



Lesotho

POP 2.1 MILLION / 266

Includes ➔

Maseru	770
Morija	772
Roma	772
Thaba-Bosiu	773
Sani Top	774
Semonkong	775
Malealea	775
Quthing	776
Understand Lesotho ..	776
Survival Guide	779

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Maliba Lodge (p774)
- ➔ No.7 Restaurant (p771)
- ➔ Semonkong Lodge (p775)
- ➔ Piri Piri (p771)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Malealea Lodge (p776)
- ➔ Maliba Lodge (p774)
- ➔ Semonkong Lodge (p775)
- ➔ Sani Mountain Lodge (p774)
- ➔ Kick4Life Hotel (p770)

Why Go?

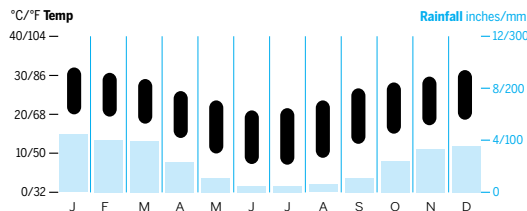
Beautiful, culturally rich, safe, affordable and easily accessible from Durban and Johannesburg, mountainous Lesotho (le-soo-too) is a vastly underrated travel destination. The contrast with South Africa could not be more striking, with the Basotho people's distinct personality and the altitudinous terrain's topographical extremes. Even a few days in Lesotho's hospitable mountain lodges and trading posts will give you a fresh perspective on Southern Africa.

This is essentially an alpine country, where villagers on horseback in multicoloured balaclavas and blankets greet you round precipitous bends. The hiking and trekking – often on a famed Basotho pony – is world class and the infrastructure of the three stunning national parks continues to improve.

The 1000m-high 'lowlands' offer craft shopping and sights, but don't miss a trip to the southern, central or northeastern highlands, where streams traverse an ancient dinosaur playground. This is genuine adventure travel.

When to Go

Maseru



Mar–Apr Purple cosmos flowers in the green meadows and cool autumn temperatures.

Jun–Aug See snow frosting the mountaintops and do some short hikes.

Sep Morija Festival celebrates Sotho culture; peach blossoms colour the landscape.

Lesotho Highlights

1 Trading Posts

(p776) Staying in a former trading post for mountain views and authentic village life.

2 Pony trekking or hiking

(p775) Making your way through the highlands, staying in traditional Basotho huts.

3 Southern

Africa's Highest Pub (p774) Raising a glass at Sani Mountain Lodge, perched atop the Sani Pass in Sani Top.

4 Sehlabathebe

National Park (p774) Finding rugged isolation in this remote and beautiful park.

5 Maletsunyane

Falls (p775) Abseiling 200m down these awesome falls in Semonkong.

6 Katse Dam

(p775) Admiring feats of aquatic engineering.

7 Ts'ehlanyane

National Park (p774) Experiencing the park's raw beauty.

8 Mafika-Lisui

Pass (p775) Seeing forever into the distance from atop this 3000m-plus mountain pass.

9 Dinosaurs

Searching for dinosaur footprints in Quthing (p776) and Morija (p772).

