



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- ❑ Driving is on the left.
- ❑ Drivers are required to carry a valid driving license, International Driving Permit (IDP), passport, vehicle documents and proof of insurance.
- ❑ The Namibian Dollar (NAD) is the official currency. The South African Rand (ZAR) is also accepted.
- ❑ Drive with doors locked and windows up. Individuals may target drivers stopped at intersections, or use remote key fobs to unlock doors of vehicles in parking lots.
- ❑ Shared taxis and minibus taxis are not regarded as safe.
- ❑ Road conditions present safety hazards. Many serious and fatal crashes occur on gravel roads. Consider hiring a driver and vehicle from a reputable private transport company.
- ❑ Roads are unlit or poorly lit. Avoid driving at night, particularly in rural areas due to large wildlife and low visibility. There are high numbers of crashes involving single vehicles and animals.
- ❑ Pedestrian infrastructure is underdeveloped.
- ❑ Pedestrians should avoid walking alone, particularly after dark.
- ❑ Persons on foot are at high risk for violent street crime in Windhoek. Visitors are often targeted, even during the day.
- ❑ Vulnerable road users, including pedestrians and cyclists, account for an estimated 24% of road traffic deaths.
- ❑ Legal blood alcohol limit is below 0.037 percent. Despite legal limits, alcohol remains a factor in many crashes.
- ❑ There are 44.05 road deaths per 100,000 people in Namibia, compared to 2.2 in Sweden and 2.3 in the UK.



Source: CIA Factbook

ROAD CULTURE

- **Drivers** are usually regarded as courteous.
- **In major** urban areas, there is generally high adherence to traffic laws.
- **Beyond** urban areas, drivers may disregard traffic rules. Motorists of large four-wheel drive vehicles may intimidate or assume right-of-way over drivers of smaller vehicles.
- **Many drivers** lack adequate training.
- **Speeding** is common, particularly in cities.
- **Many taxi** drivers are aggressive, and drive in a reckless manner with disregard to traffic laws.
- **Truck drivers** often fail to stay in slower lanes or allow other vehicles to pass.

ROAD CONDITIONS

- **There are** 48,875 km (30,369 miles) of roads; 7,893 km (4,904 miles) are paved and 40,982 km (25,465 miles) are unpaved.
- **Roads are** classified as A, B, C, D or P routes.
- **A and B** roads are major highways running north to south and east to west; these routes have two lanes and are comparable to motorways. Most are toll roads. Fees are paid in local currency (change) at toll booths.
- **C and D** roads are sand and gravel; C roads are main roads while D are generally connecting routes.
- **P roads** are small access roads that usually lead to farms or private businesses. These roads rarely appear on maps or mapping systems.
- **Road conditions** vary widely. Not all gravel roads are well-maintained.
- **Many** gravel roads have soft, sloping shoulders. During and after rain, surfaces may rapidly deteriorate. There are high numbers of crashes on these routes.
- **Some paved roads** end and become gravel or dirt. Signs may not be present to indicate a change in surface conditions.
- **Beyond Windhoek** and other large cities, roads are unpaved. A four-wheel drive vehicle is necessary.
- **Some roads** north of Swakopmund have salt surfaces that become slippery after rain.
- **Outside of** urban areas, roads may be spanned by metal cattle guards. Slow down and use caution when driving across cattle guards.
- **When** drivers overtake on unpaved roads, dust and sand may be thrown up by tires and obscure visibility.
- **Tire punctures** are common, especially on gravel roads. Carry two spare tires.
- **Distances** between destinations can be long. Carry spare fuel, extra food, supplies of water, phone batteries, first aid kit and tools. Temperatures drop significantly at night. Bring warm blankets or clothing.



Road Conditions, continued

- **Driver fatigue** can occur over long road distances. For safety, take rest breaks at fuel stations or in towns. Avoid using roadside rest stops, where robberies and car jackings occur.
- **Traveling in** a convoy through desert regions is recommended.
- **Fuel stations** are not self-service. Cash payment is often required.
- **There are** many checkpoints. There are police barriers approximately 15 km (9 miles) outside of cities, and on all main highways. Additional checkpoints are often in place during holidays along the Windhoek to Swakopmund Highway/Highway B1.
- **At checkpoints:**
 - » Remain inside vehicle with doors locked.
 - » Open window slightly in order to communicate with officials.
 - » Present identification, vehicle documents and driver’s license as requested.
 - » Proceed through checkpoint only when officials indicate you may do so.
- **There are** active landmines in border areas from Katwitwi on the Okavango River to Kongola in Zambezi Region.
- **Travel** only on main routes within the Zambezi region.
- **Do not** travel at night on the Trans-Caprivi Highway between Rundu and Katima Mulilo.
- **Satellite** and WiFi connections can be unreliable, even with a local SIM card. Download maps and route information prior to travel and carry up-to-date paper maps.
- **Be aware** that GPS systems generally suggest the shortest route, which may include small backroads.
- **When driving** on roads within national parks, permits must be carried. Most parks sell permits at entrance gates, or they may be purchased at Ministry of Environment and Tourism Offices in Windhoek, Swakopmund and Walvis Bay.
- **Pedestrian** infrastructure is lacking in many parts of the country. Even in cities where crosswalks are available, motorists may disregard those on foot.
- **Many people** commute by bicycle. Beyond Windhoek, there are few bike paths or bicycle lanes. Bicyclists must share busy roads with motorized traffic.
- **The use** of e-scooters and motorbikes is increasing. Drivers may be unlicensed or unfamiliar with traffic laws.
- **Public demonstrations** are uncommon and take place mainly in Windhoek. Disruptions to transportation may occur as a result. Avoid all demonstrations. Even peaceful gatherings may turn violent.
- **The following roads** may present particular challenges to motorists:
 - » **The C27 road** crosses the Namib Desert/Namib Rand Nature Reserve along the border between Hardap and ||Karas (formerly “Karas”) regions in the southwest. The remote road is unpaved and requires a four-wheel-drive vehicle. The route is 236 km (146 miles) in length and connects Sesriem near the Naukluft Mountains to Helmeringhausen, running parallel to the C14 road. It is popular with visiting drivers. Many sections are steep, and reach 1,717 meters (5,633 feet) above sea level. Strong winds are common. Flat tires and punctures occur frequently.

Maximum Speed Limits

Type of road	Maximum speed
Urban areas	60 kph (37 mph)
Rural roads	80 to 120 kph (50 to 74 mph)
Highways	120 kph (74 mph)

Always adjust speed according to signage, hazards and weather conditions.

Signs are generally pictorial and may not follow European Union conventions.

Sand drifts ahead	Roundabout	Dual carriageway ends	Strong crosswinds in this area	Example of “A” route sign	Paved road surface ahead	Cyclists only	Use caution: elephants in area	Turn left



Road Conditions, continued

- » **The Skeleton Coast Road/C34-D2302** is part of Skeleton Coast National Park, located between the coast and central plains region near the border with Angola. One end runs southwest from Swakopmund, and connects to Terrace Bay settlement. It is 437 km (271 miles) long, with a salt and sand surface. Thick fog occurs regularly. Mist and damp air mix with the salt surface, causing slick, dangerous driving conditions with little traction. There are few fuel stations. Old road signs show distances in miles instead of kilometers.
- » **Spreetshoogte Pass** in the central Khomas region is a high-mountain pass with an elevation of 1,822 meters (5,977 feet) above sea level. It has many sharp bends, and steep grades of up to 14 percent. The pass connects the Namib Desert with the Khomas Highland. Most sections are unpaved. The steepest parts have concrete surfaces. Descents are particularly dangerous. High winds are common. Avoid this road.

REGIONAL AND SEASONAL CONDITIONS

- **Much of Namibia** is located at high altitudes. Be alert to symptoms of altitude sickness. Dizziness, lack of coordination, headache, fatigue, shortness of breath and nausea can impair driver judgment and increase road risks.
- **Namibia is subject** to heavy rains, street flooding, strong winds and drought.
- **Rainy season** is usually from November to April. Unpaved roads deteriorate rapidly following heavy rain, and may become impassable.
- **After** heavy rains, sudden temporary rivers may form in roads. Do not drive or step into water. Wait until river recedes before proceeding.
- **Dry season** is generally from April to October. Dust from unpaved roads may decrease driver visibility.
- **Strong winds** called “berg winds” from the mountains may include large plumes of dust.
- **Be familiar with emergency procedures.** The Red Cross provides a website and free, downloadable emergency app: <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies>

TRANSPORTATION

- **Transportation** includes cars, private taxis, shared/minibus taxis (sometimes called “car buses”), private coach buses, rideshares, bicycles, electric motorbikes and e-scooters.
- **There is no** scheduled public transportation.

- **Private** minibus taxis provide the main form of public transport throughout the country.
- **Drivers of** shared taxis seeking passengers will blow their horn where people are gathered.
- **Shared taxis** may be hailed on the street. Potential passengers wave and point in the direction they wish to travel; drivers will ask for their destination and either agree or refuse to take them on as passengers.
- **There are no** set minibus schedules. Drivers leave when vehicles are full and may choose not to provide transportation if all seats are not completely filled.
- **City taxis** are regulated by the Namibia Bus and Taxi Association (NABTA). Use only registered taxis that display the NABTA logo.
- **Do not** hail taxis on streets, particularly in Windhoek.
- **Book taxis** through reputable hotels or tour operators.
- **Do not** drive or take taxis into townships after dark, unless accompanied by a trustworthy person with local knowledge of potential dangers. Violent assaults have occurred against taxi passengers.
- **Long-distance** coach buses run by private companies link cities and offer limited international routes.
- **StarLine** and Desert Express passenger trains operated by TransNamib are currently suspended.
- **Private** safari trains from Pretoria, South Africa terminate in Namibia.
- **Rideshares** are available in cities. Use only services that have a dispatch app providing vehicle description, license plate number and driver’s name. Verify all information before entering vehicle.
- **Bicycles are** often used for travel. Beyond Windhoek, there are few bike lanes or paths.
- **Many people** travel by foot. Be alert to pedestrians in or near busy roads, or on unlit streets and highways.
- **There are** many motorbikes and e-scooters, particularly in large urban areas. Drivers are often unlicensed and may be unfamiliar with traffic laws.

TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

- **Drivers must** be at least 18 years of age. To rent a vehicle, drivers must be at least 23. Some rental agencies may have additional restrictions.
- **Seat belt** use is required of driver and passengers.
- **Child restraints** must be used for children between the ages of 3 and 14 years; otherwise, children must use seat belts if a vehicle is fitted with seat belts.
- **Children are not** restricted from riding in front seats of vehicles. For safety, children should be seated in rear seats with child restraints appropriate to size and age.



Traffic Regulations, continued

- **Helmet use** is compulsory for motorcycle drivers and passengers. Helmets must be securely fastened.
- **Children** are not restricted from being motorcycle passengers. If possible, children should not be passengers on motorcycles.
- **Headlights** must be on at all times when driving.
- **Many** intersection stop signs have a numeral “3” or “4” below the stop symbol. This indicates a three- or four-way stop; drivers have right-of-way in order of arrival.
- **Parking on roads:** Red and white signs mean no parking is allowed; yellow and white markings show where short-term parking is permitted; diagonal white lines mean only motorcycles may park.
- **Enforcement** of speed limit laws is low.
- **On-the-spot** fines are illegal.
- **Police may** carry out random breath tests.

Windhoek (Capital)

- » Largest city. Located in the center of the country. The B1 and the B2/Trans-Kalahari road connect the city to other areas of the country.
- » Most safari tours in Namibia originate in Windhoek.
- » Transportation includes cars, private taxis, shared/minibus taxis, private coach buses, rideshares, bicycles, electric motorbikes and e-scooters.
- » There is no scheduled public transportation.
- » Privately operated long-distance coach buses provide links between the city and destinations in South Africa, Botswana and Zambia. Companies include Intercape and Insight Luxury Coaches.
- » Taxis include private radio taxis and shared taxis.
- » Radio taxis should be booked by phone in advance. Vehicles are not metered; agree on fare prior to travel.
- » In some parts of the city, radio taxis can be found near areas with large numbers of restaurants and clubs.
- » Shared taxis (generally large sedans or minibuses) provide a service similar to buses. Vehicles are registered and display an official registration number.
- » Shared taxi vehicles are often in poor mechanical condition and may lack standard safety features. Drivers often engage in dangerous road behaviors.
- » There are no fixed routes for shared taxis. Passengers are taken to their individual destination.
- » Shared taxis usually connect to main commercial areas within the city, or to other townships.
- » Fees for shared taxis increase at night.
- » Rideshares are available. Use only services that have a dispatch app providing vehicle description, license plate number and driver’s name. Verify all information before entering vehicle.
- » Many people commute on foot. Motorists may disregard pedestrians, even at crosswalks.
- » Street vendors may block sidewalks, forcing pedestrians to walk in roadways.
- » There are many bicyclists. The city has constructed new cycling lanes, but cyclists are required to share roads with large motorized vehicles in some areas.
- » Motorbikes and e-scooters are popular. Be alert to young and untrained drivers unfamiliar with traffic rules.
- » Hosea Kutako International Airport is approximately 45 km (28 miles) east of the city.
- » There is no public transportation to or from the airport.
- » Some hotels may provide airport shuttles. Arrange in advance of travel.
- » Shared and private taxis can be found at the airport. Private taxis may be safer than shared taxis.
- » Many major international car rental agencies are represented at the airport.

Rundu

- » Second-largest city. Economic and cultural center of the Kavango region in the northeast.
- » Transportation includes cars, private taxis, shared/minibus taxis, private coach buses, rideshares, bicycles, electric motorbikes and e-scooters.
- » Public transportation is not available.



Rundu, continued

- » Taxis, including private vehicles and shared cars/minibuses, offer transportation within the city and to other areas.
- » Private radio taxis are unmetered, and should be booked by phone or through reputable hotels.
- » Most shared taxis are large sedans or minibuses. Vehicles are licensed, but may be in poor condition.
- » Drivers of shared taxis often speed or fail to adhere to traffic laws.
- » Shared taxis may be hailed on the street, and do not travel along fixed routes.
- » Taxi fares increase at night.
- » Private coach bus companies link the city to other areas within Namibia, and to Victoria Falls.
- » There are many pedestrians. Even at crosswalks, motorists may ignore persons on foot. Pedestrians may be forced to walk in roads in areas where street vendors block sidewalks.
- » Cycling is a popular form of commuting. Cyclists must often share roads with motorized traffic.
- » E-scooters and motorbikes are popular. Many drivers are untrained and unfamiliar with traffic laws.
- » Rideshares are available. Use only services that have a dispatch app providing vehicle description, license plate number and driver's name. Verify all information before entering vehicle.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND INCLUSIONS FOR MOBILITY CHALLENGED

- **Laws prohibit** discrimination against persons with physical, sensory or other challenges. These laws are generally enforced.
- **There is often** limited accessibility in transportation, accommodations, communications and overall infrastructure.
- **Information** is available for mobility challenged persons with regard to services, such as the location of ramps and repairs for wheelchairs or other devices.
- **There are few** sidewalks. Beyond cities, there is a lack of crosswalks or crossing signals.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

- **Pre-program** emergency numbers into your phone before departure.
- **English** is the official language, and is used by those who are responding to emergency numbers.
 - » Police: 10 111
 - » Windhoek Police: 21 1111/ Windhoek City Police Service: 061-2902911 or toll-free at 302302
 - » Ambulance: 20 32276
 - » Fire: 20 32270
 - » Tourist Protection Unit, Windhoek (Windhoek Main Police Station):+ (264) (61) 209-4345 or + (264) (81) 615-4401
 - » Tourist Protection Unit, Swakopmund: + (264) (64) 415-060
- **Good** medical care and modern facilities are available only in or near Windhoek.
- **Medical professionals** and first responders to emergency calls may take longer to reach the injured and to provide life-saving care outside of major urban areas.
- **Beyond** Windhoek, emergency services are unreliable or nonexistent.
- **Private hospitals** usually require proof of payment in local currency or by credit card before providing treatment. Some facilities may require advance payment.
- **There is no** roadside assistance beyond Windhoek.
- **If involved in a crash:**
 - » Call emergency services and contact rental car agency or tour company. Beyond Windhoek, it is generally necessary to request the emergency number for the closest services from car rental agency.
 - » Collect contact information from other driver(s) and any witnesses.
 - » Take photographs if possible.
 - » Obtain copy of crash report including the "CR" crime case number from police.
 - » Be prepared to wait for up to several hours if roadside assistance is needed.



ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION FOR SAFE INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRAVEL (ASIRT)

ASIRT is a non-profit humanitarian organization established in memory of Aron Sobel, age 25, who was killed along with 22 other passengers in a Pamukkale Bus Company crash on the roads of Turkey.

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