

# Namibia Directory

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## ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation in Namibia is some of the most well-priced and well-kept in Southern Africa, and covers a huge range of options from hotels, rest camps, campsites, caravan parks, guest farms, backpacker hostels, B&Bs, guesthouses and luxury safari lodges. Most establishments are graded using a star system based on regular inspections carried out by the Hospitality Association of Namibia (HAN).

Hotels with restaurants also get a Y rating: YY means it only has a restaurant licence, while YYY indicates full alcohol licensing. For a full list of accommodation pick up the comprehensive booklets *Southern Africa: Where to Stay, Welcome to Namibia – Tourist Accommodation & Info Guide* and

the *Namibia B&B Guide*, free from the tourist office (see p234). HAN also publishes a map showing the locations of most lodges and guest farms.

Many of the lower-budget and backpacker places do not include breakfast in the price. In B&Bs, guesthouses, farmstays and safari lodges, breakfast is usually included in the cost of the room along with either half-board or full-board options. The former would include breakfast and a set dinner, while the latter also provides lunch (either a set lunch or a buffet-style spread).

In this book, where appropriate, accommodation options are split into budget, midrange and top-end categories for ease of reference. In general, a budget double room is anything under US\$65, although you can pay as little as US\$12 for a dorm bed. Midrange options are priced anywhere from US\$65 to US\$130, and above this you'll be well on your way to all the comforts of home. Many B&Bs are priced between US\$65 and US\$130, and are comfortable and welcoming places to stay.

In major tourist centres like Windhoek and Swakopmund, as well as at the top-notch safari lodges and camps, you'll be paying upwards of N\$1350 a night, and sometimes much, much more. Although most top-end places quote their prices in US dollars, payment can be made in local currency. Note that most places have a separate rate for Namibian residents. Discounted rates for children are rare although a number of lodges do offer special family rooms.

Whilst most budget and midrange options tend to have a standard room price, many top-end places change their prices according to high/low season. High season is from May to

### BOOK ACCOMMODATION ONLINE

For more accommodation reviews and recommendations by Lonely Planet authors, check out the online booking service at [www.lonelyplanet.com](http://www.lonelyplanet.com). You'll find the true, insider lowdown on the best places to stay. Reviews are thorough and independent. Best of all, you can book online.

October, while low season corresponds with the rains (January to April). Where appropriate, we have listed high/low rates for lodges.

If you are booking one of the high-end lodges you will usually have to confirm your booking with a credit card; this is not necessary, however, for the bulk of accommodation.

## B&Bs

Bed & breakfast (B&B) establishments are mushrooming all around the country. As private homes, the standard, atmosphere and welcome tends to vary a great deal. And in some places in Swakopmund and Windhoek, readers have complained of unpleasant racism. On top of this some places don't actually provide breakfast (!), so it pays to ask when booking. Generally speaking, however, B&Bs are a pleasure to frequent, and can be one of the highlights of any trip to Namibia.

For listings, pick up the *Namibia B&B Guide* or contact the **B&B Association of Namibia** ([www.accommodation-association.com](http://www.accommodation-association.com)), which also lists a number of self-catering flats and guest farms.

## Camping

Namibia is campers' heaven, and wherever you go in the country you'll find a campsite nearby. These can vary from a patch of scrubland with basic facilities to well-kitted-out

sites with concrete ablution blocks with hot and cold running water.

In many of the national parks, campsites are administered by the **Namibia Wildlife Resorts** (NWR; [www.nwr.com.na](http://www.nwr.com.na)), and need to be booked beforehand through its offices in Windhoek, Swakopmund and Khorixas. For more details, see p28. These sites are all well maintained, and many of them also offer accommodation in bungalows.

The non-profit organisation **NACOBTA** (Namibia Community Based Tourism Association; ☎ 061-250558; [www.nacobta.com.na](http://www.nacobta.com.na); PO Box 86099, Windhoek) has also established many well-kept and affordable camps throughout the country.

To camp on private land, you'll need to secure permission from the landowner. On communal land – unless you're well away from human habitation – it's a courtesy to make your presence known to the leaders in the nearest community.

Most towns also have caravan parks with bungalows or rondavels (round huts), as well as a pool, restaurant and shop. Prices are normally per site, with a maximum of eight people and two vehicles per site; there's normally an additional charge per vehicle. In addition, a growing number of private rest camps with well-appointed facilities are springing up in rural areas and along major tourist routes.

## PRACTICALITIES

- Namibia uses the metric system for weights and measures.
- Plugs have three round pins; the current is 220/240V, 50Hz. If you don't have the right adaptor, you can always buy a plug locally and connect it yourself. Note that a voltage adaptor is needed for US appliances.
- While Namibia ostensibly enjoys freedom of the press, no Namibian newspaper is known for its coverage of international events, and none takes a controversial stance on political issues. There are a decent number of commercial newspapers, of which the *Namibian* and the *Windhoek Advertiser* are probably the best. The *Windhoek Observer*, published on Saturday, is also good. The two main German-language newspapers are *Allgemeine Zeitung* and *Namibia Nachrichten*.
- The Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) operates a dozen or so radio stations broadcasting on different wavebands in nine languages. The two main stations in Windhoek are Radio Energy (100 FM) and Radio Kudu (103.5 FM); the best pop station is Radio Wave, at 96.7FM in Windhoek.
- The NBC broadcasts government-vetted TV programs in English and Afrikaans. News is broadcast at 10pm nightly. Most top-end hotels and lodges with televisions provide access to satellite-supported DSTV, which broadcasts NBC and a cocktail of cable channels: MNET (a South African-based movie and entertainment package), CNN, ESPN, MTV, BBC World, Sky, Supersport, SABC, SATV, NatGeo, Disney and Discovery, among other channels.