

MVUU LODGE



Lodge Summary: Mvuu Lodge offers a luxurious stay and an intimate getaway in a secluded wilderness setting in Liwonde National Park (one of Malawi's most prolific areas of wilderness). The Lodge overlooks a tranquil lagoon that is located just off the Shire River, in an area that is surrounded by lush vegetation and towering Borassus palms.

Mvuu means "hippo" in Chichewa and the name of the lodge was inspired by the large pods of hippos that inhabit the surrounding waters of the Shire.

Accommodation comprises eight tents, one of which is a romantic honeymoon suite. Each tent has en-suite bathroom facilities and a private deck that overlooks the water's edge. Lodge facilities include a dining room, lounge area and a swimming pool. Located just 4kms north of the lodge, Mvuu's Star Beds overlook the floodplains and offer guests the opportunity to immerse themselves in nature and spend a memorable night under the stars.

Key activities at Mvuu Lodge include boat safaris, guided walks, birding, and traditional day and night game drives. Additional activities include visits to Njobvu Cultural Village Lodge and Nanthomba School.

Location

- Situated to the south of Lake Malawi in the Liwonde National Park
- The camp overlooks a lagoon of 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 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 12 years and for boating activities is 6 years.

Accommodation:

Number of tents:

8 safari tents consisting of:

- 2 x twin-bedded tents each with two double beds
- 5 x double tents each with one king-size bed (3 doubles can on request be converted into twin beds)
- 1 x honeymoon tent with one queen size bed and a bath
- 2 x Star Beds (located in the floodplains).

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

This camp can accommodate 16 guests; larger groups can also be accommodated in the nearby Mvuu Camp which sleeps up to 34 guests.

Tent details:

- All safari tents are on a raised deck, with paved walkways on the ground.
- En-suite facilities with a shower, mosquito net, electronic safe and private veranda overlooking secluded lagoon.
- During winter hot water bottles and extra blankets are provided.
- Liquid soap, shampoo & conditioner, tissue dispenser, washing powder (for smalls), umbrella, room spray and mosquito coil are supplied in each tent.
- The Star Beds are located approximately 4kms away from the Lodge in the southern floodplains and have shower and toilet facilities.

Camp Description

- Lounge/dining area.
- Bar under thatch.
- Pool in main area.
- Camp fire.

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 (seasonal & subject to qualified walking guide being available).
- River cruises – a highlight where guests may get close to hippo, crocodile and wonderful birdlife.
- Birding
- 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, leopard, 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.
- 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 Lodge, plus most major hotels. There is no charge for Visa. Please note that MasterCard is no longer widely accepted in Malawi.

Driving times to Liwonde National Park

Lilongwe to Mvuu	4 hours
Blantyre to Mvuu	3 to 4 hours
Zomba to Mvuu	2 to 3 hours

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 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 rainy season (January - April) we recommend access via Hippo View Lodge jetty with our boats only. 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.

Closer to the time of travel, we recommend that you contact your travel consultant with regards to road conditions which may be affected by seasonal changes, e.g. high rains.

Mvuu Lodge 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.

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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