



Fairtrade in Malawi

Every time you spend money, you're casting a vote
for the kind of world you want.

- Anne Lappe -



Who we are

Orbis Expeditions is a specialist expedition company working in Educational, Experiential & Philanthropic Travel.

Operating exclusively in Malawi, we work with Schools, Universities, Charities, Businesses & Individuals creating highly personalised expeditions which connect people with the world as Global Citizens.

Owned and managed by Dom and Kate Webb the company has offices in both the UK (Devon) and Malawi (Blantyre) and has over 10 years experience within the industry.

Our Brand Manifesto

- We believe in the potential of Malawi's people and that empowering them via tourism offers a chance to develop out of the poverty cycle.
- We believe that when promoting a fragile destination the benefits need to reach the local communities.
- We are committed to building the local economy in Malawi. By employing local people and creating sustainable growth through social enterprise, we aim to reduce the dependence on the aid industry.
- We believe in balance. Our tailored, educational and culturally diverse experiences awaken minds and inspire future generations.
- We are committed to developing Global Citizenship.

RSC Expedition Objectives



Education

- ▶ Learn about Malawi's key exports and how local Malawian farmers are benefitting from fair-trade practices.
- ▶ Develop an understanding of cultural identity and how this influences sustainable development.
- ▶ Possess the skills and confidence to teach others about global sustainability issues.

Outside The Classroom

- ▶ Walk amongst Malawi's rolling tea estates.
- ▶ Wildlife safari, rising at dawn to track protected black rhinos.
- ▶ Experience Malawian culture with local community visits.
- ▶ Build lifelong cross cultural connections with your local guide.



THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development

RSC Supports #GlobalGoals in Malawi.

Goal 8
Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all.



Overview:

RSC's Global Development Workshops (GDW), have been designed following Future Earth's model of sustainable development to educate and engage on vital issues affecting the world today. Groups can choose an all-encompassing overview of development or an in-depth focus on one or two areas, including workshops on Wildlife, Environmental Conservation, Healthcare, Education, Business and Fair Trade.

How we achieve this:

- ▶ Each workshop has three main elements; background information given in a brief seminar format upon arrival, a practical learning session where students actively participate in the initiative, follow up worksheet/seminar session.
- ▶ Workshops take place in an environment which is hands-on and participatory. Experiential learning and shared experiences in this setting not only promote a fresh attitude and new perspective, it widens horizons and promotes transformational learning, leading to improved skills such as communication, adaptability and leadership.

Objective:

- ▶ To provide students with practical examples of global development challenges offering maximum learning potential and as much hands on experience as possible.
- ▶ To build students awareness of the challenges faced by developing countries.

RSC's Links with Local Community Partners.

RSC has been based in Malawi for over 7 years. In this time we have worked with 3 main communities where many of our GDW's are hosted. All the GDW's we offer have been put together in partnership with the community/project coordinator and act as an income generating activity.

The role of the RSC Guide

- RSC Employs 100% local Malawian Guides.

Your guide will be with the group at every workshop and will become a key member of the team – taking part in seminars, offering a key cultural perspective and vital local knowledge throughout your time in Malawi.

How it works...



Malawi





Overview

Malawi is Africa at its purest, offering unique and extraordinary travels. From its undulating mountains to the shores of its stunning lake, the fact that Malawi has traditionally been overlooked as a mainstream destination means that you will find hidden gems at every turn. Supporting a diversity of landscapes, ecosystems and famously friendly people, Malawi has the well deserved title as 'The Warm Heart of Africa'.

Adventure Group Travel

A peaceful, welcoming slice of Africa, Malawi is ideal for group travel and taking on an adventure challenge. The country boasts a wide diversity of landscape, offering multi disciplinary challenge itineraries incorporating hiking, cycling and kayaking on Lake Malawi, as well as rural communities rich in cultural heritage offering a real glimpse of behind the scenes Africa. Malawi is the home of our company and all our local guides and international Management will be with you every step of the way.

Population:
16,700,000 (UN 2014)

Size:
118,480 km

Average Annual Income
(per capita):
\$314.5 per annum (UN 2013)

Life Expectancy:
61 years (World Bank 2013)

Religion:
Christian 82%,
Muslim 13.9%,
Other 1.9%, None 2.5%

Rated Africa's
happiest country!



Aim

To demonstrate a range of business models from key exports to small community led income generating activities and for students to meet the faces behind some of these inspiring initiatives.

Sugar Production

- Summary: A site visit to Malawi's leading cane sugar producer. Learn the process from plant to packaging.
- Key Topics: Production, Exporting, Sustainable Factory Processes
- Practical Learning: Take a factory tour learning the methods used to ensure production is environmentally friendly and sustainable.

Fair Trade Tea Estate

- Summary: Spend the morning at Malawi's oldest fair trade tea estate. Learn about the fair trade process and sustainable practices used.
- Key Topics: Deforestation, Fair Trade, Exports. Tea and Coffee (plant to packet)
- Practical Learning: Take part in a tea tasting workshop, sample a variety of teas and learn about one of Malawi's key exports.

Sugar Cane Cooperative

- Summary: Learn about a small, collective sugar cooperative of subsistence farmers working under a centralised irrigation system.
- Key Topics: Agronomy, Fair Trade Cooperatives.
- Practical Learning: Meet the estate manager and take a walk around the plantation.

Small Holders

- Summary: Visit a family who are using their land to grow coffee and learn about the options for small holder farmers to be involved in the industry.
- Key Topics: Small Holder Farming, Local Economic Development.

"I have never been so well looked after. All the minutiae was dealt with promptly and personally – no “one size fits all.” It felt as though Anne and I were the only people you were dealing with which is a rare thing when booking holidays. All you promised came to fruition once we arrived."

Sue Donovan
(June 2014)

Homestay Initiative Option



Aim

Experience life living within family and village setting, take part in daily activities and learn about some of the complexities mixed with simple joys of village life.

Day to Day Summary

Day 1

Visit the UN Millennium Development village for a day hearing about the implementation of the MDG goals from the local community. Drive and walk around the villages learning about a variety of the UN programmes.

Day 2

Meet your family and have a traditional lunch together. Join the local youth group for a walk around the village to visit the various projects they run. In the evening, there is an opportunity for a traditional dancing lesson with your family and group, before helping your family prepare dinner.

Day 3

Wake early and take a traditional bucket shower. Help your family with house hold chores such as sweeping the compound and feeding the animals. Before departing, share your lessons learned and thoughts on the experience with the local youth group team.

*Multiple nights can also be arranged

Sample Itinerary — The Malawi Triathlon



Day 1

Departure from home country. Air Travel to Malawi.

Day 2

Arrive into Malawi and meet your RSC Guide. Transfer to The Lower Shire Valley. Evening acclimatisation seminar and settle in.

Day 3

Spend the day at Illovu Sugar Plantation. Visit the factory and learn about Malawi's key export and how local employment and fair trade practices are affecting development in the region.

Day 4

Travel by road to Malawi's tea and coffee growing region. Arrive for lunch and an afternoon walk in the estate learning about how tea and coffee is grown and the fair-trade industry.

Sample Itinerary — The Malawi Triathlon



Day 5

Wake up to breakfast on the veranda of your beautiful tea estate lodge. Take part in a tea tasting session and a visit to the local school funded by the estate. After lunch stop off to learn how a community is using tea leaves to make unique recycling paper products.

Day 6

Rise early and travel to The United Nations Millennium Villages project. Spend the day learning about sustainable farming and village level fair trade practices. Return to your lodge for sundowners.

Day 7

After a morning hike on Zomba Plateau. Depart for Blantyre. Visit a tobacco farm en route and join the vendors as they barter for tobacco prices at the market (season dependent). Arrive into Blantyre mid afternoon and join the RSC team.

Day 8

A farewell breakfast with your RSC guide and transfer to Chileka Airport.

Costs and Booking



Cost per person: \$1,850/£1,200

Includes

7 Nights Accommodation, 8 Days private vehicle hire, fuel and driver/guide, All meals where stated, all Fair Trade project visits, all taxes & Bank fees.

Excludes

International Flights, Travel Insurance, Tips & Items of a personal nature

*We're committed to ensuring the benefits of tourism reach local communities and run a Payment for Eco-System Services Scheme which contributes 1.5% of all bookings to a community environmental project in Malawi.

Scheduled Departures

We run various scheduled departures for independent travellers wishing to join a group. Please email us to find out more.



Hiking Mount Mulanje

- 1-3 day hike on Central Africa's highest free standing mountain rising at over 2,000 m.
- Reach one of Mulanje's 21 peaks. Ideal for a fundraising challenge!
- Overnight in one of the mountain huts cooking around the open fire and chatting with your mountain guide and porters.

Lake Malawi

- Kayak to one of Lake Malawi's islands for 1-3 nights Robinson Crusoe style!
- Cook locally caught fish, learn how to canoe Malawi style, scuba dive with hundreds of species of Cyprinid Fish.
- Rest and relax- soak up the stunning views, chat with the fishermen and watch lakeside life drift by.

Safari Time

- Take a boat safari on The Shire River. Watch herds of elephants come to the banks to drink.
- Head out on a night safari spotting the park's nocturnal wildlife!
- Spend 1-3 nights under canvas listening to the

"Now that I'm back in the UK I just wanted to drop you a quick line to say thank you for a fantastic trip to Malawi. The whole trip went really smoothly and all the participants thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Our guide was absolutely brilliant, as were all the porters in Mulanje. We've already started receiving enquiries regarding next year's trip which is great news."

- Microloan Foundation

Linking with a Community Project



Aim

We aim to work with rural communities in Malawi by supporting locally run Community Based Organisations (CBO's) and establish business to business links, supporting entrepreneurship rather than charity.

Summary

- ▶ We've linked with 3 CBO's across Southern Malawi. Each CBO was an established Malawian organisation prior to our link relationship.
- ▶ We work with each CBO in a number of ways:
 - ▶ Homestay/Ecotourism Programmes
 - ▶ Student Development Workshops
 - ▶ Support of Environmental Initiatives
 - ▶ Implementing links with international groups/organisations.

YODEP. Zomba Plateau

- ▶ Summary: YODEP believes in self sustenance and currently has no external funding. They grow and sell maize to support their programmes as well as running eco-tourism/homestay and development workshops through our company.
- ▶ YODEP Activities: Village Banking, Elderly Care, IT Skills Centre, Healthcare Education.
- ▶ Ecotourism Activities: Join the village banking group, learn how to dance Yao Style, Village Homestay.

CISER. Lake Malawi

- ▶ Summary: CISER is a youth group who go out into the communities and educate the local villagers on key issues such as HIV awareness and teenage pregnancies. Headed by Joseph, CISER are incredibly passionate and determined to develop their area of Lake Malawi.
- ▶ CISER Activities: Environmental Awareness, Healthcare, Education, Village Library.
- ▶ Ecotourism Activities: Learn to cook a Malawian meal, support the CISER youth helping with homework at the library, visit a local fishermen and his family.

NAYO. BLANTYRE

- ▶ Summary: A recognised Non-Governmental Organisation, NAYO has grown into an inspirational group which offers support to disadvantaged members of the Nancholi Community.
- ▶ NAYO Activities: HIV/AIDS Home Based Care, Tailoring Programme, Education.
- ▶ Ecotourism Activities: Visit the village tailoring shop, join the home based care team on their village rounds.

'Two of my daughters and I recently visited Malawi and you introduced us to Joseph and his organisation CISER at Makokola, Lake Malawi. An incredible experience, we will be back!'

- The Burret Family. Returning Malawi
2016

Useful Information





The #BePartOfSomething Campaign

- Upload your videos and pics to our Social Media.
- Tweet and Instagram your experiences and share the #bepartofsomething message.
- Get your whole school involved - live Skype calls from Malawi!



Responsible Voice Campaign

Interested in getting a group together? We are always looking for Brand Ambassadors who can spread the word and gain a free place on a group trip. Please visit www.orbis-expeditions.com to find out how you can apply.

Keeping in touch with Malawi

We will help you stay in contact with your guide and the community you have worked with.

“We have the ability to achieve, if we master the necessary goodwill, a common global society blessed with a shared culture of peace that is nourished by the ethnic, national and local diversities that enrich our lives.”

Mahnaz Afkhami
(Iranian-American Human
rights activist; b. 1941)

Get In Touch



THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development



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