

The Shire Highlands, Liwonde and Lake Malawi

10-day overview covering Malawi's scenic highlights



This 10-day itinerary takes in the best of Malawi. You'll find time to explore the lush tea and coffee plantations of Thyolo, trek the lower foothills of Mount Mulanje, and track black rhino in Liwonde National Park, before ending your holiday on the beaches of Lake Malawi.

Day 1: Arrive in Blantyre

You will be met on arrival at Blantyre Airport and transferred 1 hour south to Thyolo, famed for its tea and coffee plantations. Check-in at Huntingdon House for two nights (full-board with local drinks).

Huntingdon House

Huntingdon House is a charming colonial-era country home dating back to 1928. In the same family for generations, the house was converted into a 5-room guesthouse (accommodating up to 12), but still retains much of its original charm and style, with its wrap-around verandah, silver service dining room, and grand lounge with wooden fireplace redolent of an earlier era.

Each of Huntingdon's five suites is uniquely styled and furnished, and all take after their function in the original house - the Nursery, for instance, has been converted into a family room with two single beds and one double, and French doors that open onto the patio. The old Chapel and priest's quarters, a separate annex to the main house, have been converted into a superb honeymoon suite, with high beamed ceiling and private patio.

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.



Huntingdon House occupies a large estate and is a wonderful place to relax, surrounded by verdant gardens with quiet patios and terraces. It's perfect for a peaceful start to your holiday, the cool climate and beautiful highland scenery is particularly! There are lovely walks to be had around the estate and surrounding hills, and guests at Huntingdon have free use of bikes to explore. Guided tours of the tea and coffee estate can be arranged, including tastings.

Day 2: Huntingdon House, Satemwa Tea Estate

After an early breakfast, depart on a day trip to Mount Mulanje, an hour and a half's drive from Huntingdon House. Here you will spend the day exploring the lower foothills of the mountain on foot, via a network of gentle walking trails.

Alternatively, you can choose to enjoy a picnic at a beautiful spot in the Shire Highlands with views of Mount 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 the Zomba Plateau and Lake Chirwa are also possible.



Days 3-5: Liwonde National Park

Depart the highlands of Thyolo and transfer by road to Liwonde National Park. The journey takes around 5-6 hours and will give you a great opportunity to take in views of the countryside.

Check-in at Mvuu Lodge for three nights.

Mvuu Lodge

Mvuu Lodge is situated on the banks of the Shire River in Liwonde National Park. With just 8 chalets, it offers a relaxed setting for a safari in one of Africa's less-visited wilderness areas.

Mvuu, which means "hippo" in Tonga, is so-named because of the large pods of hippo that appear in the Shire River, which the lodge overlooks. Other big game includes elephant and black rhinoceros, the latter introduced into the park from South Africa as part of a successful breeding program.

Activities at Mvuu revolve around boating trips on the Shire River and 4x4 game drives, with a special focus on black rhino tracking. Nature walks are also possible. Birding enthusiasts will be able to participate in non-stop birding around Mvuu. The birdlife is as varied as it is prolific, especially along the Shire River, where African fish eagles, kingfishers and Pel's fishing owl are frequently sighted, as well as Bohm's bee-eater and white-backed night heron.



Mvuu's airy thatched lounge and bar looks out onto the Shire River where crocodile, hippo, elephant and warthog can often be seen. There's a boma where guests can enjoy an evening drink and a small swimming pool with deck chairs for relaxing between safari activities.

Day 6: Transfer to Lake Malawi

Transfer by road to Cape Maclear on the southern end of Lake Malawi, from where it is a short boat transfer to the secluded Mumbo Island Camp.

Mumbo Island Camp

Mumbo Island Camp is a beautiful eco-camp situated on an uninhabited island within Lake Malawi National Park.

Mumbo is decidedly rustic; the island is a tiny 1km wide and has no electricity – lighting is instead by paraffin lamps, and the water is solar heated. Accommodation is in simple reed-and-thatch chalets, each with its own porch and hammock with lake views.



This is a wonderful place to totally unwind and relax. Those who enjoy a more active beach break will also find plenty of ways to keep themselves occupied at Mumbo. The lake is crystal clear, and shoals of colourful fish can be found offshore – the lack of motor boats make this region perfect for snorkelling and kayaking. Birding is varied here, and the island has some marked trails for walkers.

Days 7-9: Lake Malawi

The next three days are free for you to do as much or as little as you wish. Mumbo Island Camp offers several activities, including snorkelling and kayaking on the lake to see Malawian cichlids, sundowner cruises, and walking on the island. Scuba diving can also be arranged locally.

Day 10: Lilongwe

Today you journey back across the lake, then transfer by road to Lilongwe Airport to connect with your onward flight.



Price Guide:

*The cost of this itinerary is from **£3,385 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:

- All inter-camp transfers
- Full board accommodation with local alcoholic beverages
- All game viewing activities as per itinerary

Excludes:

- International air fares
- Travel insurance – please ask for a quote
- Imported drinks
- Motorised water sports at Mumbo Island Camp
- Items of a personal nature