

# Malawi

POP 18,570,321

## Includes ➔

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Lilongwe.....            | 176 |
| Mzuzu.....               | 187 |
| Nkhata Bay .....         | 189 |
| Nkhotakota .....         | 193 |
| Cape Maclear .....       | 196 |
| Liwonde National Park... | 200 |
| Zomba Plateau.....       | 203 |
| Blantyre .....           | 205 |
| Mt Mulanje .....         | 211 |
| Understand Malawi.....   | 214 |
| Survival Guide.....      | 218 |

## Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Kaya Mawa (p191)
- ➔ Mkulumadzi Lodge (p214)
- ➔ Mvu Camp (p202)
- ➔ Chelinda Lodge (p185)

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Casa Rossa (p203)
- ➔ Huntingdon House (p211)
- ➔ L'Hostaria (p207)
- ➔ Mushroom Farm (p184)

## Why Go?

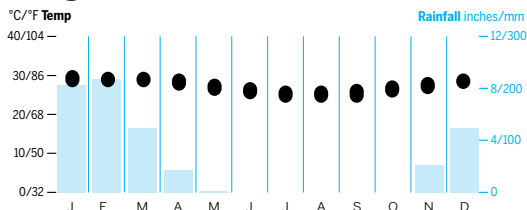
Apart from the legendary Malawian friendliness, what captures you first about this vivid country is its geographical diversity. Slicing through the landscape is Africa's third-largest lake: Lake Malawi, a shimmering mass of clear water; its depths swarming with colourful cichlid fish. Be it for diving, 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 wild-life-watching, but temperatures are high.



## Malawi Highlights

### 1 Lake Malawi

(p197) Kayaking across the bottle-green lake from ultra-chilled Cape Maclear to Mumbo Island.

### 2 Majete Wildlife Reserve

(p213) Searching for reintroduced lions in Malawi's only Big Five park.

### 3 Mt Mulanje

(p211) Scrambling up the twisted peaks and admiring the astounding views.

### 4 Liwonde National Park

(p200) Spotting hippos and crocs on the Shire River and getting up close to elephants.

### 5 Kaya Mawa

(p191) Escaping to this dreamy boutique hotel on Likoma Island.

### 6 Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve

(p194) Kayaking past crocs in the Bua River.

### 7 Nyika National Park

(p185) Cycling the rugged grasslands, home to zebras and antelope.

### 8 Nkhata Bay

(p188) Diving among cichlids and feeding fish eagles in northern Malawi's up-and-coming beach town.

### 9 Livingstonia

(p184) Heading to the hills to find this atmospheric mission, home to fantastic ecolodges.