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Namibia

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Additional Information

Maximum group size is 14 people, with a minimum of 1 participant. Transport for up to 5 people will be in a minibus and for 6 people and more in a specialized vehicle.

Unless otherwise specified, all safaris will be conducted in English.

Clients are limited to one soft, barrel type bag per person with maximum weight of 15kg, one medium sized hand luggage bag, one medium sized camera bag and a sleeping bag.

We suggest a sleeping bag range of "3 – 4 season". Sleeping bags can be hired by prior arrangement for a cost of N\$150.00 per 7-day trip. When selecting your clothing please be aware that Namibian summer temperatures (December - March) can reach 45°C and winter temperatures (June - September) can be as low as -5°C. The rainy season is between December and April.

All evening meals on camping safaris (unless stipulated) are cooked on an open fire. Salads and fresh vegetables will be served daily where readily available. Fresh fruit will also be supplied when possible.

We cater for vegetarians, but please notify us prior to departure.

Airport transfers and pre-and-post safari accommodation can be arranged on request.

It is customary in Namibia to tip 10% at restaurants. Your guide and assistant can be tipped at your own discretion, but we ask that the guide be tipped separately from your assistant.

Frequently asked questions

What electrical adaptors do I need for Namibia?



Electrical plugs are 220 V and are 3 pin (round-pin as opposed to square pin, the same as in South Africa). Adaptors can be purchased in Windhoek and Wild Dog Safaris also sells these at their offices. It is possible to re-charge batteries at most campsites.

What is limited participation camping?

Limited participation camping is assisted camping with the participation limited to only helping with the tent. No help needed with any food preparation or other camp duties. You can just sit back, relax and let us take care of you.

Is there anywhere to do laundry?

Whilst we hope that your trip will be chore free and totally relaxing, we understand that you may want to wash one or two items of clothing while out on safari!

If you're on one of our scheduled, camping trips there will be laundry facilities (with washing machines) in the bigger towns such as Swakopmund and Windhoek. While out on the road, we recommend that you pack a bar or tube of laundry detergent that you'll be able to use for smaller items of clothing at your campsite. With Namibia's dry climate, items normally dry quite quickly overnight.

If you're staying in lodges on your safari, the majority (but not all) will offer a laundry service. This will depend on the specific lodge / hotel. We suggest checking directly with your lodge or getting in touch with us if you have any specific questions.



Should I tip my guide?

If you feel that your guide or assistant have really gone the extra mile to make your safari a truly memorable experience, then please do feel free to show your gratitude with a tip!

Our tipping guideline for both guides and assistants is approximately N\$20.00 to N\$40.00 per assistant/guide, per client, per day of safari.

Sometimes guests find it easier to work as a group on this and collect two separate amounts in two envelopes. This avoids unnecessary complications for the guide and assistant when they try and decide what their share is!

Please remember that tipping is at your own discretion and the above is just a guideline. Tipping is only if you feel your crew deserve it.

What vehicle will I travel in on safari?

Most of the safaris will use our Toyota Dyna 14 seater vehicles with pop-tops, like the one below. The vehicles have modified seating for more leg room and there are large windows for game viewing, while the pop-tops are great for photographing game.



Dyna



Land Cruiser

Smaller groups may travel in either a minibus, double cab or one of our Land Cruiser (pictured above).

What will my tent be like?

While our safaris are typically camping trips, glamping might be a more appropriate description!

Our tents are dome-shaped with built-in ground-sheets and screened windows and doors. They allow standing headroom and are simple to put up, though your guide will help with this. The mattresses you'll find inside are approximately 5cm thick and covers are supplied, along with all other camping equipment, including chairs with backrests, tables, washstands, cutlery and crockery.

If you wish to sleep in a sleeping bag (which you will do during winter months!), you can hire them from us or bring your own.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, our tents are 100% bug proof, as long as they are securely closed. You will have the same tent for the duration of your trip, and it is up to you to make sure that you do not have any uninvited guests in the middle of the night!

What food will I eat in Namibia?

Namibia offers a wide variety of local and international dishes and you can be assured that your taste-buds will be well looked after on a safari!

While travelling with us on our scheduled tours, typical dishes include tasty stews, spaghetti bolognese, steak, the traditional 'braai' (bbq), fresh salads, sandwiches and hotdogs. Vegetarians will also be catered for with dishes such as Lentil and Couscous Salad, Inca-style stuffed squash, Basmati and wild rice with chickpeas, Vegetable Kebabs with sweet chilli sauce and more ...

You'll be able to visit some of our country's fantastic restaurants before and/or after joining a tour, and some of our trips include an evening meal in Swakopmund, where you will find a great variety of delicious, local seafood such as lobster, cob and Walvis Bay oysters.

Elsewhere, most restaurants offer a good variety on their a la carte menus, ranging from everyday favourites such as hamburgers and pizza, to some of the best steaks in the world. A popular choice for game steak is oryx, kudu or springbok, and all are highly recommended, especially when washed down with a local beer or some of the fantastic wine that's imported from South Africa!



What animals will I see in Namibia?

The amount and type of animals you are likely to see will greatly depend on the region you visit. Etosha National Park is home to 4 of the Big 5 which include the Lion, Leopard, Rhino and Elephant. Buffalo is the only one of the Big 5 that is not present in the Etosha National Park, but can be seen in the Caprivi and Okavango areas of Namibia. Etosha is further home to 144 Mammal species and these include Zebra, Springbok, Oryx, Kudu, Eland, Impalas, White and Black Rhino, Giraffes, Damara Dik Dik, Steenbok, Brown Hyenas, Cheetah, Leopard and Jackals to name just a few. Birdlife in Etosha is also very prolific with a wide variety of endemic and migratory birds. The rest of Namibia you are likely to spot some Oryx, Ostriches, Kudus, some baboons as well as warthogs. And in the Caprivi and Okavango Regions you will be able to spot some crocodiles and hippos as well. Along the coast of Namibia spot some heavy-side dolphins and the cape fur seals as well as a rich marine birdlife.

Do I need a visa to enter Namibia?

Nationals from the countries listed below are not required to obtain Visas to travel to Namibia on holiday for visits shorter than three months:

Angola, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Congo Brazzaville (only Diplomatic/ Official and service Passports), Cuba, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Iceland, India (Diplomatic and Official Passports up to 3 months), Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Luxemburg, Lichtenstein, Maccau (SAR), Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, Moldova, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria (Only Diplomatic and Official Passports), Norway, Portugal, Poland (diplomatic and official passports up to 3 months), Russian Federation, Seychelles, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Turkey (only diplomatic and official passports), Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Ghana (only diplomatic/ official and service passports), Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Only Diplomatic/Official passports, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Visa Requirements: All applicants must submit the following:

Completed Visa Application form; Valid passport with at least 6-month validity from the date of entry and at least 3 or more blank pages; One (1) colour passport photograph; Copy of round trip ticket or itinerary indicating your trip in and out of Namibia.

Applicants must have (a) a return ticket; (b) adequate funds for the duration of their stay in Namibia; (c) proof that they will be supported by a person who is permanent resident of Namibia or is Namibian if such a case applies; (d) letter of invitation or business contacts in Namibia are required for a business visa.

Visitors with tourist visas are not allowed to engage in any employment while in the country. Should they wish to do so, they should apply for an employment permit in their country of residence prior to entry in Namibia.

Health requirements: yellow fever inoculation is a requirement only if the journey to Namibia entails passing through a yellow fever area of Africa by any other means than by a scheduled air service.

VISA FEE (c/o the nearest Namibian Embassy/High Commission) (TO AVOID DELAYS, YOU ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO BRING THE EXACT FEE/AMOUNT TO THE HIGH COMMISSION WHEN LODGING AN APPLICATION).

Note that the processing time for visa applications is 3 Working days. Incomplete forms and requirements may delay the process. Visa Application processions should be submitted c/o the nearest Namibian Embassy/High Commission.

All PASSPORTS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED, COLLECTED AND SIGNED FOR IN PERSON.

Transiting via South Africa. Please note that if you are travelling with children, South Africa requires you to show the full unabridged birth certificate for each child accompanying you. This is also a requirement, even if you are just in transit through South Africa.

PLEASE NOTE: It is the responsibility of clients to ensure that passports, visas or other travel documents are valid for the duration of their stay in Namibia and other areas included in tours, and the company will entertain no complaints related to invalid travel documentation. In the event that a client does not possess the necessary documentation to enter an area or country on the tour, the company reserves the right to request the client to disembark from the tour at the point of entry to such areas or countries. Should such a case ensue, the company will not be liable for providing further travel arrangements. If you are travelling on our 9-day Delta and Vic Falls trip, please check the visa cost for entering Zimbabwe. This is to be paid at the border crossing and they will require US\$. If you have a passport that requires you to obtain a visa to enter Botswana, please make sure this is a multiple entry visa because this trip will enter Botswana more than once.



Do I need travel insurance for my safari?

The short answer is yes; you absolutely need travel insurance. It's compulsory for people travelling on our safaris and we place the onus on our clients to make sure that they are adequately insured. It is also important to realise that should you need to make a claim on your policy (for medical expenses for example), it is most likely that you will personally have to pay any bills up front, at the time the service is provided. You will then have to make a claim against your insurance company when you get home. With this fact in mind we recommend to all our clients that they have enough funds available to cover any unexpected costs.

Usually the best way to do this is to carry a credit card with a sufficient credit limit.

You can also purchase travel insurance via our website. We recommend World Nomads and you can follow the link to travel insurance <https://www.worldnomads.com/>

Can I drink tap water in Namibia?

It's very important to stay hydrated when on safari in Namibia.

Tap water is either purified or comes directly from boreholes and is therefore safe to drink. We supply drinking water from the tap, but bottled mineral water is readily available at shops and rest camps should you prefer it. On the rare occasion that tap water is unsafe to drink, your guide will always advise the group before you arrive in the area.

Do I need malaria tablets in Namibia?

Namibia is a low-risk malarial destination but we recommend that you seek professional medical advice to enable you to make decisions on personal malaria protection.

Generally Northern Namibia, including Etosha National Park is considered to be higher Malaria risk than the Southern Parts of Namibia. Malaria risk is also higher during the rainy months from December till May.

You should use an effective insect repellent on clothing and any exposed skin. Diethyltoluamide (DEET) is safe and the most effective insect repellent and can be sprayed on to clothes. Local Names in Namibia include Peaceful Sleep and Bug Off.

If you sleep outdoors or in an unscreened room, you should use mosquito nets impregnated with an insecticide (such as pyrethroid). The net should be long enough to fall to the floor all round your bed and be tucked under the mattress.

If practical, you should try to cover up bare areas with long-sleeved, loose-fitting clothing, long trousers and socks – if you are outside after sunset – to reduce the risk of mosquitoes biting.

And some local advice would be to drink a Gin and Tonic at Sunset :)

What is the climate of Namibia?

The climate is typically semi-desert with hot days and cool nights. Midsummer temperatures may rise to over 40 degrees Celsius. Winter days are warm, but dawn temperatures may drop to freezing. Along the coast it is cool with low rainfall and fog prevails from late afternoon until mid-morning.

The rainy season lasts from October to April. The rest of the year is dry and cloudless. Namibia averages 300 days of sunshine a year.

When is the best time to visit Namibia?

Every season in Namibia has something special to offer and makes Namibia one of the few year round destinations in the world.

Summer is generally from October to May and during this time you can expect warm and sunny days. Average summer temperatures range from 15 degrees in the mornings and evenings and during the day around 35 Degrees Celsius.

This time is also what we would consider our rainy season. However rain comes in short periods and sometimes with days / months in between the next rainfall. We in Namibia love our rain, and we love this time of the year. After a few good thundershowers, the normally dry and yellow landscape changes into lush green and is a beautiful time of the year to visit Namibia.

Autumn – we have a very short autumn in Namibia and the transition between Summer and Winter is normally not as visible as in Europe. June would be considered our Autumn month, as the temperatures then change to the early 20 Degree Celsius during the day. Some colder days can be expected.

Winter – June to August – During the winter we have lots of sunshine, and morning / evening temperatures can fall well below 10 degree Celsius. The days generally do warm up to around 15 – 22 Degree Celsius, making our winter quite pleasant. However, the nights can get cold for short spells so bring beanies, long johns and a set of warm clothes if you are here between June and end August.



Spring – September is what we consider Spring. This is when the cold is over and although sometimes there is a cold day here or there, it's quite a pleasant month for travelling, as the temperatures rarely go above 30degrees Celcius.

What should I pack for Namibia?

You can expect hot, wet summers and cooler, dry winters in Namibia. Generally the days can be quite hot and the evenings and early mornings can be remarkably cool.

- Comfortable, lightweight clothing for the daytime and a sweater or jacket for early mornings and evenings.
- Comfortable walking shoes and sandals.
- Protection against the sun – sunblock, hat, sunglasses, lip balm and moisturising lotion.
- Flashlight (headlamp), binoculars and a good camera with extra film or memory card.
- For electrical small appliances or chargers a conversion plug to a three-pin type outlet.
- Swimsuit as most lodges and hotels have swimming pools.
- Insect repellent, rehydrating solutions or concentrates, diarrhoea medication, malaria prophylaxis (if traveling in malaria areas), bandages, etc.
- Warm jersey or fleece plus anorak or parka, scarf, gloves and beanies/woollen hats for the cold winter months.
- Headlamp – Especially when going on the camping safaris
- Some flip flops that can be used when showering at Campsites
- Pillow – Although we provide comfortable camping mattresses and sleeping bags at extra costs, we do not provide pillows on our camping safaris. We advise bring along a small travelling pillow to make your sleeping even more comfortable.
- A 2 Litre Water Bottle. – Namibia is quite dry and during the hot summer months we recommend drinking a lot of water to prevent dehydration. Therefore always keep water with you and make sure you stay hydrated.

What is the currency in Namibia?

The currency used in Namibia is The Namibian Dollar (NAD or N\$). It is linked permanently (with a ratio of 1:1) to the South African Rand (ZAR), and South African Rand notes and coins are also legal tender in Namibia. Its not always easy to obtain N\$ before you arrive here but you should be able to get South African Rand easily.

Exchange rates vary so please check for up to date information on the current rate.

To give you an idea of the affordability of the things you might want or need in Namibia, items typically cost as follows... in no particular order, we promise!

- Local beer: Namibia produces some fantastic beer and a bottle will cost you about NAD 15 – NAD 20.00 per beer (340ml)
- Wine: Namibia imports quite a good selection of wines from South Africa and a very drinkable bottle (750ml) will cost around NAD 60 – NAD 150.00
- Soft Drinks: A 500ml bottle of mineral water or branded, fizzy drink (Coca Cola, Pepsi, Fanta) is about NAD 10.00 per drink
- Restaurants: Prices will range according to the type of restaurant you visit, but most starters (entrees) range from about NAD 30 – NAD 70.00. Main courses will be around NAD 90 – NAD 150.00 per dish and desserts will be in the region of NAD 30 – NAD 70.00
- Sunscreen: Namibian sun can be quite harsh at times, so we recommend a good sunscreen, which will cost about NAD 150 -NAD 200.00. It's a small price to pay for eternal beauty!
- Gas/Petrol: Of course, prices fluctuate but as of 2016, fuel will cost around NAD 12.50 per litre

Flights to Namibia

Some international carriers fly into Johannesburg from where there are connecting flights into Windhoek. Airlines that fly direct into Windhoek are Air Namibia; Qatar and KLM, Eurowings, South African Airways

