

Lüderitz, Namibia

A surreal pocket of German colonial history marooned on the Namib Desert coast — where Art Nouveau churches face jackass penguins and a sand-buried ghost town waits 10 km away.

Docked (small harbor)

Typical call: 7-9 hrs

Namibian Dollar (NAD) / South African Rand

Afrikaans, German, English

Desert coast

👉 MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Pier in Lüderitz Harbour — ships usually berth alongside (occasionally anchor and tender); small port, no gangway bus needed

Best For: History buffs, photographers, wildlife lovers, and anyone who finds a diamond ghost town irresistible

Walk to center: 5-10 min on foot from the pier to Bismarck Street and the town center

Don't Miss: Kolmanskop ghost town — sand-filled rooms, Art Deco ruin, and an eerie silence 10 km inland

🚗 Getting around: 🚗 **Taxi** ✅ NAD 50–150 (negotiated)

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Kolmanskop Ghost Town** — A diamond-rush boomtown abandoned in the 1950s, now half-swallowed by sand dunes.
 - **Halifax Island Penguin Cruise** — A short boat trip into the sheltered lagoon reveals Halifax Island — home to a substantial African (jackass) penguin colony.
- **Colonial Architecture Walking Tour** — Lüderitz preserves Germany's only intact colonial-era townscape outside Europe.
 - **Diaz Point & Bogenfels Excursion** — Diaz Cross marks where Portuguese explorer Bartolomeu Dias landed in 1488.
 - **Namib Desert Dune Drive** — Head inland to the edge of the Sperrgebiet (Forbidden Diamond Area) for dramatic dune landscapes.

BEST WALKS

- **Colonial Town Stroll** 1-2 km · 45-60 min · Easy — From the harbor gate, walk up Bismarck Street past the Woermannhaus (a handsome 1909 colonial trading house with oriels and balconies, now a local landmark and library)...
- **Shark Island Causeway Walk** 2 km round-trip · 30-40 min · Easy — A causeway connects the town to Shark Island, a rocky peninsula with sweeping views of the bay, often with flamingos in the shallows.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		74°	59°	0d
Jun		69°	53°	1d
Aug		67°	51°	0d
Sep		68°	52°	0d
Oct		70°	56°	0d

DAYLIGHT & 🌳 MONEY

Apr 7:15AM–6:42PM · Jun 7:45AM–6:13PM · Aug 7:28AM–6:39PM · Sep 6:56AM–6:52PM · Oct 6:24AM–7:06PM

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Wind is relentless. The Benguela current brings cold, powerful gusts year-round. A windproof jacket is essential even on sunny days — it's often 15°C and blowing 40 km/h.
- Book Kolmanskop entry in advance. Permits are required and can sell out on busy ship days. Your ship's excursion desk or Lüderitz Safaris & Tours (just outside the port gate) can arrange them.
- Cash is king. ATMs are limited and sometimes empty. Bring Namibian Dollars or South African Rand — both are accepted everywhere in town.
- Best light at Kolmanskop is morning. If your ship arrives early, head straight to the ghost town before the sand fills with other visitors (and before midday haze).
- Penguin colony is genuine. African penguins on Halifax Island are year-round residents — a 90-minute boat trip from the harbor is absolutely worth it if you skip nothing else.
- Taxis wait at the port gate. Fixed fares apply for Kolmanskop and Diaz Point. Agree on the price before you depart — English is widely spoken.

Lüderitz, Namibia — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



- 1 Kolmanskop** Explore a fascinating diamond mining ghost town swallowed by sand.
- 3 Lüderitz Museum** Discover Lüderitz's rich history, culture, and diamond mining past.
- P Cruise port / terminal**

- 2 Site of Original Dias Cross** See where Bartolomeu Dias first landed and placed a cross.
- 4 Robert Harbour** Enjoy scenic views of Lüderitz's natural harbor and coastal beauty.