



PALACE TOURS
Travel Like Royalty

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Rovos Rail Copper Trail: A 15-Day Luxury Train Journey from Victoria Falls to Lobito

14 Nights • Luxury Experience

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Overview

Embark on an extraordinary 15-day rail adventure aboard Rovos Rail, tracing the historic Copper Trail from the majestic Victoria Falls to the Angolan port of Lobito. This meticulously crafted journey spans four Southern African nations—Zimbabwe, Zambia, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Angola—offering a unique blend of natural wonders, cultural encounters, and industrial heritage. As the train glides through diverse landscapes, from the Zambezi escarpment to the Angolan plateau, you'll witness the continent's raw beauty and the enduring spirit of its people.

The journey begins at Victoria Falls, where the thunderous Zambezi River plunges into a chasm, creating one of the world's most spectacular waterfalls. From there, you travel into Zambia, exploring the wildlife of Kafue National Park with a sunset cruise on the Kafue River and visiting an elephant sanctuary near Lusaka dedicated to rehabilitating orphaned calves. The route then leads into the heart of the Copperbelt, crossing into the DRC to the bustling city of Lubumbashi and delving into the vast copper and cobalt mines of Kolwezi, an area of immense global significance.

Angola unfolds next, a country rich in history and resilience. You'll experience walking tours through towns like Luau, the starting point of the Benguela line, and Luena, learning about Angola's recent past. The journey continues to Kuito, a town in the historical heart of the Ovimbundu kingdom, and Huambo, the nation's second-largest city on the central plateau. Each stop offers a glimpse into local life, from vibrant markets to poignant historical sites. The train itself is a sanctuary of Edwardian elegance, where gourmet dining and exceptional service complement the ever-changing panorama outside your window. This Copper Trail expedition is more than a journey; it's an immersive narrative, connecting you to the soul of Africa through its landscapes, wildlife, and the warmth of its communities, culminating at the Atlantic coast in Lobito.

Images: Courtesy - Rovos Rail

Your Itinerary



DAY 1

LIVINGSTONE

16:00 — The train departs Victoria Falls, crossing the iconic bridge into Livingstone, Zambia. Livingstone, named after David Livingstone, the Scottish explorer, served as the province's capital until 2012. Guests may freshen up in their suites before gathering in the lounge or observation cars. Please ensure your passport is with the Train Manager or Administration Deputy; it will be returned before the trip's end. **16:30** — Tea is served in the lounge and observation cars. **19:30** — Dinner is served in the dining cars en route to Choma. Dress: Formal.

DAY 2

LUSAKA

Lectures are offered throughout the morning and/or afternoon in the lounge car; consult Lecture Sheets for details. **07:00** — Breakfast is served in the dining cars until 10:00. **12:30** — Lunch is served in the dining cars. The train crosses the impressive Kafue railway bridge, a 477-meter long steel girder truss bridge with 13 spans, each 33 meters, supported on concrete piers. **14:30** — Disembark for a sunset cruise on the Kafue River, with drinks included. **18:30** — Return to the train. **19:30** — Dinner is served in the dining cars en route to Lusaka, Zambia's capital, for overnight. Dress: Formal.





DAY 3

LUSAKA

07:00 — Breakfast is served in the dining cars until 09:00. **09:00** — Visit Lusaka's elephant sanctuary. Here, dedicated teams rescue and rehabilitate orphaned elephants, with the ultimate goal of returning them to the wild in Kafue National Park. **13:00** — Lunch is served in the dining cars. The train travels through Zambia's Central Province to Kabwe. **16:30** — Tea is served in the lounge car and observation car. **19:30** — Dinner is served in the dining cars en route to Kapiri Mposhi for overnight. Dress: Formal.

DAY 4

SOUTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK

Please pack a small overnight bag for a three-night stay in South Luangwa National Park; bags are provided in your suite for convenience. Ensure you have warm clothing for game drives, and correct shoes for walking safaris. Game drive times will be confirmed upon arrival. You will need your passport from the Train Manager or Administration Deputy. **07:00** — Breakfast is served in the dining cars until departure. **10:00** — Transfer to Ndola Airstrip for a chartered flight to South Luangwa National Park. Founded in 1904, the park covers about 9050km² of the Luangwa Valley floor, ranging from 500-800m above sea level, bordered by the Muchinga Escarpment and the Luangwa River. **12:00** — Transfer to respective camps, enjoy lunch, and check-in. **15:30** — Afternoon game drive in the Luangwa Valley (approximately 3 hours). **19:30** — Dinner and overnight at the camps. Dress: Casual.



DAY 5

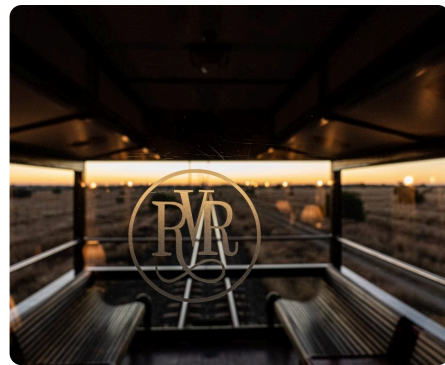
SOUTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK

06:00 — Enjoy a continental breakfast. **06:30** — Early morning game drive (approximately 3 hours). **10:00** — Brunch is served. Afternoon at leisure. **15:30** — Afternoon game drive (approximately 3 hours). **19:30** — Dinner and overnight at the camps. Dress: Casual.

DAY 6

SOUTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK

06:00 — Enjoy a continental breakfast. **06:30** — Early morning game drive (approximately 3 hours). **10:00** — Brunch is served. Afternoon at leisure. **15:30** — Afternoon game drive (approximately 3 hours). **19:30** — Dinner and overnight at the camps. Dress: Casual.



DAY 7

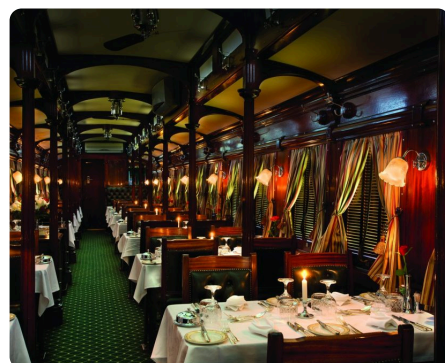
SOUTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK

Please ensure your luggage is ready for collection. Breakfast, a morning game drive (approximately 2 hours), and check-out times will be confirmed. Transfer to the airport for the chartered flight to Ndola, Zambia. **12:00** — Transfer to Ndola Station to rejoin the train. Please ensure the Train Manager or Administration Deputy has your passport for border formalities. **13:00** — Lunch is served in the dining cars as the train travels towards the border. **16:30** — Tea is served in the lounge car and observation car. **19:30** — Dinner is served in the dining cars en route to Lubumbashi. Dress: Formal.

DAY 8

LUBUMBASHI

06:00 — Breakfast is served in the dining cars until 08:00. **08:00** — Enjoy a drive through the city of Lubumbashi, the second-largest city in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the heart of the Copperbelt. **11:00** — Rejoin the train and travel towards Lukuni. **13:00** — Lunch is served in the dining cars. The train passes Luishia, an old open-pit copper and cobalt mine. **16:30** — Tea is served in the lounge car and observation car. **19:30** — Dinner is served in the dining cars en route to Kolwezi for overnight. Dress: Formal.





DAY 9

KOLWEZI

06:00 — Breakfast is served in the dining cars until 08:00. **08:00** — Disembark at Kolwezi for a visit to a copper mine, situated in an area that holds one of the world's largest known copper and cobalt resources. **10:30** — Enjoy brunch at Katebi Lodge. **13:00** — Return to the train. Depart for Kasombo. **15:30** — Tea is served in the lounge car and observation car. **19:30** — Dinner is served in the dining cars en route to Mutshatsha for overnight. Dress: Formal.

DAY 10

KAKOPA

07:00 — Breakfast is served in the dining cars until 10:00. **13:00** — Lunch is served in the dining cars. The train passes Kakopa en route to Malonga. **16:30** — Tea is served in the lounge car and observation car. **19:30** — Dinner is served in the dining cars en route to Dilolo. Dress: "Africa" Theme or Smart Casual. Please turn your watches back an hour before retiring for the evening, as you cross into a new time zone.



DAY 11

LUAU

07:00 — Breakfast is served in the dining cars until 10:00. Angolan border formalities will take place. **11:00** — Enjoy a walking tour of Luau, the start of the Benguela line. **12:00** — The train departs for Luena. **13:00** — Lunch is served in the dining cars. **16:30** — Tea is served as the train travels alongside the Cassai River. The catchment of the Cassai River encompasses a vast eco-region of 900,000km² with an incredibly rich fish fauna. As the train passes the villages of Cassai and Cameia, there is sometimes an opportunity to see local fishermen at work. **19:30** — Dinner is served in the dining cars en route to Luena for overnight. Dress: Formal.

DAY 12

ICA

07:00 — Breakfast is served in the dining cars until 10:00. **10:00** — Enjoy a walking tour of Luena to learn more about the recent history of Angola.

11:00 — Depart for Tchicala Tcholohanga. **13:00** — Lunch is served in the dining cars. **16:30** — Tea is served in the lounge car and observation car.

19:30 — Dinner is served in the dining cars en route to Kuito for overnight.

Dress: Formal.



DAY 13

KUITO

07:00 — Breakfast is served in the dining cars until 09:00. **09:00** — Enjoy a stroll through the town of Kuito, built in the historical heart of the

Ovimbundu kingdom. **11:00** — Depart for Huambo. **13:00** — Lunch is served in the dining cars. **16:30** — Tea is served in the lounge car and observation

car. **19:30** — Dinner is served in the dining cars en route to Huambo for overnight. Dress: Formal.

DAY 14

HUAMBO

07:00 — Breakfast is served in the dining cars until 09:00. **09:00** — Enjoy a tour of Huambo, the second-largest city in Angola and one of the old kingdoms on the central plateau. **11:00** — Depart for Lépi. **13:00** — Lunch is served in the dining cars. **16:30** — Tea is served in the lounge car and observation car. **19:30** — Dinner is served in the dining cars en route to Cubal for overnight. Dress: "1920s" Theme or Smart Casual.





DAY 15

LOBITO

Please ensure that your luggage is ready for collection by 09:45 and that you have your passport. **07:00** — Breakfast is served in the dining cars until 09:30. **10:00** — Arrive at journey's end, Lobito Station, Benguela Province, Angola.

Tips & Travel Guide

Check-in Information

Please ensure to check-in at least one hour before departure. If you wish to visit the Rovos Rail museum or take a site tour at the Capital Park Station in Pretoria, it is recommended to arrive two hours prior. Passports are required at check-in, and luggage will be tagged and placed in your suite. For the Victoria Falls to Lobito journey, check-in is at Victoria Falls Hotel and Station, Mallet Drive, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. For Lobito arrivals, the journey concludes at Central Station, Av. Craveiro Lopes, Lobito, Angola, with check-in at Hotel Terminus, R. Robert Williams 16, Lobito.

Dining Schedule

Meals on board are served in one sitting only in the dining cars, accompanied by a selection of fine South African wines. Breakfast is served from 07:00-10:00, lunch at 13:00, and tea at 16:30. Formal dinner begins at 19:30. Bar service is available from 07:00-01:00. A gong heralds lunch and dinner.

Dress Code

For daytime activities on board, the dress code is smart casual, meaning neat, conventional yet relatively informal clothing. For dinner on board, the dress code is formal. Gentlemen are required to wear a jacket and tie (mandatory from 2024; currently a collar and tie are mandatory, jacket optional). Ladies are suggested to wear cocktail/evening dresses or suits. Long journeys often include themed evenings, such as an 'Africa' evening or a '1920s' evening, where guests can dress up accordingly or opt for smart casual. For off-train excursions and game drives, comfortable walking shoes, hats, and sun protection are recommended. Warm clothing is advised for mornings and evenings, as temperatures can vary considerably. Rain capes are available.

Electricity & Connectivity

The train is 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 provided. A generator supplies power, but be aware that certain breaks in power are necessary for servicing. Mobile phones, laptops, and similar devices are confined to suites to avoid disturbing other guests. Wi-Fi reception is generally poor while the train is moving. Wi-Fi is available at Rovos Rail lounges in Cape Town and Pretoria, and at most off-train accommodations (though not always guaranteed).

Climate & Weather

Temperatures vary significantly along the Copper Trail route. Mornings on game drives can be cool, warming up considerably later, while afternoons can be warm and then cool down. Warm clothing, hats, comfortable shoes, and sun protection are advised, depending on the season. Rain capes are available. Electric under-blankets are fitted on the beds for cooler nights.

Onboard Amenities

Each suite receives a complete amenity bag with South African biodegradable and recyclable products including soap, bamboo tissues, shampoo, hand and body wash, hand and body lotion, lip balm, insect repellent spray (for journeys over 4 days), reusable bamboo rounds, ear buds, and a compostable shower cap. Plug-in hairdryers are available, as

on board; they can also be purchased from the Gift Shop. A limited laundry service (10 items/day) is available, with a 48-hour turnaround. No dry-cleaning facilities are available. A small gift shop on the train offers various items, and the Administration Deputy can assist with basic first-aid items and administrative requirements. Board games, cards, books, and magazines are available in the lounge and observation cars.

Medical Information

Guests are responsible for ensuring they are capable of undertaking tours and activities. Please inform Rovos Rail of any medical conditions, physical disabilities, or allergies at the time of reservation. A doctor is on board for the African Trilogy, Copper Trail, Trail of Two Oceans, and Dar es Salaam journeys. Anti-malarial precautions are recommended for areas like eSwatini, Kruger Park, Northern Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Etosha, Tanzania, DRC, and Angola. A Yellow Fever/Medical Exemption Certificate is essential for travel to/from DRC and Angola. Recommended immunizations (not required) include Hepatitis A + B, Polio, Tetanus, and Cholera (low risk). For medical advice, consult your clinic or doctor, or contact Travel Doctor Africa at 0861 300 911 (local) or +27 (0) 11 214 9030 (international).

Luggage

Luggage can be stored under the bed or above the door on a luggage rack in your suite. While there are no strict restrictions on board, it's recommended not to bring more than two large suitcases. For selected long journeys, guests receive a Rovos Rail tog bag for overnight trips or hand luggage on aircraft. A soft bag is preferable for plane transfers, which often have a 15kg weight restriction.

Currency

On board, only South African Rands are accepted, and all major credit cards are accepted. Outside of South Africa, Rands are accepted in Namibia and eSwatini. US Dollars are accepted in Zimbabwe, Tanzania (Dar es Salaam only), DRC, and Angola. Cash is highly recommended for excursions. US Dollars printed before 2013 or worn notes will not be accepted. Low denominations are recommended for shopping/gratuities, while larger denominations are better for exchanging to local currency, especially in Tanzania.

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 Copper Trail journey and where does it start and end?

The Copper Trail is a 15-day, 14-night luxury rail journey from Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe to the port of Lobito on Angola's Atlantic coast. The train departs Victoria Falls at 16:00 on Day 1 and arrives at Lobito Station at about 10:00 on Day 15.

Which countries does the Copper Trail pass through?

The journey crosses four countries: Zimbabwe, Zambia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Angola. It runs from the Zambezi escarpment through the Copperbelt to the Angolan plateau and the Atlantic coast.

What is the route of the Copper Trail train journey?

From Victoria Falls the train crosses into Livingstone, Zambia, then travels via the Kafue River and Lusaka to Ndola. It continues into the DRC to Lubumbashi and Kolwezi, then into Angola via Luau, Luena, Kuito and Huambo before reaching Lobito.

Does the Copper Trail include a safari?

Yes. From Day 4 to Day 7 you leave the train for three nights in South Luangwa National Park, flying by charter from Ndola. Game drives, park fees, levies and standard bar drinks at the lodge are included, and you fly back to Ndola to rejoin the train.

What suite categories are available on the Copper Trail?

There are three suite types: Pullman Suite, Deluxe Suite and Royal Suite. Royal Suites span half a carriage at about 16 square metres with a private lounge area. All suites have en-suite facilities, air conditioning, a safe, tea facilities and daily servicing.

How much does the Copper Trail cost?

Fares are quoted in US dollars per person sharing and depend on the suite category and date. No departures are currently listed on this page, so contact us and a travel specialist will confirm the current fare and next departure.

What is included in the Copper Trail fare?

The fare includes accommodation on the train, all meals, beverages on board (premium selections excepted), room service, limited laundry, guided excursions, entrance fees, government tax, and an on-board historian, hairstylist and doctor, plus the South Luangwa flights, lodge stay, game activities and park fees.

What is not included in the Copper Trail fare?

Not included are visas, travel insurance, personal expenses, premium beverages off the train, gratuities, pre- and post-tour hotels, and flights and transfers other than the South Luangwa charter. Our travel specialists can help arrange flights to Victoria Falls and home from Lobito.

How much should I budget for gratuities on the Copper Trail?

Gratuities are not included. The suggested guideline is US\$10-20 per person per night for train staff, and about US\$10 per guest per day for game lodge guides and staff during the South Luangwa stay.

Where do I check in for the Copper Trail?

Check-in is at the Victoria Falls Hotel and Station, Mallet Drive, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, at least one hour before departure. Passports are required at check-in, and your luggage is tagged and placed in your suite for you.

Do I need visas for the Copper Trail?

Visas are not included, and the journey crosses Zimbabwe, Zambia, the DRC and Angola. Requirements depend on your nationality and change over time, so check them well in advance; the train team holds passports to handle border formalities on board.

What is the dress code on the Copper Trail?

Most evenings are formal for dinner in the dining cars. Some nights have themes, such as an Africa theme or a 1920s theme, where smart casual is also acceptable. During the South Luangwa safari the dress is casual, and warm layers are recommended for game drives.

What will I see in the Democratic Republic of Congo?

In Lubumbashi, the DRC's second-largest city and heart of the Copperbelt, you take a city drive. The train passes the old Luishia open-pit mine, and at Kolwezi you visit a copper mine in an area holding one of the world's largest known copper and cobalt resources, with brunch at Katebi Lodge.

What are the highlights in Angola?

In Angola you take a walking tour of Luau, the start of the Benguela line, then Luena to learn about the country's recent history, Kuito in the heartland of the Ovimbundu kingdom, and Huambo, Angola's second-largest city on the central plateau, before reaching Lobito.

What are the Zambia highlights on the Copper Trail?

In Zambia the train crosses the 477-metre Kafue railway bridge, followed by a sunset cruise on the Kafue River. Near Lusaka you visit an elephant sanctuary that rescues and rehabilitates orphaned elephants for release into Kafue National Park.

How are meals served on the train?

Meals are served in a single sitting in the dining cars, with breakfast typically from 07:00, lunch around 13:00, afternoon tea in the lounge and observation cars, and dinner at 19:30. Lectures are also offered in the lounge car on some days.

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

A 25% deposit secures your suite on the Copper Trail. The balance is due 65 days before departure, and bookings made within 65 days of departure are paid in full at booking.

Can children or solo travellers join the Copper Trail?

Child pricing is set in two bands by age at departure: from 0 up to 5 years, and from 5 up to 12 years. Single occupancy is available on request. A travel specialist will confirm fares and suitable suites for your party.

Where does the Copper Trail finish in Lobito?

The journey concludes at Central Station, Av. Craveiro Lopes, Lobito, in Benguela Province, Angola, at about 10:00 on Day 15. Luggage should be ready for collection by 09:45, and you will need your passport on arrival.

How do I ask a question or book the Copper Trail from Victoria Falls to Lobito?

Email travel@palacetours.com, call 786-408-0610, or message us on WhatsApp at <https://wa.me/17864080610>, where a travel specialist or our AI assistant will reply. When departures are published, the departure list on this page is bookable directly.

Ready to Book Your Journey?

Contact Palace Tours for personalized rates and departure dates

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