



MALAIKA TRAVEL | NAMIBIA DESERT EXPEDITION

Namibia Desert Expedition & Safari Gear Checklist

Malaika Travel Master Expedition Packing List

IMPORTANT TRIP OVERVIEW & PACKING RULES

- **Extreme Temperature Fluctuations:** Namibia’s desert environment features dramatic thermal shifts. Days in the Namib Desert and Etosha are hot (25°C to 35°C+), while coastal areas (Swakopmund) and inland desert nights (especially June–August) can plummet to 0°C to 5°C (32°F–41°F).
- **Luggage Allocation:**
 - **Fly-in Safari Flights:** A strict 15 kg (33 lbs) weight limit in soft-sided duffel bags applies.
 - **4x4 Self-Drive or Guided Overland:** Soft duffel bags are strongly recommended over rigid hard-shell suitcases to fit efficiently into 4x4 vehicle boot spaces and roof tents.
- **Dust, Sand & Dry Air Hazard:** Fine desert sand in Sossusvlei and blowing coastal dust on the Skeleton Coast require strict protection for camera optics and electronics.
- **Color Strategy:** Wear neutral earth tones (khaki, beige, tan, olive). Bright white gets dusty fast, and dark colors absorb desert heat.

1. DESERT & SAFARI APPAREL (LAYERING IS KEY)

- **Lightweight Long-Sleeve Breathable Shirts (2–3x):** Loose-fitting cotton, linen, or quick-dry UV shirts (protects skin from intense desert sun).
- **Short-Sleeve T-Shirts / Polo Shirts (3–4x):** Lightweight shirts in neutral earth tones.
- **Trekking / Safari Trousers (2x):** Durable, quick-dry pants for climbing sand dunes and walking safaris.
- **Safari Shorts (1–2x):** Comfortable shorts for hot afternoon drives and overland travel.
- **Warm Fleece / Mid-Layer Jacket (1x):** Heavy fleece or Powerstretch jacket for chilly morning game drives and desert evenings.
- **Warm Expedition Down / Insulated Jacket:** Mandatory for cold desert nights (Sossusvlei/Damaraland) and freezing coastal winds in Swakopmund/Skeleton Coast.
- **Windproof / Light Rain Jacket:** Protects against fierce Atlantic coastal winds and sudden desert gusts.
- **Dust Scarf / Buff / Shemagh:** Crucial protection against blowing sand on Big Daddy dune and dusty gravel roads.

Malaika Travel	Malaikatravel.com
info@malaikatravel.com	+44 7761 228972



- **Wide-Brim Sun Hat / Safari Cap:** Must feature an adjustable chin strap for windy dune crests and open-top 4x4 vehicles.

2. FOOTWEAR & CAMP COMFORT

- **Breathable Trail Shoes / Lightweight Hiking Boots:** Sturdy walking shoes or mid-cut boots with good traction for walking on hot sand dunes, gravel plains, and rocky terrain in Damaraland.
- **Camp Shoes / Sandals:** Lightweight trainers, Birkenstocks, or Teva sandals for evenings at desert lodges and camps.
- **Moisture-Wicking Socks (4–5 pairs):** Merino wool or synthetic socks.

3. COLD NIGHTS & SLEEPING GEAR (FOR CAMPING EXPEDITIONS)

- **Warm Sleeping Bag (If Camping / Roof-Tent Expedition):** Comfort rating down to 0°C to -5°C (23°F–32°F) if traveling between May and September.
- **Thermal Base Layers – Tops & Bottoms (1 set):** Merino wool or synthetic thermals for sleeping in unheated desert lodges or tents.
- **Warm Beanie / Knit Hat & Gloves:** Essential for early morning sunrise climbs up Dune 45 and cool evening stargazing.

4. ELECTRONICS, OPTICS & CAMERA PROTECTION

- **Binoculars (10x42 or 8x42):** Essential for spotting desert-adapted wildlife in Damaraland and waterholes in Etosha.
- **Camera Gear + Telephoto Lens:** Wide-angle lens for colossal landscape shots (Sossusvlei/Deadvlei) + 200mm–500mm telephoto lens for Etosha wildlife.
- **Dust & Sand Protection Kit:** Sealed dry bags, ziplock bags, and air blowers/lens brushes to clean fine red sand off lenses and camera sensors daily.
- **High-Capacity Power Bank (10,000mAh–20,000mAh):** Crucial for long overland driving stages between remote desert camps.
- **12V Vehicle Car Charger / Inverter:** Very useful for charging cameras, phones, and drones directly from your 4x4 vehicle while driving.
- **Universal Travel Adapter:** Type M plugs (large 3 round pins) are standard in Namibia (South African standard). Standard European/UK adapters will not fit without a South Africa/Namibia conversion plug.
- **Headlamp with Red-Light Mode:** Essential for campsites, walking around unlit lodges, and night wildlife viewing at floodlit Etosha waterholes.

Malaika Travel	Malaikatravel.com
info@malaikatravel.com	+44 7761 228972



5. HYDRATION, SKINCARE & HEALTH

- **Reusable Stainless Steel / Nalgene Water Bottle (2L total capacity):** Desert humidity is extremely low—constant hydration is vital to prevent heat exhaustion.
- **High-Factor Sun Protection Kit:**
 - **Sunscreen:** SPF 50+ broad-spectrum sunscreen (apply frequently).
 - **Lip Care:** SPF 30+ zinc lip balm.
 - **Sunglasses:** Polarized UV-400 sunglasses with good side protection.
- **Moisturizers & Eye Care:** Saline eye drops (essential for flushing out desert sand/dust), heavy-duty hand cream, and nasal spray/saline gel for dry nasal passages.
- **Insect Repellent (DEET / Picaridin):** Required for Etosha and Caprivi Strip regions (less necessary in dry desert zones).
- **Personal First Aid & Medications:**
 - **Prescription:** Anti-Malaria prophylaxis (required if visiting Etosha and the Caprivi Strip/North).
 - **General:** Imodium, Paracetamol/Ibuprofen, Motion sickness tablets (for long bumpy gravel drives), Rehydration salts (ORS), Antihistamines, Blister plasters.

6. PACKING & TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

- **Soft Duffel Bag (60L–90L):** Durable, dust-proof soft bag without a rigid frame.
- **Daypack (20L–30L):** Carried with you inside the 4x4 for cameras, extra cold layers, water, and sun protection during day excursions.
- **Dust-Proof Dry Sacks / Packing Cubes:** Keeps your clothes clean and free of red sand inside your main duffel bag.
- **Travel Documents & Cash:**
 - **Passport:** Valid passport (min. 6 months validity with at least 3 blank pages).
 - **International Driving Permit (IDP):** Mandatory if opting for a self-drive 4x4 vehicle.
 - **Insurance:** Travel & Medical Insurance details covering emergency medical evacuation.
 - **Local Currency / Cash:** Namibian Dollars (NAD) or South African Rand (ZAR—accepted 1:1 everywhere in Namibia) for fuel, lodge tips, and local craft purchases. Credit cards are widely accepted at lodges and fuel stations, but cash is essential for remote areas.

Malaika Travel	Malaikatravel.com
info@malaikatravel.com	+44 7761 228972