Information for Visiting Yachts at Walvis Bay

Arrival Procedures

Upon approaching Walvis Bay, contact Port Control on VHF Channel 12 to request permission to enter the port.

After receiving permission, proceed to the Walvis Bay Yacht Club, located on the southern side of the port, and anchor as indicated below.

General Process for Visiting Yachts

The Walvis Bay Yacht Club, appointed by the Port Captain at Namport, acts as the agent for all visiting yachts. To complete your check-in, report to Elaine Thompson, our Honorary Secretary, at the Yacht Club. She is also contactable on 081 322 3360.

An agent fee of N$500.00 per person is payable (children under 12 years are exempt). This fee covers the following services:

1. Completion of all required documents for Immigration and Customs.
2. Reporting your arrival to:
    a. Port Health
    b. Water Wing Police
    c. Transportation by car to Immigration and Customs for inward or outward clearance, with stops available for SIM cards or urgent shopping needs.
    d. Assistance with arranging rental cars.
    e. Collection and delivery of laundry, or use of the Club's laundry facilities for a small fee.
    f. Transportation to and from shops, hospitals, or doctor’s appointments as required.
    g. Trash disposal services.
    h. Free potable water available at the end of the WBYC jetty.
    i. Access to tie-up facilities at the Yacht Club jetty for your dinghy.
    j. Contact with Yacht Club support members, other suppliers, or assistance for repairs.

Additionally, your agent fee includes temporary membership at the Yacht Club. You will receive a high-quality membership card, valid as long as your visa remains valid. This membership provides access to all club facilities, hot showers, and a 20% discount on food and beverages at the Yacht Club Restaurant (Rojo’s) during your stay.

Office Hours

The Walvis Bay Yacht Club office is open daily from 09:00 to 16:00. Clearance procedures, both inward and outward, can be completed up to 17:00, Monday to Friday. On Saturdays,

the office operates from 09:00 to 12:00 and is closed on Sundays, unless prior notification of expected arrival has been given. The office is contactable on 081 322 3360.

Departure Procedures

Once outward clearance has been completed, contact Port Control on Channel 12 to request permission to exit the harbour.

Docking at Walvis Bay

Anchoring

All visiting boats anchor in designated spaces allocated by the Yacht Club. There are a limited number of swing moorings available. Additional mooring is offered at the marina's floating concrete jetty with fresh water, allocated on a first come, first served basis, as only the northern side is suitable for mooring.

The anchorage area is located just past the southern end of the commercial harbour. Space is restricted due to dredging, but the anchorage provides good holding.

There is a minimum depth of three meters between Pelican Point and the Yacht Club, so using the main shipping channel is unnecessary. It is strongly recommended not to enter the harbour area at night; instead, anchor inside Pelican Point and wait until morning.

Please note that the prevailing south-westerly wind can shift to a strong northerly, causing significant swell and, at times, breaking waves in the anchorage and harbour.

Mornings are generally calmer, with winds increasing in the afternoon.

The local wildlife, especially pelicans and seals, are prominent in the area.

Moorings

Mooring space at Walvis Bay is limited and allocated on a first come, first served basis. Most visible mooring balls are privately owned, but the Yacht Club does offer a swing mooring for visiting yachts at N$150.00 per day, available upon request.

Sheltered marina mooring is available for visiting yachts at a cost of N$230.00 per day for both monohulls and catamarans. Potable water is available at 15 cents per litre; however, electricity is not provided at these moorings. The marina is located around a ten-minute walk from the Yacht Club.

Dinghy Docking

The Walvis Bay Yacht Club provides a small floating dock at the end of their jetty for dinghy tie-up.

Facilities and Services Ashore

Repairs and Supplies

Visiting yachts can access a range of services in Walvis Bay. Repairs for diving, small sails, and machinery are easily arranged. Although the town centre is a long walk from the Yacht Club, the route is safe, and taxi services are available on request.

Security

Walvis Bay is generally safe both on and off the water. Theft is rare but tends to be opportunistic, so vigilance is advised. Do not leave valuables in your dinghy, as there is no 24-hour security. Exercise caution when using credit cards or entering your PIN, as card cloning can occur in Namibia.

Additional Services and Advice

Wi-Fi is available at the Yacht Club restaurant and at many restaurants in town; some signals reach the anchorage. Mobile phone reception at the Club and on the water is fair to poor. The local mobile company, MTC, offers prepaid services, and SIM cards and airtime are sold only at MTC outlets.

Be cautious at ATMs; credit cards are widely accepted throughout the area.

The historic town of Swakopmund, located approximately 40 km north of Walvis Bay, offers a large Food Lover's Market with a wide selection of fresh produce. Walvis Bay itself has good access to packaged goods, meat, and alcohol, and as a major port, cruisers can benefit from bulk discounts at local wholesalers. Provisions here are generally better than those available in Lüderitz.

Healthcare in Walvis Bay is good. A registration fee is required at the state hospital, but treatment and medications from the hospital pharmacy are free. Should you prefer, you can also make use of the private Welwitschia Hospital in Walvis Bay.

If visiting Etosha National Park, take appropriate malaria precautions, including the correct medication and repellent, and consult local pharmacists for advice.

Walvis Bay, Swakopmund, and Windhoek are connected by good roads. However, there is no public transport within Walvis Bay, though local taxis are readily available.

Before travelling into the countryside, arrange a suitable vehicle in advance, which is mostly gravel roads and not suitable for standard 2WD vehicles, and 4x4 rentals are scarce at short notice.

Taxis to and from the Yacht Club are reasonably priced.

Scheduled flights are available from the local airport to Johannesburg and Cape Town.

Local Attractions and Activities

Visitors are encouraged to explore Swakopmund, noted for its colonial architecture, Kristall Gallerie, shopping and resaurants, and impressive sand dunes. A variety of sports activities are available in the area, including sandboarding, kiting, and surfing.