



Photo: Vadim Nefedoff/Shutterstock.com



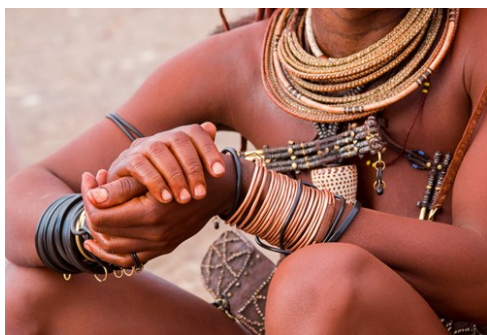
Vadim Nefedoff/Shutterstock.com

Windhoek is at Namibia's centre in more ways than one: apart from being the country's main political hub by design, it also happens to sit in its very heart geographically, making the city an easy stop over on the way to Namibia's spectacular natural attractions. Some of those include the Namib-Naukluft National Park, with its striking Sossusvlei and Deadvlei, Etosha National Park with free-roaming indigenous animals, and the endless stretch of ghastly, striking Skeleton Coast.

NOTE: This Guide has been limited to 20 points of interest per section. For the full guide, please visit ArrivalGuides.com



Fabio Lamanna/Shutterstock.com



francesco de marco/Shutterstock.com

QUIZ

*What Type of Traveller
Are You Based on
Your Travel IQ?*

TAKE THE QUIZ

Top 5



Christ Church

The sandstone Christuskirche is, despite its modest size and unimposing appe...



Independence Memorial Museum

For a closer look at Namibia's historic path to late



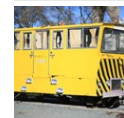
Daan Viljoen Game Reserve

For a brush with spectacular nature and wildlife within a half hour drive fr...



Alte Feste

The oldest surviving building of the Namibian capital was originally built t...



Trans-Namib Transport Museum

Windhoek's German-built train station contains a curious



THE CITY



Nate Hovee/Shutterstock.com

Windhoek is, in some ways, the least "African" of Sub-Saharan cities. The compact city centre, with its landmark Christuskirche, looks much like a transplant from the European mainland – its streets rarely overflow with people, traffic is orderly, and the closest continental restaurant – or even a full-on beer garden, for that matter – is never too far away.

Although many visitors limit their stay in Windhoek to its central district (Klein Windhoek), heavy on colonial heritage, there is more to discover further afield. The outlying neighbourhood of Katutura makes for an insightful day trip (although going it alone isn't recommended, try and join a guided tour or be accompanied by a local), while the Daan Viljoen Game Reserves the place closest to town to get close and personal with some of Namibia's non-predatory indigenous animals: zebra, giraffe, impala, kudu, steenbok, oryx, and a multitude of bird species. One needn't go to a specially designated reserve, however – animals roam Namibian planes freely and can be spotted just off major highways.

DO & SEE



Fabio Lamanna/Shutterstock.com

Few come to Namibia and limit their stay to Windhoek alone, but most who do travel to the country choose to spend a day or two in the easy-going capital. Although attractions are admittedly scarce, there is just enough for a good couple of days with sightseeing and shopping. If you happen to have time on your hands and do not mind venturing out of the city centre, check out the recently inaugurated Heroes Acre (south of Windhoek, down B1), an expansive war memorial commemorating those involved in the Namibian liberation struggle.

Christ Church



The sandstone Christuskirche is, despite its modest size and unimposing appearance, somewhat of the city's symbol. Designed by a prolific German architect, the church marks an important era in Namibian history, and remains an attractive location for locals to exchange vows in marriage.

Photo: evenfh/Shutterstock.com

Address: Robert Mugabe Ave, Windhoek

Phone: +264 61 236 002

Internet: www.namibweb.com/christ.htm

Independence Memorial Museum



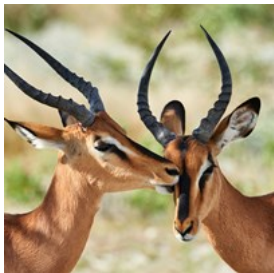
For a closer look at Namibia's historic path to late independence in 1990, visit the Independence Memorial Museum housed inside an imposing modernist building in Windhoek's former colonial heart. The museum was designed by a North Korean construction company, involved in multiple construction projects across Africa, hence the socialist aesthetic. The top floor panoramic restaurant is worth a pit stop.

Photo: Andreas Juergensmeier/Shutterstock.com

Address: Robert Mugabe Ave, Windhoek

Phone: +264 61 276 800

Daan Viljoen Game Reserve



For a brush with spectacular nature and wildlife within a half hour drive from the Namibian capital, Daan Viljoen Game Reserve is hard to beat. Its vast expanses are inhabited by native animals such as zebra and antelope, along with a couple hundred indigenous bird species. The park is an excellent getaway for picnics and hiking.

Photo: ArCaLu/Shutterstock.com

Address: Off Bosua Pass Hwy, Namibia

Phone: +264 83 323 2444

Alte Feste



The oldest surviving building of the Namibian capital was originally built to house the German colonial troops in the late 19th century, later going

on to become a museum for Namibia's struggle for independence, as well as a historic landmark in itself. The controversial Reiterdenkmal, an alleged symbol of German dominance in the region, has been relocated from its original place opposite the Christuskirche into the yard of Alte Feste for storage.

The interior space is closed for public visits as of mid-2019; a few wartime exhibits are showcased out front.

Photo: Andreas Juergensmeier/Shutterstock.com

Trans-Namib Transport Museum



Windhoek's German-built train station contains a curious museum of old railway memorabilia and antiquated equipment, and still sports Fraktur typefaces on in- and outdoor signs. Original 19th century locomotives are displayed just outside the station.

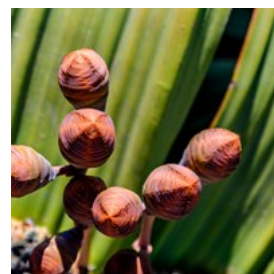
Photo: Stéphane Gallay/Flickr (image cropped)

Address: Bahnhof St, Windhoek

Phone: +264 61 298 2624

Internet: www.namibweb.com/railmuseum.htm

National Botanic Garden of Namibia



A pleasant green oasis containing several distinct areas with flora indigenous to Namibia. Note that the garden only operates on weekdays (closed on weekends and holidays), except for the second Saturday of the month (opens 8-11am).

Photo: rosn123/Shutterstock.com

Address: Hugel St, Windhoek

Internet: www.nbri.org.na/sections/botanic-garden

Zoo Park



A stone's throw from Windhoek's Christuskirche is the city's liveliest city park, attracting picnickers and lunch breakers from

surrounding offices. Although no animals have called the park home for decades, it retains its original name from when it served as a public zoo. An elephant column serves as reminder of the location's past, when it was used as elephant hunting grounds nearly 5 millennia ago.

Photo: Filipe Frazao/Shutterstock.com

Address: Park St, Windhoek

Phone: +264 81 648 8577

NamibRand Nature Reserve



This privately owned nature reserve is a favourite for trekking (Tok Tokkie Trail is often the first pick) and camping trips, offering an

experience distinctly different to that of the desert terrain of the Namib-Naukluft National Park. NamibRand is also home to the an International Dark Sky Reserve, recognised for the exceptional clarity of its skies, and offering near-unparalleled stargazing.

Photo: Felix Lipov/Shutterstock.com

Address: D831, Namibia

Internet: www.namibrand.com

Namib-Naukluft National Park

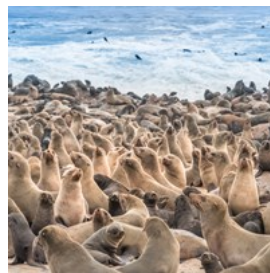


No journey to Namibia is complete without a substantial amount of time dedicated to the ancient desert lands of the Namib, known for its

dramatic sand dunes and wondrous, arid landscapes. Within the park, two adjoining valleys of Sossusvlei and Deadvlei are a major tourist draw (dead trees rising dramatically from the white clay earth of the latter have been the subject of much photographic exploration), and standing at 80m tall Dune 45 is the one easiest to reach from Sesriem gate.

Photo: Oleg Znamenskiy/Shutterstock.com

Skeleton Coast & Cape Cross



Accessible only by air, this remote part of the country is known to have claimed lives of both beasts and humans (hence the macabre

name) - whale carcasses still line the coast, serving as a grim reminder of the once flourishing whaling industry. One of the biggest "attractions" here is the Dunedin Star, a British ship wrecked in the 1940s. At Cape Cross, the scenery changes: this lively oasis inhabited with hundreds of seals and sea lions frolicking jovially by the water.

Photo: LouieLea/Shutterstock.com

DINING



Kzenon/Shutterstock.com

Namibian cuisine as a whole is an odd mix of African game dishes, using meats of animals like crocodile or kudu, and strong European (more specifically, German) influences. The food served at Windhoek's multiple restaurants differs greatly from the locals' staple diet: you'll have to dig to experience the latter, albeit not too far - the Katatura Township is where Namibian eats are more readily available, and nearly every guided tour includes a tasting of open-fire grilled Kapana beef.

Joe's Beerhouse



A Windhoek dining essential, Joe's Beerhouse is a venue wildly popular with visitors to Namibia, for both its stylised, casual ambience with a fireplace centrepiece and its extensive menu of local offerings, with a heavy emphasis on meat: to go all out, try the Bushman Sosatie with crocodile, zebra (!), kudu, oryx and springbok cuts with mango-chilli sauce.

Photo: Africa Studio/Shutterstock.com
Address: 160 Nelson Mandela Ave, Windhoek
Phone: +264 61 232 457
Internet: www.joesbeerhouse.com

Nice Restaurant & Bar



The Namibian Institute of Culinary Education runs this upper-end establishment that functions as training grounds for some of the country's best future chefs. Consult the website for current operating hours.

Photo: Gems in Africa/Shutterstock.com
Address: 2 Mozart St, Windhoek
Phone: +264 61 300 710
Internet: www.nicenamibia.com

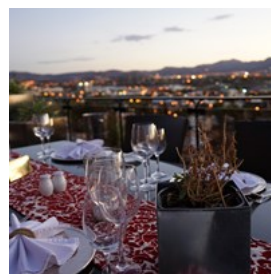
The Stellenbosch Wine Bar and Bistro



Consistently serving some of the best food in town, The Stellenbosch easily becomes a favourite for anyone that pays a visit. The menu lists extensive Namibian and international offerings, and a comprehensive wine list to match.

Photo: sirtravelalot/Shutterstock.com
Address: Shop 25 Bougain Villas 320, Sam Nujoma Dr, Windhoek
Phone: +264 61 309 141
Internet: www.thestellenboschwinebar.com

Leo's @ Heinitzburg Castle



Fine dining on international fusion cuisine at a hilltop castle overlooking Windhoek; open all day for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The castle also contains an upscale hotel.

Photo: Gems in Africa/Shutterstock.com
Address: 22 Heinitzburg St, Windhoek
Phone: +264 61 249 597
Internet: www.heinitzburg.com

Xwama Traditional Restaurant



Windhoek is more than its tourist-favoured European core: the Katutura Township makes for an enlightening day of exploration, albeit doing

so is recommended as part of a guided tour. While here, make some time for a meal at the Xwama Traditional Restaurant, serving some fascinating offerings, the likes of steamed goat head or "irresistable" Mopone worms.

Photo: e2dan/Shutterstock.com

Address: Independence Ave & Omongo St, Windhoek

Phone: +264 81 424 5018

Internet: www.xwama.com

The Social



Cool yet unpretentious, The Social is a risen star on the Windhoek dining scene. Despite the menu being "Greek/Mediterranean"

by their own admission, dishes featured extend to include international transplants like Thai soups and apple strudel.

Photo: Monkey Business Images/Shutterstock.com

Address: Liliencron St, Windhoek

Phone: +264 61 252 946

Sardinia Blue Olive



As is the case with many European restaurants in Windhoek, Sardinia Blue Olive doesn't exclusively serve Italian (that's not to say their seafood and pizza aren't delicious!), but changes it up with dishes like Malay chicken curry and oxtail soup.

Prices are reasonable despite the sophisticated ambience.

Photo: Rawpixel.com/Shutterstock.com

Address: Sam Nujoma Dr, Windhoek

Phone: +264 61 258 183

CAFES



sergey causelove/Shutterstock.com

Cafes are ubiquitous in Klein Windhoek, most serving Western-style food, coffee and dessert.

Cafe Balalaika



Centrally located at the Windhoek Zoo Park, Cafe Balalaika (also known as "Zoo Cafe") is a pleasant spot to grab lunch on a day out on the town.

Seating available on the outdoor terrace. By night, the cafe takes on more of a bar vibe, with beer on tap, live music and karaoke.

Photo: Dragon Images/Shutterstock.com

Address: Independence Ave, Windhoek

Phone: +264 61 235 019

More Info: Located at the Windhoek Zoo Park

Craft Cafe

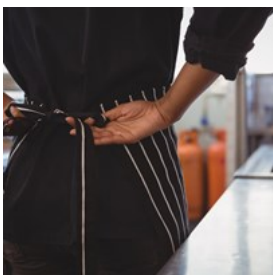


The cafe adjacent to a Namibian crafts market is a delightful locale to have breakfast or a light meal any time of day (they work till sundown

Wednesday through Friday, but close just after lunch on weekends). Some highlights include fresh juices, wraps, and more.

Photo: Rawpixel.com/Shutterstock.com
Address: 40 Tal St, Windhoek
Phone: +264 61 249 974
Internet: www.craftcafe-namibia.com

Old Continental Cafe & Take Away

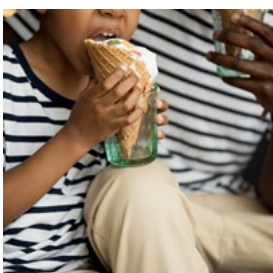


Hidden in plain sight just off Independence Avenue, the cafe is a reliable local favourite for lunch and breakfast. The menu features casual European

foods, such as salads and toasted sandwiches, but also serves much-loved Asian-style noodles. All things but one are a forte: the cafe is closed for business on weekends.

Photo: wavebreakmedia/Shutterstock.com
Address: Continental Passage between Independence Ave & Lüderitz St, Windhoek
Phone: +264 61 307 176

Cramer Ice Cream



Sweet and savoury waffles, good coffee, and, of course, ice cream and frozen yogurt are what this cosy central joint is all about. The selling

point are the spectacular ice creams, crafted at an organic dairy farm in eastern Namibia. It's a huge hit with the locals, making Cramer's one of

the places to witness life in Windhoek as it unfolds.

Photo: LightField Studios/Shutterstock.com
Address: Independence Ave, Windhoek
Phone: +264 81 277 1722
Internet: www.cramer.com.na

Wecke & Voigts Coffee Shop



The Wecke & Voigts shopping centre contains a namesake cafe known for its excellent breakfast and lunch selections, as well as good coffee and scrumptious dessert. Pop in before or after a browse through the adjacent home ware store.

Photo: mavo/Shutterstock.com
Address: Gustav Voigts Centre, Independence Ave, Windhoek
Phone: +264 61 377 000
Internet: www.weckevoigtsretail.com/kaffee-bar

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Monkey Business Images/Shutterstock.com

Bars-hopping is easy in central Windhoek, as most establishments are grouped close to each other. The party-going crowd is normally a good mix of working locals, expats and visitors, and the casual environment at most bars makes it easy to strike up a conversation. If you happen to have a local guide, consider checking out Katatura's notorious Eveline Street, where rowdy parties break out in someone's makeshift

backyard bar, but certainly do not go it alone.

Chopsi's



Chopsi's is a casual bar that attracts patrons from all walks of life, both locals and expats.

Affordable drinks and a lively dance floor (later in

the night) make for some excellent entertainment, and the convenient central location make it hard to miss.

Photo: Rawpixel.com/Shutterstock.com

Address: Garten St, Windhoek

Phone: +264 81 685 9116

More Info: Old Breweries Complex

The Wine Bar



Offering exceptional views of the sunset, this relaxed wine bar is a locals' favourite for an evening drink. The establishments boasts an

extensive wine list and snack platters to go along, as well as some more substantial dining options.

Photo: Sergey Ryzhov/Shutterstock.com

Address: Garten St, Windhoek

Phone: +264 61 226 514

Boiler Room



With its live music and irresistibly cool vibes, the Boiler Room at Windhoek's Warehouse Theatre is, quite possibly, the hottest locale in town

- stop by and you're all but guaranteed to join the rave reviewers.

Photo: Helena Lopes/Pexels.com

Address: Tal St, Windhoek

Phone: +264 61 402 253

Andy's



A Windhoek institution, Andy's is a traditional German beer garden with everything that implies: generous servings of beer, schnitzels the size

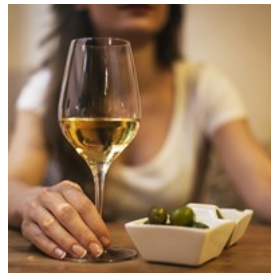
of a grown adult's face, and rowdy vibes - increasingly so as the night progresses.

Photo: Alexander Rath/Shutterstock.com

Address: Sam Nujoma Dr, Windhoek

Phone: +264 81 602 5045

Que Tapas!



The inviting outdoor seating area of Que Tapas! is hard to beat, especially so in combination with the fabulous selection of

Spanish tapas complimented by flavours more familiar to the locals' palate. Come for cocktails and live music.

Photo: santypan/Shutterstock.com

Address: 16 Liliencron St, Windhoek

Phone: +264 81 861 7797

SHOPPING



Fred Turck/Shutterstock.com

Windhoek has a good mix of craft stores and modern one-stop shopping centres, the latter including malls like centrally located Wernhil Park, Mauera and the latest and largest yet addition to the scene: The Grove. For local souvenirs, head to the pedestrian Post Street Mall, and do not hold reservations when it comes to haggling. The Windhoek City Market takes place on Fridays and Saturdays at The Village; schedules are subject to change. Browse through Uncle Spike's Book Exchange at the corner of Tal & Garten for some very reasonably priced, multi-lingual literature.

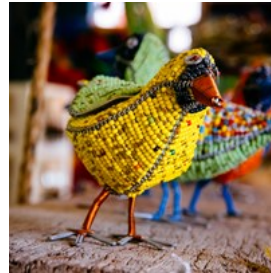
Post Street Mall



The shopping hot spot of the city centre is the pedestrian Post Street Mall, a collection of individual vendors and stores, with some of Windhoek's largest shopping centres within arm's reach (Wernhil Park is among the most attractive). Do not miss the display of meteorites collected after a meteor shower over the town of Gibeon.

Photo: Adwo/Shutterstock.com
Address: Post St Mall, Windhoek

Old Breweries Craft Market



To hunt down those authentically Namibian souvenirs, pay a visit to the possibly absolute best place to find them: the Old Breweries Market complex, with a collection of stalls selling all things Namibian from artisan jewellery to fashion by upcoming designers and various crafts. Do not miss the on-site Namibian Crafts Centre and its adjacent cafe.

Photo: Fotografie-Kuhlmann/Shutterstock.com
Address: 40 Tal St, Windhoek
Phone: +264 61 242 222
Internet: <http://nambiacraftcentre.com>
More Info: Old Breweries Complex

Wecke & Voigts



This well-established upper-end department store is run by fourth-generation Namibians of German descent. Stocking fashion, decor items, and authentic Namibian products (drop by the Windhoek shop), Wecke & Voigts is hard to miss. Apres-shopping, grab lunch at the on-site cafe.

Photo: mimagephotography/Shutterstock.com
Address: Gustav Voigts Centre, Independence Ave, Windhoek
Phone: +264 61 377 000
Internet: www.weckevoigtsretail.com

Maerua Mall



A large shopping mall with a varied selection of retail stores, cafes, and restaurants, as well as a cinema and entertainment centre

designed to accommodate families.

Photo: Monkey Business Images/Shutterstock.com
Address: Robert Mugabe & Centaurus St, Windhoek
Internet: www.maeruumall.com

The Diamond Works



If you're in the market for precious stones, The Diamond Works is a good place to shop around for Namibia's world-renowned

gemstone. There is an open-plan workshop where soon-to-be pieces come to life before one's very eyes. Pricing is competitive.

Photo: Luibov Luganskaia/Shutterstock.com
Address: Craft Centre, Old Breweries Building, Windhoek
Phone: +264 64 229 049
Internet: www.thediamondworks.co.za

CYMOT



For hiking, camping, and active outdoor gear, CYMOT is the place. A stop here is essential if you're planning to explore Namibian wild

parks and nature.

Photo: Rocksweeper/Shutterstock.com
Address: Ndemufayo Ave, Windhoek
Phone: +264 61 295 6000
Internet: www.cymot.com

TOURIST INFORMATION



Stacey Ann Alberts/Shutterstock.com

National Parks



If you are planning to visit any of Namibia's spectacular national parks, remember that an entry permit is required, and a daily fee needs to

be paid to the Ministry of the Environment and Tourism. Permits are issued at the MET office in Windhoek, which is located inside the Phillip Troskie Bulding (+264 61 284 2111), or may be purchased at park gates in most cases. Permits for Brandberg are issued separately by the National Heritage Council located at 54 Robert Mugabe Ave.

Accommodation on national park grounds is best booked well in advance, as it may be in short supply during peak season. Bookings can be done online or in person at the Namibia Wildlife Resorts office at Erkrath Building, 189 Independence Ave.

For self-guided tours, 4x4 trucks (four-wheelers) offer the most flexibility in terms of exploring some of the more rugged terrain and venturing onto unpaved roads.

Photo: KirillKazachek/Shutterstock.com

Passport / Visa



Citizens of multiple countries in Western Europe, North America, Russia & CIS, Southern Africa, as well as Australia and Japan (and

more) do not require a visa to enter Namibia for a period of up to 90 days. Everyone entering Namibia must hold a passport valid for at least 6 months. Citizens of most Eastern European countries, Asia, Middle East and South America will require a visa. To learn more about the documentation needed to obtain a visa, contact a consulate closest to you.

Photo: TukTuk Design/Shutterstock.com

Internet: www.namibia.org.za/visa-requirements

Best Time to Visit



Travellers intending to spend the majority of their stay in Windhoek can plan the trip for nearly any time of year. However, if you plan to

include Namibian destinations further afield into your itinerary, consider April and May, when temperatures are moderate and rainfall relatively low. June, July and August are the driest months of the year, whereas December through February are characterised by greater precipitation, and are also the best months for bird-watching enthusiasts.

Photo: VectorA/Shutterstock.com

Hosea Kutakos International Airport



The Hosea Kutakos International Airport is Namibia's primary air hub. It is located around 40 km away from Windhoek, so allow for enough time to reach the city.

Although public transportation to and from the airport does exist, most visitors will be better off pre-booking a private transfer, as these tend to cost just as much, but are plenty more reliable and efficient. That said, prices offered by individual suppliers may vary greatly, so shop around before deciding on a provider.

Taxis are also available just outside the arrivals area.

Photo: Juan Garces

Internet: www.namibiatours.com.na

Public Transport



Although public buses do run in Windhoek, the easier way to get around is by means of either a shared or private taxi. Shared taxis are used

widely by locals, and can be flagged down anywhere along Independence Ave (it's easiest to get one by the Gustav Voigts Centre in Independence Ave, known as Windhoek's unofficial transportation hub). Announce your destination to the driver, who will let you know whether it lies en route - you might have to catch the next one otherwise. Prices depend on how far our your destination lies, but are extremely affordable either way.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

Taxi



Taxis can be hired off the street (many tend to cluster along Independence Ave, especially by the corner next to Zoo Park), fares

are either metered or need to be agreed on in advance. There are plenty of taxi companies offering private taxi transfers upon phone order.

Windhoek City Cab

Photo: Taxi

Phone: +264 81 257 2188

Internet: www.whk-citycab.com

Pharmacy



Essential Health
Pharmacy Grimms Street
& Goethe Street,
Windhoek +264 61 255
432 Mon-Fri 8.30am-5pm,
Sat 9-10.30am Mediclinic

Windhoek

Heliodoor Street, Windhoek

+264 61 433 100

www.mediclinic.co.za/Hospitals/HospitalDetails/id/30

Open 24/7

Photo: Gemma Garner

Post



The Central Post Office of Windhoek is located in Independence Ave, but there are several branches across the city.

Photo: Andy Fuchs

Address: Independence Ave, Windhoek

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8am-4.30pm, Sat 8-11.30am

Phone: +264 61 201 3006

Telephone



+264 (country code for Namibia) 61 (city code Windhoek)

Photo: Jardson Almeida

Electricity



Three-pin plugs, type D or M 220 V, 50 Hz

Photo: Stirling Tschan

Population

325 858

Currency

Namibian dollar is the official currency, but South African rand are also widely accepted.

Emergency numbers

Ambulance +264 (61) 21-1111

Fire +264 (61) 21-1111

Police +264 (61) 1-0111

Tourist information

Windhoek Information and Publicity Office

Locations in Independence Ave & Post Street Mall

Tel. +264 61 290 2690

Namibia Tourism Board

C/O Haddy & Sam Nujoma Drive

Private Bag 13244

Windhoek, Namibia

Tel: +264 61 2906000

info@namibiatourism.com.na

www.namibiatourism.com.na