

ROVOS RAIL

The Most Luxurious Train in the World





FIRST-CLASS TRAVEL

Begin a journey with Rovos Rail to Southern Africa's most spectacular destinations

Since its establishment in 1989, Rovos Rail has earned an international reputation for its truly world-class travel experiences. With discreet and friendly service, five-star cuisine and a selection of South Africa's finest wines, Rovos Rail harks back to a simpler, more elegant era encompassing the timeless grace and high romance of African exploration. In a series of journeys lasting from 48 hours to 15 days, Rovos Rail links some of the sub-continent's greatest destinations from Cape Town at its tip to Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, from scenic splendours as diverse as the game reserves of Mpumalanga to the Victoria Falls, from the desert landscapes in Namibia and the stark beauty of the Karoo to the lush cane fields of KwaZulu-Natal and the magnificent Garden Route along the Cape south coast. The trains – which may be hauled by diesel or electric locomotives – carry a maximum of 72 passengers in 36 superbly appointed suites and are also available for charter, while the Events Train caters for up to 250 guests and is suitable for daytime journeys. Rovos Rail has also established three elegant seaside retreats in Cape Town that overlook the trendy and vibrant fishing villages of Kalk Bay and St James. With views across the Indian Ocean, this prestigious little stretch along the coastline is an ideal location for a stress-free holiday.



"There is something about safari life that makes you forget all your sorrows..."

– KAREN BLIXEN



Above: The lounge and platform at Rovos Rail's private station in Pretoria. Opposite: The Pride of Africa travelling along the Garden Route.



Top: The train travelling the Hex River Valley. Above from left: Porters at Rovos Rail Station; a Pullman Suite. Opposite: Tea in the Lounge Car.



CAPE TOWN JOURNEY

Discover infinite variety from the mountains, bushveld and grassland plains to the bustling urban heart of South Africa's cities

For many visitors to South Africa, there is no finer way to see the country than on the popular 51-hour weekly journeys between Pretoria and Cape Town. This 1 600-kilometre meander is a perfect illustration of South Africa as a world in one country. Travel the grasslands of the gold-rich Highveld to the haunting barrenness of the Great Karoo; trundle through spectacular mountain ranges into the scenic wineland valleys of the Cape. Cradled by the imposing bulk of Table Mountain, Devil's Peak and Lion's Head is the Mother City, Cape Town, internationally known for its majestic beauty offering a blend of cosmopolitan city life and outdoor adventure, while the twin cities of Pretoria and Johannesburg form the economic heartland of South Africa and the ideal departure point for Mpumalanga's world-famous game reserves. Highlights of the north- and southbound routes include a visit to the quaint and historic village of Matjiesfontein; this authentic perfectly preserved Victorian Village – which was founded by Mr Logan as a refreshment stop in 1890 – also boasts an impressive museum on the platform and a collection of vintage cars and classic railway carriages. Another stop is made in Kimberley providing an opportunity to enjoy a city tour and a visit to the Diamond Mine Museum and the world's largest man-made excavation, the Big Hole.



PRETORIA | KIMBERLEY | MATJIESFONTEIN | CAPE TOWN



PRETORIA - CAPE TOWN

DAY 1

15h00 Depart Rovos Rail Station, Pretoria. Travel south through the goldfields of the Witwatersrand.

19h30 Dinner is served in the dining cars.

DAY 2

07h00 Breakfast is served until 09h45.

09h45 Arrive at the atmospheric railway station of Kimberley; Disembark for a tour of the renowned city; the Diamond Mine Museum and the extraordinary Big Hole.

12h30 Depart and continue on overnight through the Karoo.

13h00 Lunch is served in the dining cars.

16h30 Tea in the lounge or observation car.

19h30 Dinner is served in the dining cars.

DAY 3

07h00 Breakfast is served until 10h00.

08h25 Disembark at the quaint village of Matjiesfontein for an opportunity to stroll through this historic settlement.

10h30 Depart for the Hex River Pass.

13h00 Lunch is served as the train climbs down the face of the escarpment and into the winelands to Worcester.

16h30 Tea in the lounge or observation car.

18h00 The train arrives at journey's end, Platform 24 at Cape Town Station.

Available in reverse, departing Cape Town 11h00, arriving Pretoria 12h00. Optional journey combinations: Cape Town and Durban (both directions); Cape Town to Victoria Falls.





PRETORIA - VICTORIA FALLS

DAY 1

- 09h30 *Depart Rovos Rail Station, Pretoria.*
13h00 *Lunch is served as the train traverses the Magaliesberg Mountains.*
19h30 *Dinner is served as the train travels to Mafikeng for border formalities.*

DAY 2

- 07h00 *Breakfast is served. Travel north through Gaborone, cross the Tropic of Capricorn and continue to the border.*
13h00 *Lunch is served in the dining cars.*
19h30 *Dinner is served while Zimbabwean border formalities take place.*
Overnight on the train at Mpopoma.

DAY 3

- 07h00 *Breakfast is served until 10h00 as the journey continues through Bulawayo then northwest towards the Zambezi.*
13h00 *Lunch is served in the dining cars.*
15h00 *Disembark for a game drive at The Hide in Hwange National Park.*
19h30 *Dinner is served. Overnight on the train at Thompsons Junction.*

DAY 4

- 07h00 *Breakfast is served until 09h30.*
10h00 *Arrive at journey's end at the incomparable Victoria Falls.*

Available in reverse departing Vic Falls 17h00, arriving Pretoria 10h00. Optional journey combinations: Cape Town or Durban to Vic Falls.

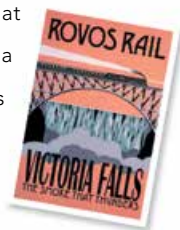




VICTORIA FALLS

*Relive the romance of a bygone Africa
on a nostalgic expedition to one of the seven
natural wonders of the world*

This three-night 1 600-kilometre adventure begins with the train's departure from Rovos Rail's gracious station in Capital Park, Pretoria. It then winds its way south through Johannesburg and the goldfields of the Witwatersrand before travelling west alongside the Magaliesberg Mountains and across the Bushveld Igneous Complex – one of the richest areas for valuable minerals. After border formalities at Mafikeng, the train travels north the following day through Botswana's capital, Gaborone, crosses the Tropic of Capricorn and continues via Francistown to the Zimbabwean border at Plumtree. Botswana largely consists the Kalahari semi-desert with the majority of the population living along the north-south railway line where there is plentiful evidence of cattle ranching. The next day the train passes through Hwange National Park – a rich and diverse wildlife sanctuary – where animals can be spotted from the train and a game drive excursion is enjoyed, time permitting. After a service stop at Thompsons Junction, the sojourn ends at the incomparable Victoria Falls on the mighty Zambezi River. The surrounding area offers travellers many recreational opportunities including cruises, white-water rafting as well as superb game viewing and photo safaris.



PRETORIA | MAGALIESBERG RANGE | MAFIKENG | GABORONE
BULAWAYO | HWANGE NATIONAL PARK | VICTORIA FALLS



Above: The magnificent Victoria Falls. Opposite: The open viewing balcony of the Observation Car is situated at the back of the train.



Top: Game drive at Nambiti. Above left to right: a Royal Suite; a brown-hooded Kingfisher. Opposite page: Travelling the Natal Midlands.



DURBAN SAFARI

An unforgettable train journey into the Valley of a Thousand Hills exploring the bushveld and battlefields of Natal

Join this three-day safari on the most luxurious train in the world and experience the splendour of KwaZulu-Natal. Take in the Big Five, a battlefields tour with a world-class historian and unusual African ceramics. Experience the Nambiti Conservancy – a Big Five private bush retreat set on 20 000 acres of malaria-free bushveld with an incredible biodiversity including savannah, grasslands, thornveld and tall acacia trees. The Sundays River flows through the reserve and has two 40-metre waterfalls with magnificent ravine bush, home to several rare bird species. Situated on an expansive game farm, Spionkop Lodge – which adjoins an 11 000-acre nature reserve – is the perfect base for exploring the mountains, bush, birds and battlefields of the region. The turn-of-the-century farmhouse has been restored in the colonial style and the converted barn now forms a dining room that boasts impressive views over the Tugela River and across the Drakensberg Mountains. Ardmore Ceramic Art is a story about the Zulu people whose sense of rhythm, colour, dance and song, as well as the spirit of the African imagination, is exerting its influence on the other continents of the world. Visit this charming centre in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands before travelling through the Valley of a Thousand Hills to Durban.



PRETORIA | LADYSMITH | NAMBITI | SPIONKOP BATTLEFIELDS
ESTCOURT | MIDLANDS | LIONS RIVER | ARDMORE | DURBAN

PRETORIA - DURBAN

DAY 1

- 10h00 Depart Rovos Rail Station, Pretoria.
Travel southeast over the gold-rich mining areas of Gauteng.
- 13h00 Lunch is served as the Drakensberg Mountains come into view.
- 16h30 Tea is served as the train climbs to Majuba Hill, site of the decisive battle that ended the First Anglo Boer War.
- 19h30 Dinner is served in the dining cars.
Overnight on board at Elandslaagte.

DAY 2

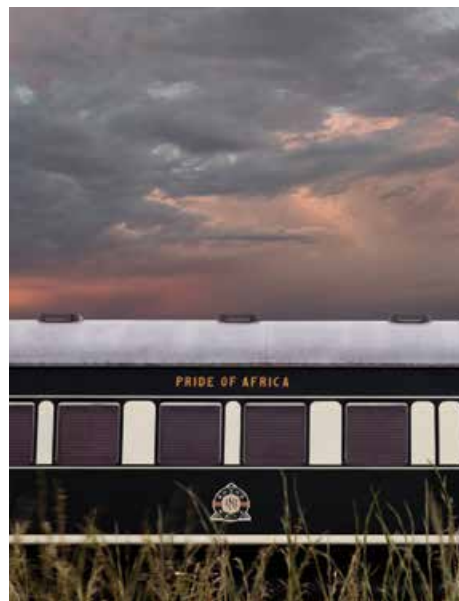
- 06h00 Wake-up call for a game drive in the Nambiti Conservancy.
- 11h00 Brunch is served en route to Ladysmith.
- 14h00 Disembark for a choice of excursions:
1. Spionkop battlefields tour OR
2. Spionkop Reserve game drive.
- 17h45 Return to the train.
- 19h30 Dinner is served as the train heads for Estcourt. Overnight on board.

DAY 3

- 07h00 Breakfast is served as the train descends the escarpment to Lions River.
- 10h00 Disembark for a visit to the famous Ardmore Ceramics Gallery.
- 13h00 Lunch is served as the train traverses the Valley of a Thousand Hills.
- 16h00 Arrive at journey's end in Durban.

Available in reverse departing Durban 10h00, arriving Pretoria 16h00. Optional journey combinations: Durban and Cape Town (both directions); Durban to Victoria Falls.





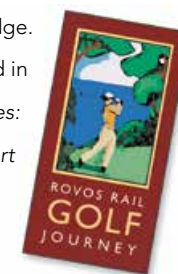
Top left to right: A selection of fine wines; the train at sunset. Above: Giraffes at Leopard Creek®. Opposite: Drinks in the Observation Car.



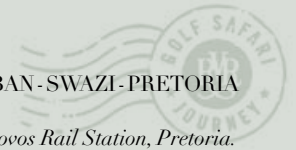
GOLF SAFARI

*A selection of the finest courses in South Africa
are brought together in a kaleidoscope
of golf, game and scenic beauty*

Rovos Rail has designed a delightful nine-day Golf Safari to entertain the most discerning player with optional excursions for non-playing guests at all venues. Relax as the train travels northwest towards Sun City in the hills of Pilanesberg for a day at this renowned facility including a game drive. In the foothills of the imposing Drakensberg Mountains, 18 holes await at the Champagne Sports Resort with a guided tour of the battlefields a further highlight for non-golfers. Next is a game at the Durban Country Club while non-playing guests tour the city followed by lunch at the club. Then it's on to Zululand for game viewing in the Hluhluwe Reserve before the train heads towards Swaziland. Tee off at the Royal Swazi Golf Club or enjoy a morning game drive in Mkhaya Reserve followed by a visit to Ngwenya Glass Factory with lunch. The train then travels north towards Malelane where golfers play the challenging Leopard Creek course (dependent) or enjoy a game drive in the world-famous Kruger Park followed by lunch at Buhala Lodge. The train then climbs the escarpment as it travels west to journey's end in Pretoria. See our other golf itinerary, the African Golf Collage. Courses: Leopard Creek (dependent), Durban Country Club, Humewood in Port Elizabeth and Fancourt and Ernie Els Oubaai in George.



PRETORIA | SUN CITY | DRAKENSBERG MOUNTAINS | DURBAN
HLUHLUWE | SWAZILAND | MKHAYA | KRUGER PARK



PRETORIA - DURBAN - SWAZI - PRETORIA

- DAY 1**
11h30 Depart Rovos Rail Station, Pretoria.
 Overnight on board in Rustenburg.
- DAY 2**
09h00 Tee off at Lost City Golf Course.
 *Pilanesberg game drive with lunch at the golf club. Overnight Heidelberg.
- DAY 3**
 Day at leisure. The train traverses the Drakensberg en route to Estcourt.
- DAY 4**
09h00 Tee off at Champagne Sports Resort.
 *Spionkop battlefields tour followed by lunch then shopping (time permitting).
- DAY 5**
09h00 Tee off at Durban Club/Beachwood.
 *Durban city tour with lunch at the golf club. Overnight Hluhluwe.
- DAY 6**
06h00 Game drive in Hluhluwe Game Reserve.
11h00 Brunch is served as the train departs for Mpaka in Swaziland.
- DAY 7**
08h00 Tee off at Royal Swazi Golf Club.
 *Game drive at Mkhaya Reserve. Visit to Ngwenya Glass Factory and lunch.
- DAY 8**
08h00 Tee off at Leopard Creek (dependent).
 *Game drive at Kruger Park. Lunch at Buhala Lodge and curio shopping.
- DAY 9**
07h00 Breakfast is served in the dining cars.
10h00 Arrive Rovos Rail Station, Pretoria.

* Non-golfers itinerary: Note: Tee-off times vary: There are four departures annually.





CAPE TOWN - DAR ES SALAAM

DAY 1

11h00 Depart from Platform 23 at Cape Town Station.

18h00 Explore the quaint village of Matjiesfontein. Dinner and overnight on board.

DAY 2

14h00 Tour of Kimberley's Big Hole and Diamond Mine Museum. The train traverses the Karoo.

DAY 3

10h00 Enjoy a Rovos Rail Station tour, platform lunch and city tour of Pretoria.

18h00 Depart for Zeerust and the Madikwe Game Reserve.

DAY 4

11h00 Arrive Zeerust for a full-board two-night stay at the five-star Tau Lodge.

Enjoy lunch and an afternoon game drive followed by dinner and overnight.

DAY 5

Early morning game drive, afternoon game drive and guest activities. Overnight at lodge.

DAY 6

Early morning game drive. Transfer to Gaborone, Botswana. Border formalities en route.

13h00 The train travels north across the Tropic of Capricorn to the Zimbabwean border.

DAY 7

Traverse Zimbabwe along the eastern edge of Hwange National Park.

Day at leisure with topical lectures by the on-board historian.

DAY 8

12h00 Arrive Victoria Falls and transfer to the Victoria Falls Hotel. Enjoy lunch.

16h00 Sunset cruise on the Zambezi River followed by dinner and overnight.

DAY 9

Day at leisure. A wide variety of recreational activities are available.

16h00 Depart for Zambia. Cross the bridge.

DAY 10

Travel to Kapiri Mposhi via the Kafue Bridge. Day at leisure.

DAY 11

Day at leisure traversing Zambia with lectures by the historian.

DAY 12

08h00 Enjoy a visit to Chisimba Falls.

The train climbs the escarpment towards the Tanzanian border.

DAY 13

09h00 Stroll in Makambako (time permitting). Descend the spectacular pass into the Rift Valley along the Udzungwa Mountains.

DAY 14

Game visit in the Selous Game Reserve (time permitting).

DAY 15

10h00 Arrive at Tazara Station in Dar.

Available in reverse departing Dar 12h00, arriving in Cape Town 18h00. Pre- and post-tours available.





DAR ES SALAAM JOURNEY

*Rovos Rail's annual trans-African safari
carries an exclusive band of intrepid travellers
on a world-famous journey*

This epic 15-day train journey travels through South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Tanzania and is one of the most famous in the world. The sojourn begins in Cape Town with a visit to the quaint and historic village of Matjiesfontein. Continue on to Kimberley and enjoy a city tour and a visit to the Diamond Mine Museum and the world's largest man-made excavation, the Big Hole. Then it's on to the capital city of Pretoria for a short excursion and a tour of Rovos Rail's private station after which two nights are spent at the big-five malaria-free Madikwe Game Reserve, the fifth largest reserve in South Africa. Continue through Botswana into Zimbabwe where guests overnight at the Victoria Falls Hotel. After crossing the mighty Zambezi River, travel northeast through Zambia, joining the Tazara railway line at Kapiri Mposhi. Enjoy a bush walk at Chisimba Falls then continue the climb towards the Zambian/Tanzanian border, almost the midpoint between Africa's two Great Rift Valley lakes. Descend into the Rift Valley itself and witness spectacular scenery as the train negotiates the tunnels, switchbacks and viaducts of the escarpment. Early on the last day, the train passes through the Selous Game Reserve – the largest on the continent and a vision of timeless Africa – shortly before the bustling arrival in Dar es Salaam.



CAPE TOWN | MATJIESFONTEIN | KIMBERLEY | PRETORIA | MADIKWE

VICTORIA FALLS | CHISIMBA FALLS | SELOUS | DAR ES SALAAM



Top, from left: Baobab tree; Rovos departure. Above, from left: a Rhino; a dhow in Dar es Salaam. Opposite: Crossing the Victoria Falls Bridge.



Above left to right: Dinner in the Dining Car; morning tee off. Above: Addo Elephant Park. Opposite: The train traversing Montagu Pass.



AFRICAN GOLF COLLAGE

*A rich tapestry of landscape, game, history and culture
including the winelands of the Garden Route
and magnificent Cape Town*

This panoramic nine-day sojourn winds its way from Pretoria to Cape Town and includes a golfing and non-golfing itinerary. The train traverses the majestic Drakensberg escarpment en route to Mpumalanga where guests enjoy a game drive in the famous Kruger Park and golfers play at Leopard Creek (dependent). The train then travels through Swaziland to Mkhaya Reserve and Hluhluwe Reserve where a wide variety of game can be seen on morning and afternoon game drives. Then it's on to Durban for a city tour or a game at Durban Country Club before the train traverses the Valley of a Thousand Hills en route to the famous Ardmore Ceramics Gallery. The route to Bethlehem takes the train past the Kingdom of Lesotho and the highest mountains in the Drakensberg range at 3 482 metres. After a tour of Bloemfontein, guests travel south to Port Elizabeth for a visit to the Addo Elephant Park or a game at Humewood before continuing on to Highgate Ostrich Farm in Oudtshoorn. What follows is a spectacular rail descent down the Montagu Pass into George and a visit to the natural paradise of Kynsna. Golfers play at Fancourt and Oubaai, Ernie Els's only signature course in South Africa. The train then sets off along the scenic Garden Route, stopping at the KVV Brandy Distillery before this splendid Collage ends in Cape Town.



PRETORIA | KRUGER PARK | SWAZILAND | HLUHLUWE | DURBAN | ARDMORE
BLOEMFONTEIN | ADDO | OUDTSHOORN | KNSNA | WINELANDS | CAPE TOWN

PRETORIA - CAPE TOWN

DAY 1

10h00 Depart Rovos Rail Station, Pretoria.
Travel to the Drakensberg Mountains.

DAY 2

08h00 Game drive at Kruger* with lunch.

DAY 3

10h30 Game drive at Hluhluwe Reserve.
13h00 Travel alongside the St Lucia Wetland
Park to Durban for an overnight stop.

DAY 4

08h00 Durban* city tour. Travel the Valley
of a Thousand Hills to Ardmore
Ceramics for an afternoon visit.

DAY 5

09h00 City tour of Bloemfontein.

DAY 6

08h30 Game drive at Addo Elephant Park.
11h30 Depart for Port Elizabeth* to turn the
train then travel to Oudtshoorn.

DAY 7

09h00 Ostrich-farm visit. Travel to George.
18h30 Enjoy dinner at Fancourt Estate.*

DAY 8

Morning at leisure in Knysna.*
13h00 The train travels the Garden Route via
the Outeniqua Mountains to the coast.

DAY 9

11h00 Visit to the KWV Brandy Distillery.
17h00 Arrive at Cape Town Station.

*Leopard Creek (dependent), DCC/Beachwood,
Humewood, Fancourt, Ernie Els Oubaai.

Available in reverse departing CPT 09h20,
arriving PRY 15h00. Three departures annually.
Optional journey combinations: Namibia; Cape
Town journey (both directions); PRY to Vic Falls.





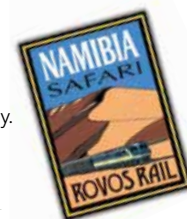
Top: Kalahari Desert en route to Swakopmund. Above left to right: Namib dunes; a Meerkat at Etosha. Opposite: Dinner is an elegant affair.



NAMIBIA

An epic journey of discovery from the savannahs of the Highveld to the Atlantic Ocean in the west through some of the most historic areas of Southern Africa

This nine-day 3 400-kilometre journey reunites by rail the republics of South Africa and Namibia. The train departs from Pretoria for Kimberley, centre of one of the world's most famous diamond rushes where guests visit the Big Hole and savour the 1870s atmosphere of the mine museum village. Then it's on to Upington for a walking tour, the principal town of the Northern Province bound by the Orange River and the Kalahari Desert. The railway line then covers the stark vistas of the arid Northern Cape into Namibia where there is an excursion to the spectacular Fish River Canyon – second in size to the Grand Canyon and a truly spectacular sight. A short visit to Keetmanshoop – a small but important sheep-farming town – offers another opportunity for a walking tour. The train crosses the Kalahari to Windhoek, a lively, cosmopolitan capital city with a strong German flavour. A highlight is the 24-hour excursion to the world-famous Sossusvlei, a stunning pan in the Namib Desert surrounded by massive, red sand dunes. Guests rejoin the train and continue to the Etosha National Park for a stay at Mokuti on the eastern edge of the game-rich park. The journey then continues on to Swakopmund, a perfectly preserved 19th-century German Hansa town set between the dunes of the Namib and the roaring Atlantic Ocean – an unforgettable end to a remarkable journey.



PRETORIA | KIMBERLEY | UPINGTON | FISH RIVER CANYON
KEETMANSHOOP | WINDHOEK | SOSSUSVLEI | ETOSHA | SWAKOPMUND



PRETORIA - SWAKOPMUND

DAY 1

15h00 Depart Rovos Rail Station, Pretoria.

DAY 2

10h00 Arrive in Kimberley for a tour of the Big Hole and the Diamond Museum.
12h30 Travel the Karoo semi-desert.

DAY 3

08h00 Walking tour of Upington (optional).
23h00 Arrive at Holoog, Namibia.

DAY 4

08h00 Visit to the Fish River Canyon.
11h00 Traverse the Kalahari Desert.
15h00 Walking tour of Keetmanshoop.

DAY 5

09h00 Arrive in Windhoek for a city tour.
11h00 One-hour flight to Sossusvlei Lodge.
Desert drive, bush dinner and overnight.

DAY 6

06h00 Desert drive with breakfast in the vlei.
12h00 One-hour flight to Windhoek.
14h00 Travel to the game-rich Etosha Park.

DAY 7

11h00 Transfer to Mokuti Lodge in Etosha for lunch, game drive and overnight.

DAY 8

06h00 Morning game drive before departure.
13h00 Traverse the Namib to the Atlantic.

DAY 9

07h00 Enjoy breakfast en route to the coast.
12h00 Arrive in Swakopmund, Namibia.

Available in reverse departing SWP 12h00, arriving PRY 12h00. Four departures annually. Optional journey combinations: Collage; CPT.







PRIVATE HIRE

Bespoke train safaris and excursions for charter, private functions, corporate tours, incentives, launches and events – in the comfort and luxury of Rovos Rail

From our headquarters in Pretoria, successful overnight trips from one to 10 days have been undertaken with incentive groups, historical tours, bird shoots and private family gatherings. There are many configurations combining our 42- or 72-bed train with other entertaining products and we are happy to prompt clients with these options and construct exciting and practical itineraries to suit the available time and budget. You might choose two nights on the Pride of Africa with two or three nights in the Victoria Falls or the Okavango Delta, Mfuwe in the Luangwa Valley or elephant-back safaris in Hoedspruit. Other destinations include Swaziland to the east and the Madikwe Game Reserve to the west. Many golf-loving groups find that our nine-day Golf Safari or Collage take up too much of their time so we tailor shorter trips to accommodate this. Due to the flexibility of our charter train we have hosted a number of unusual events such as a four-day mystery cycle tour where, each morning, 70-odd cyclists would wake to find themselves in a new destination and route along unfamiliar terrain – all in the name of charity. School reunions, special wedding anniversaries and birthdays, to name a few, have seen the charter train trundle out of Pretoria with happy crowds of passengers.



"A private railway car is not an acquired taste. One takes to it immediately."

– ELENOR ROBSON BELMONT



Top left to right: Departure at Rovos Rail; a private charter for cyclists. Above: Game drive at Hluhluwe. Opposite: Northwest Province.





Top left to right: Anniversary desserts; Observation Car drinks. Above: A function at Rovos Rail Station. Opposite: Events Train Lounge Car.



PRIVATE EVENTS

The proudly launched Events Train can accommodate up to 250 guests and is an ideal venue for weddings, conferences and product launches

Limited only by time and distance, there are many alternative uses for the Events Train, which include a three-hour circular trip around Pretoria or a one-way journey to any destination within eight hours' rail travel time from Pretoria. Only suitable for daytime journeys and depending on the number of guests, the Events Train can host – with full-bar facilities – a four-course sit-down dinner for up to 120 guests, a three-course sit-down meal for up to 240 guests in two sittings or, for 250 guests, hot snacks, canapés and cocktails served for the duration of the journey. Dinner runs are very popular and are normally fine-dining, dressy affairs. Guests are greeted at our private station by a Champagne reception. Musicians play light classical music in the background while one of our steam engines gently hisses on the platform. We allow plenty of time for introductions and photographs before sending the locomotive away to collect the coaches, an ideal time for announcements, speeches and presentations. The train then departs for a circular tour around Pretoria. Drinks are served in the observation and lounge cars then dinner is presented in the opulent dining cars before returning to the station.



*"Do not go where the path may lead;
go instead where there is no path
and leave a trail."*

– RALPH WALDO EMERSON





THE SUITES

Step aboard Rovos Rail's classic wood-panelled coaches that contain the most spacious train suites in the world offering every modern convenience

The epitome of luxury with handsome wood-panelling and period Edwardian features, the air-conditioned suites accommodate two people offering the option of twin or spacious double beds. In the en-suite bathrooms, original fittings combine with the modern technology of hot showers, hair-dryers and shaver plugs. Elegant and generous in size, the Royal Suites take up half a carriage measuring ± 16 sq metres/ ± 172 sq feet. Each has its own private lounge area and full bathroom with Victorian bath and separate shower. The Deluxe Suites (± 10 sq metres/ ± 108 sq feet) also accommodate two passengers in either twin or double beds and have a lounge area and en-suite bathroom with shower. The Pullman Suites (± 7 sq metres/ ± 76 sq feet) are equipped with a comfortable sofa-seat during the day with a conversion to double or twin beds for the evening and also have an en-suite bathroom with shower. The distinctly spacious suites offer passengers the opportunity to travel in privacy, comfort and luxury, with fittings and facilities that are of the highest standard. All are equipped with a writing surface, a personal safe for valuables and a bar fridge filled with beverages of the passengers' choice with room service available 24 hours a day.



"I never travel without my diary. One should always have something sensational to read in the train."

- OSCAR WILDE



Top: A Deluxe Suite. Above left to right: The L-Twin Deluxe; daytime setting in the Pullman Suite. Opposite: Relaxing in a Royal Suite.





LIFE ON BOARD

Recapture the romance and atmosphere of a bygone era when privileged travellers experienced the magic and mystery of Africa in a relaxed and elegant fashion

An enthusiastic team of chefs is responsible for overseeing the very important task of ensuring guests every need is catered for. There's an accent on fresh local ingredients and traditional dishes such as game are a specialty. Every morning there is a full breakfast with dishes cooked to order. Lunch and dinner are complemented by a selection of the finest South African wines. All meals are served in one sitting only in the charming Victorian atmosphere of the dining cars. Many of the passengers aboard enjoy the formality of fine china and glassware, crisp linen and silver, and dress accordingly. During the day dress is more casual and cool, comfortable clothes, shoes and hats are recommended for the excursions, especially in the game reserves where it can get very hot. The Observation Car, which has a spacious open-air balcony and seats 32 passengers, is positioned at the rear of the train while at the centre of the train there is, when numbers dictate, a non-smoking Lounge Car that seats 26 passengers in comfort. A smoking Club Lounge is placed next to the Observation Car and seats 11. There is a small, discreet Gift Shop on board and, maintaining the spirit of travel of a bygone era, there are no radios or television sets on board.



"There is nothing like a comfortable adventure to put people in a good humour..."

- PETER MAYLE





Top from left: Disembarking at Rovos Rail Station; the Banquette Dining Car; relaxing in the Observation Car. Above from left: Room service; a Royal Suite bathroom with bath and shower; loading luggage at Rovos Rail Station; Deluxe bathroom. Opposite: The Observation Car balcony.





ROVOS RAIL STATION

The rebuilt 60-acre property is now a gracious colonial-style private railway station, home and headquarters for Rovos Rail

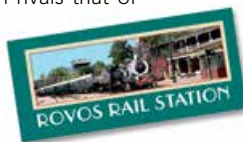
For Rovos Rail passengers, a highlight of their journey is a visit to the private station at Capital Park, Pretoria. The once bustling hub of steam locomotion in the old Transvaal is now the headquarters of Rovos Rail and serves as the departure or arrival point for all train journeys. The property boasts a small railway museum in addition to its other comprehensive facilities and will, with the addition of semaphore signals and a footbridge, recreate the atmosphere of a fully-fledged railway system. It is intended that, with time, this facility should become the foremost working train museum in the world. Rail enthusiasts will be drawn to the vast carriage and loco sheds where teams of dedicated personnel keep the rolling stock in perfect order. This roofed workshop of 10 000 sq metres straddles 15 railway lines with concrete inspection pits below, and is the ultimate repair and maintenance facility for any train operation. The low, red-bricked buildings alongside the new 300-metre platform house laundries, gleaming stainless-steel kitchens and well-stocked storerooms. This is the busy hub of a provisioning operation, which rivals that of a world-class hotel in terms of efficiency and attention to detail.



Top from left: Station lounge; journey preparation. Above: The station platform and clock tower. Opposite: Aerial view of Rovos Rail Station.

"Over the years, vintage coaches have been added to the fleet, which is now one of the biggest private collections in the world..."

- ROHAN VOS





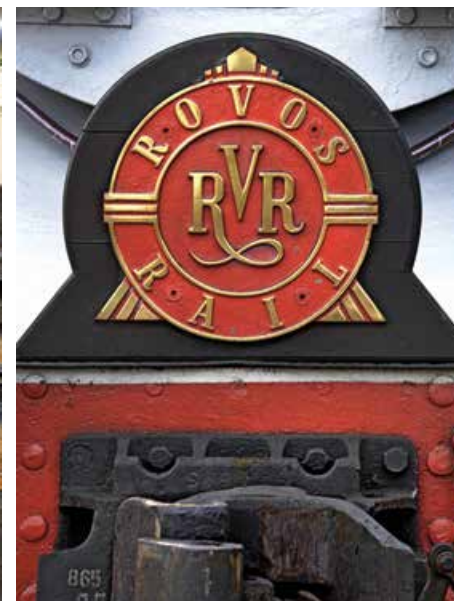
LOCOMOTION MUSEUM

Seven superbly reconditioned steam locomotives are the heart and soul of Rovos Rail and a sight to gladden the heart of any rail enthusiast

There's a story behind the acquisition and restoration of every one of the Rovos Rail locomotives. Each has a distinctive character and are all named after the Vos family. The oldest engine in the stable is also the smallest: 439 TIFFANY – named after their youngest daughter – is one of 40 Class 6 locomotives manufactured by Dubs & Co in 1893. Rohan Vos first saw this petite loco on the platform of Winburg Station in the Free State and it was love at first sight. It was purchased in 1987 and Dunns Locomotive in Witbank was commissioned to return it to running condition. 2701 BRENDA, 2702 BIANCA and 3360 SHAUN are named after the other three children. They are Class 19D Locomotives, all built during the 1930s. All three locomotives were saved from scrap-metal dealers and, after extensive restoration, were put back into service in 1989. Loco 3484 MARJORIE – named after Rohan's mother – is a Class 25NC locomotive built in 1954 by North British in Glasgow. Due to the difficulties in running steam over long distances the decision was made to convert this loco from a coal- to a more efficient oil-fired engine. A further two Class 25NC locomotives have been restored and added to the fleet: 3442 ANTHEA, built in 1953 by Henschel of Germany is named after Rohan's wife; 3533 KING ZOG is named after Rohan's late Dalmatian.



"Rather like a stable for horses – iron horses – the locomotive shed at Rovos Rail..."
- NICHOLAS SCHOFIELD



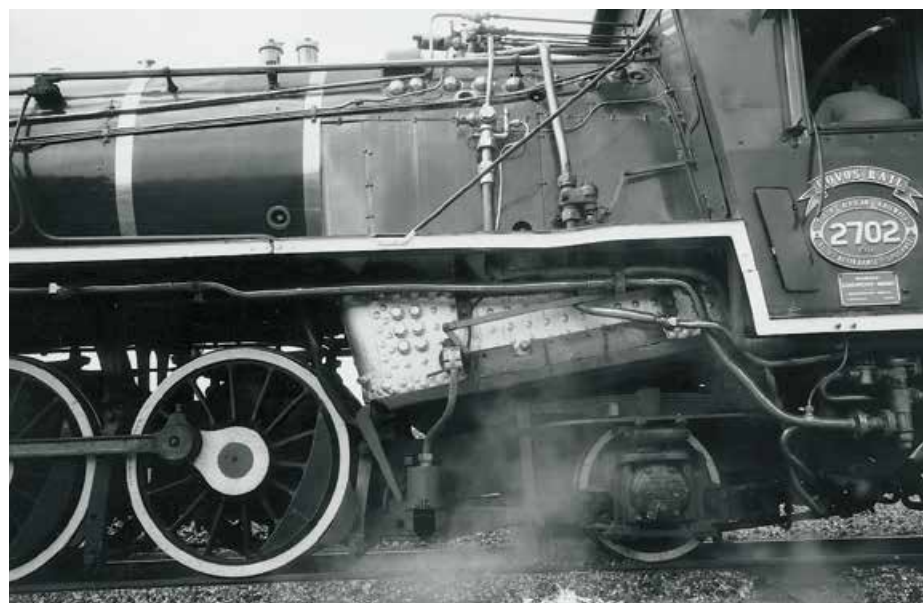
Top from left: Signals in the museum; plate on Loco 2701 BRENDA. Above: Engine drivers Jan and Piet aboard Loco 2702 BIANCA.

A History of Steam Locomotion and Capital Park

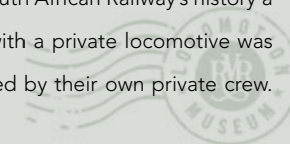
Officially opened in 1943, Capital Park – with its locomotive sheds and marshalling yard – played a vital role in the rail network around Pretoria before falling into disuse. Technology and time moved on and over the years newer forms of railway locomotion replaced the old and faithful steam engines, which had served so well since the industrial revolution. With the arrival of electric and diesel engines, the steam locomotive sheds at Capital Park experienced a steady decline.

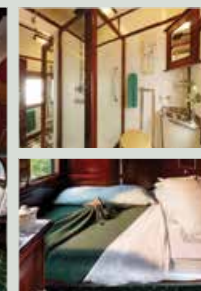
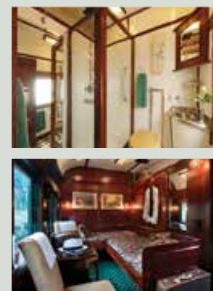
Use of steam has become increasingly difficult over the past years, as more and more water and coaling facilities have been scrapped. Where facilities no longer exist, diesel or electric locomotives will be used. Rovos Rail will, however, endeavour to ensure that arrivals and departures in Pretoria are steam-hauled.

On 25 April 2001 an occurrence of note was recorded at Rovos Rail's yard when for the first time in South African Railway's history a private train with a private locomotive was driven and fired by their own private crew.



Top from left: Pressure clocks in the engine room; Loco 2702 BIANCA. Above from left: Locomotive wheels; Loco 2701 BRENDA at the platform of Rovos Rail Station; the plate on Loco 2701 BRENDA.

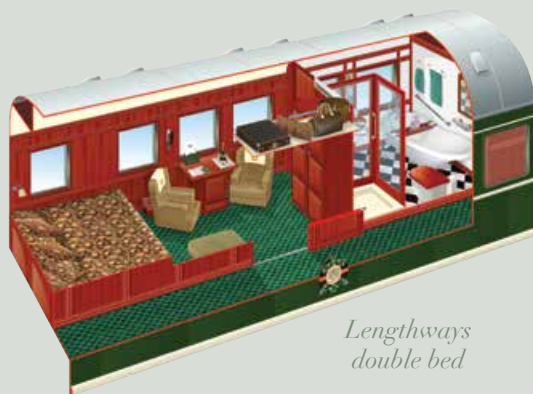




ROYAL SUITES

±16 sq metres
±172 sq feet

Bed Dimensions
Royal (LxW)
Double: 189x189
Twin: 189x94



*Lengthways
double bed*

Mini-bar facilities, air-conditioning,
luggage shelf, writing desk, cupboards, safe,
en-suite bathroom with toilet, bath and shower.



DELUXE SUITES

±10 sq metres
±108 sq feet

Bed Dimensions
Deluxe (LxW)
Lengthways: 189x189
Crosswise: 189x160
Twin: 189x94
L-Twin: 189x90



*Lengthways
double bed*



*Crosswise
double bed*



*L-Twin
beds*

Mini-bar facilities, air-conditioning,
luggage shelf, writing desk, cupboards, safe,
en-suite bathroom with toilet and shower.



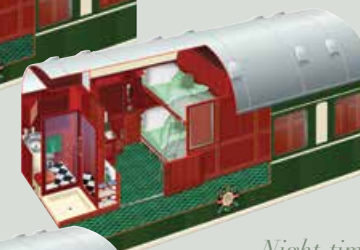
PULLMAN SUITES

±7 sq metres
±76 sq feet

Bed Dimensions
Pullman (LxW)
Double: 189x150
Twin: 189x75
Single lower: 189x90
Single upper: 189x60



*Daytime
sofa couch*



*Night-time
twin beds*

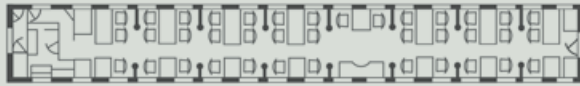


*Night-time
double bed*

Mini-bar facilities, air-conditioning,
luggage shelf, writing desk, cupboards, safe,
en-suite bathroom with toilet and shower.



PILLARED DINING CAR



BANQUETTE DINING CAR



OBSERVATION CAR



LOUNGE CAR



CLUB/DELUXE CAR



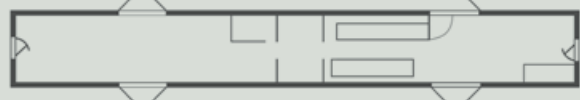
STAFF CAR



KITCHEN CAR



GENERATOR CAR



THE VOS FAMILY

The fact that Rovos Rail is in existence today is attributable to many factors, but none so important as the input from friends and family who have unselfishly given their time, advice and financial assistance. I will not forget. Total belief in one's own capabilities is one thing, but belief in someone else's dreams is a completely different matter. Thank you Anthea and the family for your dedication and unwavering support. To our agents far and wide without whom we would not have achieved this goal, to our staff who have loyally sweated the years away, and to our wonderful guests who have supported this project – a great thank you! On the occasion of our 10th anniversary I wrote: 'At 40 I was well off; at 53 I'm broke; but boy, have I got a great train set!' Almost two decades later, nothing much has changed.



Above from left: Brenda, Shaun, Marjorie, Anthea, Rohan, Bianca and Tiffany in the garden at their home in Cape Town, South Africa.



THE ST JAMES GUESTHOUSES

Three five-star seaside retreats overlooking the trendy and vibrant fishing village of Kalk Bay with majestic views across False Bay and the Indian Ocean

St James, historically known as 'millionaire's mile', is making its comeback as one of the trendiest places to stay in Cape Town. Just over a kilometre in length, this prestigious little stretch along the coastline of False Bay is where Rovos Rail has established its three five-star guesthouses – St James Manor, Seaforth and the Homestead. The main road through to Kalk Bay Harbour is Mediterranean in style and a trove of novel antique shops, delis, sidewalk cafés, boutiques and art galleries. A mere five-minute walk away, fresh fish can be bought from the local fishermen and the harbour itself has charming restaurants offering home-style cuisine and fine-dining experiences. The area still boasts the colourful Victorian bathing boxes and grand old houses reflecting the splendour of the early gold- and diamond-mining era. In front of the guesthouses, across the road, are the famous tidal pools and swimming beaches where an early morning swim in the temperate waters of St James is a favourite pastime. The area also offers interesting walks along the historic promenade and up the imposing mountains, which provide an impressive backdrop. Perhaps the biggest attraction is the land-based whale watching; in season they appear literally metres from the shoreline and can be seen clearly from the properties. Small though it may be, the church, the school, the hotels, the old aquarium, the beaches, the homes and the people all contribute to make this a unique suburb steeped in history.





Top from left: Whales in False Bay; the yellow pincushion protea; the tidal pool and Victorian bathing boxes at St James Beach. Above from left: The sun room at the Manor; view of the guesthouses from the water; the Homestead veranda; breakfasts are a specialty.



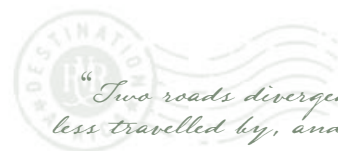
Top from left: The Homestead is set between the rocky shore and steep mountainside; the Manor sun room. Above: the Manor lounge.



MANOR, SEAFORTH & HOMESTEAD

Manor – a grand and stately sanctuary

Built over 100 years ago, St James Manor is a five-star seaside retreat with impressive views across the Indian Ocean. Built as a single-storey thatch residence by a Mr Philip Morgenrood in 1874, the house appears to have changed ownership every 10 to 15 years, passing through the hands of a number of illustrious old Cape families such as the Findlays, Mossops, Moltenos and Bissets. In 1912, John William Jagger took ownership of the house and carried out major extensions and additions converting it into one of the more sumptuous homes in St James. It has had several owners since then and was acquired by Rovos Rail in the summer of 2009. St James Manor has an aura of grandeur and old-world charm with a magnificent wood-panelled staircase leading up to the five large suites and a standard twin, each of which bears the name of historic, local characters of St James. The individually decorated rooms reflect the opulent times of a bygone era with gorgeous floral fabrics and calm colours, Persian carpets and early English and South African antiques. The house has a number of attractive reception rooms for meetings and social gatherings, a library, a bar and a breakfast room as well as an elegant dining room where, on request, dinners can be hosted. Breakfasts are a speciality offering a wide choice of interesting fare and are inclusive, as are all beverages.



"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I took the one less travelled by, and that has made all the difference."

– ROBERT FROST

Seaforth – modern with a casual sophistication

Seaforth, set above the coastal road, was originally built in 1877 as a four-bedroom thatch-roof home. Destroyed by fire in 1939 and rebuilt as a double-storey in 1940, the house has recently been refurbished to create a contemporary guesthouse with a casual but elegant atmosphere in keeping with its seaside village location. The three upstairs en-suite bedrooms are engaging and stylish as are the spacious downstairs facilities, which include a breakfast and dining room, a well-equipped kitchen, a study with computer facilities and a large lounge that flows onto the sizeable veranda, small swimming pool and downstairs gym. The rooms are strewn with Arabic rugs, fashionable fabrics, antiques and handmade South African furniture. Rooms are furnished in soft cerise, greens and blues with original paintings by local artists such as Peter Jander and Eugene Marais. It is a stylish yet cosy family house and is ideal for family hire.



Homestead – an elegant and historic Cape Dutch house

Built in 1870, the Homestead was a simple thatch-roof dwelling originally owned by Mr Heinrich Hablutzel and passed through several hands including the first Archbishop of Cape Town. The house remained relatively unchanged until the 1940s when it was extensively remodelled, leaving us with the Cape Dutch-style homestead we see today. Under the ownership of Rovos Rail, the property has undergone a complete rebuild. The elegant Cape Dutch façade and conservatory is both striking in its contemporary feel yet in total harmony with the well-to-do little suburb of St James, squeezed between the rocky shore and steep mountainside. The Homestead features a tiered back garden with a small pool and viewing deck and ample front-of-house parking. The six sea-facing suites are a fusion of old-fashioned seaside charm and vibrant décor equipped with every modern convenience. The house has a well-equipped kitchen and laundry, an open-plan conservatory lounge and dining area, an upstairs sitting room with an open fireplace, computer facilities and a balcony with exceptional views across the bay.



Top: A Classic Suite at the Homestead. Above from left: A Cape Heron; the sheltered swimming and braai/bbq area at Seaforth.



11/15

Begin a journey with Rovos Rail on the most luxurious train in the world and experience the extravagance of rail travel to Southern Africa's most spectacular destinations. With discreet and friendly service, five-star cuisine and a selection of South Africa's finest wines, Rovos Rail harks back to a simpler, more elegant era encompassing the timeless grace and high romance of African exploration. The beautifully rebuilt trains carry a maximum of 72 passengers in 36 superbly appointed suites and are also available for charter, while the Events Train caters for up to 250 guests and is suitable for daytime journeys. Rovos Rail has also established three stately seaside retreats in St James, Cape Town.



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