



GENERAL TRAVEL INFO NAMIBIA



NAMIBIA:

Namibia offers sunshine throughout the year and has a subtropical desert climate. During the rainy season October to April only gets wet and is the hottest season in the northwest region. The weather along the Skeleton coast can be breathtakingly of variations due of the Atlantic and its cold Benguela current. Etosha's bet season is winter May to September when the temperatures are cooler, grass shorter and better animal sightings. If you like and can stand the heat, consider a visit in summer to see the return of thousands of water birds and animals on the feeding grounds around Okuakuejo.

The best places to explore in Namibia are as per our recommendations:

- Caprivi Strip
- Damaraland
- Etosha National Park
- Namib-Naukluft Park
- Swakopmund
- Skeleton Coast
- Walvis Bay
- Waterberg Plateau Park
- Windhoek

Top 5 reasons why one should Go:

- World oldest living desert - Is everything you might imagine a real desert to be
- A memorable drive - Drive from Swakopmund to Walvis Bay along the seaside which is one of the most beautiful routs in the world
- Waterhole Wonders - In the dry season you will have fantastic game viewing at the water holes. Have your binoculars ready and there will be guaranteed no disappointments.



- Ride the Desert Express - Take a two day train trip on the Desert Express from Windhoek to Swakopmund. You will walk in the desert, visit the world biggest outdoor rock-art gallery, watch lions being fed and enjoy sipping a cocktail while the sun sets in the dessert and experience a magic sunrise in the morning.
- Etosha National Park - One of Africa's most spectacular game parks. Etosha offers beautiful campsites and self-catering accommodations. The park road network is excellent and offers a superb game viewing for animal lovers.

Some great things we recommend to Do and See:

- There are some great Museums and Art Galleries to be visited such as Alte Feste Museum in Windhoek, Bushman Art Gallery in Windhoek, National Museum of Namibia-Owela Display Centre in Windhoek, Kristall Galerie in Swakopmund, National Marine Aquarium in Swakopmund, Old Station Building in Swakopmund and the Living Desert Snake Museum in Swakopmund
- Post Street Mall in Windhoek is an open-air market and has a colourful sidewalk displays of curios, crafts and carvings of all kinds.
- Visit Katutura in Windhoek and the Oshetu Market ("our market") where northern Namibian fare like mopane worms and dried patties of a tip of local spinach are sold. Here you can meet women who have learned to manufacture fabrics and beads. We strongly suggest to go with a local guide who knows the dirt roads and can explain on what you are seeing (Katutura Face to Face Tours available)

Top 4 Restaurants recommended in Namibia:

- *Joe's Beerhouse* is a semi open-air restaurant with a fun-filled interior. The portions are generous of German and Namibian food. Venison is a specialty with sauerkraut optional and pork fillet or their pork roast pan also recommended. Sit outside in the bomb and try a local Camelthorn Brewery's Sundowner beer. Address: 160 Nelson Mandela Avenue, Windhoek
- *Nice* is the newest and happiest place to wine and dine. This restaurant is the showcase for the Namibian Institute of Culinary Education. Trainees supervised by head chefs produce delicious fare such as oryx loin with poached pear, seafood ragout and when in season like the Kalahari truffles. Nice produces young talented cooks. Address: 2 Mozart Street, Windhoek
- *The Tug Restaurant* is all about the location and overlooks the sea. Swakopmund is known for the fresh seafood especially the local oyster. The menu offers alternatives beside the seafood such as Venison or ostrich stir-fry. The outside deck offers a perfect place for a summer sundowner. Address: The Strand, Swakopmund
- *Lyon Des Sables* is one of Namibia's finest restaurant and situated at the sea-front Walvis Bay Yacht Club. French dishes present unusual combinations of texture and flavour using only the finest ingredients like the seared tuna starter with a pine nut pet and balsamic reduction topped with hazelnut crumble. Offers a great wine, cocktail and delicious desert list. Address: Atlantic Street, Zone 55, Walvis Bay



CURRENCY:

The Namibian Dollar (Symbol: N\$) is the official currency of Namibia. The Dollar was introduced in 1993 to replace the South African Rand and the Rand is still legal tender, since the Namibia Dollar is pegged to the Rand at a rate of 1:1.

Denominations:

Bills: \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100, \$200

Coins: 5, 10, 50 cents and \$1, \$5

To exchange money you will need to provide identification in the form usually of your passport, and most banks and money exchange offices require to see the original passport. When exchanging money it is more useful to ask for South African Rand (ZAR) the main reason being that if you have Namibian Dollars leftover after your trip it is very difficult to exchange them into your local currency when you return home.

You will find an ATM machine in most towns where Credit and debit cards can be used to withdraw cash (Namibian Dollars). In larger towns these ATM machines can be found outside banks, petrol stations and in some supermarkets.

Mastercard and Visa are widely accepted throughout Namibia but bare in mind that payment can be a little time consuming in remote areas as occasionally they have connection problems. American Express and Diners Card are not widely accepted.

DRIVING INFO:

Namibia is one of the best countries to self-drive due to the good road infrastructure and availability of fuel and spares. This plus the freedom you have to stop and go as you please makes your trip extremely rewarding.

The general speed limits in Namibia are **60 km/h** on a public road within an urban area and may be lifted to **80 km/h** on some major urban roads. **120 km/h** on every tarmac freeway and **100 km/h** on non-tarmac freeway ("gravel" road).

Driving in the Etosha National Park is on well-maintained gravel roads. Summer rainfalls can influence the roads and therefore follow speed limits and road signs (60km/h) at all times. If you have no experience in driving on gravel and sand roads, please be warned to keep to the speed limits. Dust roads do not give you the same grip as tar roads and roll overs do occur not to mention the flats tires. In some cases they are so badly damaged that they need to be completely replaced.

The network of service/petrol stations is very good with most small towns having at least one. Petrol stations will generally have a shop attached where basic food can be purchase. Please note Credit cards & cheques are not often accepted, so be sure to have a wad of cash handy to pay.

The general rule is to refuel at the last town you visited, especially when traveling into remote areas. The next petrol station will probably come along way before you need it, but occasionally they may be out of fuel too.



EMERGENCY NUMBERS:

In the last 15 years of operating and selling holidays in Africa we fortunately did not experience any big emergency's. But just in case anything would happen please find some important info below.

Police emergency number: +264 (61) 10111
Aeromed emergency number: +264 (61)249 777 / 230 505
MedRescue number: + 264 (61) 230 505/6/7
Fire emergency number: +264 (61) 211 111A

Animal Rescue Centre:

SPCA, Windhoek, Tel: +264 (61) 238 654
SPCA, Swakopmund, Tel: +264 (64) 404 419

Hospitals:

Grootfontein: Private Hospital, Tel: +264 (67) 240 064/66
Katima Mulilo: State Hospital, Tel: +264 (66) 251 400
Luederitz: Luederitz Hospital, Tel: +264 (63) 202 446
Mariental: Mariental Hospital, Tel: +264 (63) 245 255
Okahandja: State Hospital, Tel: +264 (62) 50 3039
Opuwo: State Hospital, Tel: +264 (65) 27 3026
Oshakati: State Hospital, Tel: +264 (65) 223 3133
Otjiwarongo: Mediclinic, Tel: +264 (67) 30 3734
Rundu: State Hospital, Tel: +264 (66) 265 500
Swakopmund: Mediclinic, Tel: +264 (64) 412 200
Tsumeb: Private Hospital, Tel: +264 67 22 1001
Windhoek: Medi-Clinic, Tel: +264 (61) 222 687
Windhoek: Central Hospital, Tel: +264 (61) 203 9111

Police Stations:

Grootfontein, Tel: +264 (67) 242 470
Katima Mulilo, Tel: +264 (66) 251 212
Luederitz, Tel: +264 (63) 202 255
Mariental, Tel: +264 (63) 240 666
Okahandja, Tel: +264 (62) 503 013
Opuwo, Tel: +264 (65) 273 074
Oshakati, Tel: +264 (65) 220 313
Otjiwarongo, Tel: +264 (67) 300 600
Rundu, Tel: +264 (66) 266 300
Swakopmund, Tel: +264 (64) 415 000
Tsumeb, Tel: +264 (67) 235 060
Windhoek, Central Police Station, Tel: +264 (44) 803 1367



CREDIT CARD EMERGENCY NUMBER:

We suggest to keep the emergency number which is on the pack of your Credit Card separate in case the card gets lost or stolen so that you can contact your bank directly.

LANGUAGES / HOSPITALITY:

During apartheid Afrikaans, German and English held the position of official language. Today English is the sole official language in Namibia. The German language is widely used in the central and southern part of the country and is spoken by about 30'000 Namibians. German benefits from its similarity to Afrikaans and has a prominent position in the tourism and business sectors. Many streets in cities have German names.

As a country Namibia is still trying to find a national identity, but each of the countries cultural groups has its own a rich heritage and traditions. The "Bushmen" also called the San People are nomadic hunter-gatherer people of Africa's Kalahari Desert and can survive the annual drought. They will find food and water in very condition. A visit and a walk with the Bushmen is a real treat!

Here is a few basics in German:

Ja	Yes
Nein	No
Danke	Thank you
Vielen Dank	Thank you very much
Bitte schön	You are welcome
Bitte	Please
Entschuldigen Sie	Excuse me
Guten Tag	Hello
Auf Wiedersehen	Goodbye
tschüß	So long
Guten Morgen	Good morning
Guten Tag	Good afternoon
Guten Abend	Good evening
Gute Nacht	Good night
Ich verstehe nicht	I do not understand
Sprechen Sie....	Do you speak...
Sehr erfreut / Freut mich	Nice meeting you
Wo ist die Toilette?	Where is the bathroom/toilet?
Wieviel kostet das?	How much does it cost?

THE FOOD OF NAMIBIA:

Food plays a very big part in all cultures in the world and for Namibian it is no exception. Namibia hosts 11 different ethnic groups and is a real culinary treat for food lovers.

Game meat, particularly kudu, oryx and other antelope is very common while seafood is plentiful and excellent – particularly in Swakopmund and Walvis Bay.



“Braais” (barbecues) are very common among Afrikaaner and German groups, while most African tribes eat plenty of mealie pap (a doughy maize paste) and often served with meat or vegetable stews. South African dishes such as bobotie (a meat pie with a savoury egg custard crust) are also common.

Most restaurants will offer Teutonic or international fare. Due to Namibia’s desert environment fruits and vegetables are expensive and therefore menus tend to be heavy on the meat. In the German “Kondiotreiein” (bakeries) you can tuck into classics like apple strudel, Sachertorte (chocolate cake) and Kirschtorte (Black Forest gateau). The Afrikaaner’s desert list includes *koeksesters* (mini doughnuts dripping with honey) and melktart (milk tart) are the nicest.

Other traditional specialties are:

- Biltong (an air-dried meat, which is a bar snack staple, usually made from beef or kudu).
- *Rauchfleisch* (smoked meat).
- Game such as antelope, ostrich or zebra cooked on a braai (barbecue).
- *Potjiekos* (one-pot bush stew, usually cooked over a camp fire, and made with just about anything although chicken and vegetable is common).
- Seafood, especially oysters, on the coast.
- Kalahari truffles (a distant cousin of the European black and white truffle varieties found on Swakopmund restaurant menus, served up thinly sliced and drizzled with olive oil alongside a thick ostrich steak.)

With a beer culture Namibia has endless varieties of beer, many traditional African millet versions. Despite the desert heat, the country has recently started making its own wine – most of which is excellent and sold overseas.

Tipping:

10% is customary.

SAFTEY:

Where ever you travel your safety is of course always of our utmost concern. With over 15 years of travel experience in Africa we compiled some general tips below.

If you have no experience in driving on gravel and sand roads, please be warned to keep to the speed limits. Dust roads do not give you the same grip as tar roads and roll overs do occur, not to mention the flats tires. In the rainy season it can pour and the sand/gravel roads can turn from driving surfaces to soft mud instantly, leaving you with limited control of your vehicle.

Try and drive towards the centre of the road when good visibility and keep to your left when approaching blind bends and hills. Due to no fencing in most areas, please be aware of all sorts of animals (especially domestic animals) which can dart out unexpectedly and your first reaction is to swerve to avoid hitting it/them. It is safer to just hit it, if is something small like an impala or a warthog.



Camping in Namibia is generally quite safe in established campsites. For your safety please do not camp wild in river beds or undesignated camping areas.

Extreme caution should be exercised when considering bathing in African rivers. Most rivers carry the Bilharzia patho-gene and harbour dangerous crocodiles and hippos.

VISA REQUIREMENT/S / BORDER POSTS:

To enter Namibia you need a passport that is valid at least for 6 months from date of entry.

Nationals from the countries listed below **are not** required to obtain Visas to travel to Namibia on holiday for visits shorter than three months:

Angola
Ireland
Norway
Australia
Italy
Portugal
Austria
Japan
Russian Federation [**]
Belgium
Kenya
South Africa
Botswana
Lesotho
Singapore
Brazil
Liechtenstein
Spain
Canada
Luxembourg
Swaziland
Cuba
Macau (SAR)
Sweden
Denmark
Malaysia
Switzerland
Finland
Malawi
Tanzania
France
Mauritius
United Kingdom
Germany
Mozambique
United States of America
Hong Kong (SAR)
New Zealand



Zambia
Iceland
Netherlands
Zimbabwe

[** Applies only to Holders of Diplomatic Passports including the following States: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan]

Other Passport Holders, please contact your nearest Namibia High Commission Offices.

PLEASE NOTE as from the 1st July 2015 visitors entering SA travelling with kids require an unabridged birth certificate to enter the country.
No passenger will therefore be allowed to travel without these papers - be it by land, sea or air.
For more detailed info on the minor travel/immigration regulations, please visit - www.dha.gov.za

For our self-drive tourists the most used border posts into Namibia are:

Namibia / South Africa:

Noordoewer/Vioolsdrif

Tel: +264 (63) 297 122

Fax: +264 (63)297 021

Opening hours: 24 hours

Namibia / Botswana:

Ngoma

Tel: +264 (66) 252 856

Fax: +264 (66) 252 296

Opening hours: 06h00 - 18h00

Mohembo

Tel: +264 (66) 259 900

Fax: +264 (66) 259 902

Opening hours: 06h00 - 18h00

Buitepos/Mamuno

Tel: +267 659 2013

Fax: +267 659 2271

Opening hours: 07h00 – 00h00

HEALTH / INSURANCE:

Northern Namibia is a Malaria risk area especially during the rainy months and therefore we recommend that all travelers consult their medical practitioner or an institute of tropical medicine for oral medications. Always use mosquito repellent, wear long pants, long sleeved shirts at night, closed shoes and always sleep under a mosquito net and keep the windows and doors closed.

A Medical and Travel insurance is highly recommended prior to the start of the holiday.



WHAT TO PACK:

For the Namibian Winter which is clear, sunny, warm during the day and very cold temperatures at night will be suggested to pack the following:

- **Sunhat and sunglasses**
- Sun cream and a rich body cream for the dryness
- **Warm jacket**, gloves, a scarf, a beanie and optional a hot-water bottle to keep you warm at night!
- **Cotton/Wool clothes which can be worn in layers** (lighter during the day and warmer at evenings)
- **Swimming costumes** - Yes, really! You can swim at lodges up north where temperatures remain higher than the rest of Namibia!

For the Summer:

- light cotton/linen clothes and a jersey/light jacket/rain coat for the coastline and summer rain falls
- Sun cream, sunhat and sunglasses
- Swimming costumes and sarongs
- Mosquito repellent
- Flip flops, sandals or comfortable walking shoes

For game drives aim for reasonable neutral colours – think of the movie “Out of Africa”. A windbreaker or hoddie is ideal too. For evening we suggest something more formal at more up market and exclusive lodges/hotels. **DO NOT FORGET** the binoculars for the game viewing!