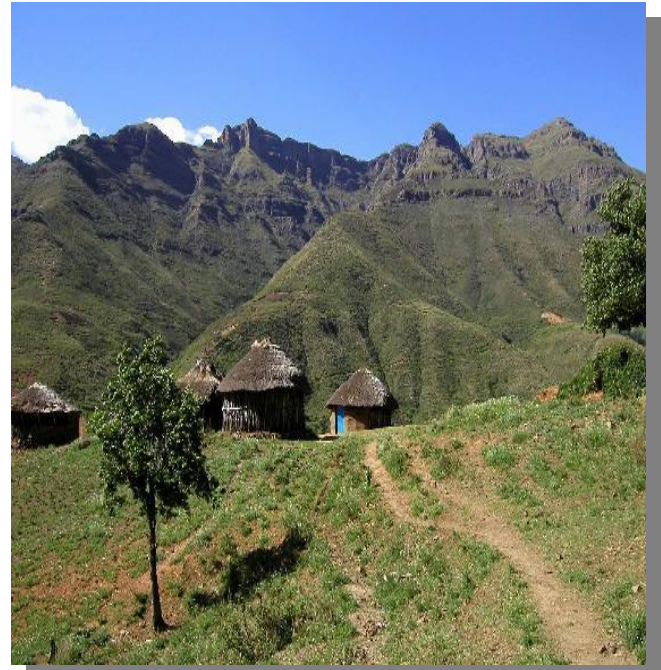


LESOTHO

HOTELS•MOTELS•INNS

**Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax): ++266****Lesotho Tourist Board:** PO Box 1378 Maseru 100 Tel:313760 Fax: 323638**Capital:** Maseru **Time:** GMT + 2**Background:** Basutoland was renamed the Kingdom of Lesotho upon independence from the UK in 1966. Constitutional government was restored in 1993 after 23 years of military rule.**Location:** Southern Africa, an enclave of South Africa**Map References:** Africa**Area:** total: 30,355 sq km land: 30,355 sq km water: 0 sq km**Climate:** temperate; cool to cold, dry winters; hot, wet summers**Terrain:** mostly highland with plateaus, hills, and mountains**Natural Resources:** water, agricultural and grazing land, some diamonds and other minerals**Population:** 2,143,141**Nationality:** noun: Mosotho (singular), Basotho (plural) adjective: Basotho**Ethnic Groups:** Sotho 99.7%, Europeans, Asians, and other 0.3%,**Religions:** Christian 80%, indigenous beliefs 20%**Languages:** Sesotho (southern Sotho), English (official), Zulu, Xhosa

Economy: Small, landlocked, and mountainous, Lesotho's only important natural resource is water. Its economy is based on subsistence agriculture, livestock, and remittances from miners employed in South Africa. The number of such mine workers has declined steadily over the past several years. In 1996 their remittances added about 33% to GDP compared with the addition of roughly 67% in 1990. A small manufacturing base depends largely on farm products which support the milling, canning, leather, and jute industries. Agricultural products are exported primarily to South Africa. Proceeds from membership in a common customs union with South Africa form the majority of government revenue. Although drought has decreased agricultural activity over the past few years, completion of a major hydropower facility in January 1998 now permits the sale of water to South Africa, generating royalties that will be an important source of income for Lesotho. The pace of parastatal privatization has increased in recent years. Civil disorder in September 1998 destroyed 80% of the commercial infrastructure in Maseru and two other major towns. Most firms were not covered by insurance, and the rebuilding of small and medium business has been a significant challenge in terms of both economic growth and employment levels. Output dropped 10% in 1998 and recovered slowly in 1999.

Industries: food, beverages, textiles, handicrafts; construction; tourism**Currency:** 1 loti (L) = 100 lisente; note - maloti (M) is the plural form of loti**Railways:** total: 2.6 km; note - owned by, operated by, and included in the statistics of South Africa narrow gauge: 2.6 km 1.067-m gauge (1995)**Highways:** total: 4,955 km paved: 887 km unpaved: 4,068 km (1996 est.)**Ports and Harbors:** none**Airports:** 29 (1999 est.) Airports - with paved runways: total: 4 over 3,047 m: 1 914 to 1,523 m: 1 under 914 m: 2 (1999 est.) Airports - with unpaved runways: total: 25 914 to 1,523 m: 4 under 914 m: 21 (1999 est.)**Visa:** required by all except nationals of the EU, USA, Canada, and Japan**Duty Free:** goods permitted: 400 cigarettes and 50 cigars and 250g of tobacco, 1 litre of spirits and 2 litres of wine, 50ml of perfume and 250ml of eau de toilette**Health:** a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required of all travelers arriving from infected areas, even if they don't leave the airport**MASERU****LANCERS' INN, MASERU** , Private bag A 216, Maseru Lesotho, Phone: +266-31-21-14**LESOTHO HILTON INTERNATIONAL HOTEL**, Maseru, Tel: +266 313111, Fax: +266 310056**LESOTHO SUN HOTEL**, Hilton Road, Maseru, Lesotho, Tel: +266 313111, Fax: +266 310104**MASERU SUN HOTEL AND CASINO, MASERU** , 12 Orpen Road, Maseru 100 Lesotho, Phone: 266-2231-2434, +266-2231-2968**SCHATZMANN** , Landstrasse 779, Maseru, Tel: +266 3 991212, Fax: +266 3 991210**SCHLOSSWALD**, Meierhofstrasse, Maseru, Tel: +266 3 922488L, Fax: +266 3 922436**AIRLINES/HELICOPTERS/AIRPORTS****DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION**, P.O. Box 629, Maseru 100, Lesotho, Telephones/Fax, (+266) 22312499, (+266) 22322498, Fax: (+266) 22310188, Email: civilair@ilesotho.gov.ls, www.civilair.gov.ls**MASERU - MOSHOESHOE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**, Lesotho, PO Box 629, Maseru, 100, Tel: +266 (0)22 350777, Fax: +266 (0)22 310188, Email: agm@mia.gov.ls