



## GENERAL INFO & FAQs

**BOOKING:** To book as an agent or a guest, please contact [reservations@rovos.co.za](mailto:reservations@rovos.co.za) or call +27 (0) 12 315 8242.

Upon written request via email and subject to availability, we will **PROVISIONALLY** book your place on the chosen tour. Space is allocated and held BUT if another client requires definite suites, the holding agent/guest will be asked to confirm with a deposit payment or release the suite. Upon written confirmation via email and a completed Reservation Form, confirmation details and a proforma invoice will be sent. Upon receipt of the relevant payment the booking will be **CONFIRMED** and a confirmation invoice will be sent. On confirmation of a reservation, our Terms & Conditions will be deemed to have been accepted and will be strictly adhered to.

**CANCELLATION:** Cancellation of a confirmed booking received prior to departure is subject to a fee of the per person tour price. See Terms & Conditions. **Cancellation insurance is compulsory** as these fees will not be waived. We offer insurance to South African residents. For international guests we suggest you contact your local insurance agent for assistance. Please bring a copy of your travel insurance policy stating clearly the company, policy number and 24-hour medical emergency telephone number.

**PAYMENTS:** Payment can be made via bank transfer or credit card (direct guests only via Paygate). Details provided at time of booking. Due to the high cost of credit card charges in South Africa, we prefer that all clients pay via bank transfer. Please reference the payment with your full booking reference number and email proof to [payment@rovos.co.za](mailto:payment@rovos.co.za). We are a South African company and reserve the right to charge/refund in ZAR. As legally required, refunds are processed into the same account from which the initial payment was received. **Journeys invoiced in ZAR:** All bank transfers are processed/refunded in ZAR. **Journeys invoiced in USD:** USD bank transfers are processed/refunded in USD. **All credit card payments for all journeys** are processed/refunded in ZAR. Rovos Rail is not liable for any loss in currency due to rate of exchange fluctuations.

**PASSPORTS & VISAS:** The onus is upon the client to ensure passports and visas, as may be required, are valid prior to departure for Africa. 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. Passports must have at least **five blank VISA pages** and must be valid for at least **six months** from your return-home date. **Please enquire with us or check with the relevant embassies in good time.** Visas are also available through visa/booking agents.

**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.** Should you be delayed, kindly contact +27 (0)12 315 8242.

**JOURNEYS & PRIVATE HIRE:** We offer a variety of journeys from 48 hours to 15 nights that cover the subcontinent of Africa. The trains run year-round although some of our short journeys do not run during our winter months. We prefer you enjoy the full journey experience although you are permitted to disembark earlier at a convenient stop – keeping in mind the rate will remain the same. The scheduled journeys are available for full charter. You can also combine our 42- or 72-bed train with other entertaining products for bespoke charters including incentive groups, historical expeditions, cycling tours and private gatherings. The Events Train, suitable for day trips only, caters for up to 250 guests and is the perfect venue for weddings, incentives, conferences and product launches. See [rovos.com](http://rovos.com).

**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.

**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.

ADDRESSES	JOURNEY	CHECK-IN BY	DEPART	ARRIVE
<b>PRETORIA:</b> Rovos Rail Station, 1 Transnet Avenue, Capital Park, Pretoria, South Africa	<b>PRETORIA-CAPE TOWN</b>	10:00	11:00	10:00
	<b>CAPE TOWN-PRETORIA</b>	15:00 (Lounge)	16:00	10:00
	<b>PRETORIA-DURBAN</b>	09:00	10:00	16:00 (Plat.14)
<b>CAPE TOWN:</b> Rovos Rail <b>Lounge</b> , 1 Adderley Street, Paul Sauer Building, Cape Town, South Africa	<b>DURBAN-PRETORIA</b>	09:00 (Lounge)	10:00 (Plat.14)	16:00
	<b>PRETORIA-VICTORIA FALLS 3-NIGHT</b>	09:00	10:00	10:00
	<b>VICTORIA FALLS-PRETORIA 3-NIGHT</b>	16:00 (Hotel)	17:00	10:00
<b>DURBAN:</b> Durban Station <b>Lounge</b> , Jelf Taylor Crescent, Stamford Hill, Durban, South Africa	<b>PRETORIA-VICTORIA FALLS 4-NIGHT</b>	17:00	18:00	10:00
	<b>VICTORIA FALLS-PRETORIA 4-NIGHT</b>	16:00 (Hotel)	17:00	10:00
	<b>GOLF SAFARI PRETORIA-PRETORIA</b>	11:00	12:00	10:00
<b>VICTORIA FALLS:</b> Victoria Falls Hotel and Station, Mallet Drive, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe	<b>NAMIBIA SAFARI PRY-WALVIS BAY</b>	10:00	11:00	12:00
	<b>NAMIBIA SAFARI WALVIS BAY-PRY</b>	10:00	11:00	17:00 (2024: 12:00)
	<b>SOUTHERN CROSS PRY-VIC FALLS</b>	09:00	10:00	18:30 (Hotel)
<b>WALVIS BAY:</b> Walvis Bay Station, Corner 6 <sup>th</sup> Street and 11 <sup>th</sup> Road, Walvis Bay, Namibia	<b>SOUTHERN CROSS VIC FALLS-PRY</b>	10:30 (Hotel)	17:00	18:00
	<b>COLLAGE PRETORIA-CAPE TOWN</b>	17:00	18:00	18:00
	<b>COLLAGE CAPE TOWN-PRETORIA</b>	17:00 (Lounge)	18:00	18:00
<b>DAR:</b> Tazara Station, Julius K. Nyerere Road, Dar es Salaam <b>CHECK-IN FOR DAR:</b> Serena Hotel, Ohio St <b>CHECK-IN FOR TOTO:</b> Hyatt Kilimanjaro Hotel, 24 Kivukoni Rd	<b>AFRICAN TRILOGY PRY-WALVIS BAY</b>	09:00	10:00	12:00
	<b>VICTORIA FALLS-LOBITO</b>	15:00 (Hotel)	16:00	10:00
	<b>LOBITO-VICTORIA FALLS</b>	10:00 (Hotel)	12:00	11:00
<b>LOBITO:</b> Central Station, Av. Craveiro Lopes, Lobito, Angola <b>CHECK-IN:</b> Hotel Terminus, R. Robert Williams 16, Lobito	<b>DAR ES SALAAM-LOBITO</b>	09:30 (Hotel)	12:00	10:00
	<b>LOBITO-DAR ES SALAAM</b>	10:00 (Hotel)	12:00	11:00
	<b>CAPE TOWN-DAR ES SALAAM</b>	16:30 (Lounge)	18:00	11:00
	<b>DAR ES SALAAM-CAPE TOWN</b>	09:30 (Hotel)	12:00	10:00

**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.

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

## CURRENCY

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

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

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

## DRESS

- **Days on board are smart casual:** Neat, conventional yet relatively informal in style combining casual and formal clothing pieces.
- **Dinner on board is formal:** For gentlemen a jacket and tie is a minimum requirement (from 2024 only, a collar and tie will be mandatory while and a jacket will be 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*.
- **Charters:** The dress code is usually determined by the group chartering the train otherwise the above applies.
- **Off-train excursions:** We recommend comfortable walking shoes, sun lotion and hats. If required, blankets and rain capes are available.
- **Game drives** are on open vehicles so please dress accordingly: mornings can be cool then warm up considerably; afternoons can be warm then cool down considerably. Please see average temperatures as a guide.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## MEDICAL

- **All guests are solely responsible for ensuring they are capable of undertaking the tours and activities.**
- **Please inform us at the time of your reservation if you have any medical conditions, physical disabilities or allergies.**
- We have a doctor on board on the 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SUITES & COACHES** *Measurements in centimetres (cm) = Length x Width*

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

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

**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.

AVERAGE TEMPS °C	JAN/FEB		MAR/APR		MAY/JUN		JUL/AUG		SEP/OCT		NOV/DEC		Rainfall Months	TIME ZONE
AREA	Min	Max												
Cape Town, SA	16	28	13	26	9	21	7	19	9	22	13	27	Apr-Aug	GMT+2
Pretoria, SA	18	30	15	27	7	23	4	22	13	28	16	30	Oct-Mar	GMT+2
Durban, SA	21	29	19	28	12	25	16	25	16	26	19	28	Oct-Mar	GMT+2
Port Elizabeth, SA	17	23	15	21	12	20	11	18	12	18	15	21	May-Aug	GMT+2
Mbabane, eSwatini	16	28	13	27	5	23	5	23	10	26	14	28	Nov-Feb	GMT+2
Gaborone, Botswana	19	33	14	30	7	25	5	25	14	31	18	33	Dec-Mar	GMT+2
Vic Falls, Zimbabwe	15	29	14	29	8	23	7	27	16	28	16	26	Dec-Mar	GMT+2
Lusaka, Zambia	17	25	15	22	11	17	8	16	17	24	17	25	Dec-Mar	GMT+2
South Luangwa, Zambia	20	31	19	31	12	30	11	20	17	35	20	34	Nov-Mar	GMT+2
DAR, Tanzania	18	28	18	25	19	25	18	23	16	24	18	28	Mar-May	GMT+3
Walvis Bay, Namibia	16	22	15	22	11	22	10	20	11	18	13	20	March	GMT+2
Etosha Pan, Namibia	18	31	17	30	10	27	10	27	15	32	18	33	Jan-Mar	GMT+2
Lubumbashi, DRC	16	27	15	27	9	26	8	27	13	32	16	18	Nov-Mar	GMT+2
Lobito, Angola	28	32	29	34	25	33	20	28	22	25	26	30	Mar-Apr	GMT+1

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

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