ROBIN POPE SAFARIS

INFORMATION FOR TRAVELLING TO MALAWI

WITH ROBIN POPE SAFARIS

QUICK FACTS

- **Capital City**: Lilongwe
- **International Airports**: Lilongwe & Blantyre
- **Population:** 20,930,000
- **Currency:** Malawi Kwacha





The Warm Heart of Africa! Malawi may be one of Africa's smallest countries but when it comes to exploration and adventure, it has tremendous amounts to offer; from grasslands and forests, mountaintops, unspoilt wildlife parks to Africa's third largest and most beautiful Lake! Situated on the Great Rift Valley, Malawi is dominated by Lake Malawi, a magnificent body of water, 365 miles long and 52 miles wide (hence sometimes referred to as the calendar lake!). It's teaming with life including over 400 species of cichlid, a lot of which are endemic to it.

The wildlife parks in Malawi are picturesque as well as diverse in game. Also, unlike other African parks these have a very exclusive feel to them with only a few lodges operating in each. Areas such as Majete Wildlife Reserve & Liwonde National Park are virtually undiscovered by tourists thus visiting feels more like an expedition, making for unique and exciting safaris.

Visa Information

Malawi updated its immigration regulations in January 2026, and most travellers are now required to apply for a visa in advance unless exempt. Please check whether your country requires a visa before travel. A single-entry visa valid for three months costs USD 50 and must be approved prior to travel via the online e-visa system.
For full details, visit the Malawi Immigration website.

Airport Tax

These may be payable for charter flights. Where applicable you will be notified at the time of booking.

Meet and Greet Service

If you arrive in Lilongwe you will be met by a RPS representative who will assist you with immigration formalities.

Health

- We recommend that visitors to Malawi take malaria prophylactics - consult your doctor first.
- Bilharzia can be found in certain areas of Lake Malawi. We have the vicinity of Pumulani tested on a regular basis and all the tests have been clear.
- Yellow fever immunization is required by visitors entering Malawi from a yellow fever zone.
- Please consult your regular doctor or travel clinic in your country for up-to-date information. It is advisable to know your blood group type in case of emergency.

Health Screening

Before you travel you are required to complete an online traveller health check through the Ministry of Health's online traveller health check shortly before arrival. The portal allows you to select an arrival date up to two days ahead. The check is free, takes approximately three minutes and does not require an account. Have your passport or travel document, journey details and recent travel history ready. After submitting the form, save your QR health pass and reference number and keep them available for arrival.

If you cannot complete the check beforehand, a health officer can assist at the point of entry, although this may take longer.

Complete Health Check Here

Travel Insurance

We strongly recommend that every visitor has travel insurance that covers the following as a minimum:
·Cancellation and curtailment.
·Medical costs (including full hospital costs should it be needed).
·Personal accident or death.
·Emergency evacuation from the point of evacuation to the nearest best hospital and then back to the visitors hometown.
We cannot emphasize how important it is to be fully covered. Private hospitals in Africa will not accept a patient until full medical insurance has been established.

Money

- US Dollars (only newer notes with the large heads), Euros and Pound Sterling are accepted.
- Visa credit cards are becoming more widely accepted but not in remote areas and should not be relied on except in major towns.

Communication

- In most major towns you will be able to use your phone – please do check roaming options with your local service providers.
- Most camps and lodges are in remote areas with limited or no network coverage at all.
- While Wi-Fi is available at our properties it is not a guarantee at other camps and lodges outside of the major towns. When available, it is can be slow or limited – thus not always possible to upload your pictures and videos.

Photography & Film

• Please be sensitive when photographing local people, their villages, public buildings and people in uniform. Ask the guide to get permission.
• Drones are not allowed to be used in the national parks.

Tipping

Is not expected but always enthusiastically received if you are happy with the service. Please always give tips for the camp/lodge staff to the management to be shared out and please tip your guides individually. When asked 'how much' we say for camp/lodge staff from US$5 per person per night and for guides the same again.

Climate

- January – March: Emerald Season brings regrowth, breeding birds, and peak birth season for wildlife. Rain falls mostly at night.
- April – May: Clear skies, occasional storms. Tall green grass, migrating birds depart, and fledglings leave nests.
- June – August: Dry season and winter. Cool nights, warm days. Grass dies back, making game viewing easier.
- September: Rising temperatures and hazy skies.
- October – November: Hot, humid, and early rains. New growth begins, with many newborns by late October.
- December: High temperatures, early rains cool the air. Flying ants and insects appear briefly, bringing cooler but humid conditions.

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).
- Important items to bring along: Sunscreen, hat, good closed walking shoes, natural-coloured, safari-style clothing that can be layered - nothing bright, a swimming costume, all charging cables and adaptors, binoculars, camera.
- Depending on which time of the year you visit, a warm jacket and some gloves if it's during the winter months.
- Malawians are friendly and welcoming, but modest dress is encouraged in rural areas to avoid causing offense. Carry a kikoi or long skirt when visiting areas outside the national parks or the lakeshore.

Community Support Supplies

Should you have extra space in your luggage, please use it to provide supplies to communities you visit. You can make a big impact on the lives of children in Malawi. Anything from books and stationery to clothes and toys. Cash donations are also accepted. You are welcome to contact us for updated 'wish lists' for the projects we support.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

In case you need to get hold of us in case of an emergency, you can contact us as follows:

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