malubelube, Bobatsi and at No. 10 Riverside, *au natural* elsewhere on the tour.

RIDING HELMETS: Note that Basotho people do not ride wearing helmets, and the operators in Lesotho do NOT provide helmets for riders. If you wish to wear a helmet, you either need to bring your own, or else you can hire them from us. We have a number of helmets with variable head sizes available to hire at R50 per trip, with a deposit of R100 to be left behind and returned to you once the helmet is returned in good order. You will be asked about this on your indemnity form to be filled in prior to departure, and must hire the helmet from the Lodge office prior to departure if you want one.

COMMUNITY INTERACTION IN LESOTHO:

Drakensberg Adventures has pioneered the system of paying all community service providers for services rendered to our tours. This includes the shearing shed at Skiring near Sani Top which we visit in season and where they receive R35 per vehicle for allowing us to visit, interact and take photos. The shepherds around Sani Top also agreed to be part of our tour, and we allocate R35 per vehicle to the "shepherds fund". The proceeds

of the fund are used to buy new blankets for the shepherds. We collect the names of the shepherds we interact with over the season, and then in February we have a big event where the blankets are handed over.

See the “Vehicles and Guides” and “Community Tourism” pages of our website at www.drakensbergadventures.co.za for more information on our tour ethos.