

G A M E P L A N A F R I C A

Journeys of a Lifetime



The Great Malawi Journey

A Discoverer Exploration

10 nights/11 days

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Tour Direction: Lilongwe to Lilongwe

Experience a nostalgic, turn-of-the-century camping/lodge safari that recreates the sense of a game-viewing adventure reminiscent of the times of the great African explorers.

The Great Malawi Journey provides a wonderful perspective of southern Malawi, from its evocative lake to its mighty inselbergs, woodlands and forests. Add to this the fascinating friendly Malawian culture and history to create a well-rounded, seamless experience. Along with these outstanding attractions, this Exploration is enhanced by local guides with tremendous local knowledge. An exceptional aspect of a Malawi safari is the "journey between" - along the road, guests gain an authentic insight into the land: the friendly people, superb scenery, and there is always something of interest to stop off and see.

Key Features

- A unique perspective of the Great African Rift Valley.
- An incredible blend of different experiences, including Malawian culture, scenic and historical aspects of the country.
- Diverse mixture of scenery and landscapes: mountain plateaus, Lake Malawi, rolling grasslands and lush forests.



Day 1: Guest House Lilongwe, Lilongwe

On arrival into Lilongwe Airport, we meet our vehicle and guide and are driven to Heughlin's Lodge for one night.

Days 2 & 3: Ku Chawe Inn – Zomba Mountain – Southern Malawi

In the morning after breakfast, we depart the lodge for the spectacular drive south along the western spine of the Great African Rift to Zomba. This drive takes about four hours and offers many wonderful views down to the lake and over to Mozambique to the west.

A trip to Zomba (Malawi's former capital.)

Zomba was the original capital city of the old British Central African Protectorate and its development as such is entirely due to the temperate climate on the nearby Zomba Mountain, a massive granite massif which dominates the western edge of the town. The mountain was settled



by the British in the late 19th century as a respite from the heat of the low lying plains, in a similar fashion to the hill stations of India. Our trip around Zomba will take in both the mountain and the town and depending on our time of arrival in the town we will probably do a town tour before driving up to the mountain and then a mountain tour tomorrow morning. In town there are many turn of the 20th century colonial buildings and a trip around the market offers wonderful photographic opportunities - this being one of the busiest and most colourful in Malawi. Witchdoctors, tin smiths and second hand clothes stalls literally wedged in

between the piles of freshly picked fruit and vegetables.

Leaving town we head up to Zomba Mountain on a spectacular mountain road. In Zomba we may stay in one of two establishments.



Ku Chawe Inn has one of the most spectacular settings in Africa. It is perched 2000 metres up on the steep edges of Zomba Mountain. The hotel has recently been completely refurbished and boasts spacious en-suite rooms with cosy fireplaces. Being so high, the weather is pleasantly cool in the hot months and can be chilly at night in the winter.

Days 4 & 5: Lujeri Lodge, Mulanje Mountain

After breakfast we board the vehicle for the scenic drive east to Mulanje Mountain. The journey takes us through the rolling tea fields of the Thyolo district where the early colonial settlers first planted tea in the 1880s. The drive usually takes about four hours.



Mulanje Mountain is located about 100 kms south – east of Blantyre. This Massif is South Central Africa's highest Mountain and is a huge block of granite rising 2380m above a largely flat and featureless plain. Hiking is unrivaled up the numerous peaks and along marginal plateaux, which are intersected by deep-forested ravines, in which the most conspicuous tree - Mulanje cedar - attains heights of 150ft.

Lujeri Lodge is near to the base of Mt. Mulanje on one of the oldest colonial tea estates in the country and the guest house has a swimming pool as well as fantastic walks on offer around the estate. The lodge is an old tea estate manager's house and has the old world charm of a bygone era.

Activities available during your stay at Lujeri Lodge include some gentle walking along the foothills of the mountain and a tour of a nearby tea factory.

Days 6, 7 & 8: Mvuu Wilderness Lodge, Liwonde National Park

After breakfast we depart for Liwonde through the village strewn Phalombe Plain and soon climb down into the Great African Rift Valley to Liwonde Town where we will meet a boat which will take us up the Shire River to Mvuu Lodge. Driving time is about three hours and the boat journey is one hour. The Park is considered to be the finest in Malawi and one of the best birding locations in Africa and offers some of the most scenic game viewing, beautiful riverine surroundings and varied bird watching and game viewing in the region. A great deal of the terrain is Shire River floodplains, much loved by the healthy population of elephants in this park.



Mvuu Wilderness Lodge is situated along the banks of a quiet lagoon flowing off the Shire River. The lodge offers comfortable tented accommodation in 5 spacious 'Hemingway'-styled safari tents, with own en-suite facilities for a maximum of 10 guests. The dining room, which is high above the lagoon on stilts, is a breezy and relaxing place to spend time in-between activities. There is a pool which is especially welcome during the summer months set amongst shady trees within earshot of hippos in the river. As well as boat safaris, game drives and nature walks

enable us to experience a wide range of game, including large numbers of sable antelope, hippo, impala, and waterbuck. Huge crocodiles and serval are also fairly common.

Possible activities around Mvuu include a bicycle ride to Nathomba and Kafulafula Schools, a visit to the local Womens Handicraft group or a tour of the various agricultural projects in the area.

Days 9 & 10: Mumbo Island, Lake Malawi

Today we will depart from Mvuu after breakfast and initially drive through picturesque villages to the main road and then head north to the lake, stopping en route at the bustling town of Mangochi for a look at the museum. The driving time is around three hours.

The peninsula is an exquisite rocky promontory full of towering forest clad hills and was named by Dr David Livingstone



after Sir Thomas Maclear who had in the 1840's taught Livingstone the rudiments of map making. The early Scottish Missionaries chose it as one of their earliest stations owing to the safe shelter from the often stormy lake and now it is a proclaimed protected area, Lake Malawi National Park. The first national park in the world set aside for the preservation of freshwater fish, the lake is home to over 2,000 species of brightly colored algae feeding fish from the Cichlid family. Many are endemic to the lake and species are still being discovered and catalogued. The areas around the Kayak Africa Camps are among the best spots on the whole lake for viewing these fish, most of whom live near the surface and can easily be spotted by snorkeling.

Mumbo Island is an intimate camp situated on a pristine and otherwise-deserted tropical island floating on the clear waters of Lake Malawi. The camp's tents blend seamlessly into the bush foliage. The dining area, bar and water sport gazebo are made of timber, thatch and canvas.

Activities at Mumbo Island include excellent sea kayaking, snorkeling and scuba diving where guests interact with an impressive piece of nature. Birders will enjoy the abundant African Fish-Eagles. Another fun adventure is exploring the granitic islands in a freshwater Rift Valley lake.

Day 11: Depart to Lilongwe Airport where safari ends

The drive to the airport in Lilongwe normally takes about four hours so often involves a very early boat off the island before heading west and north, up the edge of the rift again to Lilongwe International Airport.

2011 Costs

April – December, 2011

US\$4,430.00 per person sharing
US\$ 468.00 single supplement

SAFARI INCLUDES:

- Accommodation on a sharing basis
- National park fees
- Laundry and activities as specified in the itinerary

SAFARI EXCLUDES:

- Flights
- Visas
- Compulsory insurance
- All relevant entry and departure government taxes
- All personal purchases (including curios, spirit liquors, telephone calls, etc.)
- Gratuities
- Optional extra activities
- Pre and post safari tours and meals or accommodations before or after the safari and all drinks