

Travel Tips

Electricity

220 volts AC, 50hz. Outlets are of the round three-pin type.

Time Zone

Summer time: GMT + 2 hours from the 1st Sunday in September to the 1st Sunday in April

Winter time: GMT + 1 hour from the 1st Sunday in April to the 1st Sunday in September

Physical Infrastructure

- 5,450km – tarred roads
- 37,000km – gravel roads
- Main harbours: Walvis Bay and Lüderitz
- Rail Network: 2,382 narrow gauge
- 6.2 telephone lines per 100 inhabitants
- Direct dialing facilities to 221 countries
- Mobile communication system: GSM
- Roaming agreements with 40 countries/80 networks

Shopping

Windhoek offers a selection of fashionable shops. Local crafts can be bought in some specialised shops, as well as at the Windhoek Street Market, held every second Saturday.

Good buys include diamonds and semi-precious stones, Herero dolls, hand-carved wooden objects, jewellery, karosse rugs, liqueur and chocolates made in Windhoek and Swakara garments. Shopping hours: Mon-Fri 0900-1700, Sat 0900-1300. Some bigger supermarkets are also open Sun 1100-1300 and 1600-1900. Craft vendors sell their goods every day of the week.

Etiquette

Suits should be worn in winter, safari suits in summer. Prior appointments are necessary. English is widely spoken in business circles. The best times for business are February to May and September to November. Office hours: Mon-Fri 0800-1700

Communication

Mobile telephone roaming agreements exist with most international mobile phone operators. Coverage is limited to urban areas.

Internet

There are Internet cafes situated throughout the country.

Media

Freedom of the press is provided for by the constitution and largely respected by the government. Newspapers are printed Monday to Friday. English-language dailies include The Namibian, The Namibian Economist and New Era; weeklies include the Windhoek Observer. Die Republikein is a daily Afrikaans-language newspaper. Allgemeine Zeitung is published daily in German. The state-owned Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) broadcasts nationwide. One Africa Television is a Windhoek-based private TV station. State-run radio is operated by NBC. Private music stations include Radio Kudu, Radio Wave, Radio Energy and Radio Kosmos, amongst others.

Post

Good postal service. Airmail to Europe takes approximately four days to two weeks. Postal service affiliated with Universal Postal Union.

Travelling by Air

The national airline is Air Namibia (website: www.airnamibia.com.na). British Airways, South African Airways, LTU and TAAG also fly to Namibia.

Airports

- Hosea Kutako International Airport - 40km (25 miles) from Windhoek
- Eros airport
- Katima Mulilo
- Rundu
- Ondangwa
- Walvis Bay
- Lüderitz
- Keetmanshoop

There are over 300 known airfields, of which only 16 are licensed. Travelers are cautioned not to land at unlicensed fields. Aircraft fuel is not usually available at landing strips and landing must be arranged in advance.

Approximate flight times

From London to Windhoek, flying time is 11 hours 15 minutes. From Frankfurt to Windhoek, flying time is 11 hours. Flying time between Windhoek and Johannesburg/Cape Town is approximately 2 hours.

Departure taxes

None.

Travelling by Water

Main ports: There is a modern deep-water harbour at Walvis Bay. There is also a small port at Lüderitz.

Travelling by Rail

TransNamib (website: www.transnamib.com.na) operates a luxury train from Windhoek to the coast and a regular service to Tsumeb in the north, and Upington, just across the border in South Africa. However, there are no onward trains from Upington to other South African destinations.