# Our tips for your trip to Namibia: everything you need to know before leaving

By Floriane

If we had to name one of our **most beautiful journeys**, without hesitation, it would be our trip to Namibia. The country left a deep impression on us. On the other hand, it was one of the trips that **required the most preparation**.

In this article, we've put together our top tips for preparing your **trip to Namibia**: when to go, how to organize your road trip, administrative formalities, and all the practical information you need to leave with peace of mind.

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Sommaire détaillé


- Administrative formalities for worry-free travel in Namibia
  - Internet connection: why choose international eSIM in Namibia?
  - Driving and safety: what you need to know before hitting the road
  - Health and formalities: leaving with peace of mind
- When to go to Namibia? Climate and best period
- How to organize your road trip in Namibia?
  - Should I rent a 4×4?
  - How long will it take?
- Why plan a trip to Namibia?


POURQUOI PAS NOUS - FLORIANE ET MATTHIEU

# Administrative formalities for worry-free travel in Namibia

Even before talking safari or red dunes, there are a few essential points to know when preparing your trip to Namibia.

Let’s start with the less fun but clearly essential part: administrative formalities. In Namibia, you can’t improvise.

## Internet connection: why choose international eSIM in Namibia?

You’d think it would be easy to buy a local SIM card on arrival. It’s possible, but it takes time and sometimes patience. And above all, in a country where you’re on the road very quickly, being connected as soon as you land is a real plus.

### Network problems in some areas

It’s important to be transparent: some regions are very isolated and the network can be limited, particularly in the desert or on certain remote tracks. But in towns and cities, in accommodation and on main roads, the connection works perfectly.

### The advantages of an international eSIM

This is where the international eSIM option comes into its own. It allows :

- Be connected on arrival
- Avoid searching for a local SIM card and wasting time
- Manage data directly from your phone
- A secure connection (which is not always the case with public WI-FI)
- Use GPS, offline maps, reservations and messaging with ease

For an autonomous road trip, it’s very practical and reassuring.

### Ideal for GPS, reservations and emergencies

In Namibia, it has been used extensively for :

- GPS for the slopes
- Offline card applications

- Accommodation confirmations
- Communication in the event of unforeseen circumstances

Having a reliable connection, even if it’s just a one-off, can really make a difference.

## Driving and safety: what you need to know before hitting the road

The best way to explore Namibia is to **rent a 4×4** with a **roof tent**, so you can explore the country completely on your own.

### Left-hand drive

Yes, in Namibia, we drive on the left. The first few minutes take a little getting used to, especially at traffic circles and when changing direction. But to be honest, you soon get the hang of it, especially as traffic flows very smoothly outside the cities.

### Gravel roads

Much of the secondary network is made up of gravel roads. They are generally well maintained, but you should reduce speed and avoid hard braking. A 4×4 is clearly recommended for greater comfort and safety, especially if you’re leaving the main roads.

A little practical advice: always check the condition of your tires and avoid driving too fast, even if the road seems empty.

### Long distances

This is probably the most important point: the distances are enormous. Between two stages, it’s not uncommon to ride for 3 to 5 hours without a real stop. We advise you to fill up as soon as possible, and bring plenty of water and a few snacks. Here, improvisation has its limits.

## Health and formalities: leaving with peace of mind

### Visa

For travelers from France (and many European countries), a tourist visa is required to enter Namibia. It is generally issued on arrival for short stays.

As rules can change, always check the official conditions before departure on the Diplomatie.gouv website.

The passport must be valid for at least 6 months after the date of return, with blank pages.

### Recommended vaccines

No vaccinations are required to enter Namibia (except in special cases if you come from a country at risk of yellow fever). However, universal vaccinations must be up to date. Depending on the area visited and the season, anti-malarial treatment may be recommended, particularly in the north of the country (towards Etosha Park).

An appointment with a doctor or at an international vaccination center a few weeks before departure is still the best option.

**Travel insurance**

Never travel to Namibia without good travel insurance covering :

- Medical expenses
- Repatriation
- Vehicle rental incidents

Given the long distances involved, access to medical care may require evacuation to the capital, Windhoek. It’s best to be well covered. Find all our advice on choosing your travel health insurance.

## When to go to Namibia? Climate and best period

The best time to visit Namibia is from May to October, during the dry season. For our part, we left in August, and it really was an ideal time.

Why?

- More pleasant temperatures
- Animals gather around waterholes (ideal for safaris, Etosha ‘s campsites are all equipped with waterholes).
- Roads are more passable

November to April is the rainy season. The landscapes become greener, but some

trails can be more complicated.

A word of advice: nights can be very cold, especially in the desert. Even in midsummer, we advise you to bring warm clothing.

# How to organize your road trip in Namibia?

Namibia can be discovered almost exclusively by car, and often in 4×4, as the public transport network does not serve all areas.

## Should I rent a 4×4?

Yes, clearly. Many roads are gravel. A conventional vehicle may be sufficient on some routes, but a 4×4 offers greater comfort and safety.

### How long will it take?

For a first trip :

- 10 to 15 days minimum
- 3 weeks if you want to take your time

The distances are long. We avoid driving too many hours a day. See our Namibia road trip itinerary in our dedicated article.

## Why plan a trip to Namibia?

Namibia is one **of Southern Africa's most spectacular countries.** Here, the

landscapes are constantly changing: orange dunes, arid plains, savannahs populated by wild animals, vertiginous canyons.

What we particularly like:

- The **vast, almost empty spaces of** the Namib Desert and the Sossusvlei dunes
- The feeling of **freedom on a road trip**
- The **wildlife** is easily accessible, and we came across numerous zebras, antelopes and even giraffes as we connected two points of interest.
- **The campsites and lodges** are superbly equipped, with each pitch generally having its own barbecue and sometimes even its own water point.

Have a good trip in Namibia ! Don't hesitate to drop us a **line** below, to let us know if you're planning this trip, to ask any questions you may have, here or on Instagram, we'll be delighted to get back to you.

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