



POLICE PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Just like with all other major cities around the world it is advisable that you take universal safety measures in order to safeguard yourself and your belongings from criminal activity.

GENERAL SAFETY TIPS:

- Do not hitchhike. Use reputable travel and transport services, ask at your hotel reception to recommend a service provider for you.
- Do not carry items for strangers
- Do not walk on the beachfront or any dark side streets alone at night. Stick to well-known places, rather than going off track without guidance.
- Do not give attention to street vendors who are not on designated market areas. The municipality has strict rules regarding vendors and those random traders are taking chances.
- Most persons on streets with lists collecting funds for charitable purposes are illegal, please do not give donations.
- It's a good idea to travel with certified photocopies of your valuable documents, keeping the originals in a safe place.
- If you lose your passport, report the loss as soon as possible to the Namibian Police as well as your country's Embassy or Consulate.

BEACHFRONT:

- Only swim in the Mole where the bathing beach is located, as the Atlantic Ocean is not only cold but also has treacherous currents and dangerous spots.
- On overcast days do use your sunscreen as the Namibian sun can leave you with sunburn.

DINING OUT

- Know where you are going before you set off, particularly at night, don't walk alone.
- Check beforehand that areas you plan to visit are safe by asking hotel staff.
- Do not wear visible jewellery or carry cameras and bags over your shoulder.
- Avoid deserted areas at night.
- Limit the amount of money you carry on you and keep mobile phones and wallets tucked away where no one can see them. Utilize other forms of payment such as debit/credit cards.
- There is no law regarding tipping for services, it is customary to leave a gratuity of at least 10% of the total bill at restaurants and bars.
- When using a credit card in restaurants, ask the waiter to bring a portable credit card machine to your table. If a restaurant does not have these advice is to go with the waiter to the point where the transaction takes place. Should your card be declined, check with restaurant management that the second machine used belongs to the establishment.
- Social services advise against giving money to street children and beggars.

FINANCIAL SERVICES:

- Most banks are open between 08h00 and 15h30 – Monday to Friday and until 11h00 on Saturdays. Banks are closed on Sundays and Public Holidays.

ATM SAFETY:

- When using automatic teller machines (ATM's) practice the generally accepted safety precautions you would employ when at home.
- Never accept an offer from a stranger to help you with your transaction. Be alert and watch that no one steals your card when you turn your back.
- If your ATM card is withheld by the machine, approach the bank to release it.
- Report lost or stolen cards immediately _____

HOTEL / ACCOMMODATION SAFETY:

- Store your valuables in the safety deposit box in your room and keep your room locked at all times
- When leaving the property ensure windows and doors are closed and locked securely.
- When leaving the property hand your key in at reception.
- Staying in an apartment ensure you activate the alarm system when leaving the property.
- **Do not open door without prior knowledge of service staff coming, this may be a trap**

VEHICLE SAFETY:

- As a driver, be on the alert when coming to a halt at traffic lights or stop streets, as well as when arriving at or leaving any premises. Car doors should always be locked.
- Never leave valuable items in cars open to view. Keep valuable items well out of sight in the boot of your car or under a cover, in order to prevent any temptation for criminals.
- It is vital that you keep your windows shut, your doors locked and valuables hidden.
- Some parking areas have car guards keeping an eye on your car whilst you're away. While you are under no obligation to tip car guards, it is customary to do so if they have locked after your car for more than 30 minutes. While the amount is at your discretion, suggested donations for car guards are N\$2 or N\$3 during day time and N\$5.00 after hours.
- When parking at night, choose well-lit or security-patrolled parking areas.

TRAVEL/ ROAD SAFETY TIPS:

- Plan your route beforehand. Make sure the map you consult is a current one.
- Ensure that your tyres are in an excellent condition, this includes your spare, before your daily journey.
- Ensure you have enough fuel for your journey, to avoid breaking down in a spot you weren't expecting.
- Filling up is administered by attendants. Attendants will offer to wash your windows, as well as check your car's oil and tyre pressure. This is part of the service of some filling stations and you are under no obligation to provide a tip unless you would like to.
- Do not exceed the speed limit of 100km/hour on Namibian gravel roads, 120km/h on tarred roads and 60km/h in town.
- On overtaking consider heavy cross winds and dust that may impair your vision.
- In rural areas, watch out for wild or farm animals – road signage will warn you when you need to take care.
- When traveling north, take extra care on the salt road on the way to Henties Bay, when it is misty and the road has become slippery.



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- During misty weather and on gravel roads have your headlights on during the day.