



# Namibia

*Joined the Commonwealth in 1990 - visited by the Queen in 1991*



**Namibia is a nation on the Atlantic coast of south-west Africa**

Pop: (2013) 2,303,000      Capital: Windhoek      Area: 824,269 sq km

Namibia is one of the driest and most sparsely populated countries on earth. Despite its emptiness, there are two major trans-continental roads one linking Zambia to the west coast and the other Namibia to South Africa through Botswana. The dry Namib Desert in the west is separated from the Kalahari Desert in the south-east by a central plateau with mountains and rocky outcrops giving rise to spectacular scenery. The Skeleton Coast of the Atlantic is a waterless stretch of high sand dunes pounded by high surf and often fog bound posing a danger to shipping.

Namibia has great mineral wealth. Diamonds, gold, silver, uranium, zinc, copper, phosphates and fish are all important plus recent finds of oil. Namibia's wildlife is exceptional. Most African safari and game animals are found plus an exceptional range of birdlife. Etosha National Park in the north is one of the largest in the world. Namibia is rapidly attracting eco-tourists who come to visit its natural wonders.

*The sand dunes at Sossusvlei rise to 387 metres*

