



Namibia

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HISTORY



Archaeological evidence in Damaraland, Twyfelfontein, and Brandberg demonstrates that while Portuguese explorers may have made landfall in 1485, Namibia has been inhabited by hunter-gatherers for over 25,000 years. Before Namibia became independent, it was formerly known as South-West Africa and became a German colony in 1884. During World War I, this region was taken over by South Africa and it wasn't until Resolution 435 of the United Nations, that gave Namibia independence in 1990. Today, over 35,000 San peoples still live semi-nomadic lives, along with the Nama, Damara, Himba, and Herero who are part of the 11 ethnic groups that call Namibia home.

MONEY



The Namibian Dollar is the official currency, and make note, it is fixed to the value of the South African Rand. Interestingly, you can use either the Rand or Dollar in Namibia, but the Namibian Dollar is not legal tender in South Africa.

Credit Cards

Visa, MasterCard, and American Express are accepted though be aware some places charge additional fees for processing.

For purchasing souvenirs and market shopping, cash is king.

Also, most petrol stations do not accept credit cards, so it's best to have cash on hand

ATM

ATM's can be difficult to find throughout Namibia. It's best to make your withdrawals upon arrival at the airport or seek stock up in city centers like Swakopmund or Windhoek.

HELPFUL INFO

Climate

Namibia has two distinct seasons: Wet & Dry

November - April (Summer) - This is the hottest season with the rains arriving in December and the humidity increasing by January and early February. Temperatures can hover anywhere between 86°F to 100°F depending on where you are.

May - October (Winter) There is little to no rainfall during the winter months which makes this the best time for safaris because wildlife will gather at any streams, and waterholes that haven't dried up.

Electricity

Namibia uses round prongs that output a 230V supply voltage and 50Hz



Technology & Communication

Namibia was one of the first countries in sub-Saharan Africa to gain full Internet connectivity. An estimated 51% of Namibians use the internet, with 1.13 million users as of the end of January 2021. In the same time frame, there were 2.94 million mobile connections reported. This number is skewed as the population of Namibia is only 2.5 million, but many people have more than one mobile device or connection.

Infrastructure & Transport

There is no public transportation system in Namibia, however, there are a number of private companies that operate buses between Johannesburg, Swakopmund, Windhoek, Johannesburg, and Victoria Falls. Namibia does have great connectivity to neighboring nations and the country has a well-established network of gravel and tarred highways covering some 28,880 miles. There is no public transportation system in Namibia, however, there are a number of private companies that operate buses between Johannesburg, Swakopmund, Windhoek, Johannesburg, and Victoria Falls. Namibia does have great connectivity to neighboring nations and the country has a well-established network of gravel and tarred highways covering some 28,880 miles.



In Case Of An Emergency

Namibia Police Emergency +264 (61) 10111

MedRescue + 264 (61) 230 505/6/7

Breakdown Services + 264 (61) 230 823 / 240 733

Language

English is the official language, followed by Oshiwambo is spoken by 48% of Namibians, the Khoekhoe languages spoken by 11% of the population, and the Herero and Kwangali languages are spoken by 10%.



LGBT Travel

Namibia has a very low incidence of discrimination against LGBTQ2 visitors, and they are warmly welcomed. However, it is still worth noting there are left-over, archaic laws left over from the South African occupation that prohibits some sexual activity between men. South Africa is the only African nation that has made a public stance in favor of LGBTQ2 rights.

Religion

Over 90% of Namibians identify as Christian with the largest category of worshippers calling the Lutheran church home



Getting There

Direct and daily flights bring travelers into Windhoek, from Cape Town and Johannesburg. There are also daily flights into Walvis Bay from Johannesburg and Cape Town. And you will also find good connectivity between Botswana, Zambia, and Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe.

Driving

Namibians drive on the left-hand side of the road, so you'll need to be extra careful if you're renting a car to familiarize yourself with driving rules and signage

THE EXPERIENCE

Culture

There are five main ethnic groups that makeup Namibia's cultural tapestry; the Himba, Herero, Nama, Damara, and the San. Each group has its own set of cultural practices, beliefs, storytelling traditions, and ways of being. They do share language similarities. The rest of the country is made up of German and South African settlers. The country was founded on Lutheranism and there is an element of modesty so keep that in mind when you are visiting local cultural groups or are out and about in the city centers.

Bucket List

- Go on Safari in Etosha National Park
- Take a hot air balloon ride over Namib-Naukluft National Park
 - Try your hand at a few "Xhosa" (click) words in Damara
 - Climb up Dune 45 and catch an epic sunset
 - Hike along the rim of Fish River Canyon

Family Travel Highlights

Explore Dead Vlei in Namib-Naukluft National Park

Visit the Himba peoples in Damaraland

Take a sundowner on the Skeleton Coast

Tourism Authority

Namibian Tourism Board

Phone: +264 61 290 6000

Website: <https://namibiatourism.com.na/>

Email: info@namibiatourism.com.na



Foods To Try

Make sure to try these cuisines when you're traveling in Namibia:

Oshiwambo (a delicious combination of spinach and beef), oshifima (a traditional staple made from a doughlike paste made from millet), and while you're there, indulge in some Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte (German Black Forest cake)

Drinks To Try

Windhoek Lager

Marula fruit and Springbokkie - a drink made from the fruit of the Makalani tree, distilled into what would be similar to schnapps



Photography Hot Spots

Namib-Naukluft National Park

Walvis Bay

Quiver Tree Forest and Giant's Playground

Kolmanskop Ghost Town

Spitzkoppe Mountains

Souvenirs To Buy

- Owambo basketry
- Kavango woodcarvings
- Traditional Pottery

*Beware of purchasing anything that could be made from a threatened or endangered species