

Maliba Lodge - a real jewel in the Malutis



Fancy a bit of snow driving this winter? If you do, then Maliba Lodge in Lesotho is just the place to go to. This jewel of a resort, located in a spectacular mountain setting, is situated within the Tsehlanyane National Park in Northern Lesotho, part of the greater Maluti/Drakensberg Frontier Park.

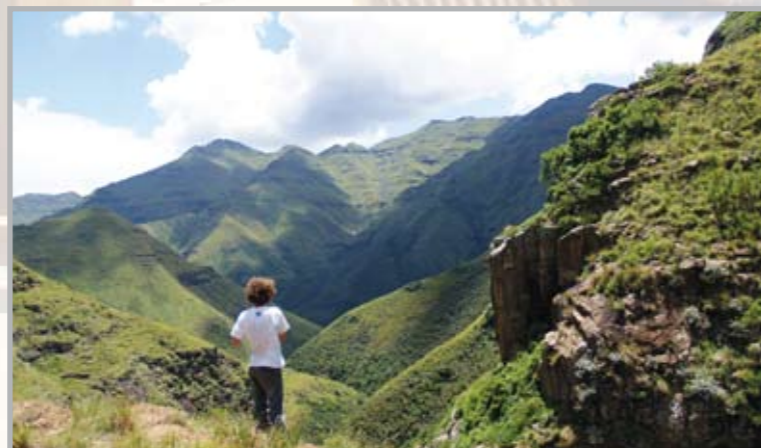
The park is located deep in the front range of the Maluti Mountains at the foot of the Holomo Pass and only about 45 minutes on a good road from the South African border

post of Caledonspoort, which is a 15-minute drive away from the popular Free State town of Clarens and about four hours from Johannesburg's OR Tambo airport. The GP coordinates, for those who are interested, are S28° 54' 51.45", E28° 26' 12.07" (or -28.914419, 28.436394).

What will interest readers of Going Places is that Maliba Lodge now has no less than five 4x4 trails that climb up into the mountains, and run over streams and through remote communities. The trails range from

easy to moderate and take from 45 minutes to four hours to complete. They include muddy and rocky sections, and stream crossings – and in July and even August definitely snow! A 4x4 vehicle with low-range is required for all the trails except the very easy Trail B, which has some muddy sections.

Each route has been mapped with GPS coordinates. Detailed



Stunning scenery, majestic mountains covered under a snow blanket, rushing mountain streams, exquisite accommodation and five exciting 4x4 trails are all features which make Maliba Lodge in neighbouring Lesotho a must-visit destination. The lodge is within easy reach of the popular town of Clarens in the Free State, and only about a four-hour drive from Johannesburg's OR Tambo international airport.

maps are supplied when visitors check in at the lodge.

As one would expect, this part of Lesotho offers stunning scenery with the most magnificent views of the surrounding mountains – which, at this time of the year, are covered in a blanket of snow – and the many quaint villages.

The park has four major rivers and numerous waterfalls (some of which freeze over in winter), rock pools, and swimming holes. A nearby valley known as the Valley Of The Pools has over 16 deep swimming holes over a 5 km stretch. A spectacular tripple waterfall known as Lesaloto is also only a four-hour return hike from the lodge.

Over 5 600 hectares of extremely rugged mountain terrain is protected within this park, which includes one of the very few remaining indigenous woodlands in Lesotho. Some of

the finest examples of Che-che woodland are preserved, with a number of rare undergrowth plants that are unique to this woodland habitat. The reserve also encompasses a reasonable proportion of very rare mountain "fynbos" that do not occur anywhere else in the world, and also recorded are in excess of 220 flowing plant species.

There have been 24 small to medium sizes mammalian species recorded in the highlands area. These include the African wild cat, black-backed jackal, porcupine, caracal, grey rheebuck, baboon, striped pole cat and rock hyrax, ice rat, the clawless otter. There is also evidence that leopard still occurs in a few refuge habitats.

The accommodation can only be described as luxurious – even though the rates are very reasonable. There are six luxury Mountain Lodge chalets and four self-catering River Lodge chalets, which sleep eight people each. More accommodation is planned for the future.

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More information is available on the website, www.maliba-lodge.com. For bookings, phone Nicola Gerrard on 031-702-8791 or 082-778-8558.