

# camping africa

## 10 Days – ROVOS RAIL – Namibia Safari

*The Most Luxurious Train in the World*



### 10 DAYS • 3400km

This journey takes the train from the savannahs of the Highveld to the Atlantic in the west. Departing from Pretoria, the first stop is Kimberley, centre of one of the world's famous diamond rushes where there is an opportunity to savour the 1870s atmosphere of the mining village. The train traverses the stark vistas of the Northern Cape to the Fish River Canyon – second in size to the Grand Canyon – and Garas Park with its quiver-tree forest. Guests continue across the untamed beauty of the Kalahari Desert to Namibia's capital for a tour; Windhoek is a lively, cosmopolitan city with a strong German flavour. Then it's a short flight to Sossusvlei, a stunning pan in the Namib Desert, for an overnight stay

followed by a night in the game-rich Etosha National Park. On the last morning, the train travels the Namib to the perfectly preserved 19th-century German Hansa town of Swakopmund and Walvis Bay – an unforgettable end to a remarkable journey. *Available in reverse.*

*From 2022, the Namibia Safari will be 9 nights/10 days including a visit to a cheetah conservation project. See itineraries for details.*

Each train has accommodation carriages, dining cars, a lounge car (±26 seats), small gift shop, smoking lounge (±11 seats) and observation car (±32 seats) with openair balcony.

**Countries:** South Africa, Namibia

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mGDz3zH8Gig>

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Cheetah conservation project visit (2022)
- Deadvlei visit
- Etosha game drives and overnight stay
- Fish River Canyon visit
- See the quiver trees at Garas Park
- Traverse the edge of the Kalahari Basin
- Traverse the Karoo
- Traverse the Namib Desert
- Pretoria
- Sossusvlei game drives and overnight stay
- View Star Dune 45
- Visit the Trans-Namib Museum
- Upington walking tour (optional)
- Walvis Bay
- Windhoek tour

## ITINERARY

## DAY 1: PRETORIA

*Please ensure that the Train Manager or Administration Deputy is in possession of your passport.*

11:00 Depart from Rovos Rail Station, Pretoria. Travel south via the goldfields of the Witwatersrand. Guests may freshen up in their suites before joining fellow travellers in the lounge car or observation car at the rear of the train.

13:00 Lunch is served in the dining cars.

16:30 Tea is served in the lounge and observation cars.

19:30 Dinner is served in the dining cars. *Dress: Formal*

## DAY 2: KIMBERLEY

07:00 Breakfast is served in the dining cars.

09:45 Enjoy a tour of **Kimberley's Diamond Mine Museum** and the Big Hole. Capital of the Northern Cape, Kimberley is well known for the discovery of diamonds that led to its establishment in 1871.

13:00 Lunch is served in the dining cars. The observation car will be leading the train until after tea. Travel through the **Karoo**, a vast semi-desert region that was once an enormous inland sea. Over millions of years, volcanic matter was ground down and deposited as silt upon the seabed to form what geologists call the Karoo system.

16:30 Tea is served in the lounge car and observation car at the front of the train.

19:30 Dinner is served in the dining cars en route to De Aar, an important railway junction. *Dress: Formal*

## DAY 3: UPINGTON BORDER: NAKOP, SOUTH AFRICA / ARIAMSVLEI, NAMIBIA

07:00 Breakfast is served in the dining cars until 10:00.

09:00 Disembark the train for an optional two-hour walking tour of **Upington**.

13:00 Lunch is served in the dining cars. Border formalities with Namibia.

16:30 Tea is served in the lounge car and observation car at the rear of the train.

19:30 Dinner is served in the dining cars en route to Holoog. *Dress: Formal*

Attorney General of the Cape, Sir Thomas Upington was principally responsible for liquidating the business activities of all the Orange River pirates and capturing their leader, Klaas Lucas. When the desperadoes were finally chased away in 1884, the town was founded on the banks of the Orange River and named in his honour.

## DAY 4: FISH RIVER CANYON & GARAS PARK

*Please wear comfortable non-slip walking shoes for the excursions today.*

06:00 Breakfast is served in the dining cars until departure.

08:00 Board vehicles for the one-hour drive to the **Fish River Canyon**. Return to the train at 11:00.

13:00 Lunch is served in the dining cars. The train travels along the southern reaches of the Kalahari Basin.

15:00 Visit Garas Park (Quiver Trees), home to roughly 300 specimens of the Aloe dichotoma. The prehistoric trees have forked branches that reach up to 5m making for great photographic opportunities.

16:30 Tea is served in the lounge and observation cars.

19:30 Dinner is served in the dining cars. The train travels north through the Kalahari to Mariental. *Dress: Formal*

The Fish River rises in the centre of the country before flowing south into the Orange River on Namibia's border with South Africa. It has formed the great Fish River Canyon – the largest canyon in the southern hemisphere and probably only second to Arizona's Grand Canyon in terms of size. The vast rocky landscape breaks up into a series of spectacular cliffs. Its size is impressive: 161km long, up to 27km wide and almost 550m at its deepest.

### **DAY 5: SOSSUSVLEI**

*\*Please pack a small overnight bag for the stay in Sossusvlei. Toiletries have been placed in your suite for your convenience. See below for inclusions/exclusions (All other beverages; laundry; personal expenses).*

07:00 Breakfast is served in the dining cars until 10:00.

10:30 Transfer to the airstrip. Depart in a light aircraft for a one-hour **flight to Sossusvlei**.

12:00 After check-in, enjoy lunch at the restaurant.

16:30 Afternoon desert drive and a bush dinner after sunset. Overnight at the lodge. *Dress: Casual*

The dunes of the Namib were created by sand carried by the wind from the coast. The sand here is over 5-million years old and is red due to its iron-oxide content. As the light changes during the day so does the appearance of the dunes' characteristic colour allowing for interesting photographs at any time. The wind in the Sossusvlei area blows from all directions causing the sand to form a star shape with multiple arms, hence the name "star dunes".

### **DAY 6: SOSSUSVLEI & WINDHOEK**

*Please ensure your overnight bag is ready to be collected from your suite before the drive. Time of drive to be confirmed. Bags will be stored in the lodge's baggage area before being loaded into the aircraft.*

*An early wake-up call with tea and coffee. Enjoy a **desert drive** with breakfast in the vleis.*

11:00 Return to the lodge to use the facilities, check-out and transfer to the airstrip.

12:00 Depart in a light aircraft for the one-hour flight to Windhoek. Enjoy lunch and visit the **Transport Museum**.

18:00 Depart Windhoek.

19:30 Dinner is served in the dining cars en route to Kranzberg for overnight. *Dress: Formal*

Situated in Namibia's central highlands, Windhoek is an attractive city surrounded by clusters of hills and the impressive Auas and Eros Mountains. The Trans-Namib Transport Museum outlines Namibian transport history, particularly that of the railway. The Independence Memorial Museum focuses on the anti-colonial resistance and the national liberation struggle of Namibia.

### **DAY 7: CHEETAH CONSERVATION PROJECT**

07:00 Breakfast is served in the dining cars until 10:00.

12:30 Lunch is served in the dining cars.

14:00 Visit a **cheetah conservation project** in Otjiwarongo. Founded in Namibia in 1990, the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) is dedicated to saving the cheetah in the wild. TIME MIGHT BE EARLIER

19:30 Dinner is served in the dining cars en route to Otavi. *Dress: Formal*

### **DAY 8: ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK**

*Please pack a small overnight bag for the stay in Etosha. See below for inclusions/exclusions.*

07:00 Breakfast is served in the dining cars until 10:00.

10:30 Transfer (120 min) to Mokuti Lodge -

<https://www.mokutietoshalodge.com> in **Etosha National Park**. Check-in and enjoy lunch.

15:00 Afternoon game drive (approximately 3 hours).

19:00 Dinner at the lodge and overnight. *Dress: Casual*

Etosha National Park (22270km<sup>2</sup>) offers great game viewing. It gets its name from the Etosha pan (4760km<sup>2</sup>), a large salt pan forming part of the Kalahari Basin. Etosha means 'Great White Place'.

### **DAY 9: ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK**

*Please ensure your overnight bag is ready to be collected from your suite and proceed to checkout by 10:45. Your bag will be loaded into the vehicles. Time of game drive to be confirmed. An early wake-up call with tea and coffee. Enjoy a game drive in the **Etosha National Park**.*

09:45 Return to the lodge for breakfast and check-out.

11:00 Meet in the foyer to check out and transfer (60 min) to the train at Tsumeb Station.

13:00 Lunch is served in the dining cars.

16:30 Tea is served in the lounge and observation cars.

19:30 Dinner is served. The train travels southwest towards the Atlantic Ocean. *Dress: "Africa" Theme or Smart Casual*

### **DAY 10: WALVIS BAY**

*Please ensure your luggage is ready for collection at 11:45 and that you have passport.*

07:00 Breakfast is served in the dining cars until 10:00. Traverse the **Namib Desert** towards Walvis Bay. The observation car will be at the front of the train for last stretch – a different aspect that our rail enthusiasts enjoy.

12:00 Arrive at journey's end in **Walvis Bay**, Namibia.

The Namib Desert stretches for more than 2000km along the Atlantic coasts of Angola, Namibia and South Africa. The name is of Khoekhoegowab origin and means “vast place”. Having endured arid or semi-arid conditions for roughly 55-80 million years, the Namib may be the oldest desert in the world. The geology consists of sand seas near the coast while gravel plains and scattered mountain outcrops occur further inland.

## END OF YOUR JOURNEY – BON VOYAGE!

### What is Included

- Accommodation
- All meals: Breakfast 07:00 – 10:00, Lunch 13:00, Tea 16:30, Dinner 19:00
- All beverages
- Room service
- Limited Laundry
- Excursions with qualified guide (where applicable)
- \*Flights to/from Sossusvlei, overnight bag, accommodation, meals, water, tea/coffee and breakfast juice
- Entrance Fees as per itinerary
- Government Tax

### What is excluded

- International/French Champagne
- Gratuities
- Off-train beverages
- Personal Expenses
- Visas
- Fully comprehensive travel insurance
- Pre- and Post-Tour transfers, accommodation and flights
- Any other service not mentioned

### Costs 2022





**ROYAL SUITES** – Around 16m<sup>2</sup> / Double Bed 200x189 / Split Twin 200x75

Minibar, air conditioning, writing desk, luggage shelf, cupboards, safe, en-suite bathroom with toilet, basin, bath and shower

**Price: € 11,551 / ZAR 198,000 per person sharing**



**DELUX SUITES** – Around 10m<sup>2</sup> / Double Bed Lengthways 189x189 and Double Crosswise 189x160 / Split Twin 189x75

Minibar, air conditioning, writing desk, luggage shelf, cupboards, safe, en-suite bathroom with toilet, basin and shower

**Price: € 9,042 / ZAR 155,000 per person sharing**



**PULLMAN SUITES** – Around 7m<sup>2</sup> / Double Bed 189x150 / Side-by-Side Twin 189x75 / Single Lower 189x94 / Single Upper 189x60

Tea drawer, air conditioning, fold-out writing desk, luggage shelf, cupboards, safe, en-suite bathroom with toilet, basin and shower

**Price: € 6,767/ ZAR 116,000 per person sharing**

#### Journey Dates:

##### Pretoria to Walvis Bay

- 5 – 14 April 2022
- 27 April – 6 May 2022
- 4 May – 13 May 2022

##### Walvis Bay to Pretoria

- 16 – 25 April 2022
- 8 – 17 May 2022
- 15 – 24 May 2022

#### Notes

- Single Supplement +50%
- Excursions may be changed according to schedule achieved. Times are approximate and cannot be guaranteed. Please check with the Train Manager or [reservations@rovos.co.za](mailto:reservations@rovos.co.za) for any updates or changes to the itinerary. In your suite you will find the Journeys magazine that features articles of interest related to the route
- Please dress accordingly for excursions/game drives: mornings 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.
- Check-in: A minimum of one hour before departure
- Booking: A 25% deposit is required and final payment of 85% 65 Days before departure.
- Booking: 64 Days or less 100% payment is due.
- Cancellation Fees: 365-91 Days before travel date – 10%, 90 to 60 Days before travel date – 25%, 60 to 31 Days before travel date 50%, 30 to 0 Days before travel date 100%
- For more detailed information on the journey please send us an email: [reservations@campingafrica.net](mailto:reservations@campingafrica.net)
- Standard booking terms & conditions remain applicable at all times