



UbuntuNet CONNECT | 2026

All You Need to Know About Your Stay in Lilongwe, Malawi

Organized by:



Hosted by:



1. Travel Information and Entry Requirements

- **Visa Application**

To apply for a visa to Malawi, visit the official Malawi eVisa website at evisa.gov.mw and create an account if you are a new user. Log in to complete the online application form, providing your personal and travel information as it appears on your passport, together with other required supporting documents. After completing the application, proceed with the online payment of the applicable visa using a Visa or Mastercard credit or debit card. A confirmation email will be sent following successful payment and submission of the application. The Department of Immigration and Citizenship Services will then review and process the application. Once the visa is approved, applicants should download and print their e-Visa certificate/document and carry it with them when travelling. The printed e-Visa must be presented together with the passport to immigration officials upon arrival at the designated port of entry in Malawi. Participants are advised to apply well in advance of their travel date and to check the official e-Visa Portal for the latest visa requirements, fees, and processing information. If you need any assistance, you can contact the host at info@maren.ac.mw

- **Passports**

To enter Malawi, all travelers must meet specific passport requirements. These requirements ensure smooth entry and exit from the country.

- **Validity:** Your passport must be valid for at least **6** months beyond the intended date of departure from Malawi.
- **Blank Pages:** The passport must have at least a minimum of **2** blank pages for entry & exit stamps.
- **Passport condition:** The passport should be in good condition, with no significant damage.
- **Machine-readable passport:** Travellers should have a machine-readable passport that meets international travel-document standards.

- **Currencies and Card Transactions**

Malawi's official currency is the Malawi Kwacha (MWK). Major foreign currencies, including US Dollars (USD), Euros (EUR), British Pounds (GBP) and South African Rands (ZAR), can be exchanged into Malawi Kwacha at licensed forex bureaux and banks. Forex services are available at the airport, major shopping malls and banks in Lilongwe. Some hotels, supermarkets, and shops accept Visa and MasterCard; however, cash is essential, especially outside major cities, as card use may be limited. Additionally:

- ATMs are widely available in Lilongwe and other major cities and generally dispense Malawi Kwacha.

- Check with your bank about international transaction and ATM withdrawal fees before travelling.
- Inform your bank of your travel dates to help prevent your card from being blocked when making international transactions.

2. Shopping Services

Lilongwe offers a variety of modern shopping malls and retail centres where participants can purchase groceries, clothing, electronics, souvenirs, personal items, and other essentials. Popular shopping destinations include:

- The Gateway Mall
- Lilongwe City Mall Game complex
- Olympic Mall
- Champion Dream Mall
- Old Town Mall
- Gravity Mall
- Century City Mall
- Crossroads City Mall
- Bluefin Mall
- Kapani Kanengo Shopping Centre
- Maula Mall

3. Taxi and Ride-Hailing Services

Participants can use local taxi and ride-hailing services to move around Lilongwe. Some of the available options include:

- **Changu Ride:** Offers convenient on-demand rides that can be booked through the [Changu mobile app](#). Participants can download the app from their preferred app store, register, and request a ride directly from their phone.
- **Lloyd taxi Services:** Provides taxi services and has a good standing relationship with UbuntuNet Alliance: Phone: +265 999 92 78 17
- **Ashraf's Taxi & Tours Malawi:** Provides taxi and tour services for visitors, including local transportation and travel arrangements. Email: mw@gmail.com | Phone: +265 999 933 384
- **Street Wave Taxi Services:** A local taxi service based in Lilongwe, offering transportation services for visitors. Address: Chilembwe Road, City Centre, Lilongwe, Malawi. Calls: +265 999 471 677 | +265 886 501 111 | +265 888 579 404 | WhatsApp: +265 999 471 677 | Email: info@streetwavetaxi.com / streetwavetaxis@gmail.com

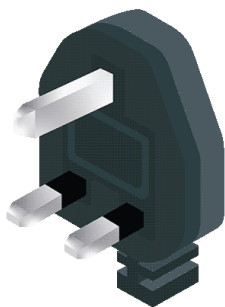
- **Tafika265 Adventures:** A local transport and tour service offering hotel transfers, airport transfers, chauffeur services, self-drive options, city tours and Lake Malawi tours. Address: Area 5, along Chilambula Road, Karson House, 2nd Floor, Lilongwe, Malawi. Phone: +265 987 071 770 / +265 888 607 449.

4. Tour Guides & Travel Planning

Malawi offers a wide range of tourist destinations. Local guides can help tailor your itinerary to your interests. Platforms such as [BookMyStay](#), [GetYourGuide](#), [Travel with Mervis](#), and [Heart, Travel and Adventures](#) can connect you with locals eager to share the best of Malawi.

- **Power Plugs and Sockets in Malawi**

Malawi uses **Type G power plugs and sockets**, with three rectangular pins arranged in a triangular pattern and a longer grounding pin at the top. The standard electrical voltage is **230V**, with a frequency of **50Hz**. Participants whose devices are compatible with these specifications will not require a power adapter. However, if your devices use a different plug type, you will need to bring a travel plug adapter. If your device is not compatible with Malawi's 230V supply, a voltage converter or transformer may also be required. Participants are advised to check the voltage and plug specifications of their electronic devices before travelling to Malawi. See the image below for an illustration of the Type G power plug and socket used in Malawi.



- **Weather**

October in Lilongwe is generally hot, sunny and dry, with daytime temperatures averaging around **28°C–31°C** and cooler nights of about **17°C–20°C**. Rainfall is usually limited but may increase towards the end of the month. Participants are advised to pack light, comfortable clothing, a water bottle, a light jacket for cooler evenings, and sun protection such as sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat.

5. Health and Safety

- Hospitals, Pharmacies and General Clinics**

Hospitals and Clinics:

Facility	Location (area)	Emergency / main contact(s)
Kamuzu Central Hospital (KCH)	Mzimba Road, Area 33 (near Kawale), Lilongwe	+265 1 754 725 / +265 1 754 331 / +265 1 753 555/+265 1 754 900/01 751 109
Daeyang Luke Mission Hospital	M1, after Kanengo turn-off (northern Lilongwe)	Emergency: +265 997 434 873; Main: +265 1 771 390 / +265 1 771 398/+265 1 711 398)
Likuni Mission Hospital	Likuni (rural, north-east of Lilongwe)	+265 996 383 202 / +265 992 556 138 (also +265 992 556 152 / +265 992 556 136 i
Lilongwe Adventist Hospital	Area 14, along Presidential Way	+265 886 019 236 / +265 988 522 177 (directory); also listed as 24-hour medical/emergency service
City Centre Clinic	Area 14, along Presidential Highway (city centre)	+265 1 772 154; mobile +265 992 469 431; fax +265 1 775 662
MASM Medi Clinic – Area 12	Area 12 (Umozi), Lilongwe	+265 880 055 342; also +265 1 117 942 66 / +265 980 469 825 in provider lists
MASM Clinic – Area 15, Lingadzi	Area 15, Paul Kagame Road, Lilongwe	MASM's central call centre/ambulance: (dial 4277)
Good Hope Private Clinic	Area 49/2/7, along Kaunda Road, Lilongwe	Reception: +265 997 691 606; Maternity emergency: +265 983 022 221/+265 1 779 208)

ABC Clinic (ABC Community Clinic)	Area 47, next to Gateway Mall, Lilongwe	+265 1 761 670 / +265 1 761 743; mobile +265 888 211 085 (24-hour)
Uromed Clinic (Uromed Hospital)	Area 17, behind Kamuzu Institute for Sports, Chipatala Street, Lilongwe	+265 993 85 39 79, Open 24 hours
Lilongwe Health Clinic	Munthama Road, Area 3, Lilongwe	+265 999 22 01 19 · Open; 8am closes 5:30 PM
MASM Area 11	37 Lilongwe Crescent, Area 11	+265 111 82 02 98 ·
The 24 Hour Clinic	Colby Road, Area 3, Lilongwe	+265 999 51 03 88 · Open 24 hours

Pharmacies: (Available on Google Maps)

1. The Medi-Port Pharmacy: Located in Area 4, along Kamuzu Procession Road
2. Pharmacare Pharmacy: Located in Old Town, Game Complex and Glass Centre Building off Paul Kagame Road
3. Maula Pharmacy: Located in Area 3, Maula Mall, along Kamuzu Procession Road
4. One Stop Community Pharmacy: Located in M1 (Kamuzu Procession Road), Lilongwe
5. Mitch Pharmacy: Located on Kamuzu Procession Road / KIA junction
6. Citipharm Lilongwe Pharmacy: Located in City Center, Mzimba Street
7. Vita-Health Pharmacy: Located in Area 10, Lilongwe
8. Leo Pharmacy: Located in Area 3, opposite NBS Bank
9. Capital Pharmacy: Located in Sunbird Capital Hotel
10. Lifestyle Pharmacy: Located in City Centre Arcade

- **Vaccination Requirements**

Maintaining good health while traveling is crucial. For those planning a trip to Malawi, understanding the recommended and required vaccinations is essential for a safe

and worry-free experience. Current travel-health guidance for Malawi recommends or considers the following:

Please fill in the health declaration form here before you travel:

<https://poe.health.gov.mw/self-screen>

Other requirements to note include the following:

- **Yellow Fever Vaccination:** Travelers must have a copy of their yellow fever vaccination certificate with them. This requirement applies to all travellers, especially those who have transited through a yellow fever risk country
- **Routine vaccinations:** Ensure routine vaccines such as tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, polio, measles, mumps, rubella and influenza are up to date.
- **Hepatitis A:** Recommended for most unvaccinated travellers to Malawi, as the disease can be transmitted through contaminated food and water.
- **Hepatitis B:** Recommended for unvaccinated travellers, particularly because the virus can be transmitted through blood and bodily fluids.
- **Typhoid:** Recommended for most travellers, particularly those who may eat or drink outside established hotels and restaurants. Safe food and water practices are also important.
- **Cholera:** Cholera transmission occurs in Malawi. Vaccination may be considered, particularly for travellers visiting areas where there is active transmission or limited access to safe food and water.
- **Rabies:** Travellers who expect significant contact with animals, particularly dogs or wildlife, or who may have difficulty accessing medical care quickly, should discuss rabies vaccination with a healthcare professional.
- **COVID-19:** Travellers are advised to remain up to date with COVID-19 vaccination according to current health guidance.

- **Police stations**

You're well covered near Pearl Convention Centre in Lilongwe—here are the closest police stations in order of proximity:

- Lilongwe Police Station – located in Area 3
- Police HQ – Located in Area 30
- Kanengo Police Station - Located in Kanengo.
- Area 47 sector 1 police station- Located in Area 47 sector 1
- Lingadzi Police Station- Located in Area 18
- Gateway Mall Police Unit- Located in Gateway Mall

- **Emergency Contacts**

In case of an emergency, contact the Malawi Police Service on 997 or 990 (toll-free), or 0800 990 997. For ambulance services, call 998, and for Fire and Rescue

Services, call 999. Local police stations are accessible 24 hours a day throughout Malawi.

6. Accommodation and Restaurants in Lilongwe

- **Recommended accommodation options**

The following hotels and accommodation options will have transportation to the conference venue and back. Transportation will be provided in the morning and evening at the end of the conference day.

1. Crossroads hotel Lilongwe (Promo code UA102026)
Cecilia M Mkandawire | email: reservations@crossroadshotel.net | Central Reservations | Crossroads Hotel | P.O. Box x1
Lilongwe | Malawi Tel: +265 888 750 444/009 | Fax: [+265 1 750 336](tel:+2651750336) | Cell: +265 884 813 115
Website: www.crossroadshotel.net
2. Golden peacock hotel lilongwe
goldenpeacockhotelmw@gmail.com
3. Sunbird Lilongwe Hotel
Address: Kamuzu Procession Road, Lilongwe, Malawi | +265 111 756 333 | +265 888 965 758 | centralres@sunbirdmalawi.com | lilongwehotelres@sunbirdmalawi.com | P.O. Box 44 Lilongwe Malawi

Lilongwe also offers a wide range of accommodation, from comfortable guesthouses to upscale hotels and lodges. The following options are recommended for conference participants as well:

1. President Hotel at Umodzi Park
2. Sunbird Capital Hotel
3. Sunbird Lilongwe Hotel
4. Latitude 13 Degrees
5. Ufulu Gardens Hotel
6. Lifestyle Boutique Hotel

A list of recommended hotels, including applicable conference rates and discount codes, will be provided on the conference website.

- **Nearby Restaurants and interests**

Lilongwe has a growing dining scene, with a good selection of local and international restaurants offering Italian, Ethiopian, Persian, Indian, Mediterranean and contemporary cuisine. You can explore places to go in Lilongwe using the platform <https://www.discovermw.com/>

Participants can also conveniently order meals for delivery to their hotel or preferred location through [Doorbell](#) or [Changu Food](#); local food delivery services available in Lilongwe. The following are among the more established and popular restaurant options.

- **Wild Orchid Restaurant at Umodzi Park – City Centre:** An elegant hotel restaurant offering international cuisine, ideal for business meetings, formal dinners, and special occasions.
- **Vincent’s Restaurant – Sunbird Capital Hotel:** An upscale fine-dining restaurant known for its elegant Van Gogh-inspired décor and refined menu, making it perfect for a unique dining experience.
- **Seble Ethiopian Restaurant – Area 12:** A popular Ethiopian restaurant offering authentic cuisine in an attractive setting, ideal for a distinctive dining experience.
- **Mediterraneo Italian Restaurant – Area 10:** A well-established Italian and Mediterranean restaurant serving pasta, pizza and other Mediterranean dishes in a refined setting.
- **Latitude 13° – Area 43:** A stylish dining destination offering an eclectic international menu in a sophisticated poolside and garden setting, ideal for special dinners and networking.
- **Mamma Mia Italian Restaurant – Area 3:** A well-known Italian restaurant serving authentic Italian dishes and pizza, suitable for business meals, dinners and special occasions.
- **La Cantina – Area 43:** A popular Mexican and Latin-inspired restaurant with an attractive setting and bar, ideal for a relaxed evening out.
- **The Farmer’s Daughter – Kumbali Country Lodge, Area 44:** A scenic countryside restaurant offering locally sourced food in a peaceful farm and garden setting.
- **Coco’s at KOA / Gateway Mall:** A contemporary restaurant offering American, continental, seafood and barbecue-style dishes, conveniently located for dining and shopping.
- **Lassie House- Area 12:** A cosy dining destination offering a relaxed atmosphere and a range of meals, suitable for casual lunches and dinners.
- **The Fort- Area 12:** A stylish and relaxed dining venue offering a welcoming setting for meals, drinks and social gatherings.
- **Veg-Delight-Area 3: Old Town Mall:** A popular vegetarian restaurant offering Indian cuisine, including vegan options, in a cosy setting.
- **Ama Khofi-City Center:** A popular café and restaurant offering international cuisine, coffee and light meals in a quiet and pleasant setting.
- **Kitchen Hub-City Center:** A casual restaurant offering a variety of continental and international dishes, suitable for relaxed meals and informal gatherings.

- **Bombay Palace – Area 3: Game Complex:** A well-known Indian restaurant offering a variety of Indian dishes in a comfortable setting, suitable for lunch and dinner.
- **Urban Café – Area 10:** A contemporary café and restaurant offering international dishes, coffee and light meals in a relaxed setting.
- **Roots Garden by Binnies-Area 12:** A relaxed dining option offering a comfortable garden setting for casual meals and socialising.
- **Lark Cafe- Area 12:** A popular café and restaurant offering European and café-style dishes in a peaceful and relaxed setting.
- **Visions – Area 10:** A popular bar and restaurant known for its pizzas, relaxed atmosphere, and vibrant evening setting.
- **Café 92- Along Paul Kagame Road, Chilambula:** A lively bar and restaurant offering a cool menu, relaxed atmosphere, and vibrant city-night vibes.
- **Illusions Bar and Restaurant-City Centre:** A popular nightlife spot known for its lively atmosphere, music, drinks, and varied menu.

7. Mobile Services and Internet Connectivity

Malawi has several mobile service providers, with **Airtel and TNM** being the most widely used. Mobile and internet services are readily available across Lilongwe. Conference participants will also have access to eduroam at the venue, provided by MAREN, offering secure Wi-Fi connectivity for all users.

8. Consulates and Embassies

Malawi has a number of embassies and consulates from various countries within and outside of Africa. [Wikipedia's](#) List of Diplomatic Missions in Malawi offers an alphabetical breakdown of embassies, consulates, and honorary missions, including those accredited from other countries.

9. Conference Support Contacts

- Harold Bowa - harold.bowa@ubuntunet.net
- Mable Swart - mable.swart@ubuntunet.net
- Revelation Nyirongo - revelation.nyirongo@ubuntunet.net
- Ulemu Maseko– u.maseko@maren.ac.mw
- Mwayi Chatsika– m.chatsika@maren.ac.mw
- Wiseman Kapondo –w.kapondo@maren.ac.mw
- UbuntuNet Alliance – info@ubuntunet.net

10. Tourist Attractions in Malawi

If you would like to explore Malawi beyond Lilongwe, the country offers a wide range of attractions, from lakes and islands to national parks, mountains, forests and cultural heritage sites. The following are some of the most popular destinations to consider.

- **Lake Malawi:** Malawi's most iconic attraction, known for its clear waters, sandy beaches and beautiful scenery. Visitors can enjoy swimming, snorkelling, diving, kayaking, sailing and boat trips.
- **Cape Maclear:** A popular lakeshore destination on the southern end of Lake Malawi, offering beautiful beaches, water sports, boat trips, snorkelling and a lively lakeside atmosphere.
- **Lake Malawi National Park:** A UNESCO World Heritage Site famous for its clear waters, islands and remarkable diversity of endemic cichlid fish. It is ideal for snorkelling, diving, boating and nature experiences.
- **Liwonde National Park:** One of Malawi's best-known safari destinations, located along the Shire River. Visitors can enjoy game drives and boat safaris with opportunities to see elephants, hippos, crocodiles and abundant birdlife.
- **Majete Wildlife Reserve:** A successful conservation area and Big Five safari destination, offering opportunities to see elephants, lions, leopards, rhinos and buffalo in a restored wilderness setting.
- **Zomba Plateau:** A scenic highland destination overlooking Zomba, with forests, waterfalls, viewpoints and hiking trails. It is particularly suitable for hiking, mountain biking and enjoying panoramic views.
- **Mount Mulanje:** Malawi's highest mountain and a spectacular destination for hiking, trekking and mountain adventures. Its dramatic peaks and surrounding tea estates make it one of the country's most impressive landscapes. It was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2025.
- **Nyika National Park:** Malawi's largest national park, situated on a high plateau with rolling grasslands, forests, waterfalls and abundant wildlife. It is particularly popular for hiking, wildlife viewing, birdwatching and mountain biking.
- **Likoma Island:** A peaceful island in Lake Malawi known for its sandy beaches, baobab trees, traditional villages and the impressive St. Peter's Cathedral. It offers a tranquil escape with opportunities for swimming, snorkelling and cultural experiences.
- **Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve:** A large wilderness area with miombo woodland, rivers and diverse wildlife. Visitors can enjoy walking, canoeing, birdwatching and safari experiences.
- **Kasungu National Park:** A quieter safari destination in central Malawi, characterised by open savannah and woodland, with opportunities for wildlife viewing and birdwatching.

- **Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve:** A peaceful wildlife and wetland area near Nyika National Park, known for elephants, hippos and birdlife, and suitable for nature walks and birdwatching.
- **Chongoni Rock-Art Area:** A UNESCO World Heritage Site featuring ancient rock paintings and archaeological sites that provide insight into the cultural history of Malawi's early communities.
- **Ntchisi Forest:** A beautiful highland forest area offering hiking, nature walks, birdwatching, and spectacular views, making it a good option for visitors looking for a quieter nature experience.