Namibia

Why Go?

Namibia has some of the most stunning landscapes in Africa, and a trip through the country is one of the great road adventures. Natural wonders such as that mighty gash in the earth at Fish River Canyon and the wildlife utopia of Etosha National Park enthral, but it’s the lonely desert roads, where mighty slabs of granite rise out of swirling desert sands, that will sear themselves in your mind. It’s like a coffee-table book come to life as sand dunes in the world’s oldest desert meet the crashing rollers along the wild Atlantic coast.

Among all this is a German legacy, evident in the cuisine and art nouveau–architecture and in festivals such as Windhoek’s legendary Oktoberfest. Namibia is also the headquarters of adventure activities in the region, so whether you’re a dreamer or love hearing the crunch of earth under your boots, travel in Namibia will stay with you long after the desert vistas fade.

When to Go

Windhoek

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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Temp</th>
<th>Rainfall</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>D</td>
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High Season (Jun–Oct) Temperatures soar in September.

Shoulder Season (May & Nov) Heavy rains in November. May is mild.

Low Season (Dec–Apr) Rains begin in earnest in December.

Best Places to Eat

- Leo’s (p227)
- Purple Fig Bistro (p247)
- Raft (p308)
- Anchor @ The Jetty (p307)
- Sam’s Giardino Hotel (p298)

Best Places to Sleep

- Serra Cafema Camp (p284)
- Sossusvlei Desert Lodge (p319)
- Little Kulala (p317)
- Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp (p288)
- Erongo Wilderness Lodge (p236)
- Inchingo Chobe River Lodge (p266)
**Namibia Highlights**

1. **Etosha National Park** (p250)
   Crouching by a waterhole in one of the world’s premier wildlife venues.

2. **Sossusvlei** (p314)
   Watching the sun rise from the top of fiery-coloured dunes.

3. **Fish River Canyon** (p336)
   Hiking through one of Africa’s greatest natural wonders.

4. **Twyfelfontein** (p276)
   Admiring the ancient petroglyphs of the San people.

5. **Kaokoveld** (p280)
   Getting off the beaten track (and the sealed road) in a true African wilderness.

6. **Caprivi Strip** (p261)
   Exploring fabulous wildlife reserves while they’re still quiet.

7. **Waterberg Plateau** (p242)
   Hiking to the top for breathtaking views, while keeping an eye out for rare sable and roan.

8. **Swakopmund** (p289)
   Fulfilling your need for adrenaline at the extreme-sports capital of Namibia.