



Swaziland

Includes ➔

Mbabane	490
Ezulwini Valley	493
Lobamba	496
Milwane Wildlife Sanctuary ..	497
Manzini.	499
Malolotja Nature Reserve.	501
Hlane Royal National Park	503
Mkhaya Game Reserve	505

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Ramblas Restaurant (p492)
- ➔ Sambane Coffee Shoppe (p498)
- ➔ Malandela's Restaurant (p499)
- ➔ Lihawu Restaurant (p495)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Stone Camp (p505)
- ➔ Sondzela Backpackers (p498)
- ➔ Brackenhill Lodge (p491)
- ➔ Lidwala Backpacker Lodge (p493)
- ➔ Phophonyane Falls Ecolodge & Nature Reserve (p502)

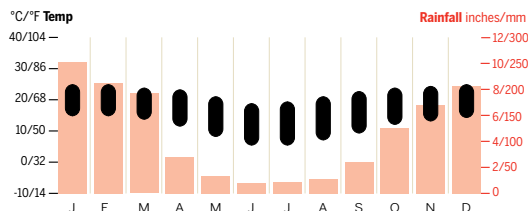
Why Go?

In short: big things come in small packages. The intriguing kingdom of Swaziland is diminutive but boasts a huge checklist for any visitor. Rewarding wildlife-watching? Tick. Adrenaline-boosting activities such as rafting and mountain biking? Tick. Lively and colourful local culture, with celebrations and ceremonies still common practice? Tick. Plus there are superb walking trails, stunning mountain and flatland scenery, varied accommodation options and excellent, high-quality handicrafts.

Unlike South Africa, Swaziland has managed to hold on to that slow-down-this-is-Africa feeling, and that's why it's gaining in popularity. Everything remains small and personable, and the atmosphere is remarkably relaxed. Instead of making a flying visit here on your way to Kruger National Park, KwaZulu-Natal or Mozambique, consider staying at least a week to do the country justice. If you plan a visit during the winter months, try to make it coincide with the Umhlanga festival, one of Africa's biggest cultural events.

When to Go

Mbabane



Dec–Apr Full rivers and lush vegetation are the backdrops for photography and adventuring.

Feb–Mar Baganu season – enjoy home-brew marula wine in rural Swaziland.

May–Sep Cooler days make for wonderful wildlife viewing in the lowveld.



LEGEND

- GR Game Reserve
- NP National Park
- NR Nature Reserve
- WS Wildlife Sanctuary

Swaziland Highlights

- 1** Watching wildlife, including rare black rhinos, in the wild at the excellent **Mkhaya Game Reserve** (p505).
- 2** Walking or hiking in the **Malolotja Nature Reserve** (p501), an enchanting wilderness area.
- 3** Shooting over white-water rapids on the **Great Usutu River (Lusutfu River)** (p493).
- 4** Browsing the craft shops of the **Ezulwini Valley** (p493) and the **Malkerns Valley** (p498).
- 5** Cycling or meandering around **Milwane Wildlife Sanctuary** (p497) and relaxing in its comfortable, lovely lodges.
- 6** Climbing **Sibebe Rock** (p490), a massive granite

- dome just outside the capital, and soaking up the lovely views.
- 7** Coming face to face with a pride of lions at **Hlane Royal National Park** (p503).
- 8** Getting away from it all at **Mahamba Gorge Lodge** (p506), **Phophonyane Falls Ecologde & Nature Reserve** (p502) or **Shewula Mountain Camp** (p504).