

DRIVING TIPS FOR NAMIBIA

Speed is the cause of most accidents. Namibia has a good road network and the speed limit in urban areas is 60 km/h and on tarred roads outside of urban areas 120 km/h. On gravel roads outside urban areas the speed limit is 100 km/h, but we strongly recommend not to exceed 80 km/h as gravel roads can be unpredictable. Watch out for drivers overtaking, heavy cross winds and blowing dust. Be on the safe side and slow down! Enjoy Namibia at a relaxed pace, you are on holiday!

Stand-by number: 081 635 7100

Cell phone emergency number: 112 (Can be called from any cell phone)

Safety Precautions:

- *We recommend you always have your spare tyre in good order as blowouts are common on the gravel roads. You can rent additional spare tyres should you wish. Please pre-request these as they are not always available.*
- *Keep vehicle doors locked at all times.*
- *Do not leave luggage or valuables visible in the vehicle.*
- *Remove all belongings from the vehicle overnight and secure them in your hotel.*
- *Never hand keys to hotel personnel or leave them at hotel reception desks.*
- *Please do not allow hotel staff to park your vehicle.*
- *Do not leave your keys in your hotel room; keep the keys on you at all times.*
- *Do not give lifts to strangers or hitchhikers.*

Fuel (Gasoline) and Tyre Pressure:

- *Most fuel filling stations in cities, major towns and along National roads (N routes) are open 24 hours. Those in rural areas are likely to close at 18h00 and re open at 08h00.*
- *Thoroughly check tyres and tyre changing equipment.*
- *Unleaded fuel is available.*
- *Fuel can only be purchased in Namibian Dollars.*
- *Bank credit cards are not accepted at fuel filling stations.*
- *The recommended fuel grade and tyre pressure for your vehicle are specified in one of the following places in your vehicle:*
 - *On a sticker on the inside of the drivers door.*
 - *In the vehicle manual guide, situated in the glove compartment.*
 - *On a sticker on the inside of the fuel cap.*
- *The car takes approximately 60 litres of fuel.*

Driving tips:

- *Please note that the driving directions given to you in your travel documents are only guidelines. Make sure you have an up dated road map of Namibia, as the road numbers sometimes change.*
- *Driving is on the left hand side of the road; over take on the right.*
- *Traffic police use cameras and radar to enforce speed control. Speeding fines are substantial and will be debited to your account.*

- *The legal blood \ alcohol level for drivers is 0.05 (0.05mg alcohol to 100ml blood). Substantial fines and prison sentences are imposed for driving a vehicle while exceeding this limit.*
- *All vehicle occupants are required to wear safety belts at all times. Fines are imposed for non-compliance.*
- *Road signs are similar to the European system. Please refer to the traffic signs given on the inside back cover of the "Useful Information" brochure which you will be given at the time of rental. Respect the road traffic signs at all times, particularly those indicating curves and turns ahead and presence of wild animals on the road. Reduce your speed accordingly. Sometimes there is a considerable distance between sign and curve itself.*
- *Drivers are required by law to carry their drivers license with them at all times while driving*
- *The speed limit is 120 km/h on open roads and 60 km/h in villages / towns. However, it is advisable to drive at a lower speed than 120 km/h on gravel roads because it can be very slippery.*
- *The main cause of accidents on gravel roads is excessive speed. Suggested speed is between 60 and 70km/h.*
- *At times you will travel on a gravel or sand road, called a "pad". They are usually well maintained, but sometimes one encounters heavily corrugated stretches. The unpleasant, 5 to 10 cm deep grooves develop through driving too fast. However, to avoid being thoroughly shaken on these corrugated roads if it is possible try to sit at a speed of around 80km/h so that the wheels won't dip into each groove - the ride will therefore be more comfortable. However, make sure you have total control of the car and that you can take the corners easily. This is where most accidents happen.*
- *Each year the car rental companies in Namibia register numerous accidents, usually the vehicles are rolled over. Inexperienced drivers get too far to the margin of the gravel roads which are usually slightly vaulted in the middle. When the driver then pulls the steering wheel around abruptly, the accident will happen. There is only one way to avoid this - **drive slowly**.*
- *In dusty conditions turn your lights on.*
- *Please keep the recommended tyre pressures in your vehicle.*
- *If you can, please avoid travelling at night. There is plenty of game movement at night, and often they cross roads.*
- *When conditions are wet or rainy, you should take special care of slippery conditions. Also be on the lookout for wash-aways, running and/or stagnant water at drifts and/or causeways.*
- *Always be on the lookout for animals.*
- *Always keep the steering wheel controlled with both hands.*
- *Always make sure your tank is full when you leave a town or city as you may not see a petrol station for some distance.*

Accident and Emergency Procedures

- *If you or the occupants of your vehicle require medical attention, contact Medical Rescue immediately on 061 230 505*
- *There is **no cell phone** signal in most places. You can also dial 112 in other emergencies.*

In the event of an accident, please note the following:

- *Once you have received medical attention, please report the accident to your car hire company who will give you a step-by-step guide to the emergency procedure.*
- *Call African Sojourns on + 27 83 675 6031 or + 27 11 880 5872 or our partners in Namibia, Suricate Tours and Safaris + 264 (0) 81 2738777.*
- *Please do not allow the vehicle to be towed away without consent from the car rental agent.*
- *For quick and easy assistance, please have the following information available:*
 - *The registration of the vehicle (which is also on the key ring)*
 - *The position or location of the vehicle. Where possible, please provide street names and easily visible landmarks.*
 - *Should you feel uncomfortable about divulging personal information in the event of an accident, please note you are not obliged to do so. All you need supply the relevant parties involved is who the rental agency is and your rental agreement number. Only the police and the rental car agency need know personal information.*
- *Complete the accident claim form*
- *Please take note of the following*
- *Remember to make a note of the particulars of any other parties involved in the accident.*
- *If repairs are necessary, please obtain prior authorisation from the rental company.*
- *The accident must be reported to the nearest Police Station within 24 hours.*

Please drive safely and carefully!