

Drakensberg *Adventures*



Lesotho and Drakensberg Experts

www.drakensbergadventures.co.za



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KEY TO SYMBOLS USED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES



Great mountain scenery



Hiking



Horse riding



Culture

If the symbol is dominant, it is a major theme of the tour.

ABOUT DRAKENSBURG ADVENTURES

Simone and Russell Suchet started Sani Lodge in the Drakensberg Mountains in 1992. In 1998, we started Drakensberg Adventures as a tour company attached to the lodge. Russell is author of "A Backpacker's Guide to Lesotho" and we have used our extensive knowledge of the Drakensberg and Lesotho to set up a variety of excellent tours aimed at the backpacker seeking a trip with content! Our day tours have run successfully for many years, and recent years have seen the development of longer trips. These have been designed not only to give quality and value for money, but also to benefit communities and the national park areas in the countries we visit. Community tourism is about sustainable and environment-friendly practice, and we do our best to support these aims.



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HOW OUR TOURS WORK

We aim to provide our customers with a flexible and easy-to-use service. This means we will do our best to accommodate whichever tour you wish to do whenever you wish to do it. This of course is dependent on availability of guides and vehicles, which in turn is dependent on how many other trips may be lined up.

Prices for 2 day trips and longer are all based on a minimum of 4 people, but we will run for smaller numbers at the prices indicated. There is always a chance that once a trip has been lined up, others will want to join, so even if your group is small, we may reach a group size of 4 by the time we leave. Otherwise contact us to see what existing trips have been lined up which you could join. Booking can be done directly with us by phone or email, or you can book at participating hostels around the country.

Please note – we do not accept credit cards. Payment can be made upon arrival or by earlier bank deposit.

- Prices shown in this brochure are valid until the end of February 2009. After that see our website or contact us for latest prices.
- All tours which enter Lesotho require a valid passport. There are no exceptions.
- If the tour includes meals, we can cater for vegetarians if given advance notice.
- Children under 10 pay half price on tours and under 3 are free. However, enquire as to which tours are suitable for children.

WEATHER

Summer is our rainy season, meaning that the days are warm, often with an afternoon thunderstorm. There are occasional days of set-in rain. Raincoats are essential, but seldom does the weather completely disrupt a tour.

Winter is our dry season, meaning that the days are sunny and the nights clear and cold. There will often be an overnight frost, but it warms up very quickly once the sun rises. There are occasional snowfalls, but seldom enough to effect traffic on Sani Pass. Warm clothing is essential for nights.

STANDARD SANI PASS DAY TOUR

This popular day tour gives an all round taste of Lesotho via the spectacular gateway of the Sani Pass. Travel up the only road through the Drakensberg cliffs in a 4x4, hearing tales of the pioneering of the route, learn about the natural history of the Drakensberg and see the beautiful wildflowers, wildlife and birds which inhabit the slopes. We drive further into Lesotho, visiting a small shepherd's village to get a feel for the unique way of life, including sheep shearing in season. Ascend Black Mountain, second highest road pass in Lesotho and picnic with stunning views. We take a short walk to view the highest point in Southern Africa, then return via a stop at Sani Top Chalet for a drink in the highest pub in Africa.

Passports essential.

COST R300pp including lunch (R350pp if only 2)



HODGSON'S PEAKS DAY TOUR



This trip starts like the Standard Sani Tour by ascending the Sani Pass in a 4x4 vehicle. Parking at Sani Top, we set off on a 4 hour (return) hike to climb the highest peak on this section of the southern Drakensberg, Hodgson's Peaks (also called "The Giant's Cup") at 3256m. This guided hike crosses alpine meadowland, past flocks of sheep and angora goats minded by shepherds, before the final climb to the peak. Situated on the edge of the escarpment, the summit provides not only a satisfying climb, but superb 360 degree views of the Drakensberg, the KZN midlands and in to the mountainous interior of Lesotho. The hike can be described as moderate – hiking only – no technical climbing involved.

Passports essential.

COST R300 pp including lunch (R350 for 2)



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE BUSHMEN



The Drakensberg Mountains, besides their natural beauty, are home to one of the largest outdoor art galleries in the world. There are hundreds of painted shelters with literally thousands of individual paintings in them. This amazing treasure trove was left behind by the Bushmen, who inhabited the Drakensberg for at least 10 000 years. All rock art sites within the national park area can only be visited with an accredited guide.

“In the footsteps of the Bushmen” is a guided day hike requiring moderate fitness. Our knowledgeable and accredited guide will lead you through the Drakensberg grasslands, pointing out animals, birds and wild flowers. Frequent stops along the way allow us to tell the story of a unique people, their history, lifestyle, religious beliefs and their tragic end. Highlight of the day – 3 different panels of rock art, untouched and in pristine condition. We shall give you the latest interpretations of the meaning of these superb and ancient works of art.

COST R190 pp including lunch (R210pp if only 2)







GUIDED OVERNIGHT HIKING



Let our expert, knowledgeable and fully qualified hiking guides help you get the most out of the wonderful hiking opportunities in the Drakensberg Mountains and neighbouring Lesotho. Soaring 3000+m peaks, magnificent basalt cliffs, waterfalls, crystal clear pools to swim in, wildlife, birds, wild flowers, rock art, and best of all, pure untouched wilderness characterize a hike in the Drakensberg. Camp in magical spots or stay the night in caves. Hiking in Lesotho adds a cultural element to the stupendous alpine scenery of the Maloti Ranges. See shepherds and their flocks, villages and fields ploughed on high slopes and say “Dumela” to greet the friendly people. Climb the highest point in Southern Africa, Thabana Ntlenyana at 3482m. We will tailor the hike to your available time, fitness and particular interests.

Guided day hikes also available.

COST Whilst all trips are tailored to your desires and abilities, a general guide is a base rate of R850 for a group of 1-3 people per day. Add R240 per day per extra person in the group. These prices exclude food, equipment hire and any necessary KZN Wildlife fees.



2 DAY CULTURAL EXPERIENCE IN E. LESOTHO



Community tourism at its best! We take you by 4x4 up Sani Pass, over the second highest road pass in Lesotho, then down into remote eastern Lesotho valleys. Lunch by inviting pools and rock waterslides, then on into typical highlands villages. We stop at the home of Thabiso Nguni and his family at the quaintly named "No. 10 Riverside". They will help you to appreciate and understand their lifestyle and that of the mountain people. Our time in the area includes a visit to a traditional healer, traditional dancing and artefacts, a wander through the villages observing the way of life and the possibility of visiting the local primary school. Horse riding is an optional extra. Enjoy traditional meals with the family, a special opportunity to interact and benefit from seeing life from a different perspective. Leave after lunch on day 2, returning via the highest pub in Africa to Sani Lodge. This tour is designed to benefit as many people in the local community as possible.

3 Day option is possible, staying 2 nights at No 10.

Passports essential.

COST R800pp for 4 or more, (R1450pp for 2, R1050pp for 3)



LESOTHO PONY TREKKING TRIPS



These tours travel up the Sani Pass in a 4x4, continuing over Black Mountain Pass and down into the valleys to our riding base at Molumong Lodge.

2 DAY TRIP: Saddle up after lunch for an afternoon's ride to Libibing village where we stay the night in traditional accommodation. Back to Molumong by lunch on day 2, then return via a drink at the highest pub in Africa.

COST R1100pp (R1750pp if 2, R1325pp if 3)

3 DAY TRIP: A more leisurely journey to Molumong, lunch and a swim at the river. Arrive at Molumong for a 2 hour ride. Set off on day 2 for a full day ride to Malubelube village, high in the mountains where we stay the night in traditional accommodation. Day 3 back to Molumong by lunch and return via the pub!

COST R1700pp (R2600pp if 2, R2000pp if 3)

4 DAY TRIP: A leisurely journey to Molumong, including a visit to the highlands town of Mokhotlong. Riding starts on day 2 as we set off on a full day ride towards the highest point in southern Africa, Thabana Ntlenyana (3482m). Overnight in a rustic shepherd's hut on a high ridge. Day 3 sees us riding to the summit, returning to stay the night in a village. Day 4 return to Molumong by lunch and return to Sani Lodge via the pub!

COST R2250pp (R3500pp for 2, R2675pp for 3)



SEHLABATHEBE NATIONAL PARK TRIPS



Let us show you the wonders of Lesotho's oldest national park, the high plateau country of Sehlabathebe.

4 DAY TRIP: Day 1 takes us to Masakala Community Guest House near Matatiele in SA. See the traditional activities of the 3 communities who live there, Xhosa, Sotho and Phuti. On day 2, we travel via the scenic route to Ramatseliso's Gate. Crossing into Lesotho, the road travels the southern border to Sehlabathebe. That afternoon and all of day 3 are available to explore the wonders of the park on foot or on horseback – secret pools, weird rock formations, waterfalls, massive rock overhangs and wonderful nature. Day 4 is a unique experience – cross an international border on horseback or on foot! The local guide will escort you down Bushmans Nek Pass to the SA border post at the bottom while our vehicle travels round to meet you. Return to Sani Lodge.

COST R2500pp (R4000pp if 2, R3000pp if 3)

3 DAY TRIP: As per 4 day, except we leave out Masakala and drive straight to Sehlabathebe by early afternoon on day 1.

COST R1800pp (R3200pp if 2, R2300pp if 3)

2 DAY TRIP: Quickie up and down! As per 3 day trip but no full day to spend in the park.

COST R1300pp (R2300pp if 2, R1650pp if 3)



THE ROOF OF AFRICA



5 DAY TOUR

Day 1 Depart in 4x4 vehicle, up Sani Pass, over Black Mountain Pass and down the Sehonghong River valley, lunch by the river, then on to our overnight stop at No 10 Riverside to stay with the Nguni family. Afternoon getting a taste of the traditional lifestyle and culture of the highlands.

Day 2: Drive on over Menoaneng Pass (3045m) and down to the Senqu (Orange) River valley, through beautiful scenery of peaks and villages. Arrive at Katse Dam in time for the guided dam tour. Overnight Katse Cottages

Day 3: Enjoy the early morning at Katse Dam, then depart and drive on up the length of the dam, climbing to the Bokong Nature Reserve. A short walk to view the Lepaqa Waterfall. Over Mafika Lisiu Pass (3090m) and on the Ts'ehlanyane Nature Reserve. Overnight Ts'ehlanyane Guest Cottage

Day 4: Guided hiking and/or horse-riding in the majestic mountain scenery of Ts'ehlanyane. Overnight Ts'ehlanyane Guest Cottage.

Day 5 Full day's drive back to Sani Lodge via the "Roof of Africa" route past the diamond mine at Letseng, past Mokhotlong, stopping for a drink at the highest pub in Africa before returning to Sani Lodge.

COST R3200pp (R5750pp for 2, R4050pp for 3)



THE ROOF OF AFRICA



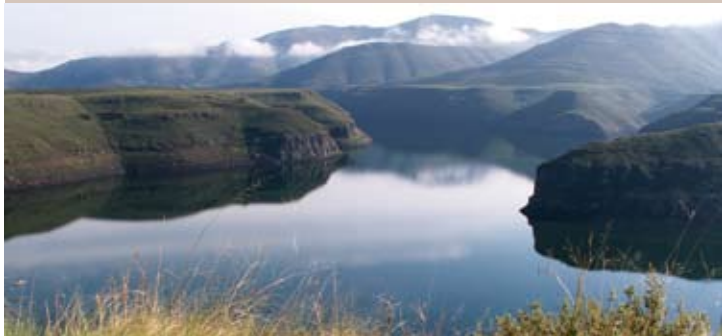
4 DAY option – as for 5 day tour but leave out day 4, the full day at Tsehlanayane

COST R2550pp 4 pax or more (R4600pp if 2, R3250pp if 3)



6 DAY option – as for 5 day tour but spend night spend at Molumong Lodge at the end of day 5, taking the return journey slower with the opportunity for stops along the way.

COST R3900pp 4 pax or more (R6800pp if 2 , R4900pp if 3)



SPECIAL ALL INCLUSIVE PACKAGE DEALS

These packages run any time with any number. They include dormitory accommodation at Sani Lodge, all meals and tours as detailed:

ESSENTIAL DRAKENSBERG 3 Nights/2 days

Standard Sani Pass and In the Footsteps of the bushmen

COST R875

HIKERS HEAVEN 4 nights/3 days

Hodgsons Peaks, In the footsteps of the bushmen and self guided day hike.

COST R1060

Contact us for details

Accommodation can be upgraded to double or rondavel with payment of a supplement.

Check out the Sani Lodge website at www.sanilodge.co.za for information on accommodation before and after your tour, or call on **(033) 7020330**

Normal vehicles can reach Sani Lodge by road without difficulty and for the independent traveller, a number of transport options exist from Durban, Pietermaritzburg or Kokstad.

