

Namibia

Sub Saharan Africa

Facts

Full Country Name: The Republic of Namibia

Area: 824,292 sq. km (318,261 sq miles)

Population: 1.9 million

Capital: Windhoek

People: Owambo, Bantu, Khoisan, Coloureds, Basters, White (5%)

Languages: English (official) although Afrikaans is most widely spoken amongst whites. German and tribal languages also spoken.

Religions: Lutheran (50%), Other Christian (30%), plus native religions.

Currency: Namibia Dollar (NAD)

Government: Republic

Electricity: 220 volts AC, 50Hz. Plugs: round three-pin

Time: GMT + 1 hour (+2 from September to April)

Highlights

Etosha National Park: Search for big cats and desert elephants in one of the best reserves in southern Africa.

The Himba Tribes: Visit the last nomadic tribes people in Namibia and learn about their unique culture.

Fish River Canyon: Explore the world's second biggest river canyon on a multi-day trek.

Sossusvlei: Witness one of nature's most beautiful displays as dawn breaks over the huge sand dunes of Sossusvlei.

Cape Cross: Witness the noisy and extraordinary site of the world's biggest breeding colony of Cape Fur Seals.

Twyfelfontein: Go back in time and see one of the most extensive galleries of rock engravings in the world, now a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The name itself means "place of great arid plains", but Namibia offers much more than you might imagine and is an ideal destination for schools looking for an desert related geography field trip, an adventurous expedition or an eye-opening natural history / wildlife tour.

With the multitude of habitats, wildlife and spectacular scenery on offer in Namibia, it is not hard to see why the country is nearly always voted amongst the top 10 destinations in travellers' polls.

Namibia's often stark landscapes are tempered by a surprising beauty. The towering ochre sand dunes at Sossusvlei, the barren salt pans in the Kalahari, to name but two. Add into the mix some of Africa's best wildlife and you have all the makings of a classic destination.

In the far north west of the country lie the remote and wild areas of the Skeleton Coast, Damarland and Kaokoveld - home to the last nomadic tribe in Namibia, the Himba people.

Nearby Etosha National Park is recognised as one of the best reserves in southern Africa with excellent game viewing on the vast salt pans and plains. Many species are found here including elephant, lion, cheetah and numerous antelope including the rare and diminutive Damara dik-dik.

Contrast Etosha's arid game viewing to that of the Caprivi Strip, a narrow belt of green wetlands in the far north east of the country home to crocodile, hippo and wild dog, and you get some idea of the diversity that Namibia offers.

South of the capital, Windhoek, lies the extraordinary sand dune landscape of Sossusvlei - surely one of Namibia's greatest treasures. Rise before dawn and trek to the top of the highest sand dunes in the world. As dawn breaks, witness the dune colours change from near black to crimson, ochre and orange in a truly magical display of nature.

In the far south, the 300 million year old Fish River Canyon offers remote and awe-inspiring trekking. The trek takes in 86 km of the canyon, usually over 4 or 5 days. The dramatic rock architecture and vivid colours combined with the wilderness location and nights under the stars make this a tough but highly rewarding trek.

In amongst all these highlights are opportunities to visit seal colonies and 300 million year old petrified forests and go dolphin watching, sand-boarding and quad biking. It is also possible to link Namibia with time in South Africa or the Okavango Delta in Botswana. Much will depend on time and budget, but we will take time to fully understand your requirements and establish a programme and itinerary to fit your needs.

One of the best ways to see Namibia is in a purpose built expedition vehicle. All water, supplies and equipment are carried onboard and accommodation is for the most part camping - by far the best way to experience Namibia. Campsites are generally well appointed, but there are also opportunities to wild camp in remote locations with only the dunes, stars and wildlife for company.



Suggested Itineraries

2 week Highlights tour.

Day 1 Depart London.

2 Arrive Windhoek; transfer to game farm.

3 Drive through spectacular Namib-Naukluft Park to Sesriem / Sossusvlei.

4 Explore highest sand dunes in the world; afternoon visit Sesriem Canyon.

5 To the little German town of Swakopmund, via Walvis Bay.

6 Full day in Swakopmund with the option of quad biking, dolphin watching, sand boarding and flight over Skeleton Coast.

7 Along the Skeleton Coast, visiting the seal colony at Cape Cross. Camp wild at Brandberg.

8 Through the desert of Damaraland, visiting petrified forest and rock paintings at Twyfelfontein. Camp by Aba Huab River.

9 To Etosha N.P.

10-12 Three days in Etosha, one of the

best parks in Africa, rich in rare species, plains game and hundreds of varieties of birds. Spend time near both Namutoni and Okaukuejo waterholes.

13 South to Waterberg N.P.

14 To Windhoek; depart.

15 Arrive London.

2 week Trekking itinerary

Day 1 Depart London

2 Arrive Windhoek; transfer to Namib Naukluft Park. Short afternoon walk.

3 Full day walk in the Naukluft mountains.

4 Morning walk; afternoon transfer south along the edge of the desert to Sesriem.

5 Full day walk exploring the dunes of Dead Vlei, Hidden Vlei and Sossusvlei, the highest sand dunes in the world.

6 Transfer to Klein Aus Vista.

7 Full day hike in the Namib Desert.

8 Transfer to Fish River Canyon; the rest of the day is free to relax.

9-12 Four day, 85km hike through the second largest canyon in Africa.

13 Free day.

14 Transfer to Windhoek; depart.

15 Arrive London.

Please note: Fish River Canyon is only open for trekking during the cooler winter months of April to September.

We can tailor-make itineraries, tours and expeditions in Namibia to your exact specifications, allowing for adventure, trekking, wildlife watching, project work and much more.

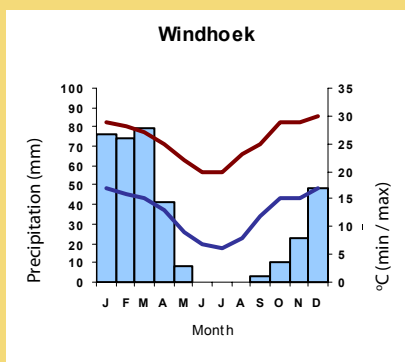
Geography & Climate

Namibia is huge - more than 3 times the size of the UK - and with one of the lowest population densities in the world at just 2.2 inhabitants per sq km.

Namibia's geography can be roughly divided into four areas. In the east lies the western edge of the Kalahari desert, a vast area of semi-desert that supports some plant and animal life, but few people. More centrally, there are high plateaus ranging from around 1,000m high up to 1,700m in height, as well as a mountainous escarpment that runs virtually the length of the country, home to the mighty Fish River Canyon.

In the coastal region lies the Namib desert, a truly desolate wilderness characterised by huge sand dunes in the central areas, with massive gravel fields to the north and south.

Climate wise, Namibia can be visited year round. Having a sub-tropical desert climate, there is generally little rainfall, but be prepared for large fluctuations of temperature between day and night. The dry season runs from April to October, with the main rains coming in December. Although short, the rains bring life dramatically to the desert areas.



costume, make this annual event a must see if you are in the neighbourhood.

Regulations & Red Tape

A full passport, valid for 6 months after your return date, is required for travel to Namibia. British passport holders do not currently need a visa for stays of up to 90 days.

Useful Addresses

High Commission for the Republic of Namibia:

6 Chandos Street, London W1G 9LU

Tel: 0207 636 6244.

Open: Mon-Fri 0900-1700

Namibia Tourism:

Suite 200, Parkway House, Sheen Lane, London SW14 8LS

Tel: 0870 330 9333

Web: www.namibiatourism.com.na

Price Guide

Prices vary enormously depending on the length and style of trip required, as well as the number of participants involved. Prices for an 11 day highlights itinerary start at around £1,800 per person (including international flights). Prices rise to over £3,000 for an extended 4 week expedition.

More Information

To discuss the travel possibilities Namibia offers in greater detail, and to get free, independent advice on suitable tour operators, please contact:

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