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# Rovos Rail Namibia Safari: Walvis Bay to Pretoria – An 11-Night Rail Journey

11 Nights • Luxury Experience


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# Overview

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You step aboard the Rovos Rail, leaving the Walvis Bay coast behind, and immediately a different rhythm takes over. The train becomes your luxurious home, a moving sanctuary from which Namibia's ancient deserts and South Africa's vibrant landscapes unfold. You find yourself gazing out at ochre dunes, then spotting a cheetah in the wild, the contrast a constant whisper of the continent's raw beauty. Each day brings a new sensory experience, from the scent of desert air at dawn to the clinking of crystal glasses at a formal dinner, accompanied by the gentle sway of the carriage.

This isn't just a journey; it's a profound connection to the land. You feel the vastness of the Namib, the history etched into Kolmanskop's abandoned buildings, and the sheer scale of the Fish River Canyon. You witness the legacy of diamonds in Kimberley and cruise the mighty Orange River, each moment deepening your appreciation for Southern Africa's natural wonders and human stories. As you arrive in Pretoria, you carry not just memories, but a renewed sense of wonder and the quiet luxury of time well spent.

# Your Itinerary

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## DAY 1

### WALVIS BAY / OTJIWARONGO / NAMIB DESERT

You feel the gentle rumble beneath you as the train pulls away from Walvis Bay, the salty air of the coast giving way to the dry, vast expanse of the Namib. Settling into your suite, a sense of anticipation builds as the landscape outside transforms from coastal towns to endless, ancient desert. The light shifts, painting the dunes in hues of gold and rust, a silent promise of the wonders to come.

Later, as the observation car leads the way, you find yourself captivated by the receding horizon. The desert's quiet grandeur fills the panoramic windows, inviting introspection. Dinner, a formal affair, becomes a celebration of new beginnings, the clinking of glasses echoing the rhythm of the rails carrying you deeper into the heart of Namibia.

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## DAY 2

### OTJIWARONGO / TSUMEB

The morning air is crisp as you transfer to the cheetah conservation project, a palpable sense of purpose in the air. You watch these magnificent big cats, learning about the crucial work being done to protect them, and feel a deep connection to Namibia's wildlife heritage. It's a moment of quiet awe, witnessing the dedication firsthand.

Returning to the train, a feeling of contentment settles in. The rhythmic clickety-clack of the wheels becomes a soothing backdrop to the passing scenery. As tea is served, you might reflect on the cheetahs, carrying their image with you as the sun begins its slow descent, painting the sky in fiery hues.





DAY 3

## ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

The anticipation builds as you pack your small bag, ready to leave the train for a night in the wild heart of Etosha. The transfer to the lodge is a transition, and then, suddenly, you're amidst it all. On your first game drive, the air vibrates with the sounds of the bush, and you hold your breath as a herd of elephants emerges from the acacia, their sheer size humbling.

Dinner at the lodge, casual and relaxed, feels like a natural extension of the day's adventures. You might share stories of sightings, the vastness of the 'Great White Place' settling around you. As night falls, the sounds of the African bush lull you to sleep, a profound connection to this ancient land.

DAY 4

## ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK / TSUMEB / KRANZBERG

You wake early, the African dawn painting the sky in soft pastels, ready for another game drive. The air is cool and crisp, carrying the scent of wild grasses. You might witness a lioness on the hunt or giraffes silhouetted against the rising sun, moments of raw, untamed beauty that etch themselves into your memory.

Returning to the train, there's a quiet satisfaction, a feeling of having truly experienced the wild. The familiar comfort of your suite welcomes you back. As the train glides towards Kranzberg, the landscape outside becomes a blur of green and gold, a gentle transition from the intensity of the safari to the elegant serenity of rail travel.





DAY 5

## SOSSUSVLEI / NAMIB DESERT

The light aircraft soars above the ancient Namib, revealing a tapestry of red dunes stretching to the horizon – a sight that makes your breath catch. Landing amidst this surreal landscape, you feel the vastness, the quiet power of geological time. The afternoon desert drive, as the sun dips low, paints the dunes in ever-changing hues, a painter's palette of light and shadow.

As darkness falls, a bush dinner under the infinite desert sky becomes a moment of pure magic. The stars emerge, impossibly bright, creating a canopy over your dining experience. You feel small, yet profoundly connected to the universe, the silence broken only by the crackle of a fire and hushed conversations.

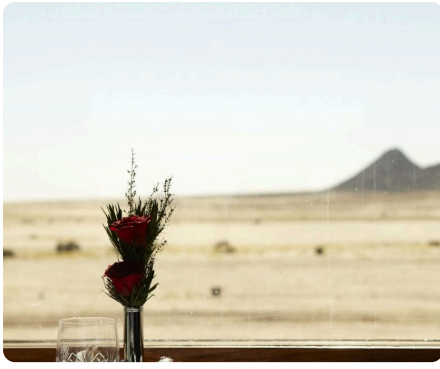
DAY 6

## SOSSUSVLEI / WINDHOEK / KALAHARI DESERT / MARIENTAL

The morning desert drive, with breakfast served amidst the towering dunes, feels like a private farewell to Sossusvlei. The air is cool, the light soft, revealing textures you hadn't noticed before. From the quiet grandeur of the desert, you're whisked away by air, the landscape transforming beneath you from arid beauty to the bustling energy of Windhoek.

Exploring Windhoek, you gain a sense of Namibia's vibrant culture and history, a stark yet fascinating contrast to the wilderness. Rejoining the train, you feel a renewed appreciation for its luxurious embrace. As it begins its southward journey through the Kalahari, the subtle shift in landscape signals a new chapter, promising more discoveries ahead.





DAY 7

## KEETMANSHOOP / GARAS PARK

As the train glides through the arid landscapes, you anticipate the unique sight of the Quiver Trees. Standing among these ancient, sculptural plants in Garas Park, you feel a connection to a primeval past, their stark silhouettes against the vast sky making for truly striking photographs. The silence here is profound, broken only by the gentle rustle of the wind.

Returning to the train, there's a quiet satisfaction, a feeling of having witnessed something truly unique to this part of the world. The afternoon tea offers a moment of reflection, and later, a formal dinner provides a chance to share stories and images of the day's botanical marvels.

DAY 8

## LÜDERITZ / KOLMANSKOP / HOLOOG

Stepping into Kolmanskop feels like walking onto a film set, the desert sands whispering through abandoned homes. You can almost hear the echoes of its diamond-rush past, the contrast between former opulence and current desolation is striking. Later, the charm of Lüderitz, with its colonial architecture and coastal breezes, offers a refreshing change of pace, a reminder of human resilience against the elements.

As the train departs for Holoog, the observation car once again leads the way, a fitting perspective as you reflect on the day's journey through history. The 'Africa' themed dinner invites a festive mood, sharing stories of the day's haunting beauty and coastal charm under the vast Namibian sky.





DAY 9

## FISH RIVER CANYON / ARIAMSVLEI / NAKOP / UPINGTON

Standing at the edge of the Fish River Canyon, the sheer scale of it makes you feel tiny, the ancient rock formations a testament to millions of years of geological drama. The wind whispers past, carrying the scent of dry earth, and the silence is profound, a moment of deep connection with the planet's raw power. The vistas stretch endlessly, a panorama of rugged beauty.

Later, as the train crosses into South Africa, there's a subtle shift in the air, a new country unfolding. The border formalities are a gentle reminder of your incredible journey across nations. Dinner, a formal affair, feels like a celebration of the vast distances covered and the breathtaking natural wonders witnessed.

DAY 10

## UPINGTON / ORANGE RIVER / KAROO / KIMBERLEY

The morning begins with the observation car leading the way, a unique perspective as you enjoy breakfast. In Upington, the cool breeze from the Orange River is a welcome sensation as you embark on a leisurely cruise, the water reflecting the clear blue sky. The rhythm of the river, gentle and slow, offers a peaceful contrast to the train's journey.

As the train continues through the vast, ancient Karoo, you feel the weight of geological time in the landscape. It's a land of quiet beauty and immense history, once an inland sea. Later, at dinner, the conversation flows easily, sharing reflections on the day's serene river cruise and the stark beauty of the Karoo.





DAY 11

## KIMBERLEY / PRETORIA

Standing at the edge of the Big Hole in Kimberley, you can almost hear the echoes of picks and shovels, the frantic energy of the diamond rush. The museum brings the history to life, revealing the stories of fortunes made and lost, of a city born from the earth's glittering treasures. It's a tangible connection to a pivotal moment in South African history.

Back on the train, a sense of winding down begins to settle. The landscape outside becomes more populated, a gentle reminder of civilization's approach. The '1920s' themed dinner offers a final flourish of elegance and fun, a perfect way to celebrate the journey's diverse experiences and the friendships forged along the way.

DAY 12

## WITWATERSRAND / PRETORIA

You wake to the gentle movement of the train, knowing this is the final morning. As breakfast is served, the goldfields of the Witwatersrand pass by your window, a landscape steeped in history and industry. There's a bittersweet feeling, the anticipation of arrival mixed with the desire to hold onto these last moments of rail luxury.

The final lunch is a quiet celebration, a chance to reflect on the incredible odyssey from the Namibian coast to the heart of South Africa. As the train pulls into Rovos Rail Station in Pretoria, you step off feeling transformed, carrying with you not just memories, but a deeper understanding of this magnificent continent, its landscapes, and its stories.



# Tips & Travel Guide

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## Check-in Information

For your departure from Walvis Bay, check-in at Walvis Bay Station, located at the Corner of 6th Street and 11th Road, Namibia. If your journey concludes in Pretoria, you will arrive at Rovos Rail Station, 1 Transnet Avenue, Capital Park. It is recommended to check-in a minimum of one hour before departure. Passports are required at check-in, and luggage will be tagged and placed directly into your suite on board the train.

## Dining Schedule

Meals on board are served in one sitting in the elegant dining cars. Breakfast is available from **07:00** to **10:00**. Lunch is served promptly at **13:00**, and tea is offered at **16:30**. Formal dinner is served at **19:30**. The bar service operates from **07:00** until approximately **01:00**. A distinctive gong announces lunch and dinner service. These times are adhered to unless otherwise specified in the daily timetable.

## Dress Code

During the day on board, the dress code is smart casual, encouraging neat, conventional, yet relatively informal attire. For evening dinners, a formal dress code is mandatory: gentlemen are required to wear a collar and tie (a jacket is optional), while ladies are encouraged to wear cocktail/evening dresses or suits. Long journeys often feature themed evenings, such as 'Africa' or '1920s' themes, where guests can dress accordingly or opt for smart casual. For off-train excursions, comfortable walking shoes, sun lotion, and hats are recommended. Warm clothing is advised for game drives, as mornings can be cool.

## Electricity & Connectivity

All suites are equipped with 220V AC 50Hz 3-point round-pronged wall plugs, as well as 110V/220V 2-pin plugs for shavers and chargers. USB ports are also available in each suite. International adaptors are provided upon request. Power is supplied by a generator, though occasional breaks for servicing may occur. In keeping with the spirit of train travel, there is no radio, television, or onboard WiFi. The use of mobile phones and laptops is confined to the privacy of your suites. WiFi is available at the Rovos Rail lounges in Cape Town and Pretoria, and generally at off-train accommodations.

## Climate & Weather

The journey traverses diverse climates. In Walvis Bay, average temperatures range from 16-22°C (Min/Max) in March to 10-20°C in July. Etosha Pan sees averages from 18-31°C in Jan-Mar, and 10-27°C in May-Jun. Pretoria experiences 18-30°C in Jan-Mar and 7-23°C in May-Jun. All public cars are fitted with gas-filled air-conditioning, and suites have individual climate controls with heating options. Electric under-blankets are provided. For game drives, mornings can be cool, warming up considerably, while afternoons can be warm before cooling down. Pack warm clothing, hats, comfortable shoes, and sun protection.

## Onboard Amenities

A range of South African biodegradable and/or recyclable amenities are provided, including 40g soap, 50ml shampoo, hand and body wash, and lotion, 15ml lip balm, insect repellent spray (for journeys over 4 days), bamboo rounds, ear

gowns and slippers are provided for use on board, and can be purchased from the gift shop. A small gift shop is available on the train and at Rovos Rail Station in Pretoria. A limited laundry service (10 items per day) is available with a 48-hour turnaround; dry-cleaning is not offered.

## Medical Information

Each train is equipped with a standard medical kit, oxygen, automated external defibrillator, and a wheelchair. Train Managers are trained in Level 3 First Aid. While private healthcare hospitals can be arranged for evacuation (at your own cost), these are not guaranteed outside South Africa. Guests are solely responsible for ensuring they are capable of undertaking tours and activities. Anti-malarial precautions are recommended for areas like Etosha, eSwatini, Kruger Park, Northern Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Tanzania, and Angola. Recommended (not required) immunizations include Hepatitis A+B, Polio, Tetanus, and Cholera (low risk). A Yellow Fever/Medical Exemption Certificate is essential for DRC and Angola, and may be required by other countries for re-entry. Consult your clinic or doctor; Travel Doctor Africa can be reached at 0861 300 911 (local) or +27 (0) 11 214 9030 (international).

## Luggage

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

## Currency


In South Africa, only Rands are accepted. Rands are also accepted in Namibia and eSwatini. US Dollars are accepted in Zimbabwe, Tanzania (Dar es Salaam only), DRC, and Angola, with cash highly recommended. Please note that US Dollar bills printed before 2013 or those that appear worn will not be accepted. Low denominations are best for shopping and gratuities, while larger denominations are better for exchanging to local currency, especially in Tanzania.

# Departure Dates & Rates

DEPARTURE DATE	CLASS / CABIN	SINGLE	DOUBLE (PP)
Apr 19, 2027	Royal Suite	—	\$403,200
	Deluxe Suite	\$491,400	\$327,600
	Pullman Suite	\$387,000	\$258,000
May 17, 2027	Royal Suite	—	\$403,200
	Deluxe Suite	\$491,400	\$327,600
	Pullman Suite	\$387,000	\$258,000
Oct 23, 2027	Royal Suite	—	\$403,200
	Deluxe Suite	\$491,400	\$327,600
	Pullman Suite	\$387,000	\$258,000

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-namibia-safari-walvis-bay-pretoria> for the latest information.

# Terms & Conditions

## Payment Schedule

### Individuals

A provisional booking will be held for 14 days after which a 25% deposit is due. Final payment is due 60 days prior to travel.

Journey Type	61+ DAYS BEFORE	60 DAYS BEFORE
Cape Town, Victoria Falls, Durban	25%	100%
Golf, Namibia, Southern Cross, Collage, Trilogy, Copper Trail, TOTO, Dar	25%	100%

### Groups of 10 or More Guests

Journey Type	365-246 DAYS BEFORE	245-181 DAYS BEFORE	180-121 DAYS BEFORE	120-61 DAYS BEFORE	60 DAYS BEFORE
Cape Town, Victoria Falls, Durban	10%	20%	50%	100%	100%
Golf, Namibia, Southern Cross, Collage, Trilogy, Copper Trail, TOTO, Dar	10%	30%	50%	100%	100%

- For every 15 paying passengers, the 16th person sharing travels free of charge, confirmed at final invoice 60 days before departure.
- 275 days before departure: the agent/group must provide an allocation sales update and release 20% of the unsold space (if a waitlist persists).
- 245 days before departure: the agent/group must release a further 50% of the unsold space (if a waitlist persists).
- 180 days before departure: the agent/group must release 100% of the unsold space.

## Cancellation Policy

### Individuals

#### Date Range Before Departure Cancellation Fee

365-91 DAYS BEFORE	10%
90-61 DAYS BEFORE	25%
60-31 DAYS BEFORE	50%
30-0 DAYS BEFORE	100%

## Booking Conditions

Upon written request via email/fax and subject to availability, Rovos Rail will provisionally book your place on the chosen tour. Space is allocated and held, but if another client requires definite suites, the holding agent/guest will be asked to confirm with a deposit payment or release the suite. Upon written confirmation via email/fax and a completed Reservation Form, confirmation details and a proforma invoice will be sent. Upon receipt of the relevant payment, the booking will be confirmed and a confirmation invoice will be sent. On confirmation of a reservation, Rovos Rail's Terms & Conditions will be deemed to have been accepted and will be strictly adhered to.

### Payment Methods

Payment can be made via bank transfer or credit card (direct guests only via Paygate). Rovos Rail is a South African company and reserves the right to charge/refund in ZAR. As legally required, refunds are processed into the same account from which the initial payment was received. Journeys invoiced in ZAR will have all bank transfers processed/refunded in ZAR. Journeys invoiced in USD will have USD bank transfers processed/refunded in USD. All credit card payments for all journeys are processed/refunded in ZAR. Rovos Rail is not liable for any loss in currency due to rate of exchange fluctuations. There are no refunds for any part of a tour that might be missed due to personal reasons. Rovos Rail will never change its banking details and/or credit card link via email; any such requests should be ignored and reported.

### **Travel Insurance**

Cancellation insurance is compulsory as these fees will not be waived. Rovos Rail offers insurance to South African residents. For international guests, it is suggested to contact your local insurance agent for assistance. Please bring a copy of your travel insurance policy stating clearly the company, policy number and 24-hour medical emergency telephone number.

### **Guest Indemnity**

Although certain limited insurances have been arranged, neither Rovos Rail Tours (Pty) Ltd and/or Shongololo Express (collectively referred to as 'Rovos Rail'), nor its servants, agents or employees, shall be liable for any loss or damage to passengers' luggage or effects. Insofar as one of the tours may include a visit to a game reserve and whilst attacks by wild animals are extremely rare, similarly neither Rovos Rail, nor its servants, agents or employees, accept any liability whatsoever for any injury or incidents to passengers or their belongings. The passenger hereby waives any claim which he/she may have against Rovos Rail, its servants, agents, employees or subcontractors for any injury and/or loss of any nature whatsoever (including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, consequential loss) arising for any reason of any nature whatever directly or indirectly out of any aspect of the tour including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, any form of transport used for the purpose of the tour. This waiver shall be binding on the passenger's executors, heirs, trustees and dependants. The passenger records that all the services and facilities provided to the passenger are accepted voluntarily and with full knowledge that they may expose the passenger to injury, danger or loss. The passenger further records that any statement, representation or information given to him/her by Rovos Rail shall, unless given in writing, not prejudice this waiver in any manner whatsoever. The passenger indemnifies Rovos Rail in respect of any claim that may be made by any third party against it arising out of any claim in respect of which the passenger gives the aforementioned waiver. This agreement shall be governed solely by laws of the Republic of South Africa.

# Frequently Asked Questions

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## What is the dress code on the Rovos Rail Namibia Safari?

The dress code on Rovos Rail varies between daytime and evening. During the day, smart casual attire is recommended – neat, conventional, yet relatively informal clothing. For dinner, the dress code is formal: gentlemen are required to wear a collar and tie (a jacket is optional), while ladies should opt for cocktail/evening dresses or suits. Some long journeys, including this one, feature themed evenings such as 'Africa' or '1920s', where guests can dress accordingly or choose smart casual. For off-train excursions, comfortable walking shoes, sun lotion, hats, and warm clothing (especially for game drives) are advised.

## Are meals and beverages included on the Rovos Rail Namibia Safari?

Yes, all meals are included and served in the dining cars at set times: Breakfast 07:00-10:00, Lunch 13:00, Tea 16:30, and Dinner 19:30. All beverages on board are also included, encompassing a curated selection of local and international wines, brandies, gins, whiskies, spirits, and non-alcoholic options. Special requests, such as international sparkling wine, can be pre-ordered at an additional cost at least 30 days before departure. Please note that off-train beverages are generally excluded, except for water, tea/coffee, and breakfast juices during off-train accommodation stays.

## What medical precautions should I take for the Namibia Safari?

Guests are solely responsible for their physical capability to undertake the tours and activities. Rovos Rail trains carry a standard medical kit, oxygen, an automated external defibrillator, and a wheelchair. Train Managers are trained in Level 3 First Aid. Anti-malarial precautions are recommended for regions visited, including Etosha National Park. Recommended (but not required) immunizations include Hepatitis A+B, Polio, Tetanus, and Cholera (low risk). A Yellow Fever/Medical Exemption Certificate is essential for travel to/from DRC and Angola, and may be required by other countries for re-entry. It is strongly advised to consult your clinic or doctor prior to travel. Travel Doctor Africa can be reached at 0861 300 911 (local) or +27 (0) 11 214 9030 (international).

## What are the luggage restrictions on Rovos Rail?

There are no strict luggage restrictions on board the train, and ample storage is available under beds or on luggage racks in your suite. However, it is not recommended to bring more than two large suitcases. For sections of the journey involving light aircraft transfers (such as to Sossusvlei), a soft bag is preferable, and a luggage weight restriction of 15kg per person applies. A Rovos Rail tog bag is provided in your suite for convenience during overnight off-train excursions.

## Is WiFi available on the Rovos Rail Namibia Safari?

In keeping with the traditional spirit of train travel, there is no WiFi, radio, or television on board the Rovos Rail train itself. The use of mobile phones and laptops is permitted within the privacy of your suite only. Mobile reception can be poor while the train is moving. WiFi is generally available at the Rovos Rail lounges in Cape Town and Pretoria,

## What currencies are accepted during the tour?

On board the train in South Africa, only Rands are accepted. Rands are also accepted in Namibia and eSwatini. US Dollars are accepted in Zimbabwe, Tanzania (Dar es Salaam only), DRC, and Angola. Cash is highly recommended in these countries. Please note that US Dollar notes printed before 2013 or those that appear worn will not be accepted. It is advisable to carry low denominations for shopping and gratuities, and larger denominations for exchanging money to local currency, especially in Tanzania.

## What are the check-in procedures and locations?

For this Namibia Safari, check-in is at Walvis Bay Station, Corner 6th Street and 11th Road, Namibia, at 10:00 on Day 1. It is recommended to check-in a minimum of one hour before departure. Passports are required at check-in. Luggage will be tagged and placed directly into your suite on board the train. Upon arrival in Pretoria on Day 12, the train will conclude its journey at Rovos Rail Station, 1 Transnet Avenue, Capital Park.

## Is travel insurance compulsory for this tour?

Yes, cancellation insurance is compulsory for all guests on Rovos Rail journeys, and these fees will not be waived. Rovos Rail offers insurance options for South African residents. For international guests, it is strongly advised to contact your local insurance agent for suitable coverage. You should bring a copy of your travel insurance policy, clearly stating the company, policy number, and the 24-hour medical emergency telephone number.

## What type of electrical outlets are available in the suites?

Each suite is equipped with 220V AC 50Hz 3-point round-pronged wall plugs. Additionally, 110V/220V 2-pin plugs are available for shavers and chargers. USB ports are also provided in each suite for convenient device charging. International adaptors are available upon request from the staff. Power is supplied by a generator, and occasional brief breaks in power may occur when servicing is required.

## What amenities are provided in the suites?

Each suite is well-appointed with a range of amenities. These include a minibar, air conditioning, a writing desk, luggage shelf, and cupboards. All suites have an electronic safe for valuables. En-suite bathrooms are standard, featuring a shower, toilet, and basin (Royal Suites also include a bath). Guests will find biodegradable and/or recyclable toiletries such as soap, shampoo, hand and body wash, lotion, lip balm, insect repellent spray, bamboo rounds, ear buds, a compostable shower cap, ear plugs, sun cream, razors, and nail files. Plug-in hairdryers are also available. Suites are serviced daily, and a nightly turndown service is provided.

# Ready to Book Your Journey?

Contact Palace Tours for personalized rates and departure dates

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[www.palacetours.com](http://www.palacetours.com)

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