



Lesotho

POP 2.1 MILLION / 266

Includes ➔

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Thaba-Bosiu	104
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Semonkong	108
Malealea	109
Mafeteng	110
Quthing	110

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Maliba Lodge (p105)
- ➔ No.7 Restaurant (p100)
- ➔ Sky Restaurant (p107)
- ➔ Semonkong Lodge (p108)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Malealea Lodge (p109)
- ➔ Maliba Lodge (p105)
- ➔ Semonkong Lodge (p108)
- ➔ Sani Mountain Lodge (p108)
- ➔ Kick4Life Hotel (p100)

Why Go?

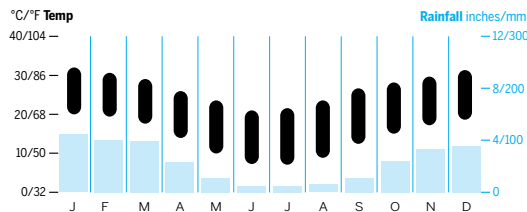
Beautiful, culturally rich, safe, affordable and easily accessible from Durban and Johannesburg, mountainous Lesotho (le-soo-too) is a vastly underrated travel destination. The contrast with South Africa could not be more striking, with the Basotho people's distinct personality and the altitudinous terrain's 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 hit the slopes at Afriski Mountain Resort.

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

Lesotho Highlights

1 Semonkong (p108), **Malealea** (p109), **Roma** (p104) or **Ramabanta** (p104) Experiencing unique lodge accommodation in these picturesque villages.

2 Sani Pass (p107) Absorbing awesome vistas and hiking the challenging wilderness hikes of the northern highlands.

3 Ts'ehlanyane National Park (p105) Revelling in the underrated nature and hikes (and luxury lodge) of this wilderness area.

4 Semonkong to Ketane Falls (p108) Hiking from through the beautiful Thaba Putsoa mountains to the magnificent Ketane Falls.

5 Quthing (p110) Stomping for dinosaur prints in southern Lesotho.

6 Thaba-Bosiu (p104) Climbing to Lesotho's most important historical site outside Maseru.

