

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 teeming 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. Reserves such as Majete Wildlife Reserve & Liwonde National Park are virtually undiscovered by tourists thus visiting it feels more like an expedition; making for unique and exciting safaris. Majete is also the only official Big 5 Park in Malawi.

Malawi is not a wealthy country, but there are great riches in the people.

### International airlines

It's easy to reach us out here in Malawi and continues to get better.

- Ethiopian Airlines operates daily flights into both Lilongwe and Blantyre.
- Kenya Airways operates daily flights into Lilongwe and into Blantyre certain days of the week.
- South African Airways operates direct flights from Johannesburg to Blantyre on Monday, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Then into Lilongwe every day except Wednesday and Saturday.

### Visa Information

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

- 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

Most airlines now include airport taxes in the tickets. But for charter flights these may still be payable, please confirm with us for exact amounts.

An international departure tax of US\$35 per person is to be paid for private flights to South Luangwa, Zambia. A domestic departure tax of approximately US\$7 per person is to be paid at Lilongwe and Blantyre airports.

\*Flights out of Likoma incur a \$10 Passenger Safety Fee

### Meet and Greet Service

At Kamuzu Airport in Lilongwe and Chileka Airport in Blantyre we have a meet and greet service to guide and assist guests through the immigration procedures and airport taxes.

If you have any problem, please ask them to call Robin Pope Safaris on +265 (0) 999 970 002/3 /993504600 (Malawi)/ +260957090441 (Zambia) for further assistance.

### Medical

All visitors should be medically insured.

Malaria – we recommend that visitors to Malawi take malaria prophylactics.

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.

Tetanus, polio, typhoid and the hepatitis vaccinations are recommended. Yellow fever immunization is required only 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.

**Nut Allergies:** While our kitchen is fully capable of catering for most dietary requests, we regrettably are unable to cater for people with severe nut allergies as we cannot guarantee a completely nut free environment.

## Insurance

We ask that full insurance is put in place at point of confirmation. Please give us the details as above. We expect that every guest has 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 guest's home town. Family or traveling partner should also be covered for accompanying an evacuation.

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

Travellers' cheques and cash (currencies that are widely & readily accepted include the US Dollar, the Euro, the Pound Sterling and the South African Rand) are accepted. US dollar bills – we only accept the new notes with large heads as any with small heads are not accepted in Malawi.

The local currency (Malawi Kwacha) can be obtained at the airports either from the ATMs (Visa only) or Banks/Bureaux de Change.

Visa credit cards are becoming more widely accepted but not in remote areas and should not be relied on except in major towns.

## 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). DO NOT exceed the limit of 15 kg for hold luggage and 5kg for hand luggage.

In the recent years we have had more and more guests arriving without their luggage. Unfortunately with new security at airports hand luggage is being restricted but where possible we recommend that you travel with anything essential (medication in particular, space glasses), and if possible a change of clothes.

## List of items to bring:

- A hat, sunglasses, high strength sunscreen, moisturizer, lip salve, strong insect repellent, anti-histamine cream and tablets should always be carried.
- Clothes - all properties have a daily laundry service so do not bring too many. Here is a good guide:
  - 3 sets bush coloured safari outfits (long/shorts/shirts) i.e. green/brown/dark khaki (not white, cream or bright colours - especially for walking).
  - 2 set casual evening clothes (long trousers & shirts and socks to reduce insect bites).
  - 1 light weight sweater. Warm jacket in winter (June/July/early Aug).
  - Light rain gear for the wet months (November - April).
  - A good pair of covered shoes for walking and open shoes or sandal type for warmer days.
  - A number of camps do have pools so bring a costume with you.
- Binoculars – one pair per person is a must
- Torch
- Glasses - if you wear prescription glasses bring a spare pair. If you wear contact lenses bring a pair of glasses as well since dust can be a problem.
- Camera equipment: a telephoto lens (200/300mm). Flash for night photography. Camera cleaning equipment and a good dust/water proof bag. Videos - bring spare batteries.

## Pack for a Purpose

Use available space in your luggage to provide supplies to communities you visit. You can make a big impact on the lives of children in Malawi. All you need to do is:

- [Click here](#) then select the property/ies you are visiting for a list of items that we vitally need.
- Select the items you wish to bring from the specific list.
- Then include these in your luggage.

## Climate

### January - March

The “Emerald Season” is one of regrowth, replenishment and rebirth. The birds are breeding and its peak birth season of many animals. The rainfall is at its highest during these months but it mostly falls at night. Pumulani is closed.

### April and May

Dry with occasional storms, but the skies are clear and it's warm. The grass is now tall and green, the skies are clear and the blue, the new generation of birds have left the nests and the migrants start to leave.

### June – August

Our winter, there are occasional strong winds, and the nights are cool and the days warm. This is now the “dry season” and is also our winter. The grass dries up and dies back, this creates easier opportunities for game sightings when on safari.

### September

The temperatures rise and the air becomes hazy.

### October and November

Hot and often humid and start of the rainfall. New growth starts - and there are new-borns everywhere towards the end of October.

### December

The temperatures are still high but can be cooled down by early rains. The onset of the rains can also bring a deluge of flying ants and other insects (sometimes in pretty big proportions, but normally lasting a few hours). With the insects come the cooler temperatures but also the humidity.

## Safety

Africa's wild animals are unpredictable and potentially dangerous. Photographic safari activities and staying in any safari camp place visitors in close proximity to wild animals. It is therefore an inherent risk to those persons wishing to undertake these activities. Whilst every care is taken by Robin Pope Safaris and its personnel to minimise exposure to risk, Robin Pope Safaris Ltd bears no responsibility whatsoever for any loss, injury, illness, death, delays, cancellation of flights or change of itinerary and retains the right to alter, amend or cancel any part of a safari with just reason.

## Voltage

Pumulani is supplied by electricity – 220V, three square pin UK plugs. In case of power cuts we will run a generator.

Mkulumadzi and Kuthengo Camp are run off solar power with back-up generator.

The plugs here may only be used for lamps and charging equipment for mobile phones or cameras. Hairdryers cannot be used. Hot water is delivered in the early mornings for tea / coffee.

## Dietary requirements

Please let us know any food allergies or any other special dietary requirements well in advance so the camp /lodge can accommodate you.

## 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.

## 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.

