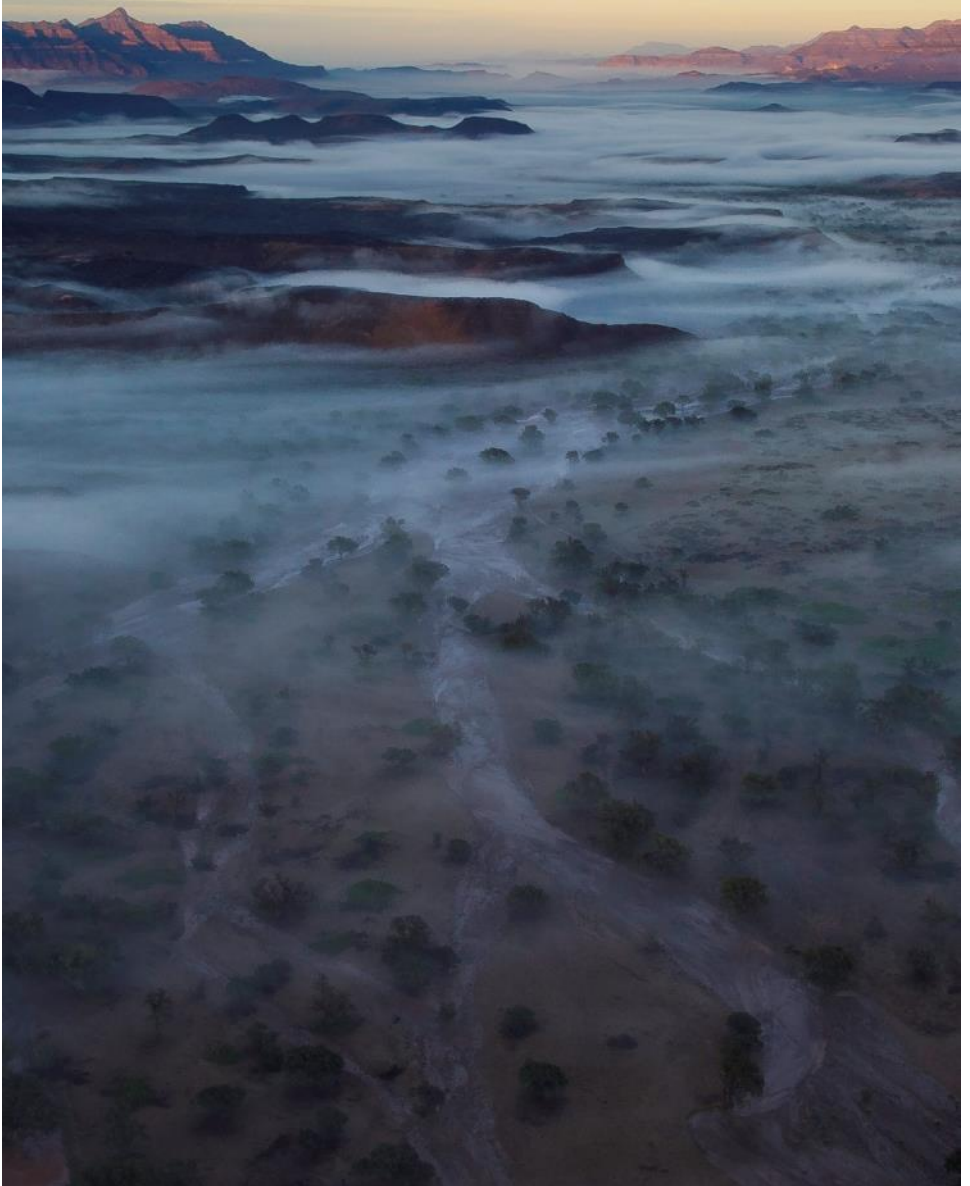


# Namibia



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At first glance, Namibia might seem like one of Earth's most desolate places. With its ancient deserts, parched salt pans and a windblown shoreline littered with the weathered hulls of foundered ships, there would seem little potential for life and color—and little to interest the average traveler.

But there is a startling beauty in its vistas—from the multihued dunes of the Kalahari and Namib deserts to the foggy shores of the Skeleton Coast. The deep fissures of the Fish River Canyon make for steep but exhilarating walking. And surprisingly, Namibia is home to an incredible variety of plants and animals that have adapted to the extreme climate. Its national parks and wildlife refuges are among the finest in Africa.

Perhaps most surprising are the people who have adapted to this harsh environment: San Bushmen and the Herero women with their banana-shaped headdresses and bright Victorian-style dresses patterned after those of early German missionary women. Namibia is a thinly populated country, but it's still a great place for experiencing another way of life. The German influence can also be seen in the colonial-era towns scattered along the coast and central highlands—there is something surreal about imperial-style German architecture poking up above desert sands.

## VISAS

A free tourist visa is issued upon arrival for US passport holders traveling to Namibia. Please refer to your Pre-Travel Checklist and itinerary for details. If you are not a US passport holder your entry requirements may vary; please contact your local government office for entry requirements.

## CURRENCY

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. The Namibian Dollar, however, is not legal tender in South Africa.

Traveler's checks 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.

## CREDIT CARDS

Some major credit cards are accepted such as Visa and MasterCard, but American Express and Diners Club are often not accepted. Please note that Discover Card is basically unknown in southern Africa.

## VAT

All goods and services in Namibia are priced to include value added tax (VAT) of 15%. Visitors to Namibia may reclaim VAT on their purchases at the Hosea Kutako International Airport (Windhoek), Eros Airport (Windhoek) and Walvis Bay Airport.

## PERSONAL SAFETY

Namibia is a relatively safe destination with a low crime rate. The greatest danger is wild animals; always observe park rules, never get out of your vehicle unless you are certain that it is safe, and never confront wild animals. At safari lodges/camps, listen to the camp staff and guides. Safety precautions need to be taken seriously, and strictly adhered to.

## LANGUAGE

The official language of Namibia is English. German and Afrikaans are also widely used and there are numerous African languages and dialects which fall into two main groups, namely Bantu and Khoisan.

## RECOMMENDED READING

- *This is Namibia* - Gerald Cubitt & Peter Joyce
- *Skeleton Coast* - Amy Schoeman
- *Namibia: The Beautiful Land* - David Bristow
- *Namibia – the Bradt Travel Guide* – Chris McIntyre
- *Etosha Visual Souvenir* - Darryl Balfour
- *Behaviour Guide to African Mammals* - Richard Estes

## JUST FOR FUN

- The world's largest meteorite was discovered in 1920 on a farm in Namibia. The site is a national monument
- Namibia has the world's largest known underground lake. Called Dragon's Breath Cave, the large subterranean reservoir, 30 mi from the town of Grootfontein. Getting to the lake involves descending by ropes and ladders, sliding down tunnels and clambering down narrow ledges.
- The dune fields of the Namib Desert, composed of quartz sand, range in hue from light cream to violet and brick red. The dunes near Luderitz are known as the roaring dunes for the rumbling sound they make as the sand grains shift over the top of the dunes.

Namibia													
*Average lows and highs													
Temp.		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
WDH	°F	63/86	63/84	59/81	55/77	48/72	45/68	45/68	46/73	54/79	57/84	61/84	63/88
SWP	°F	54/77	54/73	54/73	59/77	59/77	64/82	59/82	59/82	54/77	54/77	54/77	54/77
WDH	°C	17/30	17/29	15/27	13/25	9/22	7/20	7/20	8/23	12/26	14/29	16/29	17/31
SWP	°C	12/25	12/23	12/23	15/25	15/25	18/28	15/28	15/28	12/25	12/25	12/25	12/25
*Rain variations occur each year. Amounts are dependent on your specific location.													
Rain		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
WDH	in	1.69	2.08	2.20	1.10	0.19	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.39	0.90	1.02
SWP	in	0.5	0.59	0.47	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.27	0.35	0.43	0.59	0.63	0.43
WDH	mm	43	53	56	28	5	3	3	3	3	10	23	26
SWP	mm	12	15	12	10	10	10	7	9	11	15	16	11

WDH- Windhoek, SWP - Swakopmund