

Windhoek, Namibia: what to see and do in the Namibian capital?



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By Floriane

Windhoek, the **capital of Namibia**, is often regarded as a mere stopping-off point before setting off on a road trip to the country's wide open spaces. Yet this dynamic city of contrasts is well worth a visit.

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With its colonial architecture, bustling markets, fascinating museums and nearby nature parks, Windhoek is sure to surprise.

What to see and do in Windhoek? Here's a guide to the must-sees, so you can make the most of your time in Namibia's capital.

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Where is Windhoek in Namibia?

Windhoek is located in **central Namibia**. It is **about 40 km north of Hosea Kutako international airport**.

With its central location, Windhoek is an ideal gateway to [Namibia](#).

Its strategic location makes it an important crossroads linking the different regions of Namibia: to the north towards Etosha National Park, to the west towards the **Atlantic coast and Swakopmund**, and to the south towards [the Sossusvlei dunes](#).

Discover Windhoek's history and architecture

Christuskirche, the city's icon

It's impossible to miss **Christuskirche**, one of Windhoek's landmarks. This Lutheran church, built in 1910, boasts an original architecture blending neo-Gothic and Art Nouveau styles. Situated on a hill in the heart of the city, it offers an interesting panoramic view of Windhoek.

Independence Memorial Museum: delve into Namibian history

If you want to understand Namibia's turbulent past, head for **the Independence Memorial Museum**. This museum traces the country's struggle for independence from German and South African colonization.

→ Its **panoramic café** on the top floor offers a **breathtaking view of the city**.

Namibia Craft Center: the ideal place to bring back souvenirs

Located in the heart of Windhoek, the **Namibia Craft Center** is a covered market featuring over 40 stalls selling authentic Namibian crafts such as wood carvings, beaded jewelry and traditional textiles. It's the ideal place to buy souvenirs while supporting the local economy, with a large proportion of sales going directly back to the artisans. The center also houses a cosy café, perfect for a gourmet break after

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your shopping spree.

Post Street Mall and its famous meteorites

Fancy a spot of shopping? Head for **Post Street Mall**, Windhoek's main shopping street. Here you'll find numerous boutiques, but above all a line-up of **Gibeon meteorites**, fragments of iron that fell from the sky thousands of years ago and are displayed in the open air. A sight not to be missed!

Explore Windhoek with a guided tour

To make sure you don't miss out on any of Windhoek's highlights, we recommend a **guided tour of the city and the township of Katutura**.

This immersive tour takes in the **capital's historic sites** while exploring local life in Katutura, a lively district where Namibia's history comes to life.

Accompanied by a guide, you'll learn more about **Namibian culture** and sample local specialties.

Where to sleep in Windhoek?

We highly recommend [the Hotel Umland](#) an ideal address for a comfortable, low-cost stay. The rooms are spacious and pleasant, and the communal areas, both indoor and outdoor (with swimming pool), are perfect for relaxing after a day's exploring. You'll feel right at home!

Another advantage is that the hotel is only a **20-minute walk from the city center**, making it easy to visit Windhoek without having to take a cab. What's more, there are plenty of restaurants close by, and you can even have food delivered to your door if you follow the advice of the hosts. An excellent address for a stay in Windhoek!

Why go to Windhoek, the capital of Namibia?

Windhoek is a must on any [road trip in Namibia](#), for several reasons:

- **This is your arrival and departure point:** the country's only international airport is located here, so you'll inevitably be passing through.
- **This is the place to rent your vehicle:** all rental agencies are located close to the airport. If you're renting a 4x4 with a roof tent, please allow extra time to get to grips with the vehicle before setting off to explore [Etosha Park](#).
- **This is a strategic point for shopping:** outside the big cities, you'll find only small grocery stores in service stations and national parks. So it's best to make one big supply stop in **Windhoek** and a second in **Swakopmund**.
- **It's a pleasant city to explore:** if you're staying overnight, take the

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opportunity to wander around and discover its cultural and historical sites.

Want to extend your trip to Namibia? Discover [our guide to the country's most beautiful lodges](#)

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