

Your guide to

Namibia

Documentation - Health + Safety - Money Matters - Getting Around -
Geography + Wildlife - When To Go - Packing Guide





01

General Information

Passports | Visas | Inoculation Certificates | COVID-19

Facts

- + Size - 824,268 km²
- + Capital - Windhoek
- + Language - English + German
- + Time Zone - UTC+01:00

Population

- + Namibia is home to a population of **2.541 million**. With 17% of the population living in Windhoek, Namibia is **one of the least densely populated countries in the world** with just 3 people per square kilometer.



02

Important Documents

Passports | Visas | Inoculation Certificates | COVID-19 |
Traveling with Kids

Passports

- + A **valid, machine-readable passport** issued by the country of which you are a citizen is mandatory for all international travel. This includes travelers under the age of 18.
- + Passports must be **valid for at least six months** after your return date
- + Your passport must contain at least **two consecutive blank pages** for the visas and entry stamps for each country you are visiting i.e. if you are visiting three countries on your trip, your passport must have six consecutive blank pages. Please note that airlines may refuse to board you or immigration officials to process you should your passport have insufficient blank pages.
- + Make a **physical copy of your passport** and keep it in a safe place. Also, make a digital copy that you can access from your email address in case of emergency. It is also a good idea to have it certified.



Visas

- + Foreign nationals from the Bahamas, Brazil, Cayman Islands, Ecuador, Dominican Republic, Dominica, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Panama, Singapore, UK, and most European countries do not require a visa to enter Namibia.
- + If you fall on the other end of the spectrum, **Namibia issues 90-day tourist visas online or from the nearest Namibian embassy.**
- + USA citizens are required to obtain a visa from their Namibian embassy.

Inoculation certificates

- + All passengers to Namibia require yellow fever inoculation certificates if they have visited ANY of the following countries in the Americas and Africa:

• Angola	• Colombia	• Guinea	• Senegal
• Argentina	• Congo	• Guyana	• Sierra Leone
• Benin	• Côte d'Ivoire	• Kenya	• Sudan
• Bolivia	• DRC	• Liberia	• Suriname
• Brazil	• Ecuador	• Mali	• Togo
• Burkina Faso	• Equatorial Guinea	• Mauritania	• Trinidad and Tobago
• Burundi	• Ethiopia	• Niger	• Uganda
• Cameroon	• French Guiana	• Nigeria	• Venezuela
• Central African Republic	• Gabon	• Panama	
• Chad	• Gambia	• Paraguay	
	• Ghana	• Peru	

- + Click [here](#) for up to date endemic countries.
- + Yellow fever vaccination certificates must be produced for all travelers over the age of one year and are valid for 10 years. Failure to produce a valid yellow fever vaccination certificate at a port of entry could lead to refusal of entry, or quarantine for up to six days until the traveler's certificate becomes valid.



- + Please note that a yellow fever certificate is also required for those in airport transit for more than 12 hours.
- + Ensure that your **regular vaccinations** – such as tetanus, influenza, and MMR – are up to date.

Travel restrictions due to COVID-19

- + Please note, it is highly recommended that you regularly check government and airline websites for any Africa travel restrictions and updates as the requirements are constantly changing.
- + See [updated Africa Travel Restrictions due to Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).

Child Travel Requirements (under 18)

- + Children under the age of 18 will require an **unabridged birth certificate*** together with a valid passport when traveling abroad.
- + Foreign nationals are advised to **apply for unabridged birth certificates in good time** to avoid possible delays to travel plans.
- + *Unabridged is a birth certificate reflecting both parents' details. The abridged (short) birth certificate which only lists the child's particulars won't be accepted by the Namibian Ministry of Home Affairs and immigration.

Please note: We have made an effort to ensure that the information listed was correct at the time of publication. However, we do not assume any liability caused by errors such as price changes. Please make sure to ask your consultant or embassy about your visa requirements in advance.



Child and both parents



Parents must produce an unabridged birth certificate and a valid passport.

Child and one parent



Parents must produce an unabridged birth certificate, a valid passport, and a court order/ death certificate/ affidavit confirming that the parents have permitted the child to travel.

Child and guardian



Guardian must produce an unabridged birth certificate, a valid passport, and a court order/death certificate/affidavit confirming the parents have permitted the child to travel.

Child unaccompanied



The child must produce an unabridged birth certificate and a valid passport and a court order/ death certificate/ affidavit confirming permission to travel from both parents or legal guardians. A letter from the person who will receive the child including their full contact details and a certified copy of their ID/Passport must be produced.

A close-up photograph of a stethoscope lying on a brown tactical-style belt. In the background, a compass is visible on a light-colored cloth.

03 Health Tips

Vaccinations | Malaria | COVID-19 | General Health

Vaccinations

- + Although there are no compulsory vaccinations for Namibia, we recommend a [visit to your local clinic before your trip](#).

Malaria

- + Thanks to the heat and desert conditions, [mosquitos are not found in most parts of Namibia](#). Luxury lodges all feature mosquito nets, however we do recommend using insect repellent for other insects - especially if you are sensitive to their bites.
- + If you are visiting [northern regions](#) such as Kunene River, Caprivi, and Kavango from November to June, and Etosha National Park from October to April, it is necessary to [take precautions and purchase anti-malaria medication before your trip](#).



Some general tips to reduce the risk of malaria while traveling:

- + Sleep under the **mosquito net** provided in your room.
- + Make use of the **insect repellent** provided in your room and lightly spray your body and room before going out on safari.
- + Wear lightweight **long trousers and closed shoes** while on safari.

COVID-19

- + Travelers are expected to adhere to **protective safety measures** such as hand hygiene, wearing masks and keeping physical distancing as deemed appropriate.

General Health Tips

- + **Avoid wearing dark colours**, such as blue and black, in Namibia. These colours attract the Tsetse fly, which can be a threat to your health if you get a sting.
- + Always apply **high SPF sunscreen** regularly and wear a sun hat.
- + **Drink plenty of water**, avoid excessive alcohol and seek medical assistance if you feel shaky, nauseous or clammy after a day in the sun, as you may be suffering from sunstroke.
- + It is advisable **not to drink tap water** in remote areas. Bottled mineral water can be brought to all towns or hotels/lodges.



04

Money Matters

Currency | Tipping | Charity

Currency

- + The official currency of Namibia is the **Namibian Dollar**, but the South African Rand is widely accepted around the country. The Namibia Dollar (N\$) is pegged to the ZAR at a rate of 1:1.
- + Most **ATM bank cards are accepted at Namibian ATMs**, however, we recommend drawing cash in the major cities as smaller town ATMs are often out of service.
- + Most lodges will have **credit card facilities** but we recommend having cash on hand too, especially for tipping.

Tipping

- + Tipping is welcomed everywhere! A **10 -15% tip** is expected for staff at upmarket tourist restaurants as well as for guides and drivers at safari lodges.



- + As a rule of thumb, **guides** on safari should receive USD5 - USD10 per person per day and **trackers** USD5 per person per day. Lodge staff should receive USD4 - USD10 per guest per day. Tips for **lodge staff** are usually given in at reception upon check out, however, if you would like to tip someone specific hand them the tip personally in an envelope at the end of your stay. The tips are provided at the end of your stay.
- + Tips are not normally expected for transfers, however, if the transfers or the trip is over 45 minutes, consider tipping.
- + For **petrol attendants** and **car guards** that assist you, you can tip around N\$5 in total.

Charity in Africa

- + When it comes to Charity, many visitors to Africa feel a strong urge to help the less fortunate whom they encounter on safari, or when visiting a local village or school. People often ask what they can take, especially for the children. Travelers should be encouraged to **connect with the people, culture and spirit of the destination and give back**.
- + To contribute in a way that helps a person (or community) help themselves will enhance their way of life, find a project or **organisation that you are passionate about** and make a donation towards that specific project rather than encouraging dependency on 'hand-outs' and generosity.
- + Please **refrain from giving money to beggars**. Most camps and lodges have their own charity organisation they work with in the local communities.

Leave your Legacy

- + Our [Legacy Program](#) has evolved into collaborations with many local initiatives. If you would like to donate, and leave your legacy in Africa, please [get in touch here](#).



05

Getting around

Infrastructure | Getting There | Transport | Connectivity

Infrastructure

- + The cities in Namibia are well established and Windhoek, Walvis Bay, and Swakopmund are constantly growing their infrastructure each year.
- + The **6,664km of tarred roads** have recently received upgrades and a new tarred highway has been developed strictly for the use of trucks to transport harvest.
- + The vast **majority of roads here are gravel**, 25,710 km worth to be exact. Although these roads are regularly scraped, when the rains of the summer months fall the conditions of the roads can worsen and tire punctures become part of the fun.
- + If you are doing a self-drive trip in Namibia, **adhere to the speed limit** on the roads, make sure to **be familiar with changing a tyre** and always have a spare tyre on hand.



Connectivity

- + When traversing the desert, Wi-Fi connection is as you would expect - few and far between.
- + Most **lodges provide capped Wi-Fi** with the option to buy more but the best option is to invest in a local sim card and buy data along the way.
- + At approximately USD6.99 for the sim and about USD9 for 1 GB data, buying a sim card is the easiest and cheapest way to stay connected on your Namibian safari.

Getting there

- + All international flights fly into the **Hosea Kutako International Airport**, located 45km east of Windhoek. At the end of 2021, the airport received an expansion, increasing the customs and baggage handling areas. More retail shops have been added to improve the duty-free airport shopping experience.
- + On arrival, a Ker & Downey® Africa representative will collect you for your road transfer or charter flight to private airstrips around the country.
- + To save on time, the following quick domestic flights with AirNamibia are available:
 - + Hosea Kutako International Airport ---> Walvis Bay International Airport, 40 minutes
 - + Hosea Kutako International Airport ---> Luderitz Airport, 1 hour
 - + Hosea Kutako International Airport ---> Oranjemund Airport, 1 hour 15 minutes



Transport

- + Whether you are exploring the vast expanse of Namibia on guided or a self-drive tour you can expect **long hours on the road**. Destinations are spread out and getting from one point to the next can take up to 5-6 hours.
- + Traversing the dirt roads requires a **slow pace** and most stretches have a maximum speed of 80km/h or 50 miles/h.
- + **Flat tires are common** but these are all part of the unique Namibian experience.
- + To give you an idea of the distances you'll need to travel on your Namibian adventure, take a look at the guidelines below:

Windhoek Airport ---> Windhoek 45 km, 42 minutes

Windhoek ---> Swakopmund 360 km, 4 hours

Windhoek ---> Sossusvlei 392 km, 5 hours

Windhoek ---> Fish River Canyon 750 km, 8 hours

Windhoek ---> Luderitz 684 km, 8 hours

Windhoek ---> Etosha 414 km, 4 hours

Windhoek ---> Damaraland 565 km, 6 hours

Windhoek ---> Skeleton Coast 485 km, 7 hours

Windhoek ---> Aus 560 km, 6 hours and 30 minutes



06

Geography + Wildlife

Environment | Flora | Fauna | Safari

Environment

- + Home to the world's oldest desert, tallest dunes, dead tree valleys, stirring arid realms, and barren coastlines dotted with the skeletons of abandoned shipwrecks, Namibia is truly otherworldly.

Flora

- + With 19% of the country's surface consisting of nature reserves, Namibia boasts a diverse floral world.
- + The country consists of 14 vegetation zones, 120 species of trees, 800 endemic plant species, and 100 species of lichen and Welwitschia - living fossil plants over 2,000 years old.



Fauna

- + Namibia is home to a **large range of wildlife**, from big game animals and predators in abundance to over 687 species of bird.
- + Expect to see giraffe, zebra, impala, roan antelope, reedbuck, red lechwe, and wildebeest amongst the savannah plains as well as elephant, lion, rhino, buffalo, cheetah, and leopard who have all adapted to the harsh arid environment.
- + On the coastline of Swakopmund, you can see one of the **largest Cape Fur Seal colonies in the world**, with shark, dolphin, and whale encounters reported regularly.

Safari

- + Located in the north, **Etosha National Park** is the most popular safari destination in the country.
- + **Home to 4 of the Big 5**, the park boasts an array of wildlife including rhino, lion, leopard, cheetah, elephant, giraffe, hyena, zebra, and antelope. Only buffalo is absent from the Big 5.
- + Etosha translates to “great white area”, referring to the immense, saline pan located in the middle of the park which transforms into a shallow lagoon during the summer months.
- + The park covers a vast area of **22,270 square kilometers** and follows a strict on-road policy to avoid harming the delicate terrain.
- + Want to visit the park for the day? Gates to the park open according to the season - in summer the **Anderson Gate opens at 06h00** and closes at 18h00. Make sure to be out of the park before this time to avoid being locked in.



- + There are several lodges located in the park, including the [Okaukuejo Rest Camp](#) located 17km from the Anderson Gate. Consisting of chalets, a restaurant, convenience store, swimming pool, and an active watering hole that is illuminated at night, the camp offers 24/7 game viewing.
- + South of Etosha National Park is the exclusive [Ongava Game Reserve](#), a private reserve providing luxury accommodation conveniently bordering Etosha.
- + To view the Big 5 in Namibia you can visit the Waterberg Plateau and Caprivi Strip.



07

When to go

Weather | Winter | Summer

Weather

- + With an average of **300 days of sunshine** per year, Namibia is one of the sunniest countries in the world.
- + In the summer months between December and March, you can expect **extremely hot days with summer rains** and thunderstorms in the evening.
- + Winter days during June to September are warm with desert night temperatures dropping below 0 degrees.
- + The coastal areas of Swakopmund, Walvis Bay, and the Skeleton Coast are often much cooler, even in the summer.
- .



Winter (June - September)

- + Planning to visit Namibia in the winter? Expect **mild, dry days, great game viewing opportunities**, and full lodges.
- + With little water, animals congregate around the water holes and the bare trees make them easier to spot in the terrain.
- + Winter falls in Namibia's high season and is popular with South African travelers as it falls within the school holiday months. However, remote luxury lodges still offer a private experience.

Summer (December - March)

- + If you visit Namibia in Summer (December - March), **expect extremely hot days reaching temperatures of over 40 degrees Celcius** with epic thunderstorms at night.
- + Luxury lodges will be prepared for the scorching heat with **swimming pools** to cool off during the day and **air conditioning** to keep you cool at night.
- + The **regular showers** breathe life back into the terrain and create a lush green environment making it more challenging to spot wildlife from the roads. With fewer animals around waterholes, you can expect wildlife sightings to be more spread out and less frequent.
- + That being said, one of our team members at Ker & Downey® Africa has done a safari in Namibia in the peak of summer (November) and had great sightings including leopard, hyena, rhino, lions, elephant, giraffe, and zebra.



08 Packing Guide

What to Pack | General Checklist

What to pack

- + Whether you wear long or short clothing - you will be hot in summer.
- + A **lightweight long shirt and pants** are a good choice for a hot day to protect you from the sun, especially if you are spending the day outdoors or climbing the dunes at Sossusvlei.
- + Pack a **sun hat** with a string so it can't blow off when you are on an open-air game vehicle
- + Sunglasses (polarized)
- + Closed shoes for dune hikes.
- + Sandals
- + A **warm jacket** for evenings at the coast or winter evenings



Travel Documents

- Passport + correct visas
- Any vaccination certificates required
- Emergency phone numbers
- Phone card + international access numbers
- African travel insurance policy with emergency evacuation
- Extra passport photos
- Negative PCR test certificate if required
- Copy of bank cards and international access numbers
- A copy of your itinerary
- Copy of prescribed medicines
- Copy of passport + visas + air ticket + ID document

Gadgets

- Binoculars
- Camera equipment
- Extra batteries for camera
- Battery charger
- Tripod/beanbag
- Small flashlight/headlamp
- Portable charging station
- A dongle to stay connected



Accoutrements

- Personal toiletries
- Sunscreen + lip balm with SPF 30+
- Moisturizer
- Antihistamine cream
- Insect repellent
- Tissues/ pre-moistened wipes
- Basic first aid kit: aspirin, bandages, antidiarrhoeal, antiseptic cream

Extras

- Credit cards + cash in small denominations for tipping
- Notepad + pen
- A laundry bag
- Ziplock bags to keep documents dry and protect electronics from dust and water
- Face mask
- Buff to protect your neck from the sun
- Swimming costume
- A day back for excursions

Any questions?

Get in touch with our LuxVenture® Designers

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