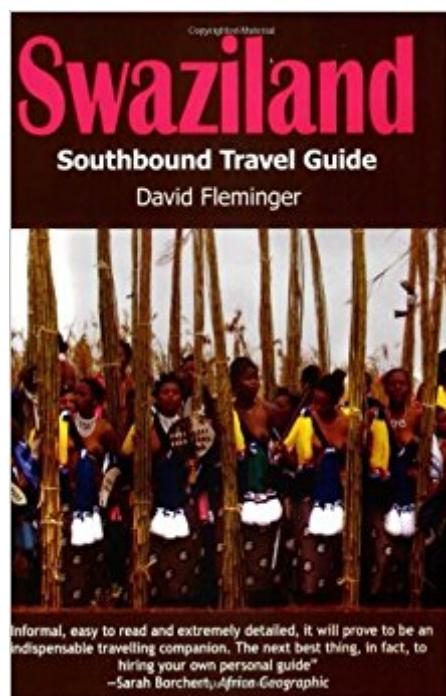


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Swaziland: A Southbound Pocket Guide (Southbound Travel Guides)



Synopsis

The kingdom of Swaziland is a friendly, compact and enchanting country. Its landscapes range from dramatic mountain peaks to deep river valleys, from lush rolling hills to evocative bushveld plains. Add to this a thriving cultural heartbeat, a traditional monarchy going back hundreds of years and a proud national identity, and you have a really special vacation destination. The book includes a compelling, comprehensive account of the country's fascinating history and cultural heritage. Swaziland also boasts some top-notch adventure activities, such as river-rafting, quad-biking, mountain-biking, hiking, big game-viewing and horse-riding trails. There are plenty of accommodation options, ranging from 5-star international hotels to quaint B&Bs, to backpackers, to home-stays in traditional beehive huts. Suggested travel itineraries are included to help you make the most of your time in the Kingdom.

Book Information

Series: Southbound Travel Guides

Paperback: 296 pages

Publisher: 30 Degrees South Publishers; 1 edition (July 10, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1920143270

ISBN-13: 978-1920143275

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.7 x 7.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,433,746 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 in Books > Travel > Africa > Swaziland #2673 in Books > Travel > Africa > General #5173 in Books > Reference > Atlases & Maps > Travel Maps

Customer Reviews

David Fleminger's Swaziland Southbound Travel Guide takes a fresh, new look at a country that truly deserves one. Fleminger's chatty and informative style will make you feel as though you have a guide with you all the time - one who keeps you laughing. Most importantly, he covers every element of the country - from its history to politics and, of course, the landmarks and attractions that set it apart - in extraordinary depth. Don't think of visiting Swaziland without it. --Lisa Witepski A handy companion --Neels Blom, The Weekender

DAVID FLEMINGER's first book, *Back Roads of the Cape*, was published in 2005. He has also written 6 other guides in the Southbound Pocket Guides series. He has also worked in many different aspects of the media industry as a scriptwriter, director, editor, post-production supervisor, interviewer and producer. He has written and directed theatre shows, TV series and educational videos and is studying for an MA in Tourism & Heritage Studies at Wits University. A born-and-bred Johannesburger, he lives in the northern suburbs with sundry pets and housemates. Much to his mother's mounting despair he is still single but spends his time watching theatre, cricket and walking his dogs in the park.

First, I must comment on the lack of travel guides for the country of Swaziland. Most books simply lump the country into a few pages and stick it into a South Africa travel guide, so the fact Fleminger took the time to write a book (with 256 pages!) on the traveling in the country must be applauded. Without question it is the most up to date and comprehensive resource out there. In terms of content, this book was not what I expected, but ended up being exactly what I needed. Fleminger dedicates 100 pages (almost 40% of the book) to the history of the country. And not just recent history. His history starts with the earliest nomads and then really picks up in the 1800's. If you want to know all about the tribal struggles and colonialistic influences that shaped the modern country, then you will not be disappointed. If you are only interested in what to do and where to stay, then you may want to skip the first half of the book. (Again, I really appreciated this background since my wife and I are planning a move to the country, but I realize many readers may not be interested in this). Fleminger focuses most of his time on the Hhohho and Manzini districts of the country, which makes sense because according to most visitors, these are the most popular areas. He also goes out of the way to give contact information for locations in and around Swaziland. Overall a very helpful book. As most people will learn, the best approach to visiting Africa is to have a general idea of what you would like to do and then plan on deviating from that. Fleminger's book will certainly be useful in helping you do that.

I purchased this book in preparation for a trip to Swaziland. I appreciate having a lengthy section on the country's history in addition to the travel advice provided in the book. I will take it with me on my trip.

My granddaughter has just gone to Swaziland to attend the United World College and it is very helpful for me to learn about the country as I try to imagine her there.

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