



15/06/2026

Guidelines for Use of the BSSH LION Nissan X-Trail Car.

1. The BSSH LION Car cost \$9000 USD and is intended to last the 5 year duration of the project. It was purchased by Jonathan Jones and Martin Wood, with advice from Boston Munthali and 2 experienced UK expatriates, Russ and Kate Smith. The vehicle is registered under the name of Jonathan Jones. Martin Wood is also an owner by proxy. They are the only people who can arrange the COF (MOT) and insurance documentation. They are also the only people who can sell the car and this will require their physical presence in the country.
2. The BSSH LION vehicle is an expensive asset, purchased with charitable and donated funds and its primary function is to facilitate the running of the BSSH / BAHT / LION Hand Unit. It needs to be treated with appropriate respect and in keeping with the expectations of BSSH Members and the Charity Commission.
3. The Team Leader holds the day to day responsibility for the car, its serviceability, and guidance on use and discernment on the needs for the task, the team and the individuals on the team. He or She has the final say on this.
4. The vehicle must only be driven if it is in roadworthy condition. It is the responsibility of the volunteer team to routinely check for problems, and of the volunteer team leader to arrange, or delegate the arrangement of repairs as necessary. Oil and water levels must be topped up regularly. Costs of vehicle repair and servicing will be covered by BSSH.
5. The Nissan X-Trail is a petrol fuelled car and there is a jerry can for taking reserve petrol in the boot of the car as occasionally garages run out of fuel. The price of fuel is set nationally so is the same at all fuel stations.
6. Car insurance in Malawi is different from UK. The Car is insured third party only and the maximum amount claimable is 2,000,000 MK, which at the time of writing is approximately 2,000 USD. This might not cover all the costs of an accident and it is possible that volunteers may have to contribute towards the costs of repair, depending on the circumstances.
7. Driving in Africa is very different to driving in Europe. Even in urban areas, like Lilongwe, it requires considerable concentration to avoid the numerous hazards on the road, such as pot holes, precipitous road edges, sleeping policeman, bollards, not to



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mention some erratic and bullish driving tendencies from other road users. Tuk-tuks, bicycles and pedestrians seem oblivious to other road users and the potential risks. It is advisable to drive more slowly than you might in the UK in order to be able to respond to the unexpected.

8. Driving at night is especially dangerous and should be avoided if possible, unless it is a familiar route in town. The roads have no street lighting and signposts are non-existent; there are no markings on the road edges or cats eyes. Many roads have deep monsoon drains along the edges which are invisible at night and many cars do not have headlights.
9. It is common practice for Police to stop cars especially when driven by Mzungus (white visitors) to check the car details and certification. This may be accompanied by a hefty cash fine if the documentation is not up to date. There are many Speed cameras around as well which are portable and well hidden.
10. The main purpose of the car is for the daily transport of BSSH Volunteers to and from the KCH /LION Unit. In normal circumstances, the team are expected to travel together to the LION in the morning and home in the late afternoon. Working hours are approximately 7.30am to 4.30pm. There is a BSSH office at work, where volunteers can relax or study when not working or whilst waiting for a ride home. If any one volunteer has to remain at work for more than 1 hour after the normal end of the working day, then BSSH will reimburse a taxi fare to take the rest of the team home at the normal time. In general the vehicle should be left for the last person at work to return home (as they may be alone and in the dark) and the team members returning earlier should hire a taxi. Volunteers are free to fund their own taxis home if they wish to travel at times other than when the team vehicle is leaving.
11. At evenings and weekends, the vehicle may be used for reasonable trips around Lilongwe, eg, to go shopping, eat out, recreational activities and so on. Team members will need to negotiate use of the car and lifts with each other. BSSH would not expect to fund more than 1 tank of fuel per week for the project so any use over this will need to be paid by volunteers using the vehicle for non-work purposes.
12. Any volunteer who wishes to drive is required to have a valid UK Driving License and carry this at all times when driving. No one should feel pressurised into driving the car in this challenging environment. In the event that none of the volunteer team wish to drive, BSSH will fund a taxi for the team to the LION in the morning, and home in the late afternoon.





13. Drivers of the BSSH LION vehicle should be familiar with automatic transmission, 4WD and navigating rough terrain. Before driving independently, the volunteer should have a familiarisation tour around Lilongwe and then at least one introductory drive accompanied by a driver with recent local driving experience. Wherever possible, the driver should be accompanied by another volunteer as a co-pilot or in case of an accident. We have found it helpful to have a co-pilot for spotting hazards and navigating, especially in rush hour or at dusk. Fines for speeding, driving infringements and parking offences are the responsibility of the individual volunteer and will not be covered by BSSH.
14. The BSSH Car may be used at the weekend for R & R excursions around Lilongwe city limits. The car should not be taken long distances from Lilongwe.
15. Volunteers are free to hire a different car commercially for the weekend if they prefer or if they wish to travel more than 600km. At the time of writing, the cost of car rental is between 100 – 150 USD for day trips or 250 -300 USD for overnight trips.
16. If any of the team members wishes to work at KCH/LION Hospital at the weekend, e.g taking part in a Saturday Waiting List Initiative, then this should take priority over a weekend excursion with respect to the use of the vehicle.
17. Lastly, we wish to emphasize that purchasing, registering and insuring any vehicle in Malawi is a monumental task and one that we would rather not repeat. Whilst we appreciate that the car can be used for recreational purposes within the guidelines above, we ask that volunteers seriously consider the risks and consequences of any journey they undertake, particularly out of town.

(BSSH LION Leadership Team, February 2024)

I **XVOLUNTEER NAMEX** confirm that I have read the car guidelines for the BSSH LION Nissan X Trail Car.

Signed

Date

