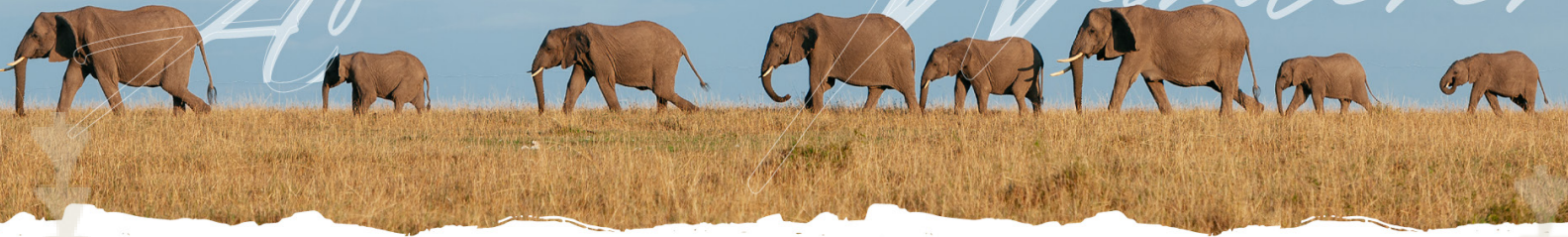


African Wanderer



THE ULTIMATE GUIDE FOR NAMIBIA TRAVELERS

BY AFRICAN WANDERER TOURS & SAFARIS

Questions about what to expect, what to bring, and what to look out for can keep travellers from a holiday in this country. But Namibia is too special to miss.

As local travel experts, we want to ensure questions and concerns don't hinder your trip to our breathtaking country. This is the ultimate guide for anyone travelling to Namibia, where you'll learn exactly what to expect as you encounter this wonder of the world!

BOOKINGS & EXPECTATIONS

Schedule A Realistic Itinerary

Namibia is a large country with vast distances between places. Although the country has a network of tar roads, most of the popular sites are off-road.

If you're planning your itinerary without travel consulting, keep these tips in mind:

- Driving speed on gravel roads is 80km/h, and distances given on Google Maps are an indication only.
- Book comprehensive insurance with your 4X4 vehicle, as gravel roads often cause stones to fly up and crack windscreens, and sharp stones can slash tires
- There won't be cellular service for ETAs or digital map updates
- Nighttime driving is not recommended because of animal encounters and poor road markings.
- Leave ample time at each destination to enjoy your route's scenery and not feel rushed throughout your tour.

Safety & Policing

Namibia has a stable democracy and is safe to visit. But as with any international travel, staying alert on your journey is important. Occasional petty crime can occur, particularly in densely populated urban areas.

Here are some helpful ideas as you prepare:

- Don't walk alone at night
- Only wild camp if you are with a guide
- Don't carry expensive-looking items like jewellery and cameras in plain sight
- Do not leave bags and valuables unattended in your vehicle

You will see police checkpoints on the major routes in and out of Windhoek and other large towns. Always stop at the designated road marking. If the roadblock is manned, you may be asked to show your driver's license (the license must be in English) and/or your passport; then, you'll be waived to continue your journey. You may also proceed if you do not see a police officer or other official person on duty.

What To Wear

Namibian holidays are active, so wearing comfortable clothes and shoes is smart. You'll often be dusty, at times sweaty, and occasionally cold, as temperatures can vary significantly between day and night. We recommend packing a mix of summer clothes, with a few warmer items and a good hat. Natural fabrics that breathe in the heat are most comfortable.

Credit Cards

Visa and MasterCard credit and debit cards are widely accepted, but you cannot use American Express in Namibia. You can use credit cards at most supermarkets, restaurants, and accommodation establishments in urban Namibia. Businesses in rural areas typically prefer cash payment.

ACCOMMODATIONS & HOSPITALITY

Namibian Cuisine

Namibia has some of the best quality beef and game in the world. However, if you don't eat meat, know that fruit and vegetable options are limited. When you travel through bigger towns, stop at shops, buy snacks for longer driving days, and take a coolbox in the car for daytime eating. Namibian chefs are remarkably creative and resourceful despite the logistical challenges of preparing food in remote areas, so most lodges include dinner in their booking. When staying in heavily populated areas, you'll have various restaurant options for dinner plans.

Local Vendors, Tipping & Gratuity

Namibians do appreciate tips as a sign of your appreciation for good service. Gratuity is not included in restaurant bills, and a standard tip for drinks and food is 10% of the total bill. Consider tipping if you buy something small from craft stalls or street vendors and when interacting with services provided by the lodge staff, hotel porters, guides, and drivers. These small amounts make a big difference in the lives of local people.

Capturing Photo Memories

Namibia is incredibly photogenic, and travellers will snap away to capture memories of their trip. Landscapes and animals are always okay to photograph, but asking for permission before photographing local people is important. Some people will expect payment in exchange for having their picture taken. This is particularly true for the Himba and Herero people, who still dress traditionally. Agree on a price before taking their photo. If you take a photograph of someone, show them afterwards. Young children are often keen to get photographed, but it is best to ask a parent or guardian first. Please don't take pictures of people in uniform unless they perform in a public parade.

ANIMALS, NATURE & TERRAIN

Wildlife Experiences

While the animals you see on safari will be awe-inspiring, remember they are wild and should not be approached! Animals in many parts of Namibia roam freely, so be observant and cautious when walking in wildlife areas. There are no regulations or ethically acceptable practices regarding human interaction with captive wildlife. We urge you to consider the ethical implications of participating in such activities during your safari.

Heat & Sunshine

On average, Namibia is 300 sunny days a year. The African sun is strong and harsh. Too much sun can lead to headaches, dehydration, nausea, and dizziness. Sunscreen is essential. Wearing a hat is always recommended on safaris. Long sleeves and a breathable scarf are good if your skin is especially sensitive to the sun.

Expect Lots Of Sand

Namibia is dusty, so don't bring your brand-new white trainers or the most expensive luggage. When you drive on gravel roads, dust will settle on your belongings. If you'd like extra protection for your luggage, bring big plastic bags (think trash bags) to wrap your baggage in for the dusty roads. We recommend a soft bag instead of a hard suitcase. Wheeling your suitcase through gravel or soft sand is no fun.

National Parks

Namibia has 18 official national parks and reserves that are easily accessible and among the most affordable in Africa. Here are some general park rules to keep in mind:

- Park gates open at sunrise and close at sunset, but guests staying at lodges inside the parks can move around before sunrise and after sunset.
- The speed limit is 60 km/hour
- No firearms, domestic animals, drones, plastic bags, or off-road driving within the parks
- Fires are only allowed at designated campsites
- Failure to adhere to any national park rules will result in a fine

National park entry fees are as follows:

- Adults: N\$150.00
- Children (up to 16 years old): N\$ 100.00
- Vehicles up to 10 seats: N\$ 50.00

NAMIBIA TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

- INTERNATIONAL DRIVER'S LICENCE — Most car rental companies accept foreign driving licenses, but traffic officials in Namibia will require a valid international license showing the essential information in English.
- CURRENCY EXCHANGE — Namibia uses the Namibian Dollar (N\$) and the South African Rand (ZAR). The N\$ is linked 1:1 to the ZAR. You can change money before arrival or at one of the Forex offices in the arrivals hall of Hosea Kutako airport. You can also withdraw cash from ATMs in Namibia.
- PURCHASE TRAVEL INSURANCE — Travel insurance will give you peace of mind and means you are prepared if anything unexpected happens.
- CARRY-ON ESSENTIALS — Pack a toothbrush, extra clothing, and any important medication in a carry-on if your checked luggage doesn't arrive in Namibia.
- FIRST AID & MEDICAL SUPPLIES — Travel with first-aid basics and all prescription medicine. While travelling in Namibia, the nearest doctor will usually be a half day's travel away. You must have enough of your medicine if local pharmacies or hospitals don't stock them.
- ELECTRICITY & PLUG POINTS — All lodges have electricity, and many are fully solar-powered. The voltage in Namibia is 220-240 AC. If your appliance does not match this voltage, you need to bring a converter, as lodges will not have a converter for you to use.



**WITH THIS GUIDE IN HAND, YOU'RE THAT MUCH CLOSER TO THE
NAMIBIAN HOLIDAY YOU'VE BEEN DREAMING OF.**

African Wanderer is your travel agency if you're looking for a high-touch itinerary service! We offer personalised planning, support, and care for travellers with various budgets, preferences, and group needs.

Reach out to our team today to start planning your holiday in Southern Africa.

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