



Confirmed itinerary for
Mr Harris and Ms Wormleighton
27th September – 15th October 2013
Malawi

The Ultimate Travel Company
The Africa Travel Specialists

Mr Harris and Ms Wormleighton Malawi

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International flights

I am holding the flights for you confirmed with BA in World Traveller Plus. It is vital that names (shown below) on the airline bookings are as written in your passports. Discrepancies may cause airlines to refuse boarding on security grounds.

Ian Harris
Celia Jane Wormleighton

Accommodation and services

I am holding all the accommodation and services confirmed.

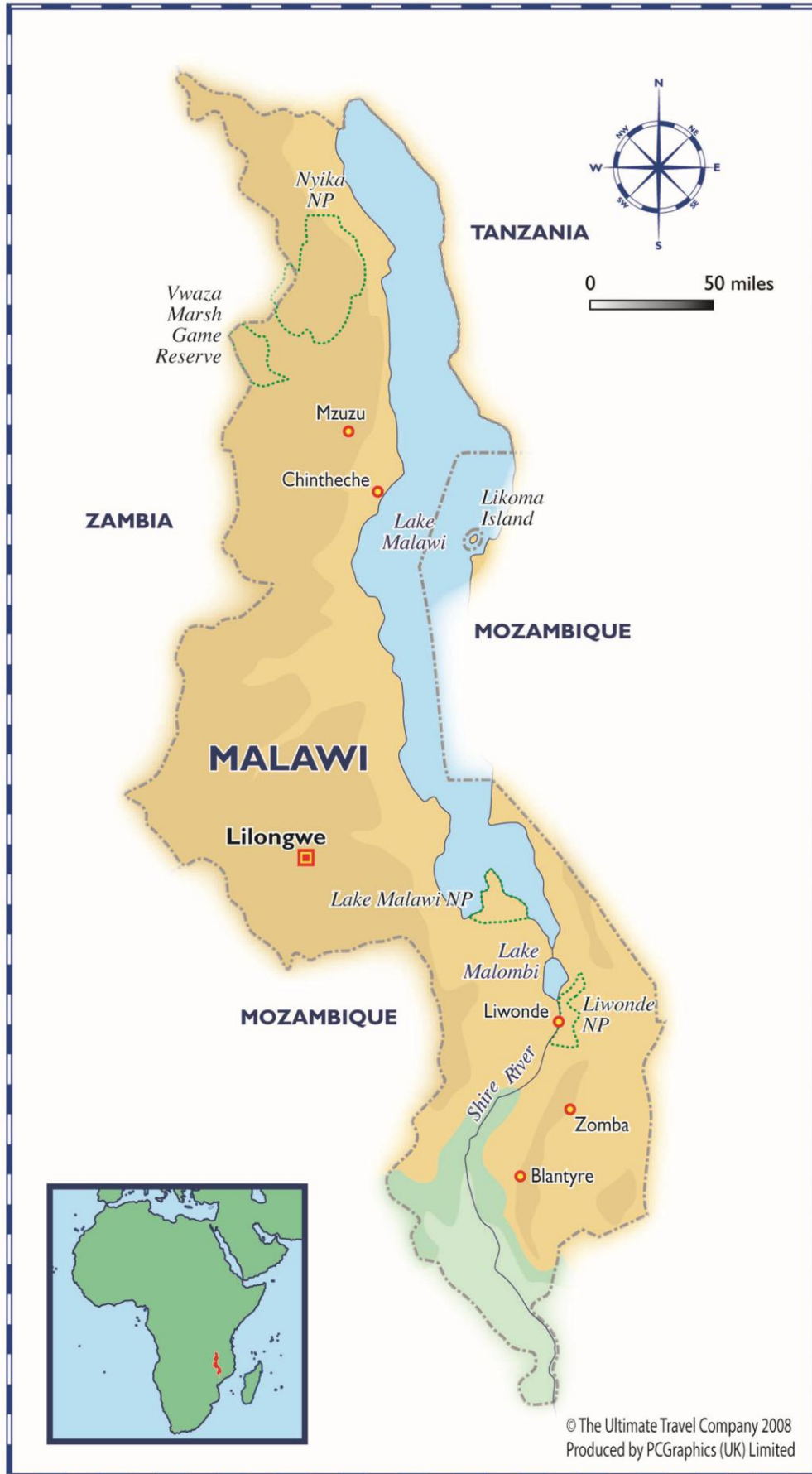
Quality of service

We like to think that our success has been built on a simple formula - to deliver a high standard of service before, during and after each holiday, a duty of care and commitment to you, and value for money. We aim to be totally flexible in our approach, as this allows us to create the holiday that you want and one that is easy and enjoyable to plan.

However, if you feel that there are areas in which we could improve our service to you, please do not hesitate to contact either our Managing Director Nick Van Gruisen, or Executive Director Rowan Paterson, on 020 7386 4646. You can also email them:

nick@theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk

rowan@theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk





Outline Itinerary

27 Sep	London-Johannesburg
28 – 30 Sep	Mkulumadzi Lodge, Majete Reserve
1 – 3 Oct	Huntingdon House, Thyolo
4 – 5 Oct	Ku Chawe, Zomba
6 Oct	Heuglin's Lodge
7 – 13 Oct	Kaya Mawa, Lake Malawi
14 Oct	Departure
15 Oct	London

Detailed Itinerary

27 Sep London-Johannesburg

Check in with British Airways from London Heathrow Terminal Five no later than 17.10 hours.

Depart Heathrow on flight BA55 19.10 hours

28 – 30 Sep Mkulumadzi Lodge, Majete Reserve

Arrive Johannesburg 06.55 hours

Connect with the South African Airways flight SA 172 to Blantyre departing at 10.00 hours. On arrival at 12.10 hours you will be met and transferred to Mkulumadzi Lodge in the Majete Reserve (a journey of approximately 2 hours).

The perfect combination of luxury and isolation, Mkulumadzi boasts eight superb chalets set on the banks of the Shire River, shaded by giant leadwood trees and wild mangos. Set in 7,000 hectares of private concession, Mkulumadzi enjoys an ideal location at the confluence of two rivers just a few kilometres from the point where the magnificent Shire River plunges into the Kapichira Falls. Guests arrive by a footbridge suspended over the Mkulumadzi River to discover a friendly welcome and many home comforts. The lodge has a restaurant with indoor and outdoor dining, a lounge and terrace, a bar and shop, swimming pool, viewing deck and a lapa for evening campfires.



Game drives and walking safaris are offered in the mornings and late afternoons, giving guests plenty of time to relax beside the pool, gaze at the resident bird population or listen to the grunt of hippos wallowing in the river. Afternoon tea is served on the terrace and on most nights dinner is served beneath the stars.

Our eight bush chalets are luxurious and spacious with contemporary furnishings, some crafted from locally-sourced materials. They are flooded with natural light, giving you the sense of being in the forest without compromising your comfort and privacy. Each chalet consists of a large bedroom and lounge area that opens out to a private wooden viewing deck, plus an en-suite bathroom with twin basins and a sunken bath that overlooks the river and is large enough for two people. There is also an outdoor shower with a large rain shower where guests can enjoy the sensation of bathing under a waterfall. The shower is open to the surrounding bush with stone-clad walls for privacy.



Each chalet has a sloping vegetated roof planted with indigenous species such as succulents, aloes, shrubs and grasses. This minimises their impact on the environment and keeps them cool in the hot season. The whole lodge is solar powered with a back-up generator.

A boat trip on the Shire River is a relaxing way to view wildlife. The lush banks of the Shire are popular with elephant and buffalo; hippo and crocodile sightings are guaranteed and birdlife is abundant. A morning or afternoon boat trip is offered as an alternative to a game drive. A visit to a nearby village and community center offers guests a chance to experience Malawi outside of Majete, to understand local culture and to share people's experiences of living alongside a wildlife reserve.

Three nights at Mkulumadzi Lodge in a double chalet on a full board basis including scheduled activities.

1 – 3 Oct [Huntingdon House, Thyolo](#)

Today you will be picked up and transferred to Huntingdon House, a journey of approximately 3 hours. This trip goes through Blantyre where you will have a city tour. This typically includes a visit to The Cathedral of St Michael's and All Angels, Mandala House and Limbe Market. Huntingdon House is located on the Satemwa Tea Estate which is about an hour outside of Blantyre.

On the second day you will be taken on a trip to Mulanje Mountain which is a stunning mountain range located about an hour's drive to the south and on a clear day is even partially visible from Satemwa. Your day trip can be tailored to your wishes, but typically includes a driving tour through tea and coffee estates and a drive around the mountain. Time allowing, you can visit Lujeri Tea factory (entrance fees paid locally) and even take a short hike up the mountain to visit a Likhubula or Dziwe Lankhamba waterfalls.

Arguably the most scenically beautiful region of Malawi, The Thyolo district forms the heart of Malawi's tea producing region with rolling hills of immaculately cultivated, emerald green plantations and some of the oldest estates in the country.



With magnificent views of Mount Mulanje and the Lower Shire valley to the west, Satemwa enjoys a temperate climate of the Shire Highlands and relaxed ambiance of a by-gone era. Visitors to this corner of Malawi cannot but help to be caught up in the colonial magic of the area and diverse scenery which ranges from tropical evergreen forests to riverine thickets and rolling hills.

Huntingdon House was built in the 1920's and the estate has been in the Cathcart Kay family for generations with members of the family still running the tea and coffee production of the estate. The grand old colonial style house is surrounded by magnificent gardens and beautiful old trees.

Originally the family home of Maclean Kay in 1928, Huntingdon House exudes a colonial charm and unique character that cannot be recreated. It is surrounded by sprawling manicured gardens with secret patios and terraces waiting to be discovered. Guests to the estate tend to get caught up in the relaxing atmosphere and there is a range of activities and excursions designed to appeal to all guests. These include mountain biking, guided birding walks through the Thyolo Forest, croquet, and tea and coffee tasting tours.

Three nights at Huntingdon House in a double room on a full board basis including local drinks and tea tasting fees (I have requested that you are either in the Planter's Suite or The Chapel). This includes a day trip to Mulanje Mountain.

4 – 5 Oct Ku Chawe, Zomba

Today you will be transferred by road to Zomba, a journey of approximately 3 hours. This will include a Zomba city tour to visit some of the older colonial buildings and the very lively market.

Situated high above Zomba, the historic old colonial capital of Malawi, Sunbird Ku Chawe sits comfortably on the rim of Zomba plateau and shares its views over Africa with a unique high tropical micro-climate and a huge bio-diversity of birds and animals. The recently completed dam, with fishing, sailing and water-surfing facilities on offer has brought further species and new attractions. Zomba Mountain rises to nearly 7000ft (2100m) and has some of Africa's most stunning views including those of Mulanje Mountain.



Sunbird Ku Chawe has 40 rooms with en suite facilities, satellite television and telephones. The superior and de luxe rooms boast comforting log fires for those nights in winter when the high plateau is more reminiscent of Scotland than of tropical Africa. Enjoy superb cuisine on the sunny patio or in the elegant dining room. At weekends guests come from all over Malawi for the hotel's famous mountainside barbecues.

Two nights at Ke Chawe in a double deluxe room on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis.

6 Oct Heuglin's Lodge

Today you will be transferred to Heuglin's Lodge. On the way you will stop at Mua and Dedza – this will be interesting from a cultural perspective. Mua Mission houses a great cultural museum – the only one of its

kind in the country – which offers you a unique insight into the local traditional history of Malawi's people and tribes. Dedza is locally famous for its pottery which showcases local craft work. You can shop around and enjoy a quick snack at the small café while overlooking Dedza Mountain.

Heuglin's Lodge is situated in the peaceful garden suburbs of Lilongwe's residential area, yet is in a prime location being just 5 minutes from Capital City and just 35 minutes from Lilongwe International Airport. The Lodge offers a variety of spacious and tastefully furnished bedrooms accommodating up to a maximum of 18 people providing a perfect base for both visitors and business consultants alike.



Dine in our friendly and intimate dining room or if you prefer on our veranda overlooking the beautiful pool and gardens. A varied menu of excellent home cooked cuisine is prepared on a daily basis, using locally sourced food to cater to your every need.

One night at Heuglin's Lodge in a double room on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis.

7 – 13 Oct [Kaya Mawa, Lake Malawi](#)

Today you will be transferred to Lilongwe airport in time for the scheduled flight to Likoma. On arrival at the airstrip you will be met by a guide from Kaya Mawa who will transfer you to the camp.



Rated by Condé Nast Magazine as one of the planet's ten most romantic destinations, Kaya Mawa is located on the south-western tip of Likoma Island in the far north-east of Lake Malawi, close to Mozambique. The island is covered with mango trees and ancient baobabs and encircled by glorious sandy beaches and rocky coves.

Ten stone and teak-framed thatched cottages - including two family cottages and one honeymoon chalet - have a panoramic view of the lake and private terraces with direct access to the water. Each one has en-suite bathroom facilities, a four-poster bed, shower, and a sunken stone bathtub. The honeymoon chalet with its incredible views is tucked away on its own private island.



The stunning setting of the lodge and the unique comfort of the rooms means that many guests choose to make relaxation their main activity but there are enough activities on offer to keep guests busy.

Walking or biking around the island is a must. The local population is legendary both for its friendliness and thus a simple unescorted stroll around the island perhaps with a few cold drinks and snacks is a wonderful experience where one can stop off to swim en route, engage the locals in conversation and visit the cathedral and the lively market nearby.

The waters around the lodge are both safe and clear and swimming and snorkelling are on offer - some of the best snorkelling on the island is right at the lodge (snorkels and masks are provided). Alternatively there is a rock swimming pool right by the bar. The lodge has its own NAUI accredited instructor and excellent dive equipment and can offer casual dives as well as a range of instruction. Waterskiing, tube riding and wake snaking are offered as well as fishing trips and the lodge has a small wooden skip for sailing journeys around the island. Overnight trips to Nkwichi Lodge and the Manda Wilderness area can also be arranged.



Seven nights at Kaya Mawa in Nkwhazi (double premier room) on a full board basis including snorkelling, walks, mountain bikes, kayaks and sailing

14 Oct Departure

Today you will be transferred to Lilongwe in time for the South African Airways flight SA 171 departing at 13.15 hours. On arrival into Johannesburg at 15.45 you will check in for your British Airways flight to London Heathrow.

Depart Johannesburg on flight BA 56 19.20 hours

15 Oct London

Arrive Heathrow Terminal Five 05.15 hours

Price includes

- international and domestic flights in economy class
- airport transfers in private vehicles
- accommodation, meals and activities as stated
- park fees

Price excludes

- visa fees
- travel insurance
- local airport taxes
- meals as stated
- personal gratuities

Airline Tickets

As a tour operator we have access to special airfares. While these offer good value, they do carry certain restrictions applied by the airline. Please ask us for details.

Payments by Credit Card

Due to the high fees charged by credit card companies, all such payments will attract a 2% levy.

Peace of mind!

You will probably be aware of the difficulties many travellers faced with obtaining refunds when their holidays were disrupted or cancelled as a result of such recent events as ash cloud, strike, snow and political unrest! By booking both your flights and land arrangements with us, not only are you guaranteed the peace of mind that comes with full financial protection but also all the round the clock assistance we are able to offer, should the need arise.

General Information

Flights

The itinerary is based on international flights with British Airways travelling via Johannesburg.

The flight time from London to Johannesburg is 10.50 hours

The flight time from Johannesburg to Lilongwe is 2.25 hours

The flight time for Johannesburg to Blantyre 2.10 hours.

Flights times are subject to alteration.

Charity donation policy

Please note that we add £10 per person to all our confirmation invoices. This is a voluntary contribution towards our charity donation initiative that we pledge to match. Further details are provided on booking.

Luggage

As your itinerary include an internal flight this will be by light aircraft. Space is very limited on these flights, so there is a maximum baggage allowance is 12 kg per person (depending on the carrier used). It is also essential to pack into soft-sided squashy bags - lighter than suitcases and easier to stow in the hold of a light aircraft.

We strongly recommend that you carry overnight essentials and any prescribed medication in your hand luggage on international flights, particularly if connecting to an onward destination.

Immigration & Visas

UK passport holders do not require a visa in order to enter into Malawi. Please ensure that your passport has a minimum validity of six months remaining from your return date and if you are travelling through South Africa that you have two clear pages.

Holders of foreign passports must check entry and visa requirements with us or the relevant embassies.

Airport Departure Tax

In Malawi, US\$35 per person is payable locally (in cash only) on international flights and US\$7 per person is payable on all domestic flights. You must have the correct money as no change will be given.

Currency

The monetary unit in Malawi is the Malawian Kwacha. Malawian Kwacha are not available outside of the country so you should take US Dollars in cash. It is advisable to take dollars in small denominations and there is no need to change any money into local currency as US dollars are an accepted currency. US Dollar notes are not accepted with smaller heads on them i.e. the older notes so please check your money when you get your dollars.

Credit cards are also accepted in some hotels and lodges - Visa and Mastercard are the most useful but you will usually be charged a fee of approximately 5% for using them.

Tipping

In all instances tipping should be treated as a personal matter and a gratuity should only be given if you feel the service deserves it. On safari, tipping is normally expected by the staff and our local guides and agents will be able to give you more exact advice however the below should serve as a useful guideline:

US\$5 - \$10 per person per day for camp staff.

US\$5 - \$10 per person per day for your guide.

Climate and Clothing

Malawi has two very obvious seasons. The summer months (November to March) are very hot and is when they receive most of their annual rain fall while the winter months (April – October) are characterised by bright, warm days and cool nights and almost no rain.

The best game-viewing months are during the winter season from April to October when the weather is dry and temperate. Daytime temperatures average around 25°C from April through until August. The temperatures do creep up over the dry season with temperatures in late September and October being extremely hot. The sun is intense, so it is essential to bring hats, sunglasses and plenty of protective cream.

Nights can be cold in June, July and early August so warm clothing for early morning game drives and evenings in camp are required (gloves and a woollen hat are also useful accessories).

On safari you do not have to wear khaki coloured clothing however, we would recommend against bright or bold colours such as red, black or white. The following items may be useful as a recommendation:

Long-sleeved cotton shirts

T-shirts

Long trousers

Shorts/ skirts

Sweatshirts

Woollen jersey/ fleece

Lightweight waterproof Jacket

Swimming costume

Bush/sun hat

Good Walking shoes

Flip flops or similar

Sun glasses

Personal first aid kit

Sun protection cream

Insect repellent

Small torch & spare batteries

Camera and spare memory cards

Binoculars

Health

We suggest that you consult your local doctor or health authority for up-to-date medical advice, but the following immunisations are recommended:

Malaria tablets are essential, Hepatitis A, Polio, Tetanus and Typhoid.

We suggest that you consult your local doctor or health authority for up-to-date medical advice.

Electric Current

220/240 volts AC. UK 3 pin plugs or the South African 3 pin plugs.

Please be aware that the electricity supply can be erratic and most camps rely on a generator or solar power - you should always travel with a torch and spare batteries and don't rely on an electric razor or a hair dryer!

Camera batteries can be recharged at most lodges and camps, but we recommend that you carry a spare camera battery.

Time

Malawi is two hours ahead of GMT.