



Some local words and phrases that will enhance your Swazi adventure

Local people all over the world appreciate when visitors make an effort to embrace their local culture and language. The benefit to the traveller is an extended enjoyment of the time away as well as the hospitality shown by the locals. Sometimes just being able to greet and say a few basic phrases opens a whole new world of goodwill and enjoyment.

This article lists a few basic words and expressions in SiSwati and gives a few pointers to the local culture.

The people of Swaziland have two languages, SiSwati and English.

The people of Swaziland are friendly and it is important to understand that it is essential to greet someone before asking their name or any other questions. Here are a few words and phrases that will delight the local population if you speak to them!

Hello – Sawubona; Good morning: Kusile; How are you? - Unjani?

I am fine, thank you - Ngikhona ngiyabonga

Goodbye / stay well - Sala kahle (*pr. Karshlay*) Go well - Hamba kahle.

Good luck - Inhlanhla lenhle (*pr. inklunkla lenkle*)

How much is this? - Kubita malini loku?

What is the time? - Ngicela sikhatsi?

Where are you going? - Uya kuphi?

yes – yebo; no - cha

please – ngiyacela; thank you - ngiyabonga

you're welcome - wamukelekile

emergency - simo lesibucayi

excuse me - lucolo

come here - wota lapha

I am sorry - Ngiyacolisa

What is your name? Ngubani ligama lakho?

My name is Sam. And you? Ligama lamin ngu Sam. Wena ke?

I am Sipho. Mine ngingu Sipho.

I am pleased to meet you. Ngiyjabula kukwati.

And me too. Nami futsi.

Now, how about booking a trip to Swaziland to practise your language skills? Drop an email today to bookings@royaljoziniaccommodation.co.za