



Population: 19 million 1/3 of which is within the Chewa people



Time Zone: 00:00 | GMT/ UTC +2



Languages: Official: English | Chichewa most widely spoken



Currency: Malawi Kwacha | US\$, GB£, Euro€, ZAR accepted at lodges



Size: 45,747 km² Slightly smaller than England.



National Bird: Fish Eagle



Inbound Airlines: Ethiopian Airlines, Kenya Airways, South African Airways

CLIMATE

Malawi experiences two distinct seasons. The rainy season runs from November to April and is also the hottest time of year. The dry cool season runs from June to August. May is a transitional month between the rainy season and the dry season while September and October are transitional from the cool dry season to the rainy season. Malawi has very varied terrain and altitudes and rainfall and temperature are also strongly influenced by this topography.



October is the peak of the dry season with the hottest temperatures being reached (into 40°C). This lasts until the rains start in Dec

Dry season: These are the winter months between Mid March (cold mornings and evenings) and October (reaching top temperatures)



The first showers bring much relief in November with heavy, short showers. By Jan, the rainy season starts, producing lush green landscapes. Ending in early April.



Capital city: Lilongwe

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Lilian's Lovebirds

June - August | Annual | Liwonde NP
Lilian's Lovebirds congregate in flocks of hundreds due to the flowering Candelabra Euphorbia

Lake Malawi Sailing Marathon

July / August | Annual | Lake Malawi
The world's longest freshwater yachting race covers over 500km across 8 days up Lake Malawi

Eland Breeding Season

Oct / Nov | Annual | Nyika Plateau NP
Breeding herds gather in groups of up to 350, some of the largest groups to be seen of Africa's largest antelope.

Orchid Bloom

January - March | Annual | Nyika NP
Over 200 types of orchid bloom in Nyika National Park.

Luwawa International Mountain Bike Marathon

June | Annual | Luwawa Forest
A tough but very beautiful route of 50km in the Viphya Highlands

Blantyre Arts Festival

August | Annual | Blantyre
Celebrating Malawi's cultural heritage & creative industries

Tumaini Festival

November | Annual | Lilongwe
A unique music & cultural festival at the Dzaleka Refugee Camp outside Lilongwe. Organised by refugees & Malawians it uses entertainment & artistic expression to promote intercultural harmony, mutual understanding & peaceful co-existence.

Malawi Fashion Week

End May / June | Annual | Lilongwe
Small but fun event brings together models, designers, retailers & buyers. An opportunity to see some of Malawi's best fashion offerings!

Mount Mulanje Porters Race
July | Annual | Likhubula Valley
A 22km run up Mount Mulanje, Malawi's highest mountain. Normally a 12 hour climb covered in 3!

Lake of Stars Music Festival,
September | Annual | Lake Malawi
Internationally renowned music festival on the palm fringed shores of Lake Malawi. A hugely popular event-the biggest in the country's calendar