

NAMIBIAN FAQ'S

What is the best way to travel in Namibia?

Namibia is an ideal self-drive destination with good infrastructure and well indicated roads although distances between destinations are quite far. Other recommended ways of travelling around Namibia are by charter flights or luxury train. We also can offer you a wide range of guided private or scheduled tours led by our expert guides.

Is Namibia a good family destination?

Namibia offers wonderful value for families, although some establishments are more child friendly than others. As we have children ourselves, we can advise you on the best options for you and your family according to the ages and interests of your children.

What is the best time to visit Namibia?

Namibia enjoys sunshine virtually every day of the year, and you can expect hot summers (October – April) and pleasant winters (May – September) in this arid climate. Daytime summer temperatures can rise to 40°C/104°F and drop to around 20°C/68°F at night. Winter days are sunny and mild to warm with temperatures of about 25°C/77°F, which may drop to as low as 5°C/41°F at night. The coastal region is cool and dry throughout the year. Best birding is during summer (November – April); best botanical months: December – May; peak season for travelers: July – October.

Can you tell me about my passport and visa requirements ?

International visitors require a valid passport together with onward travel documents. All passport holders should verify with their relevant consulate concerning visa entry requirements. If you are extending your journey to other countries, please establish entry requirements for those countries as well. Please ensure that you have all the necessary visas prior to departure (unless available on entry) as we cannot be held liable for any errors on your side.

What is the weather like in Namibia ?

Summer is from November to April, with hot and sunny days. Daytime temperatures can rise to 35C, but drop at night to around 14-18C. The coastal region is cool and dry through the year. The rainy season lasts from February to March and rainfall varies from 50mm to 700mm depending on the region. Winter is from May to October and days are generally dry, sunny and mild to warm. Temperatures reach about 23C and drop at night to between 0 - 10C. It can be quite cold and windy at the coast, for which warm clothing and a windbreaker are necessary.

Temperature (°C) - These are the average lows and highs for Windhoek (keep in mind that there are variations depending in which region you are):

January	February	March	April	May	June
17 / 30	17 / 29	15 / 27	13 / 25	9 / 22	7 / 20
July	August	September	October	November	December
7 / 20	8 / 23	12 / 26	14 / 29	16 / 29	17 / 31

Rainfall (mm). This varies according to the year and where you are.

January	February	March	April	May	June
43	53	26	28	5	3
July	August	September	October	November	December
3	3	3	10	23	95

Can I use my credit card ?

International Visa and Mastercard credit cards are generally accepted throughout Namibia. Holders of other cards are advised to clarify with a commercial bank whether their card is acceptable in Namibia. Most safari camps are unable to accept American Express cards.

What currency must I bring with ?

The currency in Namibia is the Namibian Dollar, which is fixed to and equals the South African Rand on a one-to-one basis. The Namibian Dollar and South African Rand are the only legal tender in Namibia and can be used freely to purchase goods and services in the country. The Namibian Dollar, however, is not legal tender in South Africa. Traveller's cheques and foreign currency can be exchanged at any of the commercial banks, which are well represented throughout the country. Visitors may bring any amount of foreign currency into the country.

What are Namibia's banks opening hours ?

Windhoek, Swakopmund, Rundu:

Mon - Fri 09h00 - 15h30. Sat 08h30 - 11h00

Keetmanshoop, Tsumeb:

Mon - Fri 09h30 - 12h30; 14h00 - 15h30. Sat 08h30 - 10h30

Katima Mulilo:

Mon - Fri 09h00 - 12h45; 14h00 - 14h30

Can I use my electric hairdryer or shaver in Namibia ?

Most safari camps are situated in remote areas and have to generate their own electricity. Each camp has a generator that runs for about 6 hours per day (3 hours in the morning and 3 in the afternoon when guests are out on activities). These generators then charge batteries located at each tent / room, which provide good 12v lights all night (if used sensibly). There are no 220v or 110v power points in the safari camps. If you need to have your video battery re-charged this can be done while you are out on an activity. Therefore, please bring a spare battery for use while the other is being charged. Electrical plug outlets are not available in most safari camps therefore it is not possible to use such appliances such as hairdryers or electric shavers during your stay there. In major cities all electrical appliances run on 220/240 volts. Outlets are round 3-pin, 15 amp plugs.

Are there any health precautions I need to be aware of ?

Medical facilities in the major cities are of international standard, although the remote areas are less well provided. There are relatively limited risks of malaria and bilharzia in the northern game areas, so you should exercise common sense precautions regarding untreated water and possible exposure to mosquitoes. If you are visiting the area north of Windhoek, you must obtain malaria prophylactics before entering Namibia. It is best to consult your pharmacist or doctor in this regard.

Do the local people speak English in Namibia ?

Languages include Ovambo, Damara, Kavango, Herero, although the official language is English with German and Afrikaans being widely spoken

What time zone does Namibia use ?

Namibia operates on daylight savings time as follows: Summer: From the first Sunday in September to the first Sunday in April - two hours ahead of GMT Winter: From the first Sunday in April to the first Sunday in September - one hour ahead GMT.

What can I look out for when shopping ?

In the major centres, such as Windhoek and Swakopmund, many shops specialize in attractive local products such as diamonds, semi-precious stones, curios of all types including dolls dressed in the traditional Herero style (these are made by Herero woman), hand-carved wooden objects, beautifully fashioned jewellery, shoes made of Kudu leather, karosses (rugs made from the pelts of wild animals), and popular SWAKARA garments. Value Added Tax (VAT) in Namibia is 15% all round. Bona fide tourists to Namibia are exempt from paying sales duty or excise duty on luxury items such as jewellery or Swakara (fur) garments

Do you have any safety tips for me?

It's sensible to take the same precautions in major cities as you would in any of the world's metropolitan areas. Never leave luggage unattended in front of the hotel or in the lobby. Deposit your valuables in the hotel's safety deposit box. Don't stroll around the streets after dark. Always lock your car doors and keep the windows closed. Do not walk around the city looking like a tourist and keep your camera concealed. Do not walk around with large amounts of cash and with cameras around your neck.