

Malawi

Information for applicants

Malawi

Malawi is a landlocked state in southeast Africa which gained independence from the United Kingdom on 6 July 1964. In 2016, Malawi had a population of around 18.9 million. Its capital city is Lilongwe. Other large cities include Blantyre, Mzuzu and Zomba. In the north, Malawi shares a border with Tanzania, in the east, south and southwest with Mozambique and in the west with Zambia.

Medical care

Every district has a district hospital with at least 100 beds. These all have operating theatres, microscopes, X-ray and sonography equipment for diagnostic purposes. In the major cities of Blantyre, Lilongwe and Mzuzu, the range of equipment is more extensive and better quality. This health system is complemented by medical centres in the surrounding areas.

Throughout the year, there is a high risk of contracting malaria, especially close to Lake Malawi and in the lower-lying southern parts of the country. Malaria prophylaxis is therefore highly advisable. Recommended vaccinations: MMR; hepatitis A&B, tetanus, diphtheria and whooping cough. ABC Community Clinic, P.O. Box 161, Lilongwe
Adventist Hospital, P.O. Box 51, Blantyre

Living locally, finding accommodation

Currency: Kwacha

Language: Chichewa, English

State form: Republic

Head of state: President Peter Mutharika

The housing market is small, as there are virtually no apartments available. As a rule, people rent or buy detached houses. Houses that are rented or sold to foreigners are of a superior quality by local standards. Several rooms and a large garden in a gated and usually guarded community are the norm.

NB: You will be required to pay six months' or an entire year's rent in advance!

Highly recommended: Water tank and emergency power generator.

Shopping and services

The large foreign supermarket chains offer a wide range of food and household items. Cheese and carbonated water are hard to find, and expensive when available. Fruit, vegetables, fish, clothing, shoes and fabrics can be bought readily and more cheaply on the local markets. The staple dish is nsima, a thick porridge made from corn flour. Credit cards are accepted by larger hotels and car rentals and can also be used to withdraw money. The ATMs are now quite reliable with respect to international bank cards. However, they are only available in the big cities. Cash (euros or US dollars) can be exchanged in retail banks and at

licensed exchange booths on presentation of an ID card/passport.

At the end of the month, the ATMs are often 'empty' and so may be unable to issue any money.

Introduced in December 2016, the largest bank note is 2,000 Kwacha.

Climate

Malawi has a subtropical climate with four seasons:

- There is the cool season between May and mid-August.
- This is followed by a hot season between mid-August and November.
- The rainy period is between November and April. During this time, air humidity can be almost 100%.
- The post-break rainy season is between April and May.

Accompanying partners

Accompanying partners can work in Malawi, if the prospective employer can prove that no Malawian citizen is well qualified enough for the position.

Freelance work is possible without any problems – provided of course that all the necessary authorisations (work permit, visa, etc.) have been issued.

Schools

There are several very good international schools in Malawi. These include the Bishop Mackenzie School in Lilongwe, the Kamuzu Academy in Kasungu and, in Blantyre, St. Andrew's International High School and the Phoenix Primary School.

Childcare

Maids are usually employed for the house/garden, but they can also be entrusted with childcare.

Good to know

Various safaris are offered in Malawi, some of them transnational. In the capital Lilongwe there is a large market on Malangalanga Road, as well as an old town with many Indian shops.

The biggest attraction however is Lake Malawi. At 24 km², it is the third largest lake in Africa. It is up to 700 metres deep and located in the tri-border region Malawi shares with Tanzania and Mozambique.

NB: Given the risk of contracting schistosomiasis, swimming is not recommended. If at all, only in specially designated zones followed by a medical check-up.

Find out more

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/laenderinformationen/malawi-node>

<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/341.html>

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