

You do not need to go to a coastal destination to have a beach holiday filled with exciting water activities – the inland country of Malawi, home to Kaya Mawa, offers guests just this, but with fresh water.

An Inland Island Experience





Despite being a landlocked country, Malawi is known for being an island-style destination.

"Imagine your dream island honeymoon destination, but with fresh water." This is often how Kaya Mawa is described, and from a tiny plane flying over the massive expanse of Lake Malawi and spotting the island of Likoma, Kaya Mawa's home, in its midst, it is easy to see why. A short flight from Lilongwe – Malawi's capital – over the lake gives you a sense of how massive Lake Malawi is.

After landing, it is a short, bumpy road which takes guests to Kaya Mawa, a boutique resort on a rocky bay at the point of this picturesque island.

The water of Lake Malawi that surrounds Likoma is blue green and almost electric against the bay of white sand that borders the resort.

The private villa, Ndomo House, is a few hundred metres from the bay on a hillside only a stone's throw away from the water, but entirely secluded. It is a magnificent,

Moroccan-styled home with large, open decks and amazing views. Rooms are huge, channelling the breeze that passes outside through the light fabrics used throughout the villa, and featuring simple, yet elegant, furnishings of wood and stone.

Ndomo is made up of many levels. The four bedrooms – three being en suites – can sleep eight people in total comfort. The house is fully staffed with a nanny, cook, housekeeper, ground staff, and watchmen to ensure that all your needs are seen to. An island in its own right, Ndomo has its own plunge pool as well as canoes, which means you do not need to wander across to the resort for many amenities.

Back at the main part of Kaya Mawa, the accommodation that makes up the resort are mini villas built in romantic, secluded spots – some against rocky outcrops and others on the beach, a few steps away from the water's edge. Built with creative, romantic flair, local materials and the island's natural features were used in the magnificent décor.

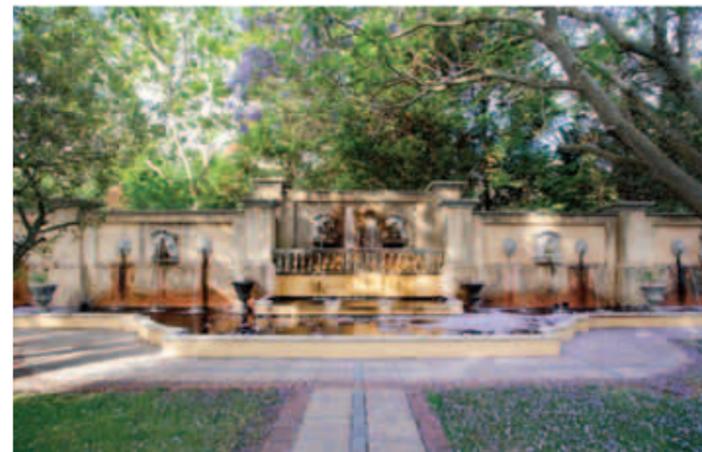
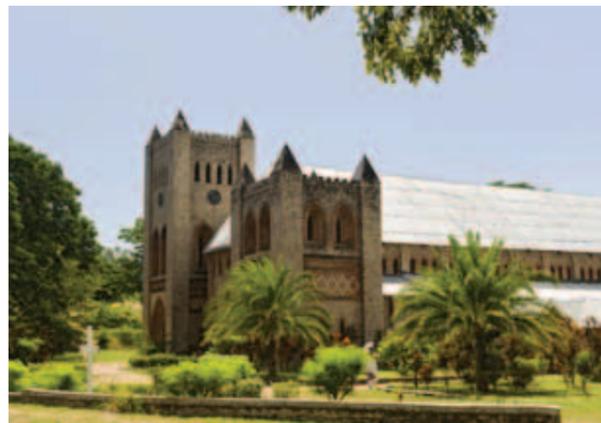
The days at Kaya Mawa are a slow, relaxing celebration of water, sunshine,

and delicious food – it is all a holiday should be about.

Likoma Island is renowned for having the best diving spot on the lake, because of the variety of fish species and the number of them seen – it is like swimming in an aquarium. Therefore, snorkelling and scuba diving (the resort is PADI certified) is astonishing, with hundreds of brightly coloured fish beneath the surface of the lake.

It is not just under the water where the fun is at, the resort offers a range of other water sports for adrenaline junkies, as well as those who prefer to take things easy. Kite surfing, sailing, kayaking, water-skiing, wake boarding, doughnutting, knee boarding, and fishing are all available with experienced guides to show you the ropes.

Of course, life at Kaya Mawa is not all about being in the water. The shores are perfect to laze on and relax with a drink, and the nearby village is close at hand to explore by foot, mountain bike, or quad bike. A must-visit site on the island is the historic St. Peter's Cathedral, which is well over 100 years old, and is one of the largest churches in Africa.



FRANSCHHOEK
COUNTRY HOUSE & VILLAS
★★★★★

Positioned in the most romantic valley on earth, Franschhoek Country House & Villas is an exclusive boutique hotel reminiscent of a village in Provence yet with an elegant Cape sensibility. Set in gardens of lemon trees, lavender and vines – with fynbos draping the nearby mountains – the original, charming country maison includes 14 standard and luxury rooms as well as the award-winning Monneaux Restaurant while the 12 Villa suites are havens of privacy & understated opulence. Swimming pools, a candle-lit cellar, a treatment room and sun-down verandas are all a traveller needs as you live la vie extraordinaire.



For current special offers and packages visit our website at www.fch.co.za

Tel: +27 (0)21 876 3386
Email: info@fch.co.za

Back at Kaya Mawa, their bar and restaurant is on the eastern side of their beach, meeting a rocky outcrop. The area is multi-levelled – you can enjoy drinks at the bar, around a coffee table, or lounging on comfy couches. The bar offers views of the glorious sunset, which is a perfect way to end a day.

Kaya Mawa's restaurant takes pride in their innovative, healthy dishes. The ingredients are organic and local, ensuring that the meals are fresh. Featuring fish caught straight from the lake, and cooked with herbs handpicked from the resorts garden, it is a meal that would not be forgotten soon. Dinners are a three course affair served on the beach, with

the background music of lapping waves on the shore a few metres away.

For a honeymoon or a family holiday, there are few places in the world that can match this island experience. Whether you stay in in Ndomo House or enjoy the main resort, you will spend years afterwards yearning to go back to Kaya Mawa.

For more information and rates, please visit www.villasandafrica.com or contact info@villasandafrica.com.

Text: Jenni Saunders
Images © David Rogers

BRITISH AIRWAYS ROUTE INFO

British Airways (operated by Comair) services the following local and regional destinations: Johannesburg, Durban, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Windhoek, Livingstone, Victoria Falls, Harare and Mauritius. Globally, British Airways flies to almost 1,000 destinations in 150 countries with its partner airlines. To book your flight, call 08060 | FLY BA (0860 435 922), +27 11 921 0222 or visit www.ba.com.