

NAMIBIA BY PRIVATE TRAIN

An escorted tour from Pretoria to Walvis Bay
aboard the **Shongololo Express**

12th to 27th May 2020

NOBLE CALEDONIA



Elephants, Etosha National Park



Voortrekker Monument, Pretoria



Sossusvlei

We are delighted to have chartered the Shongololo Express Private Train from our associates at Rovos Rail to bring you this spectacular journey exploring the amazing landscapes and rugged grandeur of Namibia, a country of compelling beauty, abundant sunshine and seemingly endless space. Travelling from Pretoria in South Africa, our train winds its way through stunning vistas to the desert and mountainous landscapes of Namibia, with stops along the way to view some remarkable scenery and diverse wildlife. The beauty and the colours of Namibia truly need to be seen to be believed and are brought right to the compartment doors of our comfortable rolling hotel, while enjoying the excellent service for which Rovos Rail is renowned. Spend nights in the Namib Desert and at Etosha National Park in stylish lodges and enjoy adventurous game drives.

Highlights of our journey are numerous and include Fish River Canyon, Africa's largest canyon, wildlife rich Etosha National Park, one of Southern Africa's finest and most important game reserves and the rugged Atlantic coast, Swakopmund which is located on the Skeleton Coast and an excellent example of German colonial architecture. However, for many the ultimate highlight will be the sand dunes at Sossusvlei for which Namibia is so renowned. Sossusvlei lies in the heart of the Namib Desert and is home to the world's tallest sand dunes, some of which tower over 300 metres high. Watching the changing mood and colours at sunrise is a once in a lifetime experience.



THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Johannesburg, South Africa. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Pretoria. Arrive into Johannesburg this morning and transfer to the Sheraton Pretoria Hotel for an overnight stay. This afternoon we take a tour of Pretoria, the administrative capital of South Africa and visit the Union Buildings designed by the famous colonial English architect, Sir Herbert Baker. Completed in 1913, it now houses the offices of the President and Ministers and the buildings overlook the city towards the once fortified hills to the south. A grand bronze statue of "Oom Paul (Kruger)", the patriarch president of the ZAR or old Transvaal Republic, surrounded by his Boer fighters, dominates Church Square at the centre of the city. Before leaving the capital behind we visit the Voortrekker Monument which commemorates the Great Trek of the 1830s. We return to the hotel and enjoy a welcome dinner this evening.

Accommodation & Dining: Located opposite the Union Buildings, the five-star Sheraton Pretoria Hotel is elegantly designed and the facilities include an outdoor swimming pool and a health club. The 175 lavish guestrooms all feature cable TV and a marble bathroom with luxury amenities. (D)

Day 3 Embark Shongololo Express.

Enjoy a morning at leisure. This afternoon we transfer to the Rovos Rail station at Capital Park in Pretoria which, once a bustling hub of steam locomotion in the old Transvaal is now the headquarters for Rovos Rail. We will have the opportunity to tour this gracious, colonial-style railway station and the ever-expanding railway museum. The eyes of rail enthusiasts will be drawn to the vast carriage and locomotive sheds where teams of dedicated personnel keep the rolling stock in perfect order. We

embark the Shongololo Express and depart the Gauteng region and pass the Highveld. Enjoy dinner on board and a relaxing evening in the bar-wagon.

Accommodation & Dining: Shongololo Express. (B, D)

Day 4 Kimberley. This morning we will reach the historical train station of Kimberley, the city of diamonds. At the end of the 19th century, the town experienced a real diamond rush, from which the diamond empire of De Beers emerged, led today by the Oppenheims and founded by Cecil Rhodes. On arrival, view the famous Big Hole, once the largest diamond mine in the world and visit the lovingly restored original buildings of Kimberley's Belle Epoque.

Accommodation & Dining: Shongololo Express. (B, L, D)

Day 5 Upington. Morning tour of Upington which the railway reaches by means of a bridge 1067 metres long, the second longest bridge in South Africa. Sir Thomas Upington, attorney general of the Cape, was the man principally responsible for liquidating the business activities of the Orange River pirates and capturing their leader, Klaas Lucas. When the desperadoes were finally chased away in 1884, the town was founded on the banks of the Orange River and named Upington in honour of Sir Thomas. Thanks to the Orange River, the region was predestined for winegrowing and we will enjoy a tasting at Bezalel Wine & Brandy Estate. Return to the train at lunch time and continue in the direction of Namibia.

Accommodation & Dining: Shongololo Express. (B, L, D)

Day 6 Fish River Canyon, Namibia. Arrive in Holoog this morning for our visit to the Fish River Canyon, second only to the Grand Canyon in Arizona in geological importance. Eroded over many millennia, the canyon is the second largest natural gorge in Africa, 161 kilometres long, 549



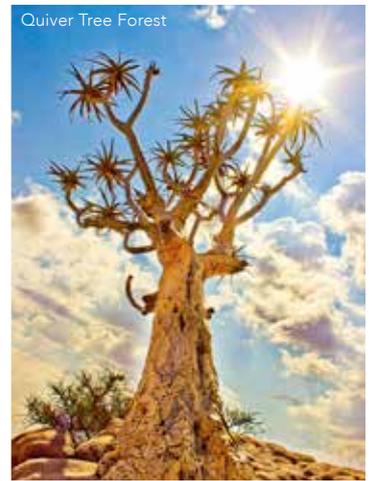
Bee-eater



The 'Big Hole', Kimberley



Fish River Canyon



Quiver Tree Forest



Giraffes

metres deep and, in some places, 27 kilometres wide. Baboon, rock dassie, ground squirrel and klippspringer are often seen in the canyon, while the presence of leopard and mountain zebra is indicated by tracks left at waterholes. Enjoy the stunning views and the opportunity to take a short walk along the canyon's edge. We return to the train and depart for Aus. **Accommodation & Dining:** Shongololo Express. (B, L, D)

Day 7 Kolmanskop and Luderitz. Today's tour begins with a bus ride to the ghost town of Kolmanskop, where the first diamonds were found in Namibia in 1908. From here, the harbour town of Luderitz is a short journey through the Sperrgebiet (the "Restricted Diamond Area"). After crossing the historical Luderitz peninsula, we will reach Diaz Point, set against the backdrop of the dramatic Atlantic waves. Back on board at Aus station, our private train continues on its journey north. **Accommodation & Dining:** Shongololo Express. (B, D)

Day 8 Keetmanshoop & Quiver Tree Forest. This morning we visit Garas Park where we will see the unique quiver trees and the interesting rock formations. The quiver tree is not really a tree, rather a plant of the genus aloe, as evident from its scientific name, and one of the few species of aloe that reaches tree proportions, it can grow seven to nine metres high. Return to the train and depart for Mariental. **Accommodation & Dining:** Shongololo Express. (B, L, D)

Day 9 Sossusvlei & Sesriem Canyon. This morning we transfer to Sossusvlei Lodge, situated at the entrance gate to the Namib-Naukluft Park. We visit the Sesriem Canyon, shaped over millions of years by the Tsauchab River; it is one of the few places in that area that holds water all year round. The early Afrikaans explorers named the

canyon after the fact that they had to use six (ses) leather straps (riem) tied together to create a rope long enough to lower water buckets into the canyon below. Overnight at our lodge. **Accommodation & Dining:** Overlooking the red sand dunes of the Namib Desert, Sossusvlei Lodge offers an outdoor pool and a dining terrace overlooking a floodlit waterhole frequently visited by springbok and hyena. The 45 air-conditioned, tented rooms have their own bathroom and feature a private patio area. (B, L, D)

Day 10 Sossusvlei and Namib-Naukluft Park. The dunes of the Namib Desert were created by sand carried by the wind from the coast of Namibia. The sand here is five million years old and is red in colour due to its iron-oxide content. As the lighting changes with the time of day, so does the appearance of the dunes' characteristic colour, allowing for interesting photographs at any time. The wind in the Sossusvlei area blows from all directions which means that the type of the dunes here are known as "star dunes". This is because the winds cause the sand to form a star shape with multiple arms. Early morning is the best time to see these giant dunes and we take a scenic drive through the Namib-Naukluft Park before we return to our train. **Accommodation & Dining:** Shongololo Express. (B, L, D)

Day 11 Windhoek. Enjoy a morning tour of Windhoek. Situated in Namibia's central highlands, Windhoek is an attractive city surrounded by clusters of hills and the impressive Auas and Eros Mountains. The city tour of Windhoek starts with a visit to the TransNamib Transport Museum. The museum is situated in the Windhoek Railway Station and was built from 1912 to 1913. In front of the building is the narrow-gauge locomotive (vintage 1900),

which used to operate between Swakopmund and Windhoek. At the top of Robert Mugabe Avenue is the Christuskirche or Evangelical Lutheran Church which we will drive past, this is one of the city's most striking landmarks and was built from local sandstone and completed in 1910. Romanesque, neo-Gothic and Art Nouveau styles influenced its design and Kaiser Wilhelm II donated its stained-glass windows. Return to our train and depart for Otjiwarongo. **Accommodation & Dining:** Shongololo Express. (B, L, D)

Day 12 Etosha National Park. After breakfast we transfer to Mokuti Etosha Lodge in Etosha National Park for an overnight stay. The park offers excellent game viewing in one of Africa's most accessible venues. Zebra and springbok are scattered across the endless horizon while the many waterholes attract endangered black rhino, lion, elephant and large numbers of antelope. The Etosha Pan, an extremely flat salt pan, lies at the heart of the National Park. This shimmering "great white place", as its name says, is the largest salt pan in Africa and with herds of wild animals passing through is an unforgettable experience. We take an afternoon game drive and return to our lodge for dinner and an overnight stay. **Accommodation & Dining:** Mokuti Etosha Lodge offers two outdoor pools, a spa and gym. Tambuti Dining Room and Marula Bar serve a variety of dishes and the open-air Boma Restaurant serves African grill specialities in a magical setting with its thatched roof and chandeliers. There is also a pool bar and an evening bar for drinks and snacks. All 106 spacious rooms have a private bathroom and mosquito door and are decorated with Namibian crafts and rich fabrics. (B, L, D)

Day 13 Etosha National Park. This morning we take an early morning

game drive followed by breakfast. Afternoon departure for Kranzberg. **Accommodation & Dining:** Shongololo Express. (B, L, D)

Day 14 Walvis Bay for Swakopmund. We arrive at Walvis Bay and, after breakfast, bid our train farewell and transfer to the Strand Hotel Swakopmund for an overnight stay. This afternoon we will enjoy a tour of the city and, in the evening, we will have a farewell dinner in a local restaurant. **Accommodation & Dining:** Nestled on the beach, Strand Hotel Swakopmund features a spa, rooftop garden, restaurants and bars. All 125 rooms offer free Wi-Fi, minibar, electronic safe and plasma television. (B, D)

Day 15 Windhoek to London. After a morning at leisure we transfer to the airport for our return scheduled flight to London. **Dining:** (B)

Day 16 London. Arrive today.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Category	Price
Gold Cabin	£6195
Emerald Cabin	£7795
Gold Cabin for sole use	£8995
Emerald Cabin for sole use	£11115

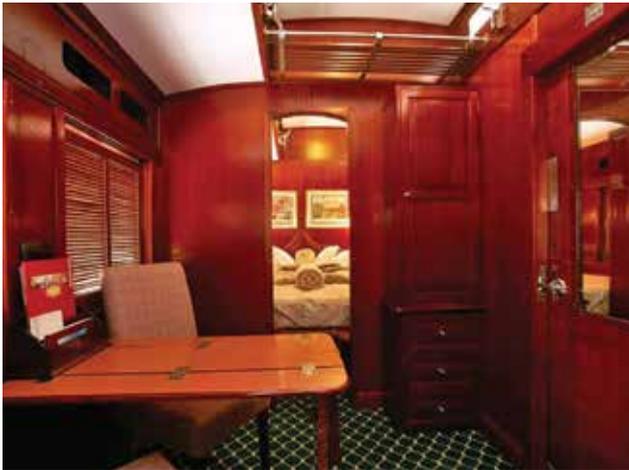
PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Overnight accommodation in Pretoria • Nine nights aboard the Shongololo Express • Overnight accommodation in Sossusvlei, Etosha National Park & Swakopmund • Meals as listed (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner) • Excursions • Entrance fees • Local guides • Onboard Train Manager • Noble Caledonia Tour Manager • Transfers • Airport taxes. **Not Included:** Travel insurance, visas, meals other than those indicated, drinks, gratuities. **NB.** Itinerary and lodges subject to change.



Observation Car



Gold Cabin



Emerald Cabin



Lounge Car

THE SHONGOLOLO EXPRESS

The Shongololo Express, as a rolling hotel, offers sleeping compartments in two categories, two air-conditioned dining cars, a bar car and an observation car. The tempting three course dinners are served in a single sitting. The bar car, open around the clock, is ideal for relaxing over a freshly tapped beer or a glass of South African wine and is a popular spot for reading. Complimentary tea and coffee are available on board at all times.

All of the sleeping compartments offer a private shower and toilet, adjustable air conditioning, 220/230 V sockets, a small safe, towels and clothes hangers. The beds are made up daily by your train attendants. There is no formal dress code on your private train during the day. Dinner on board is smart casual. A laundry service is available during the entire trip (at cost). Large pieces of luggage can be stowed beneath the berths or on the upper luggage racks. However, since space on board is limited, we do recommend taking soft-sided luggage rather than hard-side cases.

Your Accommodation

Gold Cabins: The compartments (approximately seven square metres) are equipped with two individual berths next to each other, or a double

berth and a compact wardrobe. A hairdryer and small toiletries are also provided. Still water is provided daily in your compartment. There are a total of twenty four Gold Cabins.

Emerald Cabins: The Emerald sleeping compartments (approximately ten square metres) are equipped with two single berths or a double berth and a compact wardrobe. Each compartment in this category also has a small seating area. A hairdryer and small toiletries are also provided. Still water is provided daily in your compartment. There are a total of 14 Emerald Cabins.

Your Dining

Meals are served in a single sitting in the charming Victorian atmosphere of the dining

cars and are complemented by a selection of South African wines (not included). There is an accent on fresh, local ingredients and traditional dishes.



Dining Car



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Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
Cover image: Etosha National Park