

Walvis Bay, Namibia

Where the Namib Desert meets the Atlantic: pink flamingos wade in a Ramsar lagoon while towering red dunes rise just beyond the city limits. Walvis Bay is a working port with surprisingly rich wildlife and one of Africa's most dramatic desert coastlines on its doorstep.

Docked (cruise terminal)

Typical call: 7-9 hrs

Namibian Dollar / South African Rand

English (official), Afrikaans

Flamingo lagoon & Namib dunes

MY DAY IN PORT

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

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Cruise ships berth at the commercial Port of Walvis Bay — no tendering. The town centre is roughly 3 km from the berth.

Best For: Wildlife spotting (flamingos, pelicans, fur seals), desert dune drives, and a day in colonial Swakopmund.

Walk to Centre: It's a working industrial port, so a shuttle or taxi to the lagoon waterfront and town centre is the norm rather than walking out of the gate.

Don't Miss: Walvis Bay Lagoon flamingos and a quad-bike or 4WD excursion to Sandwich Harbour.

Getting around: Taxi USD 5–7 · Rideshare Yango, Bolt

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Walvis Bay Lagoon Flamingo & Pelican Tour** — A motorboat glides through the Ramsar-listed lagoon toward Pelican Point, where curious Cape fur seals swim up to the boat and enormous pelicans land...
- Sandwich Harbour 4WD Dune Experience** — A 4WD or quad-bike drive south through the Namib-Naukluft National Park to Sandwich Harbour, where colossal sand dunes spill directly into the...
- Swakopmund Town & Colonial Architecture** — Drive 30 km north to Swakopmund, a well-preserved German colonial town with Bavarian-style buildings, a lively craft market, excellent seafood...
- Dune 7 & Namib Desert Walk** — Dune 7, just outside town, is Namibia's tallest dune at around 380 m.
- Cape Cross Seal Colony** — About 120 km north, Cape Cross hosts one of the world's largest Cape fur seal colonies — up to 100,000 seals.

BEST WALKS

- Lagoon Esplanade Stroll** 1.5 km · Flat · 20-30 min — Walk the paved Esplanade along the southern edge of Walvis Bay Lagoon.
- Town Centre & Craft Market** 2 km loop · Easy · 45-60 min — Head into Walvis Bay town centre to browse the informal craft market near the town hall, pick up Namibian souvenirs, and get a feel for an authentic Namibian port city...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		75°	59°	0d
Jun		74°	55°	0d
Aug		69°	50°	0d
Sep		68°	51°	0d
Oct		69°	53°	0d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 7:15AM–6:48PM · Jun 7:40AM–6:24PM · Aug 7:27AM–6:46PM · Sep 6:58AM–6:55PM · Oct 6:29AM–7:06PM

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Both currencies work. Namibian Dollars and South African Rand are interchangeable at 1:1 here. USD/EUR can be exchanged at the small FNB or Bank Windhoek branches in town, but rates are mediocre — bring rands if you can.
- Book a lagoon boat trip early. The flamingo and pelican boat tours fill quickly on port days. Ship-organised or local operators — either works, but reserve in advance.
- Wind and cold surprise people. Walvis Bay is on the cold Benguela Current coast — even in summer (Nov–Feb) mornings are cool and the wind can be brisk. Bring a layer regardless of the ship's weather briefing.
- Eat the oysters. The lagoon produces outstanding oysters sold at waterfront stalls for almost nothing. A dozen with lemon and hot sauce is a Walvis Bay rite of passage.
- Agree taxi fares before you ride. There are no meters. Short trips in town should be N\$30–60; the ride to Swakopmund is roughly N\$250–350 per person shared. Compare prices at the taxi rank outside the terminal.
- Don't attempt Sandwich Harbour alone.

Walvis Bay, Namibia — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



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| 1 Walvis Bay Museum | Explore Walvis Bay's history and culture at this museum. | 2 Walvis Bay Community Church | A local place of worship for the community. |
| 3 Namibia Dolphin and Seal Catamaran Cruises | Catamaran tours to spot dolphins, seals, and marine life. | P Cruise port / terminal | |