



# MOZAMBIQUE, ESWATINI AND LESOTHO

May 26 - June 03, 2024 Led by Local Guides

Can be combined with Comoros extension (May 06 - May 11, 2024) AND Malawi and Zimbabwe tour (May 12 - May 26, 2024)

With cities of colonial splendor, a golden coast scattered with balmy beaches, and cuisine packed with sizzle and spice, Mozambique is a magical part of Mother Africa. It is endowed with rich and extensive natural resources. From the lodge at Machangulo, located on a beautiful and secluded peninsula, explore Inhaca Island, a subtropical island designated as a marine reserve.

Eswatini, officially the Kinadom of Eswatini and also known as Swaziland, is a landlocked country in Southern Africa. Bonding with nature is one of the primary pleasures of visiting Swaziland. Its varied landscape, many mountains, and rivers make it an ideal place for hikers and those wishing to escape urbanization and relax.

Lesotho, officially the "Kingdom of Lesotho," is an enclaved country within the border of South Africa. Known as the "Kingdom in the Sky" due to its lofty altitude, it has the highest lowest point of any country (4,590 ft.) and is the only country to be entirely higher than 3,200 feet above sea level.

#### Ihab Zaki **Managing Director**

#### Sunday, May 26

Arrive in Maputo (MOZAMBIQUE) - Inhaca Island

Upon arrival in Maputo, the lush capital of Mozambique, sits on the shore of the Indian Ocean and founded as a port town by the Portuguese, meet the local representative and transfer to the **pier**, take a boat across to Inhaca Island, and transfer to Machangulo Lodge or similar situated in a unique location on a beautiful and secluded peninsula for check-in, dinner & overnight. (D)

#### Monday, May 27

Machangulo (Inhaca Island)

-After breakfast, board a boat for a 30-minute ride to Inhaca Village, a charming village with many small shops and a market. Although part of Portuguese East Africa, Inhaca Island was once occupied by the British, who used the island as a base to control the slave trade. Choose from various activities available on the island, including snorkeling, kayaking, or stand-up paddle boarding. Return to the *Lodge* for dinner and overnight.

# (B,L,D)

Tuesday, May 28 Machangulo (Inhaca Island)

After breakfast, board a boat to Santa Maria Village, a small village with an authentic feel nestled just behind the **mangroves**. There is an opportunity for snorkeling and enjoying the amazing underwater life at Inhaca Island Marine Reserve. A private picnic lunch will be provided on a deserted beach. Those who feel energetic can enjoy a guided dune walk, relax on the beach, and delight in the non-motorized water equipment. Return to the *Lodge* for dinner and overnight. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, May 29 Machangulo - Maputo

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After breakfast, return to Maputo by boat and head out on a guided tour of Maputo. Latino-Africa flavors are brought to life in this unique city, steeped in history and tradition. Visit the **fortress**, built by the Portuguese in the mid-19th century near the site of an earlier fort. Inside is a garden and a small museum with remnants from the era of early Portuguese forays to the area. See the sealed, carved wooden coffin of Ngungunhane - the final ruler of the famed kingdom of Gaza. Also, visit the central market, a hub of activity with handicrafts, basket ware, carvings, and many household items for everyday use, and the Museum of Natural History, and admire its architecture. The museum was built in 1911 and reflects a Portuguese neo-Gothic style, echoing the colonial era. In its first years, it was a school, and later in 1933, it was transformed into a museum we will see today. Also, visit the curio market, pass by City Hall and Botanical Gardens, the largest in Mozambique. It was designed in 1885 by Thomas Honney, who also designed gardens for the King of Greece and the Turkish Sultan, then transfer to Southern Sun Hotel for checkin, head to enjoy dinner at the Portuguese seafood restaurant, Zambi, overlooking the Indian Ocean, then return to the *Hotel* for overnight. (B,L,D)

# Thursday, May 30

#### Maputo - Mbabane (ESWATINI)

Begin the day with a drive (3 hrs.) to Eswatini, formally known as Swaziland, to discover cultural delights in this fascinating country. Head to Manzini Market and Mantenga Craft & Lifestyle Centre, and shop Siswati jewelry and beautiful local art. Continue to Mantenga Cultural Village to learn about the history and culture of this legendary Siswati nation. Traditional Siswati dancers perform in a nearby boma to the beat of echoing cowhide drums. Visit more art & craft attractions at Malandela's **Complex** and stop at the **Swazi Candle Factory**. Lunch will either be hosted at Malandela's or the Candle Factory. Transfer to Royal Villas or similar for check-in, dinner, and overnight. (B,L,D)

## Friday, May 31

Mbabane - Maseru - Thaba Bosiu (LESOTHO) Transfer to the airport in the early morning for our flight to Maseru, Lesotho, via Johannesburg. Upon arrival in the late afternoon, meet the local guide and transfer to *Thaba Bosiu Cultural Village or similar* for check-in, dinner, and overnight. (B,D)

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# Saturday, June 01

Thaba Bosiu - Tsehlanyane National Park

Thaba Bosiu is a National Monument and the birthplace of the Basotho people, one of the few African tribes that have adapted to mountain life. After a chance to learn about their way of life, drive to the **Ha Kome Cave Village**, a group of cave dwellings made out of mud. These caves were a hideout for the Basia clan during the Mfecane (Difaqane) War to protect themselves from other Bosotho people. The caves are still inhabited by their descendants to this day. There are faded San paintings in the caves indicating that the people also occupied the caves sometime before the arrival of the Basia. After lunch, drive to **Tsehlanyane National Park** and transfer to *Maliba Lodge or similar*, for check-in, dinner, and overnight. **(B,L,D)** 

#### Sunday, June 02

Tsehlanyane National Park (Basotho Culture)

Spend the day learning about the Basotho way of life. Discover their stunning round stone **huts** with thatched roofs built to keep the inside cool during the summer and trap heat in the winter. There will even be an opportunity to visit the local "Sagoma," a traditional healer highly revered in the community. Spend time exploring the **village** and sampling the local fare and brew. Lunch will either be packed or at the *Lodge*. Enjoy a free afternoon at leisure, where you can hike on one of the walking trails surrounding the *Lodge* or relax with a massage at the private forest **spa**. Dinner and overnight at the *Lodge*. **(B,L,D)** 

## Sunday, June 03

#### Tsehlanyane National Park - Maseru - USA

After breakfast, drive to **Maseru** (3 hrs.) and transfer to the airport for your flight back to the US. **(B)** 

We reserve the right to change the order of activities/visits or sites due to unexpected events such as flight cancellations or changes of schedule, or any other reasons beyond our control. We will do our best to ensure that any necessary changes when/if needed to meet the needs of our clients".



# Tour Cost (Land Only):

Per person sharing in double occupancy

4 - 8 travelers \$6,995.00

9 - 12 travelers \$5,995.00

# Single Supplement: \$995.00

Price based on group size minimum of 4 participants and maximum of 12 participants

Trip Grade: II Lodging Level: \*\*\*\*

# Tour Includes:

- Airport/Hotel/Airport transfers.
- Accommodation in standard first-class hotels and lodges (4\*) mentioned or similar.
- Flight Mbabane Maseru.
- Meals as mentioned in the itinerary (B: Breakfast, L: Lunch and D: Dinner).
- Bottled water while on tours and safaris.
- Transportation by 4-WD Land cruiser.
- Boat transfers.
- English-speaking guide during all tours and safaris.
- All entrance fees to mentioned sites, game drive activities, and national parks.

# Trip Grade:

*II Active:* Some hikes, slightly more demanding walks at or to sites, few elevations, comfortable but busy schedule and some long rides.

#### Lodging Level:

\*\*\*\* *Luxury:* Regular style- usually large- hotels, typical western standard with ample venues, and full amenities (4 or 5 stars).





# Tour does not include:

- International airfare USA-Mozambique/Lesotho-USA.
- Mozambique Visa (\$160 subject to change), Lesotho and Eswatini Visa (no visa required).
- Meals not mentioned or beverages with or without meals.
- Any required pre arrival & pre departure PCR tests.
- Items of a personal nature (camera fees, laundry, excess luggage, etc.).
- Transfers if not arriving/departing on tour dates.
- Dayroom/overnights necessitated by changes in airline schedules or misconnections.
- Trip surcharge to operate below required minimum participants.
- Gratuities to guides, drivers, rangers, etc.
- Travel protection insurance (Highly Recommended).



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