



# SAFETY

## PRECAUTIONS

### Ensuring a Safe and Enjoyable Tourism Experience in Namibia

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*Tourism Against Crime (TAC) is aware that visitors can be vulnerable to criminal activities. We therefore want to assure you that the safety and well-being of our guests are of paramount importance to us.*

*Although Namibia is ranked as one of the safest countries in Africa, Tac would like to ensure that this is how you experience our beautiful country. To enhance your safety, we kindly request your cooperation in adhering to some simple precautions.*

#### **LEAVING AND SECURING VALUABLES IN YOUR HOTEL ROOM:**

- Store valuables in the in-room safe especially passports and electronic devices.
- If the room safe cannot hold all your valuables, ask these to be stored in the managers/owners safe or office.
- Keep luggage without locks zipped closed and out of sight.

#### **SIGHTSEEING/IN THE STREET**

- Avoid displaying jewellery, expensive cameras and other valuables. If carrying a camera, do so in a shoulder bag and not around your neck.
- Keep your smartphone safe, preferably in a pocket rather than a handbag.
- Never leave your valuables or property unattended in any public place, or visible in a parked vehicle even if you are on a guided tour.
- Never give money to children or loiterers, as this is in contravention of Municipal laws and it encourages begging.
- Learn about your surroundings. Ask tour guides, hotel staff and local residents about areas to avoid.

- If you need a taxi, your hotel receptionist can recommend a reliable service. Taxis in Windhoek display a prominent code consisting of an Alphabet and number – such as K100 – those are the taxis to avoid!
- Make regular backups of your photos in case you lose your smart phone or camera.

#### WHAT TO TAKE ON YOUR EXCURSION:

- Carry only enough cash for your immediate needs and leave the rest in a safe place – ideally a hotel or lodge safe.
- Do not wear expensive jewellery. Leave valuable rings etc in your room safe when out exploring or on activities.
- Keep your credit card in a separate pocket.
- Leave your laptop or iPad out of sight when you leave your room.
- Ladies should keep handbags close to the body not loose around or hanging off the shoulder.
- Add a lanyard to your phones and wear across neck, to discourage grab and runs.

#### CAR GUARDS:

- Guards with a pink or other identifying jackets are legal car guards. If they watch your car, the normal rate is from N\$5.00 to N10.00. If they watch your vehicle overnight, the standard rate is N\$25.00.
- Do not pay if someone asks you for more.

#### PARKING

- Do not leave valuables or luggage in your vehicle. Thieves know that rental vehicles often contain items of value.
- Avoid putting valuables into the boot in full view of the public.

#### CELL PHONE (MOBILE) EMERGENCY NUMBER

- Namibia has a GSM 900 cell phone network which covers most towns and major roads.
- Have your phone activated to roam in Namibia or get a local sim card from MTC to facilitate local calls when necessary.
- Mobile phone users may call 112 in an emergency, and you will be connected to the appropriate service.

#### SAFE BANKING TIPS:

- Choose a well-lit ATM where you are more visible preferable with no people standing around.
- Do not accept help from strangers or allow anyone to help you with your ATM. If necessary, ask for assistance inside the bank.
- Use cards where possible and keep cash in your trouser pockets and only use small amounts at a time.
- Do not carry large sums of cash within your wallet, which can easily be seen when making payments.
- Never let your card out of your sight at an ATM, or when making payments.
- Ensure that you get your own card back after every purchase.
- Beware of card skimming as criminals use this method to steal your card information.
- Report foreign lost and stolen cards immediately: Tel. +264 (0) 61 299 2999, and let your bank know so cards can be cancelled.
- Make use of legitimate foreign exchange outlets and guard against foreign exchange peddlers.

#### TOURISM AGAINST CRIME (TAC) EMERGENCY NUMBER

- TAC operates an operations room to help co-ordinate responses in the event of any emergency involving tourists. The primary objective is to provide a quick and efficient response. Emergency Number 112
- You can rent the MoBiGPS APP as an additional safety feature from TAC
- Mobile Tracking Panic Button also available for rent from TAC

#### AFTER DARK

- Most areas in the City are safe, but never walk around on quiet streets after dark, even in groups.
- Stay away from dark and deserted areas. Seek advice from hotel staff or other residents about local conditions.
- Watch out for pedestrians or cars following you.
- Rather make use of accredited taxis after dark.

## Essential Road Safety Tips

*Welcome to the scenic roads of Namibia, renowned as the best in Africa. As you embark on your journey, REMEMBER WE DRIVE ON THE LEFT-HAND SIDE OF THE ROAD, and stay engaged – Namibia's vast landscapes are captivating, but it's crucial to keep your attention on the road to fully enjoy the unique experience. As the most arid country in sub-Saharan Africa, off-road driving will damage the fragile environment for centuries; protect our environment by staying on designated roads. To ensure your visit is both enjoyable and safe, please adhere to the basic Rules of the Road.*

#### SPEEDING:

The leading cause of road crashes is speeding due to the excellent infrastructure, long distances, and limited traffic. Our speed limits, unless otherwise indicated, are 60 km/h in urban areas, 120 km/h on surfaced roads outside urban zones, and 100 km/h on gravel roads. Gravel roads can be unpredictable, so maintaining a speed of 60–80 km/h, and tyre pressures between 1.5 to 1.8 bar is recommended.

#### 2. HEAD LIGHTS:

Head lights must always be switched on dim (passing beam) when driving outside urban zones.

#### 3. SEAT BELTS:

All occupants must always be buckled up. Children should be strapped in appropriate seats or child restraint devices (car seats).

#### 4. DRIVERS LICENCE:

Drivers must carry a valid driver's license, written in English. If the licence is not in English an International Drivers Licence must be obtained from the Automobile Association in the country of origin. The original driving licence must accompany the International Driving Licence.

#### 5. OVERTAKING:

When overtaking vehicles, be attentive of strong crosswinds and road markings. On gravel roads dust will reduce visibility.

#### 6. TYRE MAINTENANCE:

Maintain correct tire pressure based on road conditions and passenger load. Always carry at least one spare tyre, and for remote areas, consider carrying two spares and a repair kit.

#### 7. VEHICLE TYPE:

Our tarred roads allow for any vehicle to be used, however, although our gravel roads are good, it is recommended to always use a vehicle with a high ground clearance whilst driving on them. If travelling to remote areas, 4x4 vehicles are recommended. A well-equipped first aid kit and water is essential.

### 8. PLAN YOUR TRIP:

The basic condition of the vehicle you drive is your responsibility. Ensure your vehicle's brakes, lights, tyres and mechanical functions are in optimal condition before embarking on a self-drive tour. When driving to remote areas, fuel up whenever you can. Share your itinerary with a trusted source. Carry excessive water.

### 9. DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS:

Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and Drugs is prohibited in Namibia. If you are under the influence, make use of alternative transport.

### 10. DISTRACTED DRIVING:

Distracted driving is the act of driving while engaging in other activities which distract the driver's attention away from the road. If the need arises come to a halt next to the road to engage in the activity that needs your attention. Distractions are shown to compromise the safety of the driver, passengers, pedestrians and people in other vehicles.

### 11. WILDLIFE:

Namibia has more animals than people, who are unpredictable and unexpectedly cross the roads. Drive cautiously, especially at dawn and dusk. Avoid driving at night due to heightened wildlife activity.

#### REPORT CORRUPTION:

Travellers are precious to us. We wish you an unforgettable time exploring Namibia. Please be aware, Namibia does not issue SPOT FINES for traffic violations, or any other violations. Any BRIBERY ATTEMPTS by Law Enforcement Officers or any person must be reported immediately to the Call Centre at 112.

#### SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFO



**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, CALL 112**

[tac.tourismagainstcrime@gmail.com](mailto:tac.tourismagainstcrime@gmail.com)

