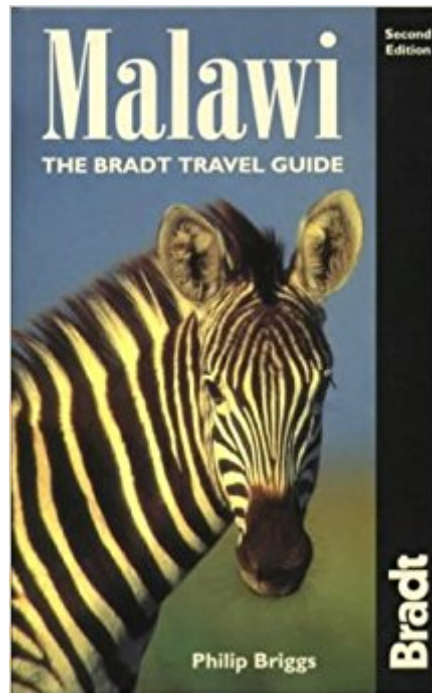




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Malawi, 2nd: The Bradt Travel Guide



Synopsis

An inexpensive and accessible country with a near-perfect climate, Malawi is dominated by wild forested peaks and the country's major attraction: Lake Malawi itself, the southernmost of the Rift Valley lakes and the most beautiful. The 500km lake, with its tropical white beaches and crystal clear water, makes the area a natural focus for vacationers. The more adventurous are drawn to the breezy highland plateaux and the lush Shire River Valley in Liwonde National Park, named Elephant Marsh by Livingstone on his exploration of the Rift Valley, supporting Malawi's largest population of crocodiles as well as hippos. Malawi has experienced considerable change since the first edition, making this an accurate and invaluable guide for all visitors.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Briggs's information is up to date and reliable, and he comes across as an intelligent, courteous traveller who clearly enjoys the country. Times Literary Supplement.

I was between voting 3 and 4 stars on this and have chosen 4 because it's still useful regardless of its faults. We spent over a month all over southern Malawi and consulted this regularly. The problem is that the phone numbers are out of date and some of the info is inaccurate but that's not the fault of the author since the area keeps changing so often. If you're going to Malawi you should definitely get these guides but make sure you purchase the newest version to get the most accurate info you can get. This is already outdated. While the info can be outdated, phone numbers incorrect, business hours incorrect, etc. The maps and suggestions are invaluable. I'd suggest getting ideas

from this and then doing research in the area to make sure the hours or phone numbers are right. In other words, don't completely trust the business hours, phone numbers, or addresses but definitely trust this as a source of suggestions for attractions as well as travel tips. The businesses there change so often that you can't blame a book for inaccurate addresses, hours and numbers. While we were there in the course of a month two businesses moved locations, four changed hours, and many had canceled their phones or changed their numbers.

I lived in Blantyre for three months and relied heavily on this book. It has a wealth of information on day and week-long excursions, restaurants, city highlights, transportation, and even health concerns. Yes, many phone numbers are out of date, but you'll find that Malawians change their phone numbers pretty often, so it's not the book's fault. I admired the writer's tone and condensed writing style. Lastly, if you're looking at this page, you're probably planning a trip to Malawi. It's a welcoming, gorgeous, transformative place. Eat all the avocados and mandazi balls you can find!!

Our family actually has two of these. One resides in Malawi with a family member living there. He uses it constantly and it is an invaluable resource for the traveling ex-pat. We bought a second one to prepare for and take with us on a visit this year. We, too, used it constantly, and made continual use of the directions and recommendations. I think our journey would have been much less successful without it. We did not find anything that was out of date or inconsistent with the local reality, which is extremely important when traveling in a country with limited resources and infrastructure. We also loved the sections on history, culture, and wildlife. These are a real plus in this book. Our trip was somewhat off the beaten path and we learned an enormous amount about what we were seeing and doing from this book. I highly recommend it to anyone thinking about a trip to Malawi. One additional feature is the online updates available at the Bradt website. We found these equally helpful and good companion material for the book.

There is a ton of good information in this book. If you are going to travel to Malawi its a must have.

The book was for those people going into the tourist areas not the less traveled areas.

I think the book is mostly accurate. I think this was a good purchase....

Malawi is a small country by African standards, and has no high-profile star attractions. Few tourists

visit more places than some beach resorts along the shores of its huge lake. Considering the above, the wealth of info on potential destinations included in this book is stunning. Not only is pretty much every sizeable town described, so are plenty of rural areas, notably obscure forest reserves, marshes and small lakes. The info on the country's wildlife and national parks is truly in-depth and very interesting. So is the background information on culture and history. Very good list of books recommended for further reading at the back. Also, all the practical details (with prices) on accommodation and transport options you might find in better-known series like Lonely Planet (which no longer publishes a separate Malawi guide). In fact, the only disadvantage of this book might just be that with all the recommendations, it might make you spend much longer in Malawi than you had originally planned! ;-)

We are lucky to have been travelling in 4 African countries covered by Bradt guidebooks from author Philip Briggs. As with his other guidebooks, Philip Briggs is a very dedicated writer, and we believe these guidebooks are excellent. The Malawi guide was adequate, and also covers some off the beaten track destinations in the country. We loved beautiful Malawi, its mountains, and of course the lake. Take this guide when travelling to Malawi!

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