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Rovos Rail Southern Cross: An 11-Night Luxury Train Journey from Pretoria to Victoria Falls

11 Nights • Luxury Experience

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Overview

Embark on an extraordinary 11-night rail adventure aboard Rovos Rail's Southern Cross, traversing the diverse landscapes and rich cultures of Southern Africa from Pretoria to the majestic Victoria Falls. This meticulously planned journey takes you through South Africa, Eswatini, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe, offering a blend of luxurious train travel and immersive off-train excursions.

Your journey begins in Pretoria, South Africa, before heading east into the coal-mining heartland and the historic town of Middelburg. The first full day takes you on the scenic Panorama Route, exploring natural wonders like Pilgrim's Rest, Bourke's Luck Potholes, and the breathtaking Graskop Gorge. A highlight is a game drive through the world-renowned Kruger National Park, home to the iconic Big Five and an impressive array of wildlife.

The train then ventures into Maputo, Mozambique, a city rich with Portuguese and colonial history, followed by a visit to the Kingdom of eSwatini for cultural experiences at Swazi Candles and Mantenga Cultural Village. Wildlife encounters continue with a game drive at Kapama Private Game Reserve and a visit to the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre, dedicated to conservation. As you travel north, you'll cross the Limpopo River valley, entering Zimbabwe to discover the ancient Great Zimbabwe Monument, a testament to a bygone era.

The journey continues with wildlife experiences at Antelope Park and the geological marvels of Matobo National Park, where you'll see bushman caves and the grave of Cecil John Rhodes. A final grand game drive awaits in Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe's largest wildlife area, known for its prolific lion population. The expedition culminates at Victoria Falls, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World, where you'll enjoy a walking tour of the falls and a serene sunset cruise on the Zambezi River. This Southern Cross itinerary promises an unforgettable exploration of Southern Africa's natural beauty, history, and vibrant cultures, all from the comfort and elegance of a luxury train.

Images: Courtesy - Rovos Rail

Your Itinerary



DAY 1

PRETORIA

Please check-in a minimum of one hour before departure. If you wish to join a tour of the Rovos Rail Station and visit the museum, it is suggested to arrive two hours prior to departure. At **10:00**, the train departs from Rovos Rail Station, Pretoria. The journey begins on the eastern line, passing through the harsh coal-mining area of eMalahleni (Witbank), the founding place of Rovos Rail, and Middelburg, known as the 'stainless steel capital of Africa'. This line, built by NZASM between 1893 and 1895, originally connected Pretoria to Lourenço Marques (Maputo). Lunch is served at **13:00** in the dining cars. Tea is offered at **16:30** in the lounge and observation cars. Dinner is served at **19:30** in the dining cars. Dress for dinner is Formal. Please ensure the Train Manager or Guest Services Manager has your passport.

DAY 2

MALELANE

Breakfast is served in the dining cars until **09:00**. At **09:00**, you embark on a tour of the Panorama Route, visiting Pilgrim's Rest, Bourke's Luck Potholes, and Graskop, including lunch. The Graskop viewing lift (optional, own account) descends 51m into the gorge, leading to a 600m trail through indigenous forest with wooden walkways and suspension bridges. You return to the train at approximately **17:00** (± 75 min). Dinner is served at **19:30** in the dining cars. The train travels to Malelane. Dress for dinner is Formal.

Pilgrim's Rest is a living museum and National Monument where gold was discovered in 1873. Bourke's Luck Potholes are unique cylindrical cavities formed by river erosion. The Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve offers spectacular viewpoints over South Africa's Lowveld.





DAY 3

KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Breakfast is served in the dining cars at **05:00**. At **07:00**, enjoy a game drive in the Kruger National Park, including lunch and an opportunity for curio shopping. Tea is served at **16:30** in the lounge and observation cars. The train travels to Maputo, Mozambique. Border formalities will take place. Dinner is served at **19:30** in the dining cars. Dress for dinner is Formal. The border crossing is at Komatipoort, South Africa / Ressano Garcia, Mozambique.

The famous Kruger National Park, spanning 2-million hectares, is a world leader in environmental management. It is home to 336 tree species, 49 fish species, 34 amphibian species, 114 reptile species, 507 bird species, and 147 mammal species, including the Big Five.

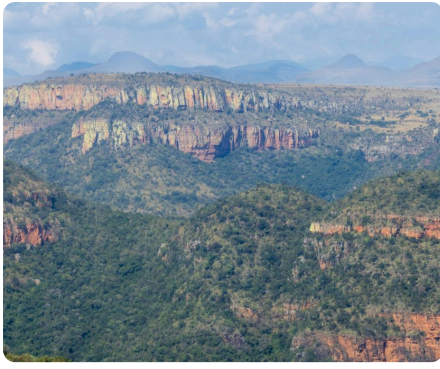
DAY 4

MAPUTO

Breakfast is served in the dining cars until **09:00**. At **09:00**, enjoy a tour of Maputo, Mozambique, with lunch. Tea is served at **16:30** in the lounge and observation cars. The train then travels to Mpaka, eSwatini, where border formalities will take place. Dinner is served at **19:30** in the dining cars. Dress for dinner is Formal. The border crossing is at Goba, Mozambique / Mpaka, Eswatini.

Maputo, the capital of Mozambique, is a city of contrasts, blending African, Portuguese, and early colonial traditions. Old Catholic churches stand alongside mosques, fortresses, and Victorian mansions, reflecting its bygone eras.





DAY 5

HOEDSPRUIT

Breakfast is served in the dining cars at **06:00**. At **08:30**, transfer (±90 min) to Swazi Candles and Mantenga Cultural Village for a visit with lunch at Mantenga Lodge. Tea is served at **16:30** in the lounge and observation cars. Border formalities will take place. Dinner is served at **19:30** in the dining cars. The train travels to Hoedspruit. Dress for dinner is Formal. The border crossing is at Mpaka, Eswatini / Komatipoort, South Africa.

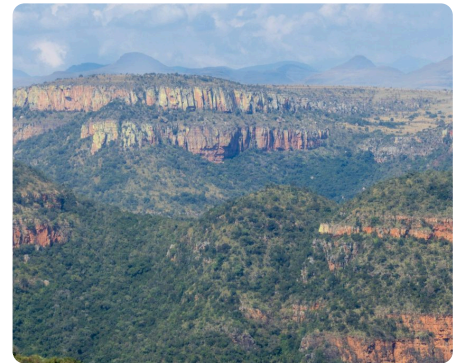
The tiny Kingdom of eSwatini (Swaziland) covers 17000km², mostly mountainous. It is an absolute monarchy with two capital cities: Mbabane (administrative) and Lobamba (royal/legislative). At Swazi Candles, guests can interact with artisans making candles, woodcarvings, textiles, and basketwork. Mantenga Cultural Village is a living museum representing classic Swazi lifestyle of the 1850s, nestled beneath 'Execution Rock'.

DAY 6

HOEDSPRUIT

Continental breakfast is served in the dining cars at **05:00**. At **05:30**, enjoy a game drive in Kapama Private Game Reserve, followed by a visit to the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre. Lunch is served at **12:00** in the dining cars. Tea is served at **16:30** in the lounge and observation cars. The train travels to Louis Trichardt. Dinner is served at **19:30** in the dining cars. Dress for dinner is 'Africa' Theme or Smart Casual.

Kapama Private Game Reserve, in South Africa's Limpopo province, is home to over 40 mammal species (including the Big Five) and 350 bird species. The Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre focuses on conservation of rare, vulnerable, and threatened species through breeding, rehabilitation, and anti-poaching efforts, educating surrounding communities.





DAY 7

MUSINA

Breakfast is served in the dining cars until **10:00**. The morning is spent at leisure on board as the train passes through the Soutpansberg mountain range, part of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Lunch is served at **13:00** in the dining cars. The train crosses the semi-arid Limpopo River valley. Tea is served at **16:30** in the lounge and observation cars. The train travels through baobab country. Dinner is served at **19:30** in the dining cars. Dress for dinner is Formal. The border crossing is at Musina, South Africa / Beitbridge, Zimbabwe.

Limpopo Province, in South Africa's far north, borders Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique. Its landscape varies from tropical forests to semi-desert. The Soutpansberg mountain range is known for its biological diversity. The Limpopo River is famously featured in Rudyard Kipling's 'Just So Stories'.

DAY 8

ZIMBABWE

Breakfast is served in the dining cars at **06:00**. At **08:00**, transfer (±75 min) to the Great Zimbabwe Monument for a visit with lunch. Dinner is served at **19:30** in the dining cars. The train travels to Gweru. Dress for dinner is Formal.

The Great Zimbabwe Monument is an impressive precolonial monument on the southeastern edge of the central plateau, the largest south of the Egyptian pyramids. Built by the Rozwi people, it's a celebrated achievement of African people and a place where magical fables, such as King Solomon's Mines, find their origins. The area is also home to forests of precious timber like teak, mahogany, and mukwa.





DAY 9

ANTELOPE PARK

Breakfast is served in the dining cars at **06:00**. At **08:00**, transfer (± 30 min) to Antelope Park for a visit with lunch. Optional extras include canoeing, game drives, horseback game viewing, elephant interaction, and bird-watching cruises (see price list). Tea is served at **16:30** in the lounge and observation cars. The train travels to Bulawayo, the second city of Zimbabwe, capital of Matabeleland and industrial capital of the country. Dinner is served at **19:30** in the dining cars. Dress for dinner is Formal.

Antelope Park, set in over 3000 acres of open savannah grassland, is home to the African Lion and Environmental Research Trust (ALERT) lion rehabilitation programme, Africa's first genuine programme to reintroduce captive-bred African lion offspring into the wild.

DAY 10

KENNEDY

Breakfast is served in the dining cars until **09:00**. At **09:00**, transfer (± 60 min) to Matobo National Park to see bushmen caves, rock art, and the grave of Cecil John Rhodes. Tea is served at **16:30** in the lounge and observation cars. The train travels to Kennedy. Dinner is served at **19:30** in the dining cars. Dress for dinner is Formal.

Matobo (or Matopos), meaning 'bald heads', was named by the Ndebele King, Mzilikazi. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, characterized by dramatic granite hills and balancing rocks. Cecil John Rhodes' grave is at the summit of Malindidzimu, 'hill of benevolent spirits', offering a 'view of the world'. Bushman caves with ancient rock art are hidden among the hills.





DAY 11

HWANGE NATIONAL PARK

Breakfast is served in the dining cars at **05:00**. At **06:30**, enjoy a game drive and packed lunch in Hwange National Park. Tea is served at **16:30** in the lounge and observation cars. The train travels along one of the world's longest stretches of straight railway line (114 kilometres, Gwaai-Dete) and along the eastern edge of Hwange Park. Dinner is served at **19:30** in the dining cars. The train travels to Thompson's Junction. Dress for dinner is '1920s' Theme or Smart Casual.

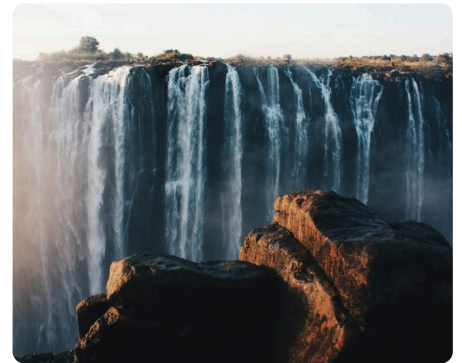
Hwange National Park, in northwest Zimbabwe, covers 1 462 000 hectares, making it the nation's largest wildlife area. It is well-known for its prolific lion population and contains a variety of animals and bird species.

DAY 12

VICTORIA FALLS

Please ensure your luggage is ready for collection 15 minutes before arrival and that you have your passport. Breakfast is served in the dining cars until **09:30**. At **10:00**, arrive at Victoria Falls Station. Guests check out of the train and walk across to Victoria Falls Hotel. At **11:00**, meet for a walking tour of the village and the Falls, including lunch. At **16:00**, meet at the hotel for a sunset cruise on the Zambezi River. At **18:30**, return to Victoria Falls Hotel for journey's end.

Victoria Falls was first reached by railway in June 1904. The falls are one of nature's great revelations, believed to have existed in seven different forms over two million years. The present falls are wearing from Devil's Cataract northwards. Over a mile long (1.7km), the falls are broken up by small islands, including Livingstone Island, and are 108m deep at Rainbow Falls.



Tips & Travel Guide

Check-in Information

Please check-in a minimum of one hour before departure. If Rovos Rail Station in Pretoria is your starting point and you wish to do a station tour, it is suggested to arrive two hours before departure to join a tour of the Rovos Rail Station and museum. Passports and relevant visas are required at check-in. No vouchers are needed. Luggage will be tagged and placed in your suite, where a full itinerary pack awaits. The Pretoria Rovos Rail Station is located at 1 Transnet Avenue, Capital Park, Pretoria, South Africa. Other check-in locations include: Cape Town Rovos Rail Lounge, Durban Station Lounge, Victoria Falls Hotel and Station, Walvis Bay Station, Hotel Terminus (Lobito), Lobito Central Station, Serena Hotel (Dar es Salaam), and Tazara Station (Dar es Salaam).

Dining Schedule

Meals on board are served in one sitting only in the dining cars. Breakfast is served from **07:00-10:00**, Lunch at **13:00**, Tea at **16:30**, and Dinner at **19:30**. All meals are served at these times unless otherwise stated in the itinerary. A gong heralds lunch and dinner. Bar service is available from approximately **07:00-01:00** daily. Rovos Rail caters for food allergies if a detailed request has been made at the time of reservation; otherwise, chefs will endeavour to prepare suitable meals with available ingredients. Strict religious observance meals cannot be guaranteed.

Dress Code

For days on board, the dress code is smart casual, combining neat, conventional, yet relatively informal clothing. Dinner on board requires formal attire: a collar and tie are mandatory for gentlemen (a jacket is optional), and ladies are encouraged to wear cocktail/evening dresses or suits. The Southern Cross journey includes themed evenings where guests can dress up accordingly or opt for smart casual: one 'AFRICA' evening and one '1920s' evening. For off-train excursions and game drives, comfortable walking shoes, sun lotion, hats, and warm clothing are recommended. Rain capes are available.

Electricity & Connectivity

The train is equipped with 220V AC 50Hz 3-point round-pronged wall plugs and 110V/220V 2-pin plugs for shavers and chargers. USB ports are available in each suite. International adaptors are available. A generator supplies power, but certain breaks are necessary for servicing. In keeping with the spirit of train travel, there is no radio, television, or WiFi on board. Mobile phones, laptops, and other devices that may disturb passengers are confined to the privacy of your suites. WiFi is available at Rovos Rail lounges in Cape Town and Pretoria, and at most off-train accommodation (though not guaranteed).

Climate & Weather

Mornings on game drives/excursions can be cool, warming up considerably by afternoon, which then cools down. Warm clothing, comfortable shoes, hats, and sun protection are advised. Rain capes are available. Temperature ranges vary significantly by month and region. For example, Pretoria experiences average minimums of 4°C in July/August and maximums of 30°C in Jan/Feb. Victoria Falls ranges from 7°C min in July/August to 29°C max in Jan/Feb.

Onboard Amenities

South African biodegradable and/or recyclable products are provided, including all-natural soap, shampoo, hand and body wash, hand and body lotion, and insect repellent spray (for journeys over four days). Chemical-free lip balm, bamboo tissues, reusable bamboo rounds, bamboo ear buds, bamboo natural-bristle toothbrushes, natural toothpaste tablets, and compostable shower caps are also available. Plug-in hairdryers are available. A limited laundry service (10 items/day) with a 48-hour turnaround is offered. Dressing gowns and slippers are provided for each guest. A small gift shop on the train sells South African-made items.

Medical Information

All guests are responsible for ensuring they are capable of undertaking tours and activities. Malaria precautions are recommended for areas like Kruger Park, Eswatini, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe. Recommended immunisations (not required) include Hepatitis A+B, Polio, Tetanus, Cholera (low risk). A Yellow Fever/Medical Exemption Certificate is essential if traveling to/from DRC and Angola. Consult your clinic or doctor. Rovos Rail trains are equipped with a standard medical kit, oxygen, automated external defibrillator, and a wheelchair. All management are First Aid Level 3 trained, and general staff Level 1. For medical emergencies, evacuation can be arranged (own account).

Luggage

Luggage can be stored under the bed or on a rack above the door in your suite. No luggage restrictions on board, but two large suitcases are not recommended. For plane transfers, a soft bag with a 15kg weight restriction is recommended.

Currency

In South Africa, Rands (ZAR) are accepted. Outside 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. US Dollars printed before 2017 or worn notes will not be accepted. Low denominations are recommended for shopping/gratuities, while larger denominations are better for exchanging money to local currency.

Departure Dates & Rates

DEPARTURE DATE	CLASS / CABIN	SINGLE	DOUBLE (PP)
Nov 19, 2026	Royal Suite	—	\$313,000
	Deluxe Suite	\$338,000	\$235,000
	Pullman Suite	\$238,000	\$165,000

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.



Look for Coupons and Special Rates on our website.

Visit <https://www.palacetours.com/tour/rovos-rail-southern-cross-pretoria-victoria-falls> 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 Southern Cross journey and where does it run?

It is an eleven-night rail journey that begins in Pretoria, South Africa, and ends at Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe on day twelve. The train works east into the coal-mining heartland, south to the coast, then north across the Limpopo and up through Zimbabwe. You keep the same suite throughout, so packing and unpacking happens once.

Which countries does the journey pass through?

The route crosses four countries: South Africa, Mozambique, Eswatini and Zimbabwe. Border formalities take place at Komatipoort and Ressano Garcia into Mozambique, at Goba and Mpaka into Eswatini, back into South Africa at Komatipoort, and at Musina and Beitbridge into Zimbabwe. Your passport is needed at each one, and the train team guides you through the process.

Where and when do I check in for departure?

The train leaves its private station in Pretoria, at 1 Transnet Avenue, Capital Park, at 10:00 on day one. Check in at least an hour before departure, or two hours ahead if you would like to join the station and museum tour first. Passports and any visas are required at check-in; no vouchers are needed, and your tagged luggage is taken straight to your suite.

How many game drives are included?

There are three major game-viewing days: Kruger National Park on day three, Kapama Private Game Reserve on day six, and Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe on day eleven. Day six also includes the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre, which focuses on breeding and conservation of threatened species. Entrance fees for the scheduled parks and attractions are included in the fare.

What is the Kruger National Park day like?

It is an early one: breakfast is served at 05:00 and the game drive begins at 07:00, with lunch and time for curio shopping included. Kruger spans two million hectares and is home to the Big Five, along with 147 mammal species, over 500 bird species and 336 tree species. You are back on board for tea, and the train then heads for the Mozambique border.

What cultural highlights are on the itinerary?

Day four brings a tour of Maputo, a city layering African, Portuguese and early colonial traditions, where churches, mosques, fortresses and Victorian mansions stand side by side. Day five crosses into the Kingdom of Eswatini for Swazi Candles and the Mantenga Cultural Village. Later, day eight visits the Great Zimbabwe Monument, and day ten explores Matobo National Park with its bushmen rock art and the grave of Cecil John Rhodes.

How does the journey end at Victoria Falls?

The train reaches Victoria Falls Station at 10:00 on day twelve, and you check out and walk across to the Victoria Falls Hotel. At 11:00 there is a walking tour of the village and the Falls with lunch, and at 16:00 you meet for a sunset cruise on the Zambezi River, returning to the hotel at about 18:30 for journey's end. Have your passport ready and luggage out for collection fifteen minutes before arrival.

What suite types are available?

Three suite grades are offered: the Pullman Suite, the Deluxe Suite, and the Royal Suite, which occupies half a carriage and adds a private lounge area. All have en-suite bathrooms, double or twin beds with soft and hard mattress sides, daily servicing, luggage storage and cupboards, and some Royal and Deluxe Suites include a room divider. The grades open on your departure are listed on this page.

What does the fare cover?

The fare covers accommodation on board, all meals in the dining cars, all beverages on board including selected local choices on excursions, room service, and limited laundry of up to ten items a day with a 48-hour turnaround. Guided excursions as per the itinerary, entrance fees to the parks and attractions listed, and government taxes are included. The exact fare for each suite grade on this departure is shown on this page.

What is excluded from the fare?

Beverages outside the included selection, personal expenses, visas and travel insurance are excluded, as are pre- and post-tour transfers, accommodation and flights. Gratuities are suggested at around \$25 per guest per night on board and about \$25 per guest per day at the game lodges. Travel insurance is compulsory for this journey, so budget for it from the outset.

Can I book a suite for sole occupancy?

Yes, suites can be held for a single traveller, and a single-occupancy rate applies rather than the per-person sharing fare. The applicable rate for each suite grade on this departure is shown on this page. With a limited number of suites on board, ask early so we can confirm what is open before you arrange flights.

Are there child fares on this journey?

Child pricing is based on the traveller's age on the departure date, with one band for children under five and another for ages five to under twelve. An eleven-night itinerary with pre-dawn game drives, formal dinners and multiple border crossings suits older children considerably better than small ones. Email travel@palacetours.com or call 786-408-0610 and we will price your family exactly.

What documents do I need, and are visas included?

A valid passport is required at check-in and at every border crossing, and the train team will ask you to present yourself to officials at each one. Visas are not included in the fare and remain your responsibility; requirements depend on your nationality and on all four countries the route crosses. Check with the relevant authorities well ahead, because several visas cannot be arranged at short notice.

What is the dress code on board?

Dinner is a formal occasion on most evenings, so pack accordingly - a jacket and tie for gentlemen, and the equivalent for ladies. Two evenings are themed instead: an Africa theme or smart casual on day six, and a 1920s theme or smart casual on day eleven. Daytime and excursions are relaxed, with neutral colours, closed shoes, a hat and sun protection for the game drives.

What is the daily rhythm on board?

Meals are served in the dining cars on a set schedule, with lunch at 13:00, tea at 16:30 in the lounge and observation cars, and dinner at 19:30. Breakfast times shift with the excursion, from a 05:00 start before Kruger and Hwange to a leisurely service until 10:00 on days at leisure. Between excursions, the lounge and observation cars are where the journey happens.

What services are available on board?

Room service and a limited laundry service of up to ten items per day with a 48-hour turnaround are included in the fare. Suites offer en-suite bathrooms, a writing desk, cupboards, a luggage shelf, air conditioning and a minibar, and are serviced daily. The observation car, with its open-air balcony, is the best seat on the train for the long scenic stretches.

How demanding is the pace of this itinerary?

The days off the train are long and several start before dawn, with game drives in open vehicles and transfers of an hour or more to some sites. Balanced against that, day seven is entirely at leisure on board and most excursions can be skipped if you would rather stay put. Uneven ground at the rock-art sites and at Great Zimbabwe means sturdy shoes matter more than fitness.

When does the Southern Cross depart?

The journey departs Pretoria on 19 November 2026, arriving at Victoria Falls on 1 December. That is the date currently on sale, and the departure list on this page shows it with the suite grades still available. With only one departure on the list, cabins are finite and do not reopen later in 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 are payable in full at the time of booking. Travel insurance is compulsory on this journey, so arrange it as soon as your deposit is paid.

How do I ask a question or book the Southern Cross journey from Pretoria to Victoria Falls?

Email travel@palacetours.com, call 786-408-0610, or message us on WhatsApp at <https://wa.me/17864080610>, and you will reach a travel specialist or our AI assistant. The departure list on this page is bookable directly, so you can choose your suite grade and confirm online. If you want help planning the nights before Pretoria or after Victoria Falls, we can arrange those too.

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