

Paka Map




PAKACHERE BACKPACKERS

Food

Eat local near the bus station or on the market
 Casa Rossa for homemade pasta & ice cream
 African Heritage for (iced) coffee and lunch
 The Chocolate Factory for lunch and chocolate
 MaiPai for coffee and delicious cake
 Dominos for bbq and pizza while watching football
 University Common Rooms for lunch (at 12noon)
 Kucha We on top for great views
 Takeaway opposite Zomba police station

Sights

KAR 1st world war memorial
 Historical buildings:
 Hotel Masongola (1886)
 Old Parliament Building
 Former Government Press
 Gymkhana Cub
 Botanical Gardens
 Walk around the university
 Defence Museum (opens soon)

Shopping

Market in town with fresh veg
 Mountain fruits on the plateau
 Shoprite opposite bus station
 People's Metro
 Curio market near Standard Bank
 DAPP for second hand clothes
 One Stop pharmacy
 Fabrics at Imran's or Mapeto
 Matawale & Chinamwale Market

Sports

Horse riding on the plateau
 Cycling (MTB) around town or on top
 Golf, tennis and squash at Gymkhana
 Viva gym (masseur after 4:30PM)
 Swim at Sir Harry's or Splendor
 Hike on the mountain
 Run the Mulunguzi – Old Naisi loop
 Walk the upper road to Casa Rossa
 Golf classes K5,000 pp only!

Other

Chikala pillars
 Ntonya Mountain
 Lake Chilwa
 Post Office Museum (1hr)
 Liwonde safari park (1hr)
 Blantyre (1,5hrs)
 Thutchila Pools (1,5hrs)
 Mulanje Mountains (2hrs)
 Tea plantations (2hrs)

PLEASE LEAVE THIS MAP AT PAKACHERE FOR OTHERS TO USE

SHORT HISTORY OF ZOMBA

Zomba lies on the lower slopes of Zomba Mountain in the Shire Highlands. It is in an area traditionally inhabited by the Manganja and, since the 1860s, the Yao peoples. Established in 1885 as a planters' settlement, from 1891 Zomba was the centre for the administration of the British Central African Protectorate (later Nyasaland).

The English settled in Zomba at the end of the 19th century because of the mild climate and to stop the slave trade. It became the capital of Malawi. Sir Harry Johnston was the 1st governor of the Central African Protectorate (CAP). He lived and worked in what is now Hotel Masongola (1886). His gardens were the botanic gardens, established by Alexander Whyte between 1891 and 1895 and it was meant to be an experimental area for newly introduced plants in order to promote agricultural enterprise

Zomba was once the hub for expats in the country and they would meet at The Gymkhana Cub (1923). The 1st hospital was built in 1895 by Dr Poole and Zomba was also the home of the 1st post office. Mailmen ran in pairs from Zomba to Blantyre and halfway they met to exchange mail with 2 mailmen who ran from Blantyre. There is a funny, very small, museum where the swapping point used to be.

The Cobbe Barracks are home to what were the King's African Rifles (KAR > now the Malawi Rifles) and a clocktower serves as their World War I memorial. You find the KAR monument on the way to Blantyre. It is close to Malawi's biggest prison, and the Central Hospital.

Kamuzu Banda decided to move the capital in 1974 to Lilongwe in the central area, because it was not convenient to have the capital in the south. To make up for the loss, the town was granted to be the location for the University of Malawi. (Chancellor College) The parliament stayed in Zomba until 1994 and the former buildings are now partly empty and other parts are the current magistrate's court.

TRANSPORT

To the mountain: hike up (2 hours), motorbike (K 1,500-2,000) or taxi (K 6,000). Ask to be dropped at Trout Farm where the nature trail alongside the river starts or at Kuchawe Inn if you want to check out the curio stalls and the 3D model of the mountain. If you want to use a guide, always ask for his photo ID.

Within Zomba you should never have to pay than K 2,000 (maybe a bit more at night)

To Blantyre: get a minibus from the bus depot, on the side of the road or at the 2nd Total (opposite Steers). The 1st Total station is a good place to try to get a shared taxi (K1,500-2,000)

To Mulanje: get a minibus to Limbe (see Blantyre above) and change there to a minibus to Mulanje.

To Liwonde: Walk down the road and on the M3 towards Liwonde/Lilongwe. After 200 meters you find a bus stop. (K 1,000-2,000)

To Cape Maclear: Minibus from the bus depot to Mangochi (K 3,500), there shared taxi to Monkey Bay (K 1,500-2,000) and in Monkey Bay a motorbike to Cape Maclear (K 1,500-2,000)

To Lilongwe: The SMART bus goes every day at 6:30AM from the bus depot (K 6,500). Don't be late! Every day a coach with snacks & wifi departs from Standard Bank (ask Linda for details). There is also a bus at 2AM that get you in Lilongwe for 7AM. Or take a big coach from Blantyre. Kwezy is the best, Sososo is okay and AXA has the most departure times. The coaches go from Blantyre to Mzuzu.

To Nkhata Bay or Likoma Island: Take the Ilala from Monkey Bay at 8AM on a Friday morning. Takes 1 - 1,5 days; huts are clean & affordable, food is good and drinks are cold!

We work with Austin and his (very!) affordable and reliable team of taxi drivers. Our staff can call him for you; prices can be found on the board upstairs or at the bar.

OUR FAVOURITE WEEKEND

We get up and start the day with a half pot coffee and a fruit pancake or omelette with cheese in the garden. Afterwards we go up the mountain for a hike to the waterfalls where we cool down in the water and then carry on to the viewpoints (total 3 to 4 hours). On our way back down, we buy some fruits and stop at Casa Rossa to enjoy the views and eat Italian pasta with ice cream for dessert. We would walk down after lunch and visit the market, buy some chitenje and some souvenirs at the curio stalls. At night we would have a little snack and chill at Paka. We might end up at Vogue, a small club in Matawale with decent music and a friendly atmosphere, see the MaBlacks play somewhere or there might be an event at Paka.

The next day after breakfast we walk via the historical buildings and botanical gardens on the upper road to Splendor Hotel to read a book on the poolside. We have lunch at the Chocolate Factory on our way back. Late afternoon we go to Dominos to have some snacks and watch the Premier League. Or we shop at DAPP, have iced coffee at African heritage and afterwards relax in the garden or on the big lounge bed on the 1st floor.