



Banks / Foreign Exchanges

In Windhoek, Swakopmund and Rundu, banks are open from 09h00 to 15h00, Monday through Friday and 08h30 to 11h00 on Saturdays.

Bureau de Change at Windhoek International Airport. Major hotels have foreign exchange facilities and will accept traveler's cheques.

Credit Cards

Mastercard and Visa are generally accepted throughout Namibia. Credit cards are not accepted at fuel stations.

Customs Allowances

Overseas visitors may import duty-free 1 litre spirits, 2 litres wine, 300 ml perfume, 400 cigarettes/50 cigars/250g tobacco.

Currency

currency is the Namibian Dollar (N\$), which is divided into 100 cents. The currency is fixed and equal to the South African Rand (ZAR). Notes are issued in the denominations of N\$200, N\$100, N\$50 and N\$10. Coins are issued as N\$5, N\$1, 50 cents, 10 cents and 5 cents. The Namibian Dollar and South African Rand are the only legal tender.

Duty Free

Limited shopping at Windhoek International Airport.

Electrical Current

250 volts AC, 50 Hz. The South African 3-point plug system is used, although most hotels do have adapters.

Holidays

January 01:	New Year's Day
March 21:	Independence Day
Movable holidays:	Good Friday / Easter Monday or Family Day (Monday)
May 01:	Workers Day
May 04:	Cassinga Day
Movable holiday:	Ascension Day
May 25:	Africa Day
August 26:	Heroes' Day
December 10:	International Human Rights Day
December 25:	Christmas Day
December 26:	Family Day

Language

The official language in Namibia is English. The commonly spoken local languages are Ovambo, Damara, Kavango and Herero, with German and Afrikaans being widely spoken.

Telephone

The international code for Namibia is 264, which should be preceded by the international prefix if calling from abroad.

Time Differences

Summer:

First Sunday in September to first Sunday in April - 2 hours in advance of Greenwich Mean Time.

Winter:

First Sunday in April to first Sunday in September - 1 hour in advance of Greenwich Mean Time.

General Sales Tax

General Sales Tax (GST) in Namibia is 10%. Bona fide tourists to Namibia are exempt from paying sales duty or excise duty on luxury items such as jewellery or Swakara (fur) garments.

Photography

A good SLR (single lens reflex) camera and telephoto zoom lens is recommended for photography of birds and animals as is colour reversal film (slides) as this will give better quality pictures than prints. Bring lots of film as this is expensive and not readily available. A spare battery may also prove useful, should you require one.

Laundry

A laundry service is available at most hotels. A nominal fee is charged for this facility.

Plastic Bags

Namibia joins over 40 countries that have made plastic bags illegal, into any of its National Parks. This is in a positive effort to reduce the impact on the environment. There is no doubt of the implications for guests travelling to this region. The ban applies to:

- Carrier bags with handles and with or without gussets.
- Flat bags without handles and without gussets.
- Ziplock bags (all sizes)

Please take note that if travelling to Namibia, plastic bags that match the above description, including duty free bags as well as ziplock bags, will not be permitted.

Guests are to refrain from using all forms of 'disposable' plastic bags, in both main luggage and hand luggage, to avoid inconveniences and possibly prosecution.

Airports

Windhoek has two different airports. Please check to see if you are flying from Windhoek International Airport (about 40km from the city) or Eros Airport (almost in the centre of the city), as the transfer times differ greatly.

Interesting Reading

- Africa's Top Wildlife Countries - N. Nolting
- Birds of Prey of Southern Africa - Peter Steyn
- Field guide to the Mammals of Southern Africa - Stuart & Stuart
- Newmans Birds of Southern Africa - Ken Newman
- Safari Companion - a guide to watching African mammals - R. Estes



Weather Guidelines

Namibia is a year-round destination, but climate and temperatures vary throughout the year according to the different seasons which, by and large, are characterized by a dry and wet season.

Dry Season - (May to October)

May

Rains have ceased and the landscapes are lovely and green. Daytime temperatures are moderate 24-28°C (75-82°F). Evenings and nights are mild - at most times pleasant, but cool.

June

Coming into winter, the temperatures start falling with cold evenings and nights. Temperatures can drop to 10°C (50°F) and in the southern desert areas it can get very cold. During the day, temperatures are still pleasant between 20-24°C (68-75°F).

July and August

Usually the coldest of the winter months. Average temperatures during the day are above 20°C (70°F), but at night these drop to around 7°C (45°F) and can fall below freezing in the southern desert areas and more northern regions of the country.

September and October

From September, daytime temperatures warm up slightly, but it does not get too hot. The morning and evening chill factor lessens and skies are clear. During October, the country is very dry as the last rains fell in April. It starts to get warmer during the days and evenings. Daytime temperatures can during this period get quite hot.

Wet Season - (November to April)

November

It starts to really warm up heading towards the peak summer months. It can get very hot throughout Namibia during November, but humidity is still low. Daytime temperatures can rise to 30°C (86°F), but these can be a lot higher in the southern desert areas and far north of Namibia. Clouds can often be seen in the afternoons, but rain is uncommon.

December

A hot month overall with the first rains starting to fall throughout the country. After the rain, it cools considerably making for pleasant temperatures. Rains are usually in short bursts and don't last very long.

January and February

The hottest of the summer months. It can get extremely hot and humid with temperatures averaging around 30-35°C (86-95°F), but often reaching peaks of 40°C (104°F) in the southern and more northern areas of the country. Downpours are common in the afternoons, but these generally don't occur daily.

March and April

Rainfall is less throughout March and has usually stopped completely by the end of April. Daytime temperatures are cooler now and the nights start to get cooler. Most days will see temperatures of around 25-30°C (77-86°F).

Temperatures and Rainfall

Temperature (average lows & highs)

WDH = Windhoek SWP = Swakopmund

		Wet Season				Dry Season						Wet Season	
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WDH	°C	17/30	17/29	15/27	13/25	9/22	7/20	7/20	8/23	8/23	12/26	14/29	16/29
	°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

		Wet Season				Dry Season						Wet Season	
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
SWP	°C	12/22	14/23	12/23	9/22	8/22	8/22	7/21	6/19	6/19	7/19	8/19	10/21
	°F	54/72	57/73	54/73	48/72	46/72	46/72	45/70	43/66	45/66	46/66	50/70	52/72

Rainfall (average lows & highs)

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		Wet Season				Dry Season						Wet Season	
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		mm	43	53	56	28	5	3	3	3	10	23	26
WDH	inches	1.7	2.1	2.2	1.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.9	3.7

		Wet Season				Dry Season						Wet Season	
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		mm	2	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
SWP	inches	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0