



Swaziland

POP 1.4 MILLION / 268

Includes ➔

Mbabane.....	532
Ezulwini Valley	534
Malkerns Valley	537
Malolotja Nature Reserve	541
Hlane Royal National Park	541
Mlawula Nature Reserve	542

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ eDladleni (p533)
- ➔ Lihawu Restaurant (p536)
- ➔ Ramblas Restaurant (p533)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Stone Camp (p543)
- ➔ Sondzela Backpackers (p539)
- ➔ Brackenhill Lodge (p532)
- ➔ Lidwala Backpacker Lodge (p535)
- ➔ Phophonyane Falls Ecotodge & Nature Reserve (p543)

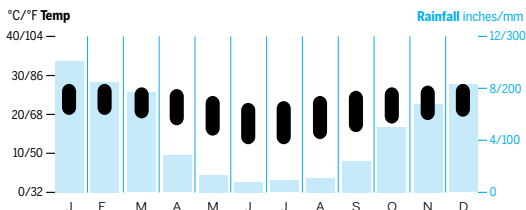
Why Go?

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-brewed marula beer in rural Swaziland.

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



Swaziland Highlights

- 1 Mkhaya Game Reserve** (p543) Watching wildlife, including rare black rhinos, in the wild.
- 2 Malolotja Nature Reserve** (p541) Walking or hiking in this enchanting wilderness area.
- 3 Great Usutu River** (Lusutu River; p543)

- Shooting over whitewater rapids on a day-long adventure.
- 4 Malkerns Valley** (p537) Browsing the craft shops here and in the nearby Ezulwini Valley (p534).
- 5 Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary** (p539) Exploring on foot, horseback or by bike.

- 6 Sibebe Rock** (p532) Climbing this massive granite dome outside the capital and soaking up the lovely views.
- 7 Hlane Royal National Park** (p541) Coming face-to-face with a pride of lions or watching white rhinos congregate at the accessible watering hole.