



Population: 2.6 million



Time Zone: 00:00 | GMT/ UTC +1



Languages: Official: English | 10 indigenous African languages are spoken by 87.8% of the population



Currency: SA Rand | Namibian Dollar



Size: 824,292 km²
Larger than UK & Germany combined
| Twice the size of California



National Bird: African fish eagle
(same as Zambia))



Inbound Airlines: South African Airways | Qatar Airways | Lufthansa Airways | SA Airlink

CLIMATE

Just as Namibia is filled with contrasting geography, equivalent climactic differences do apply depending on your location. Partially covered by the Namib, one of the world's driest deserts, Namibia's climate is generally very dry and pleasant. The cold Benguella current keeps the coast cool, damp and free of rain for most of the year. Inland, all the rain falls in summer (November to April). January and February are hot, when daytime temperatures in the interior can exceed 40°C (104°F). Winter nights can be fairly cold, but days are generally warm and pleasant. Namibia is a year-round destination. Pack accordingly.

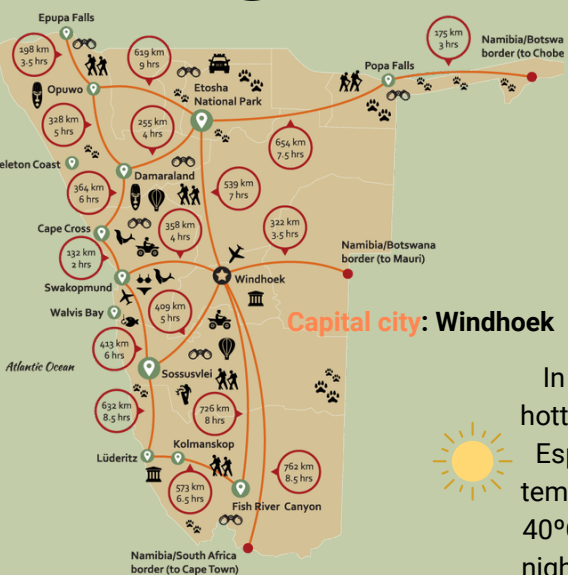


In keeping with the rains, the hottest months are Dec - March. Especially in the desert where temperatures frequently hit over 40°C but nights are cool. Winter nights in desert can hit freezing.

Dry season: April enjoys greener landscapes and fresh air. Becomes increasingly dry until October when the landscape is more scarce but wildlife viewing at it's best.



Namibia receives a fraction of rain experienced by its neighbours. Dec - March is humid with localised, afternoon thunderstorms. More commonly experienced in central & eastern parts of the country. More unusual in the desert.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Namibia Independence Day

21st March | Annual | Throughout Namibia

Numerous banquets and festivals are held in a grand style. Parades and sports events are held in Windhoek

Oshituthi Shomagongo

March - April | Annual | Northern Namibia

A celebration of the marula fruit over 2 - 3 days. The 8 Aawambo communities gather to harvest & make the omagongo. Men carve cups from wood & gourds to drink the beverage. The women make clay pots & weave baskets in which to harvest the fruit.

Windhoek Carnival

April | Annual | Windhoek

Dating back to 1953, the carnival has a great deal of social relevance in Namibia & its celebration is of Germanic origin. In keeping with carnivals held in Germany and reminiscent of the German Oktoberfest. There are street processions, music, dancing and celebration of German food and beer.

Hereos Day

August | Annual | Okahandja

Honouring the memory of deceased chieftains of the Herero people .A rich celebration of culture & history. The festivities are marked by many parades of warriors and peoples dressed in traditional garb commemorating the battles against the Germans & the Khoi-khoi tribe.

Usually held on the Sunday closest to August 23 & lasts for three days.

Gams Art Festival

September | Annual | Windhoek

Celebrating the city's rich cultural diversity with troupes of dancers, musicians, poets and performers as they compete to win the various competitions. The best of Namibian food is also available.

