



LAKE OF STARS

WHERE MUSIC MEETS MALAWI'S MAGIC



Malawi: The warm heart of Africa

Tucked away in the southeastern corner of Africa, Malawi is a country of soul-stirring beauty and remarkable biodiversity... and the kindest people you'll ever meet. Often overshadowed by its more famous neighbours, Malawi is Africa's best-kept secret, a land of Big Five safaris without the crowds, off-the-grid lakeside retreats, and authentic cultural experiences.

Whether you're exploring its lush highlands, cruising along the iconic Lake Malawi, or connecting with its vibrant communities, Malawi offers a travel experience that's intimate, moving, and truly unforgettable.





Brief history of Lake of Stars

The Lake of Stars Festival was founded in 2003 by Will Jameson, a British DJ who was inspired by Malawi's warmth, beauty, and untapped creative energy during his travels through Africa. What began as a small beach party bringing together local artists and international acts has since grown into one of the continent's most iconic cultural festivals. Held on the shores of Lake Malawi, the festival has showcased hundreds of musicians, poets, and performers from Malawi and around the world. It has also played a powerful role in promoting tourism, supporting the local economy, and amplifying the voices of Malawian creatives on a global stage. With its unique blend of music, art, community engagement, and breathtaking scenery, Lake of Stars continues to be a shining symbol of the transformative power of the arts.



The Lake of Stars festival returns!

We love sharing such big news! The Lake of Stars Malawi Arts Festival is back for 2025!

After a five-year hiatus, this iconic festival made a celebrated return in 2024 – and it's back again for another unforgettable weekend of performances, workshops, and cultural exchange. For more than two decades, Lake of Stars has showcased the spirit of Malawi, uplifting local talent, boosting tourism, and building cultural bridges through the power of the arts.

Set against the shimmering shoreline of Lake Malawi at Fish Eagle Bay Lodge in Nkhotakota, the 2025 edition promises another extraordinary celebration of music, creativity, and community this October.

Lake of Stars

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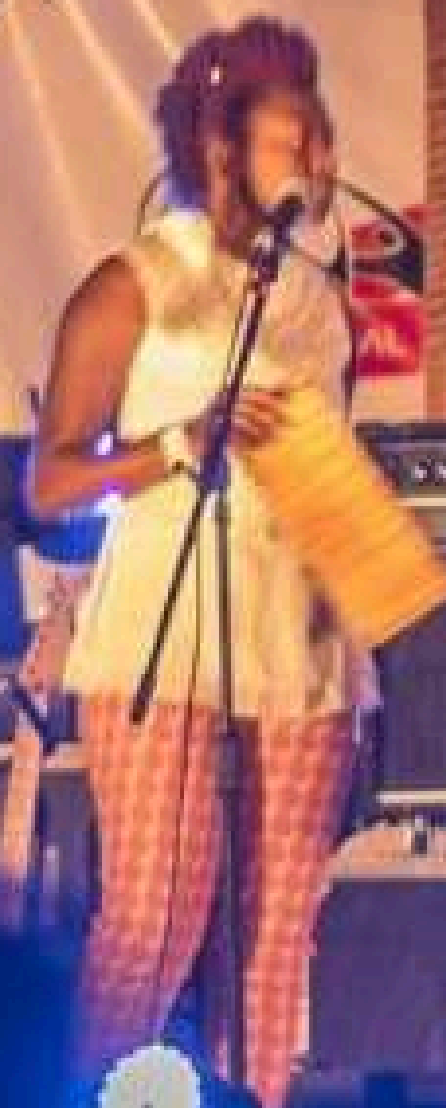
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What to expect in 2025

From 17–19 October 2025, Lake of Stars will fill the shores of Nkhotakota with:

- A dynamic lineup of Malawian and international musicians.
 - Visual arts, fashion, poetry, storytelling, and dance.
 - Family-friendly workshops and wellness experiences.
- Sustainability initiatives like recycled art and school desk donations.
- A joyful, open atmosphere where locals and global travellers connect.

“This is a celebration of culture, creativity and community.”

– Sharmila Elias-Taijala, DOPE Malawi





Why visit Malawi?

Malawi is more than its lake (although that alone is reason to visit!).

Pair the festival with:

- Big Five safaris in Liwonde or Majete National Parks – intimate, uncrowded, wild.
- Lake escapes on secluded beaches or island lodges in Nkhata Bay and Likoma Island.
- Cultural experiences from village visits to craft markets and heritage tours.
- Hiking and nature in the Nyika Plateau or Zomba Highlands.

Malawi is easy to explore and even easier to fall in love with.



Photo: Pumulani



Planning your Lake of Stars experience

As Africa travel experts, we've got the insider knowledge to help you get the most out of this unforgettable journey. Here are some of our top tips:

- **Book early.** Accommodations fill quickly, especially lakeside lodges.
- **Layer up.** October is hot during the day, cooler by the lake at night.
- **Support local.** Buy from artisans and explore Nkhotakota beyond the stage.
- **Combine your trip.** Add a safari or beach retreat before or after the festival.
- **Travel smart.** We help with flights, transfers, and timing for a seamless trip.

Photo: Mumbo Island





A celebration that matters

The Lake of Stars isn't just about the music, it's about meaningful travel. It's about showing up, sharing joy, supporting local creativity, and returning home with more than memories.

This is your chance to experience Africa differently: Off the beaten path. On the shores of a great lake. Surrounded by great people.

Join the celebration in Malawi.



Talk to us about your
Lake of Stars adventure.
Let's chat!

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