

Malawi - Heart Of Africa 11 days

Lilongwe 1nts, Lilongwe 3nts, Blantyre 2nts, Liwonde National Park 1nts, Lake Malawi 2nts, Lake Malawi 1nts

Daywise Itinerary:

Day 01 UK - LILONGWE, MALAWI

You board your overnight flight from London UK to Kamuzu International Airport in Lilongwe, Malawi

Day 02 LILONGWE

On arrival at Kamuzu International Airport, pass through the immigration and customs formalities. Transfer and check in to your hotel in Lilongwe rest of the day at leisure. Dinner and overnight.

[X]Breakfast [X] Lunch [Y] Indian Dinner



Day 03 LILONGWE CITY TOUR

Today we depart for a city tour of Lilongwe. Visit the memorial to the first President of Malawi, Dr. Hastings Kamuzu Banda and the Parliament Building, then visit the World War I Memorial pillar where you can climb the tower to have the breath taking view of the city. Later head to Old Town with a stop at Shree Radhakrishna Mandir and the Indian Sports Club. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

[Y]Breakfast [Y] Lunch [Y] Indian Dinner



Day 04 LILONGWE - BALAKA - LIMBE - BLANTYRE (320KM - APPROX. 5 ½ HOURS DRIVE)

After breakfast enjoy the scenic countryside on the drive to Blantyre. On a clear day we might be lucky and see Mozambique on the right side. Have lunch at Balak en route and head to the bustling town of Limbe. On arrival visit the Swaminarayan temple and Sikh Temple continue onto to Blantyre for dinner and overnight at hotel.

[Y] Breakfast [Y] Lunch [Y] Indian Dinner



Day 05 BLANTYRE CITY TOUR

Morning starts with a city tour of Blantyre (commercial capital of Malawi). With its origin and links with the Scottish missionaries from the time of David Livingstone; Blantyre is named after Livingstone's birthplace in Scotland. Visit the Shree Satyanarayan Temple, St. Michael's Cathedral (red-brick church constructed from 1888 to 1891), Chichiri Museum (opened in 1966, exhibits mainly on the history and culture of Malawi and the wildlife. The exhibits range from Stone Age tools to old banknotes, traditional musical instruments and artefacts, and documents relating to the slave trade and Malawi's independence, old locomotive from 1902, Malawi's first fire engine, a bus from Nyasaland and a small house where you can learn about the traditional way of life) and the Indian Blantyre Sports Club. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

[Y]Breakfast [Y] Picnic Lunch [Y] Indian Dinner



Day 06 BLANTYRE - ZOMBA - LIWONDE

Today head for Liwonde National Park via Zomba, (colonial, capital of Malawi). On way to the plateau experience the stunning views that go all the way to Mulanje Mountain. The plateau, forms part of the Sire highlands, which sits 1,800m (6000ft). En route pass by the King's African Rifles memorial (now the Malawi Rifles), the clock tower which serves as their World War I memorial as well as the old Parliament building and the Gymkhana Club. Later in the afternoon enjoy a sunset view on the Mangunda River Cruise.

[Y]Breakfast [Y] Lunch [Y] Dinner



Day 07 LIWONDE NATIONAL PARK - MANGOCHI - LAKE MALAWI

Pre breakfast early morning game drive in Liwonde National Park. Home to large numbers of elephants, hippos, crocodiles, lions, and recently reintroduced wild dogs and cheetahs. On returning to hotel have breakfast. Leisure time till lunch after which depart for Mangochi. Previously called Fort Johnston, it was established to limit the slave traffic moving northwards towards the Lake and on to Zanzibar. An orientation tour of Mangochi. Mangochi has several historical monuments dating back to the beginning of the twentieth century. These include a clock tower erected in memory of Queen Victoria and a Hotchkiss gun taken from the Gwendolen, a gun boat which patrolled Lake Malawi from 1889 to 1940. Alongside the clock tower is a simple stone memorial to the 145 lives lost when the MV Viphya sank in 1946. Dinner and overnight at Lake Malawi.

[Y] Breakfast [Y] Lunch [Y] Dinner



Day 08 LAKE MALAWI

Day at leisure to enjoy the activities of the hotel or optional activities such as pedal boats, paddling, etc.
[Y] Breakfast [Y] Lunch [Y] Dinner



Day 09 LAKE MALAWI - LILONGWE

Morning at leisure to enjoy the activities of the hotel or optional activities such as pedal boats, paddling, etc. In the afternoon we depart for Lilongwe for your last night in Malawi.
[Y] Breakfast [Y] Lunch [Y] Indian Dinner



Day 10 DEPART FROM MALAWI

Check out and transfer to the airport in time for your onward flight back home.
[Y] Breakfast [X] Lunch [X] Dinner



Day 11 ARRIVE

Arrive UK.



Return with the Happy Memories of the Tour!!!

Departures:

2024 Tour Departures:	
March	11
April	07
May	13
July	08

Tour Cost:

Departures: 11/03/2024, 07/04/2024

Title: From London

Passengers	Rates		Sharing
	With Flight From UK	Without Flight	
	GBP	GBP	
Per Adult	3,800.00	2,850.00	Twin Room

UNITED KINGDOM 718 KENTON ROAD, KINGSBURY CIRCLE, HARROW, MIDDLESEX, HA3 9QX, UK

Call: +44 (0) 2089510111

Email: info@sonatours.co.uk

Per Adult	3,800.00	2,850.00	Double Room
Per Adult	3,800.00	2,850.00	Triple Room
Child 2-11 yrs	3,040.00	2,280.00	1st Child(with Bed) when 2 adults paying
Child 2-11 yrs	2,940.00	2,180.00	2nd Child(without Bed) when 2 adults paying
Infant 0-23 Months	900.00	600.00	Infant
Per Adult	4,000.00	3,050.00	Single Room

Departures: 13/05/2024, 08/07/2024

Title: From London

Passengers	Rates		Sharing
	With Flight From UK	Without Flight	
	GBP	GBP	
Per Adult	3,950.00	2,950.00	Twin Room
Per Adult	3,950.00	2,950.00	Double Room
Per Adult	3,950.00	2,950.00	Triple Room
Child 2-11 yrs	3,160.00	2,360.00	1st Child(with Bed) when 2 adults paying
Child 2-11 yrs	3,060.00	2,260.00	2nd Child(without Bed) when 2 adults paying
Infant 0-23 Months	900.00	600.00	Infant
Per Adult	4,150.00	3,150.00	Single Room

Inclusions:

- * All nights in 3* / 4* star hotels with breakfast
- * Meal plans as indicated in the itinerary
- * Services of local tour guides
- * Executive coach transportation

Exclusions:

- * Travel insurance
- * Visa charges
- * Items of personal nature viz. telephone calls, drinks (beverages), laundry, other meals, potter service, other personal expenses, etc..
- * Any cost of beverages, alcohols with the set meals.
- * Other services not listed in inclusive item & the itinerary

Cancellation Policy:

- * More than 56 days prior to departure date 50% of Total Holiday Cost for International Flight Tours
- * 55 - 42 days prior to departure date 75% of Total Holiday Cost for International Flight Tours
- * 41 - 0 days prior to departure date 100% of Total Holiday Cost for International Flight Tours

Terms & Conditions :

- * Please refer to the full Terms and Conditions on our website

FAQ :

Can I join the tour from any part of the world?

A: Yes, you can fly to Lilongwe (Malawi), our first point in the tour preferably a day earlier. Please do inquire in the office to arrange your logistics for both arrival and departure.

Weather & Essential to carry

Q. How can I check the local weather?

A: You can check the local weather to your destinations here: www.accuweather.com

Q. What is the best time to travel?

A: Every effort has been made to select date where the weather is moderate to ensure your best experience of Malawi (Kindly note due to changing weather conditions globally, Sonatours is not liable for weather variations).

Q. What clothes shall I wear or pack?

A: During the lovely summer months, it is advisable to wear light garments during the day but keep a light jacket or sweater in your hand luggage as evenings can get chilly.

A: We suggest waterproof jacket, pair of sunglasses and a sun hat.

A: During the holiday most of the dressing is casual attire. Should you independently wish to visit Casino or Nightclub, evening wear is required.

Q. What kind of footwear will I need on the trip?

A: We suggest trainers, walking shoes, sandals, chappals or similar.

Passport; Immigration & Visa

Q. Do I need to carry a passport?

A: Yes, all passengers must travel with their passport if traveling outside the country you live in. We request you to see the following websites for the latest updates on travel to your destinations.

For UK Resident: www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice

For USA Resident: travel.state.gov/content/travel.html

Q. How long should the passport be valid?

A: Please ensure you have a passport that is valid for at least 6 months from the date of completing your tour.

Q. What are the Visa Requirements?

A: You are responsible to ensure that you have correct documentation.

British passport holders: Do require a visa to travel to Malawi (visa updates to follow) or contact the office. Visa can be obtained online on the website: <https://visas.immigration.go.ug>

Non-British passport holders: Please do check with the Malawi Embassy or High Commission in country of your residence. Sonatours is not responsible or liable in any way should you be denied travel due to incorrect documentation.

Q. What happens to me if I am stopped at custom and immigration?

A: Sonatours cannot be held responsible if passengers are stopped or held by any government departments, e.g. Police, Customs, Immigration or any other authorities. We are sorry to say that the tour will continue and no financial or any other kind of responsibility will be accepted by Sonatours.

Money Matters

Q. What is the currency used?

A: The currency is Malawian Kwacha (MWK).
The USD dollar is widely used as well.

Q. Can I use my Credit/Debit cards there?

A: We recommend that you take a credit or debit card on holiday with you, as it provides extra financial flexibility. Major international credit cards, such as Visa or MasterCard are accepted by many restaurants, shops and hotels.
Most countries are using chip and pin. In cases where chip and pin not used, please be cautious when handing your debit/credit card.

Q. Are ATM machines available?

A: Major cities will have cash/ATM machines where cash can be withdrawn with your credit or debit card, though this might incur a fee charged by your card provider. Advise your bank which countries you are visiting prior to travel so that you don't run the risk of your card being refused and subsequent expensive phone calls to unlock it.

Q. Where can I exchange my money?

A: Money can be exchanged at Airports, Banks, Exchange Bureaus and at the hotels. You may also need your passport for identification, please be aware that locally exchange rate may vary.

Health (Medication); Welfare & Travel Insurance

Q. Do I need any vaccinations?

A: For further information on vaccinations please check with your medical doctor for recent updates or go on the following website: www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/nhs-vaccinations-and-when-to-have-them/ or contact your medical doctor for recent updates.

Q. Do I need yellow fever vaccination and certificate?

A: Yellow fever vaccination certificate required for travelers aged 1 year or over arriving from countries with risk of yellow fever transmission and for

travelers having transited for more than 12 hours through an airport of a country with risk of yellow fever transmission. You need to have the vaccine at least 10 days before travelling to give it enough time to work. Your certificate will only be valid after this time.

Q. Should I bring all my medication with me?

A: Please travel with all your necessary medication for the duration of your trip including your prescription/doctors report confirming the medication.

Q. Do I need to declare any special medical condition and requirements prior to booking the Safari?

A: Should you have pre - existing medical conditions or requirements (e.g. oxygen during flight or sleeping, colostomy bags, etc). Kindly advise the office at the time of booking.

Q. What happens if I am unwell during the safari?

A: Should you feel unwell during the trip, kindly contact the Hotel Reception/Tour guide. We regret that no refunds can be made for absences from a trip, including experiences such as missed meals or sightseeing. Strongly recommend to have personal travel/medical insurance to cover these mishaps.

Q. What happens if an accident occurs while on the safari?

A: Should you be involved in an accident (minor or major), please contact your Tour Guide. Unfortunately, no refunds can be made for absences from a trip, including experiences such as missed meals or sightseeing.

Q. What should I do if there is an incident?

A: Sonatours makes every effort to keep your health and safety in mind. However, should an unforeseen incident occur please contact your tour guide/hotel reception for immediate assistance.

Q. Do you facilitate clients with disability?

A: Our 4x4 land cruisers do not have wheelchair excess and have very limited luggage space. They are unable to accommodate a wheelchair and the luggage. Should you wish to travel with a wheelchair please discuss with the office for options available.

Q. What happens if I have lost or left something in the hotel/lodges at the parks?

A: Kindly note that you are responsible for looking after your valuables and property when on vacation. If an item has been left behind at the accommodation you will need to call them and arrange with them directly for the return of your item, there might be charges involved.

A: You are advised not to carry unnecessary valuables and to be vigilant, as tourist spots are well known targets for pickpockets. In case of theft, you will need to advise your Tour guide immediately and report the theft to the police. This should provide you with a police report or crime reference number.

Q. Do I need travel and medical insurance?

A: We strongly recommend you travel with Travel and Medical Insurance from your country of residence. Kindly ensure you get the correct insurance for the safari.

Q. Can Sonatours provide travel insurance?

A: There are various travel insurance providers in the market, however Sonatours does not provide Travel Insurance.

Accommodation & Transport

Q. How are rooms allocated?

A: Each accommodation checks their bookings and room inventory in the morning and pre-assigned the rooms. Sonatours have no control over room allocations.

Q. Can you guarantee rooms together?

A: Room allocation is done by the hotels/lodges at the parks. Rooms together only be requested but not guaranteed.

Q. Is early check - in available?

A: Early check in not normally available. Sonatours can on your request enquire with the accommodation on the availability and the charges applicable for an early check in.

Q. What facilities are there in the room?

A: Facilities vary from accommodation to accommodation and include en-suite bathrooms, safe box, telephone, mini bar, room service (use of some of the services are chargeable and to be settled by yourself at the time of checkout). The accommodation may require your credit card to cover your extras or cash deposits.

Q. Will the room have walk in shower?

A: Not all accommodation rooms have walking showers.

Q. Does my room have Tea & Coffee making facilities?

A: Please note that not all accommodation provides tea/coffee in the room. If hot water is required, kindly request the reception for assistance.

Q. Is smoking allowed in the rooms at hotels/lodge?

A: Smoking is not allowed in the rooms. However, designated smoking areas are provided. Please check with the reception.

Q. Is WIFI freely available?

A: Most hotels will have WIFI available in the public areas. Please check with reception for WIFI information in the rooms.

Q. Do all rooms have air-condition?

A: Most city hotel rooms in Kenya do offer air-conditioners or fans. Most rooms at Lodges in the Parks do not offer air conditioners or fans.

Q. Will all hotels have lifts?

A: Most of the hotels worldwide will have lifts. However, at some places Heritage Hotels or Resorts are used in such cases lifts cannot be guaranteed.

Q. What time do I need to be at the airport if flying from UK?

A: All flight tours originating in the UK require that you be at the airport for your flight at least 3 hours prior to your flight time. Your final itinerary confirmation will confirm the time you need to be at the airport. Should you miss your flight Sonatours will not be liable for any costs incurred for you to join the tour. The office will make every effort to assist you in such circumstances.

Please be on time as we cannot be held responsible or liable for any loss or expense suffered if you miss the flight or coach.

Q. Are flights upgrades available?

A: On long haul flight tours upgrade to your flights is possible. Please advise the office at the time of booking to get the best possible price.

Q. Can I select my seats on the airplane?

A: International and Internal flight booking are booked as a group and the airlines will allocate the seats. Should you have a specific request it will be forwarded to the airline but cannot be guaranteed.

Q. What are the luggage requirements on the airplane?

A: International Flights: Different airlines will have different requirements on the weight allowance. It can range 20-30kgs for your main luggage and 5kg for hand luggage.

Internal Flights: Where applicable the baggage allowance is strictly 15 Kg in soft luggage.

We do advise you to travel light. This information will be on your e-ticket once the tickets have been issued.

Q. What are the luggage requirements while on the safari?

A: While on the safari it is important that your baggage does not exceed 15 Kg and is in soft luggage.

Q. What type of vehicle will I be travelling in?

A: We use the finest fleet of fuel-efficient 4x4 6-seater non-air-conditioned land cruisers. The cruisers do not have emergency WC facilities. Frequent comfort stops are being made for your convenience.

Q. What is the smoking and alcohol policy while travelling on the cruisers?

A: There is a strict policy of "no smoking, no alcohol and no smelly food" on all our cruiser. We do, however, make plenty of comfort stops.

Food Matters

Q. Can I request my flight meal and is it guaranteed?

A: Meal request should be advised at the time of your booking; Sonatours will request on your behalf, but we cannot guarantee the request. Sonatours are not liable in case the requested flight meal cannot be fulfilled. Please be advised that complimentary meals are not available on the internal flights.

Q. What meal options are available to me while on safari?

A: Sonatours can cater for a range of Asian Vegetarian (e.g. Jain, Swaminarayan) as well as Asian Non-Vegetarian (Halal). Kindly advise your meal preference/allergies at the time of your booking. In areas where Indian is not available local cuisine will be provided.

Q. Where will I have my daily meals?

A: Breakfast is at the hotel/lodge, Lunch and dinners is at the accommodation's restaurant. Please be advised when on full day safari some meals will be a packed.

Q. Does Sonatours provide water during this safari tour?

A: Sonatours provides water while on safari in the park.

A: The hotel offers two bottles of water in the room on a complimentary basis.

A: Water during meals has to be ordered and paid for.

Q. Should I carry dry snacks?

A: Dry snacks can be carried, provided they are pre-packed, and all the ingredients are clearly listed on the packaging.

Q. What can I budget for a local meal?

A: On an average local meal costs about USD \$35- \$40 per person per meal. This estimated price varies from city to city and country to country

Miscellaneous

Q. Will I travel with people from other countries?

A: Sonatours have offices in Kenya, India, USA and UK. The beauty of taking a guided holiday with us is you'll have the opportunity to meet and travel with people from all over the globe. You will meet them at the lodge/hotel.

Q. Are tips included?

A: On this tour tips are not included. The average tipping is USD 10 PER PERSON PER DAY for the driver. Other services (e.g. porter, waiters etc) have to be paid individually.

Q. How much walking is involved per day for the duration of the safari?

A: This tour involves very little walking (normally 1 to 2 hours a day).

Q. Will I have free time?

A: The free time in this itinerary offers the perfect opportunity to enjoy the resort facilities and reflect on your daily experience of the game drives.

Q. Do I need to get a local SIM card?

A: Usually it is not necessary, should you require one kindly speak to your Tour guide for assistance. SIM cards can also be bought at the airport.

Q. Should I bring any electric outlet adapter and charger for my electronics?

A: Electrical currents vary Globally. We recommend that you carry a universal adapter and your electronic charges for your convenience and comfort.

Malawi: Electricity supply is 240 Volts; uses G- 3 rectangular pins in a triangular pattern.(Like the UK).