



# Malawi

POP 18.6 MILLION

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## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Casa Rossa (p824)
- ➔ L'Hostaria (p825)
- ➔ Macondo Camp (p817)

## Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Kaya Mawa (p819)
- ➔ Mkulumadzi Lodge (p828)
- ➔ Mvuu Camp (p823)
- ➔ Chelinda Lodge (p816)
- ➔ Mumbo Island Camp (p821)

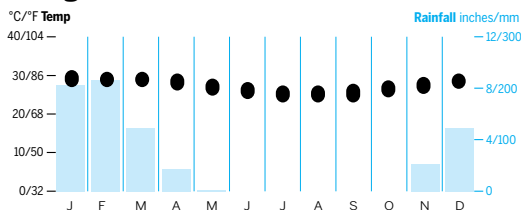
## Why Go?

Apart from the legendary Malawian friendliness, what captures you first about this vivid country is its geographical diversity. Slicing through the landscape in a trough formed by the Great Rift Valley is Africa's third-largest lake: Lake Malawi, a shimmering mass of clear water, its depths swarming with colourful cichlid fish. A visit to the lake is a must, whether for diving, snorkelling, kayaking or chilling out on beaches and desert islands.

Suspended in the clouds in Malawi's deep south are the dramatic peaks of Mt Mulanje and the mysterious Zomba Plateau, both a hiker's dream, with mist-cowled forests and exotic wildlife. Further north is the other-worldly beauty of the Nyika Plateau, its rolling grasslands resembling the Scottish Highlands. Malawi was once dismissed as a safari destination, but all that changed with a lion-reintroduction program at Majete Wildlife Reserve, which is now one of a few worthwhile wildlife-watching destinations nationwide.

## When to Go

### Lilongwe



**May–Jul** Dry season, with cooler temperatures and lush vegetation.

**Aug** Interesting cultural festivals and good beach weather; the higher areas are chilly.

**Sep & Oct** The end of the dry season brings great wildlife-watching conditions, but temperatures are high.

## Malawi Highlights

- 1 Lake Malawi** (p820) Kayaking across the bottle-green lake from ultra-chilled Cape Maclear to Mumbo Island.
- 2 Majete Wildlife Reserve** (p828) Searching for reintroduced lions in Malawi's only Big Five park.
- 3 Mt Mulanje** (p827) Scrambling up the twisted peaks and admiring the astounding views.
- 4 Liwonde National Park** (p822) Spotting hippos and crocs on the Shire River and getting up close to elephants.
- 5 Kaya Mawa (Likoma Is)** (p819) Escaping to this dreamy boutique hotel on Likoma Island.
- 6 Nkhatakota Wildlife Reserve** (p821) Kayaking past crocs in the Bua River.
- 7 Nyika National Park** (p816) Cycling the rugged grasslands, home to zebras and antelope.
- 8 Nkhata Bay** (p817) Diving among cichlids and feeding fish eagles in northern Malawi's up-and-coming beach town.
- 9 Livingstonia** (p815) Heading to the hills to find this atmospheric mission, home to fantastic ecolodges.

