

# SOUTH AFRICA & NAMIBIA BY PRIVATE TRAIN

A journey from Pretoria to Swakopmund  
aboard the luxurious Rovos Rail Private Train

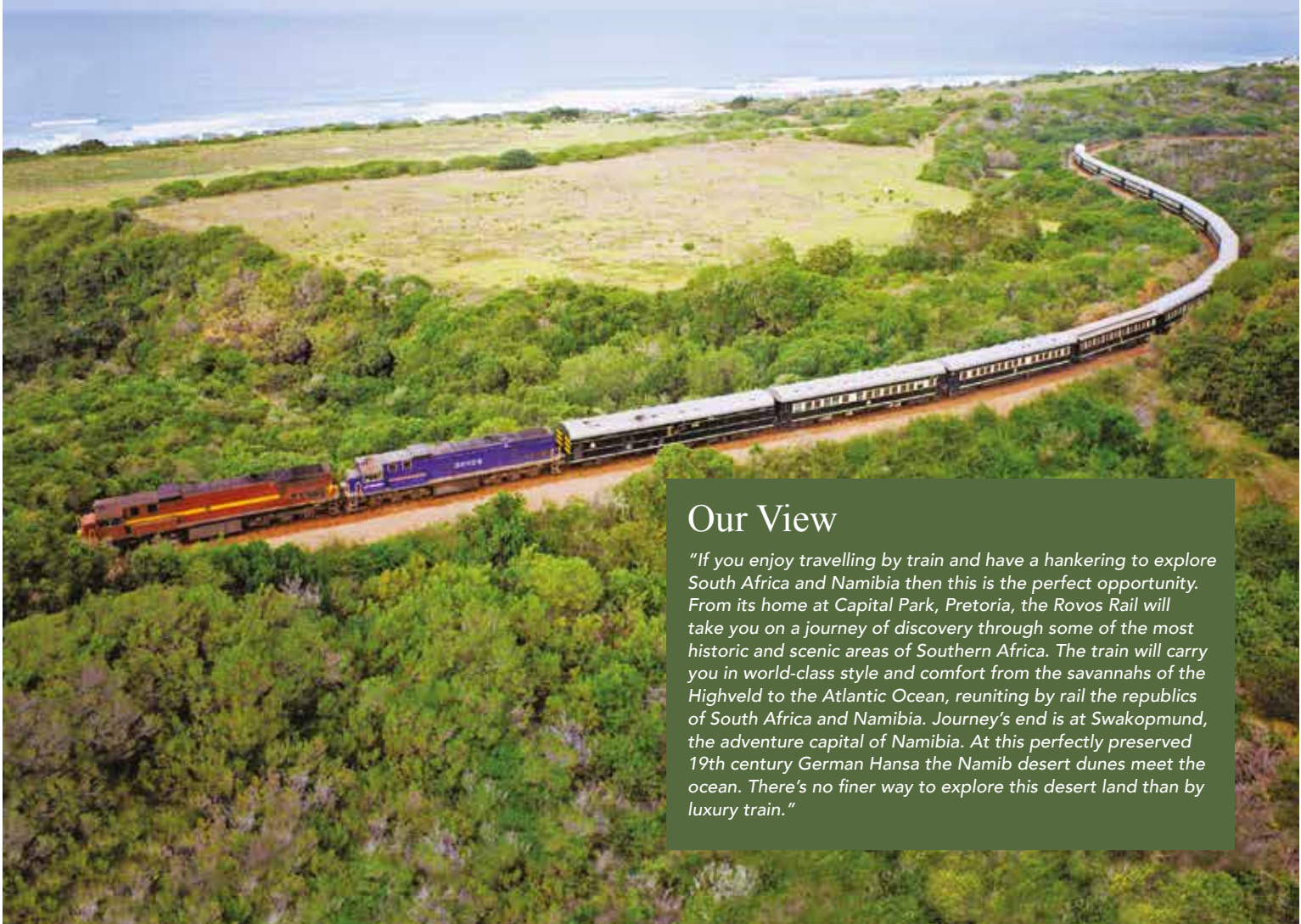
30<sup>th</sup> April to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 & 27<sup>th</sup> April to 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025

NOBLE CALEDONIA

Join us aboard the luxurious Rovos Rail private train which we have chartered for this captivating journey and travel from the savannahs of the Highveld to the Atlantic Ocean in the west. 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. The majesty of the landscapes we travel through cast a lifelong spell on all who visit.

We depart from Pretoria bound for Kimberley, the location of one of the world's most famous diamond rushes and where we will visit the Big Hole. The railway line then traverses the stark vistas of the arid Northern Cape into Namibia which boasts seascapes, rugged mountains, lonely deserts, stunning and diverse wildlife and colonial cities. One of the numerous highlights will be a visit to the Fish River Canyon, second in size to the Grand Canyon and a truly spectacular sight. However the ultimate highlight for many 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 and sunset is truly a once in a lifetime experience. Arriving by private flight we enjoy a night's stay with desert drives and a bush dinner, before flying to Windhoek to rejoin the train and continue overnight to Otjiwarongo. Here we visit the Cheetah Conservation Fund before continuing to the game-rich Etosha National Park where we enjoy an overnight lodge stay and some game drives. Our journey continues on to Swakopmund, a perfectly preserved 19th century German Hansa town set between the dunes of the Namib Desert and the roaring Atlantic Ocean; an unforgettable end to a remarkable journey.



## Our View

*"If you enjoy travelling by train and have a hankering to explore South Africa and Namibia then this is the perfect opportunity. From its home at Capital Park, Pretoria, the Rovos Rail will take you on a journey of discovery through some of the most historic and scenic areas of Southern Africa. The train will carry you in world-class style and comfort from the savannahs of the Highveld to the Atlantic Ocean, reuniting by rail the republics of South Africa and Namibia. Journey's end is at Swakopmund, the adventure capital of Namibia. At this perfectly preserved 19th century German Hansa the Namib desert dunes meet the ocean. There's no finer way to explore this desert land than by luxury train."*



Fish River Canyon



Giraffes, Etosha National Park, Namibia



Elephants at a waterhole, Etosha National Park

## The Itinerary

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

**Day 2 Pretoria.** Arrive into Johannesburg this morning and transfer to our hotel in Pretoria for an overnight stay. This afternoon we will walk to 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. We return to the hotel and enjoy a welcome dinner this evening. (D)

**Day 3 Board Rovos Rail in Pretoria.** After breakfast 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 board our train in the late morning and travel south across the goldfields of the Witwaterstrand. Take lunch and dinner on the train as we continue towards Kimberley. (B, L, 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. 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. After lunch on the train we spend the afternoon crossing the Karoo, a vast semi-desert region that was once an inland sea. (B, L, D)

**Day 5 Upington.** We arrive into 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 in his honour. After a walking tour of the city we will join a sundowner cruise on the Orange River. This evening we will make our way across the Namibia border (B, L, D)

**Day 6 Fish River Canyon, Namibia.** Over lunch we arrive in Holoog 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 metres deep

and, in some places, 27 kilometres wide. Baboon, rock dassie, ground squirrel and klipspringer 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. (B, L, D)

**Day 7 Kolmanskop & 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. Sparking a "diamond rush" the town grew in the ensuing years, peaking in the 1920s, until the discovery of richer deposits further south. By the 1960s the population had left and the town is now at the mercy of the weather and encroaching sand dunes. Continue to the harbour town of Luderitz which was first landed by Portuguese mariners in the 15th century but it was not until 1883 when the land was bought by a wealthy merchant, Adolf Luderitz, that the town developed as part of German colonization of the region. A walk will see the Luderitz Museum and the colonial buildings including the Goerke Haus and Felsenkirche. Return to the train at Aus station as our private train continues on its journey north. (B, L, D)

**Day 8 Keetmanshoop & Quiver Tree Forest.** 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. (B, L, D)

**Day 9 Sossusvlei.** After breakfast we transfer to the airstrip for our specially chartered flights to the Namib-Naukluft Park. We will check into our overnight lodge and enjoy lunch before taking an afternoon drive in the desert. 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". A special dinner will be served in the desert before we return to our lodge for an overnight stay. (B, L, D)

**Day 10 Sossusvlei & Windhoek.** Awake at dawn and take an early morning drive into the desert enjoying breakfast in the vlei. Later this morning we return to the airstrip for our specially chartered flights to Windhoek where the train has travelled to meet us. 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. (B, L, D)

**Day 11 Cheetah Conservation Fund, Otiwarongo.** Arriving at lunchtime in Kranzberg we will drive to Otiwarongo and the Cheetah Conservation Fund. Founded in 1990, the fund is dedicated to saving cheetah in the wild. The centre is a hub for conservation programming and education working with farmers, researchers and students to attain their goal. (B, L, D)

**Day 12 Etosha National Park.** After breakfast we transfer to the Etosha National Park for an overnight stay in a lodge. 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. (B, L, D)

**Day 13 Etosha National Park & Namib Desert.** An early morning game drive provides another opportunity to observe wild animals close up. In the late morning we return to our train and spend the afternoon heading southwest across the Namib Desert towards the Atlantic Ocean. The Namib stretches for more than 2,000 kilometres along the Atlantic Coast of Angola, Namibia and South Africa. Having endured arid conditions for roughly 55-80 million years, the Namib may be the oldest desert in the world. (B, L, D)

**Day 14 Walvis Bay & Swakopmund.** We arrive at Walvis Bay and bid our train farewell as we transfer to our Swakopmund hotel for an overnight stay. Swakopmund, Namibia's seaside resort on the west coast, is a place of singular charm. It resembles a small Bavarian village nestled between the desert and the sea and enjoys a restful and relaxing atmosphere. The source of Swakopmund's continental vibe is the graceful Art Nouveau buildings dating back to the turn of the previous century. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure and meet this evening for our farewell dinner. (B, D)

**Day 15 Swakopmund to London.** After breakfast in the hotel we will transfer to Walvis Bay for our scheduled indirect flight to London. (B)

**Day 16 London.** Arrive today.



## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

	2024	2025
Pullman Suite	£8995	£9495
Deluxe Suite	£10495	£10995
Pullman Suite for sole use	£11795	£12295

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel • Nine nights aboard Rovos Rail • Overnight accommodation in Pretoria, Sossusvlei, Etosha National Park & Swakopmund • Meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner) • House beer, wine & soft drinks with included meals • All drinks on the Rovos Rail (excluding premium brands) • Limited laundry service on Rovos Rail • Excursions • Noble Caledonia Tour Manager • Local guides • Onboard Train Manager • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes.  
**Not Included:** Travel insurance.



## ROVOS RAIL

We are delighted to be working with Rovos Rail and their luxury train. Since its establishment in 1989, Rovos Rail has earned an international reputation for its truly world class travel experiences. Step aboard the wood-paneled coaches and enjoy fine cuisine in five-star luxury as some of the most varied scenery imaginable unfolds beyond the windows. 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.

With discreet and friendly service, top 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 train, which may be hauled by diesel or electric locomotives, carries a maximum of 72 passengers in 36 superbly appointed suites.



Pullman Suite, Daytime



Deluxe Suite



Pullman Suite showing daytime configuration.



Deluxe Suite showing twin beds (configuration either L-shaped twin or double twin). Please note there are a limited amount of L-shaped cabins.



The Elegant Dining Car

### Your Suite

The train carries a maximum of 72 passengers in 36 superbly appointed suites. The sleeper coaches are some of the most spacious in the world, offering every modern convenience and comfort. 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. All are equipped with a writing surface and, for valuables, a personal safe. There is also room service available 24 hours a day. In the en-suite bathrooms original fittings are combined with the modern technology of hot showers, hairdryers and shaver sockets. The Deluxe Suites measure ten square metres and have a lounge area and en-suite bathroom with shower and the Pullman Suites which measure seven square metres are equipped with a comfortable sofa-seat during the day and converted to double or twin beds for the evening.

### Your Space

On board there is a non-smoking Observation Car at the rear of the train, while the coach next to it contains a small smoking lounge. A unique feature of the Observation Car is the enlarged windows and open-air balcony. At the centre of the train there is a non-smoking Lounge Car, which also houses the Gift Shop. Deep sofas and wingback chairs make for an extremely comfortable car. As with all the service cars the lounges are air-conditioned, yet the windows can be opened allowing in the sights, sounds and scents of Africa.

### Your Dining

The Rovos Rail has two 42-seater Dining Cars to accommodate the maximum complement of 72 passengers in total comfort at one sitting. An enthusiastic team of chefs are responsible for overseeing the very important task of ensuring guests' every need is catered for. There is 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 and a buffet selection of fresh fruits and yoghurts. Lunch and dinner are set menus and both are complemented by a selection of excellent South African wines. Dietary requests will be catered for and guests can discuss the menus with the chef prior to the meals for alternative options.

### Life On Board

In maintaining the spirit of travel of a bygone era, 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 passengers is confined to the privacy of your suites only. For days on the train dress is smart casual. Evening attire is more formal – for the gentlemen a jacket and tie is a minimum requirement while for ladies cocktail/evening dresses or suits.



Observation Car Balcony



Friendly Service



Light Salad Lunch



The Observation Car



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Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.  
 Cover image: Sossusvlei Dunes, Namibia.