

Good to know



before traveling to Namibia





### **Entry/Exit requirements**

Please be aware that the below is based on current information sourced from the relevant parties and is, therefore, subject to change without prior notice. Serving as a guideline, these are our recommendations only. All travel requirements (any applicable visas, costs and/or relevant certified documentation) remain the responsibility of the traveler, to be verified directly with the applicable visa and immigration authorities, consulates, embassies, etc.. It is important that you verify with your travel agent and/or relevant Consulate concerning visa entry requirements and, if extending your journey to other countries, visa entry requirements for those countries need to be established as well.

Tourists visiting Namibia for less than 90 days can obtain visas at the port of entry while those coming for work or study must obtain a permit prior to entering. Passports must be valid for at least six months beyond the date of departure from Namibia. Travelers may need to present their yellow WHO vaccination record or other proof of inoculation.

Kindly ensure that you have all necessary visas prior to departure from your home country (unless these can be obtained on arrival) as Jacana Safaris and Tours, its staff, agents and operators cannot be held liable should entry be denied.

If you are travelling with children aged under 18 years, most African countries require the minor's original unabridged (full) birth certificate in English, as well as the minor's passport. A certified copy of the minor's unabridged birth certificate could also be accepted depending on the country visiting.

Please note that there are extra requirements if the minor is traveling with only one parent (or neither of their parents). Please ensure you travel with these documents, as you will be denied entry without them.

### **Crime**

The most common crimes are property-motivated crimes of opportunity, including pick-pocketing, purse snatching, vehicle theft, and vehicle break-ins. Such crimes most commonly occur in the central business districts of cities, or other areas frequently visited by foreign tourists, but visitors who employ common-sense preventive measures normally enjoy an incident-free stay.

Basic precautions remain the best deterrents against becoming a victim. Be alert to your surroundings, avoid dark or isolated areas, don't leave valuables in parked cars, and keep car doors locked and windows up while driving. Safeguard purses, wallets, and cellular phones while in public. Drivers should also exercise caution at rest stops between towns; whenever possible, avoid driving or making rest stops by the road at night.

Take special care when utilizing a taxi or other transportation service. Criminals posing as taxi drivers have occasionally robbed passengers in the past. The Namibia Bus and Taxi Association (NABTA) has taken steps to regulate taxi drivers by allocating registration numbers (one alphabetical designation followed by a 2 digit number), which are prominently pasted on the doors and rear windscreens of legitimate taxis.

### **Safety and security**

Travel should avoid street demonstrations; however, such events are rare in Namibia. Travelers are urged to check the consular section embassy in Windhoek for the latest safety and security information and they must stay up to date about current travel warnings and possible restrictions. There is nobody better at protecting you than yourself. Take some time before travel to improve your personal security—things are not the same everywhere as they are in your home country.

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### **ATM, Credit Cards & Cash money**

In most areas in Namibia you can pay with a credit card. However it is advisable to always carry some cash with you, in case the ATM or swiping machine doesn't function. It is your own decision how much cash money you are carrying with you.

ATM users should be suspicious of any unknown person approaching while at an ATM, even if that person appears to be offering assistance. Perpetrators may also use card-reading or card-trapping devices attached to ATMs to procure PIN codes or other important personal information. Carefully inspect an ATM before using it and try whenever possible to use ATMs which are enclosed and/or under guard.

If you use a credit card at a shop it is best to observe the transaction closely as it is processed, and to ensure that the card is not taken out of your sight.

### **Travel insurance**

It is a condition of booking with Jacana Safaris and Tours that you have the correct comprehensive travel insurance to cover yourself, as well as any dependants/traveling companions for the duration of your trip to Namibia. This is the sole responsibility of the traveler.

This travel insurance should include cover in respect of, but not limited to, the following eventualities:

- Emergency evacuation expenses,
- Medical expenses,
- Repatriation expenses,
- Cancellation or curtailment of trip,
- Damage/theft/loss of personal luggage, money and/or goods.

We recommend that you familiarize yourself with your travel insurers benefits, limitations and exclusions prior to purchasing a policy – as well as understand the processes regarding claiming from their policy.

Some travel insurance policies are not recognized by private hospitals. We recommend that you check with your travel insurer to see if their product is accepted before you travel and seek alternative coverage where necessary.

It is vital that you have adequate travel insurance and accessible funds to cover the cost of any medical treatment or assistance abroad. Even with fully comprehensive travel insurance, some private hospitals may insist on a deposit (cash or credit card) before starting treatment. Or may insist you pay up front, reclaiming from your insurer at a later date.

### **Medical facilities**

Windhoek has private medical hospitals and clinics that can provide emergency care and routine procedures. Doctors, specialists, and dentists have facilities and training comparable to visitor's standards. Medical facilities outside the capital vary, with larger towns having well-equipped facilities similar to Windhoek, and smaller towns having less. Malaria is prevalent only in the north of the country, and prophylaxis is suggested for travel to the north but not required in Windhoek.

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### **Medical Considerations**

Depending on your travel destination, vaccinations and antimalarial medications may be necessary. We recommend consulting your local doctor or travel clinic prior to your travel to Namibia. They have the most current information and can offer guidance tailored to your medical history. We strongly recommend that you notify Jacana Safaris and Tours of any medical condition of concern that you may have prior to your arrival. This includes any allergies such as food or bees and/or other food intolerances such as lactose or gluten. You are required to bring sufficient medication to manage your medical condition or allergy along with you. And we recommend that you bring a basic first aid supplies with you.

### **Vaccinations**

To ensure your well-being, we recommend you acquire an “international certification of vaccination” or commonly known as the “yellow book”, which is issued by any travel clinic and is approved by the World Health Organization (WHO) [www.who.int/](http://www.who.int/). This booklet is not only for Yellow Fever but serves as a record for other vaccines such as cholera, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, rabies, typhoid and tetanus. The Centre for Disease Control advises that you should be up to date on routine vaccinations while travelling to any destination and that some vaccines may be required for specific destinations. You can search the most up-to-date recommended and prescribed vaccines per country on the CDC website: [wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/) enquire at your local travel clinic well in advance to your trip.

### **Respect the nature**

Travelers should not leave the official roads. Camping outside of assigned camping areas is prohibited by law and will be prosecuted. Namibia's natural beauty is fragile, so practice responsible tourism. Respect wildlife, follow designated trails, and avoid littering. Help preserve the environment for future generations to enjoy.

### **SIM card**

You can get a mtc prepaid SIM card at the Airport (or at any mtc shop). Get some credit (e.g. 50N\$). Check on [MTC Website](#) for the prepaid flat rate that suits you or ask one of the consultants at the shop. You can buy more credit at any petrol station, mtc shop or from street vendors.

### **Network & WIFI**

While most Lodges/Camps/Hotels have free WIFI Namibia has a very good network coverage in most areas of the country. However especially remote areas might not have any network reception at all. We encourage you to disconnect to connect.

If you get a SIM card you can easily use the online navigation on your phone (e.g. Google Maps). It is not necessary to rent or bring a (GPS) navigation system.

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### **Traffic Safety**

The information below concerning Namibia is provided for general reference only, and may not be totally accurate in a particular location or circumstance.

It is mandatory to have a valid driver's license with you at all times during driving. If you do not have a Namibian license you need to have your foreign license in addition to an international driver's license.

In Namibia, driving is done on the left-hand side of the road. Many of Namibia's rural roads are gravel. Although these roads are generally well maintained, controlling a vehicle on gravel is significantly more difficult than on pavement. Drivers should not drive in excess of 80km per hour (45 mph) on gravel roads, should reduce speed significantly for curves or turns and should heed all warning signs. Hitting a sand patch or driving around a curve too fast can easily result in a rollover or spinout. Visitors are reminded that motor vehicle accidents – often, single car accidents – are one of the primary causes of injury and death in Namibia, and drivers are therefore strongly urged to drive with caution.

For those driving outside the capital, distances between cities can be considerable, and often gasoline is only available at a few service stations along a route. Fuel availability can be affected by power outages as well. All travelers are encouraged to plan their route to ensure a sufficient supply of fuel. It is necessary to fill up the car even the tank is for example still half full but the distance to the next destination is still long. Travelers are recommended to bring five liters of water per person when traveling on dirt roads to guard against dehydration if an accident should occur.

Turning at a red traffic light is not permitted in Namibia. Seat belts are required for all vehicle occupants. Motorcyclists are required by law to wear protective helmets. While child car seats are not required, they are recommended.

Roads in Namibia are generally well maintained. However, few have shoulders or "pull-off" lanes for broken down vehicles. Wildlife wandering on roads is a special driving hazard in Namibia, especially at night. An encounter at high speeds with antelope or cattle can be fatal.

The salt-surfaced roads at the coast can also be deceptively dangerous, especially when they have been made slick by morning or evening mist. Robberies have occurred at roadside "rest stops," so motorists are advised to take rest breaks in towns and/or at gasoline stations. The Embassy Windhoek has a policy against driving after dark outside Windhoek. This is due to the dangers of other vehicles, gravel roads, intermittent flooding, crime, and animals on the main highways. Roadside assistance and emergency medical services outside Windhoek may be unreliable or non-existent. Assistance on main roads that link Namibia's larger towns, however, is generally good due to high quality cell phone networks. Emergency services contact numbers vary from town to town. The Namibian telephone directory has a list of emergency contact numbers at the beginning of each town listing. Telephone numbers may change, and 24-hour availability of these numbers is not guaranteed.

It is common to pass by so called 'Road-Blocks' of the Namibian Police. The officers may stop and ask you to present your driver's license and even open the boot of your car to inspect it.

Flashing of high beams and similar signals could mean anything from a friendly greeting to a warning. It is the driver's obligation to inform him- or herself about the Namibian traffic rules in general and to adhere to the signed Terms and Conditions for the car rental with Jacana Safaris and Tours.

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## Weather

Mostly, Namibia has a subtropical desert climate characterized by great differences in day and nighttime temperatures, low rainfall and overall low humidity. Namibia experiences winter and summer at opposite times as Europe.

### Dry Season: May to October – Winter

Little to no rainfall and low humidity. Wildlife will gather around waterholes and rivers when other water sources dry up.

- May – end of summer. The rains have stopped, but the scenery is still lovely and green. The nights aren't cold yet, and daytime temperatures are, on average, around 24-28°C.
- June – nights are getting cold and can drop below 10°C. In desert areas, it can be freezing. Daytime temperatures are still pleasant around 20-24°C.
- July & August – average maximum temperature is 21-25°C. Average minimum temperature is around 7°C but can fall to below freezing at night in the deserts and higher areas. Be sure to pack warm clothing for morning game drives.
- September & October – It isn't too hot yet, but the chill in the mornings is becoming less. It is dry, and the skies are clear. During October, the green vegetation is fading, and the heat gradually builds up.

### Wet Season: November to April – Summer

- November – The heat continues to rise, and by November, it is very hot, but the humidity is still low, keeping it quite pleasant. On average, the daytime temperature is above 30°C, but can be a lot higher in the deserts. Clouds are starting to build up in the afternoons.
- December – The first rains usually arrive and with them the temperature drops. The landscape changes after the first rains and everything comes to life.
- January & February – This is midsummer. It tends to be hot and humid with maximum temperatures around 30-35°C, with peaks of over 40°C in the desert. There may be torrential downpours in the afternoon but not every day. Mornings are usually clear.
- March & April – Rainfall will decrease and stops around April. It cools down after the rains and the nights start to get cold again. Average daytime temperatures are around 25-30°C.

## Check-in and check-out times

Times may vary depending on the establishment. Generally speaking, check-in is after 14:00 and check-out is by 10:00. However, this will be reconfirmed once you are in camp/at the lodge. Where possible, camps/lodges and hotels will assist with your requirements, however, if you wish to guarantee an early arrival or a longer stay in your room, we recommend you arrange and pay for this in advance to secure it.

## Namibian law

While you are traveling in Namibia, you are subject to its laws. In some places, you may be taken in for questioning if you don't have your passport with you. In some places, it is illegal to take pictures of certain buildings. In some places, driving under the influence could land you immediately in jail. If you break local laws in Namibia, your passport won't help you avoid arrest or prosecution. Travelers should avoid purchasing diamonds and other protected resources outside of licensed retail establishments. Namibian also prohibits the purchase and exportation of other protected resources (e.g. elephant ivory or hunting trophies from certain endangered species).

Inform yourself about the Namibian law.

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### **Information for victims of crime**

If you or someone you know becomes the victim of a crime, you should contact the local police. Although the investigation and prosecution of the crime are solely the responsibility of local authorities, consular officers can help you to understand the local criminal justice process and to find an attorney if you need.

It is the travelers responsibility to inform him- or herself about local emergency numbers.

Some are as follows:

General emergency number:	112
Headquarters Fire Station:	211 111
Namibian Police:	10 111
State Hospital:	203 9111
City Police Emergency:	302 302 (Toll Free)

### **National Parks**

Ministry of Environment and Tourism Park - Entrance and Usage Fees are:

- non refundable
- not included in the accommodation fees
- paid per person and per vehicle per day

The park gates open at sunrise and close at sunset. Please make sure not to drive in the dark in the park.

Veterinary Cordon Gates

(Anderson Gate, Von Lindquist Gate & Galton Gate - Etosha National Park):

Raw meat is not allowed to cross cordon gates southwards of Etosha National Park and guests should ensure that raw red meat is consumed while in Etosha National Park. No person shall enter a game park or nature reserve with a plastic bag. A person who contravenes this, commits an offense and is liable to a fine not exceeding N\$500 or to imprisonment not exceeding 6 months or to both such fine and such imprisonment.

### **Animal encounters**

Travelers are advised that, even in the most serene settings, animals are wild and can pose a threat to life and safety. For example, baboons are encountered throughout Namibia and commonly scavenge the belongings of travelers. Be advised, that even if a wild animals seems to be calm and friendly, you should keep your distance at all times and never feed or pet them. Travelers are cautioned to observe all local or park regulations and heed all instructions given by tour guides.

In addition, tourists are advised that potentially dangerous areas sometimes lack fences and warning signs, such as hiking trails or cliff sides.

### **Plug and travel adapter**

In Namibia, power plugs and sockets (outlets) of type D and type M are used. The standard voltage is 220 V at a frequency of 50 Hz. You need a power plug travel adapter for sockets type D and M. You can get them at most shops in Namibia or before traveling in an online shop.

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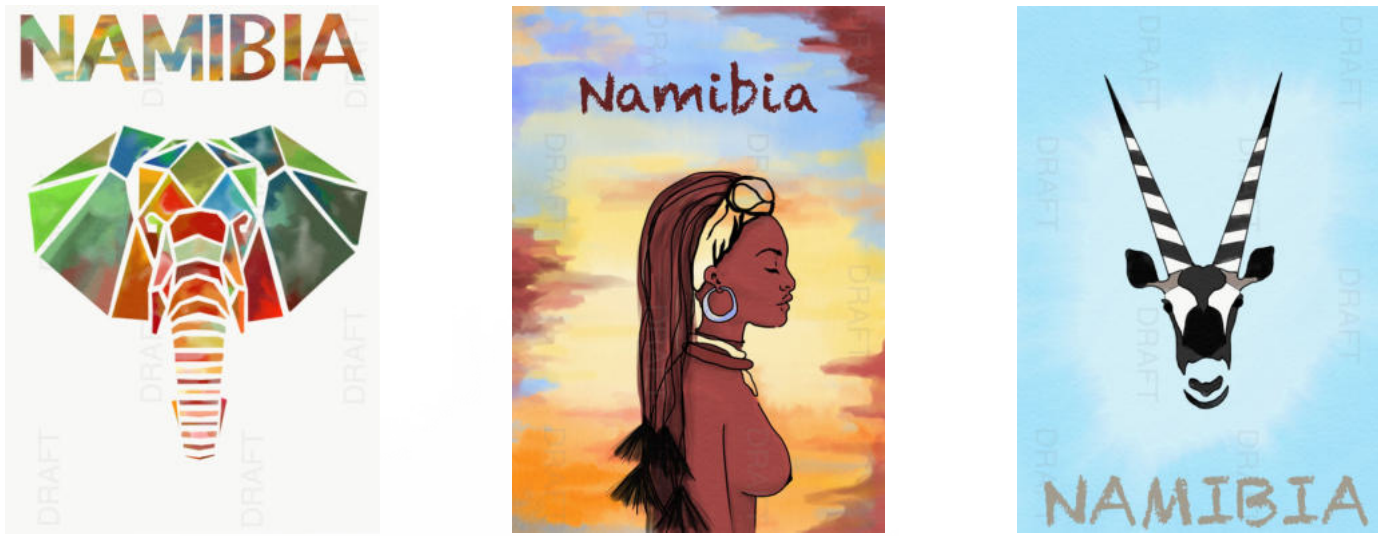
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### Jacana Safaris and Tours Postcards

You can find our postcards at different locations. For example: Hosea Kutako International Airport at 1. Kutako Gallery 2. Golden Sands, The Red Shelf Windhoek, Tsumeb Arts and Craft Centre, NWR Okaukuejo (Etosha National Park) and the Crocodile Farm Otjiwarongo.



and more. Just have a look for the unique design of ours.

### Biltong

For the meat lovers! Biltong is typical for the southern Africa. It's air-dried meat mostly from beef, but you can also find game meat like Ostrich, Kudu, Oryx or Warthog. They are spiced in different ways and you can find it in most common, but also in specialized shops. Just have a look out for the word 'biltong'. Enjoy!

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