



This information is provided by Africa Answers as a guideline to the country you will be visiting. Further information is available to you at [www.malawitourism.com](http://www.malawitourism.com) and [www.africaanswers.com/destinations/malawi](http://www.africaanswers.com/destinations/malawi)

While Africa Answers endeavors to provide current information, regulations and requirements can change without notice and we are not responsible for travelers whose trips are interrupted due to documentary or medical non-compliance.

### **ENTRY DOCUMENTS**

Travelers arriving in Africa are required to have passports that will be valid for at least six months from the date of departure and contain at least two blank pages per country to be visited for affixing entry and exit stamps.

US passport holders are required to obtain a visa in advance for Malawi, and can do so at <https://www.evisa.gov.mw/>. The cost is currently 50usd.

### **VACCINATIONS, ANTI-MALARIALS AND MEDICATION**

All travelers to Malawi should consult a travel clinic at least 6 weeks before departure for advice as to the recommended medications and vaccinations for their safari, based on their itinerary, personal health profile and current policies in the destination.

Malaria is present in Malawi. Although malaria medication is not *required* for entry to Malawi, your travel clinician may recommend it.

Malawi is not a yellow fever destination and yellow fever vaccination is not required for travelers arriving directly from the US into Malawi. Travelers entering Malawi from countries where yellow fever is present, including but not limited to, Zambia, Kenya and Tanzania, *must* have certification of yellow fever vaccination, or a waiver document provided by their physician citing the waiver reason. Airport transit travelers are not required to have yellow fever vaccinations.

### **BAGGAGE**

Airlines in Malawi routinely weigh both checked and carry-on bags. To avoid paying excess baggage fees, please adhere to the airline's restrictions. If using light aircraft for domestic transfers, there is likely to be a baggage limit of 26lbs per person. Please check with your airline booking agent.

## **TIPPING**

Service staff in Africa depend on tips as part of their livelihood. As a guideline, hotel porters get \$1.50 per bag carried each way. City restaurant and bar servers should be tipped 15% - 20%. Airport transfer drivers at \$3 - 10 per person per transfer, depending on distance. Camp and lodge staff at \$10 per person per day to be split between the entire camp crew – there is often a Tips box for this group tip in the main area of the camp or lodge. Driver- guides are with you the most and should receive \$10 - \$15 per person per day. If you have both a tracker *and* a guide, the tracker should receive \$5 per person per day.

## **MONEY**

The currency of Malawi is the kwacha. Kwacha can be obtained at airport currency concessions on arrival. ATMs are found in larger towns and accept major debit cards. Avoid black market currency traders.

USD can be used at stores, restaurants and markets, but the exchange rate will not be favorable. When using USD bills, they must be clean and in excellent shape, and issued after 2008. Your bank will be familiar with this request if you explain that the notes are for use overseas.

Visa and Mastercard are accepted at major establishments, American Express less so.

## **SAFETY AND SECURITY**

During the game drive, the driver-guide will offer instructions concerning safety. This includes advising tour members when it is safe to exit the vehicle. At lodges and camps, the staff will often escort guests to and from the rooms to ensure safety. In National Parks, guests must be back in the lodge or camp by 6pm; this Park rule will be enforced by your driver/guide.

*Always* use the safe in your room to store cash, important documents and other valuables. Larger items can be left in the lodge or camp safe at the front desk.

## **ELECTRICITY**

Malawi uses 230 volt electric current. Outlets take rectangular 3 pin in a triangular pattern plug (type G). Some remote lodges and camps generate their own electricity and may not generate 24 hours per day, which will impact CPAP machine users. The electric current is subject to voltage fluctuation and power cuts are possible, even in larger cities. For detailed information, images and links to purchase adaptors, please consult <https://www.power-plugs-sockets.com>

## **POTABLE WATER**

Tap water in Malawi is not safe to drink. Bottled water is provided by most hotels and lodges at a modest cost. Safari vehicles also carry drinking water for your refillable flask.

