

📍 Namibia Desert

Trip Notes: Namibia

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Travelers arriving in Africa are required to have passports that will be valid for at least six months from the date of departure and contain at least three blank pages per country to be visited for affixing entry and exit stamps.

U.S. citizens traveling to Namibia for tourism require a visa, valid for up to 90 days. You can apply using the Namibia evisa Portal. The visa cost is approx. US\$90/person.

PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

To obtain a visa online:

- Visit <https://eservices.mhaiss.gov.na>
- Register and/or Log in
- Select Visa-on Arrival Application
- Complete all the required details
- Attach scanned passport copy and passport photo
- Make Online Payment NAD1,6000.00 (approx US\$90)
- SUBMIT and you're done.

Download and print e-visa to product at the point of entry. Your e-visa will serve as an arrival form.

VACCINATIONS

All travelers to Namibia should consult a travel clinic at least 6 weeks before departure for advice as to the recommended medications and vaccinations for their safari, based on their itinerary, personal health profile and current policies in the destination.

Namibia is a low risk Malaria destination, however malaria is present in some parts of Namibia. Although malaria medication is not required for entry to Namibia, your travel clinician may recommend it.

Yellow fever vaccination is not required for travelers arriving directly from the US into Namibia. Travelers entering Namibia from countries where yellow fever is present, including but not limited to, Zambia, Kenya and Tanzania, must have certification of yellow fever vaccination, or a waiver document provided by their physician citing the waiver reason. Airport transit travelers are not required to have yellow fever vaccinations.



Etosha Waterhole



Erupa Falls



Dunes meeting Indian Ocean

MONEY

The Namibian Dollar is the official currency and is fixed to and equals the South African Rand. Both currencies can be used freely in Namibia. Credit cards are also accepted throughout the country, though not in every case. Therefore, it's best to travel with multiple payment options just in case. ATM's are widely available throughout the country for cash withdrawals.

Some establishments may accept US dollars. When using USD bills, they must be clean and in excellent shape, and issued after 2008. Your bank will be familiar with this request if you explain that the notes are for use overseas.

Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted, American Express less so.

TIPPING

Service staff in Africa depend on tips as part of their livelihood. As a guideline, hotel porters get \$1.50 per bag carried each way. City restaurant and bar servers should be tipped 15% - 20%. Airport transfer drivers at \$3 - 10 per person per transfer, depending on distance. Camp and lodge staff at \$10 per person per day to be split between the entire camp crew - there is often a Tips box for this group tip in the main area of the camp or lodge. Driver- guides are with you the most and should receive \$10 - \$15 per person per day. If you have both a tracker and a guide, the tracker should receive \$5 per person per day.

SHOPPING & VAT

Namibia levies a standard 15% Value Added Tax (VAT) on most goods and services. Tourists can claim a refund on this tax for physical goods they take out of the country. However, you cannot claim refunds on services like accommodation, restaurants, or car rentals.

The total value of the invoice must exceed \$250 Namibian Dollars. Goods must be exported from Namibia within 30 days of purchase. You must obtain a valid Tax Invoice from the retailer.

Present your sealed goods and the original Tax Invoice to Customs officials before leaving. **Do not** pack these items into your checked luggage without having them inspected first.

Submit your approved paperwork and stamped invoices to the VAT Refund Office. Refund offices are located at major exit points like the Hosea Kutako International Airport in Windhoek, Ariamsvlei, and Noordoewer border posts

Namibia offers a rich array of local crafts, gems, and textiles. Popular local items include gemstones, jewelry, woodcarvings and textiles.

LANGUAGE

English is the sole official language of Namibia, but it is primarily used in government and education, with less than 4% speaking it as a native tongue. The most widely spoken languages are Oshiwambo (native to nearly half the population), Khoekhoegowab (Nama/Damara), and Afrikaans, which serves as a common lingua franca.



📍 Oryx



📍 Lion



📍 Namibian Savannah

TIME DIFFERENCE

Namibia is 6 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time and 9 hours ahead of Pacific Standard time.

PHONES

To dial Namibia from the US: 011 + 264 + number

To dial the US from Namibia: 00 + 1 + area code + number.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Dial 10177 for Ambulance, 08600 for Crimestop, 10111, 999 or 112 for Emergency Rescue and 084 124 for Fire Brigade.

BAGGAGE

Airlines in Namibia routinely weigh both checked and carry-on bags. To avoid paying excess baggage fees, please adhere to the airline's restrictions.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Namibia is one of the safest and politically most stable countries in Africa, requiring only standard safety precautions in urban centers. The main hazards involve petty crime like pickpocketing in cities, wildlife encounters, and driving risks on remote, unpaved desert roads.

POWER

Africa uses 230 volt electric current. Outlets are round 3 pin. Some remote lodges and camps generate their own electricity and may not generate 24 hours per day, which will impact CPAP machine users. The electric current is subject to voltage fluctuation and power cuts are possible, even in larger cities. For detailed information, images and links to purchase adaptors, please consult <https://www.power-plugs-sockets.com>.

CLIMATE

Namibia has a dry, semi-arid, and desert climate with over 300 days of sunshine annually. The country experiences dramatic temperature fluctuations between day and night, characterized by hot summers, mild winters with near-freezing nights, and very little rainfall overall.

SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

Packing for Namibia requires balancing daytime heat with freezing desert nights. Focus on lightweight, neutral-colored layers, rugged closed-toe shoes for climbing dunes, and serious sun protection. Avoid hard-sided suitcases; opt for soft duffel bags to easily fit into 4x4 vehicles or small planes.

ETIQUETTE

Namibian etiquette combines conservative social values, respect for elders, and a deep appreciation for the environment. Dress modestly, always ask before taking photographs of locals, and strictly avoid leaving designated tracks or flying drones without permits when visiting wildlife reserves like Etosha National Park.



📍 Spitzkoppe Landscape



📍 On Safari



📍 Wildlife

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

- 1 January – **New Year's Day**
- 21 March – **Independence Day**
- 3 April – **Good Friday (variable)**
- 6 April – **Easter Monday (variable)**
- 1 May – **Worker's Day**
- 4 May – **Cassinga Day**
- 39 days after Easter – **Ascension Day (variable)**
- 25 May – **Africa Day**
- 26 August – **Heroes' Day**
- 10 December – **Human Rights Day/Namibian Women's Day**
- 25 December – **Christmas Day**
- 26 December – **Family Day**

OTHER USEFUL LINKS

[US State Department Travel Advisories](#)

[U.S. Embassy and Consulates in Namibia](#)

[Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#)

[US Passports](#)

[International Travel Guidance](#)



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