

CAPRIVI

The lush sub-tropical wetlands of the Caprivi are a diverse habitat boasting amazing scenery, spectacular birdlife and big game.

1

Sundowner boat cruises with snacks and drinks on the river - a must-do activity in these parts

2

Enjoy game drives in one of 3 national parks - and a chance to see hippo and buffalo

3

The ultimate birding destination in Namibia with more than 430 species

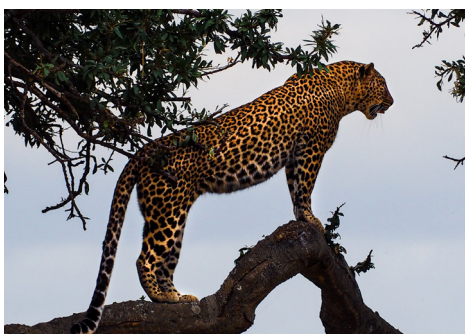
4

Visit the cascades of water at Popa Falls - beautifully scenic and peaceful

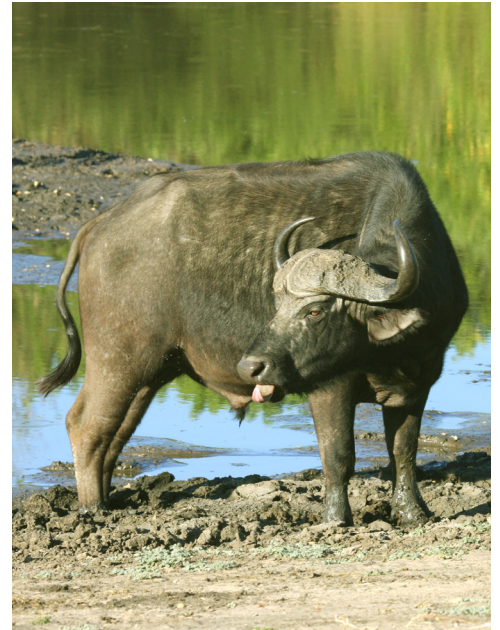
Caprivi (also known as Zambezi Region) is a lush, sub-tropical wetland. Large expanses of open water are fringed with palm trees, reeds and papyrus. Flood plains are dotted with broad-leafed woodlands, the wildlife is mostly riverine and birdlife is abundant.

Attaining its odd shape from the powers that were during colonial times, this strip of land covers about 20,000sq km between the Zambezi and Okavango Rivers. The 450km strip is 30km wide at its narrowest and 100km at its widest.

Game viewing, bird watching and river cruises are the highlight of this lush strip of sub-tropical land. The combination of wetlands, flood plains and savannah woodlands with Kalahari bushveld supports the greatest diversity of birds in Namibia. Over 430 species have been recorded and the wetlands are a spectacular and scenic birding hotspot.



CAPRIVI FACTS



Enjoy guided walking safaris in the lush wetlands (left); Spot buffalo on a Caprivi game drive (above)

1. Caprivi is named after Leo von Caprivi - the German politician who, in 1890, signed an agreement trading the islands of Zanzibar to the British in exchange for Heligoland, an archipelago in the North Sea. Bundled in the deal to Germany came this little strip thought to provide access to the Zambezi River and a route to the east coast of Africa. But the route was later found not to be navigable because about 65 kilometres (40 miles) east of the Caprivi Strip is Victoria Falls.
2. The Caprivi is also called The Caprivi Strip and, more recently, The Zambezi Region. The Kavango Region comprises of two regions – Kavango East and Kavango West.
3. The width of the strip varies from about 32 km (20 mi) to 105 km (65 mi) and it is 450 km (280 mi) long. The largest settlement is the town of Katima Mulilo in the east - at the point where the Zambezi River reaches the Caprivi.
4. Some of Southern Africa's most impressive rivers run through the Caprivi region, transforming this area into a lush green oasis. These include the Okavango, the Chobe and the Zambezi.
5. Wildlife in this area is protected by three national parks: Bwabwata National Park (created by the merging of the Caprivi Game Park and Mahango Game Reserve in 2007), Nkasa Rupara National Park (previously known as Mamili National Park), and Mudumu National Park.
6. Animals cross freely from Botswana and this is the only area in Namibia where you will see buffalo, hippo and crocodiles.
7. The Caprivi is known for its birdlife and supports over 430 resident and migratory species, including some area specials that are typically found only in the Caprivi and Okavango regions including the coppery-tailed coucal, the slaty egret, and the brown firefinch.
8. Over 90,000 people live in this region, about four percent of Namibia's population. Most of these people are subsistence farmers who make their living on the banks of the Zambezi, Kwando, Linyanti and Chobe Rivers.
9. "Four corners of Africa" at the eastern end of the Caprivi Strip, is the place where Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe meet.

CAPRIVI LANDMARKS

Katima Mulilo: On the eastern side of the Caprivi, this is the capital of this region with around 30,000 residents, shops, souvenirs and local restaurants.

Divundu: This village on the western side of the Caprivi has a small supermarket for essentials and a service station for fuel.

Rundu: On the far western side of the Caprivi Strip, Rundu is the second largest city in Namibia and the main city of the Kavango Region in northern Namibia. It lies on the border with Angola on the banks of the Kavango River about 1,000 metres above sea level.

Popa Falls: A picturesque series of cascades and channels caused by a kink in the Kavango River.

Bwabwata National Park: Bwabwata National Park was created to protect the migrating route of the African elephant as well as the diverse species of vegetation and wildlife. The park also protects and invests in the 5,500 inhabitants who live in the park. The park was established in 2007 when the Caprivi Game Park and the Mahango Game Reserve were merged.

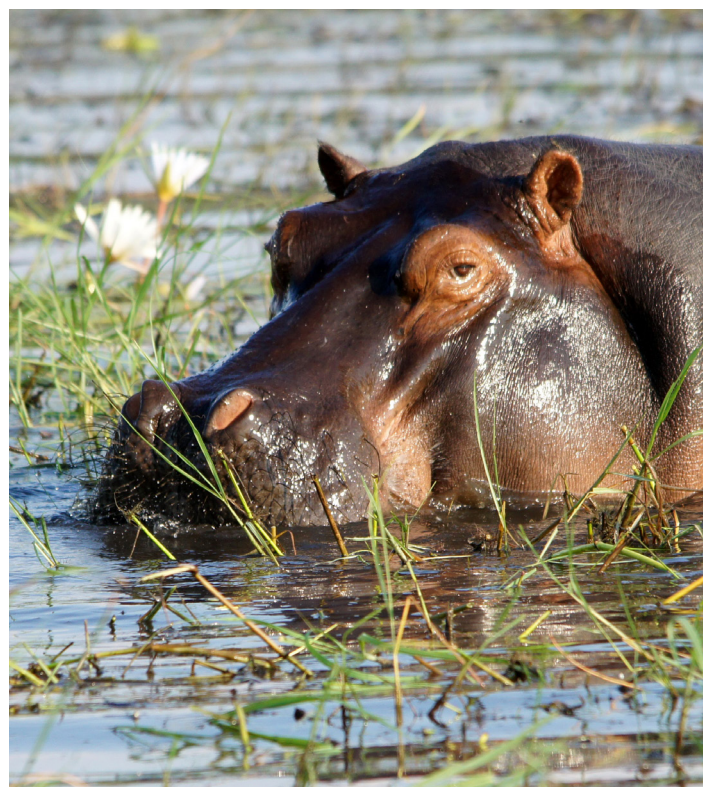
Mudumu National Park: This 737 sq km off-the-beaten-track park is home to a large African elephant population as well as many other species: buffalo, lion, leopard, hyena, cheetah, wild dog, hippo, crocodile, giraffe, impala, zebra, blue wildebeest and more.

Nkasa Rupara National Park: Formerly known as Mamili National Park, Nkasa Rupara is Namibia's equivalent of the Okavango Delta - with far less tourists. It is a watery wonderland of islands, marshes and river channels and the unfenced park forms an important trans-boundary link for wildlife migration between Angola, Botswana, Namibia and Zambia.

Mafwe Living Museum: This open-air interactive museum demonstrates the culture and traditions of the Mafwe people through songs, dancing, demonstrations of trapping and fishing, making of clothes and tools and traditional games.

Ngoma Bridge: The border post between Namibia and Botswana.

Popa Falls is a series of gently cascading waterfalls (below); You will see hippo and crocodile from your boat on a water safari (right)



CAPRIVI TIPS

- When visiting the Caprivi Strip, make sure to include both the eastern and western side to give you enough time to include incredible wildlife sightings across all the national parks of this region.
- The Caprivi Strip is a great destination to include if you wish to combine Namibia with a visit to Botswana – both Chobe National Park and Maun as well as Victoria Falls.
- Keep in mind that in and after the rainy season, many lodges in the Caprivi are not accessible by road as the wetlands become flooded. In most cases these lodges are then accessible by boat transfer from a safe parking spot.
- If you are visiting this area for fishing, it is important to note that fishing is often seasonal according to breed and most fishing (especially tiger fishing) is done on a catch and release basis. Fishing for tigerfish is best between late April to December and for bream species between mid June to November.
- Permanent water in Zambezi Region makes is a great destination for birding year-round but the best time for migrant species is from November to April.
- Wildlife in the region is also great year-round but best in the dry winter months from June to September.
- The Caprivi is a malaria risk area, especially after the rainy season from May, when there are many stagnant water pools. It is always best to take the necessary precautions and use insect repellents when travelling in these parts.

CAPRIVI DISTANCES

Windhoek – Rundu	715km	7 - 8 hours	Tarred road
Namutoni – Rundu	430km	5 - 6 hours	Tarred road
Waterberg – Rundu	470km	5 - 6 hours	Partly gravel but mostly tarred road
Rundu – Divundu	200km	3 hours	Tarred road
Divundu – Popa Falls	6km	10 mins	Gravel road
Divundu – Kongola	200km	3 hours	Tarred road
Kongola – Katima Mulilo	110km	1 - 2 hours	Tarred road
Katima Mulilo – Ngoma Bridge	70km	1 hour	Tarred road
Katima Mulilo – Kasane	130km	2 - 3 hours	Tarred road
Katima Mulilo – Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe)	210km	3 - 4 hours	Tarred road





CAPRIVI WEATHER

Caprivi has a sub-tropical climate - it is very hot and humid in summer, with heavy rainfall during the wet season (November to March). The average rainfall is 550 – 600 mm per year, which makes it tvhe wettest region in Namibia. The best time for game viewing is from April to September and it is during this period the weather is at its most pleasant as well. During these dry winter months you can expect comfortable temperatures between 26 – 28°C (79 – 82°F) during the day.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
AVERAGE HIGH °C (°F)	31 (87)	31 (87)	30 (86)	30 (86)	28 (82)	25 (77)	26 (78)	29 (84)	33 (91)	35 (95)	33 (91)	31 (87)
AVERAGE LOW °C (°F)	19 (66)	19 (66)	17 (62)	15 (59)	10 (50)	6 (42)	5 (41)	8 (46)	13 (55)	17 (62)	19 (66)	19 (66)
DAILY MEAN °C (°F)	25 (77)	25 (77)	23.5 (74.3)	22.5 (72.5)	19 (66.2)	15.5 (59.9)	15.5 (59.9)	18.5 (65.3)	23 (73.4)	26 (78.8)	26 (78.8)	25 (77)
AVERAGE RAINFALL MM (INCHES)	137 (5.4)	134 (5.3)	77 (3)	22 (0.9)	2 (0.1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (0.1)	23 (0.9)	56 (2.2)	117 (4.6)

