

VISITING NAMIBIA

Good to Know: Information for the Visitor

This information is provided by Cheetah Conservation Fund as a guideline for your upcoming visit to the country.

Cheetah Conservation Fund

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Since 1 April 2025, a **VISA** must be obtained to enter Namibia. We recommend applying online before arrival (max. 30 days in advance).

Online Visa on Arrival

Apply at: <https://eservices.mhaiss.gov.na/visaonarrival>

1. Log onto the website.
2. Register your email address.
3. Once you receive a confirmation email from MHAISS, proceed.
4. Ensure you have a scanned copy of your passport bio page and a passport photo.
5. Select "VISA Online on Arrival" application.
6. Complete the form and submit your passport scan and photo.
7. You will be notified via email if your VOA is approved.
8. On approval, log back in and make your payment.
9. Download your approved VOA and print it.

| Category | Fee (N\$) |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Adults | 1,600 |
| Children (6–11 years) | 800 |
| Children under 6 | Free |

Documents Required at Entry

- Printed approved VOA (if applied online)
- Proof of onward travel (if required)
- Health / Travel Insurance – coverage for medical expenses
- Details of 1st accommodation / itinerary / invitation
- Proof of financial means for your stay

Manual application at border/airport: An additional N\$400 fee applies. Payment by credit card or cash (Namibian Dollar).

Passport requirements: At least six fully blank pages and validity for at least six months beyond your intended departure date.

Minors Travelling to Namibia

Minors under 18 must possess an **unabridged birth certificate**. Additional requirements:

- **With a non-parent adult:** Affidavit from both parents consenting to travel.
- **With someone other than a parent/guardian:** Copies of parent/guardian passports or IDs, plus contact details.
- **With one parent:** Affidavit from the other parent. If deceased, provide death certificate.
- **Unaccompanied:** Parental affidavit, letter with receiving person's contact and residential details, copy of receiving person's ID/passport, and parental contact details.

IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS

| Service | Number |
|------------------------------|---|
| WINDHOEK | |
| Ambulance Emergency | +264 (61) 21-1111 |
| AEMS | +264 61 300 118 / 963 (national) |
| EMed24 | +264 83 924 / 924 (national) |
| Police | +264 (61) 10111 |
| SWAKOPMUND | |
| Ambulance Emergency | +264 (64) 40-5731 |
| EMed24 | +264 83 924 / 924 (national) |
| Police | +264 (64) 10111 |
| OTHER | |
| Namibia Tracks & Trails (AH) | +264 (0) 81 269 7271 |
| Cheetah Conservation Fund | +264 (0) 81 149 0709 / +264 (0) 81 624 3021 |

BANKING AND CURRENCY

Currency

The currency is the **Namibian Dollar (N\$)**, pegged to the South African Rand (ZAR). Both are accepted throughout the country. The Namibian Dollar is not legal tender in South Africa. Foreign currency and traveller's cheques can be exchanged at any commercial bank.

Credit Cards

International **Visa** and **MasterCard** are generally accepted. American Express is not accepted at most camps. Credit cards may not be accepted at some fuel stations.

Banks

Open Monday–Friday 09:00–15:30 and Saturday 09:00–11:00.

ATM Safety Tips

- Be vigilant when approaching an ATM. If you feel unsafe, return later or use a different machine.
- Never let a stranger assist you. Shield the keypad with your body when entering your PIN.
- If you suspect tampering, walk away and report to the security guard.
- No bank will ever ask for your PIN code.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of foreign currency. Convert to N\$ within 24 hours where possible.
- Settle bills via credit or debit card rather than with foreign currency notes.

Recommended Tipping

| Recipient | Suggested Amount |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Specialist guide | ~N\$100 per guest per day |
| General lodge/camp staff | ~N\$50 per guest per day (communal tip box) |
| Porters | ~N\$20 per suitcase |
| Petrol attendants / car guards | ~N\$5–10 |

Tipping is not compulsory but is appreciated for good service.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

Malaria

Malaria is encountered mainly in **northern Namibia**. Consult your doctor for prophylaxis recommendations. Both chloroquine-resistant and normal strains are present in Africa.

Prevention Tips

- Use mosquito repellent liberally, especially in the evenings.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and trousers in the evenings.
- Use the mosquito net over your bed where supplied.
- Spray rooms with insecticide and use mosquito coils.
- Transmission peaks November–April (warmer, wetter months).
- Incubation is at least 6–7 days. If you fall ill after returning home, ensure your doctor tests for malaria.
- It is inadvisable for pregnant women to visit malarial areas.

Water

Drink at least **2–3 litres of water per day**, especially in warmer months. Tap water is generally safe throughout Namibia. Bottled water is readily available. Tea, coffee, and alcohol act as diuretics and do not count toward hydration.

Dietary Requirements & Medical Conditions

Notify Namibia Tracks & Trails of any dietary requirements or medical conditions (including allergies) prior to arrival.

CLIMATE AND WEATHER

Namibia's climate is typically semi-desert with hot days and cool nights. The country averages about **300 days of sunshine per year**. The rainy season runs from October to April.

| Period | Conditions |
|--------------------|---|
| Jan – Mar | Peak summer; warm days, afternoon showers. Game viewing less ideal after good rains. |
| Apr – May | Mornings cool; limited rainfall. Game viewing improves as pans dry. |
| Jun – Aug | Winter; cold mornings (can drop below 0°C), sunny days. Excellent game viewing. |
| Sep | Spring; warmer days, occasional cool mornings. Excellent game viewing. |
| Oct – Dec | Very warm (35–40°C). Sporadic rains begin; heavier in December. |
| Coast (year-round) | Cool with low rainfall. Fog from late afternoon to mid-morning. Warm clothes advised. |

A 4x4 or vehicle with high ground clearance is recommended. Exercise caution crossing riverbeds during summer as flash floods can occur.

INTERNET AVAILABILITY

Internet is dominated by fibre-to-the-home, LTE, and satellite solutions. Major providers (Paratus, MTC, Telecom Namibia) offer speeds from 10 Mbps to 100+ Mbps. Fibre is expanding in urban areas; wireless/satellite covers remote locations.

GENERAL GUIDANCE

Insurance

Insurance is compulsory for all trips. Please ensure comprehensive coverage including:

- **Health Insurance:** Fully comprehensive medical and accident insurance, including emergency evacuation and repatriation.
- **Cancellation Insurance:** Covers costs if you must cancel close to the departure date.
- **Baggage Insurance:** Airline liability for baggage is limited. Insure expensive camera equipment and always carry valuables as hand luggage.

Loss of Articles

CCF and Namibia Tracks & Trails cannot accept responsibility for misplaced articles. Logistics for returning lost items may not be favourable; any costs will be at your expense. Please keep all belongings with you at all times.

Shopping & Tax

Major centres like Windhoek and Swakopmund offer local products including diamonds, semi-precious stones, curios, leather goods, and woven Swakara garments. Shops are closed Saturday and Sunday afternoons and public holidays.

All goods include **15% VAT**. Visitors can reclaim VAT at Hosea Kutako, Eros, or Walvis Bay airports. A 30% luxury items tax discount applies to jewellery and Swakara garments when purchased with passport and air ticket.

Check-in / Check-out Times

Hotels generally check in at 14:00 and check out at 10:00. Flexibility may be available if not fully booked; otherwise book a day room in advance.

Language

The official language is **English**. German and Afrikaans are also widely spoken. German is common in Swakopmund. Numerous African languages fall into Bantu and Khoisan groups.

PACKING SUGGESTIONS

Check your airline for weight requirements. Suggested items:

- Good quality polarised sunglasses
- Torch / flashlight
- Spare glasses if you wear contact lenses (dust can cause irritation)
- Southern African bird guide (e.g., Newman's or Sasol)
- Personal toiletries (basic amenities supplied by most establishments)
- Malaria tablets (if applicable)
- Antihistamine tablets for allergies
- Anti-nausea tablets for motion sickness
- Moisturising cream and sunscreen (SPF 20+)
- Insect repellent (Tabard, Rid, Jungle Juice, etc.)
- Basic medical kit (painkillers, plasters, Imodium, antiseptic cream, antihistamine cream)
- Tissues / wet wipes
- Visas, tickets, passports, money
- Universal travel adapter (Namibia uses Type M or Type D 3-pin outlets)
- Camera equipment with plenty of memory cards
- Waterproof / dustproof bag or cover for your camera
- **BINOCULARS – ESSENTIAL** – 8x40 or 8x42 recommended for birding and mammal viewing

Lost Luggage

Lost luggage on scheduled flights is beyond the control of CCF, Namibia Tracks & Trails, and the airline. **Pack a small bag with essentials (including life-sustaining medication) as hand luggage.**