

Namibia Travel Guide and General Information

What time is it in Namibia? What is Namibia's currency? How can I make a call to or from Namibia? These are just some of the questions travellers have, when going on holiday to Namibia for the first time. Below we've tried to answer the most frequently asked questions.

Time in Namibia

During the winter months, lasting from the first Sunday in April to the first Sunday in September, Namibia is one hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT+1), and one hour behind the time of its neighbouring countries South Africa and Botswana. During the summer month, from the first Sunday in September to the first Sunday in April, Namibia is two hours in advance of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT+2); Central African Time applies for Namibia in summer. The exception to this is the Caprivi Strip, which is two hours ahead of GMT all year round.

Currency in Namibia

Namibia's currency is the Namibian Dollar (NAD), and this has been interchangeable with South Africa's Rand for many years. Note that South African Rand notes can be used in Namibia at face value. For latest exchange rate with major world currencies, kindly check with your bank or check with www.oanda.com. Most hotels and lodges in Namibia accept US\$ and usually credit cards.

Namibia's International Dialling Code

The International Dialling Code for Namibia is +264; area codes are also used (e.g. (0)61 for Windhoek, or (0)64 for Swakopmund). Calling from Namibia, you dial 00, followed by the relevant country code (e.g. 0044 for the UK, or 001 for the USA).

Food in Namibia

In Namibia, steak and seafood (oysters on the coast!) are particularly good. National specialities include Biltong (air-dried meat), Rauchfleisch(smoked meat), Potjiekos (one pot bush stew), and game meat cooked on a braai (e.g. antelope, zebra or ostrich), although many restaurants serve international cuisine. Local beer (Tafel or Windhoek lager) and South African wine are cheap and excellent.

Driving in Namibia

Distances are great, but the region has some of the finest roads in Africa. Traffic is light; driving is on the left. The main roads are tarmac and the gravel roads in more remote areas are well maintained.

Health in Namibia

Namibia is generally a healthy country to visit. Several vaccines are sensible (typhoid, polio and tetanus), though none is required. Malaria is not widespread, but if you are travelling to the north of the country, or from December to March, then take a course of anti-malarial tablets. Always check the latest recommendations with your doctor or travel clinic before you travel.

Language in Namibia

English is the official language, but German, Afrikaans, Oshiwambo and many tribal languages (including Kwangali, Lozi, Nama and Tswana) are also spoken. About half of all Namibians speak Oshiwambo as a first language; most of the white population speaks German or Afrikaans as a first language.

Visas for Namibia

Travellers with US and British passports, staying less than 90 days, do not currently need a visa when travelling to Namibia – but check with the Namibia High Commission for the latest info.

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