



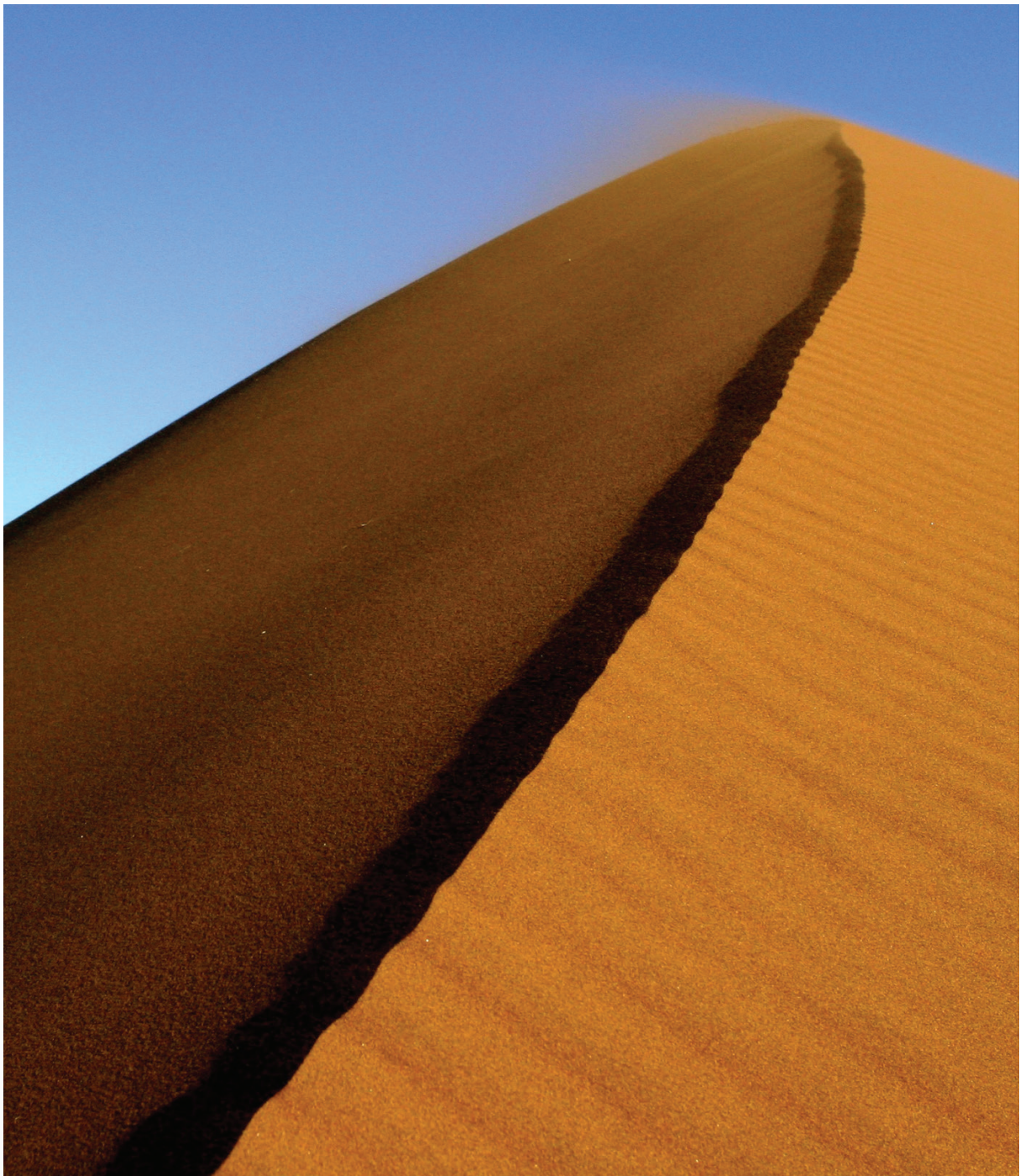
NAMIBIA

Safari Basics Guide for
Namibia, Southern Africa



INTRODUCTION

Namibia is a land of contrasts. From the highest sand dunes in the world to the deepest canyon in Africa and all that is on offer in between makes Namibia one of the most spectacular countries in the world. Home to two great deserts, the Namib with its red sand dunes, runs along the Atlantic seaboard, and the Kalahari, in the interior with its sparsely vegetated savannah that sprawls across the borders. These contrasts, changing colours, endless blue skies, shifting sands and starry nights make Namibia a photographers dream holiday. Visit desert elephants, explore the ghost town of Kolmanskop, learn about the local cultures and absorb the silence of the oldest driest desert in the world. Namibia is truly a country where you can recharge body and soul.



GETTING TO THE START POINT OF A SAFARI IN NAMIBIA

By Air

There are daily flights to Windhoek from Frankfurt in Germany, Johannesburg and Cape Town in South Africa, Maun in Botswana and Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. There are many air charter companies that fly all over the country linking the different areas.

By Road

Namibia has a great road network, although in some areas a 4x4 is required. There are border crossings from South Africa, Botswana, Zambia and Angola. Driving is not recommended at night, there is a lot of wildlife that roams free.

PLANNING YOUR NAMIBIA SAFARI

When planning your safari, there are a few points to take into consideration:

- When would you like to go on safari and for how long?
- What is your budget?
- What is your style of accommodation?
- Which camp/lodge should you choose?

When should I go?

Namibia has sunshine almost every day! The climate has subtropical to semi-arid to arid areas. Summer months are from September to April. Generally this is a summer rainfall area from October to February. It rains so seldom that the locals often consider an over cast day with rain to be a “fine” day! January and February are the hottest months of the year, where temperatures in the heart of the Namib can exceed 40°C. For travellers seeking a real wildlife experience, the winter months of April and June are the best time to visit, as the bush will be sparser and the dry weather has animals flocking to waterholes.

The Coast

Temperatures are cooler and days often foggy. The Namibian beach is not a tropical beach destination! The cold Atlantic Ocean meeting the hot Namib Desert creates the foggy conditions which keeps temperatures from rising above 20°C. The cold Benguela Current keeps the coast cool and free of rain most of the year.

The Interior

During winter in the mid to south of Namibia, the night temperatures can drop below freezing. The days are still lovely. Summer days are very hot, and the nights warm.



What is my budget and style of accommodation?

This is probably the most important aspect to consider, and certainly assists us in planning a safari for you. Namibia offers all types of accommodation from cost conscious to luxurious. There are remote camps that offers a range of accommodation. In the towns there is a bigger range of budget accommodation. Right - remember that this will include your meals and activities like game drives or canoe trips.

Which area should I choose?

Various factors can play a role when choosing areas and camps for your safari. Your budget, your choice of activities and the areas you would like to visit will most probably determine your choice of camps. If game watching is your top priority choose a camp where your game drives are led by professional game rangers and trackers in open 4x4 landrovers, and where you have the opportunity of getting really close to big game. Most camps have local knowledgeable guides who take guests to see the best sights and the best times of the day.

When are the highest prices?

High Season - June to October

Low Season - January to May

Do I need a visa?

Most travellers do not need a visa to visit Namibia on holiday. Some passport holders do so we recommend contacting your nearest Namibian Embassy for the latest information. Your passport needs to be valid for 6 months after you get home and have 2 consecutive blank pages.

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR SAFARI.

Namibia is a large country and to really see the best that is on offer we suggest at least 6 nights. By combining the splendour and contrast of the Sossusvlei region, with desert elephant tracking in Damaraland and the wildlife haven of the Etosha Pan National Park makes a wonderful safari.



NAMIBIA FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is Namibia a family destination?

Absolutely! There are activities for the whole family. Climbing the highest dunes in the world in Sossusvlei, riding camels in Swakopmund and learning to track with a local guide made a holiday to Namibia exciting for the kids! Children are welcome in many of the lodges and camps in the country.

What Languages are spoken in Namibia?

The official language is English. There are numerous African languages and dialects which fall into two main groups, namely Bantu and Khoisan. German and Afrikaans are also spoken across the country.

Can I shop in Namibia?

In Windhoek there are malls with well-known brands. There is a local craft market in Windhoek that sells wood carvings, Herero Dolls and karoos rugs, hand-carved wooden objects, leather products, the popular woven Karakul carpets and Nakara garments, and beautifully fashioned jewelry incorporating Namibia's wealth of precious and semi precious stones. In rural areas local communities have handmade crafts on sale.

Can I use my mobile / cell phone and what is the internet like in Namibia?

There is a good mobile / cell network in Namibia and coverage in most areas. Internet cafes are available in all cities and many lodges have WIFI.

Can I drink the water?

Tap water is safe to drink in the big towns. All hotels and lodges will provide clean safe drinking water.

What is the local currency and can I use my credit card?

The Namibian Dollar is the local currency, it is tied to the South African Rand 1:1. You can spend South African Rands in Namibia. Mastercard and Visa are the only credit cards that accepted around the country. ATM's are found in all cities. Some camps around the country will accept cash in the US Dollar, Euro and Pound sterling.

What plugs do I need in Namibia?

Namibia uses the Type D plug. This is a 3 prong round pinned plug, the same that is used in South Africa. If you are including other countries on your journey we suggest a multi adaptor. We also suggest spare sets of batteries for your equipment like cameras.

Are there special health requirements and vaccines for a trip to Namibia?

There are no mandatory vaccines unless you are coming from a country where Yellow Fever is endemic. Make sure your usual vaccines are up to date and check with your local travel clinic for the most up to date information.

Malaria is prevalent in Namibia.

Malaria is prevalent only in the north third of the country during the summer rainfall months. Expert opinion differs regarding the best approach to malaria prophylaxis. It is important to bear in mind that malaria may be contracted despite chemoprophylaxis, especially in areas where chloroquine resistance has been reported. Both chloroquine-resistant and normal strains of malaria are prevalent in Africa.

Please remember that the best precaution is the preventative kind:

- Avoid being bitten by using mosquito repellents liberally.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and trousers/slacks in the evenings.
- Please use the mosquito net over your bed where supplied/available.
- If staying in a bungalow or tent, spray with a suitable insecticide to kill any mosquitoes that may have flown into the room.
- Mosquito coils are also effective.

Malaria is transmitted by a very small percentage of female Anopheles mosquitoes. They are mainly active in the early evening and throughout the night. Malaria transmission is at its highest during the warmer and wetter months of November through to April. From May through to October the risks of acquiring malaria are reduced. There is also less prevalence in remote areas where our camps are situated; nonetheless, you need to consider taking preventative measures. There is a six to seven day minimum incubation period before symptoms present themselves. If you become ill on your return, while still on prophylaxis or even once you have stopped taking them, ensure that your doctor does everything to establish that your illness is not malaria. Malaria can be prevented if you are sensible and take basic precautions. It is inadvisable for pregnant woman to visit malaria areas as malaria infection during pregnancy can be detrimental to mother and child.

Is it safe to travel in Namibia?

As when travelling anywhere in the world you must be aware of your surroundings and not carry your valuables in plain view. If you are in your own vehicle you should not drive at night, this is because livestock and wild buck roam and you can't see them! National Parks are generally safe, you should watch out for the monkeys! Namibia is a generally safe country.

Time Zone

Namibia operates on daylight saving time as follows -

Summer: From the first Sunday in September to the first Sunday in April -
Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) + 2 hours.

Winter: From the first Sunday in April to the first Sunday in September -
Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) + 1 hour.



Gratuity/tipping

Tipping is not compulsory, however, is naturally appreciated in a country where the locals struggle to make ends meet. Tipping is at the discretion of guests and can be made in US\$.

Camp, Game Lodge and Specialist Guides and trackers:

We recommend US\$10 per guest per day.

The General Safari Camp / Lodge Staff / Portage:

We recommend about US\$5 per guest per day for safari camps. This should be placed in the communal tipping box to be distributed equally amongst all the staff

Transfer and Touring Driver/guides

Transfer US\$2 per person

Half day tour US\$5 per person

Full day tour US\$10 per person

What kind of insurance do I need?

It is a condition of booking that the sole responsibility lies with the guest to ensure that they carry the correct comprehensive travel and medical insurance to cover themselves, as well as any dependants/ travelling companions for the duration of their trip to Southern Africa. This insurance should include coverage in respect of, but not limited to, the following eventualities: cancellation or curtailment of the trip to Africa, emergency evacuation expenses, medical expenses, repatriation expenses, and damage/theft/loss of personal baggage, money and goods.

Responsible Travel in Namibia

- Travelling to a new exciting destination allows you to learn and experience new cultures. As such, one should always be considerate of the culture, religion, traditions and customs of the local Namibians.
- Markets are fun and the bargaining is fun! Always smile and keep calm! Be reasonable and remember the seller is just trying to make a living.
- Support local artisans and shop locally! This helps keep traditional crafts alive.
- Refrain from supporting business that abuse endangered animals, this includes ivory products.
- Ask permission before photographing locals, including the children.



RESPECTING WILDLIFE & SAFETY WHILE ON SAFARI

- The wild animals are not like those found in theme parks - they aren't tame.
- Most of the safari camps are unfenced and dangerous animals can (and do!) wander through the camps. Many of the animals and reptiles you will see are potentially dangerous. Attacks by wild animals are rare, however, there are no guarantees that such incidents will not occur. None of the Sun Safaris staff, members, associates, or their suppliers can be held liable for any injuries caused during an incident involving the behaviour of wild animals.
- Please listen to the camp staff and guides. The safety precautions need to be taken seriously, and strictly adhered to.
- Don't go wandering off on your own without a guide - even to your rooms.
- After retiring to your rooms at night, don't leave them.
- Observe animals silently and with a minimum of disturbance to their natural activities. Loud talking on game drives can frighten the animals away.
- Never attempt to attract an animal's attention. Don't imitate animal sounds, clap your hands, pound the vehicle or throw objects.
- Please respect your driver-guide's judgment about proximity to lions, cheetahs and leopards.
- Don't insist that he take the vehicle closer so you can get a better photograph. A vehicle driven too close can hinder a hunt or cause animals to abandon a hard-earned meal.
- Litter tossed on the ground can choke or poison animals and is unsightly.
- Never attempt to feed or approach any wild animal on foot. This is especially important near lodges or in campsites where animals may have become accustomed to human visitors.
- Refrain from smoking on game drives. The dry African bush ignites very easily, and a flash fire can kill animals.

SUGGESTED LUGGAGE LIST

- Good quality sunglasses - preferably polarized. Tinted fashion glasses are not good in strong light
- Sun hat
- Golf-shirts, T-shirts and long-sleeved cotton shirts
- Shorts/skirts
- Long trousers/slacks
- Track suit
- More formal attire for your stay at prestigious city hotels or on one of the luxury trains.
- Underwear (sports bra recommended on game drives as the roads can be bumpy and uneven) and socks
- Good walking shoes (running/tennis shoes are fine)
- Sandals
- Swimming costume
- Warm winter jersey
- Warm Anorak or Parka and scarf / gloves for the cold winter months (May to September)
- Light rain gear for summer months (late November to April)
- Camera equipment including rechargeable batteries (and the charger!) and extra memory cards. We also suggest 2 cameras if you have a big camera with large lenses, you may also want to take a compact camera for back up. If you are still using film, don't forget to pack extra rolls
- If you wear contact lenses, we recommend that you bring along a pair of glasses in case you get irritation from the dust
- BINOCULARS - ESSENTIAL (Night vision binoculars are not essential but highly recommended if your safari includes night activities)
- Newman's bird book if you are a keen birder
- Personal toiletries (basic amenities supplied by most establishments)
- Malaria tablets (if applicable)
- Moisturizing cream & a strong suntan lotion, of at least factor 50.

Suggested luggage list (continued)

- Insect repellent e.g. Tabard, Rid, Jungle Juice, etc
- Basic medical kit (aspirins, plasters, Immodium, antiseptic cream and Antihistamine cream etc)
- Tissues/"Wet Ones"
- Visas, tickets, passports, money etc
- Waterproof/dustproof bags/cover for your cameras. Please note that bright colours and white are NOT advised whilst on safari. Please remember that there may be a restriction on luggage limits on your safari - please ensure that you have the details from your agent according to your itinerary and ask your agent ahead of time if you would like details on the feasibility and costs of taking excess luggage with you on any of these restricted luggage safaris.



CONTACT DETAILS

Email info@sunsafaris.com
Telephone +27 21 4187258
Telephone +27 21 4187306
Website www.sunsafaris.com/safari/namibia

BOOKING PROCEDURE

On acceptance of a quote we require a 30% deposit to confirm your booking. Payments can be made by Visa, MasterCard Credit or American Express Credit Cards. Other payment methods are via direct deposit/money transfer to our bank account held with ABSA Bank in Cape Town. The balance of payment is due 6 weeks prior to arrival. Upon final payment your final itinerary, contact numbers, air tickets and vouchers will be issued. Please see our Terms & Conditions (<http://www.sunsafaris.com/general-information/terms-and-conditions.html>) which apply to all bookings for further details.