

MVUU CAMP



Camp Summary: Mvuu Camp is located in the heart of Liwonde National Park, one of Malawi's premier wildlife destinations. The camp is an excellent option for guests who want to enjoy the ultimate bush experience in a comfortable and relaxed setting.

Mvuu Camp has a spectacular vantage on the banks of the Shire River in Liwonde National Park. Liwonde is a 580 sq km reserve that harbours over 400 species of birds, a dense population of hippos, crocodiles, large numbers of elephants and a variety of antelope species. There are also occasional sightings of serval, lion, leopard and black rhino in the park.

The camp, comprising 14 units as well as a nearby campsite, is a mix of spacious stone and canvas chalets and specially designed family chalets. An impressive thatched dining and lounge area offers a magnificent river vista that is framed by two large baobab trees. Dinners are sometimes held under the stars in a specially constructed boma.

A custom-built education and conference centre with facilities for up to 40 delegates or smaller corporate and team building groups is also available. Mvuu Camp offers a variety of activities including boat safaris on the Shire River, day and night game drives, guided walks and non-stop birding. Trips to Njobvu Cultural Village Lodge and Nanthomba School are also popular.

Location

- Situated to the south of Lake Malawi in the Liwonde National Park.+
- Overlooks the Shire River, the main drainage river from Lake Malawi.

Seasons / Child Policy

Low Season: 11 January to 30 June & 01 November to 09 December

High Season: 01 July to 31 October & 10 December to 10 January

Children of all ages are accommodated and partake in activities with all other guests. Children up to 16 years must share with an adult/s in the same room.

The minimum age for walking activities is 12 years and for boating activities it is 6 years.

Accommodation:

14 chalets in total consisting of:

- 5 x twin-bedded chalets (Chalet 1,2,3,4,5) each with two single beds
- 2 x twin-bedded chalets (inter-leading working as a family unit) (chalet A and B) with two three quarter beds in each room

- 5 x family units with 2 x 2-bedded rooms (chalet 6,7,8,9,10) each with two single beds sharing a bathroom.
- 2 x twin or double-bedded chalets (J & B chalets) with beds that can be made up as required, which have a private lounge and are located south of the camp, overlooking the Shire floodplains. These can be booked separately for small groups or families wanting a private safari with their own guide and meals served at the chalets.

Pilots/guides/tour leaders accommodated in guest accommodation if available, otherwise in staff quarters.

A campsite is available.

This camp can accommodate 34 guests and children of all ages are welcome.

Chalet details:

- Stone and canvas chalets on the ground, with paved walkways.
- En-suite facilities with mosquito net, private veranda and electronic safe.
- Amenities are supplied in each room.
- In winter extra blankets are provided.

Camp Description

- Dining room and bar under thatch.
- Pool in main area.
- Traditional boma.
- Education Centre.
- Children's play area.
- Library
- Internet café.

Activities:

- Day and night drives in 1 x 10-seater vehicle and 1 x 18-seater vehicle.
- Boating in 1 x 10-seater safari boat.
- Guided nature walks and kids' walks.
- River safaris – a highlight where guests may get close to wildlife and birdlife.
- Warm ponchos are provided on game drives.
- Community visit.
- Visits to the hides in the rhino sanctuary.

Suggested Daily Activity Schedule

06:00 Game Walk

07:00 Breakfast

08:00 Boat safari

12:00 Lunch

16:00 Game Drive

19:00 Dinner, table d'hôte or occasionally curry buffet or braai (barbecue)

Game Viewing

Superb area for elephant, hippo and crocodile during the drier months in the middle of the year. Kudu, sable, impala, waterbuck and warthog are seen as well as serval, civet, mongoose and genets on night drives. Baboon, vervet monkeys, bushbuck, oribi, elephant and bushpig are also found and the birdlife is spectacular all year including over 400 species and specials such as Böhm's Bee-eater and Pel's Fishing Owls. Four cheetahs were recently translocated to the park and occasional sightings may be enjoyed. Guests may occasionally observe black rhino sightings as well.

Electricity & Water

- 220V volt plug points are available in the tents.
- 12V solar lighting in the tents. (Generator runs from 0700 – 1200 and 1800 – 2100)
- Water is supplied from the borehole and is treated.
- While the adaptor of your choice might be available, it is advisable that you carry your own.
- Only battery operated sleep apnoea machines can be used. Inverters can be provided subject to prior arrangements and availability.

Drinks Policy

Drinks are not included in the nightly rate and are charged to the guests' account.

Laundry Policy

Laundry is provided on a daily basis (weather permitting) and included.

Washing detergent is supplied because camp staff will not wash "smalls" due to prevailing local traditions in the country.

Extras Payment

US Dollars, GBP Sterling, Euro and South African Rands are widely accepted. You are strongly advised to avoid black market currency traders. There is no limit to the amount of foreign currency brought into Malawi, however, it must be declared and accounted for on departure.

Visa is accepted at Mvuu Camp, plus most major hotels. There is no charge for Visa. Please note that MasterCard is no longer widely accepted in Malawi.

Self-Drive Access

Mvuu Camp/Lodge are not directly accessible on a self-drive basis. For any self-drive itinerary, vehicles would need to be parked at either Hippo View Lodge or Ulongwe Drive at own risk.

During rainy season (between mid-November to mid-March) we advise extra caution for self-drive itineraries. The road conditions in Malawi are poor during the rainy season, tarmac roads (except for the main roads) are sometimes difficult to manoeuvre due to occasional potholes. The gravel roads get covered in mud with puddles of water being at least 20 cm deep.

There are two jetties offering boat transfers to Mvuu Camp/Lodge:

Hippo View Lodge Jetty – (45 minute boat transfer/safari – wildlife spotted during this transfer is vast and superb) During the rainy season (Jan- April) we recommend access via Hippo View Lodge jetty. A charge is applicable for the boat transfers. The boat departs Hippo View Lodge jetty at 13:00 to our camp/lodge and returns to Hippo View Lodge at 11:30 daily.

Ulongwe Drive Jetty (a Central African Wilderness Safaris representative is present at this jetty) – (5 minute boat transfer).

During dry season, the road via Ulongwe is passable, allowing guests to take our boat transfer departing every 15 to 30 minutes to Mvuu Camp/Lodge. Guests are advised to contact the camp at least 30 minutes prior to their arrival at the jetty. The earlier the camp gets advised the better.

We recommend advising your travel consultant of your anticipated arrival time and choice of jetty during the booking process. This is especially important if meals are required to enable camp to prepare in advance.

Mvuu Camp Coordinates: S14° 51'2.81" Latitude and E35°17'40.60" Longitude

Hippo View Lodge Coordinates: **TBA**

Ulongwe Drive Jetty Coordinates: **TBA**

Airstrip Details

Airstrip Name: Makanga Airstrip

Duration to Camp: Approximately 15 minute drive into camp

Airstrip Coordinates: S14 50 21 Latitude E35 18 Longitude

These GPS coordinates are for the purposes of locating and plotting our airstrips on Google Earth only.

Altitude/Elevation: 1 300 feet

Runway Length: 1 000 metres

Runway Heading: East to West

Airstrip Surface: Dirt

Airstrip Services: Mvuu Camp and Mvuu Lodge

Aircraft Type: Airstrips are restricted to "At Owner/Operator/Pilot in Command discretion" to operations for aircraft types having maximum certified take-off weight (MTOW) of 5700kg or less. For more detailed information, please contact your travel consultant.

The Owner/Operator/Pilot in Command needs to sign our Indemnity, Waiver and Disclaimer policy for authorization to land at our airstrips. In addition the Owner/Operator/Pilot in Command is required to acknowledge the preferred supplier and self-fly-in information notice. Please consult your travel consultant as all procedures need to be finalized in advance.

Central African Wilderness Safaris makes no representation whatsoever regarding the suitability of the aerodrome, its safety and/or its fitness for purposes of use by any type of aircraft under any conditions. The Company warrants that it will make enquiries with the relevant Aviation Authorities regarding the suitability of any aerodrome for any particular type of aircraft and activity. Any information provided to the Company shall not amount to or imply a representation by CAWS as to suitability or fitness for purpose.

Gratuity Schedule

The following is the suggested gratuity schedule only and is subject to service standards:

Guides: USD 10.00 per person per day

General Camp Staff: USD 5.00 per person per day

Specialist Guides (if applicable): USD 10.00 per person per day