

Pumulani, Lake Malawi

On the glittering shores of Lake Malawi, which is also known as the Lake of Stars, you'll find Pumulani, the brightest star on the lake. We have a one-of-its-kind-in-Malawi Stargazer, a telescope with a 200x zoom, linked to a computer which allows you to discover stars, nebulas and planets at the flick of a switch. Pumulani offers you the chance to experience the very best of both worlds on your holiday. Whether you want to relax amongst some of the most dazzling scenery in the world, or take the opportunity to be active whilst surrounded by rare natural beauty, it's up to you.

The lodge

Accommodation

Beach lodge, ten villas (four twin, four king, one honeymoon & one family villa).

Facilities

En-suite bathrooms with double basins and showers. Each has a bath tub as well. The honeymoon villa has a unique outdoor shower.

Each villa has tea/coffee making facilities as well as a stocked minibar fridge.

Activities

Snorkelling, fishing, sailing, nature walks, kayaking, sunset cruises on a dhow, mountain bike tours and village tours are included. Motorized watersports such as diving, waterskiing, fun tubing and snorkeling excursions are at extra cost.

Meals & Drinks

The rate is inclusive of all local drinks & meals. We also offer a connoisseurs wine & spirits list at an extra cost.

Electricity & Water

The lodge runs off mains electricity with a backup generator.

Bottled water is available throughout the lodge and in your personal fridge. Our tap water has been through a filtering system and is safe for brushing your teeth; however we recommend that you rather consume only bottled water.

Children's Policy

Children of all ages are welcome at Pumulani.

Payment for extras

All extras can be paid in cash (local currency, US\$, Euro or British Pounds) or Visa card.

Tipping

Is not expected but always enthusiastically received if you are happy with the service. Please always give tips for the staff to the management to be shared out.

Open

Open April to 1st week of January.

Travel information

International flights

South African Airways, Ethiopian Airways and Kenya Airways fly into Blantyre, Malawi.
South African Airways, Ethiopian Airways and Kenya Airways fly into Lilongwe, Malawi.
South African Airways, Kenya Airways and Emirates fly into Lusaka, Zambia.

Getting to the lodge

It is a 3 hour scenic road transfer from Lilongwe to the lodge or 40 minute light aircraft flight then further 20 minute road transfer.

Connecting to our sister lodge in Majete Wildlife Reserve, Mkulumadzi, it is a 5 hour road transfer.

Guests coming from South Luangwa in Zambia should take a 1 hour charter flight to Lilongwe where they will clear immigration and continue on a 3 hour road transfer or 40 minute flight as above.

Meet and greet

In Lusaka, Lilongwe and Mfuwe you will be met by a RPS representative who will assist you with immigration formalities. If you have any problem, please call Robin Pope Safaris on +265 (0) 1795483 / 4491 for further assistance.

Visas

All travellers must be in possession of a valid passport when entering and leaving the country.

Visa fees are applicable to visitors from any country which requires Malawian Citizens to acquire visas to visit their country of citizenship. These countries include but not limited to the United Kingdom, United States, Canada, Schengen member states, Australia, New Zealand. Most Middle East countries will also be required to pay visa fees. A comprehensive list of countries required to pay the fee is still being compiled. Exempt from this visa fee are countries belonging to SADC and COMESA; with the exception of those countries that charge visa fees to Malawian nationals.

Transit (valid for 7 days) - US\$50

Single entry (valid for 3 months) - US\$75

Multiple entry (valid for 6 months) - US\$150

Multiple entry (valid for 12 months) - US\$250

Airport Tax

An international departure tax of US\$35 per person has to be paid at Lilongwe / Blantyre airports – but included in all international flights, so may apply only to charter flights.

A domestic departure tax of approximately 3000 Malawi Kwacha (approximately US\$7) per person has to be paid at Lilongwe / Blantyre airports.

Health

All visitors should be medically insured. We recommend that visitors to Malawi take malaria prophylactics. Tetanus, polio, typhoid and the hepatitis vaccinations are recommended. Yellow fever immunisation is required only by visitors entering Malawi from a yellow fever zone.

Bilharzia can be found in certain areas of Lake Malawi. We have, within the vicinity of Pumulani tested on a monthly basis and all the tests have been clear thus far.

It is advisable to know your blood group type in case of an emergency.

Please do ask for up to date health advice in your home country.

Insurance

We highly recommend full Trip Cancellation Insurance – as we do need to charge cancellation fees as stipulated. Robin Pope Safaris bears no responsibility for any delays, cancellation of flights or change of itinerary and retains the right to alter or cancel an activity with just reason.

Cancellation Policy

Confirmation to 91 days 20% of accommodation only, then full invoice (excluding park fees) 90 – 61 days 25%, 60 – 31 days 50%, 30 – 0 days 100%. Cancellation fees will be applied and so we highly recommend that you ensure full “Trip Cancellation Insurance” is bought at time of confirmation.

Additional information

Photography

Please be sensitive when photographing local people and their villages. Ask the guide or the villagers first. Be careful when photographing public buildings and persons in uniform - again, ask first.

What to bring

You should always travel with soft bags not hard suitcases (not only for the smaller aircraft but also to fit into vehicles).

Proflight baggage allowance (for most routes) – limit of 15 kg for hold luggage and 5 kg for hand luggage. Please visit <http://proflight-zambia.com/content/beforeyoufly/baggageallowances/> for full information.

Bush & Lake Aviation baggage allowance - limit of 12 kg for hold luggage and 3 kg for hand luggage (so this is 15 kg max per person ONLY if total weight falls within weight and balance graph of aircraft for the specific flight; body weights are taken into consideration).

Important items to bring: hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, torch, binoculars and film/photo camera.

Climate

Depending on which time of year you visit, you may need waterproofs, a warm jacket or sunscreen. The dry months are from April till October and the wet months November till March. Temperatures range throughout the year from between 11-40 C.