

Topography in Lesotho

Lesotho is divided into four physiographic regions: the mountain region in the east, the foothills in central Lesotho, the Orange River Valley from the north-east to the south-west, and the lowlands in the west. Two-thirds of Lesotho terrain is mountainous. The highlands have an average elevation of over 2,438 meters. Even the country's lowlands have an average elevation of 1,524 to 1,829 meters.

Mountains

Lesotho has two mountain ranges: the Drakensberg and the Maloti ranges. The Drakensberg Mountains rise in the east and drop near the South African border. The Maloti Mountains are located in the centre of Lesotho, and join the Drakensberg range in the north.

The highest mountain in Lesotho is Mount Thabana-Ntlenyana and reaches a height of 3,482 meters. Not only is it the highest point in Lesotho, but it also has the highest elevation in all of southern Africa. Mount Thabana-Ntlenyana is located on the Mohlesi ridge of the Drakensberg and Maloti mountains.

Mount Thabana-Ntlenyana



Image © summitpost.org

Did You Know?

- Lesotho is the only country on earth whose lowest elevation is above sea level (1000m).
- The lowest point is the junction of the Orange and Makhaleng Rivers (1,400m).
- Thabana-Ntlenyana translates from Sesotho to "Beautiful little mountain"

Soil Erosion

Environmental change and destruction has had a harsh impact on the land of Lesotho. Soil erosion refers to the wearing away of the top layer of soil. This causes a huge problem for the people who want to grow crops. Soil erosion results in the loss of arable land, loss of grazing land, and the loss of water by rapid runoff after heavy rainstorms in areas where the vegetation has been depleted.