



Let's Explore Malawi - Celebrating 50 years of Independence

This is a celebratory package marking Malawi's 50th Independence. Known as the 'Warm Heart of Africa', this culturally diverse landlocked country has an extremely friendly and welcoming population; enhancing the overall experience.

Malawi runs down the end of the Great Rift Valley. Dominated by Lake Malawi which the great explorer Dr. David Livingstone romantically named 'Lake of Stars', and is the third largest lake in Africa; the surrounding country is exceptionally beautiful with dramatic scenery that includes rocky outcrops, high mountains, plateaus and views across what is considered to be Africa's most beautiful lake. There are many market scenes, road side stalls, cottage industries that a visitor can comfortably visit. With both the scenery and the culture Malawi is a great country to drive in.

From game viewing experiences, tours of coffee/tea estates, historical tours, shopping in local markets, tracking the elusive rhino to relaxing on the beautiful shores of Lake Malawi, there will not be a dull moment with this safari.

SUMMARY OF THE SAFARI:

- **Itinerary** Mkulumadzi 3 nights, Huntingdon 2 nights, Mvuu Lodge 2 nights & Pumulani 4 nights
- **Includes** All transfers by road and air starting in Blantyre and ending in Lilongwe, all accommodation on a full board basis, all local drinks (except at Mvuu), all activities (except motorized water sports), laundry
- **Excludes** Gratuities, visa fees where applicable + international flights
- **Rates from** US\$4195 per person sharing
- **Valid** April to 6 January 2015

DESTINATION HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Majete Wildlife Reserve** is one of Malawi's largest protected areas and covers an area of over 70,000ha and only the only Big 5 reserve. Majete is located within the Miombo woodland eco region and much of the higher lying areas in the west of the park are dominated by Miombo/Brachystegia woodland. Mixed Combretum woodlands and mosaics of riparian forest can be found in the East of Majete.
- **Satemwa Tea Estate** is among Malawi's most respected and established tea and coffee producers managed and operated by third generation members of the Cathcart Kay family. A magnificent colonial style house, Huntingdon House, forms the heart of *estate* and is surrounded by rolling manicured gardens with secret patio's and terraces – it reflects the colourful history of Malawi's spectacular Shire Highlands.
- **Liwonde National Park** is considered to be one of the top birding locations in Southern Africa. The park offers some of the most scenic game viewing, beautiful riverine surroundings and varied bird watching you could wish to find. A great deal of the terrain is Shire River floodplains, much loved by the healthy population of Elephants in this park.
- **Nankumba Peninsula**, Lake Malawi is recognized as one of the most beautiful shores of the Lake and borders Lake Malawi National Park. This Park was established in order to protect the cichlid fish unique to the area. In 1984 the park was designated a World Heritage Site.

Highlight activities per property:

Mkulumadzi: walking, game drives, boating, hiking and cultural tours.

Huntingdon House: coffee and tea estate tours, bird walks and trails, mountain biking and cultural visits to surrounding community projects. A must is the picnic on Thyolo Mountain with panoramic views of the Lower Shire Valley and Mount Mulanje.

Mvuu: walking, game drives, boating, hiking, rhino tracking and cultural tours.

Pumulani: birding, kayaking, boating, sailing, fishing, scuba diving, snorkeling, water-skiing, fun-tubing, sunset cruises, picnic tours plus village tour.

Day 1 On arrival at Blantyre International Airport a guide from Robin Pope Safaris will meet you. The drive to Mkulumadzi is approximately 2.5 hours through colorful local scenes of villages, agriculture as well as bush. The lodge is located on the confluence of the Shire and Mkulumadzi River; within Majete Wildlife Reserve, 70km South West of Blantyre - Southern Malawi. Majete is Malawi's only Big 5 Reserve and also one of the largest protected areas and covers an area of over 70,000ha. The reserve is located within the Miombo woodland ecoregion and much of the higher lying areas in the west of the park are dominated by Miombo/Brachystegia woodland. Mixed Combretum woodlands and mosaics of riparian forest can be found in the East of Majete. Depending on your arrival time in the day you will enjoy a lunch looking out over the Shire River or if in the afternoon for tea and the afternoon and night game drive. MKULUMADZI



Day 2-3 The luxurious lodge is in a stunning location and activities include game-drives, boating safaris, bush walks, hiking Majete Hill, black rhino tracking, cultural tours, birding trips on the Shire River and game-viewing from a hide. Guests are free to be as energetic or as idle as they please although at least one activity per day is encouraged to best enjoy Majete. MKULUMADZI



Day 4 After breakfast and farewells, you will be transferred to Huntingdon House by road transfer to the slopes of Thyolo Mountain. Huntingdon House is situated on the Satemwa Tea Estate; literally stepping back in time. HUNTINGDON HOUSE



Day 5 A full day to explore the surrounding area; tour of the tea factory, visit to the Mount Mulanje Massif (it rises to 2,380 metres above sea level) or perhaps a short hike to Dziwe la Nkhalamba rock pool and falls. You set your own pace of how you want to spend your day. HUNTINGDON HOUSE

Day 6 After breakfast and farewells, you will be transferred to Mvuu Lodge by road transfer. Along the way you will stop in Blantyre for lunch at Mandala House, the oldest building standing in Malawi - built back in 1882 as a home for the managers of the Mandala Trading Company. A grand colonial house with incredible verandahs, the house is set in

lovely gardens. An art gallery, the Society of Malawi Library & Archive (containing a vast number of journals, books and photographs, some dating as far back as the 19th century) plus a café are housed here. There is a market nearby which you may explore and perhaps buy some Malawian souvenirs.

After a light lunch, shopping and the brief history lesson you will be transferred onto Liwonde National Park, which is considered to be one of the top birding locations in Southern Africa. The park well deserves these accolades as it offers some of the most scenic game viewing, beautiful riverine surroundings and varied bird watching you could wish to find. A great deal of the terrain is Shire River floodplains, much loved by the healthy population of Elephants in this park. They are best viewed during your boat safari on the Shire River, one of the many highlights of a stay at Mvuu Lodge. MVUU LODGE



Day 7 Mvuu Wilderness Lodge offers comfortable tented accommodation in spacious 'Hemingway'-styled safari tents, with own en suite facilities for a maximum of 10 guests. Each tent has its own private viewing platform and is discreetly hidden between the thick undergrowth bordering the lagoon.



The lodge has a swimming pool, sun deck and al fresco dining platform overlooking the river and lagoon. Your stay is on a full board basis, including the game activities which centre on game drives by day and by night in open vehicles, walks and boat safaris, a unique activity at Mvuu. We explore the Shire River and lagoons - an excellent opportunity for sightings of elephants, hippo, crocodile and bird life. Birding is rewarding - specialities include Lillian's lovebird, brown breasted barbet, osprey, palmnut vulture, Pel's fishing owl and Livingstone's flycatcher. Also available is a viewing hide on a tributary of the Shire River and also some interesting visits by bicycle to the local school and surrounding rural communities. MVUU LODGE

NOTE: these above two nights may be spent at Robin Pope Safaris' Liwonde camp due to open in 2014

Day 8 Transfer to Pumulani after breakfast, by either driving all the way, or if necessary (if the roads are wet), then boating to Liwonde to pick up the vehicle. The direct drive is around 2.5 hours (around 100km), first skirting the shores of Lake Malombe where most of the year we are able to visit the fish drying racks which dot the villages along the lakes edge. Further north there is the option of stopping at the old colonial naval port of Mangochi to visit the rundown yet eccentric little museum. Then you will reach the Nankumba Peninsula of Lake Malawi. This is recognised as one of the most beautiful shores of the Lake and borders Lake Malawi National Park. This Park was established in order to protect the cichlid fish unique to the area. In 1984 the park was designated a World Heritage Site.



Pumulani is exclusively situated on the westside of the Nankumba Peninsula, surrounded by national park. The ten villas are scattered around the hillside and are individual in shape and style but all have a spacious bedroom, bathroom and extensive sitting area. The front sliding doors open onto the deck – elevated above the ground giving optimal views. Our remote beach setting is ideal for those who simply want to soak up the sun and swim in the clear blue waters of the lake. Those who prefer to take a dive in the swimming pool, we have an infinity swimming pool near the central dining area with grand views over the lake. For those seeking activity we offer many watersports activities like snorkelling, fishing, sailing, kayaking, waterskiing, wake boarding and fun tube rides (all motorized activities are excluded). At the end of the day climb aboard our dhow and let our experienced local crewmen take you sailing into the sunset. PUMULANI



Day 9 - 11 Lake Malawi is the world's most ecologically diverse lake. Its crystal clear waters are home to more than a thousand species of fish, including hundreds of species of colourful cichlids. We offer special diving courses at the best diving spots near one of the islands. For those who are interested in the real Malawian village life we offer guided walks through one of the local villages. Malawians are renowned for being amongst the friendliest people in Africa and during your stay you will have the opportunity to meet them. You can also simply relax in the beautiful and tranquil scenery or can enjoy the many other activities.

A must do activity is a visit to Mua Mission, which is an hour and a half's drive away – you can speak to lodge management who can arrange this for you at an extra fee. The mission was established by the Roman Catholic Church over 100 years ago. Father Claude Boucher founded the KuNgoni art and craft centre and a shop. The aim was to harness the skills of local craftsmen. There is a unique Malawian culture museum that provides insight in to the history and culture of current day Malawi. PUMULANI

Day 12 On the final day of your stay with Pumulani you bid farewell to the lodge. You will be transferred back to Monkey Bay where you will take a light aircraft to Lilongwe time for the connecting onto flight. END OF SAFARI