

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 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:

Kit should be kept to a minimum – a small day pack should be quite sufficient

Warm windproof and preferably waterproof jacket/raincoat or rain suit or poncho.
Fleece jacket or top (or equivalent).
One change of clothes securely wrapped in a plastic bag to keep them dry; trousers, tracksuit, jersey for winter.
Sun hat.
Sun bloc cream.
Suitable footwear for riding and walking.
Swimming costume (summer)
Small towel.
Beanie or balaclava and gloves (winter).
Long pants suitable for riding if you plan to ride (tracksuit pants work well).
500ml water bottle.
Torch or flashlight (a head torch is ideal).
Camera.
Personal medications and toiletries.
Refuse bag for your own rubbish

MEALS:

All meals are provided on the 2 and 3 day village experience trips.

2 day tour: Day 1: packed lunch, dinner Day 2: breakfast and sit down lunch.

3 day tour: Day 1: packed lunch, dinner Day 2: breakfast, sit down lunch, dinner day 3: 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: 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 April and 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. Stop at No. 10 Riverside. Settle in, then go for a walk into one of the neighbouring villages. See how people live. Visit the artefacts house. Either in the afternoon or next morning, 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 new Shepherds’ Evening School for a great opportunity to not only see what they learn, but to really spend time and interact with these special people. 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.

Day 2 has a variety of options. If schools are open, we visit one of the local primary schools who we support with a “levy” of R25 per visitor to No. 10. This money is used for educational projects at the schools and we recently financed and opened new classrooms at each of the two schools we partner. Another optional activity is horse-riding which costs R100 per person for a 2 hour ride plus R300 for guide and his/her horse divided between the group riding. A walk into the beautiful mountains and valleys is another option. After lunch on day 2, return via a stop for a drink in the Highest Pub in Africa before the descent of Sani Pass to Sani Lodge Backpackers.

3 day tour: Having an extra day means that the activities can all be done at a more leisurely pace! TOTAL IMMERSION - Spend an extra day with the Nkunes and have the time to really get a feel of the rhythm of life in the highlands. Climb a nearby peak, spend longer on horseback, help with the agricultural or cooking chores and become a part of the community!! There is also time to visit the highlands town of Mokhotlong.

3 day Combination Tour: Combine the 2 day Village Experience with the 2 day Pony Trek – a popular choice giving you the best of both tours!

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

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.

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. All the various groups who provide services to our groups while at No. 10 Riverside are also paid on a per head basis.

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