



## Lodge Summary:

### Location

- Situated in the north of Malawi within Nyika National Park.
- The lodge overlooks the open grasslands of the High Nyika Plateau.

### The Chelinda Pine Plantation

Planted as an agricultural experiment in the 1960s, the Chelinda Pine Plantation is located in the centre of the Nyika Plateau. Both the camp and lodge are situated on the edge of this forest with the trees serving as both a windbreak and source of firewood and timber in this grass-dominated environment. These non indigenous trees are slowly being cut back under a government orchestrated project and the grasslands will ultimately be rehabilitated although with a core forest remaining around the park headquarters. The pines are not invasive and do not threaten the integrity of the ecosystem. As a result they in some way add to the overall ambience and experience of the high plateau at Nyika.

### Seasons / Child Policy

Low Season: 11 January to 30 June 2014 & 01 November to 09 December 2014

High Season: 01 July to 31 October 2014 & 10 December 2014 to 10 January 2015

Children of 6 years and older are accommodated.

For families travelling with children between 6 and 12 years, private activities need to be booked and paid for.

Children between 6 and 16 years must share with an adult/s in the same room.

The minimum age for walking activities is 13 years.

Park description:

**About Nyika National Park:** Established in 1965 and covering an area of 3134km<sup>2</sup>, Nyika National Park is Malawi's oldest and largest national park. Nyika is a wild, untouched and remote upland area, with the distinction of being the only big game Afro-montane area in south-central Africa. The vistas in this Park are immense with high-altitude grassland the most obvious feature of the Nyika Plateau. Nyika is a botanist's delight in summer with alpine flowers that include 11 localised orchid species, exquisite dieramas, gladioli, protea and kniphofia. Nyika also harbours important populations of roan, eland, Crawshay's zebra, southern reedbuck, bushbuck, warthog, spotted hyena and side-striped jackal. Leopard are a key highlight of the park and elephant can be seen at times. Approximately 400 bird species occur in Nyika, many with highly restricted distributions, making it a key birding destination in Africa.

Accommodation:

8 cabins consisting of:

- **8 Twin log cabins** each with two three quarter beds (can be converted to doubles on request) on a raised deck with elevated wooden walkways. Cabins are made of pine and are essentially warm log cabins with a fireplace, en suite facilities with bath and shower, and an upstairs viewing area or room for accompanying children. Chalets are joined to the main lounge area by an elevated wooden walkway.
- During winter hot water bottles and extra blankets are provided.
- **Chalets 6 – 7** is one family chalet with a sharing lounge area (not a loft).

This camp can accommodate 16 guests, subject to concession numbers and / or concession availability.

### **Camp Facilities**

- Outdoor deck area
- Fireplace in main lounge/dining area
- Valuables to be stored in a central safe

## Activities:

- Day and night game drives in 1 x 10-seater closed vehicle with roof hatches.
- In winter hand muffs are provided on game drives.
- Guided nature walks (on request).
- Mountain biking.
- Forest birding.
- Fishing on a catch and release basis (not available from May to July, inclusive, with fishing equipment and permit supplied at an additional cost)

## Game Viewing

Core game viewing is in the famous Nyika Grasslands surrounding the camp and quantities and species will vary with time of year – Crayshaw's zebra, roan antelope, eland, southern reedbuck, bushpig, warthog, various duiker species, bushbuck, leopard, serval, and spotted hyaena. Leopard can be seen in the daytime owing to the temperate climate. Wonderful birding with a host of easily seen specials - red winged francolin, pallid harrier, augur buzzard, mountain cisticola, mountain marsh whydah, blue swallow (seasonal: August to April) and Denham's bustard.

## Suggested Daily Activity Schedule

Nyika is unique-the only possible way to enjoy it properly is to plan a 3 day programme that incorporates the myriad of experiences and habitats on display. Owing both to the pleasant cool climate and the distances of some of the game drive loops we will often suggest a full day's drive with lunch en route so no 2 days are typical – rather we would suggest a minimum 3 night stay and an itinerary similar to the one proposed below

### Day 1

Arrive and settle in

16:00 – 19:00 Game drive to Chosi Viewpoint for sundowners, returning after dark.

20:00 Dinner

### Day 2

06:00 – 08:00 Early morning walk around Chelinda

08:00 – 09:00 Breakfast

09:00 – 17:30 Full day's drive around plateau stopping at one of many spectacular plateau viewing points for lunch and returning to chalet at dusk.

19:00 Dinner

### Day 3

06:00 Breakfast

07:00 – 12:00 Depart for full morning combination of game drive and montane forest walk.

12:00            Return for hot lunch in chalet. Afternoon at leisure.  
16:00 – 20:00   Evening drive to viewing point and back after dark with spotlight.  
20:30            Dinner

#### **Day 4**

Early morning walk prior to departure.

#### **Electricity & Water**

- 220V electricity through generator which runs between 18:00 and 22:00 – with paraffin lamps and solar used thereafter.
- Water is heated by wood boilers (wood boilers only burn non-indigenous pine).
- Water is supplied from the mountains streams and is filtered.
- Plugs in the rooms and chalets.
- While some camps can supply adaptors (3-prong round, 3-prong square, 2-prong round, 2-prong flat) 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.

At Chelinda Lodge, no credit cards are accepted and all extras must be settled in cash. Please note that MasterCard is no longer widely accepted in Malawi.

## **Driving Times**

4 hours from Mzuzu

7 hours from Chintcheche

9 hours from Lilongwe

The last 110 kilometres from Rumphu is on a dirt road whose condition will vary from excellent to poor depending on time of year. It is usually in reasonable condition but definitely only for high clearance vehicles.

## **Self-Drive Access**

Chelinda Lodge can be accessed by road.

However, 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, tar-mac roads (except for the main roads) become full with potholes making it difficult for vehicles to maneuver. The gravel roads get covered in mud with puddles of water being at least 20 cm deep.

When travelling to Chelinda Lodge/Camp guests are advised to stopover at Luwawa Forest Lodge for the night or at Chintcheche Inn for perhaps 2 nights to break their journey. The road to Chelinda Lodge/Camp gets covered in mud and sometimes when the rain has eroded the surface of the road, it becomes rocky.

Chelinda Lodge Coordinates: S10° 35'13.63" Latitude and E33°48'42.68" Longitude

## **Airstrip Details**

Airstrip Name: Chelinda Airstrip

Duration to Camp: Approximately 25 minute drive into camp

Airstrip Coordinates: S10 33 25 Latitude E33 48 Longitude

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

Altitude/Elevation: 7 760 feet

Runway Length: 1 200 metres

Runway Heading: East to West

Airstrip Surface: Grass  
Airstrip Services: Chelinda Camp and Chelinda Lodge  
Aircraft Type: Our 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.

Wilderness 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 Wilderness 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

# Yendani Bwino - Go well

Central African Wilderness Safaris

P O Box 489, Sanctuary Lodge, Lilongwe, Malawi

T (00 265) 1 771 153/393 E M1@cawsmw.com

www.cawsmw.com