



# Walvis Bay



**Municipality of Walvis Bay**

Public Relations & Customer Service Division

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# The Mayor and Councillors

The Mayor is the head of the Council and represents all inhabitants of Walvis Bay in the political and social environment. He has the duty of presenting the audited report by the Auditor General to the Council. As the Chairperson of Council he is also responsible for chairing meetings and acting on behalf of the Council.

## Office of the Mayor

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His Worship, Immanuel  
Wilfried (Alderman)  
Mayor



Cllr. Penelope Martin  
Deputy Mayor



Cllr. Ndishoshi Nghilumbwa  
Chairperson of MC



Cllr. Lilo Niienge  
Member of MC



Cllr. Saara Shailemo  
Member of MC



Cllr. Paulus Kauhondamwa  
Member of MC



Cllr. Hilka Erastus  
Alternate member of MC



Cllr. Tobias Nambala



Cllr. Gibson R Goseb



Cllr. Valencia Izaaks



## Geography and location

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Walvis Bay is geographically and internationally well situated. Located on the southwest coast of Africa (central coast of Namibia) along the Atlantic Ocean, the city is about 700 nautical miles from Cape Town, South Africa and 900 nautical miles from Luanda, Angola.

The harbour city is well protected by the Pelican Peninsula with a desert climate and has great potential for expansion and growth. The expansive Walvis Bay Municipal area covers 1,124km<sup>2</sup> which includes some 60km of coastline. It is situated on the edge of the dynamic Namib Desert, which is the world's oldest desert.

## Climate

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Walvis Bay enjoys a near-perfect climate thanks to the cold Benguela Current, which creates temperate conditions all year round and an obvious attractive choice for entrepreneurs, residents and tourists alike. This is particularly true in summer (October to February), when Walvis Bay becomes a cool haven for those seeking refuge from the inland heat.

Relative humidity is approximately 80% and rainfall is less than 20mm per annum. The city is surrounded by expansive and dynamic desert sands and regarded as friendly and appealing to the visitor.







## Export Processing Zone

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An attractive package of fiscal incentives for local and foreign investors through the Namibian Export Processing Zone programme was launched in Walvis Bay. In terms of international standards the Namibian EPZ package would be hard to beat, as it offers investors a wide range of benefits and advantages.

International companies established in the zone enjoy total exemption from corporate income tax, custom duties, sales tax, transfer taxes and stamp duties, incentives of unlimited duration, legally enforced no-strike clauses and free repatriation of capital and profits.

The Walvis Bay Export Processing Zone Management Company was established in June 1996 by the Municipality of Walvis Bay and local enterprises to provide a supporting

framework for the EPZ. Some of the services offered include tailor-made factories, administrative and secretarial services, shipping and forwarding and personnel recruitment.

## Export Processing Zone

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In order to diversify the economic base, the local authority and tourism establishments have joined forces to promote the city's tourist attractions. The success of this drive is illustrated in the fact that occupation figures at accommodation establishments range between 70% and 80% throughout the year.



## Tourism

- Tourism is active in the areas of:
- Dune 4x4 tours
- Catamaran sunset cruises
- Exclusive Dolphin & Seal tours
- Dune 7 challenge
- Balloon rides
- Angling trips
- Dune sand boarding
- Sandwich Harbour tours
- Desert/Skeleton Coast charter flights
- Historic Kuiseb Delta tours
- Dune quadbiking
- Topnaar/Narra tours

## Financial services & banking

The local Namibian Dollar currency is on par with the South African Rand. Namibia has reliable financial institutions and investment portfolios guided by the Ministry of Finance. Banking institutions provide comprehensive domestic and international banking services, and ensure fast and efficient transfer of funds to and from any centre in the world.

## Fishing industry

Traditionally, the economy of Walvis Bay has been based on the fishing industry, which is still the biggest employer of up to 10,000 people. Employment is dependent on the quotas allocated annually. The main species harvested are hake, horse mackerel and pilchard, whilst other species such as rock lobster, anchovy, tuna and sole also contribute to this sector.

## Aquaculture

Aquaculture has taken over as a focus growth area in the bay area in the form of extensive oyster, mussel and abalone production. Most of the production enjoys export status.

## Retail businesses

Retail businesses and shops flourish in the city where first world experiences can be enjoyed in the diversified business sector. Dunes Mall is strategically located just as you enter Walvis Bay and houses several retailers and restaurants.



## Industrial businesses

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Industrial businesses Varied engineering, industrial and other businesses are found including diamond cutting and regional importers.

## Construction industry

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A strong construction industry supports the building and development activities in and around the city.

## Commercial port and fishing harbour

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A significant part of the business community is linked to the import/export activities of the Port of Walvis Bay, being Namibia's main deep water port; including professional agencies, stevedores, freight forwarders and numerous port users. As a world class hub port it provides a direct link with the Far East, South & North America, Europe and the Southern/Western African Coast. Focus commodities are in the form of containers, bulk

and break bulk goods and activities aligned to international ISPS, ISO 14001/9001 and OHSAS standards. The adjoining fishing harbour is the hub of the Namibian fishing industry where factories operate and can their catches.

## Transport

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While the transport industry has strong links to port related and mining commodities, it is a highly developed industry that links Namibia to all its neighbours.

## Ship repair

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The ship repair industry has grown tremendously over the recent years, with the Synchrolift and additional floating dock facilities providing world class services.





## Mining

### Bulk Salt

The 3,500 hectare salt field to the south of Walvis Bay is one of the largest solar evaporation facilities in Africa, processing 42 million tonnes of sea water each year to produce more than 700,000 tons of high-quality salt. The salt is shipped to markets in Southern and West Africa and has ambitious expansion plans.

### Oil Gas

The exploration for oil and gas along the Namibian coast continues. The port serves as an important supply centre to the various companies prospecting and offshore activities along the coast of Namibia.

### Granite

Rough blocks of granite are quarried about 15 km to the east of Walvis Bay. The granite is medium grained and has an attractive yellowish-grey colour. The granite is mostly exported for building purposes.

### Uranium

Uranium mining has been on the increase, enhancing local business opportunity and exports options.

### Unique agriculture

Agriculture in the Walvis Bay area is confined to the activities of the Topnaar people, who live along the Kuiseb River. The bulk of their subsistence activities consists of harvesting the !Nara plant, an endemic plant to the Namib Desert. The seeds of the !Nara plant are used for cuisine and medical purposes.



# Infrastructure



## Roads

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Walvis Bay is well linked to Namibia's rail and road network, with international connections in telecommunications, corridors, air traffic and shipping. The city is linked with the rest of Africa via the Trans-Kalahari and Trans-Caprivi Highways. These two highways play an important role in the Walvis Bay Corridor – a concept currently promoted and marketed by the Walvis Bay Corridor Group to attract more transport business through the port of Walvis Bay.

## Telecommunications

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The IT/telecommunications industry meets global standards and links Namibia to international business and developed communities. Two cellular communication service providers have various antennas throughout Walvis Bay to ensure sound international reception.

## Railways

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Namibia has a well established rail network linking it to South Africa and terminating at natural cross border connection points. The Northern Railway Project also makes provision for Namibia to be linked to its northern neighbours in due course.





## Airport

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The Walvis Bay International Airport is a second major gateway that is developed and managed by NAC. The Airport will give you easy and timely access to the mesmerizing Namibian coastline which also hosts the historic town of Swakopmund as well as the famous dunes in the Namib Desert. Walvis Bay Airport is primed to become a leader in cargo handling for marine, coastal and mining activities in the area.

## Harbour

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The Walvis Bay world class deep-sea port ensures that Regional and SADC countries gain access to world markets, and acts as a hub port to the West Coast of Africa. Exporters and importers are guaranteed a saving of at least eight to ten days when shipping to and from the European and American markets. The port consists of the Commercial Port and the Fishing Harbour. It offers extensive services with a range of terminal facilities for containers, bulk and break bulk including frozen and dry cargo.

The Namibia Ports Authority continues to invest millions of dollars on a medium to long term basis to make sure Walvis Bay remains one of the most efficient ports in the world.

## Water supply

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High quality, potable water from aquifers in the Kuiseb River is available to both residents and industry. Occasional surface flow recharges the underground aquifers of the Kuiseb River, which has its headwaters in the central highlands of Namibia and is approximately 330 km long. Due to the increasing demand for water, a desalination plant is to be constructed near Swakopmund to increase the supply of water to the coast.

## Electricity supply

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There is an ample supply of electricity to serve the needs of Walvis Bay, as well as to accommodate new developments. Currently 29-Megawatt power is consumed, but 35 Megawatt is available. All erven in Walvis Bay have access to telecommunication services.



## Other facilities

Walvis Bay has two well-equipped hospitals and three clinics, as well as medical support professionals in the private sector. Organised commerce is supported by an active local chamber of commerce and a Port User's Association.

## Education

Walvis Bay's educational institutions are of very high standard. Primary schools, secondary schools, a seaman's training college, local branches of a number of tertiary institutions, three libraries and a museum provide adequate development of human resources.

## Environmental and Social

Responsibility Walvis Bay's remarkable progress has been the result of careful and responsible planning by the local authority and the business community, which includes the application of international best practices of protecting natural resources and upholding social responsibility.





## Public Relations

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