

TRACKS SAFARIS

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14 NIGHT MALAWI ADVENTURE
NORTH AND SOUTH MALAWI



Areas covered: Lilongwe, Luwawa, Nyika National Park, Chintheche, Mumbo Island, Thyolo,
Liwonde National Park

DAY ONE

On arrival in Lilongwe you will be met by Tracks Safaris Representative and transferred north to Luwawa Forest Lodge. The four-hour drive is pleasant and offers excellent vistas of the north.

Area and location: You will spend your first night at Luwawa Forest Lodge, which is located in the Vipha Mountains in northern Malawi and overlooks the beautiful and tranquil Luwawa Valley and dam which is well stocked with a variety of fish. There is something for everyone at the lodge whether you seek adventure, a holiday escape or whether you simply want to enjoy the serenity and peace of this picturesque location.

Accommodation: The lodge offers comfortable ensuite family chalets. The rooms have been designed tastefully to provide ample comfort. The homely and spacious accommodation, bar facilities and dining area and restaurant make Luwawa an ideal place for a family getaway.

Activities: The lodge specialises in outdoor adventure tourism and the activities on offer include horse riding, mountain biking, rock climbing, abseiling, trail walking, canoeing, fishing, birding, orienteering, forest fitness courses, table tennis and more. You will be able to go on gentle strolls and opt for a few activities on your first day.



DAY TWO

After breakfast you will be transferred north to Chelinda Lodge which is approximately a six to seven hour drive with a stop at Mzuzu Market enroute.

Area and location: Chelinda Lodge is set against the magnificent backdrop of a towering pine forest, overlooking vast tracts of Nyika National Park's rolling grasslands dotted with large herds of antelope. The park is one of Malawi's oldest and most iconic areas of wilderness. Game that can be spotted on the Nyika Plateau include Burchell's zebra, roan antelope, mountain reedbuck, eland, bushbuck, warthog, bush pig, leopard, spotted hyena, side-striped jackal and serval. Birdlife is prolific and the park is home to over 425 species of birds. The park is also home to an abundance of orchids and wild flowers.

Accommodation: The lodge consists of six double-storey log cabins, and one two roomed family unit. Each abode is furnished with a fireplace for the cold highland nights. The ground floor features an open-plan

bedroom and lounge, ensuite bathroom and a veranda. The main building has a convivial dining area around a fireplace, and a lounge that opens onto a deck that is ideal for sundowners.



DAYS THREE AND FOUR

During these two days you will be able to enjoy a range of activities which will give you an opportunity to explore and discover one of Malawi's premier wildlife destinations.

Activities: Among the many things you can do at Chelinda, game drives, night drives, birding and mountain biking are all available along with more challenging excursions such as the Livingstonia Trail. You could start your day by exploring the park via a game drive, which will be conducted by our experienced guides who have a thorough knowledge and understanding of the park's wildlife inhabitants.

The evenings are considered the best time to spot leopards and many other nocturnal species are also easy to observe during a night game drive. You will also be able to enjoy breath-taking sundowners overlooking the plateau along with light refreshments. For birdwatcher the park is ideal for spotting an array of birds including many migrant species that travel in search of warmer climates during the start of the year.

DAY FIVE

After breakfast you will transfer by road seven hours south to the lakeshores of Chintheche Inn. You can opt to travel via Nkhata Bay, a bustling town and tourist hotspot in the north.

Area and location: The beaches on the northern lakeshore of Malawi are acknowledged as the country's finest. Against the backdrop of the Viphya Mountains and patches of tropical rainforests, the white sandy beaches of Chintheche stretch for miles. In addition, the inn is surrounded by lush gardens and shady trees that overlook the lake.

Accommodation: Accommodation includes ten comfortably furnished ensuite rooms and a family cottage, which has a total of two bedrooms. All rooms open out onto a private patio and grass lawns, which gently slope towards the beach. The inn's bright interiors are tastefully furnished and are enhanced by colourful local fabrics and traditional crafts. Guests can enjoy their meals in the central dining area or can also choose to dine under the stars or in the shade of the gardens. Other facilities include a bar, a large swimming pool and a well-equipped campsite.

DAY SIX

Enjoy the beautiful un-spoilt white sandy beaches and engage in an array of more adventurous activities.

Activities: Activities on offer at Chintheche Inn include a variety of mountain biking trails passing quaint local fishing villages and markets. Village tours can be arranged to provide a unique window into rural communities and local traditions. The gardens and surroundings of the Inn allow for relaxed birding and a wide variety of water-sports are available, including kayaking, snorkeling and boat rides. Scuba diving and horse riding are also available at nearby Kande Beach.



DAY SEVEN

After breakfast you will be transferred to the Kayak Base Camp. The journey is approximately six-seven hours by road and a short boat ride to Mumbo Island. On the way you will be able to stop by Mua Mission and Nkhotakota town.

About Mua Mission: Located just off the main M5 lakeshore road, Mua Mission is one of Malawi's richest historic sites which was established in 1976 by a Canadian missionary priest. It is home to the KuNgoni Centre of Culture & Art which has gradually grown from an art co-operative to a vibrant cultural centre which provides insight into the unique history and culture of Malawi. The Mission is also famous for the outstanding quality of wood carvings produced and sold in its Carving Centre. In addition, the Chamare Museum and the new Research Centre at Mua Mission are sure to provide an enriching experience of Malawian history and culture.

Area and location: Mumbo Island Camp is located on a pristine, deserted island 10 kilometres off the Cape Maclear Peninsula. The waters surrounding the island are part of Lake Malawi National Park, the world's first freshwater park, which is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is well known for its diverse populations of cichlids and other freshwater fish. The island itself has never been populated and is covered in miombo woodlands as well as ancient fig and baobab trees.

Accommodation: The camp is tucked away on the rocks and beaches of a serene bay and the crystal-clear waters surrounding Mumbo Island are protected. Accommodation features tastefully furnished tents and family units with shaded decks, hammocks, ensuite hot bucket showers and 'eco-loos'. The camp's

construction adheres to the strictest principles of eco-architecture and its operations make an almost zero ecological impact on the island.



DAYS EIGHT AND NINE

You will have two days to spend on discovering and exploring the beauty of Mumbo Island as well as enjoying various activities on offer.

Activities: On the first day of your visit, you can unwind in your room which is equipped with a hammock and private deck or relax in the spacious main lounge which overlooks the lake. You can also opt to go snorkelling or canoeing at your leisure as all gear is provided for guests to use whenever they please. Meals can be enjoyed in the main dining area or on the beach. Other activities on offer include birding, hiking and scuba diving.

DAY TEN

After breakfast, you can opt to be transferred straight to Huntingdon House in Thyolo via a short three-four hour drive or you can enjoy a longer trip that will stop by Mangochi Museum, Zomba Mountain and Blantyre enroute to Huntingdon House in Thyolo.

Area and location: Huntingdon House exudes a colonial charm and unique character that cannot be recreated. This magnificent house forms the heart of Satemwa Tea Estate and is surrounded by sprawling manicured gardens with secret patios and terraces waiting to be discovered by guests.

As one of Malawi's first land claims registered in 1874, Satemwa Tea Estate is undoubtedly among the country's most respected and established tea and coffee producers.

Accommodation: The house has been tastefully refurbished to offer 5 unique suites, each individually decorated to reflect the quirks and character of this grand residence. Each area of the house has a story of its own from the original children's nursery to the resident priest's quarters and private Chapel.

The suites consist of superb bathrooms featuring clawed bath tubs, separate showers, bath robes, wonderful bamboo cotton blend towels and rounded off with a range of guest amenities. The majority of rooms have king size beds with 100% cotton linen and a selection of pillows to ensure that guests enjoy a good night's sleep.



DAY ELEVEN

After breakfast, you can opt to stay back at Huntingdon House and relax at leisure, or you could enjoy a day trip to either Mulanje Mountain or Blantyre.



Activities: As Huntingdon House is located in close proximity to several popular places, day trips to Majete Game Reserve in the Lower Shire Valley, Zomba Plateau, Blantyre or Mulanje can be easily arranged.

In addition, in-house activities on offer include tea-tasting, mountain biking, coffee tours, walking trails, birding, croquette and other sporting facilities.

DAY TWELVE

After breakfast, you will travel north for about three hours along scenic roads to Mvuu Lodge in Liwonde National Park.

Area and location: Liwonde National Park expands across an area of 548 sq km and is Malawi's premier wildlife destination. Named after Chief Liwonde who had championed its protection, the park harbours very diverse landscapes including swamps, deciduous woodlands, open grasslands, mopane and miombo woodlands as well as Palm savannah and numerous baobabs. The park has a healthy population of elephants, hippos and crocodiles. Waterbuck wade in lagoons and marshes, while the open savannah and hills of the interior attract antelopes such the elegant sable, impala and bushbuck. Rare sightings include black rhino, leopard, serval and the occasional lion. Nearly 400 bird species occur in the park.



Accommodation: Mvuu Lodge is one of Malawi's finest wilderness camps. Set in lush vegetation on the banks of a quiet lagoon, the lodge has 8 stunningly designed tents, each with a private viewing platform, luxurious furnishings and beautifully appointed bathrooms (including a unique outdoor shower). Your last night at Mvuu will be on the Star Beds platform located four kms north of the lodge. With a 180 degree view of the park's floodplains, river and riverine thickets, the Star Beds provide an excellent game viewing opportunity and 'back to nature' experience.

DAYS THIRTEEN AND FOURTEEN

You will be able to spend these two days exploring the spectacular wilderness of Liwonde National Park by road, on foot and by boat.

Activities: On the first day of your stay at Mvuu Lodge, you can join the daily evening game drive which takes place each in the late afternoon and carries on into the night. During the drive, your guide will take you to popular game viewing spots within the park and will thereafter stop at a safe location for you to enjoy

sundowners. On your return, you will be able to enjoy a wholesome meal on the lodge's dining deck, which overlooks the Shire River.



On the following mornings you can opt for an early morning walk in place of a boat safari, or you can choose to go on your boat safari slightly later in the morning. A boat safari on the Shire is considered one of the signature activities at Mvuu and offers you the chance to observe the park's wildlife from a unique perspective.

You can also request to slot in a village visit during your stay, the nearby villages and local schools are located a short boat ride away and visits can be organised for guests who are interested in learning more about community development initiatives and traditional life in Liwonde.

All meals can be enjoyed at the lodge, however you can also make the request for a special bush lunch or breakfast or choose to take a packed lunch with you if you are planning on opting for an afternoon game viewing activity.

DAY FIFTEEN

After an early breakfast, you will be driven back to Lilongwe International Airport, in time for your departure.

This tour includes: All accommodation and meals, with packed lunches on transfers when necessary; water throughout the trip; all activities as specified; all park entry fees; service charges of driver/guide and all side trips as listed; local beers, wines and soft drinks at Huntingdon House.

This tour excludes: Drinks, except as specified at Huntingdon House; visas, museum entry fees enroute (if applicable) and a 1% tourism levy.

You can extend this safari to enjoy more time on safari in Zambia – please ask!



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