



## **SWAZILAND OVERNIGHT ADVENTURE**

Embark on an unforgettable journey to the breathtaking kingdom of Eswatini (Swaziland), a land steeped in rich cultural heritage and stunning natural beauty. Nestled among fertile valleys and dramatic mountain peaks, this ancient kingdom has been ruled since 1986 by King Mswati III, famously known for his 16 wives! Renowned for their warm hospitality, the Swazi people will welcome you with open arms.

### **DAY 1: INTO THE HEART OF THE KINGDOM**

Our adventure begins with an early departure from Hazyview at 08:00, traveling through the scenic towns of White River and Malelane before reaching the quieter border post at Jeppe's Reef. Crossing here is usually swift, setting the stage for a magical exploration ahead. Our first stop is Piggs Peak, named after William Pigg, a prospector who discovered gold nearby. From there, marvel at the panoramic views as we descend past the majestic Maguga Dam, where we'll cross its impressive dam wall. Our journey continues to Ngwenya, home to the world's oldest known iron ore mine, dating back an incredible 43,000 years! The mountain, resembling a resting crocodile, inspired its name—'Ngwenya,' meaning crocodile in SiSwati. Next, we visit Ngwenya Glass, where skilled artisans transform recycled glass into dazzling, hand-blown masterpieces. After a delightful light lunch, we'll head down to Mantenga Cultural Village for a captivating tour of a replica 19th-century Swazi village. Your expert guide will bring history to life, explaining the purpose of each hut, the role of the Sangoma (traditional healer), and the cultural significance of daily activities. Engage with the local women as they plait grass, prepare food, and create intricate beadwork, which is also available for purchase. At 15:00, prepare to be mesmerized by the traditional Sibhaca dance performance at the showground. This dynamic and high-energy dance, performed by men, features powerful foot stomping, rhythmic chanting, and impressive high kicks—an unforgettable display of Swazi heritage. As the day winds down, we'll arrive at the charming and artistic Mandela's B&B, a delightful retreat for the night. Explore its lush gardens adorned with vibrant art installations, then savour a delicious dinner at the Farmhouse Restaurant & Pub. Before you leave, be sure to visit the nearby Gone Rural shop, a community-driven initiative empowering local women through beautifully handcrafted baskets, ceramics, and home décor.

### **DAY 2: ROYAL HERITAGE & CULTURAL TREASURES**

After a hearty breakfast, we visit Swazi Candles in the Malkerns, a hub of creativity, to watch expert candle-makers craft intricate, colorful designs in every shape imaginable. Explore nearby boutique shops including Rosecraft, with handwoven mohair textiles, and Baobab Batik, offering exquisite hand-painted fabric art. We then begin our return journey, passing through Lobamba, the spiritual heart of Eswatini. Here lies Ludzizini, the residence of the Queen Mother and the ceremonial grounds for the annual Incwala (First Fruits) Ceremony and the dazzling Umhlanga Reed Dance, both rich in tradition and royal pageantry. Along the way, glimpse the National Museum, the Houses of Parliament, and the King Sobhuza II Memorial Park, paying homage to the late monarch. On our scenic drive back through Piggs Peak, we'll pause at the Peak Craft Centre—your final chance to browse local crafts and enjoy a refreshing break before heading back to Hazyview, where we'll arrive around 16:00, hearts full of memories from this magical cultural escape.

