

Travel Information



Banks and Money

The currency unit is the Namibian Dollar, denoted by the symbol N\$, with 100 cents making up 1N\$ (one Dollar). Foreign currency can be exchanged at local banks and Bureaux de Changes. Most major international credit cards such as American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard, Visa and their affiliates are widely accepted. Cash can also be drawn with EC Cards using your pin number.

Clothing

The seasons in the Southern Hemisphere are directly opposite to those of the Northern Hemisphere. Please have a look at the temperature graphs under the header 'temperature' and bear in mind that evenings can be a lot cooler than the days. Please bring a windbreaker/jacket, sweater, hat and comfortable walking shoes.

June to August is our winter and days as well as evenings/nights can be very cold. Please bring warm clothing should you travel in our winter.

Conservation

Most countries are members of CITES (Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora). Please do NOT purchase products made from ivory and skins. These may be confiscated by customs. Please be aware that the purchase of any wooden carvings places a strain on forest resources, and the removal of coral and shells is destructive to the reefs

Driving

Driving is on the left hand side of the road and the wearing of seatbelts is compulsory.

Electricity

Namibia's electricity supply: 220/230 volts AC 50 Hz. Most plugs have three round pins but some plugs with two smaller pins are also found on appliances. Most of the lodges and hotels have International plug points in the rooms, however you may prefer to bring your own.

Food & Water

As a rule, most tap water in Namibia is safe to drink as it is treated and is free of harmful microorganisms. Some Lodges have borehole water and will put bottles of mineral water in your room if the tap water is not safe to drink.

In hotels and restaurants, the standards of hygiene and food preparation is top-notch. It is safe to eat fresh fruit and salads and to put as much ice as you like in your drinks - a good thing, too, after a day on the beach or in the bush.

Health and Safety

Some foreigners are unaware that Namibia has a well-developed infrastructure, high standards of water treatment and good medical facilities. Here we address any health and safety questions you may have.



Health and Safety (continued)

- Malaria

This disease is to the larger extent under control in Namibia. Regions that are affected are the Northern parts of the country around Etosha National Park and the Caprivi Strip. The risk of contracting the disease is negligible provided that you take the standard precautions. Malaria tablets, a good insect repellent particularly in the evening, long-sleeved shirts and mosquito coils are advisable precautions.

- Personal Safety

For tourists, Namibia is as safe as any other destination in the world. Namibia boasts a vast array of cultures, communities, sites and attractions. Most parts of the country can be safely visited by tourists provided they take basic common-sense precautions (for example not walking alone in deserted areas at night and being circumspect about how much photographic equipment or flashy jewellery you carry).

Please ensure that you lock your valuables and passports in your room safe at hotels/lodges

Language

English is Namibia's official language since 1990. However, about 80% of the population speak Oshiwambo, OtjiHerero or another African language. Due to the colonial past of Namibia, German is also widely spoken.

Maps

Download Namibia Road Maps: <http://www.map-of-namibia.com/>

Passports and Visas

All visitors require a passport valid for at least six months after the period of their intended stay, and documents for return or onward travel. Passports should have at least two unused pages for endorsements by the Namibian Immigration Service.

Shopping

Windhoek offers a selection of fashionable shops. Local crafts can be bought in some specialised shops, as well as at the Windhoek Street Market, held every second Saturday.

Shopping hours: Mon-Fri 0900-1700, Sat 0900-1300. Some bigger supermarkets are also open Sun 1100-1300 and 1600-1900. Craft vendors sell their goods every day of the week.



Temperatures and Climate

Everywhere in Namibia enjoys a minimum of 300 days of sunshine a year, but temperatures and rainfall vary considerably both seasonally and geographically. The cold Benguela current keeps the coast of the Desert cool and free from rain. In the interior most the rain fall from November to April. At high altitudes the nights, and during the winter night it can get a bit cold but the country is pleasant to visit all year round. Mainly desert, hot, dry, rainfall very low and erratic. Prone to long periods of drought.

Time Differences

Local time is GMT +1 (GMT +2 between the first Sunday in April and the first Sunday in September).

Tipping

Most restaurants do not add a service charge to bills - thus it is customary to leave a 10-15% tip. Parking and petrol station attendants should be given whatever small change you have available. This is always appreciated, even though it may seem a small amount.

Tax

Value-added-tax (VAT) is charged on most items. Foreign tourists to Namibia can have their 15% VAT refunded provided that the value of the items purchased exceeds N\$250.00. VAT is refunded at the point of departure provided receipts are produced. Please make sure you have enough time at the airport to do your tax return as sometimes the queues are long.

Vaccinations

Visitors who are entering Namibia from a yellow fever zone must have a valid international yellow fever inoculation certificate. Only infants under the age of one year are exempt. Immunisation against cholera and small pox are not required and no other vaccinations are required when visiting Namibia.

