



Women's Partnership Challenge Expedition

‘There is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women.’

Kofi Annan

Women's Partnership Challenge Expedition



The Expedition- Challenge your perceptions of travel and join our 11 day expedition to head behind the scenes in Malawi. Suitable for a minimum of 10 dynamic women. Each expedition is tailored to your personal interests and aims to link you with inspirational Malawian women, challenge you both physically and mentally and give you an opportunity to spend time with an international group of women all passionate about sustainable development and women's empowerment.

Highlights

- Female Entrepreneurs Forum
- Staying on a Fairtrade Tea Estate
- Taking on the challenge of hiking Mount Mulanje
- A Wildlife Safari
- 2 days spent in the village working with a group of secondary school girls and their families.
- Final night on the idyllic Blue Zebra Island



Population: 19.89 million (World Bank 2021)

Size: 118,480 km

Average Annual Income
(per capita): \$579.7 per annum (IMF 2023)

Life Expectancy: 65.6 years (WHO 2021)

Religion:

Christian 82%, Muslim 13.9%, Other 1.9%, None 2.5%

Rated Africa's happiest country!

Overview

Malawi is Africa at its purest, offering unique and extraordinary travels. From its undulating mountains to the shores of its stunning lake, the fact that Malawi has traditionally been overlooked as a mainstream destination means that you'll find hidden gems at every turn. Affectionately known as 'The Warm Heart of Africa', Malawi supports a huge diversity of landscapes, ecosystems and cultures and is one of the continent's best kept secret.

Entrepreneurship in Malawi

Wherever you turn in Malawi you see industry, busy-ness, creativity and determination. Entrepreneurs in Malawi need more than just passion and a good idea; they need contacts, a good education to navigate the corporate systems and a lot of luck to ensure they succeed. The country is rich in entrepreneurship yet incredibly poor in the support it can offer SME's. For many young female entrepreneurs it is a battle of wills, a fight against cultural norms and an ability to survive against the odds.

Highlights and Key Objectives



We aim for your expedition to provide a platform for practical learning opportunities, to gain an understanding of the challenges of rural Malawian culture and make time for inspirational relationships to be formed. Each segment of the expedition also ties in with one or more of the Sustainable Development Goals.

- Women's Entrepreneurship Forum Event (Partnership for the Goals)
- Fair Trade Tea Estate (Decent Work and Economic Growth)
- Hiking Mount Mulanje (Climate Action)
- Wild Life Game Drive and River Boat Safari (Life on Land/Life Below Water)
- Girls Education and the role of women in rural Malawi (Gender Equality, Zero Hunger)
- Mumbo Island Eco-Lodge (Responsible Production/Consumption)
- Literacy in rural village setting. (Quality Education/Gender Equality)
- Mentoring young Malawian girls at secondary school (Quality Education)

UN Global Goals Sustainable Development Goals	
1.	No Poverty
2.	Zero Hunger
3.	Good Health and Well Being
4.	Quality Education
5.	Gender Equality
6.	Clean Water and Sanitation
7.	Affordable and Clean Energy
8.	Decent Work and Economic Growth
9.	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
10.	Reduced Inequalities
11.	Sustainable Cities/Communities
12.	Responsible Production/Consumption
13.	Climate Action
14.	Life below Water
15.	Life on Land
16.	Peace and Justice - strong institutions
17.	Partnerships for the goals

Entrepreneurship in Malawi- Some people you may meet...



Trinitas Kunashe: Founder of Tina Pads. Tina Pads supports adolescent girls in Malawi to stay in school by delivering reproductive health education and reusable sanitary pads. Reusable pads are offered through community-based distribution models. The pads last at least two years, providing a method to keep girls in school at a cost that is affordable to low income families.

Joyce Gondwe: Fashion designer, tailor and founder of Osborne's Fashions. Joyce loves handling fabric and adding the African touch to all her designs. Apart from that, she makes scrumptious cupcakes, donuts and delicious Hungarian sausages. With only 3 employees in her shop, her dream is to open a bigger space where she can support young girls with vocational skills in tailoring and designing.

Elizabeth Gideon: After completing her degree in Food Science and Technology and started the production of 4TEE Foods in 2022; a company that provides traditional hot sauces, Kambuzi and Peri-peri, including vinegar. Elizabeth supports local farmers by buying raw chilli peppers from them. She manufactures her sources and sells them at an affordable price.

Charity Bulla: Founder of Bliss & Brite Academy, a safe and nurturing environment that promotes the development of children physically, emotionally, socially and academically by providing quality early childhood education to children including orphans and other vulnerable children. The school also offer bursaries to needy and deserving students.

Girls Education in Malawi. 'If all women had secondary education, child deaths would be cut in half, saving 3 million lives.' (UNESCO 2013)



Challenges for Female Students in Malawi

- **Overall education quality is poor.** Malawi pupils are among the lowest performers in the region according to the 2007 Southern African Consortium for Measuring Educational Quality results.
- **Dropout rates remain similar by gender until upper primary.** In Malawi, the dropout rate for Grade 7 females was, on average, 19.5 percent over the past five years, compared with 11.2 percent for males.
- **Socio-economic status matters.** Direct and indirect school costs are prohibitive for poor families. The net enrollment rate for secondary school students in Malawi is below 5 percent for the lowest income quintile.
- **Pregnancy, economic hardship, and marriage** are the main reported reasons that girls drop out of school. The proportion of girls dropping out due to pregnancy increases by grade level. That being said, self-reported administrative data on dropouts can be misleading as many of the causes are inter-related; further investigations are needed.

(Christin Mcconell/World Bank 2016)

Case Study

Naphias was born in 1999, a single parent orphan. She lives with her Aunt who supports a family of 8 children and makes her income by selling fish. Naphias is one of 22 female students at Rainbow Secondary School on the shores of Lake Malawi. She would love to finish school and become an IT Engineer, her main barrier to achieving this are the fees for secondary school and gaining a place at University.

Expedition Outline



Day 1

Meet your Guide and transfer to your lodge in the fair-trade tea estates. Afternoon acclimatisation and head up the hill for a sunset. (FB)

Day 2-3

Women's Entrepreneurship Forum. Spend the days with a group of inspirational female Malawian entrepreneurs. Taking part in a number of presentations, workshops and skills sharing sessions. Overnight in the tea estates (FB)

Day 4

Rise early to the sounds of the estate and transfer to the base of Mulanje Mountain. Meet your guide and porters and hike over 1000m (5-7hrs) to your mountain hut. Arrive in time for a dip in the natural mountain rock pools before cooking dinner around the fire. (FB)

Day 5

Spend the morning traversing Mulanje Mountain plateau before descending and meeting your group guide and transferring to Liwonde National Park in time for a late lunch and an evening 4 x 4 safari drive. Night spent at Mvuu Camp under canvas (FB)

Tailoring your experience.

Please note we can tailor activities to your interests, skills and time frame. This itinerary is just an example of what can be achieved.

Expedition Outline



Day 6

After a night under canvas head out on a river boat safari and watch herds of elephant coming to the banks of the Shire to drink. Depart before lunch and head to the shores of Lake Malawi, check into your hotel and head into the village to meet the youth group. (DBB)

Day 7-8 (Tailored Activities)

Rise early and meet up with the local youth group and walk to Rainbow Village Secondary School. Spend the day working with the students: mentoring, career advise, global citizenship, sports, literacy & numeracy. (FB)

Day 9-10

After breakfast, transfer to Sengabay and catch a boat to Blue Zebra Island (45 mins). Spend two days on this remote island. The perfect end to the expedition! (FB)

Day 11

Rise early and catch the boat back to the mainland for your road transfer to Lilongwe and International Flight. (BB)

Tailoring your experience.

Please note we can tailor activities to your interests, skills and time frame. This itinerary is just an example of what can be achieved.



*Based on 10 pax

*Orbis DMC is committed to ensuring the benefits of tourism reach local communities and therefore has set up a Payment for Eco-System Services Scheme which contributes 1.5% of all bookings to a community environmental project in Malawi.

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Please note this is an example itinerary only - each of our expeditions are tailor made to your groups interests & budget.

Body Level One

Body Level Two



Who we are

Orbis DMC is a specialist expedition company working in Educational, Experiential & Philanthropic Travel to Africa.

Operating exclusively in Malawi, we work with Schools, Universities, Charities, Businesses & Individuals creating highly personalised expeditions which connect people with the world as Global Citizens.

Owned and managed by Inno Kaliati and Dom Webb, the company has offices in both the UK (Devon) and Malawi (Blantyre) and has over 15 years experience within the industry.

Our Brand Manifesto

- We believe in the potential of Malawi's people and that empowering them via tourism offers a chance to develop out of the poverty cycle.
- We believe that when promoting a fragile destination the benefits need to reach the local communities.
- We are committed to building the local economy in Malawi. By employing local people and creating sustainable growth through social enterprise, we aim to reduce the dependence on the aid industry.
- We believe in balance. Our tailored, educational and culturally diverse experiences awaken minds and inspire future generations.
- We are committed to developing Global Citizenship.

Travelling in Malawi



The Basics

- The main language in Malawi is Chichewa but English is taught at school and is widely spoken.
- Malawi has a good network of tarmac roads and journey times are usually between 1-4 hrs. We aim for you to arrive at your destination before dusk.
- Malawi has limited electricity supply (only 9% of the country is connected to mains electricity). Many hotels rely on back up generators and/or solar power.
- Malawi has good 4G connection across most of the country.
- Blantyre and Lilongwe are the country's main cities and both have good hospital facilities.

Emergency Support

- An Orbis DMC guide will be with your group every step of the way. They will become an integral part of your team.
- Orbis DMC offers bi-annual guide training in basic first aid, advanced driving, basic mechanics & environmental awareness.
- Orbis DMC guides take bi-annual exams to refresh their in country knowledge and emergency procedures.
- All Orbis DMC Vehicles have seat belts and are fully insured with passenger liability insurance.