





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

VICTORIA FALLS / LIVINGSTONE / CHOMA

The whistle sounds, a deep, resonant call that signals your departure from the thundering spray of Victoria Falls. As the train glides across the bridge, you feel the rumble beneath your feet, a tangible connection to the land you're leaving and the adventure you're beginning. The Zambezi River flows beneath, a silver ribbon in the fading light, carrying whispers of explorers past. You settle into your suite, the elegant decor a comforting embrace, a promise of the luxury to come.

Later, the clinking of cutlery and the murmur of conversation fill the dining car. The first formal dinner is a symphony of flavors, a perfect introduction to the journey's indulgence. Outside, the Zambian landscape blurs into twilight, a canvas of deep purples and oranges, as you journey towards Choma, feeling the gentle rhythm of the rails carrying you deeper into Africa's heart.

DAY 2

KAFUE RIVER / LUSAKA

You wake to the gentle rocking of the train, sunlight streaming through your window. After a leisurely breakfast, the landscape outside transforms as the train approaches the monumental Kafue railway bridge. Spanning the river, the steel structure is a marvel of engineering, a testament to human ingenuity against nature's expanse. You feel a thrill as the train slowly crosses, the river stretching out beneath you, glinting like hammered copper.

Later, the air cools as you embark on a sunset cruise on the Kafue River. The light softens, painting the water in hues of gold and rose. You sip a drink, watching as hippos surface and dive, and the silhouettes of birds dot the horizon. It's a moment of profound peace, a quiet communion with the wild heart of Africa. Dinner back on the train feels like a return to an elegant sanctuary as you head towards Lusaka.

DAY 3

LUSAKA / KABWE / KAPIRI MPOSHI

The morning brings a visit to Lusaka's elephant sanctuary, a place where hope takes tangible form. You watch the orphaned elephants, their eyes full of a gentle wisdom, as their dedicated caregivers work tirelessly to prepare them for a return to the wild. It's a powerful reminder of conservation's vital role, a moment that tugs at your heart and inspires a quiet resolve.

Back on the train, a sense of purpose lingers. As you enjoy lunch, the scenery transitions from urban outskirts to the more rural landscapes of Zambia's Central Province. The afternoon tea offers a moment of reflection, the quiet clinking of cups accompanying your thoughts. The day ends with dinner, the train steadily moving towards Kapiri Mposhi, carrying the echoes of the elephants' trumpets in your memory.

DAY 4

NDOLA / SOUTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK

The morning begins with a flutter of anticipation. You pack a small bag, ready for a three-night immersion into the wild heart of South Luangwa National Park. The chartered flight from Ndola offers a bird's-eye view of Zambia's vastness, a patchwork of greens and browns stretching to the horizon. Landing in the park, the air feels different—crisper, wilder, carrying the scent of dust and distant wildlife.

An afternoon game drive plunges you into the vibrant ecosystem. The light shifts, illuminating a herd of impala, or revealing the stealthy movement of a leopard. Every rustle in the bush holds a secret, every call a story. As dusk falls, you gather for dinner at camp, the sounds of the African night a natural symphony around you, a deep sense of belonging settling in.

DAY 5

SOUTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK

The African dawn breaks with a cool, crisp clarity. You're up early, the anticipation of an early morning game drive a potent stimulant. The bush is alive, the air filled with the fresh scent of dew and damp earth. You might spot a pride of lions, their golden eyes reflecting the dawn, or witness elephants moving silently through the trees, their sheer size humbling.

After a thrilling morning, brunch offers a chance to relax and share stories of your sightings. The afternoon is yours to unwind, perhaps reading or simply absorbing the tranquility of the surroundings. As the sun begins its descent, another game drive reveals a different cast of characters, the evening light casting long shadows. Dinner under the stars, the sounds of the night enveloping you, is a perfect end to a day of profound wildlife encounters.

DAY 6

SOUTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK

Another day in South Luangwa unfolds, offering fresh perspectives and new chances for incredible sightings. The early morning light paints the landscape in soft hues, revealing creatures you might have missed the day before. Perhaps you'll track a elusive leopard or watch a family of giraffes gracefully browse on acacia trees. The quiet focus of the guide, the rustle of the vehicle through the grass—these details deepen your connection to this wild place.

The rhythm of the bush becomes your own: exhilarating drives, relaxed meals, and moments of quiet contemplation. As the day progresses, you find yourself noticing the smaller details—the intricate patterns of a bird's feather, the tracks left in the dust, the way the light filters through the canopy. Each game drive feels like a unique story, a chapter written just for you in the great book of the African wilderness.

DAY 7

SOUTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK / NDOLA / SAKANIA / LUBUMBASHI

The final morning in South Luangwa brings a bittersweet farewell. One last game drive, the air still cool, offers a chance to capture a final image in your mind. The sounds of the bush, once unfamiliar, now feel like an old friend. The chartered flight back to Ndola feels like a gentle transition, carrying you from the raw wilderness back towards the comfort of the rails.

Rejoining the Rovos Rail train is like coming home. The familiar elegance, the welcoming staff, and the promise of new landscapes ahead. As the train moves towards the DRC border, you feel a sense of anticipation for the new country. Dinner, a formal affair, allows you to share stories of your wildlife adventures while the train carries you steadily towards Lubumbashi, the first taste of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

DAY 8

LUBUMBASHI / LUKUNI / LUISHIA / KOLWEZI

You wake in the DRC, the train having arrived in Lubumbashi. A city drive reveals a different side of Africa—bustling streets, vibrant markets, and colonial architecture hinting at a rich, complex past. The energy is palpable, a stark contrast to the quiet wilderness of the past few days. You see the daily life unfold, the resilience and dynamism of the people making an indelible impression.

Back on board, the train journeys deeper into the Copperbelt. As you pass Luishia, the vast scar of an old open-pit mine reminds you of the region's immense mineral wealth, a landscape shaped by industry and human endeavor. Afternoon tea offers a moment to reflect on this powerful contrast, as the train continues its course towards Kolwezi, the heart of the copper industry, under the fading light.

KOLWEZI / KASOMBO / MUTSHATSHA

The morning in Kolwezi brings a unique opportunity: a visit to a working copper mine. You stand at the edge of an immense open pit, the scale of the operation staggering. Giant machinery carves into the earth, revealing the vibrant hues of mineral deposits. It's a powerful, almost overwhelming experience, offering a tangible connection to the global economy and the raw materials that fuel it.

After the intensity of the mine visit, brunch at Katebi Lodge offers a welcome respite. Returning to the train, you feel a shift as the journey begins its westward turn, departing for Kasombo. The afternoon tea provides a quiet moment to process the day's profound impressions, the vastness of the mines lingering in your mind as the train glides towards Mutshatsha, deeper into the DRC.

KAKOPA / MALONGA / DILOLO

Today is a day for the simple luxury of being on board. You settle into the rhythm of the train, the gentle sway a constant lullaby. Breakfast is unhurried, the passing scenery a living mural outside your window. You might spend the morning reading in the lounge car, or simply watching the changing landscapes of the DRC unfold, feeling the immense scale of the continent.

As evening approaches, anticipation builds for the "Africa" themed dinner. You might opt for smart casual, or embrace the theme with vibrant colors and patterns, celebrating the spirit of the continent. The day culminates with a unique instruction: turn your watches back an hour. This small act marks a significant transition, a subtle shift into a new time zone and deeper into the journey towards Angola, a feeling of moving forward into the unknown.

LUAU / LUENA / CASSAI / GAMEIA

The morning hums with a new kind of energy as Angolan border formalities commence. Stepping off the train in Luau, you feel the distinct air of a new country. The walking tour of Luau, the historic starting point of the Benguela line, offers a first intimate glimpse into Angolan life. The sounds of the town, the faces of its people, all create a vivid first impression, a sense of having truly arrived.

Later, as the train journeys towards Luena, you find yourself mesmerized by the Cassai River. Its vastness and the sight of local fishermen working along its banks connect you to the rhythm of life here. The afternoon tea becomes a quiet observation, watching the world outside pass by, a feeling of deep immersion. Dinner is a formal affair, a moment of elegant reflection as the train carries you towards Luena, deeper into the heart of Angola.

LUENA / TCHICALA TCHOLOHANGA / KUITO

Luena greets you with its own unique story. The walking tour here is a poignant journey through Angola's recent history, offering insights into a past marked by conflict and resilience. You walk through streets that bear witness to profound changes, feeling the weight of the past but also the vibrant pulse of a nation rebuilding and looking forward. It's a powerful, educational experience that deepens your understanding of the country.

Departing Luena, the train continues its gentle westward motion. As you dine, the formal setting provides a calming contrast to the day's historical reflections. The afternoon tea is a moment to absorb the vastness of the Angolan landscape, the train moving steadily towards Kuito. You feel a sense of privilege, witnessing a country in transformation, its beauty and strength undeniable.

KUITO / HUAMBO

Kuito, a town steeped in history, invites you for a morning stroll. You walk through the historical heart of the Ovimbundu kingdom, feeling the echoes of ancient traditions. The town's serene atmosphere, perhaps marked by remnants of its past, offers a reflective experience. You observe daily life, the quiet dignity of the people, and the enduring spirit of Angolan culture. It's a moment of gentle immersion.

As the train departs for Huambo, the landscape outside the window becomes a blur of green and gold. Lunch in the dining car is a sophisticated interlude, offering a chance to discuss the morning's discoveries. Afternoon tea provides a quiet moment for contemplation, watching the Angolan plateau unfold. Dinner is a formal affair, a moment to savor the journey as the train brings you closer to Huambo.

HUAMBO / LÉPI / CUBAL

Huambo, Angola's second-largest city, reveals its grandeur on a morning tour. You explore its wide avenues and significant landmarks, gaining insight into its role as one of the old kingdoms on the central plateau. The city pulses with a different energy, a blend of historical gravitas and modern life, leaving you with a deeper appreciation for Angola's urban centers.

Departing for Lépi, the train's gentle rhythm resumes. The afternoon tea is a quiet moment to watch the Angolan countryside pass by, the light beginning to soften. This evening, a "1920s" themed dinner invites you to step back in time, adding a playful elegance to your penultimate night on board. As the train glides towards Cubal, you reflect on the remarkable tapestry of experiences woven throughout this journey, a rich prelude to the journey's end.

LOBITO

The final morning on the train carries a quiet sense of reflection. You enjoy your last breakfast in the elegant dining car, watching the Angolan landscape give way to the coastal plains. The anticipation of arrival mixes with the nostalgia of the journey's end. You gather your belongings, the memories of the past two weeks already forming a vivid mosaic in your mind.

As the train slowly pulls into Lobito Station, you feel the gentle halt, a final punctuation mark on an incredible adventure. Stepping onto the platform, the fresh Atlantic air greets you, a vibrant contrast to the inland heat. You carry with you not just your luggage, but a profound understanding of Southern Africa, a collection of stories, and the quiet satisfaction of a journey beautifully completed.

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.

Departure Dates & Rates

DEPARTURE DATE	CLASS / CABIN	SINGLE	DOUBLE (PP)
Jul 5, 2026	Royal Suite	\$28,600	\$28,600
	Deluxe Suite	\$21,800	\$21,800
	Pullman Suite	\$16,500	\$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-copper-trail-victoria-falls-lobito-1> 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 Coocoulei

- 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.

Ready to Book Your Journey?

Contact Palace Tours for personalized rates and departure dates

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