



Farafina Roots & Wings – Worldschooled Hub Malawi

13 April – 03 May 2026 • Chilumba, Lake Malawi

3-week, community-rooted, experience-based learning journey for children aged 4–16 and their families 🌍

🌟 Overview

The Farafina Roots & Wings Worldschooled Hub in Chilumba offers families a meaningful, experience-based learning journey rooted in African knowledge systems, community connection, and global citizenship.

Children learn *by doing* — through nature, culture, storytelling, exploration, and hands-on projects. Families become part of the local rhythm of life as they learn with local educators, community members, and guides.

Situated in the peaceful lakeside town of Chilumba in Northern Malawi, the Hub brings together local educators, storytellers, elders, youth mentors, and international facilitators. The goal is to create a vibrant learning environment inspired by African wisdom traditions, global citizenship, and the natural curiosity of children.

Children learn through exploring their environment, engaging with the community, participating in creative and practical activities, and working on weekly reflections that help them understand the world and themselves.

🌟 What the Hub Offers

- A structured **3-week learning journey** for children aged **4–16** (for younger or older children, please get in touch)
- Themes that build week by week: **Identity & Geography → Economy & Traditions → Citizenship & Community**

- Daily hands-on activities rooted in African learning traditions: observation, storytelling, participation, creativity
- Weekly **community days** with shared meals, cultural exchanges, and meeting local families
- Time for families to relax, explore, and enjoy the lake

As we prepare the Hub, we want to shape it **together with you**. Your expectations, ideas, and skills are an essential part of the experience. The programme will grow and evolve based on what participating families share with us.

Below is a suggested outline for the 3-Week Learning Journey — a living plan that we'll fine-tune with your input and contributions. All themes will be approached in age-appropriate ways.

3-Week Learning Journey

Week 1 – Exchanging and building connections; Malawi's and Africa's Identity & Geography

Theme: Discovering place, history, culture & belonging

The first week introduces children to Malawi, Africa, and the idea of learning with — not just about — a place. Children orient themselves physically, culturally, and socially within their new environment.

Highlights

- **Welcome Day:**
Games, group-building, sharing travel stories, getting to know each other, mapping where we come from, exploring the area around Chilumba.
- **Geography Workshops:**
Children dive into African and Malawian geography through tactile and visual activities — building relief maps, solving map puzzles, identifying major lakes, rivers, and regions, and discussing ecosystems.
- **Storytelling Through Time:**
A local storyteller or elder shares stories from pre-colonial Malawi — oral traditions, migration stories, myths, and heroes.
- **History Role-Play:**
Children create their own living timeline, acting out important moments in Malawi's or Africa's journey.
- **Cultural Creative Day:**
Learning traditional songs, dances, and cultural expressions. Children explore Chitenje cloth patterns, dress-up activities, and local music rhythms.
- **Sunday Community Lunch:**
Families share a meal with local community members, exchange stories, and build relationships that will continue throughout the Hub.

Week 2 – Environment, Economy & Traditions

Theme: Understanding daily life, livelihoods, environment & heritage

Week 2 focuses on how people make a living, how the land supports life, and how Malawi's natural environment shapes its culture and economy.

Highlights

- **Economy & Market Day:**
A playful simulation where children act as vendors, buyers, and producers, learning about currency, goods, and trade. Later, they visit the local market to see real economic life in action.
- **Agriculture Activities:**
Children explore local crops, farming tools, irrigation methods, and soil. They plant seedlings, learn about sustainable farming, and compare Malawian agriculture with what they've seen in other countries.
- **Lake Malawi Exploration:**
The lake becomes an open classroom — children observe fishermen, draw the landscape, learn about biodiversity, and discover why Lake Malawi is one of the world's richest freshwater ecosystems.
- **Field Trip:**
Possible trips include a nature reserve, a historical site, or a cultural village — allowing children to deepen their understanding of heritage, wildlife, or landscapes.
- **Traditional Cooking Day:**
Elders teach how to prepare local dishes such as nsima, vegetables, and fish from the lake. Children participate in washing, cutting, pounding, cooking, and serving — followed by a shared community tasting.
- **Weekly Reflection:**
Children discuss what they learned about how people live, grow food, trade, and welcome visitors.
- **Sunday Community Lunch:**
Families share a meal with local community members, exchange stories, and build relationships that will continue throughout the Hub.

Week 3 – Politics, Citizenship & Showcase

Theme: Leadership, rights, responsibility, creativity & celebration

Week 3 empowers children to take ownership of their voice, their ideas, and their experience.

Highlights

- **Mock Parliament:**
Children form groups representing different roles, debate community issues, propose solutions, and vote. They learn about leadership, fairness, listening, and communication.

- **Citizenship Games:**
Rights and responsibilities come alive through interactive activities, role-play, problem-solving tasks, and discussions about community values.
- **Guest Speaker:**
A local leader, activist, or youth role model shares insights about life in Malawi, community participation, and making change.
- **Project Creation:**
Children choose their own project — a poster, a personal journal, a nature sketchbook, a cultural comparison map, a friendship book, or a mini-presentation about what they learned.
- **Showcase Day:**
Parents are invited to an open exhibition where children present their projects, performances, and reflections.
- **Closing Community Celebration:**
A joyful gathering with music, storytelling, local dishes, and shared gratitude.

Parents who feel inspired to contribute their ideas or skills are very welcome to co-create!

Location: Chilumba, Malawi

Nestled on the northern shores of **Lake Malawi**, Chilumba is a place of stunning natural beauty — where the mountains meet the lake, and life flows in harmony with nature. 🌿 Some 40km across the lake are the Rift Valley mountains of Southern Tanzania over which you can watch the beautiful sunrise. You can also watch the golden sunset over the Nyika Plateau to the west. It's known for its peaceful atmosphere, vibrant fishing communities, rich biodiversity, hills for hikes, and clear turquoise waters that stretch endlessly toward the horizon. It's a safe and beautiful area perfect for nature-based and community-supported learning. 🌺

Activities will take place in the natural surrounding of Lake Malawi and in the Chilumba Port premises.

Surrounding Area

- Lake Malawi beachfront
 - Fishing villages
 - Small shops and eateries
 - Small markets & local craft shops
 - Scenic hills for hikes
 - Boat trips
 - Nature reserves within reach
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Arrival & Departure

Closest entry points:

- **Mzuzu** (regional hub, by road)
- **Karonga Airport** (domestic flights)
- **Lilongwe International Airport** (main international access)

Group transport from and to Lilongwe International Airport will be organised at the beginning and end of the Hub after coordinating arrival and departure times.

Season

April–May is mild and pleasant:

- Warm days
 - Cooler evenings
 - Little rain
 - Perfect for outdoor learning and exploration
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Health

- Chilumba has access to local clinics (e.g. Chilumba Rural Hospital)
 - One of the team members is a nurse
 - Basic first-aid available on site
 - Malaria precautions recommended
 - Please bring any personal medications
 - Travel health insurance is strongly recommended
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How to Prepare

- Comfortable clothing for warm days & cooler evenings
- Swimwear
- Closed shoes for field trips
- Reusable water bottle
- Notebook or sketchbook
- Sun protection (hat, sunscreen)
- Lightweight rain jacket

- Curiosity, openness & willingness to engage!
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Prices

Children

398 EUR per week

Includes:

- ✓ Breakfast, light lunch & afternoon snack
- ✓ Non-alcoholic drinks
- ✓ Weekday tours
- ✓ All educational activities & materials
- ✓ Trainers, coordinators, guides
- ✓ Local transportation for organised activities and transportation from and to Lilongwe
- ✗ Not included: accommodation, dinner, weekend tours, self-organised tours

Adults

240 EUR per week

Includes:

- ✓ Breakfast, light lunch & afternoon snack
- ✓ Non-alcoholic drinks
- ✓ Weekday tours
- ✓ Local transportation for organised activities and transportation from and to Lilongwe
- ✓ WiFi
- ✗ *Not included:* accommodation, dinner, weekend tours, self-organised tours

We are trying to offer families with smaller budgets more convenient rates and want to give local children the opportunity to join some of the activities. If you feel you can contribute more to help others participate, we will appreciate your additional contribution!

Pre-Registration

Places are limited! Secure your spot or express interest here:

 https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1gA-G08I5jYQdvvtVh2C_gAfLDQUtyAdNpgKnqp4t26E/edit

This is a non-binding registration form. After filling the form, we will get in touch with you to find out about your family's expectations and answer any questions you have. You can then decide if you want to join the Hub.

The Team

Our team includes:

- Local Malawian educators and youth leaders

- Community elders and culture keepers
- Farafina Travels coordinator
- Storytellers, guides, and facilitators
- Parents who wish to contribute their skills

Together, they create a safe, inspiring environment where learning flows naturally.

Core team:

Coordinator: Phillas Guzha

Phillas Guzha is a seasoned expert in entrepreneurship development and community-centered tourism, with a passion for creating learning experiences that connect people, culture, and place. As CEO of Networked Business Minds, he brings over a decade of hands-on experience working across Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi, Zambia, and West Africa, where he has led research and development projects rooted in traditional knowledge, culture, and sustainable tourism. Over the past four years, Phillas has worked closely with rural communities in Malawi, building meaningful relationships with local leaders, artisans, farmers, and storytellers. His collaborative work in the Great River Valley and the African Great Lakes region reflects his commitment to honoring indigenous ways of knowing while supporting community wellbeing and empowerment.

Phillas has a deep appreciation for learning through experience — observing, participating, listening, creating, and connecting. His approach aligns naturally with Worldschooled: he believes that the most powerful learning happens in real-life environments, guided by community members who hold cultural wisdom and lived expertise. With his background in cultural preservation, sustainable tourism, and community business development, Phillas helps shape Worldschooled experiences that are immersive, enriching, and rooted in local context. He ensures that every activity not only inspires global learners, but also uplifts and benefits the communities who host them.

Cultural Mediator: Torani Sandra Munyenembe

Torani Sandra Munyenembe is a cultural guide, heritage ambassador, and passionate storyteller who brings Malawi's landscapes, traditions, and communities to life. With more than 30 years of professional experience in healthcare in both Malawi and the United States, Sandra brings a unique lens of empathy, wellbeing, and human connection to every learning experience she leads. Born and raised in Malawi, Sandra carries a deep love for her country's cultural heritage. She is a proud custodian of its stories, traditions, and community values, and she brings this knowledge into her work with a warm, engaging presence. Her insights into Malawi's history, customs, and daily life make every encounter meaningful and accessible for learners of all ages.

Sandra has guided families, groups, and international visitors through Malawi's most inspiring places — from the majestic Mulanje Mountains to the peaceful shores of Lake Malawi and vibrant cultural hubs across the country. Her approach aligns beautifully with Worldschooled: she creates opportunities for children and families to learn through experience, observation, hands-on participation, and real connections with the people and environment around them. For Sandra, travel is not just about seeing places — it is about belonging, understanding, and honoring the stories that shape a community. With her as a guide, families discover Malawi not as tourists, but as welcomed guests and active participants in a rich, living culture.

Initiator: Claudia Koehler

Claudia Koehler is the heart of Farafina Roots & Wings Worldschooling. As the director of both Farafina Travels and Farafina Institute, she brings years of experience in coordinating immersive learning journeys and youth exchange programmes across African countries. Her work has always centered on creating spaces where people can learn from one another — through culture, community, movement, and lived experience. Trained as a sociologist, Claudia has spent much of her career working on issues of migration, international relations, education, and community development in both Europe and Africa. As the Farafina Institute, she leads projects focused on participation, wellbeing, and the empowerment of people of African descent. Through Farafina Travels, she designs and leads educational journeys that allow participants to experience Africa as a continent of wisdom, creativity, and transformation.

Over time, Claudia's professional path has intertwined with her personal one. Her growing interest in alternative education, worldschooling, and conscious parenting has deepened her belief that children thrive when they learn through connection — with people, nature, movement, and culture. Farafina Roots & Wings is the natural extension of this journey: a place where families learn together, communities meet, and children grow their roots and their wings. With her unique blend of academic expertise, on-the-ground experience, and heartfelt commitment to holistic education, Claudia brings warmth, structure, and vision to every Worldschooling Hub she coordinates.

Accommodation Options

Families can choose from several comfortable, family-friendly locations. You can book through us to benefit from discounts (negotiations are partly still in process).

Thunduzi Beach Camp

<https://share.google/LYg3Yi6bzOKv6brEk>

Thunduzi is a relaxed, family-friendly beach camp right on the shores of Lake Malawi. Expect sandy beaches, hammocks under palm trees, simple chalets, camping options, and a peaceful atmosphere perfect for slowing down. The sunsets are spectacular, and the lake access is ideal for swimming, kayaking, or just relaxing with your feet in the water.

Distance:

- 5 minutes walk to Happy Lodge
- Next to Seneka Guest House
- 20 minutes walk to La Rondavelle

Prices:

Double room (private bathroom): 23 Euro per night

Room with 1 double bed and 2 single beds (private bathroom): 38 Euro per night

Room with 3 double beds (private bathroom): 69 Euro per night

Camping options available.

Happy Lodge

<https://share.google/LKE9SEAo9tYvFMH3i>

Happy Lodge offers basic but comfortable rooms with a real local feel. It's located close to the main road and within easy reach of the beach. Guests appreciate the warm hospitality, home-style meals, and the welcoming vibe. It's a good option for families who want simplicity and community connection.

Distance:

Distance:

- 5 minutes walk to Thunduzi Beach Camp
- 5 minutes walk to Seneka Guest House
- 15 minutes walk to La Rondavelle

Prices:

Double room (private bathroom): 21 Euro per night

Additional bed in room: 5 Euro per night

Seneka Guest House

Seneka is a cozy guesthouse with clean, simple rooms and a calm atmosphere. It's located in a small residential area, giving travelers a taste of everyday life in Chilumba. The hosts are known for being attentive and friendly, and the place is ideal for travelers looking for a quiet space.

Distance:

- Next to Thunduzi Beach Camp
- 5 minutes walk to Happy Lodge
- 20 minutes walk to La Rondavelle

Prices:

Double room (private bathroom): 38 Euro per night

Additional bed in room: 10 Euro per night

La Rondavelle

<https://share.google/y9kLh2kzmFvdgrnUm>

La Rondavelle is a charming lakeside spot featuring round huts, gardens, and direct access to Lake Malawi. It's picturesque, peaceful, and great for families wanting a more scenic, slightly rustic stay with a creative touch. The outdoor seating areas and lake views make it one of the most

atmospheric accommodations in Chilumba.

Distance:

- 20 minutes walk to Thunduzi Beach Camp
- 15 minutes walk to Happy Lodge
- 20 minutes walk to Seneka Guest House

Prices:

Tent: 10 Euro per person per night

Vehicle/camper less than 7 meters: 20 Euro per night for 2 people

Vehicle/camper more than 7 meters: 50 Euro per night for 5 people

Wooden chalet single (shared bathroom): 30 Euro per night

Wooden chalet double (shared bathroom): 42 Euro per night

Comfort room single (shared bathroom): 40 Euro per night

Comfort room double (shared bathroom): 62 Euro per night

Dormitory 4 bunk beds (shared bathroom): 15 Euro per night per person

Contact:

Farafina Travels / Claudia Koehler

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Farafina Travels is a travel agency that is linked with the NGO Farafina Institute; both are registered in Germany.

