

Eswatini

Continent: Africa

Languages Spoken: Swazi, English

Population: 1,160,000

Currency: Swazi lilangeni (SZL)

Area: 17,364

Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary', 'writeup': 'A protected area known for its diverse wildlife and scenic landscapes, offering walking and cycling trails.'}
- {'name': 'Mantenga Cultural Village', 'writeup': 'A cultural site showcasing traditional Swazi life, crafts, and ceremonies.'}
- {'name': 'Ngwenya Mine', 'writeup': 'One of the oldest known mines in the world, historically significant for ancient iron ore extraction.'}

Head of State / Government:

King Mswati III

Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Umhlanga Reed Dance', 'writeup': 'An annual ceremony where young women present reeds to the queen mother, celebrating chastity and unity.'}
- {'name': 'Incwala Ceremony', 'writeup': "The 'Kingship Ceremony' marking the first fruits harvest and reaffirming the king's authority."}

Food & Cuisine:

Eswatini cuisine features staples like maize, sorghum, and meat dishes such as 'sidvudvu' (pumpkin stew) and 'emasi' (fermented milk). Traditional meals often accompany communal gatherings.

Brief History:

Formerly known as Swaziland, Eswatini gained independence from Britain in 1968. It is one of Africa's last absolute monarchies, ruled by King Mswati III since 1986.

Important People:

- King Mswati III - current monarch
- Prince Makhosetive Dlamini - heir apparent
- Queen Ntombi - queen mother

Current Conflicts:

Eswatini experiences occasional political unrest related to calls for democratic reforms, but no active armed conflicts.

Youtube Links:

- Discovering Eswatini: Africa's Hidden Gem

- Eswatini Culture and Traditions Explained
- Wildlife and Nature in Eswatini
- The Umhlanga Reed Dance Festival in Eswatini
- History and Politics of Eswatini