

TRIP ITINERARY Nyika, Lake Malawi and South Luangwa (Fly-in) Zambia / Malawi



This safari blends the prime, action-packed wildlife area of Zambia's South Luangwa National Park with the montane landscapes of Nyika and blissful relaxation of Lake Malawi's Likoma Island.

Malawi's geography is sculptured by Africa's Great Rift Valley: towering mountains, lush fertile valley floors and enormous crystal-clear lakes are hallmarks of much of this geological phenomenon – and Malawi displays them all.

Malawi is also one of the best places in Africa for visitors to meet and interact with the local inhabitants or visit a rural community in an atmosphere totally devoid of either expectation or affectation. This is a welcoming country that offers visitors wonderful beauty, fascinating parks and some of the friendliest people in Africa. It is no wonder that it is known as the "warm heart of Africa."

This is a sample itinerary which can be amended to suit different durations, destinations and requirements. Contact us on 01342 834700 or by email at info@nativeescapes.com for a tailor made itinerary.



Day 1

Overnight flight to Lilongwe

Days 2-5

On arrival in Lilongwe, you will be met and assisted through customs and immigration. You will then connect to a one hour flight transfer to Mfuwe Airport in Zambia. On arrival, you will be met by lodge staff and transferred approximately 45 minutes to your lodge in the epi-centre of South Luangwa National Park, where you will stay for 3 nights on a full board basis.

The Luangwa Valley is a beautiful, untouched wildlife haven. It is an extension to the Great East African Rift Valley, the main arm of which runs to the east of Zambia, containing Lake Malawi. The Luangwa River rises from the dramatic Mafinga Mountains in the north-eastern corner of Zambia, which reach up to 7,500 ft above sea level. Kapani is an exclusive camp situated on the banks of one of the Luangwa River's many ox-bow lagoons. It is located close to the main Mfuwe area of the South Luangwa, one of the finest national parks in Zambia. The Luangwa is home to most of the big game - lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo and hippo are abundant. It is notable for two endemic sub-species: Thornicroft's giraffe and Cookson's wildebeest. There are few, if any, rivers in Africa that contain such a high concentration of hippos and crocodiles. Night drives reveal many fascinating mammals including civet, genet, mongoose, bushbaby, serval, porcupine and aardvark. Over 400 hundred species of birds have been recorded in this area. During your stay, you will be able to enjoy day and night game drives and guided walks.

Each of the eight standard suites has its own lounge with bar fridge and the beds have overhead fans inside their walk-in mosquito nets. The camp is on mains electricity and offers most modern facilities. A thatched building in the centre of this luxury safari lodge houses the lounge and library. It is pleasantly cool in the hot weather and warm and cozy in the cooler months with an open fire. There is also a small gift shop offering books, clothes and local crafts as well as a secluded swimming pool at the far end of camp.

Days 5-8

After breakfast, you will be transferred by air to Chelinda Lodge in Nyika National Park – this flight will be via Lilongwe or Mzuzu Airport. You will stay at Chelinda Lodge for 3 nights on a full board basis.

Nyika National Park is scenically Malawi's most spectacular wild area. It boasts an incredible mixture of scenery and landscapes – pristine brachystegia woodland, mature mountain forest patches, crystal clear running streams and miles and miles of open rolling grassland. Being situated at a mean height of over 2,000 metres, guarantees a permanently temperate climate, which is of particular contrast to the lakeshore areas of Malawi. Game that can be spotted on the Nyika Plateau include Crawshaw's zebra, roan antelope, mountain reedbuck, eland, bushbuck, warthog, bushpig, leopard, spotted hyaena, side-striped jackal and serval. Birdlife is prolific; the park is home to over 425 species of bird. Specials include churring- and black-lored cisticolas, montane widowbird, Fulleborn's boubou, bar-tailed trogon, Rwenzori nightjar

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and several species of greenbul which occur deep in the canopy of the forests. Activities available range from day and night game drives to guided walks and mountain biking expeditions across the plateau. Birding and fly fishing are also available.

Chelinda Lodge provides a combination of rustic elegance and a wilderness experience that is unique to the region. The Lodge consists of 8 cabin styled chalets constructed of stone and pine, each of which is fitted with an en-suite bathroom, fireplace and an upstairs seating area and viewing deck. Fine dining can be enjoyed in the spacious main lounge or on the grand outdoor deck that overlooks the grasslands.

Days 8-11

Today you will be transferred, one hour by light aircraft, to Likoma Island. On arrival at the airstrip, you will be met by lodge staff and transferred a short distance to Kaya Mawa, where you will stay for 3 nights on a full board basis.

Likoma Island, situated in the far north of Lake Malawi, is the larger of two small islands very close to the Mozambique coastline. To visit the island is to step back in time. Just 17 km² with one small dirt road and six vehicles, the local population survives largely by fishing, rice and cassava farming. The Island has hundreds of huge baobab trees and a number of glorious sandy beaches and rocky coves. Kaya Mawa is located at the head of a crescent shaped bay, surrounded by mango trees and ancient baobabs. Translating as “maybe tomorrow” in the local Tonga dialect, Kaya Mawa is situated in the stunning natural backdrop of beach, rock, and lake creating a lodge of distinctive character, imagination and special ambience. The main activities are swimming, snorkelling, kayaking, walking and biking. Other water sports on the island include: diving (subject to prior arrangement), waterskiing, tube riding, wake snaking and sailing safaris (the lodge has a small wooden skip for journeys around the island)

The lodge was built in partnership with the local community. It consists of seven stone and teak framed thatched cottages set into a granite headland. All the cottages have private terraces with direct access to the water.

Day 11

This morning, you will be transferred by light aircraft back to Lilongwe Airport – the flight time is approximately one hour. We will ensure that you arrive in time to connect with your onward international flight.

Day 12

Arrive London.

Guide Cost: From £5,575 per person, excluding international flights. Flights to Lilongwe from London are usually via Nairobi or Addis Ababa

Please note: Kaya Mawa closes between 15 January & 15 March annually.

We are ATOL bonded. Our ATOL number is 9709. We can quote on flights based on your specific departure dates.

GENERAL INFORMATION – PLEASE ENSURE YOU READ THE FOLLOWING

Passports: Please ensure these are valid for travel and that you are in possession of valid visas (if required see below). You are required to take out comprehensive travel insurance to safeguard against cancellation and curtailment, medical expenses, repatriation expenses, damage/theft/loss of personal baggage, money and personal belongings.

Visas: Not required for South Africa, Namibia or Botswana for UK or Irish nationals for stays of up to 90 days. An onward or return ticket is required, as well as sufficient funds and documents needed for further travel. Please note that visitors to South Africa must have a MINIMUM of two blank/empty VISA pages in their passport each time entry is sought. Visitors to South Africa with foreign passports who do not comply with these requirements will either be stopped from boarding their aircraft at their point of departure or risk deportation on arrival in South Africa. British nationals can obtain a visa on arrival in Zambia for USD50, but do not need a visa in advance to visit Malawi for tourism. Visitors are usually granted a 30-day tourist visa free of charge on arrival.

Health: The World Health Organisation (www.who.int/en/) recommends that all travellers to Southern Africa are inoculated against diphtheria, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella and polio as well as for Hepatitis B. Inoculation against Hepatitis A and Typhoid is also recommended for travel in South Africa and yellow fever for Zambia. Depending on the area visited, anti-malarial drugs may also be recommended. All travellers should seek advice from their local GP or travel clinic for up-to-date advice on vaccinations and different malarial options. Travel insurance is part of the Terms and Conditions of your trip with Native Escapes it is essential that you purchase comprehensive travel insurance for your trip. Your insurance should be inclusive of full medical cover including costs of emergency repatriation, cancellation and travel delay.

Native Escapes complies with the UK Package & Travel Regulations 1992. Holidays with flights included are covered by the company's ATOL Bond (Air Travel Organisers' Licence) held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). This means that in the unfortunate event that our company should fail, the CAA will arrange any necessary repatriation and any refund of monies paid to Native Escapes in advance. Our ATOL number is 9709. We have testimonials on our website: visit www.nativeescapes.com/aboutus for more information.