PALACE TOURS
Travel Like Royalty

PALACE TOURS

Rovos Rail Durban Safari: A 2-Night Luxury Train Journey from Pretoria to Durban

2 Nights • Luxury Experience

www.palacetours.com travel@palacetours.com 786-408-0610

ABOUT THIS TOUR

Overview

Feel the gentle rhythm of the rails as you leave Pretoria, the city lights fading behind you, replaced by the vast, open expanse of the Highveld. You settle into your suite, a sanctuary of polished wood and soft linens, and realize this isn't just a journey; it's a step back in time, a chance to truly disconnect. The landscape outside your window transforms, from the golden grasslands to the imposing, ancient peaks of the Drakensberg, each vista a reminder of Africa's raw, untamed beauty. You sip a perfectly chilled South African wine as the train glides effortlessly, carrying you deeper into the continent's embrace.

You wake to the distant call of a bird, the morning light painting the savanna in hues of gold and rose during your Nambiti game drive. Later, standing on Spionkop, a chill wind whispers tales of history, a profound sense of place settling over you. The journey culminates in Durban, but the true souvenir isn't in your luggage. It's the quiet hum of the train still lingering in your memory, the scent of wild sage, and the feeling of having touched the heart of South Africa, forever changed by its grandeur.

Images: Courtesy - Rovos Rail

DAY BY DAY

Your Itinerary



DAY 1

PRETORIA / HEIDELBERG / BALFOUR / NEWCASTLE / ELANDSLAAGTE

As the Rovos Rail glides away from Pretoria, you feel the gentle sway and the rhythmic clickety-clack of the wheels on the tracks. The Highveld unfolds outside your window, a vast canvas of golden grasslands and distant goldfields. You settle into the plush comfort of your suite, a sense of anticipation building with each mile. The Drakensberg Mountains appear on the horizon, their ancient, weathered peaks seeming to guard the secrets of the land, inspiring a quiet reverence.

Later, over a sumptuous dinner, you find yourself connecting with fellow travelers, sharing stories as the train carries you through the evening. The formal attire and the soft glow of the dining car lamps create an atmosphere of timeless elegance. You drift off to sleep, the train's gentle motion a lullaby, dreaming of the history and beauty that lie ahead.

DAY 2

NAMBITI RESERVE / SPIONKOP / ESTCOURT



You wake to the gentle hum of the train, the anticipation of a safari filling the air. Stepping into the open game vehicle, the crisp morning air invigorates you as you venture into the Nambiti Reserve. The scent of wild sage and damp earth fills your senses, and suddenly, a majestic elephant emerges from the acacia trees, a breathtaking sight that makes your heart quicken. This is Africa, alive and untamed.

Later, standing on the hallowed ground of Spionkop, the wind carries whispers of history. You gaze across the rolling hills, imagining the events that unfolded here, a profound sense of the past settling over you. Back on the train, the day's adventures are recounted over a formal dinner, the clinking of glasses and hushed conversations creating a warm, convivial atmosphere as you journey deeper into the night.



DAY 3

LIONS RIVER / DURBAN

As the train descends the escarpment towards Lions River, the landscape transforms once more, revealing the verdant beauty of KwaZulu-Natal. You discover the vibrant world of Ardmore Ceramics, where each piece tells a story, alive with the spirit of Zulu folklore and the rich tapestry of African nature. The colors and intricate details captivate you, a testament to the boundless creativity inspired by this land.

The train then winds through the breathtaking Valley of a Thousand Hills, a panorama of rolling green undulations stretching as far as the eye can see. You reflect on the journey, the blend of luxury, history, and wildlife, as Durban's skyline slowly emerges. The memories of the rails, the landscapes, and the encounters will stay with you long after you step off the train.

Tips & Travel Guide

Check-in Information

Check-in for the Rovos Rail Durban Safari is at Rovos Rail Station, 1 Transnet Avenue, Capital Park, Pretoria, South Africa. Guests are required to check-in a minimum of one hour before departure. If you wish to visit the museum or take a site tour at Rovos Rail Station, arriving two hours prior to departure is recommended. Passports are required at check-in, and luggage will be tagged and placed in your suite on board.

Dining Schedule

Meals on board are served in one sitting only in the dining cars, complemented 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 is at 19:30. Bar service is available from 07:00-01:00. A gong heralds lunch and dinner. These times are adhered to unless otherwise stated in the timetable.

Dress Code

Days on board call for smart casual attire: neat, conventional yet relatively informal clothing pieces. **Dinner on board** requires formal dress. For gentlemen, a jacket and tie are a minimum requirement (from 2024, a collar and tie are mandatory, jacket optional). Ladies should opt for cocktail or evening dresses or suits. On long journeys, themed evenings (e.g., 'Africa' or '1920s') may invite guests to dress up accordingly. For **off-train excursions**, comfortable walking shoes, sun lotion, and hats are recommended. Mornings for game drives can be cool then warm up considerably; afternoons warm then cool down. Rain capes are available.

Electricity & Connectivity

On board, the electricity is 220V AC 50Hz, with 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 also provided. A generator supplies power, though certain breaks in power are necessary for servicing. For connectivity, mobile phone reception is poor while the train is moving. Wi-Fi is available at Rovos Rail lounges in Cape Town and Pretoria, and at most off-train accommodation, but not always guaranteed. Mobile devices and laptops should be used privately in suites only to avoid disturbing other guests.

Climate & Weather

Mornings on game drives can be cool then warm up considerably; afternoons can be warm then cool down considerably. Warm clothing, comfortable shoes, hats, and sun protection are advised. Rain capes are available. Average temperatures for Pretoria in Jan/Feb are 18-30°C, and in May/Jun are 7-23°C. For Durban, Jan/Feb sees 21-29°C, while May/Jun has 12-25°C. Electric under-blankets are fitted on beds, and individual air conditioners with temperature controls can be set to heat mode.

Onboard Amenities

Each suite receives a complete amenity bag with South African biodegradable/recyclable products including soap, bamboo tissues, shampoo, hand and body wash/lotion, lip balm, insect repellent spray, reusable bamboo rounds, ear buds, and a compostable shower cap. Plug-in hairdryers are available in suites. Dressing gowns and slippers are

cleaning facilities are available. A small gift shop is on the train and at Rovos Rail Station in Pretoria, offering stamps, postcards, and other items. The Administration Deputy provides basic first aid, personal essentials, and can assist with administrative requirements.

Medical Information

Guests are solely responsible for ensuring they are capable of undertaking the tours and activities. Rovos Rail trains are equipped with a standard medical kit, oxygen, automated external defibrillator, and a wheelchair. Train Managers are First Aid Level 3 trained. For medical emergencies outside of South Africa, private hospitals are not guaranteed, but evacuation by road or air can be arranged (at own account). Anti-malarial precautions are recommended for areas like eSwatini, Kruger Park, and Botswana. Recommended immunisations 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. Contact TRAVEL DOCTOR AFRICA at 0861 300 911 (local) or +27 (0) 11 214 9030 (international).

Luggage

Luggage can be stored in your suite under the bed or above the door on a luggage rack. There are no strict luggage restrictions on board, but more than two large suitcases are not recommended. A soft bag is preferable for plane transfers, with a weight restriction of 15kg. On selected long journeys, guests receive a Rovos Rail tog bag for overnight trips or hand luggage.

Currency

In South Africa, only Rands are accepted on the train, and major credit cards are accepted. Outside South Africa (Namibia, eSwatini, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, DRC, Angola), Rands are accepted in Namibia and eSwatini. US Dollars are accepted in Zimbabwe, Tanzania (Dar es Salaam only), DRC, and Angola, with cash highly recommended. US Dollars printed before 2013 or worn notes are not accepted. Low denominations are recommended for shopping/gratuities, while larger denominations are better for exchanging money to local currency (especially in Tanzania).

DATES & PRICING

Departure Dates & Rates

DEPARTURE DATE	CLASS / CABIN	SINGLE	DOUBLE (PP)
Nov 13, 2026	Royal Suites	**$142,500**	**$95,000**
	Deluxe Suites	**$107,250**	**$71,500**
	Pullman Suites	**$74,850**	**$49,900**
Jan 22, 2027	Royal Suites	**$142,500**	**$95,000**
	Deluxe Suites	**$107,250**	**$71,500**
	Pullman Suites	**$74,850**	**$49,900**
Feb 19, 2027	Royal Suites	**$142,500**	**$95,000**
	Deluxe Suites	**$107,250**	**$71,500**
	Pullman Suites	**$74,850**	**$49,900**
Mar 12, 2027	Royal Suites	**$142,500**	**$95,000**
	Deluxe Suites	**$107,250**	**$71,500**
	Pullman Suites	**$74,850**	**$49,900**
Sep 3, 2027	Royal Suites	**$142,500**	**$95,000**
	Deluxe Suites	**$107,250**	**$71,500**
	Pullman Suites	**$74,850**	**$49,900**
Oct 1, 2027	Royal Suites	**$154,500**	**$103,000**
	Deluxe Suites	**$116,250**	**$77,500**
	Pullman Suites	**$81,750**	**$54,500**
Oct 29, 2027	Royal Suites	**$154,500**	**$103,000**
	Deluxe Suites	**$116,250**	**$77,500**

DEPARTURE DATE	CLASS / CABIN	SINGLE	DOUBLE (PP)
Jan 14, 2028	Royal Suites	**$154,500**	**$103,000**
	Deluxe Suites	**$116,250**	**$77,500**
	Pullman Suites	**$81,750**	**$54,500**
Feb 4, 2028	Royal Suites	**$154,500**	**$103,000**
	Deluxe Suites	**$116,250**	**$77,500**
	Pullman Suites	**$81,750**	**$54,500**
Mar 24, 2028	Royal Suites	**$154,500**	**$103,000**
	Deluxe Suites	**$116,250**	**$77,500**
	Pullman Suites	**$81,750**	**$54,500**
Sep 1, 2028	Royal Suites	**$154,500**	**$103,000**
	Deluxe Suites	**$116,250**	**$77,500**
	Pullman Suites	**$81,750**	**$54,500**

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-durban-safari-pretoria-durban for the latest information.

IMPORTANT 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 Sosusvale

- 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.

COMMON QUESTIONS

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the dress code on Rovos Rail's Durban Safari?

> During the day 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 (from 2024, a collar and tie are mandatory, while a jacket is optional). Ladies should wear cocktail or evening dresses or suits. For off-train excursions and game drives, comfortable walking shoes, sun lotion, hats, and warm clothing are recommended, as mornings can be cool and afternoons can vary.

Are meals and beverages included in the tour price?

> Yes, all meals are included as per the itinerary (Breakfast 07:00-10:00, Lunch 13:00, Tea 16:30, Dinner 19:30) and are served in the dining cars. All beverages are also included, with the exception of international sparkling wine. Room service is available, and the bar operates from 07:00 to 01:00 daily.

What types of suites are available on the Rovos Rail Durban Safari?

> The Durban Safari, being a 2-night journey, offers Pullman Suites. These are approximately 7m^2 (76ft^2) and include an en-suite bathroom with a shower, toilet, and basin. During the day, the suite is set up with a comfortable couch, which is converted into sleeping options at night. Bed configurations include Double (189x150cm), Side-by-side Twin (189x75cm), Single Lower Bunk (189x94cm), and Single Upper Bunk (189x60cm).

What medical facilities are available on board or for emergencies?

> Each train is equipped with a standard medical kit, oxygen, an automated external defibrillator, and a wheelchair. All Train Managers are First Aid Level 3 trained. For medical emergencies, private healthcare hospitals are available in South Africa, and evacuation can be arranged by road or air (at the guest's own account) if required. Guests are responsible for informing Rovos Rail of any medical conditions or allergies at the time of reservation.

Is travel insurance compulsory for this tour?

> Yes, cancellation insurance is compulsory for the Rovos Rail Durban Safari, as cancellation fees will not be waived. South African residents can obtain insurance through Rovos Rail. International guests are advised to contact their local insurance agent for assistance and to carry a copy of their policy with a 24-hour medical emergency telephone number.

What are the luggage restrictions on Rovos Rail?

> There are no strict luggage restrictions on board Rovos Rail. Luggage can be stored conveniently in your suite under the bed or on a luggage rack above the door. However, it's recommended not to bring more than two large suitcases. If your journey involves plane transfers, a soft bag is preferable due to typical airline weight restrictions of 15kg.

What currencies are accepted on board and during excursions?

> On board the train, only South African Rands are accepted, and major credit cards are also accepted. For excursions outside South Africa, such as in Namibia or eSwatini, Rands are accepted. For Zimbabwe, Tanzania (Dar es Salaam only), DRC, and Angola, US Dollars are accepted, and cash is highly recommended. Please note that US Dollar notes printed before 2013 or those that appear worn will not be accepted. Low denominations are useful for shopping and gratuities.

Is there Wi-Fi or mobile connectivity on the train?

> Mobile phone reception is generally poor while the train is moving. To maintain the spirit of train travel, there are no radios or television sets on board. The use of mobile phones and laptops is confined to the privacy of your suites. Wi-Fi is available at Rovos Rail lounges in Cape Town and Pretoria, and at most off-train accommodation, though not always guaranteed.

What is the recommended check-in time for the Durban Safari?

> Guests should check-in a minimum of one hour before the scheduled departure time. If you wish to visit the Rovos Rail museum or take a site tour at Capital Park Station in Pretoria, it is recommended to arrive two hours prior to departure to allow ample time for these experiences.

Are children allowed on Rovos Rail journeys?

> Rovos Rail accommodates children, but parents are kindly asked to be sensitive to the adult nature and atmosphere of the train by ensuring children remain respectful and quiet. Long journeys are not recommended for children under 13. Children between 0-2 years old are not permitted to travel. There are no child-minding facilities or activities available on board.

Can Rovos Rail itineraries or timings change?

> Rovos Rail is reliant on the traction and railway services provided by the countries it traverses, and delays can occur due to various factors beyond its control (e.g., locomotives, signals, power-cable damage, vandalism). Rovos Rail reserves the right to cancel or amend routing, excursions, and departure dates if necessary, offering alternative options. Excursion and arrival times are approximate and cannot be guaranteed. It is strongly cautioned against same-day air travel on departure/arrival days due to possible delays.

Where does the Durban Safari train journey start and end, and how long is it?

> It is a 2-night, 3-day journey. The train departs at 10:00 from Rovos Rail Station at 1 Transnet Avenue, Capital Park, Pretoria (bring your passport to check-in), and arrives at Durban Station at about 16:00 on day 3.

What is the game drive at Nambiti like on the Durban Safari?

> On day 2 you take a game drive in open safari vehicles through the Nambiti Reserve, a private Big Five reserve covering about 20,000 acres of malaria-free bushveld with savannah, grasslands, thornveld and tall acacias. An early breakfast is served before the drive, and brunch is served on board afterwards.

What can we do at Spionkop on the Durban Safari?

> After brunch a transfer of about 30 minutes takes you to Spionkop Lodge for the afternoon. You choose between a guided talk on the Battle of Spionkop from the Anglo-Boer War, told while overlooking the battlefield, or a nature drive through the reserve.

What happens on the last day between the Midlands and Durban?

> The train descends the escarpment towards Lions River for a visit to the Ardmore Ceramics Gallery, where artists create vibrant work inspired by nature and Zulu folklore. After lunch the train crosses the Valley of a Thousand Hills, one of the most scenic parts of KwaZulu-Natal, before arriving in Durban.

How much should I budget for gratuities on the Durban Safari?

> Gratuities are not included. The suggested guideline is ZAR 100-300 (about USD 10-20) per person per night for the train staff, and about ZAR 150 (USD 10) per guest per day for game lodge guides and staff.

How big is a Royal Suite on the Durban Safari train?

> A Royal Suite is about 16 square metres (172 square feet) and takes up half a carriage. It has a private lounge area, a full en-suite bathroom with bath and shower, a minibar, writing desk, safe and air conditioning, and comes as a double bed (200 x 189 cm) or split twin beds (200 x 75 cm each).

Is laundry included on the Durban Safari, and what amenities are provided?

> A limited laundry service is included, up to 10 items per day with a 48-hour turnaround, along with room service. Every suite has an amenities kit with soap, shampoo, hand and body wash and lotion, lip balm, insect repellent and bamboo toiletries.

Which dates are available for the Durban Safari, and what deposit is required?

> No departures are currently listed on this page, so ask us for the next available dates and fares. Once a date is confirmed, a 25% deposit secures your suite and the balance is due 65 days before departure.

How do I ask a question or book the Durban Safari from Pretoria to Durban?

> Email travel@palacetours.com, call 786-408-0610, or message us on WhatsApp at https://wa.me/17864080610, where a travel specialist or our AI assistant will answer. When departures are listed on this page they are bookable directly; until then we will quote the next available dates for you.

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