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Rovos Rail's African Trilogy: A 15-Night Rail Expedition from Pretoria to Walvis Bay

15 Nights • Luxury Experience

www.palacetours.com travel@palacetours.com 786-408-0610

Overview

Embark on an extraordinary 15-night rail adventure aboard Rovos Rail's African Trilogy, journeying from Pretoria to Walvis Bay. This meticulously crafted itinerary traverses the diverse landscapes and vibrant cultures of South Africa, Eswatini, and Namibia, offering a profound connection with Southern Africa's natural wonders and rich heritage.

Your expedition begins in Pretoria, South Africa, before heading east to the rolling hills of eMakhazeni and Emnothweni, renowned for trout fishing. A highlight is an immersive game drive in the world-famous Kruger National Park, home to the iconic Big Five. The journey continues into the tiny Kingdom of eSwatini, where you'll visit Swazi Candles and the Mantenga Cultural Village, experiencing traditional Swazi life. Back in South Africa, explore the Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park, one of Africa’s oldest proclaimed reserves, for another thrilling game drive, then discover Durban's botanical gardens and vibrant beachfront.

As the train travels west, you'll cross the vast Karoo semi-desert to Kimberley, where the Diamond Mine Museum and the historic Big Hole await. The route then leads to Upington on the mighty Orange River and into Namibia, where the dramatic Fish River Canyon, the second largest canyon in the southern hemisphere, and Garas Park with its ancient Quiver Trees provide spectacular photographic opportunities. A scenic flight takes you to Sossusvlei for an overnight desert lodge stay, allowing you to witness the iconic star dunes of the Namib Desert at sunset and sunrise.

Further north in Namibia, engage with conservation efforts at a cheetah project in Otjiwarongo before an unforgettable overnight safari in Etosha National Park, known for its vast salt pan and exceptional game viewing. The final leg of the journey offers a breathtaking traverse of the Namib Desert, culminating in Walvis Bay. This African Trilogy is more than a journey; it's an intimate exploration of Southern Africa's soul, blending luxury rail travel with unparalleled wildlife encounters and cultural immersion.

Images: Courtesy - Rovos Rail

DAY BY DAY

Your Itinerary



DAY 1

PRETORIA

18:00 — Depart from Rovos Rail Station, Pretoria. Guests are advised to check-in a minimum of one hour prior to departure. For those wishing to join a tour of Rovos Rail Station and visit its museum, arriving two hours prior is suggested.

19:30 — Dinner is served in the dining cars as the train travels the eastern line towards Middelburg. The dress code for the evening is Formal.

DAY 2

MALELANE



07:00-10:00 — Breakfast is served in the dining cars. The morning brings views of the rolling hills of eMakhazeni (Belfast) and Emnothweni (Dullstroom), an area celebrated for trout fishing.

13:00 — Lunch is served in the dining cars. In the afternoon, the train begins its descent of the majestic Drakensberg escarpment, revealing dramatic changes in topography.

16:30 — Tea is served in the lounge and observation cars.

19:30 — Dinner is served in the dining cars as the train continues its journey towards Malelane. The dress code for dinner is Formal.



DAY 3

KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

05:00 — Breakfast is served in the dining cars. Please ensure your passport is readily available for border formalities later in the day, as advised by the Train/Guest Services Manager.

06:30 — Enjoy a game drive in the renowned Kruger National Park, a world leader in environmental management techniques and home to the Big Five. Lunch is included during the game drive, along with an opportunity for curio shopping.

16:30 — Tea is served in the lounge and observation cars.

19:30 — Dinner is served in the dining cars as the train travels towards Mpaka, eSwatini. The dress code for dinner is Formal.

Kruger Park, spanning 2-million hectares, boasts an impressive biodiversity: 336 tree species, 49 fish species, 34 amphibian species, 114 reptile species, 507 bird species, and 147 mammal species, including the formidable Big Five.

DAY 4

MPAKA



06:00 — Breakfast is served in the dining cars, followed by border formalities at Mpaka, eSwatini.

08:30 — Transfer (approximately 90 minutes) to Swazi Candles and Mantenga Cultural Village for a visit. You'll have the opportunity to interact with artisans at Swazi Candles, observing them craft a variety of candles, woodcarvings, textiles, and basketwork. Mantenga Cultural Village, nestled in the mountains overlooking 'Execution Rock', is a living museum showcasing classic Swazi lifestyle from the 1850s. Lunch is served at Mantenga Lodge during the visit.

16:30 — Tea is served in the lounge and observation cars.

19:30 — Dinner is served in the dining cars. The dress code for dinner is Formal. Border formalities will also occur as the train travels from Mpaka, eSwatini to Golela, South Africa.

The Kingdom of eSwatini (formerly Swaziland) covers only 17,000km^2 and is landlocked, bordering South Africa and Mozambique. It has two capital cities: Mbabane (administrative) and Lobamba (royal and legislative). In April 2018, Swaziland changed its name to the Kingdom of eSwatini, meaning 'place of the Swazi'.



DAY 5

DURBAN

05:00 — Continental breakfast is served in the dining cars.

06:00 — Transfer (approximately 30 minutes) to Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park for another exciting game drive. This park, Africa's oldest proclaimed reserve, covers 960km^2 of hilly topography and is renowned for its rich wildlife and conservation efforts, particularly its rhino population.

12:30 — Lunch is served in the dining cars. Afterwards, the train travels towards Empangeni, an area characterized by vast avocado and sugarcane plantations.

16:30 — Tea is served in the lounge and observation cars.

19:30 — Dinner is served in the dining cars as the train travels towards Durban. The dress code for dinner is “Africa” Theme or Smart Casual.

DAY 6

DURBAN



07:00 — Breakfast is served in the dining cars.

09:00 — Enjoy a comprehensive tour of Durban, South Africa's third-largest city. This includes a visit to the botanical gardens, a tranquil oasis of flora. Lunch is served at Umhlanga's beachfront, followed by an afternoon at leisure to explore the coastal delights. Durban is significant for its industry and its very large port.

16:30 — Tea is served in the lounge and observation cars.

19:30 — Dinner is served in the dining cars as the train traverses the picturesque Valley of a Thousand Hills towards Ladysmith. The dress code for dinner is Formal.



DAY 7

LEH

07:00-10:00 — Breakfast is served in the dining cars.

The day is spent at leisure on board, allowing you to relax and enjoy the passing scenery. The train traverses the region of the Drakensberg Mountains, first named by the Voortrekkers who saw the unbroken chain of weathered peaks as 'Dragon Mountain' (Drakensberg in Afrikaans) due to their resemblance to a dragon's spines.

13:00 — Lunch is served in the dining cars.

16:30 — Tea is served in the lounge and observation cars.

19:30 — Dinner is served in the dining cars as the train travels towards Bethlehem. The dress code for dinner is Formal.

DAY 8

KIMBERLEY



06:00-09:00 — Breakfast is served in the dining cars.

12:00 — Early lunch is served in the dining cars.

After lunch, enjoy a tour of Kimberley, the Capital of the Northern Cape, renowned for the discovery of diamonds in 1871. The tour includes a visit to Kimberley's Diamond Mine Museum and the iconic Big Hole, the largest hand-dug excavation in the world.

16:30 — Tea is served in the lounge and observation cars; the observation car will be leading the train until after dinner. The train traverses the Karoo, a vast semi-desert region that was once an enormous inland sea. Over millions of years, volcanic matter was ground down and deposited as silt upon the seabed to form what geologists call the Karoo system.

19:30 — Dinner is served in the dining cars. The dress code for dinner is Formal.



DAY 9

UPINGTON

07:00-10:00 — Breakfast is served in the dining cars. The train travels to Upington on the Orange River, with an activity to be confirmed.

13:00 — Lunch is served in the dining cars, followed by border formalities at Nakop, the South Africa/Namibia border. Your passport will be essential here.

16:30 — Tea is served in the lounge and observation cars.

19:30 — Dinner is served in the dining cars as the train travels towards Holoog. The dress code for dinner is Formal.

The Orange River is South Africa's longest river (2432km/1511mi), originating in the Drakensberg Mountains and flowing west to the Atlantic Ocean. It forms part of the borders between South Africa and Lesotho, and South Africa and Namibia. The town of Upington, founded in 1884, was named after Attorney General Sir Thomas Upington, who was instrumental in liquidating Orange River pirates.

DAY 10

WINDHOEK



06:00 — Breakfast is served in the dining cars.

08:00 — Transfer (approximately 60 minutes) to the dramatic Fish River Canyon. This canyon is the largest in the southern hemisphere and possibly second only to Arizona's Grand Canyon, measuring 161km long, up to 27km wide, and almost 550m deep. The vast rocky landscape breaks into a series of spectacular cliffs.

13:00 — Lunch is served in the dining cars as the train travels along the southern reaches of the Kalahari Basin.

15:15 — Transfer (approximately 30 minutes) to Garas Park (Quiver Trees) for a visit. This park is home to roughly 300 specimens of the Aloe dichotoma, prehistoric trees with forked branches reaching up to 5m, offering great photographic opportunities.

17:00 — Late tea is served in the lounge and observation cars.

19:30 — Dinner is served in the dining cars as the train travels north through the Kalahari to Windhoek. The dress code for dinner is Formal.



DAY 11

SOSSUSVLEI

Please pack a small overnight bag for your stay in Sossusvlei. A tog bag has been placed in your suite for your convenience. This overnight stay includes flights, meals, guided excursions, and preselected local wines, beers, and soft drinks, but excludes other beverages, laundry, and personal expenses.

07:00-10:00 — Breakfast is served in the dining cars.

10:30 — Transfer to the airstrip for a one-hour flight to Sossusvlei.

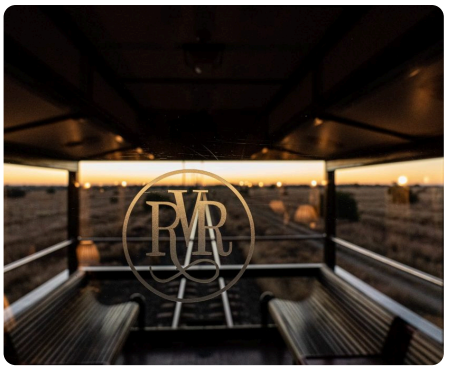
12:00 — After check-in at the lodge, enjoy lunch.

16:30 — Embark on an afternoon desert drive, culminating in a bush dinner after sunset. You will overnight at the lodge. The dress code for the evening is Casual.

The dunes of the Namib Desert, over five million years old, are red due to their iron-oxide content. The changing light throughout the day alters their appearance. In the Sossusvlei area, wind from all directions forms the sand into distinctive star shapes with multiple arms, giving rise to their name, 'star dunes'.

DAY 12

WINDHOEK



Please ensure luggage is ready to be collected from your suite before the drive. Time of drive to be confirmed. Bags will be stored in the lodge's baggage area before being loaded into the aircraft. The day begins with an early wake-up call, followed by tea and coffee, before enjoying a desert drive with breakfast served in the vlei.

11:00 — Return to the lodge to use the facilities, check-out, and transfer back to the airstrip.

12:00 — Depart in a light aircraft for a one-hour flight to Windhoek. Upon arrival, enjoy lunch and visit the Trans-Namib Transport Museum, which outlines Namibian transport history, particularly that of the railway. The Independence Memorial Museum focuses on the anti-colonial resistance and the national liberation struggle of Namibia.

18:00 — Depart Windhoek by train.

19:30 — Dinner is served in the dining cars as the train travels to Kranzberg. The dress code for dinner is Formal.

Windhoek, situated in Namibia's central highlands, is an attractive city surrounded by clusters of hills and the impressive Auas and Eros Mountains.



DAY 13

OTJIWARONGO

06:00-09:00 — Breakfast is served in the dining cars.

12:00 — Early lunch is served in the dining cars.

13:30 — Visit a cheetah conservation project in Otjiwarongo. Founded in Namibia in 1990, the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) is dedicated to saving the cheetah in the wild. You will learn about their efforts to protect these magnificent big cats.

19:30 — Dinner is served in the dining cars as the train travels to Otavi. The dress code for dinner is Formal.

DAY 14

ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK



Please pack a small overnight bag for your stay in Etosha. This overnight stay includes flights, meals, guided excursions, and preselected local wines, beers, and soft drinks, but excludes other beverages, laundry, and personal expenses.

06:00-09:00 — Breakfast is served in the dining cars.

After breakfast, transfer (approximately 60 minutes) to a lodge in Etosha National Park for an overnight stay. Upon arrival, check-in and enjoy lunch. Etosha National Park (22,270km^2) is famous for its vast salt pan (4,760km^2), which gives the park its name, meaning 'Great White Place'.

15:00 — Enjoy a game drive in Etosha (approximately 3 hours), offering excellent game viewing opportunities around the waterholes.

19:30 — Dinner and overnight at the lodge. The dress code for the evening is Casual.



DAY 15

ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

Please ensure luggage is ready to be collected from your suite and proceed to checkout by **10:30**. Bags will be loaded into the vehicles. The morning begins with an early game drive in Etosha National Park, offering another chance to witness its abundant wildlife.

After the game drive, return to the lodge for breakfast and check-out.

11:00 — Transfer (approximately 60 minutes) back to the train.

13:00 — Lunch is served in the dining cars. The train travels southwest towards the Atlantic Ocean.

16:30 — Tea is served in the lounge and observation cars.

19:30 — Dinner is served in the dining cars. The dress code for dinner is a “1920s” Theme or Smart Casual.

DAY 16

WALVIS BAY



Please ensure luggage is ready for collection 15 minutes before arrival and that you have your passport.

07:00-10:00 — Breakfast is served in the dining cars. The train traverses the Namib Desert towards Walvis Bay. The observation car will be leading the train for this last stretch, offering a different aspect that rail enthusiasts enjoy.

12:00 — Arrive at journey's end at Walvis Bay Station, Namibia.

The Namib Desert stretches for more than 2000km along the Atlantic coasts of Angola, Namibia, and South Africa. Its name is of Khoekhoegowab origin, meaning 'vast place'. Having endured arid or semi-arid conditions for roughly 55-80 million years, the Namib may be the oldest desert in the world. Its geology consists of sand seas near the coast while gravel plains and scattered mountain outcrops occur further inland.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

Tips & Travel Guide

Check-in Information

Please check-in a minimum of one hour before departure. If you wish to join a tour of Rovos Rail Station and visit our museum, we suggest arriving two hours prior to departure. Passports and relevant visas are required at check-in. No vouchers are required as luggage will be tagged and placed directly in your suite on board the train, where you will find your full itinerary pack.

Check-in locations and addresses:

- **Pretoria:** Rovos Rail Station, 1 Transnet Avenue, Capital Park, Pretoria, South Africa
- **Cape Town:** Rovos Rail Lounge, 1 Adderley Street, Paul Sauer Building, Cape Town, South Africa
- **Durban:** Durban Station Lounge, Jelf Taylor Crescent, Stamford Hill, Durban, South Africa
- **Victoria Falls:** Victoria Falls Hotel and Station, Mallet Drive, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe
- **Walvis Bay:** Walvis Bay Station, Corner 6th Street and 11th Road, Walvis Bay, Namibia
- **Copper Trail Journey Check-in:** Hotel Terminus, R. Robert Williams 16, Lobito, Angola
- **Dar Es Salaam Journey Check-in:** Serena Hotel, Ohio Street, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; Tazara Station, Julius K. Nyerere Road, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Dining Schedule

Meals on board are served in one sitting only, with a gong sounding for lunch and dinner. Breakfast is served from 07:00 to 10:00, lunch at 13:00, tea at 16:30, and dinner at 19:30. Bar service is available from approximately 07:00 to 01:00. These times are adhered to unless otherwise stated in the itinerary. Rovos Rail caters for food allergies provided a detailed request has been made at the time of your reservation; however, strict religious dietary observances cannot be guaranteed.

Dress Code

- **Days on Board:** Smart casual attire is recommended – neat, conventional, yet relatively informal, combining casual and formal clothing pieces.
- **Dinner on Board:** Formal attire is mandatory. Gentlemen should wear a collar and tie (jacket is optional), while ladies are suggested to wear cocktail/evening dresses or suits.
- **Themed Evenings:** On long journeys, themed evenings such as 'Africa' theme or '1920s' theme may occur. Guests can dress up accordingly or opt for smart casual.
- **Off-train Excursions:** Comfortable walking shoes, sun lotion, and hats are advised. Blankets and rain capes are available. Game drives are conducted in open vehicles, so dress for varying temperatures, which can be cool in the mornings and warm in the afternoons.

Electricity & Connectivity

Suites are equipped with 220V AC 50Hz 3-point round-pronged wall plugs, along with 110V/220V 2-pin plugs for shavers and chargers. USB ports are available in each suite. International adaptors are also provided. A generator supplies

of train travel, there is no radio, television, or WiFi on board the train. The use of mobile phones and laptops is confined to the privacy of your suites; public use for calls is discouraged to maintain the train's atmosphere. Reception can be poor while the train is moving. WiFi is available at Rovos Rail lounges in Cape Town and Pretoria, and at most off-train accommodation.

Climate & Weather

For excursions and game drives, mornings can be cool and warm up considerably, while afternoons can be warm then cool down. Warm clothing, comfortable shoes, hats, and sun protection are advised. Rain capes are available. Electric under-blankets are fitted on the beds for cooler nights. Average temperatures vary by region and season; for example, Pretoria experiences minimums of 7°C (May-Jun) and maximums of 30°C (Jan-Feb), with rainfall from Oct-Mar.

Onboard Amenities

Rovos Rail provides South African biodegradable and/or recyclable products in each suite, including all-natural soap, shampoo, hand and body wash/lotion, and insect repellent spray (for journeys over four days). Chemical-free lip balm, bamboo tissues, reusable bamboo rounds, bamboo ear buds, natural-bristle toothbrushes, natural toothpaste tablets, a compostable shower cap, and cotton-and-wax ear plugs are also provided. Sun cream, razors, and nail files are available at the Gift Shop. Dressing gowns and slippers are provided for each guest; these are also available for purchase from the Gift Shop. There is a small gift shop on the train (open between meals) and at Rovos Rail Station in Pretoria, offering SA-made items. A limited laundry service (10 items/day) is available on board with a 48-hour turnaround; no dry-cleaning facilities are available. Shoe cleaning bags are provided in your suite. Board games, cards, books, and magazines are available in the lounge and observation cars.

Medical Information

Guests are solely responsible for ensuring they are capable of undertaking the tours and activities. Please inform Rovos Rail at the time of reservation of any medical conditions, physical disabilities, or allergies. Each train is equipped with a standard medical kit, oxygen, an automated external defibrillator, and a wheelchair. Management on board are trained in First Aid up to Level 3, and general staff in Level 1. For emergencies, private healthcare hospitals are available (not guaranteed outside SA); evacuation can be arranged at your own expense. Malaria areas include Eswatini, Kruger Park, Etosha, Northern Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Zambia, Tanzania, DRC, and Angola; anti-malarial precautions are recommended. Recommended immunisations (not required) include Hepatitis A+B, Polio, Tetanus, and Cholera (low risk). A Yellow Fever/Medical Exemption Certificate is essential if travelling to/from DRC and Angola, or returning to certain countries. Consult your clinic or doctor; contact Travel Doctor Africa at 0861 300 911 (local) or +27 (0)11 888 5505 (international).

Luggage

Luggage can be stored in your suite under the bed or on a luggage rack above the door. While there are no strict restrictions, it is recommended to limit to two large suitcases. For selected long journeys, a Rovos Rail tog bag is provided for overnight trips or hand luggage on aircraft, with a 15kg weight restriction for plane transfers. A soft bag is preferable for plane transfers.

Currency

In South Africa, only Rands are accepted. In Namibia and Eswatini, Rands are accepted. In Zimbabwe, Tanzania (Dar es Salaam only), DRC, and Angola, US Dollars are accepted, and cash is highly recommended. Hotels and major dealers typically accept credit cards. US Dollar notes printed before 2017 or those that appear worn will not be accepted. Low denominations are recommended for shopping and gratuities, while larger denominations are useful for exchanging money to local currency (especially in Tanzania).

DATES & PRICING

Departure Dates & Rates

DEPARTURE DATE	CLASS / CABIN	SINGLE	DOUBLE (PP)
Feb 2, 2027	Royal Suite	—	**$480,000**
	Deluxe Suite	**$494,000**	**$385,000**
	Pullman Suite	**$376,000**	**$286,000**
Oct 5, 2027	Royal Suite	—	**$480,000**
	Deluxe Suite	**$494,000**	**$385,000**
	Pullman Suite	**$376,000**	**$286,000**
	Royal Suite Early Bird	—	**$475,760**
	Deluxe Suite Early Bird	**$489,760**	**$380,760**
	Pullman Suite Early Bird	**$371,760**	**$281,760**
Mar 9, 2028	Royal Suite	—	**$528,000**
	Deluxe Suite	**$543,400**	**$423,500**
	Pullman Suite	**$413,600**	**$314,600**
	Royal Suite Early Bird	—	**$523,760**
	Deluxe Suite Early Bird	**$539,160**	**$419,260**
	Pullman Suite Early Bird	**$409,360**	**$310,360**
Oct 5, 2028	Royal Suite	—	**$528,000**
	Deluxe Suite	**$543,400**	**$423,500**
	Pullman Suite	**$413,600**	**$314,600**
	Royal Suite Early Bird	—	**$523,760**
	Deluxe Suite Early Bird	**$539,160**	**$419,260**

Rates shown in South African Rand (ZAR). Approximate USD equivalents available upon request.

Rates shown are per person. Single rate applies to single occupancy; Double rate applies per person in double occupancy.

EARLY BIRD FARES

Book early, pay less

Plan ahead and you'll pay less for exactly the same journey. Every cabin on this tour has an Early Bird fare. Look for it in the booking calendar, right next to the regular fare: it is labelled "<cabin> Early Bird".

6 MONTHS OR MORE BEFORE DEPARTURE
Save $250
per person

3 TO 6 MONTHS BEFORE DEPARTURE
Save $150
per person

INSIDE 3 MONTHS
Regular fare
the Early Bird fare closes

CABIN	REGULAR DOUBLE (PP)	EARLY BIRD, 6+ MONTHS AHEAD	EARLY BIRD, 3–6 MONTHS AHEAD
Royal Suite	**from $480,000**	**from $479,750** save $250	**from $479,850** save $150
Deluxe Suite	**from $385,000**	**from $384,750** save $250	**from $384,850** save $150
Pullman Suite	**from $286,000**	**from $285,750** save $250	**from $285,850** save $150

Double fares per person, two sharing; "from" is the lowest fare across the departures listed above. The saving depends on the cabin's regular price per person: $250 / $150 on journeys from $8,000, $150 / $100 from $5,000, and $50 on shorter trips. It's the same cabin, the same itinerary and everything included as before. The only difference is the price. Early Bird fares are limited to the cabins on each departure and close automatically. If you already know your dates, now is the time to book.

🏷️ **Look for Coupons and Special Rates on our website.**

Visit https://www.palacetours.com/tour/rovos-rail-african-trilogy-pretoria-walvis-bay for the latest information.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Terms & Conditions

Payment Terms

25% of total tour cost due at the time of booking. 75% balance due no later than 65 days prior to tour departure date. All reservations are subject to availability and will be confirmed upon receipt of the required deposit. A provisional booking will be held for 14 days, after which the 25% deposit is due.

Cancellation Fees

Timeframe Before Departure	Cancellation Fee
More than 95 days	10% of total tour price
95–66 days	25% of total tour price
65–36 days	50% of total tour price
35 days or less / failure to travel	100% of total tour price (no refund)

A 5% Administrative Fee will be charged by Palace Tours on any applicable refunds. All cancellation fees apply to the full tour price before any discounts or coupons. Cancellation insurance is compulsory as these fees will not be waived. All cancellation requests must be submitted in writing.

Change of Date / Name / Occupancy

Changes may be requested up to 125 days prior to departure and are subject to availability and supplier approval. No changes will be permitted within 65 days prior to departure. Any request within this period will be treated as a cancellation and subject to the applicable cancellation fees. All changes may incur additional costs, which will be advised prior to confirmation. No changes will be processed without written authorization and payment of any applicable fees.

Payment Methods

Payments may be made via bank transfer or credit card. All payments must reference the booking number and be supported by proof of payment. Refunds, when applicable, will be processed to the original form of payment. Any exchange rate fluctuations or bank charges are the responsibility of the client.

What's Included

- Accommodation on board
- All meals on board
- All beverages on board
- Room service
- Limited laundry
- Excursions with a qualified guide (where applicable)
- Entrance fees as per itinerary
- Government tax
- Flights to/from Sosusvlei

- Off-train accommodation (Sossusvlei and Etosha) including meals, water, tea/coffee, and breakfast juices

What's Not Included

- All off-train beverages (excluding water, tea/coffee, and breakfast juices at lodges)
- International sparkling wine
- Gratuities
- Personal expenses
- Visas
- Travel insurance
- Pre- and post-tour transfers, accommodation, and flights

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is strongly recommended and is required to cover cancellation fees, medical emergencies, and unforeseen circumstances. Clients are responsible for securing their own insurance coverage and should travel with a copy of their policy including the insurance company name, policy number, and 24-hour medical emergency telephone number.

Passports & Visas

Valid passports and any required visas are the sole responsibility of the client and must be obtained prior to departure. Passports must have at least five blank visa pages and must be valid for at least six months from the return-home date. This tour passes through South Africa and Namibia; please confirm visa requirements for your nationality well in advance.

Health & Medical

Guests are solely responsible for ensuring they are capable of undertaking the tours and activities. Please inform us at the time of booking if you have any medical conditions, physical disabilities, or allergies. Anti-malarial precautions are recommended for certain areas visited on this itinerary, including Etosha National Park. Please consult your clinic or doctor for the latest medical advice prior to travel.

General Conditions

All services are provided subject to availability and supplier terms and conditions. Schedules, routing, and excursions are subject to change and cannot be guaranteed. Times are approximate and excursion arrangements may be altered due to operational, weather, or other factors beyond our control. The operator is not liable for loss, damage, injury, delays, or unforeseen events beyond its control. Participation in tours and related activities is voluntary and at the client's own risk.

Guest Indemnity

Although certain limited insurances have been arranged, the operator and its agents, servants, or employees shall not be liable for any loss or damage to passengers' luggage or effects. The passenger waives any claim against the operator, its servants, agents, employees, or subcontractors for any injury and/or loss of any nature whatsoever (including consequential loss) arising directly or indirectly from any aspect of the tour, including any form of transport used. This waiver binds the passenger's executors, heirs, trustees, and dependants. The passenger accepts all services and facilities voluntarily, with full knowledge that they may expose them to injury, danger, or loss.

Important Note

All timeframes are based on the local time of the destination. To allow sufficient processing time, clients must submit payment or cancellation requests with a minimum 5-day advance margin prior to the applicable deadlines.

COMMON QUESTIONS

Frequently Asked Questions

How long is the African Trilogy journey and where does it run?

> It is a fifteen-night rail expedition that departs Pretoria in South Africa and ends at Walvis Bay on the Namibian coast on day sixteen. The route runs east to the Kruger area, south through Eswatini to Durban, then west across the Karoo and into Namibia. Your suite is yours throughout, apart from two off-train lodge stays.

Which countries does the itinerary cover?

> Three countries: South Africa, Eswatini and Namibia. Border formalities take place at Mpaka on entry to Eswatini and on the way back, and at Nakop on the South Africa and Namibia border on day nine. Your passport is required at check-in and at every crossing.

What time does the train leave Pretoria and where do I check in?

> Departure is at 18:00 on day one from the train's private station at 1 Transnet Avenue, Capital Park, Pretoria, with dinner served at 19:30 as the train heads for Middelburg. Check in at least an hour before departure, or two hours ahead if you want to join the station and museum tour. Passports and any visas are needed at check-in, and your tagged luggage is placed directly in your suite.

Are there nights spent off the train?

> Yes, two. Day eleven includes a one-hour flight to Sossusvlei for an overnight at a desert lodge, and day fourteen brings an overnight at a lodge inside Etosha National Park. Both stays include flights where applicable, meals, guided excursions and preselected local beverages, and an overnight bag is provided in your suite for each.

What happens at Sossusvlei?

> After a one-hour flight you check in at the lodge for lunch, then head out on an afternoon desert drive that ends with a bush dinner after sunset. The next morning starts with an early wake-up call and a desert drive with breakfast served out in the vlei, before a flight on to Windhoek. The Namib dunes are over five million years old and are at their most photogenic at sunrise and sunset.

What is the Etosha stay like?

> You transfer about an hour from the train to a lodge inside Etosha National Park, arriving for lunch, then join an afternoon game drive of roughly three hours around the waterholes. A second early game drive follows the next morning before you return to the train at around 11:00. Etosha covers 22,270 square kilometres and takes its name from the vast salt pan at its heart, the Great White Place.

How much game viewing is on this itinerary?

There are three substantial wildlife days plus a conservation visit. Day three is a full game drive in Kruger National Park with lunch included, day five is Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park, Africa's oldest proclaimed reserve and famous for its rhino, and day fourteen brings two drives in Etosha. Day thirteen adds a visit to a cheetah conservation project near Otjiwarongo.

What is there to see at Kimberley?

Day eight brings an afternoon tour of Kimberley, capital of the Northern Cape, where diamonds were discovered in 1871. The tour takes in the Diamond Mine Museum and the Big Hole, the largest hand-dug excavation in the world. Afterwards the train crosses the Karoo, a semi-desert that was once an inland sea, with the observation car leading the train until after dinner.

What are Fish River Canyon and Garas Park?

On day ten you transfer about an hour to Fish River Canyon, the largest canyon in the southern hemisphere at 161 kilometres long, up to 27 kilometres wide and nearly 550 metres deep. In the afternoon a shorter transfer reaches Garas Park, home to roughly 300 quiver trees, prehistoric aloes with forked branches up to five metres tall. Both stops are exceptional for photography, particularly in low light.

Are there child fares on this expedition?

Child pricing follows the traveller's age on the departure date, with one band for children under five and another for ages five to under twelve. Fifteen nights with pre-dawn game drives, light-aircraft flights and formal dinners is a demanding itinerary for young children. Email travel@palacetours.com or call 786-408-0610 and we will price your family precisely.

What suite grades are available?

Three grades are offered: the Pullman Suite, the Deluxe Suite, and the Royal Suite, which spans half a carriage at around 16 square metres with its own private lounge area. All suites have en-suite bathrooms, double or twin beds with soft and hard mattress sides, daily servicing and ample storage, and some Royal and Deluxe Suites include a room divider. The grades open on this departure are shown on this page.

What is included in the fare?

Accommodation on board and at the off-train lodges, all meals, all beverages on board apart from a few premium exceptions, room service and limited laundry of ten items a day are included. So are guided excursions, entrance fees as per the itinerary, an onboard historian, government tax, the flights specified in the itinerary and an overnight bag for the lodge stays. The exact fare for each suite grade is shown on this page.

What is not included?

Beverages outside the included list, personal expenses, visas and travel insurance are excluded, as are pre- and post-tour transfers, accommodation and any flights not specified in the itinerary. Laundry during the off-train lodge stays is also charged separately. Gratuities are suggested at around $25 per guest per night on board and about $25 per guide or staff member per day at the game lodges.

Can I book a suite for myself alone?

Yes, a suite can be reserved for a single traveller at the applicable single-occupancy rate rather than the per-person sharing fare. The rate for each suite grade on this departure is shown on this page. Because the train carries a small number of suites, ask early and we will confirm what remains before you book international flights.

What travel documents do I need?

A valid passport is required at check-in and at each border crossing, and you should keep it accessible on the days formalities take place. Visas are not included in the fare and are your responsibility; requirements vary by nationality across South Africa, Eswatini and Namibia. Arrange them well in advance, as some cannot be obtained at short notice.

What is the dress code?

Dinner is formal on most evenings on board, so pack a jacket and tie or the equivalent. Two evenings are themed instead - an Africa theme or smart casual on day five, and a 1920s theme or smart casual on day fifteen - and the nights at the desert and Etosha lodges are casual. Daytime calls for neutral, comfortable clothing, closed shoes, a hat and sun protection.

What are the meal times on board?

Breakfast is served in the dining cars from 07:00 to 10:00 on regular days, lunch at 13:00, tea at 16:30 in the lounge and observation cars, and dinner at 19:30. Excursion days start much earlier, with breakfast at 05:00 or 06:00 before a game drive. Days at leisure, such as day two and day seven, keep to the relaxed schedule.

When does the African Trilogy depart?

The expedition departs Pretoria on 9 October 2026 and reaches Walvis Bay on 25 October. That is the date currently on sale, and the departure list on this page shows it alongside the suite grades still available. Journeys of this length run rarely, so the date does not repeat later in the season.

How much deposit is required and when is the balance payable?

A deposit of 25 percent of the total fare confirms your suite, with the balance due 65 days before departure. A booking made inside 65 days of the departure date is payable in full at once. Exact amounts are confirmed in writing before any payment is taken.

How do I ask a question or book the African Trilogy from Pretoria to Walvis Bay?

Email travel@palacetours.com, call 786-408-0610, or send a WhatsApp message to https://wa.me/17864080610, and a travel specialist or our AI assistant will help. The departure list on this page is bookable directly, so you can choose your suite grade and confirm online. We can also arrange the nights you will need in Pretoria beforehand and in Walvis Bay or Swakopmund afterwards.

Ready to Book Your Journey?

Contact Palace Tours for personalized rates and departure dates

travel@palacetours.com | 786-408-0610

www.palacetours.com

500 S. Federal Hwy, Unit 3852, Hallandale Beach, FL 33008