



FACTS ABOUT NAMIBIA

Namibia – land of contrasts

Whatever you are looking for, from the hustle and bustle of an African market to the serenity of a remote desert landscape, Namibia has it all.

Situated in the south-west corner of Africa, Namibia is one of the most spectacular countries on the continent. Its total surface area of 824,000 km² makes it twice the size of Germany. Namibia is a land of vast distances, wide open spaces and magnificent unspoilt scenery. Whilst it is home to some of the world's last traditional peoples, Namibia also offers all the advantages of modern telecommunications and excellent infrastructure.

Nature provides an amazing kaleidoscope of colours and 300 days of sunshine per year. All of this makes for ideal conditions for your film or video production. Experience the oldest desert on earth with dunes up to 400 metres high; the immense Fish River Canyon; Etosha National Park with its abundance of African wildlife; an array of ancient mountains and striking rock formations; deserted old settlements and ghost towns; rivers, waterfalls and the vast Atlantic coast.

Namibia's old German buildings retain a distinctive colonial flavour and serve as great backdrops for historical films. This colonial architecture is mainly found in parts of the capital city, Windhoek, as well as the coastal towns of Swakopmund and Lüderitz.

Namibia provides road access to five other fascinating countries: Angola, Zambia and Zimbabwe to the north, Botswana to the west and the Republic of South Africa to the south.

Key Facts

- Surface area: 824,000 km²
- Capital: Windhoek, 240,000 inhabitants (15% of the population)
- Total population: 1.8 million inhabitants
- Population density: 2.2 inhabitants per km²
- Official language: English (Afrikaans is spoken widely in central and southern areas as well as Kavango region)
- 16 languages and dialects
- 13 ethnic groups
- Independence from South Africa: 21st March, 1990
- President: Hifikepunye Pohamba
- Constitutional democracy

Entry Requirements for Production Crews

- A passport valid for at least six months longer than the intended stay
- A temporary work permit from the Ministry of Home Affairs
- A general permission to film from the Film Commission Namibia
- For filming in National Parks, special permission from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism

Please contact us in advance to arrange all your entry requirements.

Flight Connections

- Direct flights from Europe and the USA to Namibia
- Airlines: Air Namibia, Air Berlin, South African Airways, British Airways

Namibia's Hosea Kutako International Airport is situated approximately 60 km from the capital

Oliver Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg is the air travel hub of Africa and is well connected to Windhoek Airport

Customs

- Namibia is part of the South Africa Customs Union (SACU)
- Equipment brought in for temporary use must be accompanied by an ATA Carnet

Vaccination Requirements

- No vaccination requirements when travelling directly from Europe, but polio, tetanus and hepatitis vaccinations should be up-to-date
- Yellow fever vaccination officially required for travellers who have stayed for up to six days in areas where yellow fever is prevalent
- Risk of malaria in northern Namibia all year round, in other areas of the country only a slight risk from November to June
- Please seek advice from a tropical institute or contact your local doctor for current information

Currency and Payment Methods

- Namibia's currency is the Namibia Dollar (NAD), which is linked to and equal in value to the South African Rand (ZAR)
- The South African Rand (ZAR) is legal tender in Namibia
- Most Namibian banks exchange foreign currency and travellers cheques
- International Visa, Master Card, American Express and Diners Club cards are accepted in most shops, restaurants and hotels
- Petrol stations do not accept credit cards, but do accept petrol cards
- A 10% service tip is customary in restaurants

VAT

- Prices for all goods and services include 15% Value Added Tax (VAT)
- Visitors from abroad can claim a partial refund at international airports

Transport

- Traffic in Namibia drives on the left
- A European driving license or an international driving license is required
- Namibia is linked by a network of approximately 5,450 km of tarred roads and 37,000 km of gravel roads

Electricity

- Supply voltage in Namibia is 220/240 Volt AC
- Most sockets are three-pin (15A-plugs), adapters can be purchased
- Generators are often used to provide electricity in rural areas

Communications

- The international dialling code for Namibia is +264
- GSM mobile phones can be used across most parts of Namibia
- Satellite phones are used in remote areas
- Internet connections are slow but there is a variety of internet connection options to choose from, including broadband.

Infrastructure

- There is a wide range of shopping areas and leisure activities in larger towns
- In town centres there is a variety of restaurants serving international and African cuisine
- Supermarkets in main towns are well-stocked with a wide range of food and other goods
- Shops in remote areas offer only a very limited selection of fruit and vegetables
- Sports and outdoor activities such as golf, balloon trips, fishing, swimming, tennis, outdoor bowling, squash, badminton, football and rugby are all available in more developed areas and some tourist centres
- Namibia's bigger hotels offer numerous opportunities for health and relaxation
- Fitness centres are found in larger towns
- Windhoek offers a regular and diverse cultural programme of music concerts, cabaret and theatre

Climate

Namibia mostly has a semi-arid climate

Seasons:

- > summer: November to March
- > winter: May to September
- > rainy season: December to April

Average temperatures:

- > winter: 20-25°C (day) and 3-5°C (night);
- > summer: daytime temperatures can reach up to 35°C and more

Time Zone

Local time is GMT +1 (GMT +2 between the first Sunday in April and the first Sunday in September)

Security

Namibia is considered to be a safe country. However, it is advised not to take unnecessary risks and to take care in town centres, particularly after dark. It is advised not to go out alone at night and not to leave items of value in the car. Most hotels provide good safety in rooms as well as secure parking for vehicles. Car guards wearing bibs operate in many streets and car parks, and a small voluntary payment of about N\$5 is customary for short periods of parking.