

# Malawi

Island Hopping Adventure

# PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



**DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY...**

<b>Itinerary</b>	<b>Lake Malawi Island Hopping Adventure</b>
<b>7 Days • 6 Nights</b>	<b>Lilongwe International Airoport – Chirombo – Monkey Bay – Lake Malwi National Park – Mumbo Island – Meleri Islands – Senga Bay</b>

<b>HIGHLIGHTS</b>	<b>TOUR ESSENTIALS</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 25km in three days of paddling</li> <li>■ Spend two nights in each of the Kayak Africa camps abundance of exciting, unique wildlife.</li> <li>■ ‘Robinson Crusoe’ atmosphere of rustic charm</li> <li>■ Experience a perfect ending to your trip in the A holiday where relaxation and comfort go hand in hand with a spirit of adventure.</li> </ul>	<p>Tour Style</p> <p>Tour Start</p> <p>Tour End</p> <p>Accommodation</p> <p>Included Meals</p> <p>Difficulty Level</p>	<p>Island Hopping Adventure</p> <p>Lilongwe</p> <p>Lilongwe</p> <p>Hotel &amp; Camp</p> <p>5 Breakfasts, 5 Lunches, 6 Dinners</p> <p>Medium</p>



## ISLAND HOPPING ADVENTURE

The Lake Malawi Island Hopping Adventure is a world-class sea kayaking trail that covers 25km in three days of paddling. This trip is a fantastic chance to explore Malawi and is a perfect relaxed adventure. Adventurers spend two nights in each of the Kayak Africa camps on Domwe Island and Mumbo Island. The trail is fully-supported and fully-catered, leaving guests free to focus on exploring and relaxing at will.



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# Overview

## Healthy outdoor fun amongst Lake Malawi's deserted tropical islands!

Domwe Island Adventure Camp is basic but exclusive. The camp lies behind a small beach on the west side of this magnificent and wild island, offering sunset views over the lake with Mumbo Island and the mountainous edge of the African Rift Valley in the distance.

Eight kilometres of open water separates Mumbo Island from Domwe. On Mumbo Island barefoot luxury is the theme – there is everything you need and nothing that you don't. The camp is perched on high rocks overlooking the water and blends in with the African bush to create an obinson Crusoe' atmosphere of rustic charm.

Both camps are built using only reeds, timber, thatch and canvas. The emphasis is on the beauty provided by Mother Nature, and on doing activities such as sea kayaking, swimming, snorkeling and exploring on foot. Of course - these being islands – this list also includes just doing nothing...

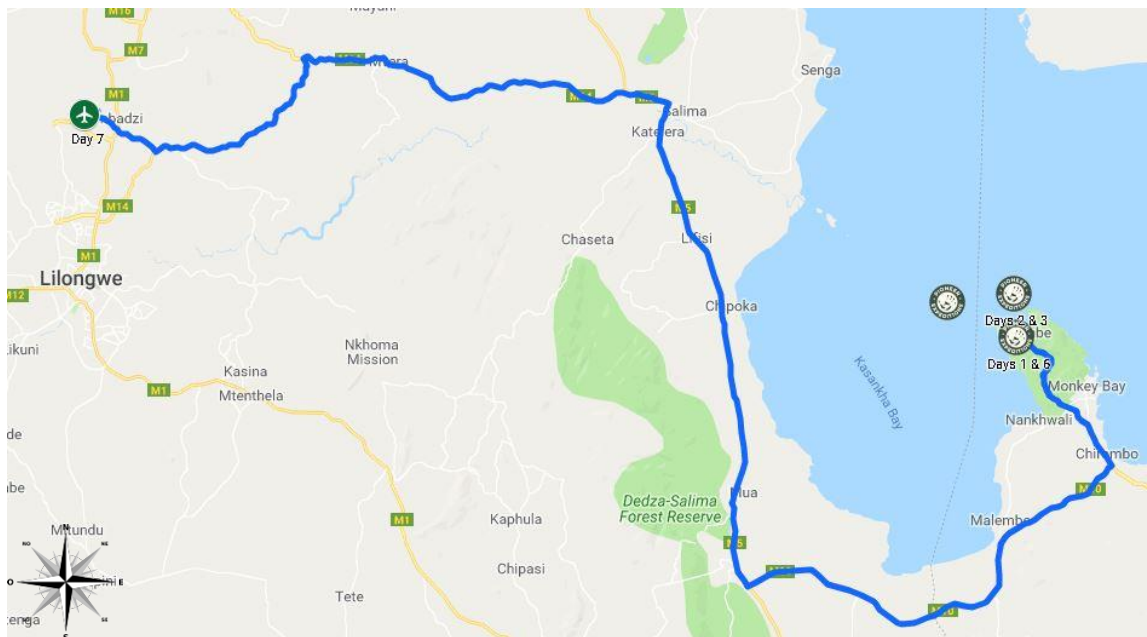
Unique, beautiful, safe and friendly, the Lake Malawi National Park offers the kind of holiday where relaxation and comfort go hand-in-hand with a spirit of adventure.

# Why Pioneer Expeditions?

We really are one of the few specialists that really "do" off the beaten track and unique adventures in MADAGASCAR. We are driven by a passion for adventure travel and wildlife and Madagascar is one of our main specialities. We know it inside-out, and continuously collaborate with our local partners and tour guides to ensure that you have the best experiences on your dream Madagascan adventure – this focus is reflected in our uniquely wonderful itineraries. As parents ourselves, who have taken our children to Madagascar, our experts are on hand to help design your bespoke holiday.

Pioneer work in some of the world's most spectacular, remote and extraordinary places worldwide.

# Itinerary



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## DAY 1: (D)

After arrival in Lilongwe (LLW) you will be met and transferred to Cape Maclear on the shores of Lake Malawi. It will take about 3½ hours. Tonight your home will be a self-catered cottage.

*Overnight Cape Cottage*

## DAY 2: DOMWE ISLAND (L,D)

After a leisurely breakfast we will paddle to Domwe Island (about 5km). This is a short paddle and will take around 1 hour.

The lunch will be provided at 1pm and features various pasta dishes, quiche, pizza or chippatis served with a large salad. When not kayaking you might enjoy swimming in the crystal clear, warm, fresh lake water which is one of the charms of the islands, as is snorkelling: Lake Malawi is a World Heritage Site for its abundance of freshwater fish life and is famous for its beautiful tropical cichlids. Snorkelling along the island shore is like swimming in an aquarium. Snorkel gear is provided. There is also a PADI certified dive school so scuba dives and courses can be arranged – at an extra cost. Both of the islands we visit have plenty of walking trails, and hikes around them are well worth the effort – the islands are forested with miombo woodland which features a remarkable variety of trees therefore is great for birding. You will stay overnight in Island Camp “Domwe Island” (safari tent). Domwe Island has three large (permanent) walk in safari tents sleeping two each and two thatched tent decks. Each tent sleeps 2 people and is furnished with beds, white linen, comfy chairs and a hammock on the deck. If your group is bigger than 6, we will set up dome tents and bedding for you on the thatched decks.

*Overnight in Island Camp “Domwe Island” (safari tent)*

## DAY 3: DOMWE ISLAND (B,L,D)

This day you will enjoy spending your time at Dom We Island. This Island is staffed by a team of three island men who look after you, service the tents, put out solar lanterns at night, wash dishes etc. A chef is going to be there to cook your meals. A local guide will help you with kayaking questions and accompany you on longer paddles. There are many suitable long or short paddles and the local guide will be able to advise you on them. Domwe Island lends itself to exploration up and down its coastline. You can also plan a trip to circumnavigate the island, but take the weather into account as the west side of the island catches the wind and can get rough. All kayakers should be back on the island by dusk. We don't recommend night time kayaking on the lake.

Your typical evening could consist of a sunset paddle, a gin and tonic on the deck to watch the sun set, a warm bucket shower in the reed bathroom and then a delicious dinner served in the beautiful dining area overlooking the lake. Evenings are lovely, balmy and with a night sky to awe you. You will see the local fishing boats heading out towards the deeper waters, lit by paraffin lamps. You may hear the fishermen calling to one another over the water. There are very few animals on the islands – but on Domwe you will see bushpig and civets come to the kitchen after dark (neither will harm humans!)

*Overnight in Island Camp “Domwe Island” (safari tent)*

## DAY 4: MUMBO ISLAND (B,L,D)

You will have a breakfast cooked by our chef, at a time you decide on the night before. Typically breakfast consists of a fresh fruit salad, freshly baked rolls, eggs, bacon and tomatoes cooked to order. We also provide cereal should guests prefer. Afterwards, please be ready for kayaking from Domwe Island to Mumbo Island (about 8 km). We recommend



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you to wear a long sleeve cotton shirt to keep the sun off, a good sun hat, light cotton shorts or trousers, a swimming costume and a kikoi or towel. We plan to depart at 11 h but in consultation with our local guide, you can plan a route and set off at any time you like. You may be lucky enough to see the resident Spotted Necked Otter on both islands, and an abundance of birds. Domwe Island has more wildlife as it was at one time attached to the mainland, so it has populations of baboon, samango monkey, vervet monkey, bush pigs and civets. The only mammals on Mumbo Island are the otters and bats. Once again home is a large walk-in tent

*Overnight Island camp "Mumbo Island"*

#### **DAY 5: MUMBO ISLAND (B,L,D)**

It is up to you to decide when you are going to wake up. Once you are on the island you time is your own. Today you are going to spend your time in Mumbo Island. Mumbo Island has a team of 7 local staff, and an island manager who is there to answer questions and assist in any way needed. This island is only 3kms in circumference and is beautiful to paddle around at any time of day. Mumbo Island has large walk in tents on thatched decks and three reed and thatch bungalows. All tents have en suite bathrooms and toilets which look like the usual toilet, but use wood shavings instead of a water flush

*Overnight Island camp "Mumbo Island"*

#### **DAY 6: MUMBO ISLAND – MAINLAND (B,L,D)**

You will spend the morning at Mumbo Island. We will then paddle back to the mainland (about 10km paddle).

*Overnight in Cape Cottage*

#### **DAY 7: FLIGHT HOME (B)**

You are going to be transferred to Cape Maclear-Lilongwe.

*Flight home from Lilongwe (LLW)*



# Important Information

## INCLUDED

- 🌍 All meals as described (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)
- 🌍 Road and boat transfers
- 🌍 Accommodation
- 🌍 All kayaking activities and equipment
- 🌍 All National Park fees and taxes

## NOT INCLUDED

- Meals other than mentioned
- Drinks
- Airfares to Malawi
- Travel insurance
- Visa fees (no visa needed for Commonwealth residents)
- Scuba Diving

# Additional Information

ACTIVITY DURATION	2 – 5 hours
SEASON	May through November/December
BEST TIME TO GO	May through November (these are the drier months)
GROUP SIZE	1 to 10 people (or private trips available upon request) Individual travellers welcome.
EXPEDITION SCHEDULE	We have tailor made departures for you between March and January (minimum 2 pax)
DIFFICULTY LEVEL	Our grades have been designated based on our perception of the degree of physical activity you are likely to require to enjoy the adventure. These are only a guideline. This itinerary has a 'Medium' level (2 – 5 hours of activities per day). This means that you will need an average level of fitness.

