

Namibia

Information for applicants

Namibia

The lyrics of the national anthem of Namibia, one of Africa's youngest countries, contain the words 'Namibia, Land of the Brave'. Extending to 824,000 km² with a population of approximately 2.5 million, the former South West Africa, which gained independence in 1990, is the second-least densely populated country on Earth. Namibia and Germany have a special relationship due to the country's past as a former German colony, which also impacts the current cooperation. No other country receives higher per-capita support from German development cooperation than Namibia. Namibia's official language is English; Afrikaans, Oshiwambo and German are also in widespread use.

Climate and sights

Namibia's climate is characterised by a lack of rain and significant fluctuations in temperature during a single day or season. The capital city, Windhoek, is located on the central high plateau at an elevation of approx. 1,600 m. Temperatures can get very hot in summer, though nights remain generally pleasantly cool. Winters can be bitterly cold. The coastal climate is defined by the cold Benguela Current, frequently leading to cool and foggy conditions.

Traces of the German colonial era can be seen in Windhoek and the coastal city of Swakopmund, like Windhoek's Church of Christ, built in 1907.

Namibia is home to a diverse range of fauna, which can be admired not just in its national parks (Etosha and KAZA).

The broad savannahs and desert landscapes are popular destinations for travellers.

Medical care

Medical services are good and reach almost European standards in the cities of Windhoek and Swakopmund. Other major cities in Namibia offer solid basic services for common illnesses and injuries, though we do not recommend attending state hospitals. Private hospitals are very well equipped. Patients need only rely on expertise from South Africa for special treatments.

There is a list of qualified (German-speaking) general practitioners and specialists, drawn up by the regional doctor.

Accommodation and quality of life

The range of accommodation for GIZ staff members in Namibia is good and diverse. When looking for accommodation, you should focus on the eastern and southern districts of Windhoek.

Choose your house or apartment very carefully, also taking security aspects into consideration: high walls, electric fences and alarm systems.

Shops and services

In Windhoek (and to some extent also in Swakopmund, Walvis Bay, Otjiwarongo and Ongwediva), you can buy almost anything that is also available in similarly sized European cities. Basic foodstuffs are easy to come by everywhere else.

Most foodstuffs are imported, which is reflected in the high prices. Meat produced in Namibia (beef, game) is high in quality and relatively inexpensive. There are many supermarkets in Windhoek, as well as a pedestrian zone and several large and modern malls.

Namibia's currency is the Namibian dollar (NAD). It is tied to the South African rand (ZAR) at an exchange rate of 1:1. Both currencies are accepted throughout Namibia.

Accompanying partners and children

Accompanying partners who want to work must apply for a separate work visa through the respective employer. This is often a difficult and time-consuming process. The visa cannot be applied for through GIZ.

Once accompanying partners have obtained their own work visa, the visa procured through GIZ loses its validity. Partners can apply for another after the period of employment comes to an end, but this can involve significant time delays and may require them to leave the country again.

Schools: Namibia has many private schools, which are far better than the state schools and comparable with good schools in Germany and other European countries. Windhoek also has a German School Abroad – the DHPS offers childcare and classes for children of all ages from crèche to

the international German International *Abitur* (DIAB). There are also German schools in Swakopmund, Otjiwarongo, Omaruru, Otavi and Grootfontein. The school year begins in mid-January and ends in early December. The international school in Windhoek bases its year around the European school calendar. GIZ covers 92.5% of the costs of private schools.

Childcare: There are very good childcare centres, and even international kindergartens in most areas. Windhoek boasts German-speaking kindergartens, in addition to Waldorf and Montessori establishments.

Find out more

<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/323.html>

<https://windhuk.diplo.de/>

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