



THE LUXURY TRAIN TRAVEL COMPANY

Malawi Meander

LILONGWE TO PRETORIA

A ROVOS RAIL LONG TOUR



 **WE ALSO BOOK PRE / POST TRAIN SAFARIS & MORE !**

 **ABTA**
The Travel Association



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WORLD
TRAVEL &
TOURISM
COUNCIL

ROVOS RAIL | MALAWI MEANDER | LILONGWE TO PRETORIA | 3,600 KM | 16 NIGHTS

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please find full details of this itinerary in this dossier. If you have any questions at all please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

The Luxury Train Travel Company.

THE LUXURY TRAIN TRAVEL COMPANY

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- ABTA member Y1699
- ATOL License 10287



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ABOUT OUR COMPANY

Established as one of the leading, independent and family owned luxury train specialists, our focus is on well thought through private and personally selected rail adventures. Our emphasis is very much on the right trip for you and we work closely with you in order to achieve this. We regard the rail journeys we offer as a trip of a lifetime and use our experience and knowledge to make it that for you.

The Luxury Train Travel Company is a trading name of Headseast Ltd, a UK based, independent, family owned travel company. We operate several brands in addition to The Luxury Train Travel Company including [“The Latin America Travel Company”](#) [“The Trans-Siberian Travel Company”](#) and [“The China Travel Company”](#). **Our clients come from all over the world.**

ROVOS RAIL | MALAWI MEANDER | LILONGWE TO PRETORIA | 3,600 KM | 16 NIGHTS





ROVOS RAIL

Detailed Itinerary

The following pages contain a detailed day by day itinerary for this trip. Note that all itineraries are subject to change and a final itinerary will be given shortly before your trip begins.

"I can't tell you how much we appreciate all the pre planning you helped us with.

It was a trip of a lifetime experienced by few. Personally I feel privileged to have experienced this part of the world.

Thanks again for all you did for us."

Gail & Cathy Schuneman



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YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1



• Fly to Liwonde for a riverside safari stay.

Your journey begins in Lilongwe with a welcome reception at Latitude 13° Hotel, where you will meet your fellow travellers and tour hosts before transferring to Kamuzu International Airport. A short scheduled flight takes you to Mvuu Lodge, set on the banks of the Shire River in Liwonde National Park beneath a canopy of mature fever trees. After settling into your accommodation, enjoy lunch overlooking the river before heading out on a late-afternoon boat safari. The waterways of Liwonde are home to hippos, crocodiles and an abundance of birdlife, making this a relaxed introduction to one of Malawi's best wildlife areas. As the day draws to a close, pause for sundowners before returning to the lodge for dinner and your overnight stay.

Please pack a small overnight bag for the two-night stay away from the train. A Rovos Rail tog bag is provided, and flight luggage is limited to 15kg. Surplus luggage will be transferred directly to the train, which you rejoin on Day 3.

 **Meals Included:** Lunch & Dinner.

* Schedule Changes & Additional Services *

Rovos Rail strongly advises having at least 1 night pre and post trip and not to arrive and depart on the same day as the trip starts and finishes.

We can book also book all pre & post tour arrangements you might need including safaris. [Please contact us for more details.](#)

OVERNIGHT

MVUU LODGE

Nestled on the banks of the Shire River in Liwonde National Park, Mvuu Lodge offers comfortable riverside accommodation, excellent wildlife viewing.



*Lodge shown for guidance only with exact accommodation subject to change.

YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 2



• Travel to Liwonde National Park for a relaxed lakeside stay.

Begin the day with an early morning game drive through Liwonde National Park, when wildlife is often at its most active, before returning to the lodge for breakfast. Afterwards, travel by road to Makokola Retreat, located on the southern shores of Lake Malawi, one of Africa's largest freshwater lakes.

The drive passes through rural villages and changing landscapes before arriving at the resort in time for lunch.

The remainder of the afternoon is free to relax beside the lake or enjoy the retreat's facilities, which include swimming, water sports, tennis and a fitness centre. Alternatively, simply unwind on the beach and take in the peaceful surroundings before dinner and an overnight stay at the resort.

Please ensure your luggage is ready for collection and complete check-out by 09:00.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

OVERNIGHT

MAKOKOLA RETREAT

Sitting on Lake Malawi, offering beachfront villas, tropical gardens, water sports, spa treatments, warm hospitality and spectacular sunsets.



*Lodge shown for guidance only with exact accommodation subject to change.

YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 3



- Fly to Tete, explore the city and rejoin the train.

After breakfast, enjoy a relaxed morning at Makokola Retreat before transferring to the airport for the short flight to Tete in neighbouring Mozambique. Following immigration formalities, continue to Moatize Station where you join the train and enjoy lunch on board.

During the afternoon, set out on a guided driving tour of Tete, an important regional transport and mining centre on the banks of the Zambezi River. The city reflects its Portuguese heritage through a mix of colonial-era architecture and modern development, while bustling markets and local shops provide an insight into everyday life.

Highlights include the impressive Samora Machel Bridge spanning the Zambezi and the lively Feira Market, where local produce, spices, handicrafts and textiles are on display. Return to the train in time for sundowners overlooking the river before dressing for a formal dinner as your rail journey continues.

Please ensure your luggage is ready for collection and complete check-out by 09:30. The Train Manager or Guest Services Manager will require your passport after boarding.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

OVERNIGHT TRAIN



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 4



- Visit a working coal mine before continuing north.

Spend a relaxed morning on board before leaving the train for a guided visit to one of the large open-cast coal mines surrounding Moatize. The region is home to some of southern Africa's largest coal reserves, and the excursion provides an insight into the scale of modern mining operations and their importance to Mozambique's economy.

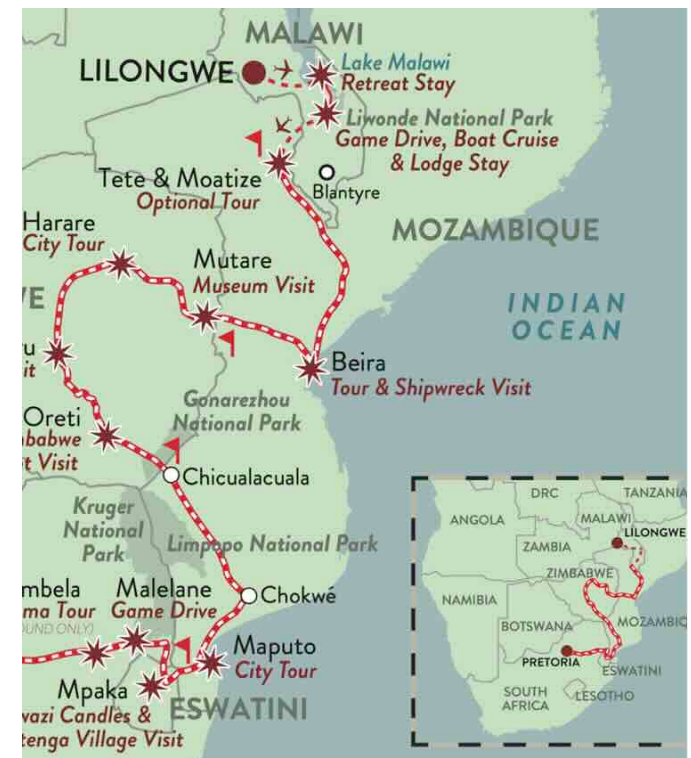
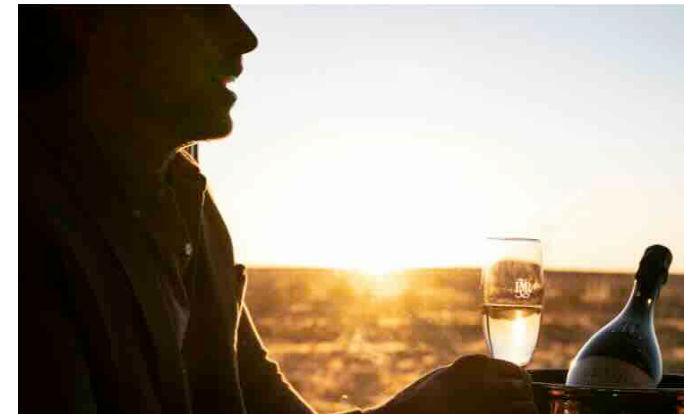
Returning to the train, lunch is served in the dining cars as the journey resumes towards Sena. During the afternoon, settle into the lounge or observation car to watch the landscapes of central Mozambique unfold, with broad plains, scattered villages and rivers gradually replacing the mining district.

Afternoon tea is served on board before another elegant dinner in the dining cars as the train continues its journey through the evening.

Lectures are held throughout the journey in the lounge car. Please refer to the daily lecture programme for details.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

OVERNIGHT TRAIN



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 5



- A full day enjoying life aboard the train.

Today is devoted entirely to the pleasures of rail travel as the train makes its way across central Mozambique towards the Indian Ocean port of Beira.

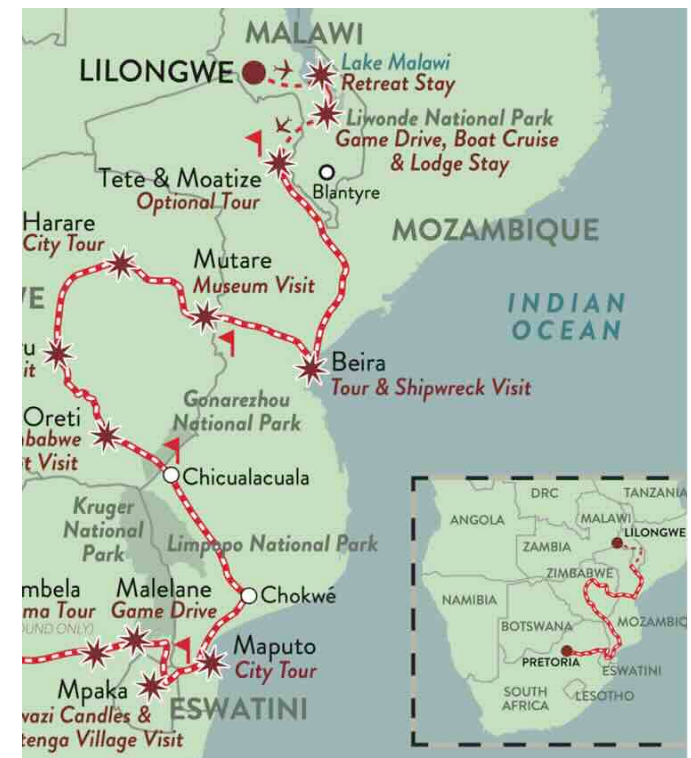
There are no scheduled excursions, allowing you to enjoy the unhurried rhythm of life on board. Spend time in the observation car watching the changing scenery, relax with a book in the lounge, or simply admire the ever-changing views from the comfort of your suite.

The route passes through remote rural communities where agriculture remains the mainstay of everyday life, with fields of maize, cassava, peanuts, millet and sweet potatoes stretching across the countryside.

Meals are served in the elegant dining cars, while afternoon tea offers another opportunity to socialise with fellow travellers before dressing for another formal dinner as the train continues eastwards.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

OVERNIGHT TRAIN



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 6



- Explore Mozambique's principal port city.

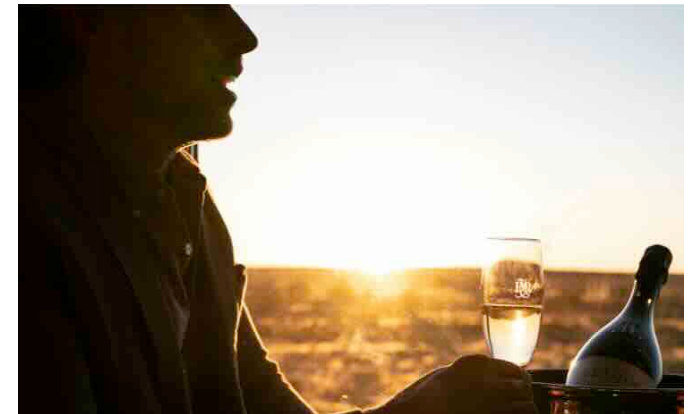
This morning the train arrives in Beira, Mozambique's second-largest city and the country's principal port on the Indian Ocean. Founded during the Portuguese colonial period, Beira remains an important commercial gateway despite the challenges it has faced over recent decades.

A guided tour introduces some of the city's best-known landmarks, including the striking red-and-white Macuti Lighthouse, built in 1904, and the nearby Macuti Shipwreck, a tugboat intentionally grounded to strengthen the harbour's breakwater. Along the way, you'll gain an appreciation of Beira's distinctive blend of colonial architecture, bustling streets and coastal atmosphere.

Returning to the train for lunch, continue your journey towards Machipanda near the Zimbabwean border, where border formalities are completed before dinner is served on board as the train enters Zimbabwe.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

OVERNIGHT TRAIN



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 7



• Discover Zimbabwe's eastern gateway.

Arrive in the attractive city of Mutare, beautifully positioned at the foot of the Eastern Highlands close to the border with Mozambique. Long regarded as the country's eastern gateway, Mutare developed as an important railway centre linking Zimbabwe with the port of Beira.

Your visit includes the excellent Mutare Museum, whose diverse collections cover archaeology, ethnography, transport, geology and natural history, together with an impressive display of vintage motor vehicles.

Following lunch back on board, the train continues west through fertile farmland and gently rolling countryside towards Harare.

Spend the afternoon relaxing in the observation car as the scenery gradually changes before gathering once again for dinner in the elegant dining cars.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

OVERNIGHT TRAIN



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 8



- Explore Zimbabwe's capital and vibrant arts scene.

Arrive this morning in Harare, Zimbabwe's modern capital, set on a high plateau and renowned throughout Africa for its artistic heritage.

A guided city tour introduces several of the city's highlights, including local galleries showcasing the country's internationally acclaimed Shona stone sculpture, together with one of Harare's bustling markets where traders sell everything from fresh produce and textiles to handmade crafts.

The visit offers a fascinating insight into everyday life in Zimbabwe's largest city and the resilience and creativity of its people.

After returning to the train for lunch, the journey continues south towards Gweru through a landscape of rolling farmland, granite kopjes and woodland.

Enjoy the afternoon at leisure on board before dressing for dinner, with this evening's suggested theme being 'Africa' or smart casual.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

OVERNIGHT TRAIN



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 9

Antelope Park

- Visit a renowned wildlife conservation reserve.

This morning, leave the train for a visit to Antelope Park, a privately managed wildlife reserve set amongst more than 3,000 acres of open savannah. The park is best known for its commitment to conservation and for supporting the African Lion and Environmental Research Trust (ALERT), whose programmes focus on lion research and the long-term restoration of wild lion populations.

During your visit, there is time to enjoy the peaceful surroundings and learn more about the reserve's conservation work. A range of optional activities is also available, including canoeing, game drives, horseback safaris, elephant encounters and birdwatching cruises.

Return to the train in time for lunch before spending the afternoon relaxing on board as the journey continues towards Oreti. Afternoon tea is served in the lounge before another formal dinner in the dining cars.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

OVERNIGHT TRAIN



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 10

Great Zimbabwe Monument

- Explore the remarkable ruins of Great Zimbabwe.

Following breakfast, travel by road to Great Zimbabwe, one of Africa's most significant archaeological sites and the largest pre-colonial stone monument south of the Egyptian pyramids.

Once the capital of a prosperous medieval kingdom, the vast complex of granite walls and towers provides a fascinating insight into a civilisation that flourished between the 11th and 15th centuries through regional trade and gold production. As you explore the Great Enclosure and Hill Complex with your guide, learn about the history, architecture and enduring legends surrounding this remarkable UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Lunch is included during the excursion before returning to the train at Rutenga. The journey then continues towards Sango Halt, with afternoon tea, time to relax on board and another formal dinner as the train approaches the Mozambique border.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

OVERNIGHT TRAIN



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 11



- Relax on board as the journey returns to Mozambique.

Today is another opportunity to enjoy the leisurely pace of life aboard the train as border formalities are completed and the journey crosses back into Mozambique.

Beyond the windows, the landscape gradually changes to the humid lowlands of the Limpopo basin, where rivers, wetlands and scattered fever trees dominate the scenery. This region inspired Rudyard Kipling's famous description of the "great grey-green, greasy Limpopo River" in Just So Stories.

Spend the day making the most of the train's elegant public spaces, chatting with fellow travellers, enjoying the ever-changing views from the observation car or simply relaxing in your suite.

Lunch, afternoon tea and another formal dinner are served on board as the train continues towards Chokwé.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

OVERNIGHT TRAIN



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 12



• Discover Mozambique's vibrant coastal capital.

Arrive this afternoon in Maputo, Mozambique's lively capital overlooking the Indian Ocean. A guided city tour introduces a fascinating blend of African, Portuguese and Mediterranean influences reflected in the city's architecture, cuisine and culture. Wide tree-lined avenues are lined with colonial-era buildings, colourful markets and striking civic landmarks, while elegant churches stand alongside mosques, historic mansions and imposing public buildings dating from the Portuguese era.

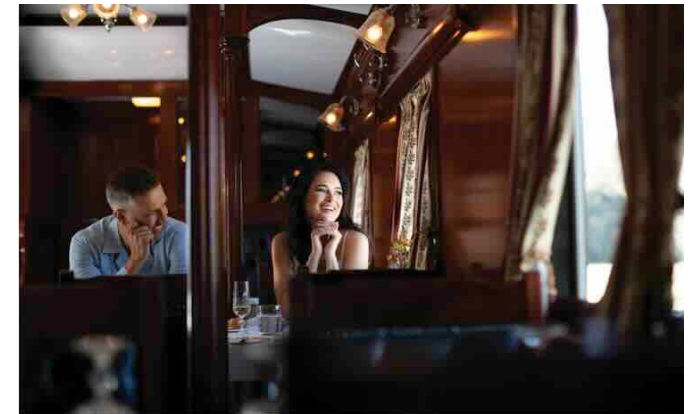
Your tour provides an introduction to this distinctive city before returning to the train as it departs for Goba near the Eswatini border.

Border formalities are completed during the evening before the train continues towards Mpaka.

Dinner is served on board, with this evening's suggested dress code being smart casual.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

OVERNIGHT TRAIN



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 13



Experience the traditions of the Kingdom of Eswatini.

Today we spend in the Kingdom of Eswatini, one of Africa's smallest and most traditional monarchies, for a full-day excursion showcasing the country's rich cultural heritage.

Visit the renowned Swazi Candles workshop, where skilled artisans create beautifully coloured candles entirely by hand using techniques developed over many decades.

There is also time to browse displays of locally produced woodcarvings, woven baskets and textiles. Continue to Mantenga Cultural Village, an open-air living museum where traditional homes, crafts and demonstrations illustrate everyday Swazi life during the nineteenth century.

Lunch is served at nearby Mantenga Lodge before returning to the train. As the journey continues towards the South African border and Malelane, relax with afternoon tea before enjoying another formal dinner on board.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

OVERNIGHT TRAIN



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 14



- Search for the Big Five in South Africa's flagship national park.

An early start brings you into the world-famous Kruger National Park, one of Africa's premier wildlife reserves and home to an extraordinary diversity of plants and animals. Covering almost two million hectares, the park protects an impressive range of habitats, from open savannah to riverine woodland, supporting the iconic Big Five alongside hundreds of other mammal, bird and reptile species.

Enjoy an extended game drive with experienced guides as you explore this remarkable wilderness, with regular stops to observe wildlife and appreciate the ever-changing landscapes.

Lunch is included during the excursion, together with an opportunity to browse local curio shops before returning to the train.

Spend the late afternoon relaxing on board with tea in the lounge before another formal dinner as the journey continues towards Mbombela (Nelspruit).

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

OVERNIGHT TRAIN



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 15



- Discover one of South Africa's most scenic touring routes.

Today's full-day excursion follows the celebrated Panorama Route through the spectacular landscapes of Mpumalanga.

Begin with a visit to the beautifully preserved gold-rush town of Pilgrim's Rest, where restored nineteenth-century buildings now house museums, cafés and small shops recalling the area's mining heritage.

Continue to Bourke's Luck Potholes, where centuries of swirling river water have sculpted remarkable cylindrical rock formations at the meeting point of the Blyde and Treur Rivers.

Later, visit Graskop, where there is an opportunity to descend into the indigenous forest on the Graskop Gorge Lift (own expense) and enjoy elevated boardwalks and suspension bridges beneath the dramatic cliffs.

Following lunch, return to the train and continue towards Emgwenya (Waterval Boven), relaxing on board before another formal dinner as the journey progresses.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

OVERNIGHT TRAIN



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 16



- A final full day enjoying the journey by rail.

Today is devoted to the final stages of your journey as the train travels west across South Africa's historic eastern railway line towards Pretoria.

Sit back in the observation car and watch the scenery evolve from the rolling hills around eMakhazeni and Dullstroom, renowned for trout fishing, to the industrial landscapes of Middelburg and eMalahleni, a region closely associated with South Africa's coal mining industry and the origins of Rovos Rail itself.

This historic railway, constructed by the Netherlands-South African Railway Company during the 1890s, remains one of the country's most significant rail routes.

Enjoy a leisurely day making the most of the train's elegant public spaces, with lunch, afternoon tea and dinner served on board.

This evening's suggested dress theme is '1920s' or smart casual, providing a fitting finale to your journey.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

OVERNIGHT TRAIN



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 17



Arrive in Pretoria and conclude your rail adventure.

Enjoy a final breakfast on board as the train makes its way into Pretoria, South Africa's administrative capital and the home of Rovos Rail.

Shortly before arrival, ensure your luggage is ready for collection and have your passport available. Your journey concludes at the beautifully restored Rovos Rail Station, where you disembark after more than two weeks travelling across the diverse landscapes of southern Africa. If time permits, you may wish to join a guided tour of the station and Rovos Rail's museum, which showcases the company's beautifully restored rolling stock and the history of luxury rail travel in the region.

We recommend allowing approximately 90 minutes before arranging onward transfers if you plan to visit the museum.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast.

* Schedule Changes & Additional Services *

Rovos Rail strongly advises having at least 1 night pre and post trip and not to arrive and depart on the same day as the trip starts and finishes.

We can book also book all pre & post tour arrangements you might need including safaris. [Please contact us for more details.](#)

OTHER ROVOS TRIPS



*Click To View More
Rovos Tours*



More Africa? Safari & More With Us

For many the Rovos Rail trip is part of a wider Africa adventure and guess what - we can book this for you as well!

We offer a full range of safari and other travel services in [South Africa](#), [Zimbabwe](#), [Zambia](#), [Botswana](#) and [Mozambique](#) which we can design around the fixed date Rovos trip to create a seamless African journey for you.

[Just ask us for further details!](#)

"What an adventure you organised for us in Zimbabwe and Zambia. We saw the big five which had been a lifetime ambition and your support and expertise both throughout the booking process and on tour were very reassuring. Now we just want to see more of Africa!"

John & Sarah's post Rovos safari

2027 dates & prices



THE
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TRAVEL COMPANY

DATES - Booking early is essential for this trip !

Departs Lilongwe 18th May 2027 & Finishes Pretoria 3rd June 2027

CABINS - see pages further on for cabin descriptions	USD per person	<i>We think</i> <i>"This is a new trip that first ran in 2026 by invitation only to selected past clients. The trip went very well and is sure to fill up quickly for the limited departures it plans to run so if this is of interest please book as early as possible."</i>
Royal Suite - Double Occupancy - per person	USD 31,500	
Royal Suite - Single Occupancy	POA	
Deluxe - Double Occupancy - per person	USD 24,000	
Deluxe - Single Occupancy	USD 34,700	
Pullman - Double Occupancy - per person	USD 18,200	
Pullman - Single Occupancy	USD 26,400	

The published prices for this tour are in US Dollars. However, we can quote and accept payment in GB Pounds, Euros, Singaporean Dollars, Australian Dollars, Canadian Dollars and more. **Contact us** for a confirmed quote in your preferred currency.

Updated 150726



THE
LUXURY TRAIN
TRAVEL COMPANY

2028 dates & prices

DATES - Booking early is essential for this trip !

Departs Lilongwe 15th May 2028 & Finishes Pretoria 31st May 2028

CABINS - see pages further on for cabin descriptions	USD per person	 <i>"This is a new trip that first ran in 2026 by invitation only to selected past clients. The trip went very well and is sure to fill up quickly for the limited departures it plans to run so if this is of interest please book as early as possible."</i>
Royal Suite - Double Occupancy - per person	USD 34,650	
Royal Suite - Single Occupancy	POA	
Deluxe - Double Occupancy - per person	USD 26,400	
Deluxe - Single Occupancy	USD 38,280	
Pullman - Double Occupancy - per person	USD 20,020	
Pullman - Single Occupancy	USD 29,029	

The published prices for this tour are in US Dollars. However, we can quote and accept payment in GB Pounds, Euros, Singaporean Dollars, Australian Dollars, Canadian Dollars and more. **Contact us** for a confirmed quote in your preferred currency.

Updated 150726

ROVOS RAIL INCLUSIONS, EXCLUSIONS & TERMS OF BOOKING

INCLUSIONS

- ✓ Accommodation as specified.
- ✓ All meals as specified.
- ✓ All beverages on board.
- ✓ Room service.
- ✓ Limited laundry.
- ✓ Excursions with a qualified guide (where applicable).
- ✓ Entrance fees as per itinerary.
- ✓ On-board historian.
- ✓ Hairstylist and doctor.
- ✓ Government tax.
- ✓ Off-train accommodation during the rail trip includes an overnight bag; meals, water, tea/coffee and breakfast juices; snacks and drinks on sunset cruise.

EXCLUSIONS

- ✗ International sparkling wine.
- ✗ Gratuities.
- ✗ Personal expenses; visas; travel insurance; pre- and post-tour accommodation, flights and transfers (we can book these on request)
- ✗ Off-train accommodation during the rail trip excludes all other beverages; meals at unspecified venues; laundry; personal expenses.
- ✗ International Airfare to / from the trip's start / finish (we can book).
- ✗ Visas - we can advise and provide documentation needed.
- ✗ Travel insurance to cover any medical treatment.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Maximum Train Capacity is 36 suites / 72 guests. We reserve the right to alter this capacity as circumstances require.
- We require all clients to take out travel / trip cancellation and to have valid medical insurance for all our trips.
- We regret that due to the intricate logistics of this tour, itinerary changes are sometimes unavoidable.
- On booking a **deposit of 25%** plus any international flights we are booking for you. Full payment is required 60 days before the trip start date.
- International flights, beverages not included, visa fees and any services not mentioned are not included in the price.

• Cancellation Terms:

More than 365 days before start date: 0% + any cancellation costs of additional services & card fees.

365-91 days before start date: 10% + any cancellation costs of additional services & card fees.

90-61 days before start date: 25% + any cancellation costs of additional services & card fees.

60-31 days before start date: 50% + any cancellation costs of additional services & card fees.

30-0 days before start date: 100% + any cancellation costs of additional services & card fees.

WHY BOOK THROUGH US ?

EXPERIENCE ✓

We have been arranging luxury train tours since 2008 and have long relationships with key providers.

PRICE PROMISE ✓

In most cases we will offer to match any bona fide, like for like quote for your trip from another agent or operator.

INDEPENDENT ADVICE ✓

We give open and impartial advice and it is important to us that you book the right rail trip for you.

PEACE OF MIND ✓

We are members of ABTA and most trips are protected by our IPP cover and ATOL bonding.



"I just wanted to say thank you for organising our wonderful holiday. All went smoothly and we were well taken care of. Thank you for the seamless organisation."

Kristopher Forbes



"The trip was great. Everything was smooth. This was very important to me as a solo female traveller. I felt safe and secure at all times. It was a well-balanced and organised trip. I really appreciated the effort that went into the trip."

Sarah Orozco



"You are amazing! Thank you so much for the fast response to my initial email, and the rapid answer to any questions I had, no matter how stupid they were! Your organisation was a great choice for me... I would highly recommend it."

Rachael Klein



"The booking process was very efficient. We appreciate you answered all our questions and presented a good plan. The trip itself was a wonderful old world Africa experience on the train – loved it."

Paige & Hugh Christensen



"It was the best trip we've ever taken! It was amazing! I cannot say enough about it. The ease of train travel, and guides were all pleasant surprises."

Lawrence & Conner Dudley



"We appreciated how easy it was to talk with you on the phone, person-to-person. This was very helpful. It's nice to meet people with similar interests and goals. We thank you and your company for everything you did to create a memorable train experience."

Bethany Leblanc



"You made booking flights and everything else very simple. You always provided excellent service, and responded to our inquiries promptly. Thanks for your attention to detail towards your customers."

Tania & Arthur Lindsey



"I can't tell you how much we appreciate all the pre planning you helped us with. Thanks again for all you did for us."

Gail & Cathy

About The Rovos Rail Train

Recapture the romance of a bygone era when travellers experienced the magic and mystery of Africa in a relaxed and elegant fashion. The classic wood-panelled coaches are the epitome of comfort with period features combining with modern technology.



THE LUXURY TRAIN TRAVEL COMPANY

ABOUT THE ROVOS RAIL TRAIN

FOOD & DRINK

The service is discreet and friendly with an enthusiastic team of chefs ensuring guests' every need is catered for. There is an accent on fresh local ingredients and traditional dishes are a specialty. Every morning there is a full breakfast with dishes cooked to order. Meals are served in one sitting only and are complemented by fine South African wines.

DRESS ON BOARD

The dress on board the train is casual during the day but evening attire is required for dinner (collar and tie for men and dress for women). In maintaining the atmosphere there are no radios or television sets on board and the use of technology that has the ability to disturb other guests is confined to the privacy of the cabins.

CLICK FOR AN INTERACTIVE VIEW OF THE LOUNGE CAR

CABIN FEATURES

Each train has accommodation carriages, dining cars, a lounge car (±36 seats), small gift shop, smoking lounge (±8 seats) and observation car (±32 seats) with open-air balcony.

The cabins are refined and spacious offering guests privacy and comfort with double or twin beds and fittings and facilities that are of the highest standard.

All have en-suite bathrooms with shower, toilet and basin, tea-and-coffee facilities (Royal Suite Emeralds Deluxe only), safes, air conditioning, linen and amenities and are serviced daily. There is adequate storage and small cupboards with hangers and shelves.



ABOUT THE ROVOS RAIL TRAIN



DINING CAR

Each elegant dining car accommodates approximately 42 guests. Depending on the number of passengers travelling, the train operates with either one or two dining cars, ensuring a comfortable and unhurried atmosphere throughout each meal service. Seating is arranged at a combination of tables for two and four, allowing guests to dine privately or share a table with fellow travellers and enjoy the convivial spirit of life aboard the train.

Meals are served in a single sitting at the following times, unless otherwise indicated in the itinerary:

Breakfast: 07:00–10:00

Lunch: 13:00

Formal dinner: 19:30

CLICK FOR AN INTERACTIVE VIEW OF THE DINING CAR

Breakfast offers a selection of continental choices, together with hot dishes freshly prepared to order. Lunch and dinner are refined four-course affairs, showcasing carefully selected ingredients and accompanied by a range of fine South African wines.

The onboard bar menu is extensive, with a broad selection of wines, spirits, beers and soft drinks available. Particular premium requests, such as French Champagne or other specialist beverages, should be arranged in advance to ensure they can be provided during the journey.

ABOUT THE ROVOS RAIL TRAIN



OBSERVATION CAR

The observation car accommodates approximately 32 guests and provides one of the train's most inviting spaces for relaxation and socialising. Its open-air balcony offers uninterrupted views of the passing scenery, while large picture windows ensure the landscape can be enjoyed in comfort from inside.

The car also features a bar, comfortable sofas and intimate booth seating, creating a choice of convivial gathering areas and quieter corners in which to read, chat or simply watch the world go by.

On most days, afternoon tea is served at approximately 16:30 in both the lounge and observation cars. Bar service is generally available from around 07:00 until 01:00, offering refreshments throughout the day and into the evening.

ROYAL SUITE

[CLICK HERE FOR INTERACTIVE VIEW](#)

Photos and illustrations are for guidance only and may differ to your actual cabin

The Royal Suites each take up half a carriage with their own private lounge area and en-suite with Victorian bath, separate shower, toilet and basin. They accommodate one or two passengers in double or split twin beds. A dedicated attendant is always available and services the suites daily. A bar fridge is filled with the on-board beverages of the passengers' choice.

- Double or twin beds
- En-suite with shower, toilet and basin
- Small lounge area
- Writing desk
- Luggage shelf & Cupboards
- Safe
- Air conditioning
- Fridge & Tea facilities
- Bespoke amenities
- Robes and slippers
- Hairdryer (fixed or plug-in)
- Shaver plugs (2-pin)
- USB ports
- Safety glasses & Fire extinguisher
- Emergency torch
- Laundry bag & Shoe bag
- Internal telephone system
- Room service.

ROYAL SUITES

±16m²
±172ft²

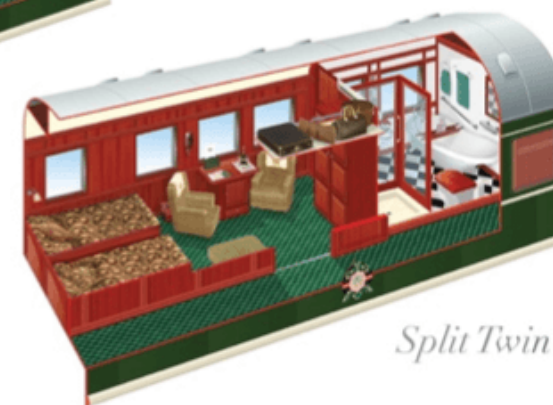
BED DIMENSIONS: LxW in CM

Double: 200x189

Split Twin: 200x75



Double Lengthways



Split Twin

Minibar, air conditioning, writing desk, luggage shelf, cupboards, safe, en-suite bathroom with bath, shower, toilet and basin.



ROYAL SUITE

[CLICK HERE FOR INTERACTIVE VIEW](#)

Photos and illustrations are for guidance only and may differ to your actual cabin



ROYAL SUITE

[CLICK HERE FOR INTERACTIVE VIEW](#)

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ROYAL SUITE

[CLICK HERE FOR INTERACTIVE VIEW](#)

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Royal Double Wall

ROYAL SUITE

[CLICK HERE FOR INTERACTIVE VIEW](#)

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DELUXE

[CLICK HERE FOR INTERACTIVE VIEW](#)

Photos and illustrations are for guidance only and may differ to your actual cabin

The $\pm 10m^2$ Deluxe Suites accommodate one or two passengers in double or twin beds and have their own lounge area and en-suite bathroom with shower, toilet and basin. A dedicated attendant is available at all times and services the suites daily. A bar fridge is filled with the on-board beverages of the passengers' choice.

- Double or twin beds
- En-suite with shower, toilet and basin
- Small lounge area
- Writing desk
- Luggage shelf & Cupboards
- Safe
- Air conditioning
- Fridge & Tea facilities
- Bespoke amenities
- Robes and slippers
- Hairdryer (fixed or plug-in)
- Shaver plugs (2-pin)
- USB ports
- Safety glasses & Fire extinguisher
- Emergency torch
- Laundry bag & Shoe bag
- Internal telephone system
- Room service.

DELUXE SUITES

$\pm 10m^2$
 $\pm 108ft^2$

BED DIMENSIONS: LxW in CM

Double Lengthways: 189x189

Split Twin Lengthways: 189x75

Double Crosswise: 189x160

Suite layouts may differ from images



Double Lengthways



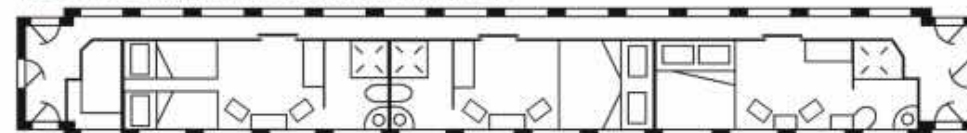
Double Crosswise



Split Twin Lengthways

Minibar, air conditioning, writing desk, luggage shelf, cupboards, safe, en-suite bathroom with shower, toilet and basin.

THREE SUITES PER COACH WITH BED CONFIGURATION OPTIONS



SPLIT TWIN LENGTHWAYS

DOUBLE LENGTHWAYS

DOUBLE CROSSWISE

DELUXE

[CLICK HERE FOR INTERACTIVE VIEW](#)

Photos and illustrations are for guidance only and may differ to your actual cabin



DELUXE

[CLICK HERE FOR INTERACTIVE VIEW](#)

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Deluxe Double Lengthways

DELUXE

[CLICK HERE FOR INTERACTIVE VIEW](#)

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Deluxe Split Twin Lengthways

DELUXE

[CLICK HERE FOR INTERACTIVE VIEW](#)

Photos and illustrations are for guidance only and may differ to your actual cabin



DELUXE

[CLICK HERE FOR INTERACTIVE VIEW](#)

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PULLMAN SHORT JOURNEYS

[CLICK HERE FOR INTERACTIVE VIEW](#)

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The $\pm 7m^2$ Pullmans, used on our short journeys, accommodate one or two passengers and have an en-suite bathroom with shower, toilet and basin. During the day, the suites have a comfortable sofa-seat with a conversion to double or twin beds (side-by-side or upper and lower bunks) for the evening. A dedicated attendant is available at all times and services the suites daily. **Please note in the animation that we indicate a bar fridge, however, these have been removed from the Pullmans.**

- Double or twin beds
- Upper and/or lower bunk
- Daytime sofa setting
- En-suite with shower, toilet and basin
- Fold-up writing desk
- Luggage shelf & Cupboards
- Safe, Safety glasses & Fire extinguisher
- Air conditioning
- Fridge & Tea facilities
- Bespoke amenities
- Robes and slippers, Laundry bag & Shoe bag
- Hairdryer (fixed or plug-in)
- Shaver plugs (2-pin) & USB ports
- USB ports
- Emergency torch
- Room service.

PULLMAN SUITES

$\pm 7m^2$
 $\pm 76ft^2$



*Daytime
Sofa Couch*



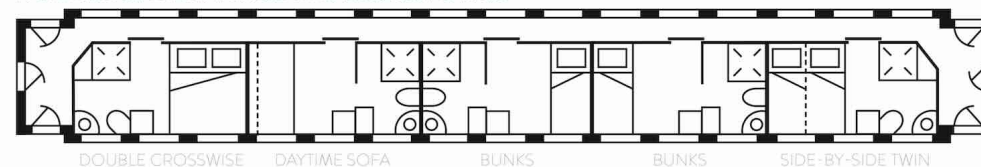
Night-time Lower and Upper Singles



*Night-time
Double Crosswise or
Side-by-side Twin*

Minibar, air conditioning, fold-out writing desk, luggage shelf, cupboards, safe, en-suite bathroom with shower, toilet and basin.

FIVE SUITES PER COACH WITH BED CONFIGURATION OPTIONS



PULLMAN

SHORT JOURNEYS

[CLICK HERE FOR INTERACTIVE VIEW](#)

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PULLMAN

SHORT JOURNEYS

CLICK HERE FOR INTERACTIVE VIEW

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PULLMAN SHORT JOURNEYS

[CLICK HERE FOR INTERACTIVE VIEW](#)

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Night Configuration



Day Configuration

PULLMAN

SHORT JOURNEYS

[CLICK HERE FOR INTERACTIVE VIEW](#)

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PULLMAN GOLD

[CLICK HERE FOR INTERACTIVE VIEW](#)

Photos and illustrations are for guidance only and may differ to your actual cabin

The Pullman Golds, mostly used on our long journeys, accommodate one or two passengers in double or split twin beds and have an en-suite with shower, toilet and basin. The Split Twin is the preferable setup between the Split Twin and Double Lengthways and will be illustrated at check-in. A dedicated attendant is always available and services the suites daily. **Please note in the animation that we indicate a bar fridge, however, these have been removed from the Pullmans.**

- Double or split twin beds
- Daytime sofa setting
- En-suite with shower, toilet and basin
- Fold-up writing desk
- Luggage shelf & Cupboards
- Safe, Safety glasses & Fire extinguisher
- Air conditioning
- Fridge & Tea facilities
- Bespoke amenities
- Robes and slippers, Laundry bag & Shoe bag
- Hairdryer (fixed or plug-in)
- Shaver plugs (2-pin) & USB ports
- USB ports
- Emergency torch
- Room service.

PULLMAN GOLD SUITES

±7m²
±76ft²

BED DIMENSIONS:

LxW in CM

Double: 189x189

Split Twin: 189x75

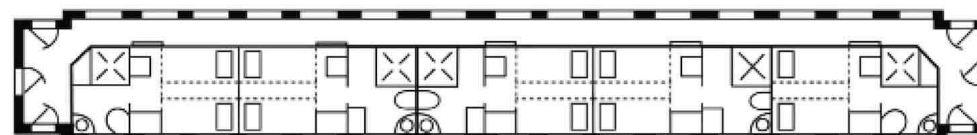


Daytime couches and night-time split twin



Night-time double bed

Tea drawer, air conditioning, fold-out writing desk, luggage shelf, cupboards, safe, en-suite bathroom with shower, toilet and basin.



PULLMAN GOLD

[CLICK HERE FOR INTERACTIVE VIEW](#)

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PULLMAN GOLD

[CLICK HERE FOR INTERACTIVE VIEW](#)

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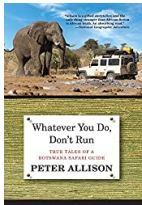


PULLMAN GOLD

[CLICK HERE FOR INTERACTIVE VIEW](#)

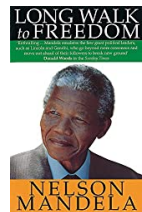
Photos and illustrations are for guidance only and may differ to your actual cabin





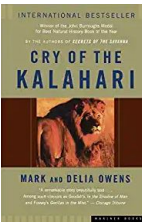
WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T RUN PETER ALLISON

This is a great read for anyone going on a safari. It shows how hard but funny the life of a safari guide in the African bush can be. It's very easy reading, with lots of interesting facts, and somewhat educational.



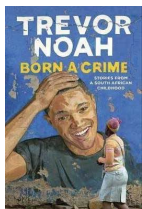
LONG WALK TO FREEDOM NELSON MANDELA

No trip to South Africa is complete without having read the autobiography of one of the country's greatest political leaders, Nelson Mandela.



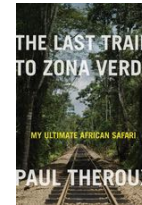
CRY OF THE KALAHARI MARK OWENS & DELIA OWENS

In the 1970s Mark and Delia Owens, two budding zoologists, set off into the desolate and unforgiving Kalahari Desert in Botswana to study wildlife. Deception Valley became their base and home for the next seven years. They lived alone in the wild, studying lions, brown hyenas, jackals, and other desert predators.



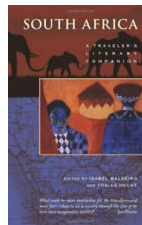
BORN A CRIME TREVOR NOAH

With unflinching honesty and humour, Noah recounts his life as a 'crime' – a coloured (South Africa's term for anyone of mixed race) baby born to a Black Xhosa mother and a white Swiss father – under Apartheid.



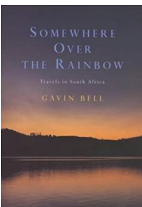
THE LAST TRAIN TO ZONA VERDE PAUL THEROUX

Following the success of the acclaimed Ghost Train to the Eastern Star and The Great Railway Bazaar, The Last Train to Zona Verde is an ode to the last African journey of the world's most celebrated travel writer.



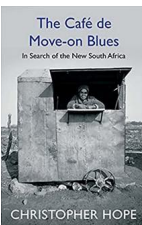
SOUTH AFRICA: A LITERARY COMPANION ISABEL BALSEIRO

Including short stories from some of South Africa's best and most renowned writers (Nadine Gordimer, J.M. Coetzee, and Alan Paton, to name only a few), this collection accompanies readers to a recent, but altogether different South Africa, reflecting perspectives of both the oppressed and the oppressors.



SOMEWHERE OVER THE RAINBOW GAVIN BELL

In his travels Bell found a country at odds with itself, swinging between hope and despair, buoyed by a sense of freedom and haunted by a fear of violent crime. It is a compelling portrait of a country in search of an identity.



THE CAFE DE MOVE-ON BLUES CHRISTOPHER HOPE

Framed as a travelogue, this is a darkly comic, powerful and moving portrait of South Africa - an elegy to a living nation, which is still mad and absurd.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE TOUR

HOW FAR IN ADVANCE DO I NEED TO BOOK ?

This train tour is an exclusive trip with very limited departures through the year. Consequently we strongly advise our clients to book as far in advance as possible to avoid disappointment. This particularly applies to the higher level cabins which there is strong demand for.

CAN YOU OBTAIN & ADVISE ON THE VISAS FOR US ?

Visas (if required) can be quite complex so we recommend using a specialist visa agent and have an arrangement with [CIBT Visa Central](#) who offer a reliable service for all the visas you will need for your trip. Of course, we provide all the necessary documentation which must accompany your application. Note that the onus is upon the client to ensure passports and visas, as may be required, are valid prior to departure for Africa. Passports must have at least five blank visa pages and must be valid for at least six months from your return-home date.

On the various journeys we travel: South Africa, eSwatini, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Tanzania, DRC and Angola. Some nationalities are eligible to purchase port-of-entry visas. Immigration forms will be available on board. Please ensure you have a minimum of US\$200 in cash with you. Angolan and DRC visas must be obtained prior to travel. We request that Tanzanian visas are obtained prior to travel when possible.

ARE YOUR TOURS FINANCIALLY PROTECTED ?

Trips sold as packages to UK clients come with financial protection either through our ATOL if the trip includes a flight or insurances which comply with the UK package travel regulations for any trip that does not include a flight. In addition our ABTA membership means we must adhere to their strict code of conduct. Trips sold by us as an agent for train operator do not come with financial protection as even in the event of our insolvency your booking with the train operator would still exist and be honoured.

CAN YOU BOOK INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS FOR US ?

Absolutely! Our ATOL license means that we can book international or indeed internal flights. We get particularly good access to the best deals on British Airways as we are an appointed operator.

CAN YOU BOOK FURTHER TRAVEL FOR US ?

Yes! We can offer extensions to further explore the destinations at either end of the trip. Just ask us for details.

SCHEDULING TIMES, ROUTES & EXCURSIONS

We wish to bring to your attention that Rovos Rail is solely reliant on the traction and railway services provided by the countries through which we travel. Our hands are regrettably tied when these services fail, be they due to locomotives, signals, overhead power-cable damage and/or theft, vandalism, electricity outages, railway tracks or issues with drivers etc. Delays can occur due to our reliance on these national organisations. Rovos Rail is not responsible and cannot be held liable for any delays or changes in tour arrangements that may be caused by natural or other factors beyond our control. Rovos Rail reserves the right to cancel or amend our routing, any excursions and the tour departure dates provided we can offer clients alternative excursions or departure dates. Rovos Rail cannot guarantee excursions or departure and arrival times. Our obligation to transport guests from departure to arrival points on schedule will override any commitment to excursions although we will endeavour to carry out all of the off-train experiences. We strongly caution against same-day air travel on departure/arrival days due to possible delays with flights or the train.

POSTAGE

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE TOUR

GUEST INDEMNITY

Although certain limited insurances have been arranged, neither Rovos Rail Tours (Pty) Ltd and/or Shongololo Express (herein being collectively referred to as 'Rovos Rail'), nor its servants, agents or employees, shall be liable for any loss or damage to passengers' luggage or effects. Insofar as one of the tours may include a visit to a game reserve and whilst attacks by wild animals are extremely rare, similarly neither Rovos Rail, nor its servants, agents or employees, accept any liability whatsoever for any injury or incidents to passengers or their belongings. The passenger hereby waives any claim which he/she may have against Rovos Rail, its servants, agents, employees or sub-contractors for any injury and/or loss of any nature whatsoever (including, without limiting the generality of the a-foregoing, consequential loss) arising for any reason of any nature whatever directly or indirectly out of any aspect of the tour including, without limiting the generality of the a-foregoing, any form of transport used for the purpose of the tour. This waiver shall be binding on the passenger's executors, heirs, trustees and dependants. The passenger records that all the services and facilities provided to the passenger are accepted voluntarily and with full knowledge that they may expose the passenger to injury, danger or loss. The passenger further records that any statement, representation or information given to him/her by Rovos Rail shall, unless given in writing, not prejudice this waiver in any manner whatsoever. The passenger indemnifies Rovos Rail in respect of any claim that may be made by any third party against it arising out of any claim in respect of which the passenger gives the aforementioned waiver. This agreement shall be governed solely by laws of the Republic of South Africa.

ON CONFIRMATION OF A RESERVATION, OUR T&C WILL BE DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED AND WILL BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Rovos Rail reserves the right without notice to make use of any photography/film taken by our staff on the tour for general publicity purposes without payment or permission.

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. Ask us for the full Rovos Child Policy document for further details.

ROVOS RAIL STATION TOUR & MUSEUM

A highlight for guests is a visit to the private station headquarters in Capital Park, Pretoria, where the Rovos team work assiduously to ensure the locomotives and trains are maintained to the highest standard. This is the busy hub of a provisioning operation that is world-class in terms of efficiency and attention to detail. The tour will show you the nuts and bolts of the company. We also have a museum showing a historical collection of train paraphernalia.

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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE TOUR

CHECK-IN

Please check-in a minimum of one hour before departure. Should you wish to visit our museum or do a site tour at Rovos Rail Station in Pretoria, we suggest arriving two hours prior to departure. If Pretoria is your arrival point, we suggest delaying your pick-up so you can enjoy the site tour. Passports are required at check-in. No vouchers are required. Luggage will be tagged and placed in your suite on board the train where you will find a full itinerary pack.

AMENITIES

Rovos Rail provides a complete amenity bag with the following South African biodegradable and/or recyclable products: soap (40g), bamboo tissues, shampoo (50ml), hand and body wash (50ml), hand and body lotion (50ml), lip balm (15ml/7g), insect repellent spray (100ml for journeys over 4 days), reusable bamboo rounds, bamboo ear buds and a compostable 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, ear plugs and insect repellent.

PETS

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

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.

DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

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 & DRINKS

Meals on board are served in one sitting only in the dining cars. 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. We have a carefully curated selection of local and international beverages on board with a proud focus on South African offerings. Our varied collection includes wine, brandy, gin, rum, vodka, whisky, spirits, digestifs, grappa, liqueur, beer, cider, non-alcoholic options, mixers and a cocktail menu. All beverages on board are included while special requests, such as international sparkling wine, may be pre-ordered at an additional cost. Please ensure these requests are made 30+ days before departure.

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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE TOUR

DRESS CODE

- Days on board are smart casual: Neat, conventional yet relatively informal in style combining casual and formal clothing pieces.
- Dinner on board is formal: For gentlemen, a collar and tie are mandatory while a jacket is optional. For ladies, we suggest cocktail/evening dresses or suits. Please respect this dress code.
- On long journeys we enjoy themed evenings where guests can dress up accordingly or opt for smart casual: 1 x “AFRICA” evening and/or 1 x “1920s” 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.

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.

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.

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.

TEMPERATURE & TIME ZONES

All public cars are fitted with gas-filled air-conditioning systems. Each suite has an individual air conditioner with temperature controls that can also be set to heat mode. Windows should be closed while operating the air-conditioning unit. Electric under-blankets are fitted on the bed.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE TOUR

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 African Trilogy, Copper Trail, Trail of Two Oceans and Dar es Salaam 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.

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.

MOBILITY

Although we can accommodate guests with walking problems, we recommend that an able-bodied passenger accompany them. The train is not suitable to accommodate 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. Ask us for further information about mobility.

SECURITY

Each suite has an electronic safe in its cupboard. We ask guests to shut shutters, or better shutters and windows, when they are not in their suites. When passing through stations, please be especially careful. All train doors are locked from the inside. You can lock your suite door from the inside.

THE TRACK

The track we travel on is not maintained in a consistent manner. You may wake up at night and imagine the train traveling at high speed. This is due to the track conditions below. The train can travel at 60km/h (37mph), and speed is reduced to 20km/h (12mph) on bad sections. Earplugs can be purchased in the Gift Shop and in your amenities bag if you find it too noisy.

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. Our bottles are biodegradable and made from plants.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE TOUR

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.

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).

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.

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.

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.

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 & shelves.

CHILDREN

1. Rovos Rail do not encourage children to join their train but they will be accepted. They ask parents to be sensitive of the adult nature and atmosphere of the train by keeping children respectful and quiet.
2. Long journeys are not recommended for under 13s.
3. There is no child minding nor are there any activities for children.
4. Children under 2 are not permitted.
5. Children under 5 are not permitted in the dining room or lounge. Room service is available. The chefs will endeavour to prepare suitable meals within the ingredients already on board.
1 child under 5 can share existing cabins. Over 5 years old, an additional cabin will be needed as only 2 guests are permitted per cabin.
Children 10 and over pay full rate. Children 3-9 years pays 75% of the adult per person sharing rate.