PRIVATE ISLANDS INC.



PRIVATE ISLAND RENTAL · MALAWI

BLUE ZEBRA ISLAND LODGE

9 UNITS · UP TO 26 ADULTS · PRIVACY 67

THE ISLAND · NANKOMA ISLAND, LAKE MALAWI

An Island Inside a National Park

Blue Zebra Island Lodge stands on Nankoma Island, in the Marelli Archipelago, inside Lake Malawi National Park — the world's first freshwater national park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1984, inscribed for its cichlid fish.

The island's only lodge — nine units in the forest and along the shore, a restaurant and bar, and an infinity pool above the lake — run by Waterlands Ltd under the national parks concession since 2011.

9

UNITS — A COTTAGE, FAMILY CHALETS, CHALETS AND TENTS

26

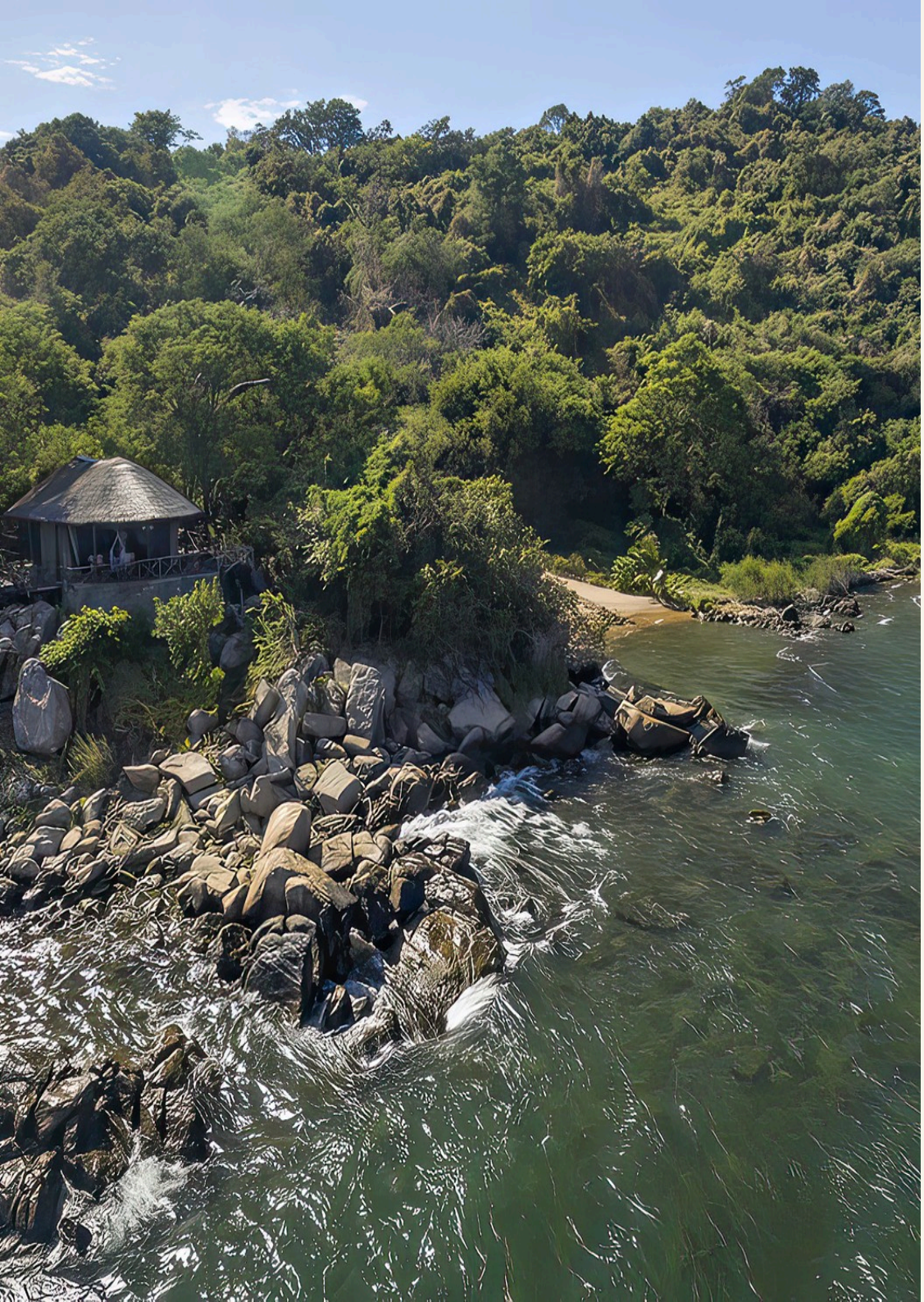
ADULTS AT MOST — CHILDREN ON SOFA BEDS AND ADDED BEDS

350

BIRD SPECIES, ESTIMATED — ENDEMIC CICHLIDS BELOW







STAY

Nine Units in the Forest

Nine safari-style units are spread across the island in four types, all oriented to the lake. Between them they sleep up to 26 adults, with sofa beds and added beds in the family units taking children as well.

THE UNITS

Superior Family Cottage	up to 6 · two en-suite bedrooms
Executive Family Chalets ×2	up to 4 adults each
Executive Chalets ×2	Sandpiper · Cormorant — 2 adults
Lake Safari Tents ×4	Heron · Darter · Hornbill · Bulbul

Malachite, the central family chalet, and Fisheagle, in a secluded spot, each sleep two adults and three children, or up to four adults. Cormorant also has a sofa bed for a child under 12, and the cottage takes two added single beds in the master bedroom.









LIFE ON THE ISLAND

Life on the Island

THE TABLE

Every package carries the day's meals: a full breakfast, a two-course lunch and a three-course dinner at the Bee-Eater Restaurant — a daily set menu of international cuisine with a touch of Malawi. Afternoon tea is served at the pool at four.

THE WATER

Snorkelling gear and the kayaks are free — the cichlids gather over the rocks a few metres from the beach. Sunset cruises sail from $20 per adult; the motorised watersports run from $35 per person a session.

THE QUIET

Walk the 2.3-kilometre trail to the Ancient Fig at dawn for red duiker and bushbuck, book a birding tour with the in-house guide, or take a treatment at the Island Spa under the fig — $25–45, at the water's edge.

THE REGION · LAKE MALAWI

The Warm Heart of Africa

Lake Malawi is the southernmost of Africa's Great Lakes, some 580 kilometres long and holding more fish species than any other lake in the world. The national park that protects its southern waters and these islands was the first freshwater national park anywhere.

Nankoma Island lies off the lake's central western shore, in Salima District. Senga Bay, the lodge's mainland pick-up point, is 10 miles from the island in a straight line; Salima town is 14 miles, and Lilongwe, the capital, 56.



GETTING THERE

By Boat from Senga Bay

LILONGWE

THE GATEWAY

Fly to Kamuzu International Airport in Lilongwe, the closest airport. The lodge advises allowing three hours from landing to the boat — two hours of it by road to Senga Bay.

SENGA BAY

THE PICK-UP POINT

The lodge's pick-up point is Whistlers Cottage in Senga Bay, where there is secure parking. The scheduled arrival boat leaves at 12:00, and the return boat leaves the island at 11:00.

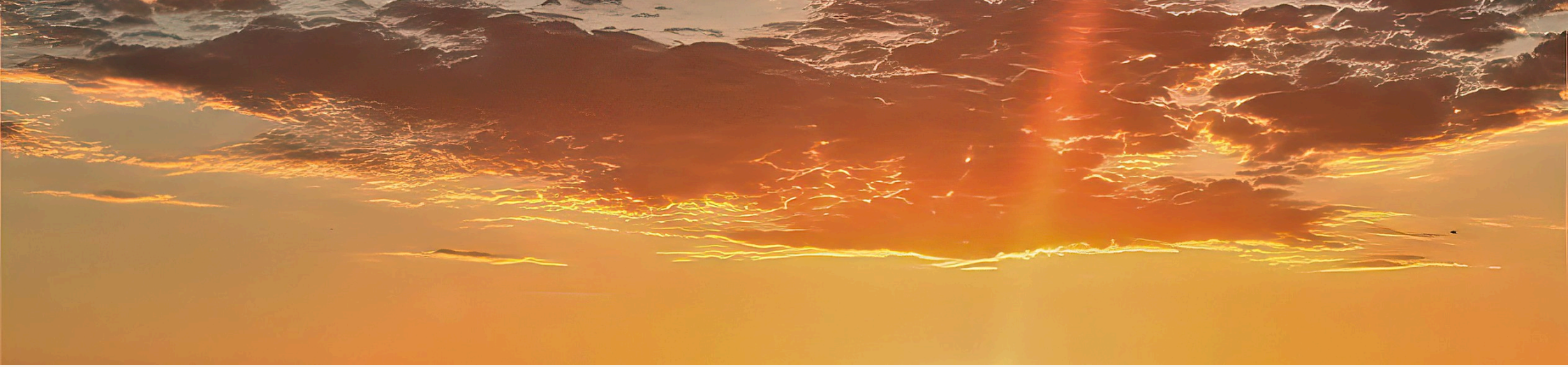
THE CROSSING

BY LODGE BOAT

Advance booking is essential so the lodge can arrange the transfer; off-schedule crossings can be pre-booked at an additional cost, and no boat transfers run after dark.

The island lies at 13.89°S, 34.61°E in Lake Malawi National Park. There is no road and no public landing — the lodge's boat is the only way in or out.





CLIMATE

A Tropical Lake Year

SEASON	HIGHS	LOWS	LAKE	
THE RAINS · DEC–MAR	81–83°F	71–73°F	83°F	The green season — warm rain, a lush island, the lake at its warmest
THE CLEARING · APR–MAY	78–80°F	66–69°F	79–82°F	The rains ease and the air cools; the water stays warm and clears
COOL & DRY · JUN–AUG	75–78°F	61–63°F	75–77°F	The dry winter — clear skies, cool nights, the clearest water
HOT & DRY · SEP–NOV	83–88°F	68–74°F	77–82°F	The build-up — the hottest days, and the dive season under way

THE SHORT VERSION

Figures are the long-term monthly averages for Salima, on the shore across from the island. Air runs 61–88°F across the year, and the lake stays warm — 75–83°F — in every month.



BLUE ZEBRA ISLAND LODGE

Nankoma Island, Lake Malawi, Malawi · 13.889°S, 34.609°E

DISTANCES – STRAIGHT LINE

Senga Bay	10 mi
Salima	14 mi
Lilongwe	56 mi
Kamuzu International Airport	56 mi

CLIMATE

Warmest month	November — highs 88°F
The lake in July	Averages 75°F
Coolest month	July — lows 61°F

ACCESS

Boat from Senga Bay, the mainland pick-up point at Whistlers Cottage — the scheduled arrival boat leaves at 12:00.

No boat transfers run after dark; off-schedule crossings can be pre-booked.

Island position: the listing's own map pin, matching the position published on the lodge's own site. Distances are straight-line from that pin to published coordinates for Senga Bay (OECD Africapolis), Salima and Lilongwe (Wikipedia) and Kamuzu International Airport (published aerodrome data). Climate: long-term monthly averages for Salima (climate-data.org, 1991–2021), cross-checked against WeatherSpark; lake temperatures are 10-year averages for the Malawi shore (seatemperature.info), cross-checked against LakeTEMP satellite data.

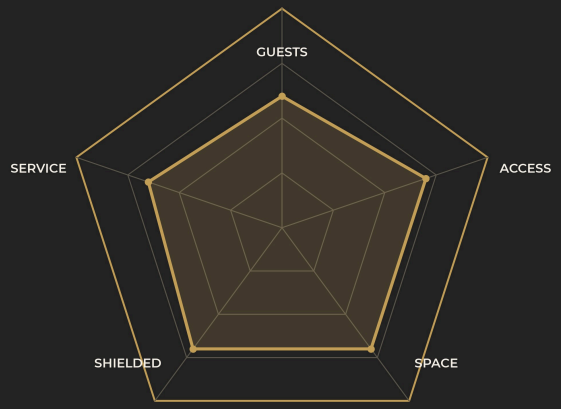
THE PRIVATE BRIEFING

67

PRIVATE BUT CONNECTED

BLUE ZEBRA ISLAND LODGE · PRIVACY INDEX / 100

THE ONLY LODGE ON NANKOMA ISLAND



Gold fill — the island's only lodge, let by the room.

BLUE ZEBRA

WHO ELSE IS THERE — 12 / 20

Only the lodge's own guests — at most 26 adults plus children across nine units — but also 30+ permanent staff, and the restaurant, bar and pool are shared lodge spaces.

WHO CAN GET IN — 14 / 20

Boat-only access to an uninhabited, park-protected island with ranger patrols and lodge guards — but anyone can book, and arrivals ride a scheduled shared lodge boat.

SPACE TO DISAPPEAR — 14 / 20

A whole forested island with 2.3 km of trails and dispersed units — secluded chalets, the far Bulbul tent — against a communal core where guests concentrate.

OUT OF SIGHT, SOUND & TRAFFIC — 14 / 20

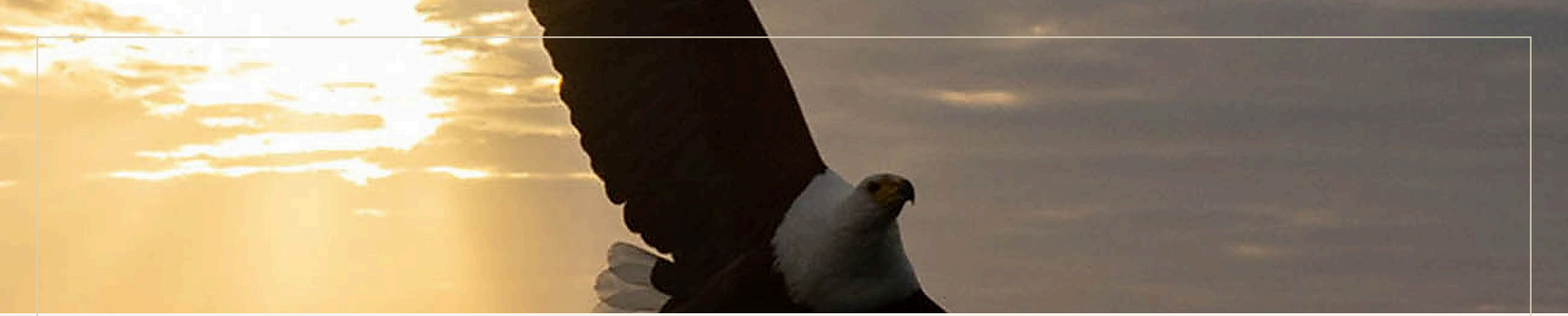
No neighbouring lodge or settlement and no road; Senga Bay lies across the water, and local fishing boats work the lake.

INVISIBLE SERVICE — 13 / 20

More than thirty staff for a few dozen guests, but a full-service lodge with communal set-menu dining — service is present and social, not invisible.

Current pricing is always on the listing

View the live listing — privateislandsonline.com



PRIVATE ISLANDS INC.

THE WORLD'S AUTHORITY ON PRIVATE ISLAND SALES & RENTALS

BLUE ZEBRA ISLAND LODGE

NANKOMA ISLAND · LAKE MALAWI · MALAWI · PRIVATE ISLAND RENTAL

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View the live listing