



WELCOME

*Your ultimate African DMC partner with
unmatched expertise in Southern Africa*

We are delighted that you have decided to take a self-drive tour through Namibia. To make your driving experience as pleasant as possible, we took some time to prepare some of the most important information for you below.

Travel Directions

If booked, we are also providing detailed descriptions of every stage of your route for you. Furthermore, we are also providing approximate distances and driving times to simplify your daily planning (please note: this is an estimate of driving times and does not include delays for photo stops, toilet stops, lunch stops, or driving slower due to bad road conditions). Since changes on road signs aren't that rare in Namibia and some of them are not recorded on the latest map material, there can be occasional deviations from our route descriptions. If time allows, it would be very kind of you to give us some brief information about such discrepancies, to update our database accordingly.

Please take a few minutes to carefully read the following information regarding driving in Namibia, especially regarding gravel roads.

Please note the following general information on road traffic:

- Please note that there is left-hand traffic in Namibia
- "Right before left" applies in left-hand traffic as well
- As everywhere else in the world: it is compulsory to wear a seat belt, and no phone usage while driving
- Namibia has approx. 5200km of tarred roads and approx. 41,000km of gravel and sand roads

Safety instructions for driving a car in Namibia:

Traffic Lights

Traffic lights in Namibia are often placed double – one where one has to stop and the other one on the opposite side of the intersection. Watch out for pedestrians! They will cross the road at any opportunity, even when the traffic lights are red.

Four-Way-Stops

Most four-way stops have stop signs on all the roads leading onto it. Sometimes there is only a white line drawn across the road which also acts as a stop sign. All cars need to stop at the intersection. Whoever arrives first, drives across the stop first. It is important to keep eye contact with the other drivers and at times a show of hands might be necessary.

Traffic Circle or Roundabout

There are a few rules for traffic circles. One enters the traffic circle in a clockwise direction and the cars already in the roundabout have the right of way. Most of the roundabouts have more than one lane. The right lane depends on which exit one intends to use. Sometimes there are signs indicating the exit and it is advisable to get into the appropriate lane as soon as possible. Whoever wants to exit from the inner lane, must check that there are no cars in the other lanes. As most drivers do not know which lane has the right of way, one should drive carefully and keep a good distance in any roundabout. It is important to indicate well ahead of time before exiting. There are also larger roundabouts with traffic lights.

Speed limits

The following speed limits are applied unless stated otherwise:

- Urban areas: 60 km/h
- Outside of urban areas: 100 km/h
- Freeways: 120 km/h

We advise you to follow these speed limits as there are many speed cameras. Be especially careful on untarred roads (e.g. in game reserves, national parks, and rural areas) to avoid car accidents and damages.

Controls

Speed- and traffic controls take place everywhere, sometimes even in remote regions. There are permanent speed cameras and mobile units. Even if some may say that the police are corrupt, we strongly advise you to not attempt a bribe at a traffic check. You should also keep in mind, that the police are not allowed to cash up on-site, they always have to write out a ticket.

Overtaking

Slow cars tend to drive on the hard shoulder of a road to let faster cars pass by. A short activation of the hazard warning lights functions as a sign to say thank you. The tailgating of a car behind indicates that they want to overtake.

Petrol Stations

Petrol stations are easy to find in cities, along main roads and, even in smaller towns. Many of those are open for 24 hours. Only if you are traveling through remote areas for a longer period, it is advisable to bring along a spare Jerry can. At the petrol station, the vehicle key is given to the petrol attendant, who will fill up the tank for the requested amount. A distinction is made between leaded and unleaded petrol and diesel. Refuelling by yourself is not possible. The attendant will additionally offer to check the water and oil and to clean the windscreens. It is custom to give a few Namibian Dollars as a tip. Cash or card payments are possible, please always keep an eye on your card. It is advisable to always carry cash, in case there are no card facilities at the petrol station in rural areas.

Accidents

Of course, there is always a chance of having an accident. The following procedure is very similar to the one in European countries. First, you should stop and park the car at the roadside. Hit-and-run will be punished with a fine and/or prison sentence. Help wounded people as well as possible and call the



emergency doctor if necessary. In addition, the police should be notified of any damage. If nobody is injured and there is no damage to the vehicles, both parties can agree to continue driving. Exchange contact details to be on the safe side: name, address, telephone number, and registration number. In addition, take notes on the cause of the accident. This includes the traffic situation and weather conditions. Photos can also help if the cause of the accident needs to be reconstructed later. Independent witnesses can be very helpful, so it's best to get their information as well. As soon as the police have arrived, pay close attention to what you're saying. Even supposedly harmless sentences could later be interpreted as an admission of guilt. Avoid statements like "I didn't see the car" or "I will pay for the damage".

Speed bumps

Speed bumps are used on side roads and in residential areas to ensure that moderate speed is maintained. One should not exceed 30 km/h when driving over these. Unfortunately, these are sometimes not sufficiently marked (usually with white stripes), so caution is advised.

Feigned breakdowns and accidents

In deserted areas, trick thieves sometimes try their luck by faking breakdowns or accidents. If you see an accident at the roadside, continue driving slowly and quietly and alert the police.

Fake policemen

Unfortunately, in rare cases, fraudsters impersonate police officers. If you doubt the authenticity of police officers, you have the right to go to the next police station and have them checked there. Alternatively, you can drive to the next bustling petrol station.

Hitchhikers

There are hitchhikers on the roadside now and then and some of them offer NAD 10 or NAD 20 for a ride. For your safety, we advise you to not take any hitchhikers.

Additional safety instructions regarding driving in Namibia on gravel roads:

Not all gravel roads are the same. Please be aware and drive accordingly. Please note the following before you start driving:

- Excessive speed is the main cause of accidents on gravel roads. It is essential to not exceed a speed of approx. 60-80 km/h.
- Traffic signs must be observed in any case, especially when they indicate upcoming curves. Reduce your speed accordingly.
- Switch on your headlights while driving on dusty roads, so that other road users can see you in time.
- When oncoming traffic is approaching, reduce your speed and keep as far to the left as possible.
- Be careful while approaching a hilltop. Often there is a slight bend behind it, which could surprise you.
- Overtaking on gravel roads is dangerous. Give the driver in front of you a signal that indicates your wish to overtake by flashing the light.

- The tyre pressure plays an important role in the road holding of the vehicle and should therefore be checked daily.
- Tyre punctures are not uncommon on gravel roads. Your rental car is equipped with a spare wheel. You will also find petrol stations and/or workshops ("Tyre Repairs") on the road from time to time.
- Avoid driving at night. The visibility conditions are poor and game passes etc. are sometimes recognised too late. Plan your day so that you can reach your accommodation before nightfall.
- Dry riverbed crossings and sinks are further dangerous. These often break off and there are loose stones in the way. Cross these places with appropriate care.
- If it rains and the gravel roads are wet, they are particularly slippery. Please also pay attention to flushed areas and avoid driving through standing or running water.
- Please always drive carefully and reduce the speed immediately after seeing animals. They may try to cross the road.
- A simple rule for skidding:
 - o Skid to the left, steer to the left! Skid to the right, steer to the right. Gently! Take your foot off the accelerator for a moment while you gently control the car and do not brake. Unfortunately, in Namibia, numerous accidents with rental cars happen every year. Cars often overturn when the vehicle comes too close to the "loose edge" of the road, as the driver often tosses the steering wheel around uncontrollably. Vehicles with a high centre of gravity (like most off-road vehicles in Namibia) roll over easily.
- Depending on the time of year and other circumstances, the gravel roads are partly transformed into corrugated iron roads. These waves are quite unpleasant and are formed mainly by driving too fast. The optimal driving speed for these tracks is about 75-80 km/h - except in curves, where you should drive through adapted.

Sunsets (approximate range):

Etosha/Damaraland/Waterberg

October to March ca. 18:45h-19:30h

April to September ca. 17:15h-18:45h

Swakopmund/Sesriem

October to March ca. 19:00h-19:50h

April to September ca. 17:25h-19:00h

Please keep in mind, that the sun sets relatively early in Namibia, even in midsummer. The low position of the sun in the late afternoon (from approx. 17:00h) can impair your vision for oncoming traffic. Please try to avoid long journeys after dark.

Driving in National Parks

The most convenient and secure way to obtain cash in Namibia is through ATMs. Many petrol stations and every town are now equipped with ATMs. For cash withdrawals using debit cards, your card must have the Maestro sign. Visa cards are more widely accepted in Namibia than Mastercard. IMPORTANT: Please note that there are no ATMs in the National Parks. Additionally, it is not allowed to take meat products from the National Parks in Namibia. Any meat products you bring into the parks must be consumed before leaving the park.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS FOR YOUR JOURNEY

AGENCY ON SITE:

Monday - Friday 08:00h-17:00h

Saturday/Sunday, weekdays after 17:00h

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WE WISH YOU A PLEASANT JOURNEY!