



ROVOS RAIL ITINERARY

This journey takes the train from the savannahs of the Highveld to the Atlantic in the west. Departing from Pretoria, the first stop is Kimberley, centre of one of the world's famous diamond rushes where there is an opportunity to savour the 1870s atmosphere of the mining village. The train traverses the stark vistas of the Northern Cape to the Fish River Canyon – second in size to the Grand Canyon – and Garas Park with its quiver-tree forest. Guests continue across the untamed beauty of the Kalahari Desert to a cheetah conservation project and a stop in Namibia's capital for a tour; Windhoek is a lively, cosmopolitan city with a strong German flavour. Then it's a short flight to Sossusvlei, a stunning pan in the Namib Desert, for an overnight stay followed by a night in the game-rich Etosha National Park. On the last morning, the train travels the Namib to the perfectly preserved 19th-century German Hansa town of Swakopmund and Walvis Bay – an unforgettable end to a remarkable journey..



NAMIBIA SAFARI: WALVISBAY TO PRETORIA (9 Nights)

DAY 1: WALVIS BAY

- 11h00 Depart from Walvis Bay Train Station, Namibia. Guests may freshen up in their suites before joining fellow travellers in the lounge car or observation car at the rear of the train.
- 13h00 Lunch is served in the dining cars. The train travels across the Namib Desert.
- 16h30 Tea in the lounge and observation cars.
- 19h30 Dinner is served in the dining cars en route to Otjiwarongo. *Dress: Formal*
Please ensure that the Train Manager or Administration Deputy is in possession of your passport.

DAY 2: ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

Please pack a small overnight bag for the stay in Etosha. Tog bags have been placed in your suite for your convenience. See below for inclusions/exclusions.

- 07h00 Breakfast is served in the dining cars until 10:00.
- 10h30 Transfer (120 min) to an Etosha lodge. Check-in and enjoy lunch.
- 15h00 Afternoon game drive (approximately 3 hours).
- 19h00 Dinner at the lodge and overnight. *Dress: Casual*

DAY 3: ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

Please ensure your overnight bag is ready to be collected from your suite and proceed to checkout before the game drive. Your bag will be loaded into the vehicles.

- Enjoy an early breakfast followed by a game drive at 07:00 in the Etosha National Park.
- Return to the lodge for lunch.
- Transfer (120 min) to the train.
- 16h30 Tea in the lounge and observation cars.
- 19h30 Dinner is served in the dining cars en route to Otjiwarongo. *Dress: Formal*

DAY 4: CHEETAH CONSERVATION PROJECT

- 07h00 Breakfast is served in the dining cars until departure.
- 09h00 Visit a cheetah conservation project. Founded in Namibia in 1990, the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) is dedicated to saving the cheetah in the wild.
- 13h00 Lunch is served in the dining cars.
- 16h30 Tea in the lounge and observation cars.
- 19h30 Dinner is served in the dining cars. *Dress: Formal*

DAY 5: WINDHOEK & SOSSUSVLEI

Please pack a small overnight bag for the stay in Sossusvlei. See below for inclusions/exclusions.

- 07h00 Breakfast is served in the dining cars until departure at 09:00.
- 09h00 Disembark at Windhoek. Visit the Trans-Namib Transport Museum followed by a tour en route to the airport.
- 11h00 Depart in a light aircraft for a one-hour flight to Sossusvlei.
- 12h30 After check-in, enjoy lunch at the restaurant.
- 16h30 Afternoon desert drive and a bush dinner after sunset. Overnight at the lodge. *Dress: Casual*

DAY 6: SOSSUSVLEI

Please ensure your overnight bag is ready to be collected from your suite before the drive. Time of drive to be confirmed. Bags will be stored in the lodge's baggage area before being loaded into the aircraft.

An early wake-up call with tea and coffee. Enjoy a desert drive with breakfast in the vlei. Return to the lodge to use the facilities, check-out and transfer to the airstrip.

- 12h00 Depart Sossusvlei in a light aircraft for the one-hour flight to Mariental to rejoin the train.
- 13h00 Lunch is served in the dining cars. The train travels south through the Kalahari Desert.
- 16h30 Tea in the lounge and observation cars.
- 19h30 Dinner is served in the dining cars en route to Keetmanshoop. *Dress: Formal*

DAY 7: GARAS PARK & FISH RIVER CANYON *BORDER: ARIAMSVLEI, NAMIBIA / NAKOP, SOUTH AFRICA*

- 06h00 Breakfast is served in the dining cars until departure.
- 08h00 Visit Garas Park (Quiver Trees), home to roughly 300 specimens of the Aloe dichotomus. The prehistoric trees have forked branches that reach up to 5m making for great photographic opportunities.
- 13h00 Lunch is served in the dining cars.
- 15h00 Board vehicles for the one-hour drive to the Fish River Canyon.
- 18h00 Return to the train. Travel east along the southern reaches of the Kalahari Basin.
- 19h30 Dinner is served in the dining cars. Border formalities with South Africa. *Dress: Formal*

DAY 8: UPINGTON

Time of excursion, lunch and tea will be confirmed as dependent on immigration formalities

- 07h00 Breakfast is served until 10:00. Disembark the train for an optional two-hour walking tour of Upington. Lunch is served in the dining cars. Travel through the Karoo, a vast semi-desert region that was once an enormous inland sea. Over millions of years, volcanic matter was ground down and deposited as silt upon the seabed to form what geologists call the Karoo system. Tea in the lounge and observation cars.
- 19h30 Dinner is served in the dining cars en route to De Aar, an important railway junction. *Dress: Formal*

DAY 9: KIMBERLEY

- 07h00 Breakfast is served in the dining cars until 10:00. The observation car will be leading the train until lunchtime.
- 12h30 Lunch is served in the dining cars.
- 14h30 Enjoy a tour of Kimberley's Diamond Mine Museum and the Big Hole. Capital of the Northern Cape, Kimberley is well known for the discovery of diamonds that led to its establishment in 1871.
- 16h30 Tea is served in the lounge car and observation car, which is at the rear of the train. The train travels across the Free State and continues its climb to Pretoria in the Gauteng province.
- 19h30 Dinner is served in the dining cars. *Dress: "Africa" Theme or Smart Casual*

DAY 10: PRETORIA

Please ensure luggage is ready for collection 15 minutes before arrival and that you have your passport.

- 07h00 Breakfast is served in the dining cars until 10:00. Travel through the goldfields of the Witwatersrand.
- 13h00 Lunch is served in the dining cars.
- 17h00 Arrive at journey's end at Rovos Rail Station, Pretoria.



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).

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- 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 an 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 (±26 seats), small gift shop, smoking lounge (±11 seats) and observation car (±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 (±16m2 /±172ft2) 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 (±10m2 /±108ft2) 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 (±7m2 /±76ft2) 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 (±7m2 /±76ft2) 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.