



A trip to Lesedi African Lodge and Cultural Village is an educational and memorable experience that every family should try!



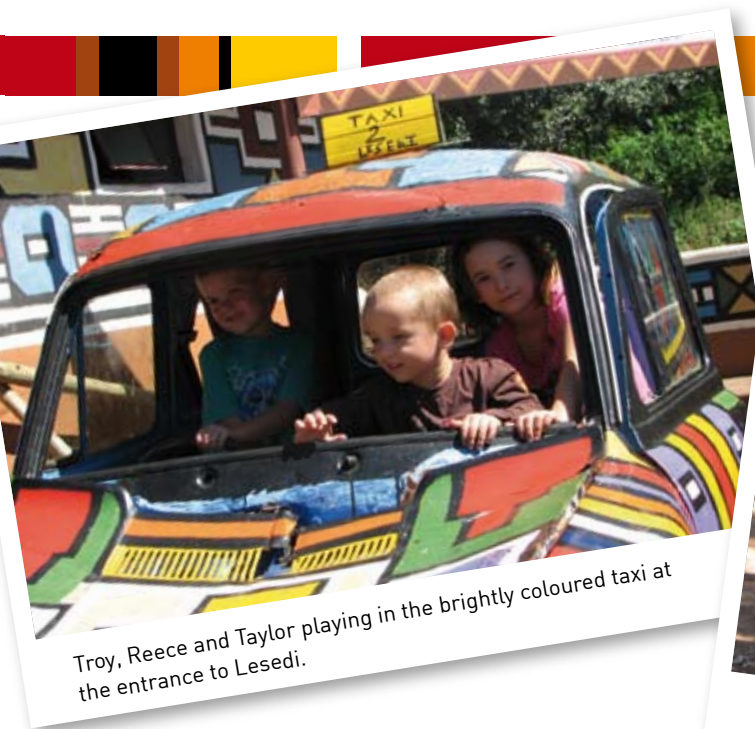
african adventure

This was a weekend that my family and I enjoyed from the minute we drove through the gates of the Lesedi African Lodge and Cultural Village until the day we left. At Lesedi, you are assured of getting a traditional African welcome and one that you will not soon forget.

When we arrived we saw a cattle kraal situated in the middle of the horseshoe-shaped parking area. We were greeted by a very friendly porter who helped us with our luggage and checked us in. After dropping off our bags in the room that we would call home for the weekend, we were taken to the Boma for traditional singing and dancing. We were then taken to the Nyama Choma Restaurant for a Pan African Buffet that was out of this world.

Lesedi is very rich in cultural tradition and that's what makes this experience so wonderful. As a South African citizen I thought I knew all about my country – well, I was mistaken. On this weekend I learnt about the four ethnic homesteads: Zulu, Basotho, Xhosa and Pedi. Each group has a fascinating history and a great tradition that they hold up high. Each tribe has their own style of dress and that is how you see them for the duration of your stay. The ladies wear lovely beaded garments, and similar ones can be bought at the craft market.

On the Saturday morning we were woken by the sounds of the Zulu people getting ready for the day and, of course, by the roosters! What is wonderful about this is that you live among a tribe for the duration of your stay, and get to see how they go about their daily lives.



Troy, Reece and Taylor playing in the brightly coloured taxi at the entrance to Lesedi.



Troy, Reece and Taylor posing with a Zulu warrior

We began the day with an English breakfast and then headed to the craft market, which is full of various African artefacts. Lesedi also has a beautiful curio shop that boasts more wonderful craftsmanship. We attended a media presentation that begins with the Ndebele village culture, and then goes on to the history and origins of today's Rainbow Nation. This was followed by a guided tour of the four ethnic homesteads. We were put into small groups and walked through every village, experiencing their different cultures and getting to see, face-to-face, how each tribe lives. It is fascinating to see the dress codes of the various cultures, as well as the way their huts are presented and maintained. We were taught the different traditions of each village and generally got to know the people better.

I was taken aback by the friendliness of everyone at Lesedi; I could see that they are proud of their role in educating the tourists that come to the Village to gain more insight into our beautiful country. We spent each day surrounded by nature, as well as the villagers' livestock – chickens run freely, and that was what fascinated my son the most, as he got to see the chickens in their natural habitat. They also have cows, horses and even a very friendly pair of donkeys.

The bonfire that was lit on the Saturday evening gave us an opportunity to talk to the dancers and staff at Lesedi, as well as to some of the tourists who were visiting for the weekend. My little boy was entertained by the traditional African drums being played around the fire, and he was taught how to play them by one of the tribesman. The staff are very friendly and accommodating when it comes to children, so my son had an experience of his own to remember. One thing that struck me was the involvement of management, who you normally don't get to see often or at all at holiday resorts, but at Lesedi they are always around to lend a hand or just to have a chat.

Lesedi is situated close to Hartbeespoort Dam in the Magaliesberg mountain range, so there are other activities in the area that you could do while enjoying your stay. Lesedi offers day tours and overnight stays in their wonderful lodge, as well as conferencing facilities and team-building activities. This is an experience that everyone should try. It makes you feel proud to be part of this beautiful country.

For more information about the Lesedi African Lodge and Cultural Village experience and tour, contact Lesedi on 087 940 9933, email enquires@lesedi.com or visit lesedi.com •