



Destination Swaziland

Population:	1.1 million
People:	Swazi, Zulu, Shangaan-Tsonga & European
Language:	Swazi, English
Time:	GMT/UTC + 2
Electricity:	220/230V, 50Hz
Dialing Code:	268
Currency:	Lilangeni (E) = 100 cents

General

The Kingdom of Swaziland is a tiny landlocked island bordered by South Africa and Mozambique. It has a subtropical climate with summer temperature of 15 degrees to 25 degrees Centigrade and 15 degrees to 19 degrees in winter. The rainfall at higher altitudes varies from 1000 to 1600mm while in the lower areas it is between 500 and 600mm. The country has a wide range of habitats and great variations in flora and fauna.

History

During the 15th and 16th centuries, an African people of Nguni descent migrated southward from Central Africa and eventually, during the mid-eighteenth century, a group of them settled in the area which is now Swaziland. These people, the Nkosi Dlamini, became known as the Swazis, and today both names live on. Nkosi means 'king' and Dlamini is the surname of the royal family. The country derives its actual name from a later king, Mswati I but another name, Ngwane, is an alternative word for Swaziland.

Visa Requirements

Please note that visas are the responsibility of the traveller. The visa requirements vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information as up to date as possible, but rules do change. It is important that you check for yourself.

Citizens of Australia, UK, and most EU countries do not need visas to visit South Africa as a tourist for up to three months. US citizens, Canadians, Australians and NZ residents do not require a visa for Swaziland for a stay of up to 2 months. UK and Irish nationals do require a visa, but can obtain it free of charge on arrival.

Please ensure that your passport has at least a further 6 months validity and spare pages for any visa stamps.

Travel Insurance

It is mandatory for you to organise travel insurance prior to your departure and we will ask for details of your insurer and the emergency contact details before you leave home.

Health and Medical

Inoculations are not required unless you are travelling from an infected yellow fever location. If you come from a country where diseases such as cholera and yellow fever are prevalent, you will have to show a certificate of inoculation at your point of entry. Although not required, it is preferable to have preventative shots against polio, tetanus and typhoid and cholera. Consult your doctor for up-to-date information and prescriptions for vaccinations, anti-malarial requirements and any reasonably foreseeable illnesses whilst travelling in Africa. We recommend that you carry a first aid kit as well as any personal medical requirements. Bottled water is recommended.

Safety and Security

The Kingdom of Swaziland is one of the safest tourist destinations in the Southern African region, though the possibility of petty crime cannot be ignored.

Telecommunications

Swaziland has a mobile phone communications infrastructure and you should ensure that you have global roaming on your mobile telephone before you leave. Both mobile and landline telecommunication services are problematic at times. Expect coverage and connectivity to be intermittent. Email services are available but not widely. There are e-mail centres and Internet Cafes in Mbabane and Manzini and at Mlilwane – but expect to wait your turn and connection to be slow. The international code for the Kingdom of Swaziland is +268.

Useful Travel Information

Currency: Lilangeni/Emalgeni (singular/plural) is the legal tender used in Swaziland. It is of equal value to the South African rand and both currencies are common in circulation. NB: South African coins are not accepted.

In Swaziland, cash is king. Preferred currency is the local Emalgeni or South African Rand. US\$ will be accepted in many places and is a good backup currency as is the pound.

We recommend buying Rand before you leave (widely available upon request at most banks) and withdrawing local currency at ATM's upon arrival at the airport, or as needed. You should change any Emalgeni back to US\$ or AUD\$ prior to leaving the country.

Credit Cards: Credit cards can be used in the larger hotels and traveler's cheques are accepted, but usually only for reasonably sized amounts. NB: Don't plan to buy drinks or small souvenirs with credit. VISA ATM's are more prevalent than Mastercard ATMs for withdrawing cash – but both are available (not widely).

Religion: The majority (80 percent) of the people are Christian and the rest (20 percent) have indigenous beliefs.

Culture: You are likely to see many Swazis dressed in colourful costumes featuring toga-like garments - the emahiya. The women sport the traditional 'beehive' hairstyles.

Electrical: Electricity supply is 220v and sockets are round 3 pin wall sockets South African/Indian-style plug with two circular metal pins above a large circular grounding pin



What To Bring



Important Items to Include:

- Local Currency - Sth African Rand or Emalgeni
- USA\$ for exchange – preferable in small denominations
- Your passport
- Travel Insurance Policy
- Copies of your documentation e.g. passport, credit cards etc
- Sunscreen
- Camera (a large zoom can be valuable addition)
- Wide brim hat
- Torch or head torch
- Waterproof jacket
- Binoculars
- Insect repellent
- Waterproof shoes/sandals ,
- Hiking boots or comfortable well worn sturdy shoes
- Luggage locks
- Medicines and prescriptions
- Glasses, sunglasses and items of a personal nature
- Swimmers
- Neutral coloured clothes for game drives

Things to Consider

- Pack light - Leave empty space in your suitcase to buy souvenirs
- Consider a small backpack to carry water and personal items so your hands are free
- Ensure you have mobile telephone global roaming agreement
- Some email devices may not work. Check with your provider

Notes

- Check your airline's policy on luggage allowance and what is allowable in the cabin and what must go into your hold baggage. Many airlines will not allow duty free over the amount of 100 ml on board so check this before stocking up.
- Ladies should be aware that not all feminine hygiene products may be available and are advised to bring a supply with them.
- Travelling with a group will provide you with the pleasure of new friendships and perhaps some frustrations. Your fellow travellers may be from around the world, differing cultures and likely a range of age groups. We ask you to be understanding and patient with your fellow travellers for the benefit of everyone's travel experience. Remember too that you have responsibilities to the group. If you are requested to be at a place at a certain time, ensure that you don't keep the rest of the group waiting.

