

Beaches and Wilderness Reserves of Malawi



This 13-day lodge safari takes in the best of Malawi, including the Nkhotakota and Majete Wildlife Reserves, Likoma Island, and of course, Lake Malawi.

Day 1: Arrive in Lilongwe

On arrival at Lilongwe Airport you will be met and transferred to Burley House in Lilongwe for one night (DB).

Burley House

Burley House is a small, private guesthouse set in residential Lilongwe, with 8 rooms accommodating 18 guests. It offers all of the facilities expected of a modern hotel – wi-fi, telephone, air-conditioning and satellite TV – coupled with the privacy of a private home. The atmosphere is informal and friendly, and the service excellent.



Day 2: Lilongwe – Tongole Wilderness Lodge

After breakfast, transfer to Tongole Wilderness lodge which is located north of Lilongwe in the Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve. Spend one night at Tongole Wilderness Lodge (FB), where activities include morning and evening game drives, bush treks, and Bua River canoe safaris.

Your Financial Protection

All monies paid by you for the air holiday package shown [or flights if appropriate] are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 3145.

For more information see our booking terms and conditions.

Tongole Wilderness Lodge

Tongole Wilderness Lodge is an exciting new eco-tourism venture located deep within the rugged and beautiful miombo woodland of the Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve. Situated 30km west of the Lake and hugging the forest-clad banks of the Bua River, Tongole is the only high-end property in this unspoilt wildlife region.



There are just four guest cottages at Tongole Wilderness Lodge, all of which are located on the banks of the Bua River. Built from the same red earth, rock and wood upon which Tongole stands, they blend in perfectly with their unique natural setting. Open-fronted, they provide a cool haven during the heat of the day.

Each of the rooms boasts a large king-size double bed or twin beds (which can be joined together). A third single bed can be added to any of the rooms to provide for families. Each cottage is supplied with 240v power and hot running water at all times and possesses a shower, twin marble basins, flush lavatory and a large hand-built sunken bath - doubling as a plunge-pool 'with a view' during the day. Spectacular raised wooden decks afford a tranquil and private space to relax and watch the river and forest wildlife go by.



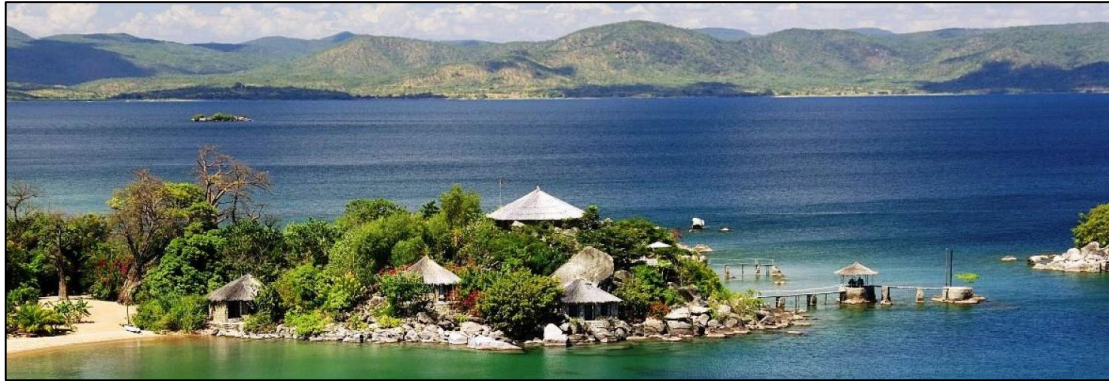
Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve

Situated in central Malawi, Nkhotakota is a vast reserve of 700 sq miles, consisting primarily of miombo woodland, though with patches of tall grass and occasional rainforest. The lack of open savannah makes game viewing at Nkhotakota somewhat difficult, though the Reserve makes up for what it lacks in big game viewing in its excellent birding and beautiful scenery.

Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve has until recent years been difficult to access, and as such attracts relatively few visitors. With only two small camps operating in the Reserve, visitors here are sure to enjoy a quieter, more intimate safari experience than that offered by the busier safari parks of East Africa.

Day 3: Tongole – Likoma Island

After Breakfast you will be transferred by road to Lilongwe airport (3hrs) in time for the one hour flight to Likoma Island. On arrival, check in to a standard rooms for 2 nights, inc. full board and activities (kayaking, snorkelling, guided walks, mountain biking and sailing).



Kaya Mawa

Kaya Mawa (literally ‘maybe tomorrow’) is a lodge where time seems to stand still and visitors are encouraged to relax and take things as they come. It enjoys an enviable location on a fine beach on the southern tip of Likoma Island, one of the most isolated and beautiful destinations in all of Malawi.

Kaya Mawa is a rustic retreat built entirely by hand and in partnership with the local community. The main beach is private, with a thatch-roofed bar, hammocks and rope-beds scattered around. The main camp is located in a rocky outcrop, consisting of a bar, dining room and a rock pool – the perfect setting for a holiday of total relaxation and unforgettable romantics.

Day 4: Kaya Mawa

A full day to relax on the Island and enjoy the various activities on offer.

Day 5: Norman Carr Cottage, Lake Malawi

You will be transferred by road to Likoma aerodrome to check in for the flight to the Southern lakeshore. On arrival, you will be transferred to Norman Carr cottage for one night, inc. full board and activities (snorkelling or sunset cruise).



Norman Carr Cottage

The Norman Carr Cottage is situated on the southern lake shore of Lake Malawi in the beautiful sheltered bay of Namakoma just 15km south of Monkey Bay.

The charming Norman Carr Cottage is situated on a sandy beach, tucked away under a canopy of large indigenous trees – a perfect hideaway of sun drenched beaches and turquoise waters!

Full catered home cooked meals are enjoyed in the open beach dining area overlooking the waters of Lake Malawi. The rooms are spacious and airy with open air showers, king-size beds and coffee/tea making facilities.

Activities include sailing, wind surfing, canoeing, snorkelling and feeding the fish eagles. Evening sunset cruises are also a highlight.



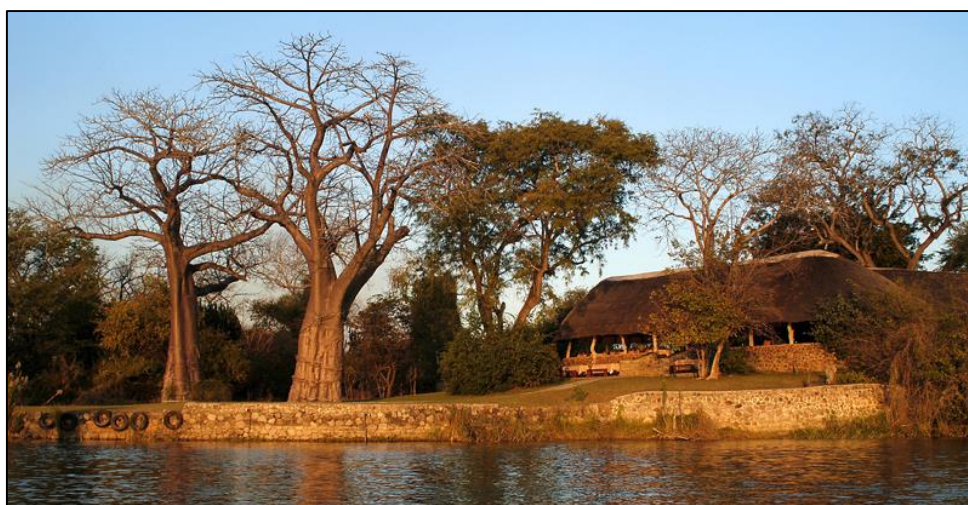
Day 6: Norman Carr Cottage – Mvuu Camp

After breakfast, transfer from Norman Carr Cottage to Hippo View Lodge in Liwonde where you will take the boat transfer to Mvuu Camp. Arrive in time for an afternoon game drive. Spend two nights at Mvuu Camp (FB).

Mvuu Camp

Mvuu Camp is an excellent option for those who want to enjoy an equally comfortable and remote bush experience.

Mvuu's airy thatched lounge looks out onto the Shire River where crocodile, hippo, elephant and an array of birdlife can be seen.



Dinner is served in the open boma or on the banks of the river.

Day 7: Mvuu

A full day at Mvuu to enjoy two game viewing activities.



Day 8: Mvuu Camp to Majete Game Reserve

Following a morning game drive you transfer by boat to Hippo View Lodge. Here you will meet your guide who will transfer you from Liwonde to Majete National Park. Check into Thawale Camp for two nights (FB).

Thawale Lodge

Thawale Lodge is a mid-range camp located in the Lower Shire Valley, part of the Majete Wildlife Reserve. Built around a floodlit waterhole that attracts a variety of wildlife, Thawale Lodge provides a traditional bush safari experience. Completely unfenced, the camp is regularly visited by wildlife.

Accommodation is in six double and twin tented chalets, each with private veranda overlooking the waterhole. The chalets are spaced out to offer privacy. A communal lapa (traditional lounge area) with a fully staffed kitchen is available in the centre of the camp. Fresh meals are served in the thatched bamboo restaurant and bar with birding veranda.

Day 9: Majete

For a long time neglected and crippled by poaching, Majete Wildlife Reserve came under new management in 2003, and since then has undergone a real rebirth. Over 2,000 animals have been reintroduced, including elephant, black rhino, buffalo, zebra, sable antelope, eland, waterbuck, nyala, hartebeest, kudu and many more, making this one of the best populated safari reserves in all of Malawi.

Visitors to Majete have the option to explore the reserve by vehicle – game drives in open vehicles – or on foot. The guided bushwalks are a highlight. You will be led by experienced scouts, who themselves cover the Reserve every day on patrols and are thus best equipped to tell you all about Majete. For the more adventurous there is the option to track elephant on foot – a once in a lifetime experience! Together with two scouts you will search for elephants using a radio transmitter. Once there is a signal you will go on foot into the bush. It is important to be downwind and very quiet, you don't want the elephants to know you are there. They really are wild animals and can be dangerous, but it is a truly impressive experience to be standing just a few metres away from these majestic animals.



Day 10: Huntingdon

Transfer from Majete Game Reserve to Satemwa Tea Estate in Thyolo where you will stay at Huntingdon House for two nights (FB).



Huntingdon House

One of the most scenically beautiful regions of Malawi, the Thyolo district forms the heart of Malawi's tea producing region, with its rolling hills of immaculately cultivated, emerald green plantations and some of the oldest estates in the country. Owing to its highland location,

Huntingdon House was built in the 1920's and the estate has been in the Cathcart Kay family for generations with members of the family still running the tea and coffee production of the estate. The grand old colonial style house is surrounded by magnificent gardens and beautiful old trees. Thanks to its highland location, it enjoys a temperate climate, as well as wonderful views of Mount Mulanje and the Lower Shire Valley to the west.

Day 11: Huntingdon House, Satemwa Tea Estate

Today is free to relax at Huntingdon House. Guests tend to get caught up in the relaxing atmosphere but there are a range of activities and excursions available.



There is a beautiful picnic spot high up the mountain with views of Mt Mulanje to the southeast, and the Shire River to the west. The sunset from this idyllic spot must be seen. Other activities include mountain biking, guided birding walks through Thyolo Forest, tea tasting and coffee tours. Excursions to Mount Mulanje, Zomba Plateau and Lake Chirwa are also available.

Day 12: Satemwa Tea Estate to Zomba

Transfer from Satemwa to Zomba Plateau where you will overnight at Zomba Forest Lodge (FB).

Zomba Forest Lodge

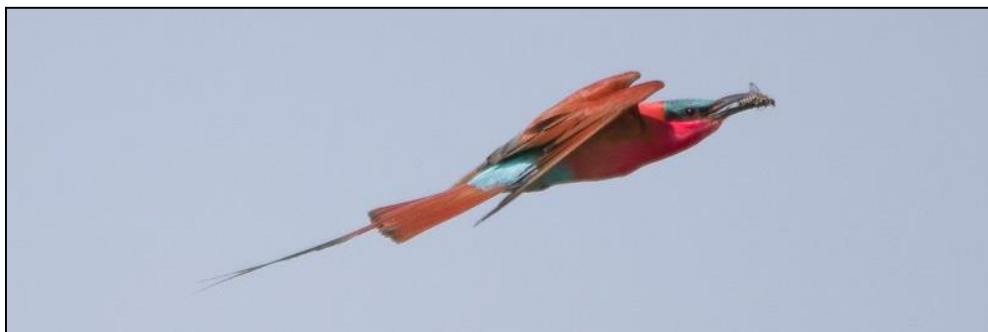
Zomba Forest Lodge provides an ideal base from which to explore Zomba Plateau. With four cosy en-suite rooms, the lodge sits snugly onto the side of Zomba Plateau.

A cosy fire every night adds to the homely atmosphere of the forest lodge. Delicious food is served in the small dining area with all the guests sitting together to tuck into some of the best food in Malawi, cooked by Solomon the chef. Ronald the owner will recount tales of life on the plateau and the fascinating history of this old forest warden's cottage. Nights are spent mosquito free due to the altitude and the guests often spend evening's star gazing or listening to the night jars. Wake to the sound of birdsong and take, breakfast in the beautiful gardens of the lodge and plan the day's activities!



Day 13: Zomba – Lilongwe Airport

Transfer from Zomba to Lilongwe International Airport to check in for onward flight.



Price Guide:

The cost of this itinerary is from **£2,795 per person**, based on twin share and subject to availability at the time of booking. For more information, or if you would like to enquire about a tailor-made holiday combining part or all of the above itinerary, please [contact us](#).

Includes:

- Accommodation and meals as per itinerary
- Internal flights and road transfers
- Activities as per itinerary
- National park fees at Mvuu Camp and Thawale Lodge
- Local beers, spirits, house wine by the glass, tea and coffee at Tongole river lodge and Huntingdon house

Excludes:

- International flights
- Visa fees and personal insurance
- Drinks at Burley house, Kaya Mawa, Norman Carr cottage, Thawale and Zomba forest lodge
- Premium drinks at Tongole and Huntingdon house
- Additional meals and activities not mentioned in the itinerary
- Return boat transfers to Mvuu Camp if necessary (USD80 per person)