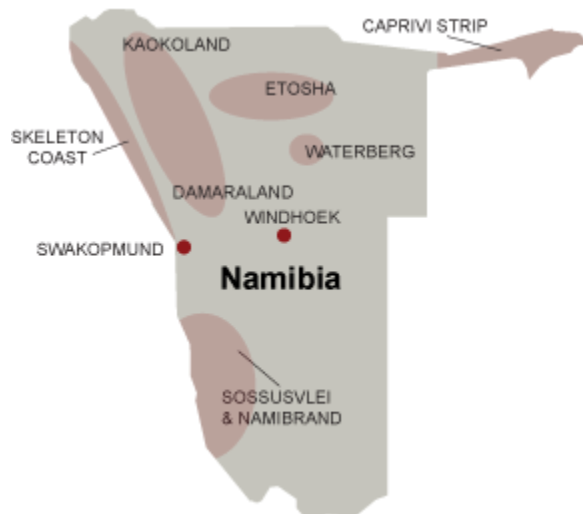


Namibia

Namibia never fails to enthrall its visitors. In addition to having a striking diversity of cultures, Namibia is a photographer's dream - boasting wild seascapes, rugged mountains, lonely deserts, stunning wildlife and colonial cities. Time and space are less defined here. Watch a lion stalking its prey on an endless plain in Etosha or zip down one of the many dunes on a sandboard. Spend a night in the desert under a starlit sky or explore the massive 500 m deep Fish River Canyon, one of Africa's greatest natural wonders.

Enthralling Namibia contains a notable infrastructure of well-kept roads, a wide range of accommodations, hearty food and drinkable water – making a Namibia holiday an unforgettable experience.



Climate

In summer (October to April) the average interior temperatures range from 20° to 34° C, but can rise to over 35° C in the extreme north and south of the country. The temperatures in the west (along the coast) are a fairly stable 15° to 25° C all year round and heavy fog is common at night.

The rainy season is from October through to April and the average annual rainfall varies from less than 50mm along the coast to 350mm in the central interior, and 700mm in the Caprivi.

Winter is from May to September with temperatures in the interior ranging from 18° to 25° C during the day. However below freezing temperatures and ground frost are common at night. Winter is widely regarded as the best season to visit Namibia.

Average temperatures in Windhoek:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Minimum	17	16	15	13	9	8	7	8	12	15	15	17
Maximum	29	28	27	25	22	20	20	23	25	29	29	30

Visitors should pack both warm and cold weather clothing, as well as hat, sunglasses and sun block for any visit to Namibia no matter what time of year you are visiting.

Distances & Driving

Though Namibia's road network is considered one of the best in the world, many of the roads are still gravel based and travelling over 80kms per hour can be extremely hazardous. Therefore it may take longer than expected to cover important distances. In Namibia one drives on the left, safety belts must be used at all times and the use of hand-held cell phones when driving is prohibited. Road signs are international and easy to understand.

Cars, minibuses and 4x4 vehicles can be hired at all major towns.

	Windhoek	Swakopmund	Okaukeujo (Etosha)
Windhoek		356	435
Swakopmund	356		561
Okaukeujo (Etosha)	435	561	

Currency

The Namibian Dollar (N\$) is divided into 100 cents and equals the South African Rand. The Namibian Dollar and the South African Rand are the only legal tender in Namibia. (See currency converter on left menu for current exchange rates).

Foreign currency travellers cheques can be exchanged at most banks.

Major credit cards such as Master Card, Visa and Diners are widely accepted throughout the country.

VAT

All goods and services offered include VAT. VAT for goods purchased may be reclaimed at the main border posts and Windhoek International airport.

Health

The north of Namibia, including Etosha is a malaria-endemic area. Travellers are advised to take the necessary medication/prophylaxis and carry a mosquito repellent or spray, available at a local shop or pharmacist. Tick bite fever can be a problem when walking in grass and travellers should be aware that the incidence of AIDS is high throughout Southern Africa.

Medical services in Namibia are of a high standard. However the availability of the services is restricted to the main towns and emergency evacuation from remote areas may attract high costs. An insurance service for tourists is available from rescue companies providing coverage for emergency transport.

Water

Tap water is safe to drink in major towns and cities. Visitors should take caution in rural areas and ensure that they have enough water when travelling by road.

Electricity

220/240 volts AC. Outlets are of the round 3-pin, 15-amp type.

Visas

Some European citizens need visas. Please check with your local Namibian consulate or embassy.

Local Time

GMT + 2 hours, however daylight saving (GMT +1) puts Namibia one hour behind South Africa during winter, from the first Sunday in April to the first Sunday in September.

NB: There is no daylight saving in the North-Eastern and Caprivi region.

Communications

Though Namibia offers a widespread and reliable service for landlines, some lodges may be beyond the range of the network. Although cell phone coverage is fast expanding numerous rural areas remain beyond coverage. The international dialling code is +264 followed by the regional code and the desired number.

Email is used extensively and there are internet cafés in all the major towns.

Official Languages

The official language is English and all documents, notices and signs are in this language. Afrikaans and German are both widely used.

Windhoek

Founded in 1890 by the Germans, Windhoek is the capital city of Namibia. Geographically located in the centre of the country, it acts as the gateway to many of the attractions.

Highlights

German colonial buildings, museums and churches, the craft market, restaurants and bars.

Best time to visit

Throughout the year

Accommodation

Click on this link to view our handpicked selection of [lodges, hotels and guesthouses](#) in this region.

Tailor-made Holidays

Follow this link to view samples of some of the many [tailor-made itineraries](#) we have prepared to date. We can incorporate this region into an itinerary tailor-made just for you!

Waterberg

Rising unexpectedly above the savannah, this plateau with its sheer orange cliffs is now home to a variety of game including many endangered species of Namibian wildlife and makes a good overnight stop between Windhoek and Etosha.

Highlights

Game drives including rare and endangered species, bush walks as well as a spectacular setting. The nearby Africat foundations that rehabilitates and protects endangered cheetah and other large cats.

Best time to visit

Throughout the year

Accommodation

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Etosha

One of Africa's great game parks and the size of a small country, the landscapes of Etosha range from dense bush through open plains to vast, desolate, salt pans. Populated by an abundance of game, including the "Big 5", this is Namibia's premier game viewing destination.

Highlights

Excellent game viewing especially in the dry season, the "Big 5" (elephant, buffalo, rhino, lion and leopard) and a great variety of smaller animals and birds, bush walks, luxurious lodges.

Best time to visit

May to September

Accommodation

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Caprivi Strip

Jutting out like a long finger the Caprivi shares long borders with both Botswana and Zambia, 2 of Africa's best known wilderness and wildlife areas and is easily combined with a visit to the Victoria Falls.

Highlights

Isolated bush lodges, 4x4 big game safaris, birding, boat based safaris along the Chobe River and fishing for the prized Tiger Fish in the Chobe or Zambezi rivers.

Best time to visit

May to September

Accommodation

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Damaraland & Kaokoland

The landscape varies between rocky desert, rolling savannah and high mountain ranges and is full of strange geological features, rock paintings, rare and fascinating desert adapted animals and the traditional Himba people.

Highlights

Spectacular sunsets and scenery, nature and game drives in search of desert elephants, rhino and other desert adapted animals. The petrified forest, Twyfelfontein ("Fountain of Doubt") ancient rock art, the Burnt Mountain and many more interesting geological formations. A sense of isolation and remoteness in rugged Kaokoland, the Epupa Falls and visits to traditional Himba communities.

Best time to visit

May to September

Accommodation

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Scheduled Tours

Click on this link to view our current range of [scheduled tours](#) to various destinations throughout Southern Africa.

Skeleton Coast

The landscape varies between rocky desert, rolling savannah and high mountain ranges and is full of strange geological features, rock paintings, rare and fascinating desert adapted animals and the traditional Himba people.

Highlights

Spectacular sunsets and scenery, nature and game drives in search of desert elephants, rhino and other desert adapted animals. The petrified forest, Twyfelfontein ("Fountain of Doubt") ancient rock art, the Burnt Mountain and many more interesting geological formations. A sense of isolation and remoteness in rugged Kaokoland, the Epupa Falls and visits to traditional Himba communities.

Best time to visit

May to September

Accommodation

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Swakopmund

Popular with locals and visitors alike the holiday town of Swakopmund offers a combination of relaxing beaches, numerous and varied activities, restaurants, bars and nightlife. Exactly what is needed after a week in the desert!

Highlights

A range of dune based and other activities including quad biking, dune boarding and hot air ballooning, German colonial style buildings, desert landscapes, relaxing on the white sandy beaches and the flamingos at Walvis Bay, as well as the lively restaurants and bars.

Best time to visit

October to April

Accommodation

Click on this link to view our handpicked selection of [lodges, hotels and guesthouses](#) in this region.

Tailor-made Holidays

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Sossusvlei & Namibrand

Sesriem is the gateway to the Namib desert and to the awe inspiring gigantic red dunes of Sossusvlei - a destination not to be missed. The neighbouring Namibrand private nature reserve offers a more exclusive dune and desert experience.

Highlights

Spectacular desert scenery including the star-shaped red dunes of Sossusvlei, Dead Vlei, Sesriem Canyon, desert adapted wildlife and plants and birding. A personal and private desert experience from the exclusive lodges in the Namibrand complete with guided game and nature drives.

Best time to visit

May to September

Accommodation

Click on this link to view our handpicked selection of [lodges, hotels and guesthouses](#) in this region.

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