



KIT LIST AND INFORMATION DOCUMENT FOR 3 DAY SEHLABATHEBE TOUR

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:

Small day pack.
Long pants suitable for riding if you plan to ride (tracksuit pants work well).
Warm windproof and preferably waterproof jacket/ raincoat or rain suit or poncho.
Fleece jacket or top (or equivalent).
Warm clothing including 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).
1l 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 3 day Sehlabathebe trips as follows:

Day 1: packed lunch, dinner. **Day 2:** breakfast, packed lunch, dinner **Day 3:** breakfast, packed 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 3

General Information:

This tour has great flexibility – make of it whatever you want to! Sehlabathebe is great hiking country, and you can spend your full day in the park hiking – climbing the Devil’s Knuckles, or visiting the Tsoelikana waterfalls or Kepising Rock overhang and you can spend the last day hiking down to the SA border post at Bushmansnek. If horse-riding is your thing, you can spend the full day in the Park on horse-back, and then spend the last day riding down to Bushmansnek. If Basotho culture is your thing, you can spend the full day in one of the nearby villages getting a taste of the traditional Highlands lifestyle. Or you can get a bit of each aspect, its up to you to let your guide know what your interests are. Also let us know in advance so we can try and arrange the right guide for your needs!

Tour itinerary:

DAY 1: Drive from Sani Lodge through the historic area of East Griqualand, through rolling farmland and then turning north to the beautiful and little-used road pass to Ramatseliso’s Gate border post. Cross into Lesotho and drive the scenic route along Lesotho’s southern boundary to Sehlabathebe National Park. The Park Lodge, the historic building where we have stayed in the past, has sadly been closed to the public. We therefore stay either at Mabotle Lodge in the nearby Sehlabathebe village, or at a homestay with a family in Thamatu village. Mabotle is fairly basic while the homestay is very basic but offers a good insight into Basotho life. There may be time for a stroll in late afternoon.

DAY 2: After breakfast, a local guide will take us on a day of exploration of the wonders of Sehlabathebe. The day is yours – options include a climb to the overhanging mountain Kepising, a swim in the pool at the bottom of the Tsoelikana Waterfall and experience the unique flora and fauna of the park. For the keen horse rider, this day can be spent riding around the park. A visit to Thamatu village is also possible. Second night at either accommodation option. You could stay one night at each place.

DAY 3: Today, a special border crossing. The local guide will lead you on foot or horseback down the bridal trail leading to the South African border post at Bushman’s Nek. There is only a path on the Lesotho side of this border post! The vehicle will drive around and meet you at the bottom of this beautiful journey and return you to Sani Lodge.

Toilet stops: Flush toilets at Masakala, the SA border post and Mabotle Lodge, pit latrine (long drop) at the Thamatu Homestay, *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.

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