



12D Northern Malawi Self-Drive Sample Itinerary

info@landlake.net - www.landlake.net

Included: 4x4 vehicle, 90% insurance coverage, all accommodation, meals as indicated, game park entrance fees as indicated, activities where indicated.

Excluded: 10% insurance excess, fuel, drinks, meals and activities not indicated, vehicle entrance fees into parks.

Day 1: Arrive Lilongwe

Welcome to Malawi, the Warm Heart of Africa. Upon your arrival at Lilongwe's Kamuzu International Airport, you will be warmly welcomed by a Land & Lake Safaris representative and transferred to Mitengo House, a charming boutique guesthouse nestled in one of Lilongwe's leafy suburbs. After your journey, the remainder of the day is yours to relax, settle into your surroundings and recover from your international flight. If time permits, you may wish to enjoy the peaceful gardens or explore the nearby cafés and restaurants. Your overnight stay is on a Bed & Breakfast basis, with dinner available at the lodge restaurant and payable directly.

Day 2: Lilongwe to Viphy Plateau

After breakfast, a Land & Lake Safaris representative will collect you from Mitengo House and transfer you to our offices in Area 3, Lilongwe. Along the way, your guide will point out useful landmarks including supermarkets, fuel stations, banks and other essential services that may be helpful during your self-drive adventure. Upon arrival, relax over a complimentary coffee in our café while we conduct a comprehensive tour briefing, covering your travel route, accommodation vouchers, vehicle handover, rental agreement and practical driving information. Once your briefing is complete, your self-drive adventure begins as you head north on the scenic M1 through Malawi's central highlands towards the beautiful Viphy Plateau. The journey offers changing landscapes of rolling farmland, rural villages and pine plantations before arriving at Luwawa Forest Lodge in the early afternoon. With time to spare, enjoy a peaceful walk through the surrounding forest trails or simply unwind in the tranquil mountain environment. Dinner, overnight accommodation and breakfast are included

Day 3: Explore Viphy

Today is yours to fully appreciate the cool mountain climate and magnificent scenery of the Viphy Plateau. Luwawa Forest Lodge offers numerous activities for nature lovers and adventure enthusiasts alike. Explore the extensive network of forest trails on foot or by mountain bike, enjoy birdwatching among the indigenous woodland, or simply relax while taking in the peaceful surroundings. The fresh mountain air and serene setting make this an ideal place to recharge before continuing your northern journey. Lunch is at your own expense, while dinner and overnight accommodation are included.



Day 4: Viphya to Nyika Plateau

After breakfast, continue north towards Mzuzu, the commercial centre of northern Malawi, where we recommend stocking up on snacks, drinks and any personal supplies before entering one of Africa's most spectacular wilderness areas. Continue through the town of Rumphi before leaving the tarmac road and following the scenic gravel route towards Nyika National Park. After completing the park entrance formalities at the main gate, the drive continues for approximately two to three hours across the vast rolling grasslands of the plateau to Chelinda Lodge. Along the way, keep your camera ready as wildlife including zebra, roan antelope, eland and numerous bird species are often seen beside the road. Upon arrival, settle into your comfortable chalet and enjoy the spectacular surroundings. Your stay includes all meals and lodge activities, while drinks are payable directly.

Day 5 & 6: Explore Nyika Plateau

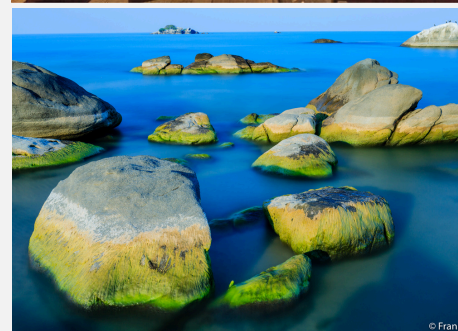
Spend a full day exploring the extraordinary landscapes of Nyika National Park, Malawi's largest and highest national park. Characterised by sweeping grasslands, wildflowers, ancient forests and crystal-clear streams, Nyika offers a unique safari experience unlike anywhere else in Africa. Your stay includes a wide selection of activities such as guided nature walks, hiking, mountain biking, birdwatching, fly fishing and both day and night game drives. Wildlife commonly encountered includes zebra, reedbuck, bushbuck, warthog, jackal and numerous bird species, while lucky visitors may also spot leopard or hyena during the evening drives. All meals and scheduled activities are included today.

Day 7: Nyika Plateau to Chitheche Beach

Following breakfast, begin your journey south, retracing your route through Rumphi and Mzuzu before descending the escarpment towards the shores of Lake Malawi. As the scenery changes from mountain landscapes to tropical lakeshore villages, you'll eventually arrive at the beautiful Makuzi Beach Lodge in Chitheche. Set directly on one of Lake Malawi's finest beaches, Makuzi offers crystal-clear waters, white sandy shores and a peaceful atmosphere perfect for relaxation. Your accommodation is in a comfortable chalet on a Room Only basis, allowing you the flexibility to enjoy meals and refreshments ordered directly from the lodge restaurant.

Day 8: Relax at Chitheche

Today is entirely at leisure to enjoy the beautiful surroundings of Makuzi Beach. Spend the day swimming in the warm, clear waters of Lake Malawi, relaxing on the sandy beach, kayaking, snorkelling or simply enjoying the tranquil lakeside atmosphere. Optional activities, meals and drinks can be arranged directly with the lodge during your stay. This peaceful lakeside retreat offers the perfect contrast to the adventurous days spent exploring Nyika Plateau.



Day 4: Chitcheche to Nkhotakhota Wildlife Reserve

After breakfast, continue south along the picturesque lakeshore road towards Nkhotakota. This leisurely drive passes local fishing villages, expansive sugar cane estates and offers frequent views across the sparkling waters of Lake Malawi. Arrive at Rafiki Safari Camp around midday and settle into your comfortable tented chalet overlooking the surrounding wilderness. During the afternoon, you may wish to arrange a guided nature walk to the nearby river, providing an excellent introduction to the area's rich wildlife and birdlife. Dinner, overnight accommodation and breakfast are included.

Day 5 & 6: Explore Nkhotakota

Enjoy a full day exploring Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve, Malawi's oldest and largest wildlife reserve. After a short drive to the park entrance, you are free to undertake your own self-drive game viewing through this vast wilderness of miombo woodland, rivers and rolling hills. Alternatively, guided game drives and walking safaris can be arranged directly through Rafiki Safari Camp for those wishing to benefit from the expertise of local guides. The reserve is home to elephants, buffalo, antelope species, primates and abundant birdlife, offering an authentic and uncrowded safari experience. Return to Rafiki Safari Camp in the evening for dinner and your overnight stay.

Day 7: Nkhotakota to Lilongwe

After breakfast, begin your return journey to Lilongwe, following the scenic lakeshore road south with opportunities to stop at local markets, roadside craft stalls and picturesque viewpoints before turning inland towards the capital. Arrive back at Mitengo House during the afternoon, where you can enjoy your final evening in Malawi reflecting on your remarkable self-drive adventure through forests, mountains, national parks and the shores of Lake Malawi. Your overnight stay is on a Bed & Breakfast basis, with dinner payable directly.

Day 8: End

After breakfast, a Land & Lake Safaris representative will meet you at Mitengo House to complete the vehicle off-hire process and transfer you to Kamuzu International Airport in time for your departing international flight. As your unforgettable self-drive journey through Malawi comes to an end, we hope you leave with wonderful memories of the country's breathtaking landscapes, remarkable wildlife and the genuine warmth and hospitality of its people. End of Land & Lake Safaris services.

Available from April to November
Car Hire from \$2,400
Accommodation from \$2,500 per person

