

Driving & safety tips – NAMIBIAN GRAVEL ROADS

Our goal is your safe and trouble-free journey in our country. Please read the below tips, it has been compiled out of personal and other travellers' experience.

Excessive speed is the main cause of accidents on gravel roads. Lack of concentration is the second cause, due to long driving distances and very little traffic.

1. Namibia's excellent infrastructure includes a major road system of which only 5% are tarred or sealed road surfaces. The rest is made up of excellent gravel roads.
2. As distances are far and traffic is light, drivers are easily tempted to exceed the speed limit. The speed limit on tarred roads in Namibia is 120 km/h, however a speed of 100 km/h is recommended until you are familiar with the tarred roads and local traffic conditions.
3. Experience has taught us that a safe speed on gravel is 60km/h- 70 km/h. At this speed, in most cases, you will be able to control any dangerous situation that you could get into.
4. You should plan your daily routing to be no further than 400 km per day, this distance would take you around 8 hours to complete.
5. *REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE HERE ON HOLIDAY TO SEE NAMIBIA*, you are not on a racetrack to get to your destination. Distances are great and one needs to remember that it does not pay to speed to one's destination as this can expose you to unnecessary danger
6. It becomes tedious when you have been on the road for a while so take regular breaks to stay awake and alert.
7. Wildlife is still abundant and is largely unpredictable, so if you see animals, slow down and approach them carefully. Keep a sharp look out, slow down and enjoy the sight of animals in their surroundings, which you are definitely not used to at home.
8. Pay attention to road traffic signs. Particularly those that indicate a gentle or sharp turn ahead. You should reduce your speed accordingly. Please also note that not all turns are marked.
9. Switch on your headlights in dusty conditions so that other road-users can see you.
10. Reduce speed when passing oncoming traffic and keep to the left side of the road as far as safely possible but please note that due to curved shape of the road driving too far to the edge of the road can lead to overturning.
11. Tyre pressure plays an important role in the road-holding ability of your vehicle. Stick to the recommended pressures at all times. Check your tyres and tyre pressure every day. Please consult owner's manual for a recommended tyre pressure.
12. Avoid driving at night. It is dangerous due to poor visibility and increasing game movement.
13. In rainy or wet conditions beware of slippery roads, wash-aways, and running or stagnant water. No driving in salt water.
14. Keep both hands on the steering wheel at all times.
15. Not all gravel roads are the same. Please be aware of the road conditions and adjust your driving style accordingly! Please also note that many gravel roads in Namibia are of a very good quality: please do not increase your speed! A sudden turns or animals on the road (even during day time) are possible!
16. Please try to avoid vehicles (especially 4WDs) overtaking you: flying stones can damage glass parts of the vehicle.
17. Please check oil and water of your car during your tour.
18. Please do not drive to prohibited areas and/or on unsuitable for sedan vehicle roads: corrugated roads, farm roads, roads with washed-up stones. In all cases please reduces speed accordingly.

GENERAL SAFETY:

19. Please do not leave your vehicle unattended but create a local employment by using services of car guards.
20. Do not leave your valuables in your car where it can be visible (on your seat, dashboard, etc.). Leave it in your hotel or put it out of sight (under your seat, etc.).
21. Please keep your vehicle locked at all times when left unattended. Steering wheel lock's usage is compulsory at all times. Please check side sliding windows: must click when fully locked. Failing to do so may result in theft.

THEFT

22. Although Namibia has a relatively low crime rate, tourists are often targeted, as in any part of the world, because of their inexperience or ignorance of the criminal aspects. Do not tempt passersby even small change can cause them to break in. Always secure your belongings by placing them in the trunk or in the cubbyhole. Always lock your vehicle, even while driving. Always keep your travel documents on your person.