



NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LESOTHO

LESOTHO BRIEF

Welcome to the Water Tower of Southern Africa, Lesotho





Introduction

Lesotho, also known as the "Kingdom in the Sky" for its high altitude, is a landlocked country in Southern Africa and encircled by South Africa. The head of state is the king, and the head of government is the prime minister.

Natural Resources

Lesotho is crisscrossed by a network of rivers and mountain ranges including the 3,482m-high peak of Thabana Ntlenyana. Lesotho is also known as the "Water Tower of Southern Africa" due to its abundance of water resources. The country is home to numerous rivers and dams, including the Senqu River, which originates in Lesotho and forms the boundary between South Africa and Namibia before it enters the Atlantic Ocean. Mineral resources in the country are scarce. The Maloti Mountains in the central northwest are home to the Lesotho Highlands Water Project, a large-scale development that diverts water and generates power.



Conference Venue address contact and services

Venue: Avani Maseru, Lesotho

Phone: +266 2224 3000

Email: banqueting.vmas@avanihotels.com

Website: AVANIHotels.com



With a backdrop of mountains and tropical gardens, Avani Maseru is your escape from the city – right in the city. Located in an exclusive neighborhood near the UN headquarters and major embassies, life here is easy breezy and an invitation to just chill. Sunbathe by the pool, fish in the Caledon River just below the hotel, or tee up at Maseru Golf Course just down the road. It is a luxurious 4-star hotel rating which can offer the following: -

- **Facilities:** Restaurant (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner), Swimming pool and Room Service (24Hour).
- **AVANI Suite:** King Size bed/Twin Beds, separate bedroom and lounge, Flat screen TV, tea/ coffee making facility, a fridge, bathroom with a Shower and Bath Tub (Free toiletries), in room telephone, hair dryer and WIFI Internet Access.

Useful Information about Lesotho

- **Capital City of Lesotho:** Maseru
- **Local Time:** GMT+3
- **Official Language:** Sesotho and English
- **Electricity:** 200V supply voltage and 50Hz
- **Electrical Outlets:** Power plugs and sockets are of type M



- **Country Code:** +266
- **Currency:** Loti. Please note that Maloti are equivalent to South African Rands (i.e. ZAR 1 = LSL 1). Rands can also be used in Lesotho. However, before leaving Lesotho ensure that you convert all the Maloti to ZAR

Transport to Lesotho

There is one International airport through which Lesotho can be accessed and reached. It is directly to Lesotho through Moshoeshoe 1 International Airport, there are only two ways of reaching Lesotho - by air or road. The airport and road are within the urban area of Lesotho and hence very easy to reach or access accommodation facilities of choice. Most accommodations have shuttles that can be booked for airport transfers. Alternatively, local shuttle services are available for airport transfers. Bus services are also available between Ladybrand (15km away from Maseru) and other parts of South Africa, as well as between Bloemfontein (142km away from Maseru) and all parts of South Africa. Shuttle services can be utilised from both Ladybrand and Bloemfontein to Maseru.

Passport

Required by all and **MUST** have at least 3 months validity from date of entry. Symposium delegates who require Visas to Lesotho are requested to make arrangements for the issuance of entry Visas at the nearest Lesotho Embassy or Consulate of their country of residence. Prior to visa applications, participants must submit their names with titles, country of origin and designations to nulwi@nul.ls All participants are advised to carry their invitation letters, recent passport, return ticket and copies of confirmed accommodation booking for the entire stay. Please ensure to get a printed confirmation of the accommodation to be availed at the airport.



Health Requirements

A. COVID-19

Please constantly check the medical advice on **COVID-19**

B. General Health

Check current medical advice on typhoid, cholera and hepatitis with your local medical practitioner/or travel consultant.

C. Travel Insurance

Kindly note that delegates will bear the cost of all medical/accident expenses they may incur, and must therefore arrange for their own travel insurance cover.

D. Accommodation

The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) has worked tirelessly to identify potential accommodation facilities for delegates relatively near the symposium venue. A list of these hotels with the relevant rates are provided at the end of this document. Delegates are advised to make reservations/arrangements for their accommodations in advance. To ensure ease of access for participants to the conference venue, regular transport for the entire duration of the symposium will be arranged for delegates who would be based in the accommodation listed in the table below

E. Banking

Several international banks operate in Lesotho:

- Standard Lesotho Bank
- Nedbank
- FNB

Currency: Maloti and South African Rands (ZAR 1 = 1 LSL)

F. Credit cards



All major forms of credit cards are accepted in Lesotho, although it is best to travel with either MasterCard or Visa as these are accepted most widely.

G. Climate

Mountainous Lesotho has a temperate climate. Winter and summer are opposite times to the northern hemisphere seasons. Winters (April – September) are generally dry, but spectacular thunderstorms are common in summer (October – March). However, the weather is very changeable throughout the year. The period between October and November falls under the spring season and is characterised by rising temperatures and increasing rainfall (reaching an average of 80mm). During this period, temperatures typically vary from 10°C to 25°C. Regions with lower altitudes, such as Maseru, enjoy warmer weather, while areas at higher altitudes, experience cooler temperatures although warmer than the winter months.

It is advisable for delegates to take along warm clothing as well.

H. Driving

Driving is on the left hand side of the road. You will need a valid driver's license, credit card and an international driving permit to rent a car. Most main roads are normally paved.

I. Security

Precaution should be taken as in any major city. Unless safety deposit boxes are available in your hotel or lodge, always carry travel documents and keep them out of sight. Discretion is advised. Travelers' cheques, cash and any other valuables should be with you at all times. We recommend that you do not walk late at night but instead take a taxi.



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J. What to see and do in Lesotho

More details including activities on Lesotho tours can be found at <http://www.tripadvisor.com>. Conference delegates are advised to make their own excursion tour arrangements.



Maletsunyane Water Fall



Katse Dam



Sehlabathebe National Park



Liphofung Cave



Afriski



Sani Pass



Accommodation in close vicinity to the Symposium Venue.

Hotel	Location	Accommodation capacity	Room rates (Range) in LSL (Rand=LSL)	Distance from Venue		Booking code	link
Avani Lesotho Hotel	Hilton Road, Maseru.	150 rooms & suites	2,146 – 4,935	1.5km	Tel: +266 22243000 Email: banqueting.vmas@avanihotels.com	Clearly state that 'you are attending Waternet symposium organized by national university of Lesotho to be held at Avani Maseru'	Hotels in Lesotho Avani Lesotho Hotel & Casino Rooms (avanihotels.com)
Avani Maseru Hotel	12 Orpen Road, Maseru	95 rooms & suites	1794 - 2887	0km	Tel: +266 22312434 Email: banqueting.vmas@avanihotels.com	Clearly state that 'you are attending Waternet symposium organized by national university of Lesotho to be held at Avani Maseru'	Maseru Hotels Avani Maseru Hotel Lesotho Official Site (avanihotels.com)
Hokahanya Inn & Conference Centre	Kick4Life Football for Hope Centre, Nightingale Road, Old Europa Maseru	12 twin and ensuite	872 Classic 922 Deluxe	1.4km	Tel: +266 2231 0488 Email: bookings@kick4life.org	Clearly state that 'you are attending Waternet symposium organized by national university of Lesotho to be held at Avani Maseru'	Hokahanya - Kick4Life
San Antonio	21A Princess Margaret Rd Old Europa, Maseru	6 not sharing 12 sharing (ideal for students on a limited budget)	900/person not sharing 1,250 total for sharing	5minutes walk	Tel: (+266) 62314661 Email: bookings@sanantonio.co.ls	bookings@sanantonio.co.ls for reservation	San Antonio Guest House - Guest House



Thabeng Hotel and Restaurant	Parliament road, Maseru, Lesotho, 695, Maseru	70	From 1,500 – 3,500	Less than 10 minutes drive	Tel: (+266) 6269 4042 or 59992499 Email: thabeng.hotel/@gmail.com	thabeng.hotel@gmail.com for reservation	Thabeng Hotel & Restaurant, Maseru: Info, Photos, Reviews Book at Hotels.com
Lancer's Inn	Cnr Kingsway and Pioneer Road, Maseru 100	30	From 2,178 - 2,532	1.1km 3min via Pioneer Rd	Email: office@lancersinn.co.ls / info@lancersinn.co.ls Tel: (+266) 2231 2114/ (+266) 5943 9591	info@lancersinn.co.ls for reservation	www.lancersinn.co.ls
Scenery Maqalika Guesthouse	Behind Setsoto Stadium, Maseru 100	64 sharing (ideal for students on a limited budget), 31 not sharing	956 - 1,007	4.8km 14 min via Airport Rd	Email: info@scenery.co.ls Tel: (+266) 2231 6745 / (+266) 5380 7041	bookings@scenery.co.ls for reservation	info@scenery.co.ls

We look forward to welcoming you in Maseru - Lesotho when attending the
25th WaterNet/WARFSA/GWP-SA Symposium to be held from 30th October to 1st November 2024 at
Maseru Avani, Lesotho (The Mountain Kingdom)