Fun Facts About eSwatini…

In 2018, the **King** changed the country's name from Swaziland to **eSwatini** to mark his fiftieth birthday.

The King plays a central role in political and cultural life. eSwatini is one of the few African countries that has kept an **absolute monarchy**.

Every year, the **Reed Dance Festival**, or **Umhlanga**, takes place. This colourful event sees unmarried girls dancing in front of the King to celebrate their beauty and possibly be chosen as a wife.

The local language is **siSwati**, but **English** is also an official language. It is widely spoken, especially in schools and government institutions.

Traditional clothing, such as the **liduku** headpiece worn by married women and the **umbhaco** ornament worn by both men and women, is worn during ceremonies and celebrations.

In the past, **oral tradition** was very important for passing down stories, legends, and ancestral knowledge from one generation to the next.

Traditional music is played with instruments like the **likhuba** (a type of drum) and is accompanied by energetic dances that celebrate life and community.

Most of the population is **Christian**, but ancestor worship still exists today. This mix of traditions creates a unique combination of rituals.

Typical dishes include **sishwala** (a type of porridge eaten for breakfast) and **sinkwa sembila** (a type of maize bread), often served with vegetables and meat.