



Malawi

POP 18,570,321

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Best Places to Sleep

- Kaya Mawa (p135)
- Mkulumadzi Lodge (p158)
- Mvuu Camp (p146)
- Chelinda Lodge (p129)

Best Places to Eat

- Casa Rossa (p147)
- Huntingdon House (p155)
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- Mushroom Farm (p128)

Why Go?

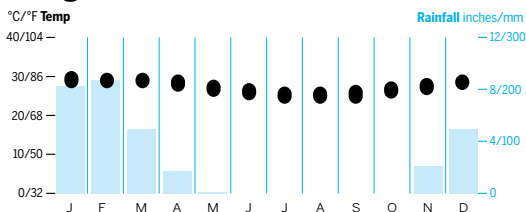
Apart from the legendary Malawian friendliness, what captures you first about this vivid country is its geographical diversity. Slicing through the landscape is Africa's third-largest lake: Lake Malawi, a shimmering mass of clear water, its depths swarming with colourful cichlid fish. Be it for diving, snorkelling, kayaking or just chilling, a visit to the lake is a must.

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 otherworldly 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 End of the dry season: optimum wildlife-watching, but temperatures are high.



Malawi Highlights

- 1 Lake Malawi** (p141) Kayaking across the bottle-green lake from ultra-chilled Cape Mumbo to Mumbo Island.
- 2 Majete Wildlife Reserve** (p157) Searching for reintroduced lions in Malawi's only Big Five park.
- 3 Mt Mulanje** (p155) Scrambling up the twisted peaks and admiring the astounding views.
- 4 Liwonde National Park** (p144) Spotting hippos and crocs on the Shire River and getting up close to elephants.
- 5 Kaya Mawa (Likoma Is)** (p135) Escaping to this dreamy boutique hotel on Likoma Island.
- 6 Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve** (p138) Kayaking past crocs in the Bua River.
- 7 Nyika National Park** (p129) Cycling the rugged grasslands, home to zebras and antelope.
- 8 Nkhata Bay** (p133) Diving among cichlids and feeding fish eagles in northern Malawi's up-and-coming beach town.
- 9 Livingstonia** (p128) Heading to the hills to find this atmospheric mission, home to fantastic ecologies.

LEGEND

- GR Game Reserve
- NP National Park
- WR Wildlife Reserve