



WILDERNESS

Discover Earth's Ultimate,
Untamed Places

DESTINATION GUIDE

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

We're pleased to be hosting you at our camps in Namibia and have compiled these travelling tips and guidelines, and some facts about the destination. Check out www.wildernessdestinations.com for more information, and the official Namibian Tourism Board's website www.visitnamibia.com.na/.

Namibia is named after the oldest desert on earth – the Namib. Celebrated for its vast open landscapes, infinite blue skies and star-filled nights, Namibia also has many cultural influences that blend African and European influences on architecture, food, customs and art. National parks and game reserves host a large variety of wildlife, while the world-renowned red sand dunes of Sossusvlei, lonely beaches along the Skeleton Coast and wide expanse of the Kunene Region highlight that Namibia is a kaleidoscope of impressively different landscapes – a photographer's heaven.

Namibia is more than twice the size of California or Germany, but has an estimated population of just 2.6 million people.



NAMIBIA

GREAT-TO-KNOW FACTS



The sun at the top left symbolises life and energy.
Red represents Namibia's most important resource – the people of Namibia, and their heroism in achieving independence. The diagonal white lines represent peace and unity.
Green is for vegetation and agricultural resources.
Blue represents the clear Namibian sky and the Atlantic Ocean.

Government

Namibia, previously under German, British and South African rule, gained its independence in 1990. A war of independence launched in 1966 until 1988, when South Africa ended its administration of the region. The South West People's Organisation (SWAPO) is the ruling part since independence.

Economy

Mining, fishing, agriculture and tourism remain core sectors. Tourism remains the fastest growing. Namibia is rich in alluvial diamond deposits and is the fourth-largest exporter of non-fuel minerals in Africa. Agriculture employs an estimated 46% of Namibia's workforce.

Currency

The Namibian Dollar (NAD) is fixed to and equivalent in value to the South African Rand (ZAR).

Language

The official language is English. Afrikaans and German are widely spoken, along with African languages originating from the various ethnic groups: Nama, Damara, Himba, Owambo, Herero, Riemvasmaker, Kavango, San, Hai/Om, Caprivian, Afrikaner and German.

Time

Two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT+2) in the Central African Time Zone (CAT).

Climate

Southern Africa's weather is pleasant all year. Warm to hot days lead to cool to warm nights, with cold nights and early mornings in the winter months. Pack warm clothing for those early morning and early evening game drives. Also see the packing suggestion list. The climate is typically desert to semi-desert with hot days and cool nights. The cold Benguela Current keeps the coast cool and free of rain most of the year – Namibia averages about 300 days of sunshine annually. The rainy season lasts from November to April, while the rest of the year is dry and cloudless.



Essentials to Pack



SAFARI
SUN HAT



BINOCULARS



GOOD
CLOSED SHOES



SAFARI
DUFFLE BAG



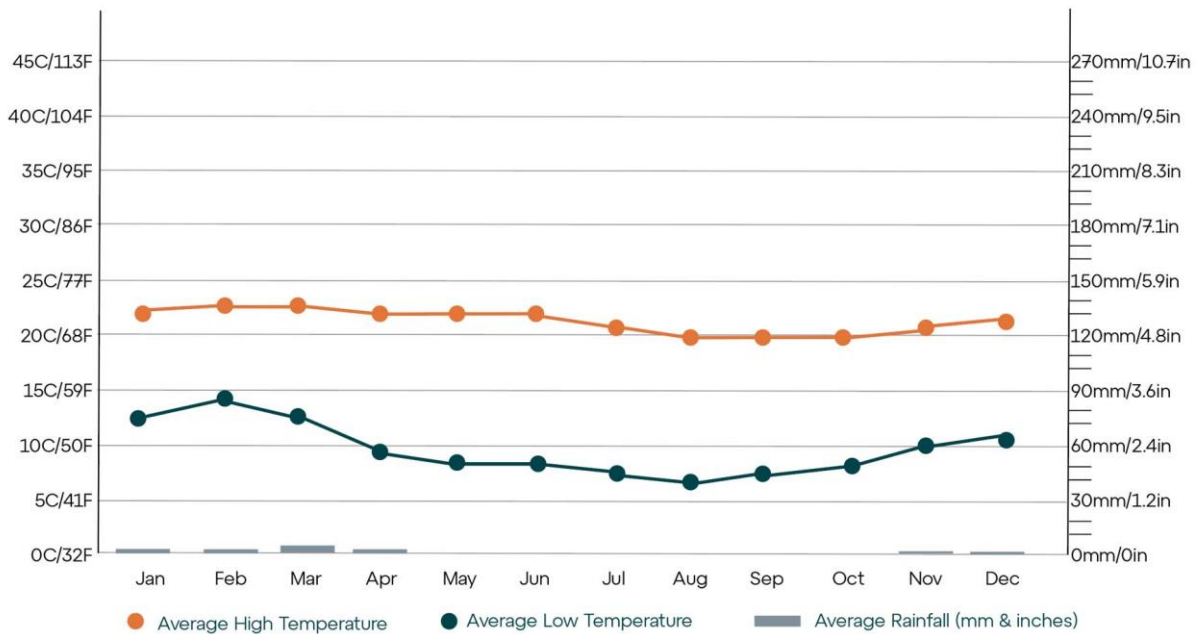
CAMERA

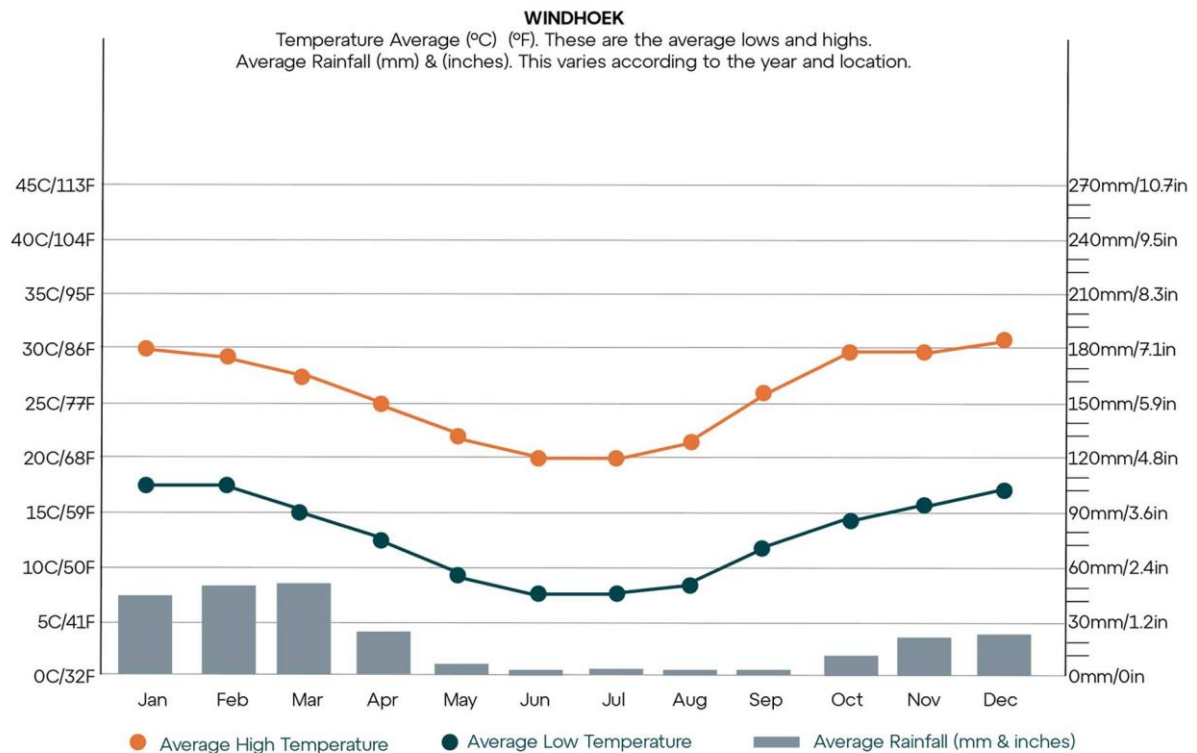


JACKET

SWAKOPMUND

Temperature Average (°C) (°F). These are the average lows and highs.
Average Rainfall (mm) & (inches). This varies according to the year and location.





Public Holidays

Public holidays are listed in the table below.

Mondays are declared a holiday if the public holiday falls on a Sunday.

New Year's Day	01 January	Ascension Day (actual date differs yearly, however, will always fall on a Thursday)	May
Independence Day	21 March	Africa Day	25 May
Good Friday	Varies	Heroes Day	26 August
Easter Monday	Varies	International Human Rights Day	10 December
Worker's Day	01 May	Christmas Day	25 December
Cassinga Day	04 May	Family Day	26 December

USEFUL TRAVEL INFORMATION

Visas

Nationals who require visas to enter Namibia may have to apply for these in advance. However, some nationalities are able to obtain these on arrival at the Port of Entry. Costs vary depending on the nationality of the passport holder. For more information visit www.visitnamibia.com.na/visa-information/.

Revised Child Travel Regulations:

The department of South African Home Affairs has confirmed that Unabridged Birth Certificates for most foreign minors, entering into South Africa, are no longer required.

Passengers under 18 years to present an Unabridged Birth Certificate, and a valid passport when entering, departing or transiting Namibia (as advised by The Ministry Of Nationality, Immigration & Gender Affairs Tourism). UN: Convention On The Rights Of The Child, states that every member country that has acceded to, or signed it, should introduce some measures of control.

Abbreviated versions or baptismal certificates are not accepted. Applies to minors of all nationalities – whether travelling unaccompanied, with both parents, with one parent, an adoptive parent/s or with a legal guardian/s or any another adult/s (e.g. family member or friend, etc.). A sworn translation (certified/authenticated) in English should accompany all documentation that is in a language other than English.

Banks

Banking hours are 09h00-15h30, Monday to Friday and 09h00-11h00 on Saturdays.

Joining your safari

There are two Windhoek airports so it's important to check which airport you will be flying to/from. Hosea Kutako International Airport (Windhoek) is about 40 kilometres out of town, whereas Eros Airport (Windhoek) is in the centre of town.

Excess luggage

Wilderness' office at Hosea Kutako is used for arriving and departing Wilderness guests for Meet & Assists, for pre-departure briefings and/or itinerary reviewing, plus assistance with excess luggage.

Driving in Namibia

In Namibia, one drives on the left-hand side of the road. The speed limit is usually 60 kilometres per hour in built up areas, 70 kilometres per hour on gravel roads and 120 kilometres per hour on major tar roads. Safety belts must be used at all times. The driver or any authorised co-driver must produce a valid driver's license at time of rental, and must not have been convicted of any criminal offence which resulted in the endorsement or cancellation of their driving license. The driver's license needs to be in English with a photograph. If not, an international driver's license will be required. In addition, please check with your Travel Designer regarding the minimum age.

Shopping

Shops in Windhoek and Swakopmund specialise in local products and curios. Your guide will assist in finding the best locations for your shopping experience.

Value Added Tax (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. A 30% luxury items tax is subtracted from the cost of luxury items such as jewellery or Swakara garments when tourists present their passport and air ticket at the time of purchase.

Departure Taxes

Namibian Airport Domestic Departure Tax applies for all Wilderness Air Namibia light aircraft transfers. These airport departure taxes are prepaid to Wilderness at the time of booking. Taxes are subject to change without prior notice. While Domestic Departure Taxes are VAT inclusive, International/Regional Departure Taxes are not VAT applicable.

Sightseeing

If you are visiting Windhoek and/or Swakopmund, there are a number of fascinating optional tours available. Please contact your Travel Designer for further details – we recommend that these are pre-booked to avoid disappointment.

Power supply

Wilderness camps in Namibia make use of generators or solar power. The tents have 220V powered plug points (3-prong round/2-prong round) for lighting, fans, charging batteries and sleep apnoea machines. However, these are not suitable for hairdryers and electric shavers, as the power needs to be below 200W. It's advisable to pack spare batteries as a back-up. Facilities for charging batteries are also available in the camp main areas. In cities and towns all electrical appliances run on 220V/240V. Outlets are round 3-pin, 15-amp plugs. While some camps can supply adaptors it is advisable that you carry your own.



Map of Namibia

