



Travel in Namibia: when to go and how to organize your road trip?

By Floriane

Travelling in Namibia is still one of our fondest memories. Aboard our 4×4 rental, we explored its **vast wilderness, incredible wildlife** and **geological wonders**.

We were totally enchanted by this country, and **felt lucky to** discover it every day of our road trip. Our **first experience in a rooftop tent** gave us an immense sense of freedom.

Namibia is a country where it is easy to **travel independently**. To fully enjoy your trip, you will have to **organize** it in advance and book your **accommodations** and your **vehicle** as soon as possible. Many of you have asked us questions on Instagram about the organization of our trip, and we've answered them in this blog post and given you all our tips!

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1. Is Namibia a dangerous country?

When we have a destination in mind, we systematically consult the **Diplomatie.gouv** website.

For Namibia, the **site is reassuring**, since the first lines indicate that it is a **“country with a relatively stable political situation and infrastructure”**.

In **3 weeks of travel**, we **never felt insecure**. I even walked around Windhoek by myself in the middle of the day.

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It's important to bear in mind that you'll be traveling in **remote, sparsely populated** areas, so you'll need to take a few precautions.

1. **The risk of theft**: as everywhere else, you'll need to be vigilant in the major cities, **Windhoek, Swakopmund**... Avoid carrying **valuables, going out at night** and leaving your **vehicle unattended**.

When we went shopping, we always looked for a supermarket with **customer parking**. A security guard usually watches over all customer vehicles, so you can shop with peace of mind!

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2. Transportation risks: you'll quickly realize that **tarmac roads are a rarity**. You will ride mostly on **long dusty tracks**. Most of the trails are in good condition and passable with a conventional vehicle.

We advise you **to avoid driving at night**, as you will have less visibility on the few **holes** on the road and the **wild animals**.

Our **first day**, with the fatigue of the trip, the shopping... we had **miscalculated our travel time**. We preferred to **change campsite for our first night** instead of driving an hour at night.

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3. Wild animal risk : many of the roads and trails are **fenced off** so that animals do not leave the **parks** or **private areas**.

Nevertheless, we came across an **impala** that had managed to escape, which was unfortunately stuck on the track.

We had to walk **at a snail's** pace to avoid hitting him, and signalled his position when we came across some reserve guards.

Driving at night is not recommended. **Wild camping is forbidden** in this country.

2. When to go to Namibia ?

The **seasons are reversed** compared to the northern hemisphere. The year is divided into two seasons, the dry season and the rainy season. It's possible to travel all year round in Namibia, as **each season has its own advantages** for discovering the country.

- **The dry season** From **May to September, the climate is dry and the nights cool**. In the parks, the animals gather at the **few remaining waterholes**, so you'll have more opportunity to see many animals.

We went in **August**, and saw a lot of **animals and birds** for ourselves.

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Daytime temperatures are a pleasant **25-30 degrees Celsius**, while **nights** are cooler, around **10 degrees Celsius**. We rented a second comforter to add as a blanket for the cooler nights.

- **The wet season** From **November to April, temperatures are hot with many storms depending on the region**. You will be able to observe **migratory birds** (pink flamingos...). The vegetation is more important, the parks are flowery and green, but the animals are more difficult to observe!

→ The month of **October**, located between the two seasons, is an ideal month to travel to Namibia, as **temperatures are warm** and **rain is still rare!**

3. Why go to Windhoek, the capital of Namibia?

Windhoek is the capital of Namibia with about **300 thousand** inhabitants. You will certainly spend and stay there for several reasons:

- **Place of arrival and departure of your flight** It is the only international airport in the country!
- **Location of your car rental** All agencies are located near the airport. The recovery time for a 4x4 is longer than for a conventional vehicle, so take a margin.
- **Where to buy groceries** If you're out of town, you'll only be able to buy groceries at gas stations or parks. So we did two big race sessions, one in **Windhoek** and a second in **Swakopmund**.
- **Place to visit** We slept there one night when we came back, so we took advantage of this time to walk around the city.

Hôtel à Windhoek

Nous vous recommandons fortement l'[Hotel Umland](#) les chambres sont **spacieuses** et **agréables**. Les espaces communs intérieurs comme extérieurs (avec piscine) sont top ! Vous vous sentirez comme à la maison.

De nombreux restaurants sont situés à proximité où vous pourrez vous faire livrer en suivant les conseils de vos hôtes qui sont adorables. Situé à 20 minutes à pied du centre. Bref un hôtel idéal à petit prix !

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What to do in Namibia: our 6 must-dos

1. Etosha national park: an unforgettable safari ♥♥♥

Our [safari in Etosha Park](#) is the highlight of our trip to Namibia. It is one **of the largest reserves in Africa** that you can explore in **4x4 with a guide or in total autonomy**. We keep images full of head of our first safari.

In the **dry** season, from May to September, the **concentration of animals is impressive**. We didn't expect to see so many!

You will observe in the park or at the watering holes of the lodgings, **impalas, oryx, giraffes, lions, elephants, rhinoceroses... and many birds!**

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Before arriving in the park, we advise you to stay at [the Etosha Village lodge](#), ideally located at the entrance of the park.

Full-day safari with expert local guide

If you want to see **as many animals as possible in a short** space of time, we recommend **booking an excursion** with an **expert 4×4 guide**. Local guides are better at spotting **wild animals**, some of which are very well camouflaged, than we are, and we could have seen lions and panthers if we had opted for an excursion.

→ [All information about your Etosha Safari day here](#)

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2. Sesriem and Sossusvlei: the Namib Desert ♥♥♥

La **route** pour rejoindre [Sesriem](#) est déjà **envoûtante**. Au fur et à mesure que vous vous rapprochez du site, le paysage autour de vous se transformera en **immenses dunes de sable aux couleurs incroyables**.

There are many **points of interest** on site, and you should allow two days to explore them all:

- **Deadvlei**: is a clay basin on which lies dead and sun-dried trees. It is a unique place in the mode and photogenic as you can see on the photos below!
- [Big Daddy](#): Namibia's biggest dune, it takes 1h30 to climb early in the morning. Once at the top, you'll enjoy a panoramic view of the desert.

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- [Big Mama](#): this dune is also a must, it will offer you **a panoramic view on the whole site.**

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3. Swakopmund and Walvis bay: between desert and ocean ♥♥

Another surprising place in Namibia! **Swakopmund** is a very nice little coastal town, built by German colonists. You'll love strolling through the streets and admiring the **old colonial buildings**.

Then head to **Walvis Bay** where **thousands of flamingos** have found refuge. It's the biggest concentration we've ever seen.

Then continue your way, at the level of the lighthouse a huge colony of **sea lions** has elected residence.

Make sure you drive on **dry sand**; we helped a Dutch family whose **4x4 was**

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silted up (they drove too close to the water). They were very scared and were very happy to see us.

C'est également un endroit propice aux activités nautiques, au tour dans le désert et même au [saut en parachute](#).

Hôtel à Swakopmund

L'hôtel [Swakopmund Sands](#) est idéalement placé au calme à 2 minutes à pied de l'océan et des restaurants de la jetée de Swakopmund. L'hôtel est mignon et propose un bon petit-déjeuner.

4. Damaraland: an incredible region ♥♥

We loved to **explore this region by 4x4**, because the landscapes are splendid. It is an **ancient volcanic region**. The flat mountains **with their reddish colors** will make you think of **the American far-west scenery!**

In this region, if you take your time, you'll come across many **animals** along the way. We preferred **short distances** to have time to explore the area.

We advise you to take the **alternate routes** to hope to come face to face with **animals**.

We observed **a herd of giraffes** between **Brangberg and Palmwag** , then a **solitary giraffe** between **Palmwag and Kamanjab** on the way to Etosha.

5. Spitzkoppe: the rock formations ♥ ♥

Still in Damaraland, we loved the **Spitzkoppe** site, which means “**pointed hat**”; it’s a mountain of orange stones rising to 1,728m.

The **rock formations** inside the site are **incredible**. You can walk around the park and explore the different sites.

6. Waterberg: the plateau of many colors ♥

The **Waterberg site**, a huge plateau **with magnificent colors**, composed of a **range of red** thanks to the stone that constitutes it. On the ground, the **ochre earth** and the **green landscapes** will surprise you!

The lodges offer **many hikes on the plateau**. You will also be able to observe some animals in the wild, including Impalas and Oryx. This site is easily accessible as it is **halfway between Etosha and Windhoek**.

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Road trip: our 3-week tour [carte]

Here is the itinerary of our 3 weeks trip:

- Day 1 - **Windhoek** recovery of Namvicou our 4×4 and shopping for half of the stay - [accommodation Solitaire in camping](#) because we had miscalculated the driving time so we had to stop earlier than expected!
- Day 2 - **Tsauchab River**, Olive trail trek 11km - [Tsauchab River accommodation](#)
- Day 3-4-5-6 - **Sesriem and Sossusvlei**, Deadvlei, Big Daddy, Big Mama, Elim Dream.... - accommodation 3 nights at [Sesriem campsite](#) and 1 night at [We Kebi Safari Lodge](#)

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- Day 7 and 8 - **Namibrand reserve**, this is a **private reserve**, which we were looking forward to. However, we were a little disappointed, as we only saw a few zebras after a two-hour ride. The **price of a night's camping is extremely high**. - accommodation [Namibrand reserve](#)
- Day 9 - **Rostock ritz lodge**, for a break on the way north - accommodation [Rostock ritz lodge](#)
- Day 10 and 11 - **Swakopmund and Walvis bay**, city walk and game viewing - accommodation [Swakopmund Sands](#)
- Day 12 - **Spitzkoppe** walk in the park to discover the rock formations - accommodation [Spitzkoppe campsite](#)
- Day 13 - **Brandberg** exploration of the area by 4x4 in search of elephants (untraceable) - accommodation [Brandberg White Lady Lodge](#) in camping
- Day 14 - **Grootberg** - accommodation [Grootberg ecological lodge](#)
- Day 15-16-17-18 - **Etosha national park**, [click here to find all our tips for visiting this incredible park](#) - accommodation 1 night at [Etosha Village lodge](#) and 3 nights at park campsites
- Day 19 - **Waterberg** Plateau - accommodation at [Waterberg campsite](#)
- Jour 20 - **Windhoek** - retour en France pour Matt et hébergement à Haukland pour moi car j'ai ensuite rejoint une amie au [Monténégro](#)

If you have ten days on the spot : prefer **Sesriem/Sossusvlei**, **Swakopmund/Walvis bay** then **Etosha** . Be prepared to ride for many hours on the trails as the distances between these three points of interest are significant!

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Do I need travel health insurance?

It is now essential to travel to Jordan with a **travel insurance with COVID fees included**. Some bank cards will be able to provide you with a **certificate**, make sure that the mention **COVID 19** appears on it. Don't panic if your credit card doesn't cover this, you can take out **travel health insurance**.

We still advise you to subscribe to a **travel health insurance** in order to leave with a light spirit on vacation or on a trip, because the **insurance included with your credit card** offers you very low coverage, the ceilings are lower than with a classic travel health insurance and does not cover all sports activities abroad.

Pour nos vacances et nos deux longs voyages (tour du monde en sac à dos et tour

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d'Europe en camping-car), nous sommes passés par l'organisme Chapka. Pour des vacances, le contrat le plus approprié est le suivant Cap Assistance 24h/24, [notre code promo Chapka](#).

Nous vous conseillons de vous renseigner sur les modalités offertes par cette assurance ou pour obtenir un [devis gratuit](#) (comptez environ une vingtaine d'Euro par personne pour 1 semaine).

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7. Practical information (flight, travel, accommodation and budget)

How to come to Namibia?

From **Paris**, with a stopover, count on average **14 hours** of travel to get to **Windhoek**, the capital (we did not find a direct flight). We traveled with **Lufthansa and South African** airlines.

Flight prices **vary** enormously depending on the **number of stopovers** and the **day of departure and return**.

As always, we advise you to **compare prices between several days**. If necessary and if possible, you can slightly shift your vacations to get a really good price.

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How to get around in Namibia?

We advise you to rent a **4x4 with a roof tent**, it is an incredible and unforgettable experience.

This gives you the **freedom to explore the parks on your own**, so you can take photo breaks whenever you like.

The **roof tent can be set up and taken down in just a few minutes**- it's child's play!

Our transport tips

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Location du 4x4 avec tente de toit et équipements : nous avons suivi le conseil de nombreux blogs, nous sommes passés par l'organisme **Namvic**, que vous pouvez contacter à l'adresse mail suivante : france@namvicsafaris.com. Comptez environ 70€ par jour au mois d'août.

Nous avons rencontré d'autres voyageurs qui sont passés par **Avis** pour un prix légèrement inférieur.

Where to sleep?

Cela dépendra de votre budget ! Les [lodges en Namibie](#) sont magnifiques mais onéreux.

The **campsites**, outside the national parks, are well equipped. You will usually have

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your **own cooking area and private bathroom**. This is **luxury camping!**

So we tried to alternate, **three nights in camping and 1 night in a lodge**. Honestly, after a few nights in tents, we were **happy to be back in a nice, soft bed!**

We advise you to book your accommodation several months in advance, as there are few offers in Namibia, and good hotels fill up very quickly.

Budget

When we talk about this trip, we often hear **“A safari in Africa is expensive, right?”** Before we started our research for this trip, we didn't think we had the budget for this type of trip.

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Some **tips to reduce the overall budget**:

- Prepare **your own meals**
- Limit the **number of parks**, we didn't get into Naukluft
- Do the excursions on your **own**, relying on the help of other travellers to tell you where to find the **animals** or **sites** you want to see!

It is indeed our **most expensive** trip to date but it is also **the most incredible!**

Budget for 20 days

Lodging	1 129 €
Airplane	1 350 €
Car	1 467 €
Expenses on site (food, park entrance...)	950 €
Travel health insurance	115 €
Total for two people	5 011 €
Total per person	2 505 €
Total per person per day	125 €

We **loved this trip** and **recommend** it with **our eyes closed!** If this article has helped you, don't hesitate to add 5 stars below.

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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4 avis (5/5)

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