



THE LUXURY TRAIN TRAVEL COMPANY

Malawi Meander

PRETORIA TO LILONGWE

A ROVOS RAIL LONG TOUR



WE ALSO BOOK PRE / POST TRAIN SAFARIS & MORE !



**Safe
travels**

by

WORLD
TRAVEL &
TOURISM
COUNCIL

ROVOS RAIL | MALAWI MEANDER | PRETORIA TO LILONGWE | 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

- www.theluxurytraintravelcompany.com
- enquiry@theluxurytraintravelcompany.com

☎ +44 (0)20 8191 0620

- ABTA member Y1699
- ATOL License 10287



CONTENTS

- 3 Map & Highlights
- 5 Day by Day Itinerary
- 23 ... Tour Dates, Pricing
- 25 ... Inclusions & Terms
- 26 ... Why Book with Us?
- 27 ... The Train & Cabin Classes
- 51 ... Recommended Reading
- 52 ... Important information

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 | PRETORIA TO LILONGWE | 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



Safe
travels

by

WORLD
TRAVEL &
TOURISM
COUNCIL

YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1



- Depart Pretoria, historic railway, fine dining, elegant beginnings await.

Please check in two hours before departure (time to be advised) at Rovos Rail Station, 1 Transnet Avenue, Pretoria, where you are invited to enjoy a tour of the station and the fascinating Rovos Rail Museum before boarding.

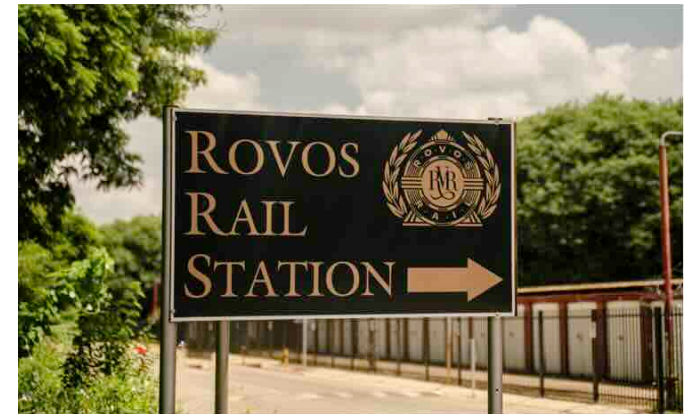
Once aboard, lunch is served in the elegant dining cars as the train departs Pretoria, travelling east through the historic coal-mining region of eMalahleni (Witbank), where Rovos Rail was founded, and onwards to Middelburg, South Africa's renowned "stainless steel capital". This historic railway line was constructed by the Dutch railway company NZASM between 1893 and 1895, linking Pretoria with Lourenço Marques (now Maputo).

In the afternoon, relax with traditional afternoon tea in the lounge and observation cars while enjoying the changing scenery. This evening, a formal dinner is served in the dining cars.

Please ensure the Train Manager or Guest Services Manager has collected your passport before departure.

 **Meals Included:** Lunch & Dinner.

OVERNIGHT TRAIN



A decorative horizontal line consisting of 25 small, dark grey dots spaced evenly across the width of the page.

DAY 2



Throughout the journey, informative lectures take place in the lounge car, offering fascinating insights into the regions and destinations ahead.

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

OVERNIGHT TRAIN



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 3



- Big Five safari, wildlife, unforgettable African bush experience awaits.

After breakfast on board, disembark for a full-day game drive in Kruger National Park, one of Africa's greatest wildlife reserves. Accompanied by experienced guides, search for the legendary Big Five—lion, leopard, elephant, rhino and buffalo—along with giraffe, zebra, hippo, crocodile and countless other species. Lunch is served during the excursion, and there is also an opportunity to browse for local crafts and souvenirs before returning to the train.

Back on board, enjoy traditional afternoon tea in the lounge and observation cars as the train departs for Komatipoort and Mpaka, crossing into Eswatini. This evening, a formal dinner is served in the elegant dining cars.

Covering almost two million hectares, Kruger National Park is internationally recognised for its exceptional biodiversity and conservation success. It protects hundreds of species of birds, reptiles, mammals, fish, amphibians and trees, making it one of the world's finest safari destinations.

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

OVERNIGHT TRAIN



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 4



- Traditional culture, mountain scenery, artisan crafts in this kingdom await.

Following breakfast, complete the border formalities before travelling into the Kingdom of Eswatini. Visit the renowned Swazi Candles workshop, where skilled local artisans handcraft colourful candles using traditional techniques. Browse beautifully made woodcarvings, woven baskets and vibrant textiles before continuing to Mantenga Lodge for lunch in the picturesque Ezulwini Valley.

This afternoon, explore Mantenga Cultural Village, a fascinating living museum that recreates traditional Swazi life during the 1850s. Learn about local customs, architecture, music and dance while gaining a deeper understanding of one of Africa's most enduring cultures. Returning to the train, enjoy afternoon tea before further border formalities are completed. A formal dinner is served on board this evening.

Formerly known as Swaziland, Eswatini is one of Africa's smallest countries yet boasts a remarkably rich cultural heritage. It remains one of the world's few absolute monarchies and is known for its warm hospitality, dramatic mountain scenery and strong sense of tradition.

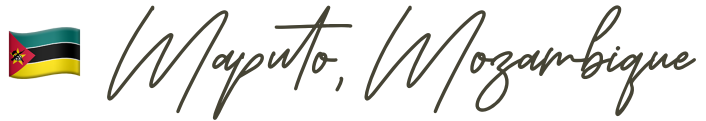
 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

OVERNIGHT TRAIN



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 5



- Colonial heritage, vibrant culture, coastal charm, fascinating city exploration.

Following breakfast, enjoy a guided sightseeing tour of Maputo, Mozambique's colourful and cosmopolitan capital. Discover a city where African traditions blend harmoniously with Portuguese colonial heritage, creating a unique architectural and cultural character. Highlights include elegant colonial buildings, bustling markets, leafy boulevards and impressive public squares before lunch at the iconic Polana Hotel, overlooking the Indian Ocean.

During your visit, learn about Maputo's fascinating history and its transformation into one of southern Africa's most vibrant capitals. Afterwards, return to the train and relax over afternoon tea in the lounge and observation cars.

This evening, a formal dinner is served as the journey continues south through Mozambique, allowing time to reflect on another memorable day of discovery.

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

OVERNIGHT TRAIN



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 6



- **Cross Mozambique, Limpopo landscapes, relaxation, elegant travel.**

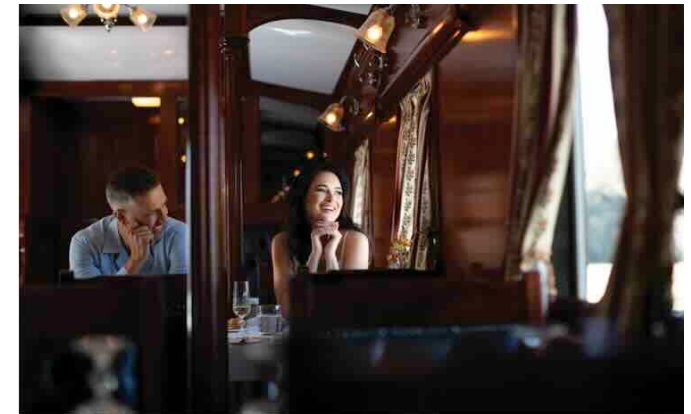
Today is devoted entirely to the pleasures of life aboard Rovos Rail as the train traverses the remote interior of Mozambique. Relax with breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea while watching expansive floodplains, forests and open savannah drift past the windows of the lounge and observation cars.

One of today's highlights is crossing the legendary Limpopo River, forever associated with Rudyard Kipling's Just So Stories. The surrounding landscape remains wonderfully untouched, providing an ever-changing panorama of rural villages, wetlands and vast wilderness seldom experienced by visitors.

As evening approaches, the train continues towards Chicualacuala, where a memorable dinner is served on board. Tonight's dress code is "Africa" theme or smart casual, providing a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere for the evening.

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

OVERNIGHT TRAIN



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 7



- Remote wilderness, Gonarezhou National Park, dramatic landscapes.

After breakfast and the completion of border formalities, the train enters Zimbabwe, travelling through the vast wilderness of Gonarezhou National Park, aptly known as the “Place of Elephants”. Lunch is served on board as magnificent scenery unfolds beyond the windows, with granite hills, baobab trees and sweeping plains characterising this remote corner of southern Africa.

Spend a leisurely afternoon enjoying tea in the lounge and observation cars while the train continues through spectacular granite hill country towards Oreti. It is an ideal opportunity to relax, socialise with fellow travellers or simply admire the passing landscapes.

Gonarezhou forms part of the immense Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park, linking protected areas across Zimbabwe, South Africa and Mozambique. The park is celebrated for its thriving elephant population and the remarkable Chilojo Cliffs, towering sandstone formations sculpted by the Runde River over countless millennia. This evening, a formal dinner is served in the dining cars.

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

OVERNIGHT TRAIN



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 8

Great Zimbabwe Ruins

- Great Zimbabwe Ruins, Zimbabwe's greatest archaeological treasure.

Following breakfast, transfer to the magnificent Great Zimbabwe Monument, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the largest precolonial stone city in sub-Saharan Africa. Once the flourishing capital of a powerful medieval kingdom, these extraordinary granite ruins stand as one of Africa's greatest archaeological treasures. Explore the impressive Hill Complex, Great Enclosure and surrounding ruins while learning about the remarkable engineering skills, trading networks and rich cultural heritage of the people who built this ancient city.

Steeped in legend, Great Zimbabwe has long been associated with tales of King Solomon's Mines, while archaeological discoveries reveal a sophisticated civilisation that prospered through regional and international trade in gold, ivory and other valuable goods with Arab and Portuguese merchants. The surrounding landscape is equally beautiful, with forests of indigenous hardwoods including teak, mahogany and mukwa adding to the atmosphere of this remarkable site.

After lunch, return to the train and enjoy afternoon tea in the lounge and observation cars as the journey continues towards Gweru, affectionately known as the "City of Progress". This evening, gather for another elegant formal dinner on board as your journey through Zimbabwe continues.

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

OVERNIGHT TRAIN



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 9

Antelope Park

- **Wildlife conservation, lion rehabilitation, safari experiences & natural beauty.**

After breakfast, transfer to Antelope Park, a beautiful private reserve set amongst more than 3,000 acres of open savannah. During your visit, learn about the park's internationally recognised conservation initiatives, including the renowned African Lion and Environmental Research Trust (ALERT), which works to protect and restore Africa's lion population. Optional activities are available, including canoeing, game drives, horseback safaris, birdwatching cruises and elephant encounters.

Following lunch, rejoin the train as it continues towards Harare. Spend the afternoon relaxing in the lounge and observation cars over traditional afternoon tea before enjoying another elegant formal dinner on board.

Antelope Park offers a peaceful setting where wildlife conservation and responsible tourism work hand in hand. It remains one of southern Africa's leading centres for environmental education and wildlife protection.

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

OVERNIGHT TRAIN



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 10



- Zimbabwe's capital, vibrant markets, galleries, culture and warm hospitality.

Zimbabwe's capital, vibrant markets, galleries, culture and warm hospitality

After breakfast, discover Harare, Zimbabwe's attractive capital, on a guided sightseeing tour. Visit local galleries showcasing the country's talented artists before exploring one of the city's lively street markets, where colourful stalls offer everything from handcrafted souvenirs to fresh local produce, providing an authentic insight into everyday Zimbabwean life.

Following lunch, return to the train for a relaxing afternoon as the journey continues. Enjoy traditional afternoon tea in the lounge and observation cars before dinner is served this evening.

Founded as Salisbury in 1890, Harare is a spacious, tree-lined city known for its pleasant climate, thriving artistic community and resilient spirit. The surrounding countryside is characterised by rolling farmland, dramatic granite outcrops and the distinctive Msasa trees that transform the landscape with vibrant seasonal colours.

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

OVERNIGHT TRAIN



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 11



- Historic railway town, museum, scenic highlands, border crossing today.

After breakfast, visit the excellent Mutare Museum, whose fascinating collections explore the archaeology, ethnography, transport and natural history of eastern Zimbabwe. Highlights include an impressive display of vintage vehicles, offering an insight into the region's transport heritage and colonial history.

Following lunch on board, complete border formalities as the train leaves Zimbabwe and heads towards Beira in Mozambique. Spend the afternoon relaxing with tea in the lounge and observation cars while admiring the changing scenery of the Eastern Highlands.

Mutare prospered following the construction of the historic Beira–Mashonaland Railway, which linked Zimbabwe with the Indian Ocean. Today, the route provides a revealing glimpse into rural southern Africa, passing agricultural communities where maize, cassava, peanuts, sorghum and sweet potatoes remain important crops.

A formal dinner is served this evening as the train continues its journey towards Beira.

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

OVERNIGHT TRAIN



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 12



- Colonial architecture, coastal history, Indian Ocean port city exploration.

After breakfast, enjoy a guided tour of Beira, Mozambique's second-largest city and principal Indian Ocean port. Visit the historic Macuti Lighthouse, built in 1904, together with the famous Macuti Shipwreck, before exploring this fascinating coastal city shaped by centuries of Portuguese influence and maritime trade.

Late in the morning, rejoin the train as it departs for Inhamitanga. Lunch is served on board, followed by a leisurely afternoon enjoying the ever-changing scenery from the lounge and observation cars with traditional afternoon tea.

Situated where the Pungwe and Buzi Rivers meet the Mozambique Channel, Beira has long been one of southern Africa's most important ports. Although much of the city suffered during Mozambique's civil war, its colonial architecture, wide avenues and relaxed coastal atmosphere continue to provide a fascinating glimpse into the country's rich history.

A formal dinner is served this evening as the train continues north.

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

OVERNIGHT TRAIN



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 13



- **Scenic Mozambique, mighty Zambezi, historic railway, relaxation & fine dining.**

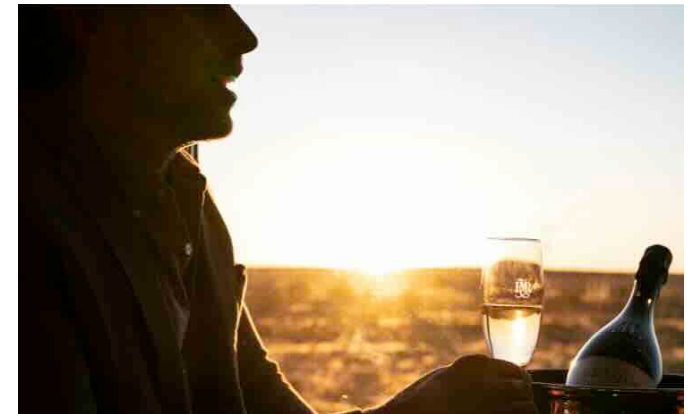
Today is devoted to the pleasures of travelling aboard Rovos Rail as the train winds through the gently undulating landscapes of central Mozambique. Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before settling into the lounge or observation car to admire ever-changing views of rural villages, open countryside and distant mountain ranges. Lunch and traditional afternoon tea are served on board, providing ample opportunity to relax and savour the journey.

A highlight of the day is crossing the impressive Dona Ana Bridge, spanning the mighty Zambezi River between Vila de Sena and Mutarara. Stretching 3.67 kilometres, it is one of Africa's longest railway bridges. Originally constructed by the Portuguese in 1934, the bridge was severely damaged during Mozambique's civil war before being painstakingly restored and reopened to rail traffic. It remains a remarkable feat of engineering and a vital transport link across the Zambezi.

As evening falls, the train continues towards Moatize, where another elegant formal dinner is served on board.

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

OVERNIGHT TRAIN



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 14



- Mining heritage, riverside city, Portuguese charm, African experiences.

Following breakfast, visit one of the vast coal mining operations around Moatize, gaining a fascinating insight into one of Mozambique's most important industries and the significant role mining continues to play in the country's economy.

After lunch on board, continue to the historic riverside city of Tete for a guided tour. Explore its blend of colonial architecture and modern development while learning about the city's strategic importance as a gateway linking Mozambique with neighbouring Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe. Later, enjoy relaxed sundowners overlooking the Zambezi River, a wonderful opportunity to watch the changing colours of the African sky.

Tete's Portuguese heritage remains evident throughout the city, from historic churches and civic buildings to lively markets and bustling riverside streets. The iconic Samora Machel Bridge spans the Zambezi, while nearby markets offer colourful displays of fresh produce, spices, textiles and traditional crafts.

Return to the train this evening for dinner and overnight on board. Dress: "1920s" theme or smart casual.

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

OVERNIGHT TRAIN



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 15



- **Crystal-clear lake, tropical retreat, relaxation and lakeside paradise awaits.**

After breakfast, transfer to Chingozi Airport in Tete before boarding a short flight across the border into Malawi. Arrive at Makokola Retreat, beautifully positioned on the palm-fringed southern shores of the magnificent Lake Malawi, often described as the “Lake of Stars” for its shimmering night-time reflections.

Following lunch, the remainder of the afternoon is yours to enjoy at leisure. Relax beside the lake or swimming pool, stroll along the sandy beach, or take advantage of the resort’s facilities, which include watersports, swimming, tennis and a fitness centre. Surrounded by tropical gardens and spectacular lake views, Makokola provides the perfect setting to unwind after your rail journey.

Dinner and overnight are at the resort, allowing you to experience one of Africa’s most beautiful freshwater lakes.

Please pack a small overnight bag for your two-night stay. Your main luggage will be reunited with you in Lilongwe.

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

OVERNIGHT LODGE

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 16



- **River safari, abundant wildlife, luxury lodge, unforgettable Malawi wilderness.**

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast overlooking Lake Malawi before transferring to Mvuu Lodge, beautifully situated beneath towering fever trees on the banks of the Shire River within Liwonde National Park.

After lunch, embark on an unforgettable boat safari, one of the finest ways to experience the park's abundant wildlife. Drift quietly along the Shire River in search of elephants, hippos, crocodiles and an extraordinary variety of birdlife, while your expert guide explains the ecology of this remarkable ecosystem. As the afternoon draws to a close, pause to enjoy sundowners in the African bush before returning to the lodge for dinner.

Liwonde National Park has become one of Malawi's greatest conservation success stories, with successful wildlife reintroductions ensuring healthy populations of elephants, black rhino, antelope and many other species.

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

OVERNIGHT LODGE

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 17



- Final safari, scenic flight, Malawi farewell & end of a memorable journey.

Rise early for a final game drive, offering one last opportunity to experience the wildlife of Liwonde National Park before enjoying breakfast at the lodge.

After checking out, transfer to the nearby airstrip for your scheduled flight to Lilongwe, Malawi's welcoming capital. On arrival at Kamuzu International Airport, you will be reunited with your main luggage before transferring to your respective city hotels or onward travel arrangements.

As your extraordinary Rovos Rail adventure comes to an end, depart with unforgettable memories of spectacular landscapes, remarkable wildlife, fascinating cultures and one of the world's greatest luxury rail journeys.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast.

* Schedule Changes & Additional Services *

Rovos Rail strongly advises having at least 1 night pre-trip in Pretoria and not to arrive there the same day the trip starts.

We can 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
LUXURY TRAIN
TRAVEL COMPANY

DATES - Booking early is essential for this trip !

Departs Pretoria 29th April 2027 & Finishes Lilongwe 15th May 2027

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 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 Pretoria 26th April 2028 & Finishes Lilongwe 12th 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.





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

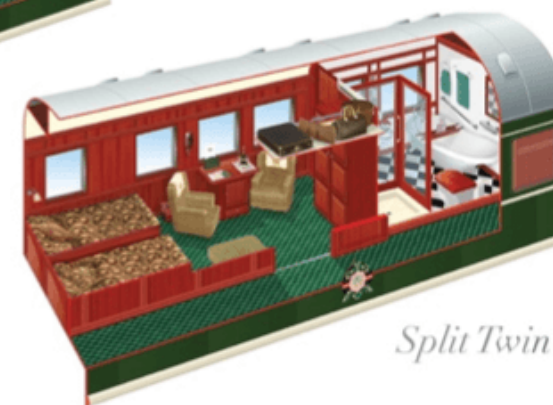
BED DIMENSIONS: LxW in CM

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](#)

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



ROYAL SUITE

[CLICK HERE FOR INTERACTIVE VIEW](#)

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



Royal Double Wall

ROYAL SUITE

[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

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



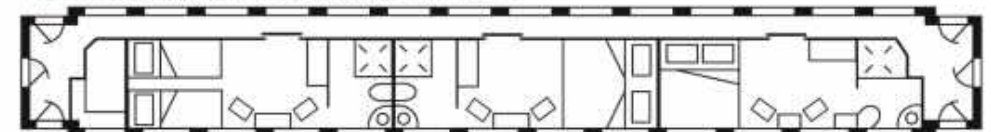
Double Crosswise



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 Double Crosswise

DELUXE

[CLICK HERE FOR INTERACTIVE VIEW](#)

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



Deluxe Double Lengthways

DELUXE

[CLICK HERE FOR INTERACTIVE VIEW](#)

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



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 Split Twin

DELUXE

[CLICK HERE FOR INTERACTIVE VIEW](#)

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



PULLMAN SHORT JOURNEYS

[CLICK HERE FOR INTERACTIVE VIEW](#)

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

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*



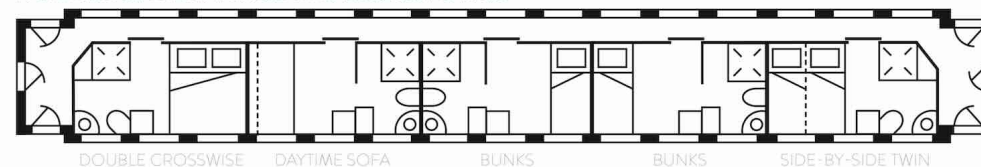
Night-time Lower and Upper Singles



*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](#)

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



PULLMAN

SHORT JOURNEYS

[CLICK HERE FOR INTERACTIVE VIEW](#)

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



PULLMAN SHORT JOURNEYS

[CLICK HERE FOR INTERACTIVE VIEW](#)

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



Night Configuration



Day Configuration

PULLMAN SHORT JOURNEYS

CLICK HERE FOR INTERACTIVE VIEW

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



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

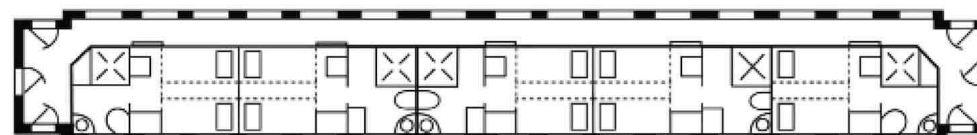


Daytime couches and night-time split twin



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](#)

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



PULLMAN GOLD

[CLICK HERE FOR INTERACTIVE VIEW](#)

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

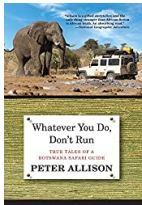


PULLMAN GOLD

[CLICK HERE FOR INTERACTIVE VIEW](#)

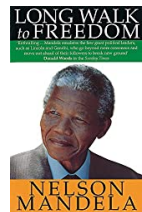
Photos and illustrations are for guidance only and may differ to your actual cabin





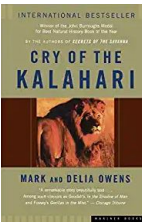
WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T RUN PETER ALLISON

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.



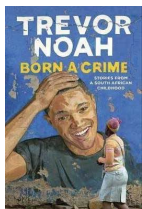
LONG WALK TO FREEDOM NELSON MANDELA

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



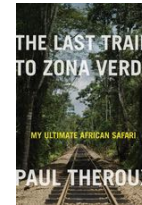
CRY OF THE KALAHARI MARK OWENS & DELIA OWENS

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.



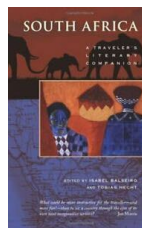
BORN A CRIME TREVOR NOAH

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.



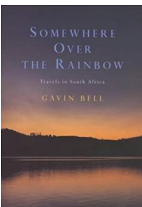
THE LAST TRAIN TO ZONA VERDE PAUL THEROUX

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.



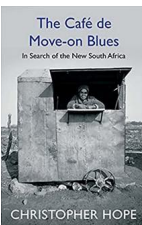
SOUTH AFRICA: A LITERARY COMPANION ISABEL BALSEIRO

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.