

THE BEAUTIFUL KINGDOM



ROOTS & JOURNEYS
UNDER AFRICAN SKIES

HIGHLIGHTS

Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary

Malolotja Canopy Tour

Sibebe Rock

Mantenga Cultural Experience

Night in a Cave • Local Markets

Game Drives • Shewula Village

Super host: biologist and guide

Max. group size = 8 ppl.

THE BEAUTIFUL KINGDOM

6 NIGHTS IN THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI

Join us, as we explore the beautiful kingdom of Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) on foot.

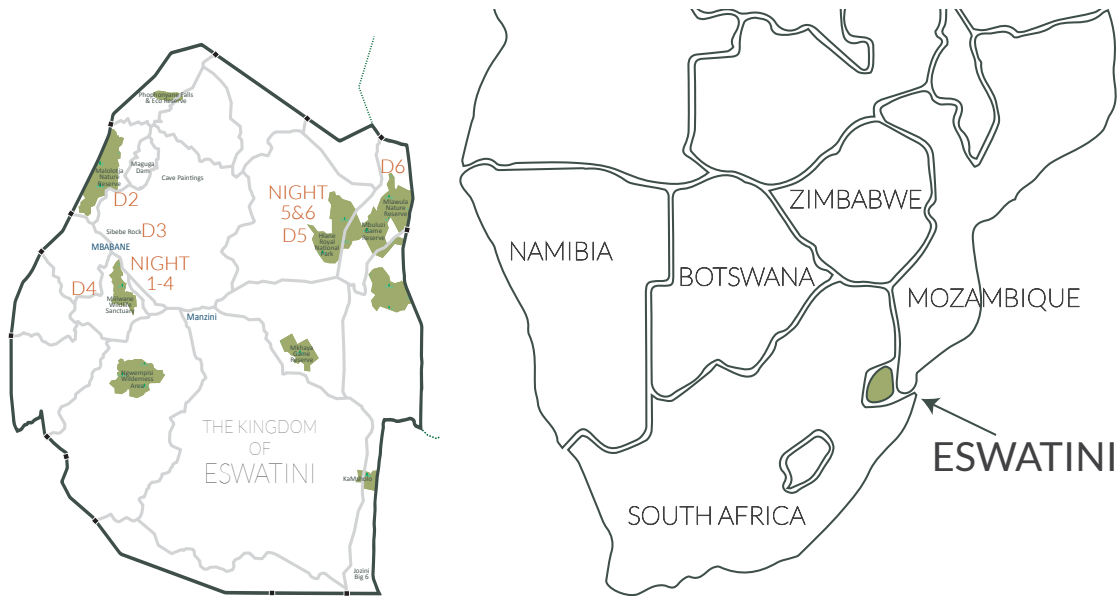
Visit all the highlights and discover hidden gems, as we hike into the wilderness. Learn about the unique and traditional culture that characterises the friendly Swazi people.

This is an ideal adventure for families or small groups, who want an active holiday with many different activities included, while staying in only two locations.

We can easily adapt the itinerary to suit your preferred activity level, so get in touch with us today and start planning your next hiking adventure.

FROM US\$ 3,200

PER PERSON SHARING



ITINERARY OVERVIEW

DAY 1: Arrival in Eswatini

DAY 2: Malolotja Nature Reserve + Canopy Tour

DAY 3: Sibebe Rock

DAY 4: Mlilwane & Mantenga Cultural Experience

DAY 5: Hlane Royal National Park

DAY 6: Shewula Village

DAY 7: Departure





THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI

Get to know the tiny kingdom with the BIG heart. Eswatini, formerly known as Swaziland, is a small kingdom landlocked between South Africa and Mozambique.

On this itinerary you explore the rolling hills of the highveld with large herds of antelopes and boulders the size of houses.

Get to know the unique culture and history of the kingdom through visits to a cultural centre and a rural community.

And finally, go in search of big game in the lowveld, where rhinos, elephants and other large African mammals roam.

Eswatini is a safe destination with friendly people, making it the perfect location for your next family holiday.

Learn much more about the adventure on the following pages, where we go through the itinerary day by day.

Should you wish to add or exclude something from the itinerary, please get in touch with us, and we will be happy to assist.

DAY 1 – ARRIVAL ESWATINI

You will be welcomed to southern Africa at Johannesburg's international airport, OR Tambo. Here you will be met by your super host, Marie Dahl, who lives permanently in Eswatini and who will guide the group the next 7 days.

Mid morning we will drive directly to Eswatini (crossing an international border, so please have your passport ready). The drive takes approx. 5 hours. We will stop for lunch and to stretch our legs along the way. Late afternoon we will arrive at Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary, which will be our base for the next four nights.

We will spend the afternoon exploring the main camp area, where plains game (non-dangerous game) roam free. In camp there is a swimming pool, a campfire that has been burning for more than 50 years and many viewpoints overlooking the plains or the dams.

Activities/hikes: Exploring the camp area

Meals: Late lunch, sundowners and dinner at Main Camp in Mlilwane

Accommodation: We stay in the unique beehive huts in Mlilwane Main Camp (all huts are en-suite).



DAY 2 — MALOLOTJA & CANOPY TOUR

After breakfast in the restaurant, we will make our way to the highveld of the kingdom. Here we will find what is often described as the 8th natural wonder of the world, Malolotja Nature Reserve. Malolotja is characterised by rolling hills and infinite views over stunning mountains.

We will jump on an open game drive vehicle and venture deep into the reserve equipped with harnesses ready for some adrenalin-fuelled fun. A canopy tour will take us zigzagging across a green gorge on wires and suspension bridges.

Afterwards we will hike through the reserve on game trails and dirt roads. Malolotja is home to some of the region's unique antelopes and we will keep a look out for the mighty eland, the black wildebeest, red hartebeest and many more.

The day's activities: Hike in rolling hills in Malolotja after Canopy Tour. (Steep in places, but we take our time)

Meals: Breakfast and dinner in Mlilwane, lunch in Malolotja.

Accommodation: Mlilwane





DAY 3 — THE MIGHTY SIBEBE ROCK

After a leisurely breakfast we will venture out to Sibebe Rock. Sibebe is both the name of the local beer (a must try for adults) and the world's 2nd largest rock. The impressive granite dome can be seen from the road, as we drive to the starting point of today's hike.

We will climb the mountain and explore the plateau on the top of Sibebe. Numerous caves, tunnels, crevices, and natural springs on the plateau make this an interesting excursion. We will enjoy our lunch and a cold drink on top of the plateau.

We will return to Mlilwane in the afternoon, where you can choose to relax by the pool or go on an extra activity, such as a game drive, a bike ride, or a horse trail (not included).

The day's activities: Hike on Sibebe

Meals: Breakfast and dinner in Mlilwane, lunch on Sibebe.

Accommodation: Mlilwane

MORE INFORMATION

Find information on everything relating to our Eswatini itineraries on the last two pages of this brochure. Didn't find what you were looking for? Contact us today!



DAY 4 – CULTURE & CAVE

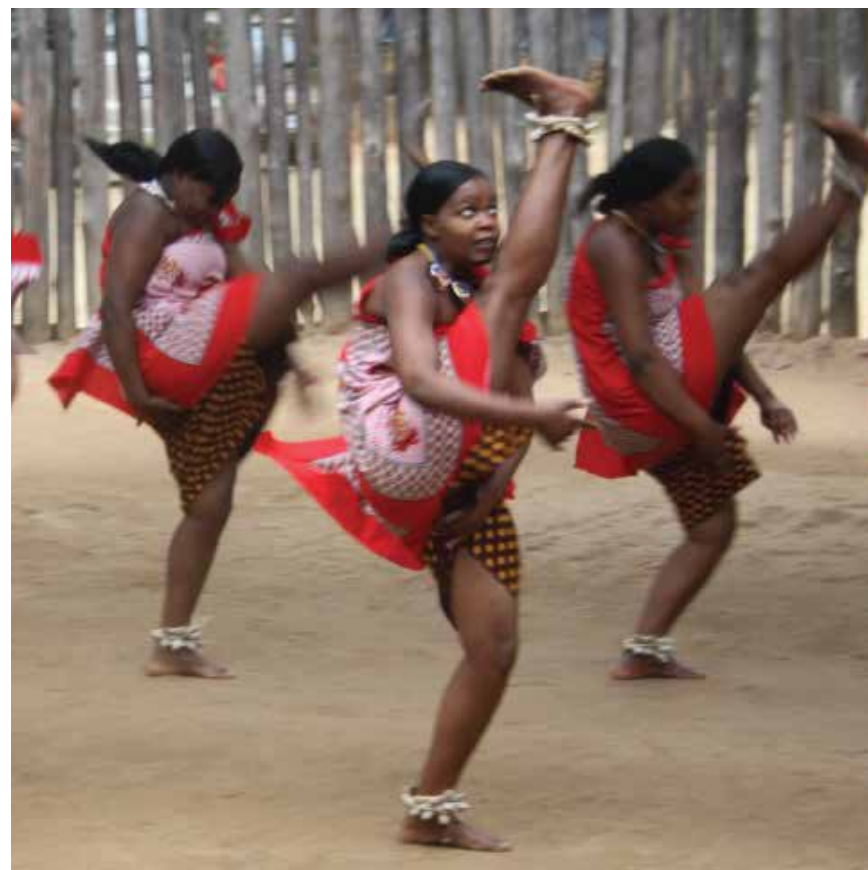
After a leisurely breakfast, we will head to the neighbouring nature reserve, Mantenga, and visit a cultural centre, where we – through dance, songs and storytelling – will learn more about the unique Swazi culture. It is possible to stop by a local craft market on our way back to Mlilwane.

Early afternoon we will head out into the reserve armed with a packed lunch and cameras. We will go in search of the big roan antelopes, herds of waterbuck, oribi or one of the other rare antelopes that roam the plains. Late afternoon we will make our way towards an old bushman cave under Execution Rock, where we will spend the night.

The day's activities: Visit to cultural centre, hike in Mlilwane.

Meals: All meals in Mlilwane.

Accommodation: In a cave on the side of a mountain. We sleep on comfortable bedrolls out in the open. The facilities are very basic. There is no electricity in the cave.





DAY 5 — HLANE ROYAL NATIONAL PARK

The first rays of the rising sun will gently wake us up in the cave. Breakfast and coffee is soon ready and we will enjoy it by the campfire or on the rocks above the cave. After breakfast we will head out into the reserve once again. We will climb the notorious Execution Rock and learn about the legends connected to this iconic feature in the landscape.

Through paths and game trails we explore the hills and the plains, where we can find herds of zebra, wildebeest, impala, nyala and blesbok, as we make our way back to the waiting vehicle that will take us to the lowveld and on safari.

We will have lunch en route to the lowveld (approx. 1h30m drive), and will arrive at Hlane Royal National Park in the afternoon.

In Hlane we will jump on an open game drive vehicle and go in search of the great pachyderms: elephants, black and white rhinos. We will also look out for lions, giraffes and all the other animals one might expect on an African safari.

The day's activities: Climb Execution Rock and go on a game drive in Hlane.

Meals: Breakfast in cave, lunch en route to Hlane, dinner in Hlane.

Accommodation: Hlane – here we sleep in spacious rondavels (traditional style round huts), where the nightly sounds of the wilderness outside penetrate the thatched roof (We often wake up early to the sound of roaring lions). There is no electricity in Hlane.

DAY 6 – SHEWULA VILLAGE

Before breakfast we will head out on a morning game drive (or bushwalk for groups without children) accompanied by a ranger, who will tell us about the animals, trees and tracks we come across.

After breakfast in Hlane's restaurant with a view over a waterhole often frequented by rhinos, we will drive to the remote village of Shewula on top of the Lubombo Mountains on the border to Mozambique.

We will spend the rest of the day on top of the plateau, where we will visit a rural community with a local guide and enjoy a delicious traditional lunch prepared by the local women.

Late afternoon we will head back to Hlane for our last night in the Kingdom.

The day's activities/hikes: Game drive and visit to Shewula Village.

Meals: Breakfast and dinner at Hlane, lunch in Shewula Village.

Accommodation: 2nd night at Hlane

DAY 7 – DEPARTURE

After breakfast we will head back to OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, where we will say our goodbyes. The drive is approx. 6 hours.

We will stop to have lunch en route.

Meals: Breakfast at Hlane, lunch en route.



ACCOMMODATION

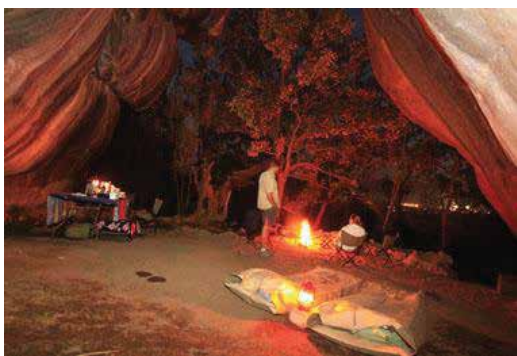


MLILWANE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Experience the traditional beehive huts made out of 100% natural materials. All the huts are en-suite and comfortable, but rustic..

HLANE ROYAL NATIONAL PARK

Spacious rondavels (traditional style round huts), where the nightly sounds of the wilderness outside penetrate the thatched roof. All rooms are en-suite. There is no electricity in Hlane.



A NIGHT IN A BUSHMAN CAVE

Get an experience out of the ordinary, as we spend the night in an old bushman cave. We sleep on comfortable bedrolls out in the open. The facilities are basic. There is no electricity in the cave.

This experience is a highlight for many of our guests.

UPGRADE YOUR ACCOMMODATION

For groups with children older than 12 years, we recommend that you upgrade to stay at the exclusive Reilly's Rock in Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary. (From US\$ 3,325 per person sharing)





INCLUDED:

- Accommodation 6 nights
- All meals
- Water & soft drinks
- Equipment use
- All mentioned activities
- Professional safari guide for all activities
- Host Marie Dahl
- Transport to/from Johannesburg
- Internal transport
- Gratuity
- * Maximum 8 guests/group

NOT INCLUDED

Flights • Travel Insurance
Additional Activities • Single Supplement

CHILDREN

This adventure is great for families with children, who are keen to walk and explore the wilderness and learn about a different culture. (Child minimum age: 6 years)

COST

From
US\$ 3,200
per person sharing
(4-8 guests)

US\$ 3,425 pps (3 guests)

US\$ 3,650 pps (2 guests)

Single Supplement pp **US\$ 366**



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LOCATION

26 ° 30' S, 31° 30' E
With only 17,364 sq. km it is the smallest country in Southern Africa, completely landlocked by South Africa and Mozambique.

ACCESS

By Road: Approx. 4 hours from Johannesburg, South Africa. (Road shuttle or pick up from Johannesburg is included in all Eswatini itineraries).
By Air: 45 min. flight from OR Tambo in Johannesburg, South Africa.

FLIGHTS

Upon booking you will get itinerary specific arrival and departure times, so that you can find a flight that matches your chosen tour. Most of our guests arrive at Johannesburg’s OR Tambo International Airport in South Africa (Airport code: JNB). You can take a local flight from there directly to Eswatini.

TIME ZONES

GMT + 2 hours

CURRENCY

Credit cards, such as Visa, MasterCard are accepted by most ATMs, so there is no need to exchange money from home. Roots & Journeys recommend withdrawing money upon arrival in Johannesburg airport. (All essentials are already paid for from home, so you only need extra cash for souvenirs, gifts, and anything of a personal nature).
The currency in South Africa is called Rand (Currency code: ZAR) The Rand notes (10, 20, 50, 100 and 200) are also accepted in Eswatini (Rand coins are not accepted in Eswatini).

The Eswatini currency is called the Lilangeni (Emalangeni in plural) – the currency is only used in Eswatini and not accepted in South Africa, although it is on a par with the Rand.

GRATUITY & TIPPING

Basic tips are included (We tip waitresses, guides, camp hands, etc.).

VISA REQUIREMENTS

Most countries get a three-month visa on arrival in South Africa and a one-month visa on arrival in Eswatini (This goes for most European nationals – check with your foreign affairs department, embassy or consulate. You need to check both South Africa and Eswatini, as they may differ). It is the guest's own responsibility to have the appropriate visas upon arrival. A passport is required for all foreign visitors and must be valid for at least six months. All foreign visitors will need to carry a return ticket.

INSURANCE

Comprehensive travel insurance is a prerequisite for joining Roots & Journeys’ Eswatini itineraries (We will need a copy prior to tour departure). It is the personal responsibility of the guest to acquire suitable insurance.

ESWATINI/SWAZILAND?

In April 2018 the country changed its name from Swaziland to the Kingdom of Eswatini. Read more about this on our website.

POWER

230V supply (Basic adaptors available for 220-240V) Expect frequent power outages during summer storms.

CONNECTIVITY

Wi-Fi is limited in the places we visit. You can ask your guide for a hotspot, if needed.

MEDICAL

Malaria: Eswatini is considered malaria FREE, whereas the Northern part of Kruger is a risk area during the rainy season (Always consult with your doctor, before departure).
Vaccinations: Roots & Journeys recommend that you speak to a travel doctor prior to departure. (See more information in our Eswatini FAQ on the website)

CLIMATE

Sub-tropical to tropical in the low-lying east, and temperate climate in west (due to differences in altitude)
Dry Season: May to September, also our cooler months.
Rainy Season: October to March, our summer season.
Kruger National Park: The climate is similar to Eswatini’s low veld – warm and humid summers and cool, dry winters.

	Average Morning Temp	Average Afternoon Temp
Dry Season/ Winter (May-September)		
May	12°C	27°C
Jun-Aug	9°C	26°C
Sept	14°C	29°C
Wet Season/ Summer (October-April)		
Oct-Nov	18°C	31°C
Dec-Feb.	20°C	32-40°C
March-April	16°C	30°C

WHEN TO GO?

Winter: great for hiking and for safari (easy to see game).

Summer: landscapes are lush and green, migrating birds are back.

Our 16-day itinerary is based in winter months, as the cooler winter weather makes hiking more pleasurable. (Learn more in the Eswatini FAQ)

AGE LIMITS

16-day – Eswatini & Kruger: Min. age is 15 (Special permission can be given for younger teenagers at discretion of management). We advise that guests above the age of 65 years get a medical clearance from their general practitioner no earlier than two weeks prior to departure.

7-day – The beautiful Kingdom: Min. age is 6. This is an ideal itinerary for families with children or young adults. A reasonable level of fitness is required, but we can easily adapt the itinerary to suit your family's desired activity level.

4-day Royal Rhino Experience: Min. age is 13.

4-day Lubombo Explorer: No age limit, but we urge parents to be realistic about their children's hiking abilities to make it enjoyable for all. (The terrain is rocky and strenuous in sections)

GROUP SIZES

Our group sizes vary from 4-8 guests. (Smaller and larger groups are possible on all tours, except the 16-day Eswatini and Kruger, which has a maximum capacity of 7 guests).

ESWATINI GUIDE

Your host in Eswatini is called Marie Dahl, a biologist (MSc) and wildlife guide, who is passionate about nature and creating great guest experiences. She lives permanently in Eswatini.

ACTIVITIES

We say our itineraries are hiking-based, because as a general rule, we WALK, but each of them is packed with a variety of activities, such as full day hikes, game drives, visits to local communities and much more.

HIKING FITNESS LEVEL

Our itineraries are hiking based, so we recommend a reasonable level of fitness. No hiking experience is required and you do not need to be an athlete to participate. We will always walk at the pace of the slowest in the group and we take lots of breaks to enjoy the stunning views this region of the world has to offer.

16-day & Lubombo specific: You should be able to walk minimum 10-14km in a day.

KRUGER TRAIL

When we go on the trail in the Kruger National Park guests are expected to carry a full backpack. Our pre-packed backpacks are of good quality, but if you prefer to use your own, you are welcome to do so. Our backpacks usually weigh approx. 10-15 kg/person, so you must be strong enough to carry this for 4 days in the wilderness.

We camp in the wild and there are NO facilities on the trail.

ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation standard will vary between the itineraries, but do not expect luxury or high-end lodges. All accommodation used has characteristics that make it charming and different from a regular hotel. We strive to make sure you are comfortable throughout the itinerary, but there may be compromises necessary during overnight hikes. Find specific descriptions under each itinerary.

MEALS & DRINKS

All meals are included in the itinerary. Expect good hardy food, but not gourmet style. Vegetarian and vegan options are available most places – please let us know in advance.

Water and soft drinks are included.

WHAT TO PACK

Roots & Journeys provide all the gear you need for the wilderness trails and other itineraries where equipment is needed – we have fully equipped hiking backpacks with everything you will need. We provide a water bladder (also known as a camel pack) that you can use on hikes. You can also borrow one of our hiking poles (we have 1/person available).

What you need to bring: See full packing list on the Eswatini FAQ on our website.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS

Due to the nature of the activities, the Eswatini itineraries are not suitable for people with limited mobility.

STAYING OVER IN JOHANNESBURG

Please contact us for recommendations if you are spending a night in Johannesburg before or after the itinerary or ask your travel agent.

