



# ROVOS RAIL ITINERARY

Starting in Pretoria, descend the spectacular escarpment to the world-famous Kruger Park for a game drive. Explore the Kingdom of eSwatini followed by a game drive in Hluhluwe wildlife reserve and a tour of Durban and its botanical gardens. Traverse the Valley of a Thousand Hills and the imposing Drakensberg Mountains to visit the 1870s mining village of Kimberley, centre of one of the world's notorious diamond rushes. Continue through the semi-desert region of the Karoo to Upington and the Fish River Canyon, second in size to the Grand Canyon. Cross the untamed beauty of the Kalahari Desert to see the Quiver trees at Garas Park, home to roughly 300 specimens of the Aloe dichotomus. Take a short flight to Sossusvlei for a lodge stay surrounded by the dramatic dunes of the Namib-Naukluft Park. Enjoy desert drives, a bush dinner and breakfast near Deadvlei where camel-thorn trees contrast against the white-clay pan floor. Visit Namibia's lively capital, Windhoek, and a cheetah conservation project before overnighting in the game-rich Etosha National Park. Leave the vast stillness of the Namib Desert for the wild Atlantic coast and journey's end, Walvis Bay.



## AFRICAN TRILOGY: PRETORIA TO WALVISBAY (14 Nights)

### DAY 1: PRETORIA

- 10h00 Depart from Rovos Rail Station, Pretoria. Guests may freshen up in their cabins before joining fellow travellers in the lounge car or observation car. **Please ensure the Train Manager or Administration Deputy is in possession of your passport. It will be returned to you before the end of the trip.**
- 13h00 Lunch is served in the dining cars.
- 16h30 Tea in the lounge and observation cars. The train descends the spectacular Drakensberg Mountain escarpment.
- 19h30 Dinner is served in the dining cars en route to Malelane. *Dress: Smart Casual*

### DAY 2: KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

- 05h00 Breakfast is served in the dining cars until departure.
- 06h30 Game drive in the Kruger National Park with tea and lunch. Rejoin the train at Malelane.
- 16h30 Tea is served in the lounge and observation cars.
- 19h30 Dinner is served in the dining cars en route to eSwatini. *Dress: Smart Casual*

### DAY 3: ESWATINI

**BORDER: MALELANE, SOUTH AFRICA / MPAKA, ESWATINI**

- 06h00 Breakfast is served in the dining cars until departure. Border formalities with eSwatini.
- 08h30 Disembark at Mpaka. Visit Swazi Candles and Mantenga Cultural Village with lunch at Mantenga Lodge.
- 16h30 Tea is served in the lounge and observation cars.
- 19h30 Dinner is served in the dining cars. Border formalities with South Africa. *Dress: Smart Casual*

### DAY 4: HLUHLUWE-IMFOLOZI PARK

**BORDER: MPAKA, ESWATINI / GOLELA, SOUTH AFRICA**

- 05h00 Continental breakfast is served in the dining cars until departure.
- 06h00 Transfer (30min) to Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park for a game drive.
- 10h30 Return to the train.
- 12h00 Lunch is served in the dining cars. Travel towards Empangeni.
- 16h30 Tea is served in the lounge and observation cars.
- 19h30 Dinner is served in the dining cars en route to Durban. *Dress: Smart Casual*

### DAY 5: DURBAN

- 07h00 Breakfast is served in the dining cars until departure.
- 09h00 Enjoy a tour of Durban and the botanical gardens.
- 12h00 Transfer (30min) to Umhlanga for lunch.
- 14h15 Return to train. Traverse the Valley of a Thousand Hills towards Ladysmith.
- 16h30 Tea is served in the lounge and observation cars

19h30 Dinner is served in the dining cars. *Dress: "Africa" Theme or Smart Casual*

#### DAY 6: AT LEISURE ON BOARD

07h00 Breakfast is served in the dining cars. Traverse the Drakensberg Mountains.

13h00 Lunch is served in the dining cars.

16h30 Tea is served in the lounge and observation cars.

19h30 Dinner is served in the dining cars. *Dress: Smart Casual*

#### DAY 7: KIMBERLEY

07h00 Breakfast is served in the dining cars until departure.

08h45 Enjoy a tour of Kimberley's Diamond Mine Museum and the Big Hole.

13h00 Lunch is served in the dining cars. The observation car will be leading the train until after tea.

16h30 Tea is served in the lounge car and observation car at the front of the train.

19h30 Dinner is served in the dining cars. *Dress: Smart Casual*

#### DAY 8: UPINGTON

07h00 Breakfast is served in the dining cars until 10h00.

09h00 Disembark the train for an optional two-hour walking tour of Upington.

13h00 Lunch is served in the dining cars. Border formalities with Namibia.

16h30 Tea is served in the lounge car and observation car at the rear of the train.

19h30 Dinner is served in the dining cars en route to Holoog. *Dress: Smart Casual*

#### DAY 9: FISH RIVER CANYON & GARAS PARK

*Please wear comfortable non-slip walking shoes for the excursion today.*

06h00 Breakfast is served in the dining cars until departure.

08h00 Board vehicles for the one-hour drive to the Fish River Canyon.

11h00 Return to the train.

13h00 Lunch is served in the dining cars. The train travels along the southern reaches of the Kalahari Basin.

15h00 Visit Garas Park (Quiver Trees), home to roughly 300 specimens of the Aloe dichotomy.

16h30 Tea is served in the lounge and observation cars.

19h30 Dinner is served in the dining cars. The train travels north through the Kalahari to Mariental. *Dress: Smart Casual*

#### DAY 10: SOSSUSVLEI

*Please pack a small overnight bag for the stay in Sossusvlei. Tog bags have been placed in your cabin for your convenience.*

07h00 Breakfast is served in the dining cars until 10h00.

10h30 Transfer to the airstrip. Depart in a light aircraft for a one-hour flight to Sossusvlei.

12h00 After check-in, enjoy lunch at the lodge.

16h30 Afternoon desert drive and a bush dinner after sunset. Overnight at the lodge. *Dress: Casual*

#### DAY 11: SOSSUSVLEI & WINDHOEK

*Please ensure your overnight bag is ready to be collected from your suite before the drive.*

An early wake-up call with tea and coffee. Enjoy a desert drive with breakfast in the vlei.

11h00 Return to the lodge to use the facilities, check-out and transfer to the airstrip.

12h00 Depart in a light aircraft for a one-hour flight to Windhoek. Enjoy lunch and visit the Transport Museum.

18h00 Depart Windhoek. Travel to Otjiwarongo.

19h30 Dinner is served in the dining cars. *Dress: Smart Casual*

#### DAY 12: CHEETAH CONSERVATION PROJECT

07h00 Breakfast is served in the dining cars until 09h00.

12h30 Lunch is served in the dining cars.

14h00 Visit a cheetah conservation project in Otjiwarongo.

19h30 Dinner is served in the dining cars en route to Otavi. *Dress: Smart Casual*

#### DAY 13: ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

*Please pack a small overnight bag for the stay at Etosha.*

07h00 Breakfast is served in the dining cars until 10h00.

10h30 Transfer (60min) to Mokuti Lodge in Etosha National Park for overnight. Check-in and enjoy lunch.

15h00 Game drive in Etosha National Park (approximately 3 hours).

19h30 Dinner and overnight at the lodge. *Dress: Casual*

#### DAY 14: ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

*Please ensure your overnight bag is ready to be collected from your suite and proceed to checkout by 10h45.*

An early wake-up call with tea and coffee. Enjoy a game drive in the Etosha National Park.

09h45 Return to the lodge for breakfast and check-out.

11h00 Meet in the foyer to check out and transfer (60 min) to the train at Tsumeb Station.

13h00 Lunch is served in the dining cars.

16h30 Tea is served in the lounge and observation cars.

19h30 Dinner is served. The train travels southwest towards the Atlantic Ocean.

*Dress: "1920s" Theme or Smart Casual*

## DAY 15: WALVIS BAY

*Please ensure your luggage is ready for collection at 11h45 and that you have your passport.*

- 07h00 Breakfast is served in the dining cars until 10h00. Traverse the Namib Desert towards Walvis Bay. The observation car will be at the front of the train for last stretch – a different aspect that our rail enthusiasts enjoy.
- 12h00 Arrive at journey's end at Walvis Bay Station, Namibia.



## PREDEPARTURE INFORMATION

**Amenities:** Rovos Rail provides a complete amenity bag with the following South African biodegradable and/or recyclable products: soap (50g), tissues, shampoo (50ml), hand and body wash (50ml), hand and body lotion (50ml), lip balm (7g), insect repellent gel (10ml), reusable bamboo rounds, bamboo ear buds and a shower cap. Plug-in hairdryers – in addition to your bathroom unit (if applicable) – are available on board as well as sun cream, shoe mits, nail files, sewing kits and ear plugs.

**Children:** We do accommodate children but we kindly ask parents to be sensitive to the adult nature and atmosphere of the train by keeping them respectful and quiet. Long journeys are not recommended for under 13s. Children between 0-2 years old are not permitted to travel. There are no child-minding facilities or activities available for children on board. See Child Policy on rovos.com.

### Currency:

- South Africa – Rands only. We accept all major credit cards on the train.
- Outside of South Africa – Rands are accepted in Namibia and eSwatini. US Dollars are accepted in Zimbabwe, Tanzania (Dar es Salaam only), DRC and Angola. Cash is highly recommended. Hotels and major dealers accept credit cards.
- US Dollars printed before year 2013 or that look worn will not be accepted. Low denominations recommended for shopping/gratuities. Larger denominations recommended for exchanging money to local currency (especially in Tanzania) as you get a better rate.

**Dietaries:** We cater for food allergies provided a detailed request has been made at that time of your reservation. If a special request has not been made, the chefs will endeavour to prepare suitable meals with the ingredients available on board. We regret we are unable to prepare meals requiring strict religious observance in the preparation.

**Dining:** Meals on board are served in one sitting only in the dining cars and are complemented by a selection of fine South African wines. Breakfast: 07:00-10:00 • Lunch: 13:00 • Tea: 16:30 • Formal Dinner: 19:30. Bar service is from 07:00-±01:00. All meals are served at these times unless otherwise stated in the timetable. A gong heralds lunch and dinner.

### Dress:

- Days on board are smart casual: Neat, conventional yet relatively informal in style combining casual and formal clothing pieces.
- Evening attire is more formal: For gentlemen a jacket and tie is a minimum requirement while for ladies we suggest cocktail/evening dresses or suits. On long journeys we enjoy themed evenings where guests can dress up accordingly or opt for smart casual:
  - Golf Safari, African Collage, Dar es Salaam and Lobito Journeys: 1 x “AFRICA” evening and 1 x “1920s” evening. See itineraries.
  - Namibia Safari: 1 x “AFRICA” evening. See itineraries.
- Off-train excursions: We recommend comfortable walking shoes, sun lotion and hats. If required, blankets and rain capes are available.
- Game drives are on open vehicles so please dress accordingly: mornings can be cool then warm up considerably; afternoons can be warm then cool down considerably. Please see average temperatures as a guide.

**Dressing Gowns:** We provide a comfortable one-size-fits-all gown plus slippers for each guest for use on board the train. If you wish to take one home, they are available to purchase from the Gift Shop.

**Electricity:** 220V AC 50Hz 3-point round-pronged wall plugs and 110V/220V 2-pin plugs for shavers and chargers. USB ports are in each suite. International adaptors available. A generator supplies power. Please be aware that certain breaks in power are necessary when servicing is required.

**Gift Shop/Administration:** There is a small gift shop on the train and at Rovos Rail Station in Pretoria. Due to the varying exchange rates, credit cards are preferred. The Administration Deputy on duty has a basic First Aid Kit and personal essentials (toothbrushes, razors, earplugs etc.). He/she will also fulfil any administrative requirements and check your onward arrangements.

**Gratuities:** Gratuities for the staff are at your discretion. If you wish to show your appreciation in this manner, there will be a suitably marked envelope in your suite that you can hand directly to the Train Manager who will distribute any amounts on a pro-rata basis (share) among the staff on board. An amount between ZAR100-300 (± US\$10-20) per person per night is suggested, depending on the length of your journey. At the game lodges, it is customary to tip guides and lodge staff an estimated ZAR150 (± US\$10) per guest per day.

**Languages:** The staff on board mainly speak English and local languages. For most of the long journeys and dependent on the language, translated itineraries and on-board information will be provided.

**Laundry:** There is a LIMITED laundry service (10 items/day) on board comprising household washers, dryers and steam irons. The turnaround is 48 hours so we are unable to handle a week’s worth of laundry. There are no dry-cleaning facilities en route or on board. Please note that while this a complimentary service we cannot be held responsible for items that may be damaged or lost in the process.

**Locomotion:** Use of steam has become increasingly difficult over the years as more and more water and coaling facilities have been scrapped. Diesel or electric locomotives are used while steam is used in and around the area of Rovos Rail Station in Pretoria only.

**Luggage:** It is possible to store luggage in your suite under the bed or above the door on a luggage rack, which provides ample space for storage. There are no luggage restrictions on board although we do not recommend more than two large suitcases. On selected long journeys, guests are provided with a Rovos Rail tog bag that can be used for overnight trips or hand luggage on aircraft. A soft bag is preferable on plane transfers with a luggage weight restriction of 15kg.

**Magazines, Maps & Games:** There are board games, cards, a card table (dependent), books and magazines available for your use in the lounge and observation cars while on board. In your suite is a map, itinerary and the Journeys magazine featuring articles of interest related to your route. If the map supplied is not comprehensive enough you may purchase a more detailed map from the Gift Shop.

### Medical:

- All guests are solely responsible for ensuring they are capable of undertaking the tours and activities.
- Please inform us at the time of your reservation if you have any medical conditions, physical disabilities or allergies.
- We have a doctor on board on the 15-day Dar es Salaam and Lobito journeys. - Anti-malarial precautions are recommended. Malaria areas: eSwatini, Kruger Park, Northern Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Etosha, Tanzania, DRC and Angola.
- Recommended immunisations (not required): Hepatitis A + B, Polio, Tetanus, Cholera (low risk).
- Ebola is confined to the northeast of DRC. We traverse the very southern tip of the country thousands of miles away on the Lobito journeys.
- A Yellow Fever/Medical Exemption Certificate is essential if travelling to/from DRC and Angola. Although all countries travelled through don’t require this, countries guests return to after the trip often require them.
- Please consult your clinic or doctor. TRAVEL DOCTOR AFRICA local 0861 300 911 or international +27 (0) 11 214 9030. UPDATED 20 MAY 2022

**Medical Emergencies:** Each train is equipped with a standard medical kit, oxygen, automated external defibrillator and a wheelchair. For emergencies there are private healthcare hospitals available. Outside of South Africa, private hospitals are not guaranteed. We can organise evacuation either by road or air to a medical facility should this be required (own account). All our Train Managers have completed First Aid up to Level 3 and are trained in emergency situations. We do, however, strongly recommend that you explain your concerns to your travel insurance company so they can provide you with the necessary cover to meet and exceed such an eventuality.

**Mobile Devices & Internet:** In maintaining the spirit of train travel there are no radios or television sets on board. The use of mobile phones, laptops and essentially anything that has the ability to disturb other guests is confined to the privacy of your suites only. The reception is poor while the train is moving. It is advised to contact your service provider to ensure the correct settings for network services are activated. Wi-Fi is available at our lounges in Cape Town and Pretoria and at most off-train accommodation (although not always guaranteed).

**Mobility:** We are able to accommodate guests with walking difficulties although we recommend an able-bodied passenger accompany them. We regret that the train is not suitable for wheelchair-bound passengers. Should you have mobility impairments/restrictions or special requirements, we urge you to inform your travel agent or Rovos Rail at the time of booking. See Mobility Info on rovos.com.

**Pets:** We do not allow any pets or emotional-support animals on board.

**Postage:** Stamps are available for sale from the Gift Shop. Postcards may be handed to the Administration Deputy for posting.

**Security:** An electronic safe is provided in the cupboard in each suite. When on board we encourage guests to close shutters or preferably shutters and windows when not in your suites. Please be particularly mindful when passing through stations. The train doors in the passages are all locked from the inside. Your suite door can also lock from the inside.

**Service:** A dedicated host/ess is available 24 hours a day. They can be called from the telephone in your suite. Your suite is cleaned daily and there is a nightly turndown service. The Train Manager and Deputy Train Manager are on hand throughout the journey to help with any queries. The Administration Deputy is available for administrative requirements and is based at the Gift Shop.

**Smoking:** On board the train, smoking is allowed in the smoking Club Lounge only. HOWEVER, please be mindful of other guests who do not smoke, that the train is generally made up of wood and DO NOT throw flammable items such as cigarette or cigar butts off the train. Bush fires in Africa are a constant and dangerous hazard. Please note at the time of your reservation if you are smoking or non-smoking so that the appropriate room might be requested at the hotels/lodges.

**Special Occasions:** Please note at the time of your reservation if you are celebrating an occasion as we'd like to share it with you.

**Suites & Coaches:** Measurements in centimetres (cm) = Length x Width Each train has accommodation carriages, dining cars, a lounge car ( $\pm 26$  seats), small gift shop, smoking lounge ( $\pm 11$  seats) and observation car ( $\pm 32$  seats) with open-air balcony. The suites are elegant and spacious offering passengers privacy and comfort with double or twin beds and fittings and facilities that are of the highest standard. All have en-suites with shower, toilet, basin and bath (Royal only), tea facilities, safes, air conditioning, linen and amenities and are serviced daily. There is adequate storage and small cupboards with hangers and shelves.

1. Royal Suites ( $\pm 16\text{m}^2$  /  $\pm 172\text{ft}^2$ ) each take up half a carriage and are spacious and elegant. Each has its own private lounge area and en-suite bathroom with Victorian bath, separate shower, toilet and basin. BEDS: Double 200x189 • Split Twin 200x75.
2. Deluxe Suites ( $\pm 10\text{m}^2$  /  $\pm 108\text{ft}^2$ ) have a lounge area and en-suite bathroom with shower, toilet and basin. BEDS: Lengthways Double 189x189 • Crosswise Double 189x160 • Split Twin 189x75.
3. Pullman Suites ( $\pm 7\text{m}^2$  /  $\pm 76\text{ft}^2$ ) on SHORT journeys only have an en-suite bathroom with shower, toilet and basin. During the day the suite is setup with a comfortable couch that can be converted into a few sleeping options. BEDS: Crosswise Double 189x150 • Side-by-side Twin 189x75 – this is achieved by making up the side-by-side twin mattresses with single-bed linen • Single Lower Bunk 189x94 • Single Upper Bunk 189x60.
4. Pullman Gold Suites ( $\pm 7\text{m}^2$  /  $\pm 76\text{ft}^2$ ) on LONG journeys only have an en-suite bathroom with shower, toilet and basin. During the day the suite is setup with split twin beds configured as couches. BEDS: Double 189x189 • Split Twin 189x75.

**The Track:** The track over which we travel is inconsistently maintained. If you wake at night imagining the train is travelling at high speed, be assured it is the state of the track below creating that impression. We restrict the train to 60km/h (37mph) and over bad sections reduce speed to as little as 20km/h (12mph). If you find it noisy, earplugs are available in your amenities bag and at the Gift Shop.

**Water:** The water used on the train is carried in tanks under each coach. These tanks are filled every day but they cannot be topped up while the train is travelling. Please assist us by using water responsibly. Water inside the suites has been filtered and chlorinated; it is safe for bathing and brushing teeth only. Please use the bottled water provided for drinking.

©SA Rail 2023

A Division of Luxus Travel & Tours

Contact Numbers: +27 (0)21 100 3596 | +27 (0)81 580 6471 | Fax: +27 (0)86 598 0812

Email: info@sa-rail.co.za | reservations@sa-rail.co.za

Website: www.sa-rail.co.za

RSA Co Reg: 2007/049324/23