

## HUNTING IN NAMIBIA OVERVIEW

Namibia is a politically stable country, and an easy, safe and affordable destination for great plains-game and big-five hunting safaris. It attracts more than 5 000 international hunters a year, and is a favorite for family groups, first-time hunters and African hunting veterans alike. Most of the hunting in Namibia takes place on the private game ranches found throughout the country.

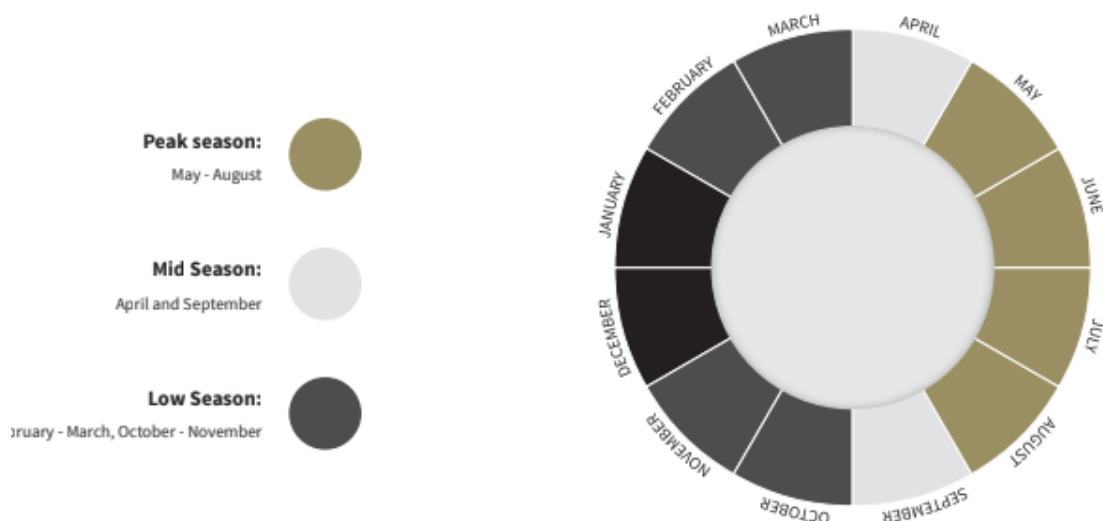
The habitat of the hunting areas varies from dense thorny savannah to vast semi-desert plains. The relatively high elevation of the central plains where many of the prime hunting areas are located can be physically challenging for the less fit.

Plains game, most of which is hunted in central and southerly parts of the country, includes oryx, Cape eland, greater kudu, blue wildebeest, black wildebeest, blesbok, impala, steenbok, klipspringer, springbok and warthog.

When it comes to the big five, leopard are also found mainly in the south and central regions, while lion, buffalo, elephant and rhino are restricted largely to the north; all four are hunted on a limited basis.

### General hunting info

- Rifle sight-in will be done before the start of your hunting safari at our well equipped shooting range.
- The trophy-hunting season in Namibia opens on 1 February and closes on 30 November.
- No hunting is allowed during December and January.
- Trophy hunting may take place from half an hour before sunrise to half an hour after sunset during the hunting season.
- There's no regulation controlling the number of days a hunting safari may last.
- It's illegal to hunt for trophies at night and/or with an artificial light.
- It's illegal to hunt with dogs.
- All trophy hunting must be done in line with Fair Chase principles.



## **Fair chase principles**

Every sport hunter should pursue an animal only by engaging in a fair chase of the quarry.

Fair chase is defined as the pursuit of a roaming animal possessed of the natural behavioral inclination to escape from the hunter and fully free to do so.

The animal is to be hunted without an artificial light source, and not from a motorized mode of transportation.

No hunter must take female animals with dependent young.

A sport-hunted animal should exist as a naturally interacting member of a sustainable wild population located in an area large enough for it to breed and forage or hunt freely.

Hunted animals should be sustained within a natural state of balance between forage, predators and prey.

## **Firearms and ammunition**

A maximum of two firearms per hunting client is allowed. We suggest 60-80 rounds of caliber-specific ammunition per firearm.

### **Firearms**

Smallest caliber: .270

Minimum energy (muzzle velocity):

- For small game (springbok, duiker) 1 350 J
- For medium game (hartebeest, wildebeest, kudu, gemsbok, eland) 2 700 J
- For large game (buffalo, elephant, rhino) 5 400 J

### **Cartridges**

For plains game, we recommend 30-06 Springfield, .300 and .338 Winchester Magnum, and .375 calibers. (The smallest recommended caliber is .270.) A hard copper bullet like the Hornady GMX is ideal.

### **Bow-hunting**

Bow-hunting is permitted in Namibia, and no import permit for the weapon is required.

Minimum energy:

- For small game 25ft/lb
- For medium game 40ft/lb
- For large game 65ft/lb

### **Not permitted**

- Automatic and semi-automatic weapons (AK47 and other military hardware)
- Handguns
- Crossbows
- Solid-point cartridges

**You are more than welcome to make use of our rifles at Ongariwanda at a small extra cost.**

## Permits for trophy-hunting

Our professional hunters are registered with both the Namibian Ministry of Environment & Tourism (MET) and the Namibian Tourism Board (NTB). They, on behalf of Ongariwanda Hunting Safaris, will organise your trophy-hunting and export permits. They will need a certified copy of your passport in order to do this.

## Hunting application

A separate permit for each individual hunting client is issued by the Namibian MET prior to the start of the hunt. A maximum of two trophies per species may be harvested, per hunting client per permit.

Additional special permits with additional conditions are required for hunting large cats (leopard, cheetah and lion). Permits can be downloaded from:

<http://www.met.gov.na/services/permits/173/>

## Legal must-do's

- Ensure the airline you're booked on is 'firearms friendly', and will carry your firearms and ammunition. (Some airlines don't.) Ask about any application or permission forms that have to be filled in.
- Anyone entering Namibia with rifle/s must complete an application form for each firearm in their possession. This will be issued on arrival and you must hand it in, together with the firearms and cartridges, at the police firearm customs checkpoint.
- Firearms must be packed separately, unloaded, in a sturdy, lockable case. Ammunition must be in its original packaging, in a sturdy, lockable case, and it must be checked in with your luggage.
- 100 rounds of ammunition are permitted per firearm you're carrying with you (it must match the rifle's specific calibre), with the exception of black-powder and/or percussion caps (see below).
- While it is legal to hunt with black-power-cartridge rifles in Namibia, you may not import black-powder and/or percussion caps into the country, as they are extremely volatile and flammable. This ammunition can, however, be bought in Namibia.
- Ensure that your country of origin allows the importation of your target-species trophy.

## Highly recommended to-do's

Do take out full insurance on all your firearms before traveling.

Do clearly label all firearms cases (and all other luggage) with your name and a contact phone number. If you're not flying directly to Namibia (if you're traveling via another destination, or have a layover elsewhere), enquire about booking firearms and ammunition straight through to Namibia. If this isn't possible, leave your checked luggage and locked firearm case/s at the airport overnight. Label them with a clearly visible 'in transit' tag.

## **PREPARATION FOR YOUR TRIP**

Carry all valuables, essentials such as medications and one change of clothing plus your hunting boots, in your carry-on luggage in case your checked bags are delayed or lost. A money belt or travel pouch that you can wear around your waist under your clothing, and in which you can securely store some cash and important documents, is a good idea.

### **What to pack**

Light clothing made from breathable fabric such as cotton, in camouflage colours like greens, browns, khaki and olive, are most recommended for hunting. Think layers – daily temperature changes in Namibia can be extreme, varying by as much as 20°C (35° F) from day to night. In the rainy season we recommend you bring some fast-drying synthetic clothing that maintains its warmth when wet. (We do laundry daily, so bear that in mind when packing.)

Warm clothing is a must in the winter months, between May and September. You'll need a warm jacket for relaxing around the open fire, and the addition of gloves, a woolly hat and a wind breaker will come in handy when travelling on the back of the hunting vehicle in the early mornings and late afternoons. Pack well fitted and comfortable walking shoes or boots.

While most shots are taken from about 110 yards (100m), they can range from fairly close in thicker bush to up to 250 yards (230m) on open plains, so a good variable scope would be most useful. A shooting stick is also a good idea (you can use one of ours if you don't have your own).

When leaving Namibia, make sure your luggage isn't overweight (check with your airline what its upper limit is). The rules are strictly enforced and the excess baggage fees are high.

### **Highly recommended**

- Any prescription medications (plus a copy of the prescription in case the medicine gets lost)
- A copy of your prescription for eye glasses or contact lenses (in case of loss or breakage of the originals)
- A Copy of your passport and visa for trophy permit needs or in case you lose documents
- A copy of your personal contact details and itinerary, packed in your checked bags, in case your luggage goes missing and your tags get torn off or otherwise removed in transit.
- A short printed or written list of emergency contact phone numbers (don't rely on the information contained in your cellphone!)

## **CHECKLISTS**

### **Hunting Gear**

1. Rifle
2. Scope
3. Sling
4. Range finder
5. Ammunition
6. Ammunition pouch or belt
7. Pocket knife or Leatherman tool
8. Binoculars
9. Shooting stick
10. Rifle cleaning kit
11. Small bag or backpack

### **Clothing**

1. Sturdy, comfortable long pants (such as cargo pants)
2. Shorts
3. Long-sleeved shirts
4. T-shirts
5. Wind-breaker/rain jacket
6. Well-broken-in hunting boots
7. Socks
8. Extra laces
9. Trail shoes
10. Casual shoes or sandals for in camp and traveling
11. Belt
12. Gaiters
13. Casual clothing for in camp and traveling
14. Underwear
15. Sleepwear
16. Swimwear

## CHECKLISTS Continue...

### Toiletries:

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### In Winter:

1. Warm jacket or heavyweight fleece
2. Warm wool sweater(s) or midweight fleece
3. Long underwear
4. Wooly hat, gloves and scarf

### In Summer:

1. Sun hat
2. Sunglasses
3. Fingerless gloves
4. Bandana/scarf
5. High-SPF sunscreen

### Other essentials

1. Binoculars (minimum 8x30)
2. Camera (plus charger/batteries)
3. Electric converters/plug adaptors
4. Torch
5. Sunglasses, sunhat and sun-protection lotion (minimum SPF30)
6. Lip balm with a high SPF
7. Insect repellent
8. Ziplock bags
9. Earplugs
10. Small first-aid kit containing analgesics, antihistamines, antiseptic ointment and plasters, plus emergency medication for those with serious allergies (eg to bee stings)

## **TRAVEL**

### **Appoint a travel agent**

International travel always requires lots of arranging, and travelling for the purposes of a hunting safari even more so. For this reason, don't try to tackle all the arrangements yourself. Use a travel agent you trust, and preferably one who specialises in hunting safaris to Namibia.

A good travel agent will be able to get you the best possible prices, will know what's required to fulfil regulations around travelling with firearms and ammunition, and will be able to advise you on insurance, among the many other tasks that need to be done for this kind of travel.

Importantly, your travel agent will be able to advise you on what the airline you're using requires in terms of travelling with firearms and ammunitions; some airlines simply don't allow this at all, while others have their own set rules and procedures.

### **International flights to/from Namibia**

Most international flights, with the exception of some from Frankfurt (Germany), route through Johannesburg (South Africa) to Windhoek in Namibia.

Hosea Kutako International Airport (WHK), situated 45km east of the capital city of Windhoek, is Namibia's main point of entry for international flights.

Other big airports include Eros (in Windhoek), Walvis Bay, Rundu (in the Okavango region), Odangwa (in the north) and Katima Mulilo (the gateway to the tropical Caprivi region).

There are landing strips throughout the country, and air-charter services are available from/in Windhoek and Swakopmund.

### **Major airlines that fly into Namibia include:**

Air Namibia: [www.airnamibia.com](http://www.airnamibia.com)

South African Airways: [www.flysaa.com](http://www.flysaa.com)

Lufthansa: [www.lufthansa.com](http://www.lufthansa.com)

Delta http: [www.delta.com](http://www.delta.com)

Qatar Airways: [www.qatarairways.com](http://www.qatarairways.com)

KLM: [www.klm.com](http://www.klm.com)



## **TRAVEL Continues**

### **Health Insurance**

Although by far the majority of hunting safaris go off without the slightest hitch, it would be foolhardy not to prepare for unforeseeable circumstances and unfortunate incidents. For this reason, we strongly advise that you take out comprehensive health insurance before your trip. Be sure to tell the company providing the cover that you'll be on a hunting safari, as some companies won't provide coverage if you're participating in a dangerous activity that they deem an extraordinary risk.

- Some credit-card companies provide automatic health insurance when you buy your air ticket. Read the small print very carefully to ensure it's adequate for your needs.
- If you have particular concerns about your health, investigate taking out medical evacuation coverage. One company that provides this service worldwide is Global Rescue:  
[www.GlobalRescue.com](http://www.GlobalRescue.com)

### **Passport, visa and other entry requirements**

Your passport must be valid for a minimum of six months after your intended departure date from Namibia, and it must have at least six blank pages.

You must have a valid return/onward air ticket or proof of other means of transport out of Namibia. Visas are required for certain nationalities and are valid for three months from the date of issue. The only legal vaccination requirement for entry into Namibia is a yellow fever vaccination certificate for travelers coming from a country with risk of yellow fever transmission. For a list of these areas, go to [www.cdc.gov/yellowfever/maps/africa.html](http://www.cdc.gov/yellowfever/maps/africa.html)

### **VISAS ARE NOT REQUIRED**

Citizens of the following countries do not require a visa: Angola, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Macau (SAR), Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius Moldova, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Russian Federation, Seychelles, Singapore South Africa, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom United States of America, Uzbekistan, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

For visitors from other countries, please check with your nearest Namibian Consulate. Although this information was correct at the time of writing, visa requirements do change from time to time, so please double-check all entry requirements when planning your trip.

## **TRAVEL Continues**

### **Traveling with firearms and ammunition into Namibia**

The temporary importation of firearms and ammunition into Namibia is quick, easy and free of charge. There's no permit or charges for bringing in a bow and arrows.

Although it's not required by law in Namibia, it's a good idea to carry a copy of your gun license and/or proof of ownership.

Fill in an application import/export permit (see page 21) for all firearms and ammunition. On entry into Namibia, you'll have to present this, along with a copy of your hunting permit and a Letter of Invitation indicating the farm name and number on which you'll be trophy-hunting.

We will have applied for and obtained the hunting permit in advance on your behalf, and will email you a copy. We'll also email you the Letter of Invitation.

When checking in your luggage, firearms and ammunition at your point of departure, be sure to instruct the airline agent to check everything in all the way to your final destination in Namibia.

### **Transiting firearms & ammunition through other countries**

Laws and regulations around traveling with firearms and ammunition, including in transit, are specific to each country, and are constantly changing, so you need to ensure you have up-to-date information before you plan your trip. Your travel agent should be able to advise you.

### **Transiting weapons and ammunition through South Africa**

If you're passing through South Africa on your way to Namibia, your firearms and ammunition should simply be transited through without your having to fill in any paperwork, while you remain in the transit area. It's very important, however, to check with the airline if this is their practice, because if not, you'll have to collect all your luggage and firearms and go through the South African customs-clearing process.

If it's not possible for your firearms and ammunition to be transited straight through, South African customs will require:

- A completed South Africa Firearms Permit Application Form SAPS 520.
- A South African letter of invitation from the hunting company, which we can email you on request (leave plenty of time before your departure to get this). This is so you can secure a temporary firearm import permit from the South African Police Services (SAPS). The permit is free. Bows and arrows don't need a permit.
- A letter of intent stating the handgun will be used only for hunting purposes.
- A letter from a registered association of your country of origin, stating that you're a registered member of the association and that the handgun will be used exclusively for hunting purposes.

- The Professional Hunters Association of South Africa (PHASA) recommends that you apply for and, if possible, obtain any temporary import permits prior to your arrival. They also recommend leaving a minimum of three hours between flight connections at Johannesburg International Airport, to ensure there's plenty of time for all the legalities to be completed.

## **TIPPING**

Although customary, tipping isn't mandatory. A tip acknowledges great service, and how much to leave – if anything at all - is entirely up to you. When tipping, take into account the success of your hunting safari, the type and duration of the hunt, the price of the hunt and the number of hunters. If you're unsure, please ask us.

- It's best to tip at the end of the trip. We recommend tipping in US dollars. Please give your tips to the manager, who will divide them fairly between all staff.
- If your experience was so bad that you feel you don't want to leave a tip for anyone involved in your trip, please do also inform us so that we can put right whatever went wrong.

### **Who to tip and how much**

This is a rough guide. Remember, tipping is entirely your choice.

- Professional hunter: Add up the cost of the hunt (daily rate and trophy fees combined), excluding tax.
- On a sliding scale, give him 15% for great service, down to 5% for average service.
- Tracker: US\$10-15 per day
- All other staff (together): US\$10-15 per day

### **GIFTS AS TIPS?**

Although gifts such as clothing, cigarettes and sweets, and bigger-ticket items such as a hunting knife or pair of binoculars, are of course always very appreciated, most staff members prefer to be tipped in cash. These kinds of gifts, however, distributed throughout your visit, do buy a great deal of goodwill.

### **Getting back your Sales Tax**

Namibian sales tax, known as Value Added Tax (VAT), is 15% and is included in the price of anything you buy. Foreign visitors may apply for VAT refunds on merchandise but not on services (such as daily rates paid for a hunt).

When making a purchase, ask for the relevant documentation for a VAT refund — a form that has to be filled in and stamped. Carry your passport and return ticket with you, to prove to the vendor that you're a foreign visitor.

To claim your VAT refund, show the merchandise with its paperwork to the customs official at the airport, before you check in your baggage.

## **ABOUT NAMIBIA**

Namibia covers about 825 000km<sup>2</sup>, making it about half the size of Alaska, three times the size of the UK, and as big as France and Germany combined. The country measures about 1 500km north to south and about 600km west to east.

Namibia, which straddles the Tropic of Capricorn, shares borders with Angola and Zambia in the north, Botswana in the east and South Africa in the south. The Caprivi Strip juts out of its northeastern corner into south-central Africa.

The entire western border of Namibia is the Atlantic Ocean, which abuts the Namib Desert with its sand seas, gravel plains and bare rock. The flat, sandy Kalahari Basin with its fossil rivers and salt pans lies along the eastern border of the country.

Between the two is the highland plateau, also running roughly north-south.

The major rivers of the Kunene, Orange, Zambezi, Okavango and Kwando, together with their branches, the Chobe and Linyanti, all flow along international borders. The country's longest river, the 600km Fish River, flows only after rains.

The saline desert pan of Etosha lies in the north, while the monumental red dunes of Sossusvlei are in the south.

A population of 2.2 million people occupy this vast southern African land. The capital city is Windhoek. The official language is English, but Afrikaans, German, Oshivambo, Wambo, Herero, Damara and Nama are also all spoken.

### **Time zone**

West Africa Summer Time (UCT+02:00) in summer, West Africa Time (UTC+01:00) in winter.

### **Drinking water**

Most are safe to drink although caution should be exercised in rural areas.

### **Electricity**

At Ongariwanda we make use of Solar Energy with a Backup Generator 220/230V AC running at 50Hz; plug type D. You will find the standard European 220 V two-pin outlets at Ongariwanda Hunting Safaris main lodge, where there's a full time electricity supply and a backup generator.

## Climate

Typically for a desert country, the days are warm to hot and the nights are cool to cold. Rainfall is low and irregular, with unpredictable dry and wet cycles. Generally, though, northeast winds bring rain in summer (October to April). The northeast gets the most rain (500-700mm per year, falling mainly as afternoon thunderstorms), while the Namib coast gets the least (less than 50mm).

The interior is blue-sky country, with an average of 10 hours of sunshine a day.

The hottest months are October in the north, December in the central interior, January in the south and February on the coast. Summer temperatures can reach 104 F / 40°C.

Winter lasts only two or three months and even in midwinter the days are still pleasantly warm, although the evenings can be chilly and temperatures occasionally drop to zero.

The coldest months are August on the coast and July in the interior. Frost is rare and snow is unknown.

### Average low/high temperatures

Month	F°	C°
Jan	63/90	17/32
Feb	63/86	17/30
Mar	61/84	16/29
Apr	55/84	13/29
May	48/81	9/27
Jun	43/75	6/24

Month	F°	C°
Jul	43/75	6/24
Aug	46/81	8/27
Sep	55/88	13/31
Oct	57/90	14/32
Nov	61/91	16/33
Dec	61/93	16/34

## Safety and security

Although Namibia is generally a safe country, take sensible precautions. Don't wear conspicuous jewellery, don't carry large amounts of cash or important documents in a handbag or backpack, don't behave like a tourist, and don't leave belongings in an unattended car (not even if the car is locked and a security guard is present).

## **Money**

Cash: The Namibian dollar is equal in value to the South African rand, and both currencies are accepted throughout Namibia. It's a good idea to carry some small-denomination US dollars and/or Euros.

Cards: We accept both debit and credit cards at Ongariwanda Hunting Safaris. If you intend to pay by card, remember to tell your bank that you'll be travelling abroad, so that they don't block what they may consider to be an unusual charge on your card.

Most shops and hotels in Namibia also accept credit/debit cards.

In order to ensure you can use your debit, credit and ATM cards throughout Namibia, make sure you have a four-digit PIN number for each card. If you don't, speak to your bank.

ATMs: All Namibia's bigger cities have ATMS but most have daily cash limits, which vary from bank to bank. It may be more expedient to go into the bank to draw larger amounts.

Namibian banks are open from 9am to 3:30pm on weekdays and from 9am to 11am on Saturdays.

## **Communication**

Cellphones are now more common than landlines in Namibia and the cell reception at Ongariwanda Hunting Safaris is quite good in most parts of our territory. If you'll be using your cellphone, remember to organize international roaming with your service provider prior to departure.

We have free WIFI in the common areas of the main lodge at Ongariwanda Hunting Safaris. The office at the lodge has a computer with an internet connection which our guests can use free of charge.

## **Malaria**

Malaria, a potentially serious illness spread by the Anopheles mosquito, occurs only in the northeast of the country, roughly from Etosha National Park northwards. If you'll be visiting in these areas, speak to your doctor about taking anti-malaria medication. The prophylactic course usually starts well before your departure, so planning ahead is vital.

If you have any flu-like symptoms after you return home, see your doctor immediately and let him/her know that you've been in a malaria area.

Prevention is always better than cure, so wear loose-fitting long-sleeved shirts and long pants with cuffs, use a good insect repellent (especially between sundown and sunrise, when mosquitoes are most active), and sleep under a mosquito net if possible.

