Discovering

The Rovos Rail

Combining the glamour and excitement of the golden age of leisure travel with the thrill of gliding through some of Africa's most renowned destinations, Rovos Rail is a luxury locomotive, known internationally for its opulent journeys through South Africa. Its classic carriages, featuring wood-panelled exteriors, fine china and glassware, create a nostalgic experience, reminiscent of a more elegant age of travel.

Experience the world-class service as you dine in the lavish restaurant car on a menu of delicious cuisine and gourmet dining, before returning to your luxurious accommodation, ready for a comfortable, restful night's sleep.

Enjoy ever-changing panoramas as you carve through scenic routes of some of the continent's most remarkable locations, pausing for once-in-a-lifetime off-train excursions along the way.

These unforgettable moments combine to create a unique and luxurious experience while exploring the beauty of Southern Africa.

Dining:

Executive Chef, Maryke Reuvers, and her team combine the Victorian era atmosphere of the dining cars with fresh local ingredients to create beautifully presented, traditional speciality dishes that reflect the destinations you are traversing through.

All meals are served in a single sitting in the dining cars, with lunch and dinner complemented by a selection of fine South African wines. Each afternoon, you will also be offered a sumptuous afternoon tea.

Breakfast: 07:00 - 10:00

Lunch: 13:00

Afternoon Tea: 16:30

Dinner: 19:30

Destinations

Rovos Rail, a luxury train service in South Africa, offers various routes and destinations across Southern Africa.

Some of the notable destinations that Rovos Rail travels to include:

- Cape Town, South Africa
- Pretoria, South Africa
- Durban, South Africa
- Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe
- Swakopmund, Namibia
- Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- Namibia Desert
- Kruger National Park, South Africa



Suites & Coaches:

Boasting all-suite accommodation, a journey on board Rovos Rail promises a private and comfortable stay, complete with elegant and spacious suites that feature double or twin beds and top-quality facilities.

Relax and feel completely at home with an en-suite bathroom, tea-making facilities, safes, air conditioning and linen, all serviced daily.

Royal Suites

The largest and most opulent suites on board, the Royal Suites stand at approximately 16m² / 172ft², each occupying half a carriage. These suites all feature a private lounge area and a stunning en-suite bathroom with a Victorian bath, separate shower, toilet and basin.

Deluxe Suites

Savour the remarkable sights of Southern Africa from the comfort of your Deluxe Suite, boasting plush double or twin beds, a lounge area and an en-suite bathroom with a shower, toilet and basin. At approximately 10m² / 108ft², these suites offer ample space for an enjoyable journey.

Pullman Suites

Available on shorter journeys dependent on capacity, Pullman Suites are approximately 7m² / 76ft² and include an en-suite bathroom and comfortable sofa that converts into various sleeping arrangements.

Pullman Gold Suites

Available on longer journeys dependent on capacity, Pullman Gold Suites are approximately 7m² / 76ft² and include an en-suite bathroom and split twin beds that convert into comfortable sofas.





Observation Cars

On board Rovos Rail, the stunning scenery acts as all the entertainment you need.

The observation car, complete with an open-air balcony, big picture windows, bar, and comfortable sofas and booths, is the perfect place to while away the day with a good book or mingle with friends over a cocktail or two.

On most days, afternoon tea is served in both the lounge and observation cars at 16:30, while bar service operates in both cars from 07:00 - 01:00.

On some of the longer journeys, Rovos Rail also has an onboard historian who hosts lectures in the lounge car.

At one end of the carriage there is a small, subtly-lit glass Gift Shop, selling bespoke memorabilia such as handmade teddy bears, postcards and personal essentials.

Dress Code

You can't ever be overdressed on board the Rovos Rail! Days on board are smart casual, while dinner is a more formal affair. For gentlemen, a collar and a tie are mandatory, while a jacket is optional. For ladies, cocktail and evening dresses or suits are suggested.

On long journeys, you'll be treated to themed evenings, where you have the opportunity to dress up accordingly if you so wish.

The current themed evenings include:

1 x Africa evening or

1 x 1920s evening, depending on itineraries.

For those not wanting to follow the theme, a smart casual option is permitted.

For off-train excurisons, comfortable walking shoes, sun cream and hats are recommended. If required, blankets and rain capes are available on board. Game drives are on open vehicles, so please dress accordingly, and take layers to ensure you are comfortable, regardless of the time and temperature.

Locomotion

Use of steam has become increasingly difficult over the years as more and more water and coaling facilities have been scrapped. While steam is used in and around the area of Rovos Rail Station in Pretoria, diesel or electric locomotives are used throughout the rest of the journey.

The Track

The tracks that Rovos Rail travels are not consistently maintained throughout their length, which may occasionally create the sensation of the train moving faster than it is.

Please rest assured that your safety and comfort remain the highest priority: the train's speed is carefully limited to a maximum of 60 km/h (37 mph), and it slows to as little as 20 km/h (12 mph) where conditions require.

For a more restful night, complimentary earplugs are provided in your amenities bag and also available from the Gift Shop.

Security

An electronic safe is provided in the cupboard in each suite. When on board, you are encouraged to close shutters and windows when not in your suites.

Please be particularly mindful when passing through stations. The train doors in the passages are all locked from the inside. Your suite door can also lock from the inside.



Laundry Service

A limited laundry service (10 items per day) is available on board, using household washers, dryers, and steam irons. The turnaround time is 48 hours. Please note that there are no dry-cleaning facilities available either en route or on board.

While this service is complimentary, Rovos Rail cannot be held responsible for any items that may be damaged or lost during the process.

Luggage

You can store luggage in your suite either under the bed or on the luggage rack above the door, which offers plenty of space. There are no strict luggage restrictions, though we recommend bringing no more than two large suitcases.

Children

Children are welcome on board, but parents are kindly asked to be sensitive to other guests by keeping them respectful and quiet. Children under the age of 13 are not recommended to travel on the long journeys, as no child-minding facilities or child-specific activities are offered on board.

Infants under the age of two are not permitted to travel. Children under five are not permitted in the dining and lounge cars, however room service is available and the chefs will endeavour to prepare suitable child-friendly meals with the ingredients they have available on board.

There is a maximum of two guests per suite, however children under the age of five are able to share with two adults (in a Deluxe, Royal or Emerald suite only). Children over the age of five must have their own suite, or share with one adult.

3-9 years: Pays 75% of the adult per person sharing rate

10 years+: Pays full rate



Temperature on board

All public cars are fitted with gas-filled air-conditioning systems. Each suite has an individualair conditioner with temperature controls that can also be set to heat mode.

Windows should be closed while operating the air-conditioning unit. Electric under-blankets are fitted on the bed.

Mobility

Rovos Rail are able to accommodate guests with walking difficulties, however we recommend an able-bodied passenger to accompany them; Unfortunately, the train is not suitable for wheelchair-bound passengers.

Should you have mobility restrictions or special requirements, please ensure you inform us at the time of booking so necessary accommodations can be made.

Gratuities

Gratuities for the staff are entirely at your discretion. If you wish to express your appreciation, an envelope will be provided in your suite.

You can place your tip in the envelope and hand it directly to the Train Manager, who will distribute it proportionally among the staff on board.

A suggested amount is **ZAR100-300 (± US$10-20)** per person per night, depending on the length of your journey.

At the game lodges, it's customary to tip guides and lodge staff around **ZAR150 (± US$10)** per guest per day.

Water use Onboard

The water on the train is stored in tanks beneath each coach, which are filled daily but cannot be refilled while the train is in motion. Please ensure you use water responsibly.

The water in the suites is filtered and chlorinated, making it safe for bathing and brushing teeth.

For drinking, please use the bottled water provided. The bottles are all biodegradable and made from plant-based materials.

Wi-Fi & Electronics

To preserve the essence of train travel, radios and televisions are not provided on board. Mobile phones, laptops, and any devices that may disturb fellow passengers are to be used only in the privacy of your suite.

Reception can be limited while the train is in motion, so it's recommended to check with your service provider to ensure proper network settings are activated.

Wi-Fi is available in our lounges in Cape Town and Pretoria, as well as at most off-train accommodations, though availability may not always be guaranteed.

Smoking

Smoking is only permitted in the Smoking Club Lounge on board the train. Please be considerate of non-smoking guests, as the train is primarily constructed of wood.

For safety reasons, do not dispose of cigarette or cigar butts outside the train, as bushfires in Africa are a serious and ongoing threat.

When making your reservation, please specify whether or not you are a smoker, so that the appropriate room can be requested at hotels or lodges.