



KIT LIST AND INFORMATION DOCUMENT FOR THE 4 OR 5 DAY ROOF OF AFRICA TOUR

A VALID PASSPORT IS ESSENTIAL TO ENTER LESOTHO.

LESOTHO VISA REQUIREMENTS:

Certain nationalities require visas for Lesotho. You will find a link to the list on any of our tour pages on our website at www.sanilodge.co.za . Alternatively, visit the following Lesotho government website:

<http://evisalesotho.com/visa-exemptions/>

If you do require a visa, you have a big problem! It is currently only possible to get a visa in Maseru itself. We are sorry about this – we have spent years engaging with Lesotho Tourism on this matter, and whilst promises of change have been made, no action has yet followed. It is crazy that a country keen to grow its tourism has obstacles against certain nationalities entering their country, obstacles which currently are almost impossible to overcome. Crazy!

LESOTHO TOURIST LEVY

The Lesotho government has introduced a Tourist Levy of R100 per person entering the country as from 1 April 2024. They have set up the system such that clients pay the levy to the tour operator who then makes monthly returns and payments to the Lesotho Government Levy Fund. In our case, the levy will thus be added on to the tour price quoted by Drakensberg Adventures for payment up front.

BRING ALONG:

Small day pack.

Long pants suitable for riding if you plan to ride (tracksuit pants work well) (*5 or 6 day tours only*).

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).

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 these trips as follows:

Day 1: packed lunch, dinner at Bobatsi – traditional Basotho cuisine

Day 2: breakfast at Bobatsi , packed lunch, dinner at The Clan Lodge restaurant

Day 3: breakfast at The Clan Lodge restaurant, packed lunch, dinner at Maliba Lodge (*Ha Mamohase on 4 day trip-traditional Basotho cuisine*).

Day 4: breakfast at Maliba Lodge (*Ha Mamohase on 4 day trip*), packed lunch, dinner at Maliba lodge

Day 5: breakfast at Maliba Lodge, packed lunch

NOTE: Maliba Lodge restaurant serves delicious and renowned meals!

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 last day

General Information: Lesotho may look like a small country on the map, but it takes lots of time to get around it. This tour does a loop around the northern part of the country, and will mean a lot of time in the vehicle. Since there are wonderful views everywhere one goes in Lesotho, this means lots of great scenery and views. The 4 day trip will leave only a couple of hours on days 1, 2 and 3 to do a bit of walking, the 5 day trip includes a full day to hike, horse-ride or just chill in Ts'ehlanyane National Park. Katse Dam is the centre point of the Lesotho Highlands Water project, with water from the Lesotho Highlands being exported via a series of tunnels to the thirsty mouths of Johannesburg, a fascinating and spectacular destination. We also get to visit a unique craft centre and of course get a chance to meet and get to know local Basotho people and their traditional lifestyle.

Tour itinerary:

5 DAY ROOF OF AFRICA TOUR

DAY 1: Depart Sani Lodge around 9am in 4x4 vehicle up the Sani Pass. Cross into Lesotho and carry on via Kotisepola Pass (3240m) and down the Sehonghong Valley. Picnic lunch by the river. Continue on starting up Menoaneng Pass to Bobatsi village where we stay the night. Our hosts will show us around the area, with opportunities to get a feel for highland village life in a remote corner of the country and eat traditional meals with the family.

Accommodation in a large rondavel. No electricity or running water, but fresh water provided in buckets. It's the authentic experience you're after here, not the creature comforts!

DAY 2: Depart after breakfast and travel west, over another 3000m+ road pass, the Menoaneng. Beautiful scenery, then drop down, down, down to the major river draining the Lesotho Highlands, the Senqu (becomes the Orange) River. Cross the river at the low level Koma Koma crossing, then climb out of the valley, through the vibrant town of Thaba Tseka and on to Katse Dam where we stay the night at Bruvita Lodge.

Accommodation in a lodge with meals provided.

DAY 3: Depart after an early breakfast to Katse where we join the Dam tour and go inside the towering dam wall. If there is time and inclination and its open, visit lovely Katse Botanical gardens to see some of Lesotho's beautiful plants and flowers in a magnificent setting. Depart Katse and follow the lake north, up towards its headwaters. The road crosses the dam over the spectacular Malibamatso Bridge, then climbs another 3000m+ pass, Mafika Lisiu, at the top of which is Bokong Nature Reserve. Time for a short hike to view the Lepaqa Waterfall. Continue on down the other side of the pass, via the town of Hlotse (we visit the Leribe Craft Centre) to Ts'ehlanyane National Park.

DAY 4: Full day to enjoy the wonders of Ts'ehlanyane, either on a guided hike or horse-ride. Soaring mountain scenery, an enchanted indigenous forest, pools, magnificent waterfalls and a sense of serenity make this a special place. Enjoy the great views from your lodge and swim in the river pools below.

Accommodation on days 3 and 4 in a Riverside Lodge at Maliba Lodge. The lodge sleeps up to 8 people in 4 bedrooms. The guide will sleep in one of these rooms. They are fully self contained and have electricity and running water.

DAY 5: Depart after breakfast to the cultural reserve at Liphofung. The guide will interpret a very good panel of Bushman Rock Art, tell of the significance of the cave in Basotho history and then show us around the cultural village which has been set up there. Climbing back into the mountains via the Moteng Pass we drive the "Roof of Africa" route to the town of Mokhotlong, known in the 1950's as the most isolated outpost of the British Empire. From here we return to Sani Lodge.

4 DAY ROOF OF AFRICA TOUR

As for 5 day tour, but leave out day 4, the full day at Tsehlanyane. Overnight instead at Mamohase Home Stay near Butha Buthe.

Accommodation on Day 3 at Ha Mamohase homestay in a traditional rondavel. No electricity or running water, but fresh water provided in buckets. More "upmarket" than Bobatsi.

(NOTE THAT THE HIGHEST PUB IN AFRICA AT SANI MOUNTAIN ESCAPE HAS A POLICY WHICH MEANS THAT OUR CLIENTS CAN NO LONGER ACCESS THE PUB. WE WILL OFFER CLIENTS AN ALTERNATIVE EXPERIENCE AT THE BAR AT THE NEARBY MASOBASOBA LODGE. UNFORTUNATELY THIS IS BEYOND OUR CONTROL – THE OWNERS OF THE HIGHEST PUB ARE ENTITLED TO SET THEIR OWN RULES)

Toilet stops: Flush toilets at the SA border post, Katse, Maliba and Molumong, pit latrine (long drop) at Bobatsi, Ha Mamohase (4 day tour only), *au natural* elsewhere on the tour.

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 lady of the house we visit in Skiring village, 'Me Vitelena, the shearing shed and the shepherds. 'Me Vitelena is paid R60 per visitor for providing lunch and her time and space. When she is unable to offer our group lunch, we pay her R30 per visitor for giving her time and space, and for having local bread and beer to taste. The shearing shed receives R50 per vehicle for allowing us to visit, interact and take photos. The proceeds go into a fund for a project of their choice. In 2024, we produced overalls for everyone working at the shearing shed.



The shepherds also agreed to be part of our tour, and we allocate R50 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.



Our pioneering way of doing things has been recognized by the Lesotho Tourism Development Corporation (LTDC). LTDC held a series of meetings in the Underberg area during 2016, the aim of which was to ensure that all the local tour operators who visit the Sani Top area use the same model of “payments for services rendered” as we do. Each operator was required to sign a written agreement with their service provider in Skiring village. We signed our agreement with 'Me Vitelena in a ceremony presided over by LTDC at Sani Lodge backpackers in September 2016. It formalized the verbal agreement which had operated for many years between us. We are thrilled that LTDC has recognized our way of doing things as “Best Practice”. We were also Silver Award winners at the 2016 African Responsible Tourism Awards.



All the various groups who provide services to our groups while at Bobatsi are also paid on a per head basis. We also support as many Lesotho national Park areas as possible.

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.

CANCELLATION POLICY: We run our tours no matter what the weather or weather forecast. This is because a) at 9am it is impossible to say what the weather will be like for the whole day and b) the weather once you get above the escarpment and into Lesotho is often different and better than below the escarpment in KZN. Weather forecasting is at best an imprecise science, and especially so in the mountains. Whatever the weather, our guides will do their best to ensure you have an interesting and enjoyable day. In the unlikely event of the road being closed due to snow, ice or a heavy storm damaging the road, our policy is to still run the tour, driving as far as is practical and safe, and walking from wherever we park to the top of Sani Pass and crossing into Lesotho on foot. **Please note** that we confirm our guides the night before the tour, and so any cancellation of a tour on the actual day of the tour will entail a cancellation fee being charge to cover the guide's expenses and any expenses Drakensberg Adventures and our Basotho partners have incurred.