





PALACE TOURS
Travel Like Royalty


PALACE TOURS

Rovos Rail's African Trilogy: A 15-Night Rail Expedition from Pretoria to Walvis Bay

15 Nights • Luxury Experience

 www.palacetours.com

 travel@palacetours.com

 786-408-0610

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Overview

Embark on an extraordinary 15-night rail adventure aboard Rovos Rail's African Trilogy, journeying from Pretoria to Walvis Bay. This meticulously crafted itinerary traverses the diverse landscapes and vibrant cultures of South Africa, Eswatini, and Namibia, offering a profound connection with Southern Africa's natural wonders and rich heritage.

Your expedition begins in Pretoria, South Africa, before heading east to the rolling hills of eMakhazeni and Emnothweni, renowned for trout fishing. A highlight is an immersive game drive in the world-famous Kruger National Park, home to the iconic Big Five. The journey continues into the tiny Kingdom of eSwatini, where you'll visit Swazi Candles and the Mantenga Cultural Village, experiencing traditional Swazi life. Back in South Africa, explore the Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park, one of Africa's oldest proclaimed reserves, for another thrilling game drive, then discover Durban's botanical gardens and vibrant beachfront.

As the train travels west, you'll cross the vast Karoo semi-desert to Kimberley, where the Diamond Mine Museum and the historic Big Hole await. The route then leads to Upington on the mighty Orange River and into Namibia, where the dramatic Fish River Canyon, the second largest canyon in the southern hemisphere, and Garas Park with its ancient Quiver Trees provide spectacular photographic opportunities. A scenic flight takes you to Sossusvlei for an overnight desert lodge stay, allowing you to witness the iconic star dunes of the Namib Desert at sunset and sunrise.

Further north in Namibia, engage with conservation efforts at a cheetah project in Otjiwarongo before an unforgettable overnight safari in Etosha National Park, known for its vast salt pan and exceptional game viewing. The final leg of the journey offers a breathtaking traverse of the Namib Desert, culminating in Walvis Bay. This African Trilogy is more than a journey; it's an intimate exploration of Southern Africa's soul, blending luxury rail travel with unparalleled wildlife encounters and cultural immersion.

Images: Courtesy - Rovos Rail

Your Itinerary

DAY 1

PRETORIA / MIDDELBURG

The polished carriages gleam under the station lights in Pretoria. You settle into your suite, the anticipation a quiet hum as the train begins its gentle roll away from the city. The landscape outside blurs into twilight, a prelude to the vastness that awaits. The gong sounds for dinner, a call to elegance and shared stories, and you find yourself amidst fellow adventurers, the journey truly beginning.

As the train glides through the night towards Middelburg, the rhythmic clickety-clack of the wheels becomes a soothing lullaby. You sip a fine South African wine, the formal setting a delightful contrast to the wild horizons you'll soon discover. This first evening sets a tone of classic romance, a promise of the grand expedition ahead.

DAY 2

EMAKHAZENI / EMNOTHWENI / MALELANE

Sunlight streams into your suite as you wake, the world outside a canvas of green hills. You sip coffee, watching the gentle undulations of the landscape, a peaceful start to a day of pure relaxation on board. The soft murmur of conversation from the lounge car, the clink of silverware at breakfast – these are the subtle joys of luxury rail travel.

Later, as the train descends the Drakensberg, you feel the shift in altitude, the air growing cooler, the views expanding into sweeping vistas. It's a moment of quiet awe, a realization of the sheer scale of the African continent. This day of leisure allows you to fully absorb the journey, the landscapes unfolding at a pace that invites contemplation.

DAY 3

KRUGER NATIONAL PARK / MPAKA

The pre-dawn light paints the sky in soft pastels as you head out for a game drive in Kruger. The air is crisp, carrying the scent of wild grasses, and the silence is broken only by the distant call of a bird. You feel a thrill of anticipation, knowing that around any bend, you might encounter a herd of elephants or a stealthy leopard. The vastness of the park, the sheer abundance of life, is humbling.

Later, back on the train, the day's adventures replay in your mind. The image of a giraffe against the setting sun, or the powerful gaze of a rhino, stays with you. As the train moves towards Mpaka, you reflect on the raw, untamed beauty of the African bushveld, a memory etched deeply into your experience.

DAY 4

MPAKA / SWAZI CANDLES / MANTENGA CULTURAL VILLAGE / MANTENGA LODGE / GOLELA

The morning brings the unique experience of border formalities, a tangible crossing into the Kingdom of eSwatini. You step off the train into a world rich with vibrant traditions, the air filled with the earthy scent of local crafts. Watching artisans at Swazi Candles, their hands deftly shaping wax, you feel a connection to a timeless art form. The colors, the textures, the intricate designs – it's a feast for the eyes.

Later, at Mantenga Cultural Village, you are transported back to the 1850s. The thatched huts, the rhythmic dances, the stories told through song – it's a powerful immersion into the heart of Swazi culture. As the train continues its journey, the echoes of traditional music and the warmth of the people linger, a beautiful contrast to the wildness of the previous days.

DAY 5

HLUHLUWE-IMFOLOZI PARK / EMPANGENI / DURBAN

The air is cool and damp as you head into Hluhluwe-Imfolozi, the morning mist clinging to the ancient trees. This is a place of deep history, a sanctuary for endangered species. You scan the horizon, your senses alert, hoping for a glimpse of a rhino moving silently through the bush. The raw, untouched beauty of this reserve is a powerful reminder of Africa's conservation efforts.

Back on the train, surrounded by the comfort of your suite, you watch the sugarcane fields of Empangeni glide by. The vibrant green stretches endlessly, a stark contrast to the wild landscapes of the morning. Tonight's 'Africa' theme dinner invites a playful celebration of the continent, allowing you to reminisce about the day's incredible encounters while anticipating the urban charm of Durban.

DURBAN / UMHLANGA / LADYSMITH

The morning unfolds with the vibrant energy of Durban. You step into the botanical gardens, a sanctuary of exotic plants, the air thick with the scent of blossoms. The contrast to the wild bushveld is striking, a testament to South Africa's diverse offerings. Lunch by the Umhlanga beachfront, the sound of the Indian Ocean waves a soothing backdrop, feels like a refreshing coastal escape.

As the afternoon gives way to evening, the train slowly climbs into the Valley of a Thousand Hills. The landscape transforms into an endless series of undulating peaks, bathed in the soft glow of dusk. It's a vista that inspires quiet contemplation, a moment to reflect on the day's blend of urban sophistication and natural beauty before the elegance of formal dinner once again calls.

BETHLEHEM

You wake to a sense of profound calm as the train carries you deeper into the Drakensberg region. The mountains, with their dramatic, weathered peaks, seem to stretch endlessly, a silent testament to geological time. You find a quiet corner in the observation car, a book unread in your lap, simply mesmerized by the unfolding panorama.

The day on board is a luxurious pause, a chance to simply be. The light shifts across the mountain slopes, revealing new textures and shades. You feel the gentle sway of the carriage, a rhythm that lulls you into a state of deep relaxation. As evening approaches, the anticipation of another exquisite dinner, shared with new friends, adds to the journey's charm, the majestic 'Dragon Mountains' fading into the twilight.

KIMBERLEY / KAROO

Stepping off the train in Kimberley, you feel the weight of history. The Diamond Mine Museum tells tales of fortune and hardship, and standing at the edge of the Big Hole, you grasp the sheer scale of human endeavour driven by the allure of diamonds. The dry air and the vastness of the landscape hint at the desolate beauty of the Karoo.

As the train continues, the observation car now at the front, you gaze out at the Karoo, a stark, ancient land that was once an inland sea. The geological history feels palpable in the dust and rock. It's a journey through time, from the glittering diamonds to the timeless, sweeping plains, each vista a reminder of the earth's profound story. The formal dinner provides a moment of reflection on the day's unique blend of human ambition and natural wonder.

UPINGTON / ORANGE RIVER / NAKOP / HOLOOG

The morning light illuminates the Orange River as the train approaches Upington. This mighty waterway, a ribbon of life through arid lands, feels like a natural boundary to a new chapter of your journey. The anticipation of crossing into Namibia builds, a new country, new landscapes, new adventures.

Border formalities, while a necessary pause, heighten the sense of transition. You feel the shift, the subtle change in atmosphere as you move from one nation to another. Later, as the train rolls towards Holoog, the vastness of the Namibian landscape begins to assert itself, a dramatic prelude to the desert wonders that await. The formal dinner is a comforting ritual, a moment of shared experience as you venture deeper into the continent.

FISH RIVER CANYON / GARAS PARK / KALAHARI / WINDHOEK

Standing at the edge of the Fish River Canyon, the sheer scale of it takes your breath away. The ancient rock, carved by time, tells a story of geological power, a landscape so vast it feels infinite. The silence is profound, broken only by the whisper of the wind, and you feel tiny, yet utterly connected to the earth's raw beauty.

Later, among the Quiver Trees of Garas Park, their gnarled branches reaching skyward, you sense a deep history. These prehistoric giants are like sentinels in the desert, their unique forms providing incredible photographic moments. As the train journeys through the Kalahari towards Windhoek, the desert's golden light fades, leaving you with images of an ancient, resilient land, a stark beauty that lingers long after the sun sets.

SOSSUSVLEI / NAMIB DESERT

You leave the train behind, a small overnight bag in hand, ready for the desert. The flight to Sossusvlei offers a breathtaking aerial view of the Namib, its vastness and ancient dunes unfolding beneath you. Arriving at the lodge, you feel a sense of serene anticipation, the desert air a gentle caress on your skin.

The afternoon desert drive is magical. The red dunes glow under the setting sun, their shapes constantly shifting, creating dramatic shadows. As darkness falls, you gather for a bush dinner under a canopy of stars so bright they seem painted on the velvet sky. The crackle of the fire, the quiet conversations, the delicious food – it's an experience that feels both deeply primal and utterly luxurious, a night spent in the heart of one of the world's oldest deserts.

SOSSUSVLEI / WINDHOEK / KRANZBERG

The desert sunrise over Sossusvlei is a breathtaking spectacle. You watch the sun climb, painting the dunes in ever-changing shades of red and gold. Breakfast in the vlei, surrounded by the quiet vastness of the desert, feels like a sacred ritual. The flight back to Windhoek offers another perspective, the patterned landscapes of Namibia stretching below.

In Windhoek, the city's history comes alive at the Transport Museum. You feel a connection to the railway's past, a sense of how these tracks shaped the nation. As the train departs Windhoek, the city lights twinkle in the distance, a final urban farewell before the journey continues into the wilder north. The formal dinner is a welcome return to onboard elegance, a moment to digest the day's contrasts.

OTJIWARONGO / OTAVI

The morning on the train is a gentle prelude to a day of meaningful connection. You arrive at the Cheetah Conservation Project in Otjiwarongo, feeling a sense of purpose. Learning about the dedicated work to save these swift, elegant predators, you gain a deeper appreciation for the delicate balance of the ecosystem. Seeing the cheetahs up close, their powerful grace evident in every movement, is a privilege.

As the train makes its way to Otavi, the conversations at dinner naturally turn to conservation. You reflect on the impact of human efforts to protect wildlife, a hopeful counterpoint to the vastness of the wild. The formal setting, the fine food, and the company of like-minded travelers create a space for thoughtful discussion and shared passion for Africa's future.

ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

You wake on the train, knowing a true wilderness experience awaits. The transfer to Etosha National Park feels like an entry into another world. The vastness of the pan, shimmering white under the sun, is breathtaking. At the lodge, you feel a deep sense of peace, surrounded by the sounds and sights of the bush.

The afternoon game drive is exhilarating. You watch as animals gather at waterholes, their movements silhouetted against the vast sky. The air fills with the unique scents of the bush, and the light softens to golden hues. Dinner at the lodge, under a blanket of stars, is a perfect end to a day immersed in nature. You listen to the sounds of the night, feeling utterly connected to the wild heart of Africa.

ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK / ATLANTIC OCEAN

The final game drive in Etosha unfolds with the soft morning light, a last chance to bid farewell to the park's incredible wildlife. You feel a pang of melancholy, knowing this chapter is closing, but also a deep gratitude for the profound encounters. Back on the train, a sense of comfortable familiarity returns as you settle in for the journey towards the Atlantic.

The landscape gradually changes, the arid interior giving way to the subtle signs of the coast. The train's rhythmic motion is a comforting constant as you reflect on the vastness you've traversed. Tonight's '1920s' theme dinner offers a playful elegance, a last hurrah before the journey's end, a blend of past grandeur and the promise of new horizons.

NAMIB DESERT / WALVIS BAY

The final morning on the train is imbued with a quiet sense of accomplishment. You sip your coffee, watching the Namib Desert unfold outside the windows of the observation car. The vast, ancient landscape, stretching endlessly towards the Atlantic, feels like a grand finale, a profound culmination of your journey. The air carries a hint of the ocean, a fresh, salty breeze signaling the end of the rails.

As the train pulls into Walvis Bay Station, you feel a mix of nostalgia and exhilaration. The desert, the wildlife, the cultures – they have all woven themselves into your memory. Stepping onto the platform, you carry not just your luggage, but a heart full of indelible images and experiences, a deeper connection to the magnificent continent you have just traversed. The journey ends, but the story continues within you.

Tips & Travel Guide

Check-in Information

Please check-in a minimum of one hour before departure. If you wish to join a tour of Rovos Rail Station and visit our museum, we suggest arriving two hours prior to departure. Passports and relevant visas are required at check-in. No vouchers are required as luggage will be tagged and placed directly in your suite on board the train, where you will find your full itinerary pack.

Check-in locations and addresses:

- **Pretoria:** Rovos Rail Station, 1 Transnet Avenue, Capital Park, Pretoria, South Africa
- **Cape Town:** Rovos Rail Lounge, 1 Adderley Street, Paul Sauer Building, Cape Town, South Africa
- **Durban:** Durban Station Lounge, Jelf Taylor Crescent, Stamford Hill, Durban, South Africa
- **Victoria Falls:** Victoria Falls Hotel and Station, Mallet Drive, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe
- **Walvis Bay:** Walvis Bay Station, Corner 6th Street and 11th Road, Walvis Bay, Namibia
- **Copper Trail Journey Check-in:** Hotel Terminus, R. Robert Williams 16, Lobito, Angola
- **Dar Es Salaam Journey Check-in:** Serena Hotel, Ohio Street, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; Tazara Station, Julius K. Nyerere Road, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Dining Schedule

Meals on board are served in one sitting only, with a gong sounding for lunch and dinner. Breakfast is served from 07:00 to 10:00, lunch at 13:00, tea at 16:30, and dinner at 19:30. Bar service is available from approximately 07:00 to 01:00. These times are adhered to unless otherwise stated in the itinerary. Rovos Rail caters for food allergies provided a detailed request has been made at the time of your reservation; however, strict religious dietary observances cannot be guaranteed.

Dress Code

- **Days on Board:** Smart casual attire is recommended – neat, conventional, yet relatively informal, combining casual and formal clothing pieces.
- **Dinner on Board:** Formal attire is mandatory. Gentlemen should wear a collar and tie (jacket is optional), while ladies are suggested to wear cocktail/evening dresses or suits.
- **Themed Evenings:** On long journeys, themed evenings such as 'Africa' theme or '1920s' theme may occur. Guests can dress up accordingly or opt for smart casual.
- **Off-train Excursions:** Comfortable walking shoes, sun lotion, and hats are advised. Blankets and rain capes are available. Game drives are conducted in open vehicles, so dress for varying temperatures, which can be cool in the mornings and warm in the afternoons.

Electricity & Connectivity

Suites are 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 also provided. A generator supplies

of train travel, there is no radio, television, or WiFi on board the train. The use of mobile phones and laptops is confined to the privacy of your suites; public use for calls is discouraged to maintain the train's atmosphere. Reception can be poor while the train is moving. WiFi is available at Rovos Rail lounges in Cape Town and Pretoria, and at most off-train accommodation.

Climate & Weather

For excursions and game drives, mornings can be cool and warm up considerably, while afternoons can be warm then cool down. Warm clothing, comfortable shoes, hats, and sun protection are advised. Rain capes are available. Electric under-blankets are fitted on the beds for cooler nights. Average temperatures vary by region and season; for example, Pretoria experiences minimums of 7°C (May-Jun) and maximums of 30°C (Jan-Feb), with rainfall from Oct-Mar.

Onboard Amenities

Rovos Rail provides South African biodegradable and/or recyclable products in each suite, including all-natural soap, shampoo, hand and body wash/lotion, and insect repellent spray (for journeys over four days). Chemical-free lip balm, bamboo tissues, reusable bamboo rounds, bamboo ear buds, natural-bristle toothbrushes, natural toothpaste tablets, a compostable shower cap, and cotton-and-wax ear plugs are also provided. Sun cream, razors, and nail files are available at the Gift Shop. Dressing gowns and slippers are provided for each guest; these are also available for purchase from the Gift Shop. There is a small gift shop on the train (open between meals) and at Rovos Rail Station in Pretoria, offering SA-made items. A limited laundry service (10 items/day) is available on board with a 48-hour turnaround; no dry-cleaning facilities are available. Shoe cleaning bags are provided in your suite. Board games, cards, books, and magazines are available in the lounge and observation cars.

Medical Information

Guests are solely responsible for ensuring they are capable of undertaking the tours and activities. Please inform Rovos Rail at the time of reservation of any medical conditions, physical disabilities, or allergies. Each train is equipped with a standard medical kit, oxygen, an automated external defibrillator, and a wheelchair. Management on board are trained in First Aid up to Level 3, and general staff in Level 1. For emergencies, private healthcare hospitals are available (not guaranteed outside SA); evacuation can be arranged at your own expense. Malaria areas include Eswatini, Kruger Park, Etosha, Northern Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Zambia, Tanzania, DRC, and Angola; anti-malarial precautions are recommended. Recommended immunisations (not required) include Hepatitis A+B, Polio, Tetanus, and Cholera (low risk). A Yellow Fever/Medical Exemption Certificate is essential if travelling to/from DRC and Angola, or returning to certain countries. Consult your clinic or doctor; contact Travel Doctor Africa at 0861 300 911 (local) or +27 (0)11 888 5505 (international).

Luggage

Luggage can be stored in your suite under the bed or on a luggage rack above the door. While there are no strict restrictions, it is recommended to limit to two large suitcases. For selected long journeys, a Rovos Rail tog bag is provided for overnight trips or hand luggage on aircraft, with a 15kg weight restriction for plane transfers. A soft bag is preferable for plane transfers.


Currency

In South Africa, only Rands are accepted. In Namibia and Eswatini, Rands are accepted. In Zimbabwe, Tanzania (Dar es Salaam only), DRC, and Angola, US Dollars are accepted, and cash is highly recommended. Hotels and major dealers typically accept credit cards. US Dollar notes printed before 2017 or those that appear worn will not be accepted. Low denominations are recommended for shopping and gratuities, while larger denominations are useful for exchanging money to local currency (especially in Tanzania).

Departure Dates & Rates

DEPARTURE DATE	CLASS / CABIN	SINGLE	DOUBLE (PP)
Oct 9, 2026	Deluxe Suite	\$355,000	\$355,000
	Pullman Suite	\$263,500	\$263,500

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-african-trilogy-pretoria-walvis-bay> 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

 travel@palacetours.com |  786-408-0610

www.palacetours.com

500 S. Federal Hwy, Unit 3852, Hallandale Beach, FL 33008