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Rovos Rail Dar es Salaam to Cape Town: A 15-Night Grand Safari Across Africa

15 Nights • Luxury Experience

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Overview

Embark on an epic 15-night Rovos Rail journey from Dar es Salaam to Cape Town, tracing an extraordinary route that spans the diverse landscapes and rich cultures of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, and South Africa. This 5530km odyssey on 'The Most Luxurious Train in the World' is designed for discerning travelers who seek an immersive and elegant exploration of the African continent.

Your adventure begins in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, with a transfer to Tazara Station. From the moment you step aboard, you'll be enveloped in timeless luxury, with exquisite dining experiences, attentive service, and panoramic views from the lounge and observation cars. The train travels through the fertile lands of Tanzania, offering a game visit in the vast Nyerere National Park and navigating the dramatic switchbacks and viaducts of the Udzungwa Mountains. You'll have the opportunity to stretch your legs with a stroll through Makambako and witness the engineering marvel of the TAZARA railway line as it carves a path through remote territories to the impressive Chisimba Falls.

The journey continues across borders into Zambia, where you'll cross the Kafue Railway Bridge and spend two nights in the Livingstone area, allowing for an unforgettable stay at the Victoria Falls Hotel. Here, you'll marvel at the sheer power of Victoria Falls, one of the largest bodies of falling water on earth, and enjoy a sunset cruise on the Zambezi River. As the train traverses Zimbabwe and Botswana, you'll cross the Tropic of Capricorn and skirt the eastern edge of the Kalahari Basin. A highlight is the three-night stay at a luxury lodge in the malaria-free Madikwe Game Reserve, offering multiple game drives to spot the iconic Big Five within its unique transition zone ecosystem.

Rejoining the train in Zeerust, you'll journey into South Africa, visiting Pretoria for a city tour and an exclusive look at the Rovos Rail Station and workshops. The historic diamond city of Kimberley awaits, where you can explore the Diamond Mine Museum and the Big Hole. The route then winds through the vast semi-desert Karoo and the charming historic village of Matjiesfontein, before descending through the scenic Hex River Valley. The journey culminates in the vibrant city of Cape Town, leaving you with indelible memories of an unparalleled rail safari across the heart of Africa.

Images: Courtesy - Rovos Rail

Your Itinerary



DAY 1

DAR ES SALAAM

09:30 — Check-in reception at the Kivukoni Room, Serena Hotel, Ohio Street, Dar es Salaam. Guests are then transferred to Tazara Station.

12:00 — The train departs from Tazara Station in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. You'll have time to settle into your suite before joining fellow travelers in the lounge and observation cars. For the first 72 hours, the observation car is at the front of the train. Lectures on the journey will take place throughout the day in the lounge car. Please consult Lecture Sheets for details.

13:00 — Lunch is served in the dining cars. The train travels through the fertile lands of Tanzania, heading towards Nyerere.

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

19:30 — Dinner is served in the dining cars en route to Fuga Halt. The dress code for dinner is Formal.

DAY 2

TAIN

05:30 — Breakfast is served in the dining cars, preparing you for an early start.

07:00 — Enjoy a game visit in the Nyerere National Park, one of Africa's largest protected areas at 30 000km² (time permitting). This offers a chance to spot diverse wildlife in their natural habitat.

13:00 — Lunch is served in the dining cars. Post-safari, the train travels towards the jungled Udzungwa Mountains, negotiating dramatic switchbacks, viaducts, and tunnels as it ascends the escarpment.

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

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

Victoria Falls Note: It is advisable to familiarize yourself with available activities such as the Tour of Victoria Falls, helicopter rides, whitewater rafting, and bungee-jumping. Excursions can be booked at the hotel or on the train with the onboard historian between **16:30-18:00**. Cash is accepted for these bookings.



DAY 3

MAKAMBAKO

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

09:00 — The train arrives at Makambako, where you can enjoy an optional stroll through the town, offering a glimpse into local life.

13:00 — Lunch is served in the dining cars. Post-Makambako, the train passes through ancient baobab forests and begins its ascent of the Rift Valley, marking the approximate midpoint between Africa's two Great Rift Valley lakes.

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.

Time Change: Please turn your watches back by one hour before retiring for the evening, as you transition into a new time zone.

DAY 4

CHISIMBA FALLS

07:00 — Breakfast is served in the dining cars until **10:00**. Border formalities for Tunduma, Tanzania, and Nakonde, Zambia, will be completed this morning.

13:00 — Lunch is served in the dining cars. The train travels along the TAZARA railway line, an impressive engineering achievement and one of Africa's best-kept secrets, passing through remote territory.

14:30 — Enjoy a visit to Chisimba Falls. Guests can take a pleasant walk down to the rock pools at the base or admire the falls from various viewpoints. You will return to the train by **18:00**.

19:30 — Dinner is served in the dining cars. The dress code for dinner is 'Africa' Theme or Smart Casual.

Chisimba Falls: This series of three waterfalls (Mutumuna, Kaela, Chishimba) is separated over 300m along the Luombe River. According to Bemba tradition, the nature spirit 'Chishimba' resides in a cave behind the falls, prohibiting bad behavior. The area also shows evidence of Iron Age activities, including kilns and iron ore deposits.



DAY 5

KAPIRI MPOSHI

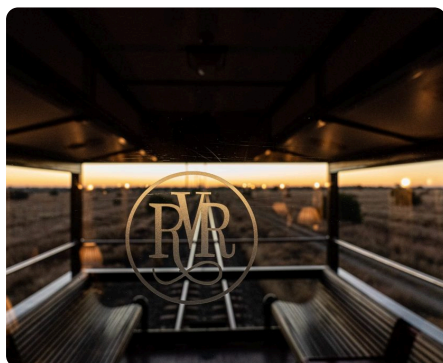
07:00 — Breakfast is served in the dining cars until **10:00**.

13:00 — Lunch is served in the dining cars. Today, the train is turned at Kapiri Mposhi, a significant railway junction in Zambia.

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.

Victoria Falls: If you have decided to book activities through the on-board historian, please ensure you have done so before dinner. Cash is accepted for these bookings.



DAY 6

LUSAKA

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

After breakfast, the train departs Lusaka, the capital of Zambia, and crosses the impressive Kafue Railway Bridge. This 477-meter long steel girder truss bridge consists of 13 spans, each 33 meters, supported on concrete piers – a true engineering marvel over the Kafue River.

13:00 — Lunch is served in the dining cars. The train continues its journey, traveling towards Zimbabwe.

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.



DAY 7

LIVINGSTONE

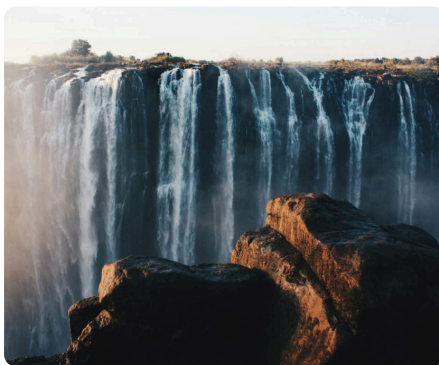
07:00 — Breakfast is served in the dining cars until **10:00**. Border formalities for Livingstone, Zambia, and Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, will be completed. The train then crosses the iconic Victoria Falls Bridge.

11:00 — You will arrive at the incomparable Victoria Falls. Disembark with a small overnight bag and walk across to the Victoria Falls Hotel. Tog bags are provided in your suite for convenience. A welcome address on the lawn is followed by lunch at Jungle Junction. Luggage will be delivered directly to your rooms.

15:45 (WINTER) / 16:15 (SUMMER) — Meet in the hotel foyer before departing for a memorable sunset cruise on the Zambezi River.

19:30 — Dinner is served at the Livingstone Room, Victoria Falls Hotel. Dress code: Smart Casual (strictly no safari-wear, shorts, sandals or sneakers).

Victoria Falls: This natural wonder is the largest body of falling water on earth, with the Zambezi River cascading dramatically over a precipice 1.6km in length and 108m deep, compressing its vast volume into a 50m wide chasm. The sound can be deafening, and spray can inhibit photography, especially in autumn. Currency exchange and WiFi are available at the hotel (passports not required for exchange). If crossing into Zambia, obtain your passport from the Train Manager/Guest Services Manager.



DAY 8

VICTORIA FALLS

Check-out time is normally at **10:00** (to be advised). If you have organized morning activities, ensure you have checked out. Luggage storage at reception is complimentary until afternoon departure. Call the front desk for porter service.

06:30 — Breakfast is served at the Jungle Junction Restaurant until **10:00**. The day is at leisure to explore Victoria Falls further or enjoy optional activities.

12:00 — Lunch is served at the Jungle Junction Restaurant, Victoria Falls Hotel.

16:00 — Meet on the station platform.

17:00 — The train departs Victoria Falls. Please ensure the Train Manager/Guest Services Manager has your passport before departure.

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



DAY 9

PLUMTREE

07:00 — Breakfast is served in the dining cars until **10:00**. Border formalities for Plumtree, Zimbabwe, and Francistown, Botswana, will be completed this morning.

13:00 — Lunch is served in the dining cars. The train crosses the Tropic of Capricorn and enters the eastern edge of the Kalahari Basin. Known as 'Kgalagadi' in Botswana, the Kalahari is not a true desert but experiences small amounts of rain, with some areas receiving up to 250mm. This vast basin covers over 2 500 000km² across multiple countries, supporting unique ecosystems. The only constant river, the Okavango, flows into a delta in the northwest, creating rich marshes for wildlife.

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.

MADIKWE GAME RESERVE

07:00 — Breakfast is served in the dining cars until **09:30**.

10:00 — Transfer (approximately 90 minutes) to a luxury lodge in Madikwe Game Reserve for a two-night stay. Border formalities will take place en route, and guests are required to present themselves to officials (luggage may be searched).

Lunch is served upon arrival at the lodge.

In the afternoon, enjoy a game drive (approximately 3 hours), venturing into the reserve.

19:00 — Dinner is served at the lodge. The dress code for dinner is Casual.

Madikwe Game Reserve: This prime malaria-free Big Five wildlife reserve borders Botswana. It lies within a transition zone between bushveld and Kalahari thornveld, featuring volcanic intrusions, wide open plains, and riverine environments. This results in incredible biodiversity, supporting over 300 resident and migrant bird species.

Note: Pack a small overnight bag. Spa facilities are available (own account).

Payment in ZAR or by credit card only. Meal and activity times will be confirmed on arrival.



MADIKWE GAME RESERVE

Begin your day with an early morning game drive (approximately 3 hours), offering the best chance to spot elusive predators as the bush awakens.

07:00 — Breakfast is served at the lodge until **09:30**.

12:30 — Lunch is served at the lodge.

In the afternoon, embark on another game drive (approximately 3 hours), exploring different areas of the reserve and its diverse ecosystems.

19:00 — Dinner is served at the lodge. The dress code for dinner is Casual.

ZEERUST

Begin your day with an early morning game drive (approximately 2 hours), a final opportunity to witness Madikwe's incredible wildlife.

07:00 — Breakfast is served until **09:30**. Please ensure your bags are ready for collection by **10:30** and proceed to check out from the lodge.

11:00 — Depart the lodge and transfer back to the train at Zeerust.

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. The dress code for dinner is Formal.



PRETORIA

06:00 — Breakfast is served in the dining cars as the train travels through the historic goldfields of South Africa, revealing the landscape shaped by its rich mining heritage.

08:30 — Transfer (approximately 60 minutes) to Pretoria for a city tour. This includes a visit to the Rovos Rail Station, where you will enjoy lunch on the platform.

After lunch, embark on a walking tour of the station and locomotive workshops (weather permitting), gaining insight into the meticulous care and engineering that goes into maintaining these magnificent trains. You will return to the train after approximately 60 minutes.

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.

KIMBERLEY

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

After breakfast, enjoy a tour of Kimberley's Diamond Mine Museum and the iconic Big Hole. Kimberley, the capital of the Northern Cape, is renowned for the discovery of diamonds that led to its establishment in 1871. The Big Hole, an open-pit mine, is a stark reminder of the city's rich history.

13:00 — Lunch is served in the dining cars. Post-Kimberley, the train travels through 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, forming what geologists call the Karoo system.

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.



MATJIESFONTEIN

07:00 — Breakfast is served in the dining cars until **10:00**. During breakfast, guests have the option to disembark at Whitehill Siding and walk the 5km into Matjiesfontein, accompanied by a staff member. Alternatively, you can disembark directly at Matjiesfontein for an opportunity to stroll through the historic village. Of special interest are the museum on the platform and a collection of historic cars and railway carriages to the right of the Lord Milner Hotel.

About an hour after Matjiesfontein, the train arrives at the first of four tunnels on the pass. The first tunnel is 13.5km long, so guests should be careful when walking through the train and may wish to turn on necessary lights.

13:00 — Lunch is served in the dining cars. The train climbs approximately 750m down the escarpment through the picturesque Hex River Valley.

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 '1920s' Theme or Smart Casual.

CAPE TOWN

07:00 — Breakfast is served in the dining cars until **09:30**. Please ensure your luggage is ready for collection 15 minutes before arrival and that you have your passport.

10:00 — The train arrives at journey's end at Cape Town Station.



Tips & Travel Guide

Check-in Information

For your Dar es Salaam departure, check-in at the Kivukoni Room, Serena Hotel, Ohio Street, Dar es Salaam, by **09:30**. This allows for a smooth transfer to Tazara Station for your **12:00** departure. Passports are required at check-in, but no vouchers are needed. If your journey involved a Rovos Rail Station tour in Pretoria, you would arrive two hours prior to departure for the full experience.

Dining Schedule

Meals on board are served in one sitting in the dining cars. Breakfast is available from **07:00-10:00**, Lunch at **13:00**, Tea at **16:30**, and Formal Dinner at **19:30**. The bar service operates from **07:00** until approximately **01:00**. A gong sounds to announce lunch and dinner. All meals and most beverages are included, with special requests like international sparkling wine available at an additional cost if pre-ordered 30+ days in advance.

Dress Code

During the day on board, the dress code is smart casual – neat, conventional, yet relatively informal. For dinners, a formal dress code applies: gentlemen are required to wear a collar and tie (jacket optional), while ladies are encouraged to wear cocktail/evening dresses or suits. Themed evenings, such as 'Africa' or '1920s', offer an opportunity to dress up accordingly or opt for smart casual. For off-train excursions, comfortable walking shoes, sun lotion, and hats are recommended. Rain capes are available. For game drives, dress in layers as mornings can be cool, warming up considerably, and afternoons can cool down again.

Electricity & Connectivity

The train provides 220V AC 50Hz 3-point round-pronged wall plugs, and 110V/220V 2-pin plugs suitable for shavers and chargers. USB ports are available in each suite, and international adaptors are provided. Power is supplied by a generator, and occasional breaks in power are necessary for servicing. Please note that there is no radio, television, or WiFi on board the train itself. Mobile phone use is confined to your suite. WiFi is available at Rovos Rail lounges in Cape Town and Pretoria, and at most off-train accommodation.

Climate & Weather

The journey crosses various climates. Temperatures can range significantly. For example, Dar es Salaam sees average highs of 28°C in January/February and lows of 18°C in July/August. Cape Town averages highs of 28°C in Jan/Feb and lows of 7°C in July/August. All public cars are air-conditioned and suites have individual controls for heating. Electric under-blankets are fitted on beds. Always pack layers, comfortable shoes, hats, and sun protection. Rain capes are available.

Onboard Amenities

Your suite is equipped with a range of South African biodegradable and/or recyclable amenities, including soap, shampoo, body wash, lotion, lip balm, insect repellent, bamboo tissues, rounds, and ear buds. Plug-in hairdryers are available. Dressing gowns and slippers are provided for your comfort, and gowns can be purchased from the Gift Shop. A limited laundry service (10 items/day) with a 48-hour turnaround is available, though dry-cleaning is not. A small gift

shop on board offers stamps, basic first aid, and personal essentials. Earplugs are available in your amenities bag and the Gift Shop.

Medical Information

Guests are responsible for their health; please inform Rovos Rail of any medical conditions or disabilities at the time of reservation. A doctor is on board for the Dar es Salaam to Cape Town journey. Anti-malarial precautions are recommended for areas like Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, and parts of South Africa. Recommended immunisations include Hepatitis A+B, Polio, Tetanus, and Cholera (low risk). A Yellow Fever/Medical Exemption Certificate is essential if traveling to/from DRC and Angola, or if your onward travel requires it. Consult your doctor or Travel Doctor Africa (+27 (0)11 214 9030).

Luggage

Ample storage is available under the bed or on a luggage rack in your suite. While there are no strict restrictions, it's recommended to limit luggage to two large suitcases. A Rovos Rail tog bag is provided for overnight trips or as hand luggage for plane transfers, for which a soft bag is preferable due to potential 15kg weight restrictions.

Currency

South African Rands are accepted in South Africa, Namibia, and eSwatini. US Dollars are accepted in Zimbabwe, Tanzania (Dar es Salaam only), DRC, and Angola, with cash highly recommended. US Dollar notes printed before 2013 or worn notes will not be accepted. Low denominations are best for shopping and gratuities, while larger denominations may offer better exchange rates for local currency, especially in Tanzania.

Departure Dates & Rates

DEPARTURE DATE	CLASS / CABIN	SINGLE	DOUBLE (PP)
Oct 25, 2026	Royal Suite	—	\$28,600
	Deluxe Suite	\$31,500	\$21,800
	Pullman Suite	\$24,000	\$16,500

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



Look for Coupons and Special Rates on our website.

Visit <https://www.palacetours.com/tour/rovos-rail-dar-es-salaam-cape-town> for the latest 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 Cascais

- 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.

Frequently Asked Questions

How long is the Dar es Salaam to Cape Town journey and what route does it follow?

It is a fifteen-night journey of roughly 5,530 kilometres, leaving Dar es Salaam in Tanzania and arriving at Cape Town Station on the morning of day sixteen. The train runs south along the TAZARA line into Zambia, pauses at Victoria Falls, crosses Zimbabwe and Botswana, then works down through South Africa. It is a genuine transcontinental rail safari rather than a short scenic run.

Which countries does the journey pass through?

Five: Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa. Border formalities take place at Tunduma and Nakonde on day four, at Livingstone and Victoria Falls on day seven, at Plumtree and Francistown on day nine, and again on the way to Madikwe. Your passport is needed at check-in and at each crossing.

Where do I check in and what time does the train leave?

Check-in is at the Kivukoni Room, Serena Hotel, Ohio Street, Dar es Salaam, by 09:30 on day one, after which guests are transferred to Tazara Station. The train departs at 12:00, and lunch is served at 13:00 as it heads into Tanzania's fertile lands. Passports are required at check-in; no vouchers are needed.

What happens in Nyerere National Park and the Udzungwa Mountains?

Day two starts with breakfast at 05:30 and a game visit at 07:00 in Nyerere National Park, one of Africa's largest protected areas at 30,000 square kilometres, time permitting. After lunch the train climbs towards the jungled Udzungwa Mountains, negotiating dramatic switchbacks, viaducts and tunnels as it ascends the escarpment. It is one of the most striking stretches of railway engineering on the whole route.

What is the TAZARA line and what is Chisimba Falls?

The TAZARA railway is an extraordinary feat of engineering and one of Africa's best-kept secrets, carrying the train through remote territory few travellers ever see. On day four you visit Chisimba Falls at 14:30, a series of three waterfalls where you can walk down to the rock pools at the base or admire them from the viewpoints. You are back on board by 18:00.

How much time is spent at Victoria Falls?

The train crosses the Victoria Falls Bridge on day seven and you disembark at 11:00 with an overnight bag, walking across to the Victoria Falls Hotel for two nights. That afternoon brings a sunset cruise on the Zambezi River, and day eight is at leisure to see the Falls or take optional activities before the train leaves at 17:00. Activities can be booked through the onboard historian earlier in the journey, and cash is accepted.

What is the Madikwe Game Reserve stay like?

On day ten you transfer roughly ninety minutes from the train to a luxury lodge in Madikwe Game Reserve, with border formalities en route. The stay includes an afternoon game drive on arrival, early morning and afternoon drives the following day, and a final early drive before you rejoin the train at Zeerust. Madikwe is a malaria-free Big Five reserve in a transition zone between bushveld and Kalahari thornveld.

What does the Pretoria day include?

On day thirteen the train travels through South Africa's historic goldfields before a transfer of about an hour into Pretoria for a city tour. Lunch is served on the platform at the train's own station, followed by a walking tour of the station and locomotive workshops, weather permitting. It is a rare look at how these carriages are maintained and restored.

What is there to see at Kimberley?

Day fourteen brings a tour of Kimberley's Diamond Mine Museum and the iconic Big Hole, an open-pit excavation that gave rise to the city after diamonds were found in 1871. Afterwards the train crosses the Karoo, a vast semi-desert that was once an inland sea and whose silt beds geologists call the Karoo system. It is one of the great empty landscapes of the journey.

What are Matjiesfontein and the Hex River Valley?

On day fifteen you can disembark at Whitehill Siding and walk the five kilometres into Matjiesfontein with a staff member, or step off directly in the village. The platform museum and the collection of historic cars and railway carriages beside the Lord Milner Hotel are the highlights. About an hour later the train enters the first of four tunnels on the pass, the longest running 13.5 kilometres, so carry a light if you are moving through the train.

What suite grades are available?

Three grades are offered: the Pullman Suite, the Deluxe Suite, and the Royal Suite, which occupies half a carriage at around 16 square metres with a private lounge area. All suites have en-suite facilities, tea facilities, a safe, air conditioning and daily servicing, with hangers and shelves for storage. The train also carries dining cars, a lounge car, a gift shop, a smoking lounge and an observation car with an open-air balcony.

What is included in the fare?

Accommodation on board, all meals in the dining cars, all beverages on board apart from a few premium exceptions, room service and limited laundry of ten items a day with a 48-hour turnaround are included. So are guided excursions and entrance fees as per the itinerary, an onboard historian and doctor, government tax, an overnight bag for off-train stays, meals during those stays, and snacks and drinks on the sunset cruise. The exact fare for each suite grade is shown on this page.

What is excluded?

Beverages outside the included selection, personal expenses, visas for every country visited, and travel insurance are excluded, as are pre- and post-tour accommodation and any flights or transfers to and from the train. Laundry during off-train lodge stays and meals at venues not specified are also charged separately. Gratuities are suggested at about \$25 per guest per night on board and around \$25 per guest per day at the lodges.

Can I take a suite for sole occupancy?

Yes, suites can be reserved for a single traveller at the applicable single-occupancy rate rather than the per-person sharing fare, and the rate for each grade is shown on this page. The train carries relatively few suites, so a fifteen-night departure sells out well ahead. Ask us to check availability before you book international flights.

Are there child fares on this journey?

Children are priced by their age on the departure date, with one band for those under five and another for ages five to under twelve. Fifteen nights with pre-dawn game drives, five border crossings and formal dinners is demanding for young children. Email travel@palacetours.com or call 786-408-0610 and we will quote your family exactly.

What travel documents do I need?

A valid passport is required at check-in and at every border crossing, and you may be asked to present yourself to officials, with luggage occasionally searched. Visas for all five countries are excluded from the fare and remain your responsibility, with requirements depending on your nationality. Start arranging them well in advance, because a single missing visa can interrupt the journey.

What is the dress code on board?

Dinner is formal on most evenings, so pack a jacket and tie or the equivalent. Day four is an Africa theme or smart casual, and the nights at the Madikwe lodge are casual. Daytime is relaxed: neutral colours, closed shoes, a hat and sun protection work best for game drives and walking tours.

When does this journey depart?

The journey departs Dar es Salaam on 25 October 2026 and arrives in Cape Town on 10 November. That is the date currently on sale, and the departure list on this page shows it with the suite grades still available. Transcontinental journeys of this length run only a few times a year, so the date does not repeat within the season.

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

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

How do I ask a question or book the Dar es Salaam to Cape Town rail safari?

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 hotel nights you will need in Dar es Salaam beforehand and in Cape Town at journey's end.

Ready to Book Your Journey?

Contact Palace Tours for personalized rates and departure dates

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