

Bird Watching and Sunset Dhow Cruises on Lake Malawi



Lake [Malawi](#) and Malawi National Park are often overlooked for other destinations in [Africa](#) but those who make the trip to this “Friendly Heart of Africa” are rewarded with exceptionally dramatic scenery of craggy outcrops, plateaus and high mountains coupled with a wealth of adventure in and around what is considered to be Africa’s most beautiful lake.

While safari-goers come for the sight of big game, here abundant wildlife sings a subtler, yet equally impressive song. Bird life abounds with frequent sightings of fish eagles and the magnificent Pel’s fishing owl. More than 500 species of fish populate the waters of the lake, a freshwater ‘sea’ surrounded by golden sand beaches.

Just inside the park, perched above a sandy beach on the southern lakeshore, rests the outstanding Robin Pope Safari’s ten villas called [Pumulani Lodge](#). The main lodge overlooks an infinity pool with views of verdant hillsides embracing the clear, calm waters.

Tempting though it may be to relax and enjoy the luxury of the resort and natural beauty of the setting, the area presents a huge variety of activities.

Birding Walks: The lake itself attracts water loving birds drawn to the shore lands. Most prized of these is the African fish eagle, Malawi’s national bird. It’s easily spotted as it dives for dinner on the surface of the water. Your first awareness of this powerful bird with its snow white head, breast and tail may be its distinctive cry as it perches atop a waterside branch or skims across the lake.

Along the lakeshore, look for the collared palm thrush and palm swifts while pied kingfishers can often be seen diving into the waters. Aim your sights too at the shore’s reeds to spy golden and brown-throated weavers and the occasional reed cormorant.



Water Sports: An inland sea, Lake Malawi’s warm salt-free water and beautiful beaches offer year round opportunities to swim, scuba dive, snorkel, water ski, and kayak or simply bask in the cooling off-shore breezes. After a day in the sun, guests can relax at Pumulani’s infinity pool or on their own stretch of private deck.

Sunset Cruise: How about a dhow? [Pumulani](#) claims bragging rights to the most spectacular sunsets in all of Africa. You won’t find a finer way to watch the sun sink into the water’s edge than aboard the resort’s hand-crafted African wooden sailing boat as you lean upon the dhow’s rail with a cool drink in hand.

Food, wine and comfort: Pumulani’s superb kitchen serves delicious meals prepared to international standards, using fresh local ingredients and just caught fish. With its hillside setting, the dining and bar area sits high above the lake for *al fresco* meals and panoramic vistas. Individual villas boast private view decks, king-size beds and comfortable lounge areas.

Malawi

Malawi is a genuine undiscovered gem - a relatively small yet beautiful, varied and welcoming country uncrowded with tourists. Many elements-the dramatic landscape, the abundance of wildlife, Lake Malawi, romantically called "The Lake of the Stars," the welcoming native peoples- contribute to a destination that fits for families, adventurers, romantics and nature lovers. Visit: www.malawitourism.com.

Visit Robin Pope Safaris for a complete description of their accommodations in Africa at www.robinpopesafaris.net. Visit Pumulani Lodge's website at www.pumulani.com

Getting There: [South African Airways](#), Africa's premier airline can arrange flights all the way from San Francisco International Airport to Johannesburg, South Africa and on to Malawi. Visit www.flysaa.com for details. Transport to [Pumulani Lodge](#) can be arranged through the lodge.

[South African Airways](#) is a Star Alliance member with superb coach and business class in-cabin service.



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