



## GERNERAL TRAVEL INFO SWAZILAND



### SWAZILAND:

The best time to visit Swaziland is in Winter May to June or October beginning of Spring. The average temperature is 20 Degree and warm clothing will be needed during those months especially at nights.

**The best places/area to explore in Swaziland is as per our recommendations:**

- Hhohho
- Manzini
- Lubombo
- Shiselweni

**Some great things we recommend to Do and See:**

- Mantenga Culture Village offers the best singing and dancing performances seen throughout the country which has a dance group that tours the world.
- Shewula Mountain Camp and Myxo's Waza Nowe Cultural Tours are probably the real places to get a genuine and comprehensive local homestead visit.
- Hlane Royal National Park and Mkhaya Game Reserve are the best places in Swaziland. Both are homes of big mammals, including elephants, hippo, giraffe, zebra and rhinos. Mkhaya is rated as the best place in Africa to see black and white rhinos.
- Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary is a park without the biggest of the animals except for hippos.



- Walking & Hiking trails are great ways to discover Swaziland. Top hiking destinations include Bulembu, Mahamba, Malotja, Mlawula, Ngwempisi, Mlilwane, Shewula and Sibebe and Lubombo Mountains.
- Horse Riding offers the opportunity to discover the beautiful country and have good facilities and cater to all levels and are found at: Mlilwane (Chebuka Trails), Ezulwinwi Valley, Mhlambanyatsi (Foresters Arms Hotel), Hawane Resort and Malkerns (Nyanza Stables).
- Quad Biking is available in the Ezulwini Valley and at Hawane Resort.
- Mountain Biking is an up and coming sport and is offered in a number of locations including Mhlambanyatsi, Hawane, Hlane, Malotja, Mbuluzi and Shewula. Bikes are available for hire but not in all places.

### **Great events not to be missed:**

- Marula Festival - This is a celebration of the harvest of the Marula fruit - Ebuleni in February and Hlane in March.
- Mahamba Gorge Hike - This was held for the first time last year end of March and was a huge success. It is to promote this historical and beautiful region and will be held every year with a twist to make it bigger and better. This is a two days event.
- King's Mswanti III's Birthday on 19th April
- Independence Day is a national holiday on 6th September

### **CURRENCY:**

The Swazi Lilangeni was introduced in 1974 to compete with the South-African Rand through the Common Monetary Area, to which it remains tied a one-to-one exchange rate. The South-African Rand is also accepted as payment in Swaziland.

The Lilangeni is subdivided into 100 cents. In 1974, coins of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 cents and 1 Lilangeni were issued. The 1 and 2 cent coins were struck in bronze and the others in cupro-nickel.

Exchanging USD, Euro and British pounds is easily done at banks and exchange offices. Banking hours are generally between 08.30 and 15.30 Mondays to Fridays and 08.30 to 12.00 Saturdays.

Please note: Exchanging money on the streets or with individuals at the border posts is illegal and often expensive.

ATM machines are found in Mbabane, the Ezulwini Valley and a few other locations around the country that accept international cards.

Credit Card such as Visa and MasterCard are only accepted by the major tourist establishments and can be used at many ATMs for cash advances.



## **DRIVING INFO:**

Generally the roads are good in Swaziland and the Police is polite, helpful and friendly.

The speed limit is 80km, reducing to 60km in urban areas and 120km on highways. There are many road traps and if the traveler has a foreign registration number and a fine is given, it has to be paid immediately.

Sometimes there is no sign indicating you can start to drive faster (these signs are sometimes stolen), so keep the 60km/hour until the end of the inhabited area. Traffic policemen may take advantage of the fact the signs are not present ! So beware. Do also reduce the speed when you see a school sign.

Motorists must keep their driver's license with them and the seat belts in from and on the back seats must be worn at all times.

## **EMERGENCY NUMBERS:**

In the last 15 years of operating and selling holidays in Africa we fortunately did not experience any big emergency's. But just in case anything would happen please find some important info below.

Emergency Services: 999  
Emergency number police: 10111  
Fire Brigade: 998  
Emergency number ambulance: 10177  
ER24: 084 124  
Life Line Emergency: 086 132 2322

### Hospitals:

Ezulweni: Medisu Clinic, Tel: +268 2416 2800 / 2381  
Manzini Clinic, Tel: +268 2505 7430  
Manzini: Mkhwa Clinic, Tel: +268 2505 9293 / 9299  
Manzini: Mother Care Clinic, Tel: +268 2505 8366  
Matsapha: Philani Clinic, Tel: 268 2518 4774  
Mbabane Clinic, Tel: +268 2404 2423 / 2425  
Nhlangano: +268 2207 8492  
Siteki Good Sheppered Hospital, Tel: +268 2343 4133

### Police Stations:

Lobamba: Tel: +268 2416 1130  
Mankayane: Duma Public Road, Mankayane, Tel: +268 2538 8222  
Manzini: Louw Street, Manzini, Tel: +268 2505 2221  
Matsapha: First Street, Matsapha, Tel: +268 2518 7111



Nhlangano: Skhokhwane Street, Tel: +268 2207 8222 /3/4/5  
Pigg's Peak: Evelyn Baring Street, Pigg's Peak, Tel: +268 2437 1612  
Siteki: Parkway Road, Siteki, Tel: +268 2343 4222 / 6

## LANGUAGES / HOSPITALITY:

Swaziland is home to several languages such as Swazi, Zulu, Tsonga, Afrikaans and English, and two new languages have been added - Chichewa and Southern Sotho.

Swazi, a Southern Bantu language, is the national language of Swaziland and is spoken by approximately 95 % of Swazis.

Swazi and English are the country's two official languages where the Swazi language education is present in all national schools, defined as the ability to read and write the language is "very high".

Herewith a few basic in Swazi:

<b>Sawubona</b>	Hello
<b>Kusile</b>	Good morning
<b>Unjani?</b>	How are you?
<b>Ngikhona ngiyabonga</b>	I am fine, thank you.
<b>Sala Khale (pr. Karshlay)</b>	Goodbye / stay well
<b>Hamba kahle</b>	Go well
<b>Inhlanhla lenhle (pr. inklunkla lenkle)</b>	Good luck
<b>Kubita malini loku?</b>	How much is it?
<b>Ngicela sikhatsi?</b>	What time is it?
<b>Uya kuphi?</b>	Where are you going?
<b>Yebo</b>	Yes
<b>Cha</b>	No
<b>Ngiyacela</b>	Please
<b>Ngiyabonga</b>	Thank you
<b>Wamukelekile</b>	You are welcome
<b>Simo lesibucayi</b>	Emergency
<b>Lucolo</b>	Excuse me
<b>Wota lapha</b>	Come here
<b>Ngiacolisa</b>	I am sorry
<b>Ngubani ligama lakho?</b>	What is your name?
<b>Ligama lamin ngu Sam. Wena ke?</b>	My name is Sam. And you?
<b>Mine ngingu Siph</b>	I am Siph
<b>Ngiyajabula kukwati</b>	I am pleased to meet you
<b>Nami futsi</b>	And me too

## FOOD IN SWAZILAND:

The farming industry mainly depends on rice, sugar cane, peanuts and tobacco and the export of goat meat and beef.

The traditional Swaziland meals consist of starch as the main characteristic and is accompanied by a stew containing vegetables or meat. Their recipes embrace fish marinated in ginger, tomatoes,



and cayenne, cooked in a peanut oil. There is a large indian influence in the cooking with dals, lentil soups and curries.

The most unusual dish is the local Baobab tree which looks like in silhouette an upside down carrot, growing wider at the base. They dry the Baobab seeds, crush and ground, and the flesh of the fruit is used in powder form to thicken sauces.

Game, lamb, the famous Swaziland lobster and a vast repertoire of fish add to a really sophisticated cuisine. Their cuisine is also known for its piripiri and hot pepper dishes.

### **Tipping:**

10% is customary in restaurants.

### **SAFTEY:**

Where ever you travel your safety is of course always of our utmost concern. With over 15 years of travel experience in Africa we compiled some general tips below.

The standard of driving is lower than in Europe/UK and often minor roads are not well maintained and road markings are poor. Driving on rural roads one finds straying animals and live-stocks, and therefore avoid driving at night. As well as the possibility of hitting animals, there is the additional risk of abandoned unlit trailers and poorly lit heavy vehicles.

Avoid walking in bigger cities like Mbabane and Manzini after dark or traveling in remote rural areas unless in a group. Keep valuables in safe place and don't carry large amounts of money around with you either.

Keep your car window and doors locked when you drive and always park in well-lit area . Do not leave any valuables in your car when parked during the day nor at night.

Do not stop for any distressed motorist, breakdowns or strangers on the roadside. Instead, report the incident to the police at the nearest police station.

### **VISA REQUIREMENTS / BORDER POSTS**

All travelers will need a passport valid for at least 90 days following the departure date from Swaziland. We strongly recommend travelling with 6 months validity on your passport at all times.

Visas are NOT required for most countries to enter the Kingdom of Swaziland for holiday.

For further visa requirement please visit <https://swaziland.visahq.com>.

**PLEASE NOTE** as from the 1st July 2015 visitors entering SA travelling with kids require an unabridged birth certificate to enter the country.

No passenger will therefore be allowed to travel without these papers - be it by land, sea or air.

For more detailed info on the minor travel/immigration regulations, please visit - [www.dha.gov.za](http://www.dha.gov.za)



For our self-drive tourists the most used border posts into Swaziland are:

SOUTH AFRICA / SWAZILAND:

**Bulembu Border Post**

Opening hours: 08h00 - 16h00

**Gege Border Post**

Opening hours: 08h00 - 16h00

**Lavumisa / Golela Border Post**

Opening hours: 07h00 - 22h00

**Lebombo Border Post**

Opening hours: 06h00 - 00h00

**Mahamba Border Post**

Opening hours: 07h00 - 22h00

**Mananga Border Post**

Opening hours: 07h00 - 18h00

**Matsamo Border Post**

Opening hours: 07h00 - 20h00

**Ngwenya / Ohoek Border Post**

Opening hours: 07h00 - 20h00

**Salitje Border Post**

Opening hours: 07h00 - 18h00

**Sandlande Border Post**

Opening hours: 08h00 - 18h00

**Sincunusa Border Post**

Opening hours: 08h00 - 18h00

MOZAMBIQUE / SWAZILAND:

**Lomhasa Border Post**

Opening hours: 07h00 - 20h00

**Mhlumeni Border Post**

Opening hours: 24 hours



## **HEALTH / INSURANCE:**

In the eastern parts of the country around Big Bend, Mhlume, Simunye and Tshaneni is a risk Malaria and prophylactics should be taken. Whatever prophylactics you use, remember to complete the course as directed after leaving the malaria area.

Try to be avoided bitten by wearing clothing that covers the arms, legs and ankles and use repellent spray on the exposed parts of your body. Make sure you are sleeping under a treated mosquito net and ensure that the doors and windows kept close, especially before dusk. Having a fan or air-conditioner on at night will keep mosquito activity down to a minimum.

Your local travel clinic will be able to assist you with further information regarding needed inoculations.

A Medical and Travel insurance is highly recommended prior to the start of the holiday.

## **WHAT TO PACK:**

Summer is the rainy season from December to April and casual, comfortable wash and wear clothing is most useful for the time spent exploring the sights. You will need a light rain jacket/coat and/or small umbrella. Up market restaurants require in the evenings smart clothing.

But the few essential items required for a trip to Swaziland would be bush clothing such as:

- Safari jackets and trousers
- T-shirts and shorts
- Skirt and dress for restaurants / hotel visits
- A light sweater or light jacket for the cooler evenings in the open hats
- Good shoes / sandals
- Sunscreen creams with high SPFs and sun hat

Between May to June are the winter months and do remember to take along some warm clothing such as:

- Sweater, flees and/or warm jacket or coat
- Long sleeve sleepwear
- Track suit
- Warm shoes

Medication that should be carried in a first aid kit should be the basic anti fever, antihistamine and antiseptics.

**camping**  
**Africa**