

**LESOTHO
THABA NTLENYANA
JANUARY 2005
By Karen Hauptfleisch**

The trip to Thaba Ntlenyana was supposed to be part of a 17 day hike starting at Bushmen's neck and ending at the Sentinal. After 4 days of hiking we met the rest of the group at Sani Top Hotel. So far we've had rain every afternoon since we started on the 31st of December. Unfortunately Frans Botha hurt his knee and it was decided that the rest of the traverse was out of the question since it would be too dangerous for Bernelle and myself to carry on alone.

4 January 2005: Bernelle, Leslie, Ian, Lorna, Andre and myself left at 08h30 and hiked about 12 km, being escorted by Basotho's for most of the way. By 15h30, we were forced to pitch the tents because of hail.



Ian, Leslie and Lorna in their tent

5 January 2005: Not everyone was happy when I woke them up at 03:00, on my own mission to watch the sun rise on top of Lesotho's highest peak. Leslie and Ian decided to meet us later. Rushing to the top, I tried to ignore the grumble of the rest of the group. Two hours later everyone agreed that it was worth it. The escarpment could be seen, and everything below that was covered in a sea of cloud.



Karen and Lorna on top of Thaba Nthlenyana

By 05h30 the muttering about the cold started again and after making them promise that we will come and do it again in winter, we started the hike back.

6 Hours later we arrived back at the Sani Top Hotel.



Bernelle, Karen and Andre on their way down