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# southern africa

## Cape Town & Luxury Rovos Rail

16 April 2010  
19 Days

~includes Flights!

Ranger Guided 4WD Safari (2 days) ~ Kruger NP; Ranger Guided 4WD & Cruise Safari ~ Chobe NP, Johannesburg & Soweto, Apartheid Museum, The Garden Route, Swaziland, Panorama Route, 2 Nights Luxury Rovos Rail, 4 Nights Cape Town

### Day 1: Home—Johannesburg (meals on flight)

We will depart from Thornton, making our way to Sydney to join our flight from Sydney direct to Johannesburg. There will be meals served on the flight. Upon arrival in South Africa we will meet our driver and be transported to our hotel. We will have a chance to relax and unwind after our long journey.



### Day 2: Pretoria City Tour—Soweto—Johannesburg (BL)

Our first stop will be Pretoria, where we visit the Voortrekker Monument, a tribute to the great march of the Boer Pioneers. We will drive through the city past Church Square home to many important buildings in this nation's history. We will continue on our city tour of Soweto, a surprising city of 3.5 million people, alive with hope. We will drive over Bara Bridge, see Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital, the largest hospital in the Southern Hemisphere, on our way to visit the historic home of Nelson Mandela, and the Hector Pieterse Memorial Museum and the Black Madonna in Regina Mundi Catholic Church. We will enjoy lunch at well known Wandi's Shebeen (illegal drinking and liquor shop in the "apartheid" era).

### Day 3: Johannesburg—Panorama Route—Hoedspruit (BD)

As we leave Johannesburg be amazed as the scenery changes from "Highveld" to "Lowveld" as we make our way to the old mining town of Pilgrim's Rest for lunch (own expense) amongst the heritage village buildings and gold mining sites. Experience the Panorama Route, stopping for a closer look at Blyde River Canyon, the 3rd largest canyon in the world, along with the "Three Rondavels" and later Bourke's Luck Potholes, a unique rock formation (very different from our potholes!) Tonights dinner will be a highlight as we enjoy the "Out of Africa" experience at our private game lodge.



### Day 4: Hoedspruit—Endangered Species Centre—Open Vehicle Game Drive (BD)

This morning we travel to Rooiboklaagte to visit the Mapusha Weaving Cooperative for a guided tour of the studios. Here we will see the women working on an array of crafts that have an authentic African theme. Next stop is the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre which is working to help save many African species and we will be treated to an indepth tour in an open game vehicle. This afternoon we continue to Kapama River Lodge for a high tea before a late afternoon open game drive in this private park. We will be seeking the big 5; Elephants, Buffalo, Lion, Leopard & Rhino, as well as Zebra, Hippo, Giraffe, Cheetah, Impala and Sable. Bring binoculars, water, sunscreen and a hat (although our jeeps are covered). Most importantly don't forget your camera! We will enjoy a buffet dinner before returning to our Safari lodge for our overnight accommodation.



### Day 5: Hoedspruit—Kruger National Park 4WD Ranger Guided Safari (BD)

An early start this morning to make our way to Kruger National Park, over 2 million hectares of spectacular wildlife and scenery. After a picnic breakfast we will join our open game vehicles for a full day of game viewing. As we make our way around the park we have the opportunity to view many of the animals who call this park home including the Big 5. You may also see the very rare African Wild Dog lazing under a tree and other endangered



species. On arrival at our rest camp in the late afternoon we can freshen up before dinner.

### Day 6: Kruger National Park 4WD Ranger Guided Safari (BD)

An early start today as we start with a full day game drive with breakfast at a rest camp to see the animals at their best and most active. We will travel in open vehicles with experienced local rangers who know the best spots for spotting local wildlife. Our lunch stop (own expense) will be at one of the many rest camps depending on the location of the wildlife. Our luggage will meet us at our next rest camp where we will arrive late afternoon with time to relax before dinner. Enjoy dinner at the Selati Railway Restaurant, a restored railway station, complete with bar in a railway carriage, the start of journeys into Kruger National Park in days gone by.

### Day 7: Kruger NP—Swaziland (BLD)

We traverse undulating countryside as we leave Kruger park at Malelane Gate, with a visit to Matsamo Cultural Village for a traditional lunch at the alfresco "African Theatre". We enter the Kingdom of Swaziland, renowned for its artisans and colourful craft work. This independent country possesses a colourful history and proud people. This afternoon relax in your room, or take a scenic walk in the beautiful grounds of the resort with spectacular views over the valley, or spend time in the pool.

### Day 8: Swaziland Artisans—Durban (BD)

Departing the Kingdom of Swaziland we travel through the beautiful **Ezulweni Valley**. En route to **Durban** we stop at the **candle and glass factory** to appreciate the workmanship and colours of these local crafts. Travelling through this fertile region we will view sugar cane and vast fruit plantations before arriving in the coastal city of Durban. This afternoon you can enjoy a walk along the beach before dinner in our hotel.



### Day 9: Durban—George—Knysna (B)

This morning we will make our way south as we make our way from Durban to George by air. Once we arrive in George we make our way west along the coast to Knysna for our next 2 nights. The resort town of Knysna is situated on a lagoon the entrance of which is flanked by two sandstone cliffs known as The Heads. This area is known for its shopping and its spectacular scenery but also its produce including oysters, ale, cheeses, honey and hams.

### Day 10: Knysna—Tsitsikamma National Park (B)

This morning we have the opportunity to sample the local shopping district during which our guide will explain the history of the timber and unique furniture produced in this region. The **Tsitsikamma National Park** is situated at the heart of the picturesque tourist region known as the **Garden Route**, found in the Southern Cape of South Africa, a remote mountainous region with secluded valleys covered in mountain fynbos and temperate high forests with deep river gorges leading down to the sea. We will make our way along part of this rugged coast line which stretches for 80 kilometres between Nature's Valley and the mouth of the Storms River. In the park we can explore the almost untouched natural landscape. One of the most conspicuous trees is the Outeniqua yellow-wood, *Podocarpus falcata*. Late afternoon we will make our way back to Knysna for a sunset cruise on the lagoon.

### Day 11: Knysna—Oudtshoorn (BD)

Today we make our way over the Outeniqua Pass to Oudtshoorn. One of the great natural wonders in South Africa, **The Cango Caves**, are located just north of here and this will be our first stop for today. The caves are a series of labyrinthine limestone caverns the largest of which is the Grand Hall which is over 100m long. After a guided tour through part of these caves we will make our way to a local **Ostrich Farm**. This area was the hub for the once thriving and still active ostrich-farming industry and is still world famous for ostrich breeding. This afternoon you will have the opportunity to ride one of these fascinating flightless birds after our guided tour of the farm. We will then make our way to our accommodation at a guest farm in Oudtshoorn.

### Day 12: Oudtshoorn—Cape Town (BL)

This morning we pass the vast wheat fields on our way to Swellendam, the third oldest city in South Africa. Here we will tour the city viewing the old buildings before stopping for lunch in this picturesque city. Continuing on to Cape Town we will take a spectacular drive along the coast via False Bay, making our way to our hotel on **Victoria and Alfred Waterfront**. Tonight we are a short walk to the waterfront where dinner options are vast perhaps enjoy the seafood delights or any number of the themed restaurants.

### Day 13: Table Mountain, City Tour, Paarl & Stellenbosch (BL)

We will start the day with an opportunity to ride a cable car to the top of Table Mountain (at own expense). Our local guide will take us on city highlights tour, including the **Malayan Quarter** and busy harbour. We will stroll through the acclaimed **Company's Gardens** with manicured gardens and amazing views of the **Parliament Buildings**. Later we will travel to **Paarl**, the wine growing region where we will enjoy lunch at a



local wine estate, and then time in the picturesque village of **Stellenbosch**. This evening is yours, to explore one of the fine waterfront eateries, or enjoy the hotel restaurant.

### Day 14: Cape of Good Hope, Hout Bay, Penguins, Seals, Botanical Gardens (BLD)

We travel to the fishing village of **Hout Bay** where we will enjoy a cruise in a boat, to be surrounded by seals playing in the waters around us. We will travel south to the **Cape of Good Hope and Cape Point**, home to the world's most powerful lighthouse. We will have a seafood lunch at a well known seafront restaurant before driving to **Boulders Beach**, home to a colony of **African Penguins** in Simons Town. On our way back to our hotel we will take in the beautiful **Kirstenbosch Botanical gardens**. These gardens have most of the country's natives on display as well as the more delicate flowers housed in the green houses. Dinner tonight will be at Hildebrand's Restaurant.



### Day 15: Free Day (BD)

This morning we will have some time to enjoy the magnificent attractions of Cape Town. Some highly recommended options are: a guided tour of Robben Island, home to Nelson Mandela and many other Political Prisoners, where former prisoners speak of the struggle, a half or full day tour of the marvellous Cape Town Wineries, or a cultural tour enabling you to interact with locals in townships, or wander through the markets, shops, cafes and museums of the Victoria & Albert Waterfront near our hotel. Tonight we have a **group dinner at Oyo Restaurant which is a favourite with the locals**.

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Luxury  
Rail!



### Day 16: Cape Town—Rovos Rail (BLD)

This morning we have our last chance to view the waterfront before making our way to Cape Town Station where we will board the luxurious Rovos Rail. **Rovos Rail** has an international reputation for its world class luxury rail experience. Step aboard wood panelled coaches - classics remodelled and refurbished to mint condition, and enjoy the five star luxury of the rail. The trains carry a **maximum of 72 passengers**. We will freshen up in our **luxurious Suites** (Deluxe for Twins or Pullman for Singles) before meeting in the Midway Lounge car or Observation carriage at the rear of the train. This **1600km journey** is a perfect illustration of South Africa as a world in one country, from spectacular mountain ranges and scenic winelands of the Cape to the Highveld of Pretoria, from Cape Town nestled beneath Table Mountain, Devils' Peak and Lions Head to the haunting barrenness of the Great Karoo, finally making our way to the windswept grasslands of the gold rich Highveld. Lunch will be served as we pass through leave this fertile land and head to Worcester and the Hex River Valley and. We will pass through Tweedside and Touws River, reaching the first of four tunnels which will take us through to **historic village of Matjiesfontien**. On arrival you will have the chance to stroll through this settlement. Of special interest is the **Museum on the platform and a collection of historic cars and railway carriages** to the right of the hotel. Dinner will be served in the dining car. All suites have ensuite showers/bathrooms, hair dryers and shaving points.

### Day 17: Rovos Rail—Kimberley (BLD)

Today we relax as we pass the changing scenery on our way north. After lunch we will be taken by coach to the **Big Hole, the Diamond Museum** and take a tram ride through the city (weather and time permitting). After reboarding we will hopefully view the spectacular flocks of up to **25,000 flamingos**. We dinner on board our luxury train as we pass through Bloemhof, Leeudoringstad and Klerksdorp.

### Day 18: Rovos Rail—Pretoria—Johannesburg (BLD)

This morning after breakfast, we will arrive at Centurion where the Rovos locomotive will take us into Rovos Rail Station at Capital Park. Upon our arrival we will be met by our driver to take us to Johannesburg for our last stay in this bustling city.



### Day 19: Johannesburg—Victoria Falls/Home (BD)

After breakfast, we will be transferred to the airport where for those who are going back to Australia with board a flight home or alternatively you could join our extension to **Victoria Falls**. Once in Sydney our coach will meet us and begin our journey home dropping off at Hornsby, Central Coast and Newcastle.

For those who are continuing to Victoria Falls we will meet our guide on arrival and transfer to our hotel, the closest to the Victoria Falls, located next to the Famous Victoria Falls Hotel. With full resort facilities, including cafes, casino, gift shops, and close to the Markets, you will have plenty to entertain you. Tonight we enjoy a **12 relaxing sunset cruise** with complimentary drinks on the **Zambezi River**, followed by a traditional **Boma Dinner**, with entertainment by traditional dancers, and perhaps even have your fortune told (for a fee).



### Day 20: Victoria Falls—Guided Walk, Free Time (BD)

A chance to stretch your legs today as we enjoy a **guided walking tour of the Falls**. We leave our hotel on foot, and at the Falls, a path will take us past the statue of **Dr Livingstone**, through the rainforest with plenty of opportunities to experience the falls from all angles. The Falls' spectacular spray will reach us from 20m!

We continue along the path past the Main Falls ending up with a view of the Victoria Falls Bridge across the border to **Zambia**. We will walk back to the hotel, with the afternoon at your leisure to relax or enjoy one of the many optional activities. High Tea at the Victoria Falls Hotel is highly recommended, and provides a memorable experience, for a very reasonable price. During dinner we will be entertained by an excellent **local dancing and singing troupe**.



### Day 21: Victoria Falls—Chobe National Park (BLD)

Bring your passport today as we leave Zimbabwe and cross the Border into **Botswana**. Once across the border we go to **Chobe Marina Lodge**, for a morning cruise on the **Chobe River**, here you will see a vast array of wildlife that the river attracts. After seeing Hippos, crocs, many birds and the odd elephant you will be treated to a relaxing lunch and an afternoon game drive in the Park.

The **Chobe National Park** is world renowned for its large **Elephant population**. Each year we see hundreds of elephants from the old bulls, to tiny babies. You will see many other water animals, such as buffalo, birds and hippos, in this oasis within our African adventure. We return to Victoria Falls for dinner.



### Day 22: Victoria Falls—Free Day (B)

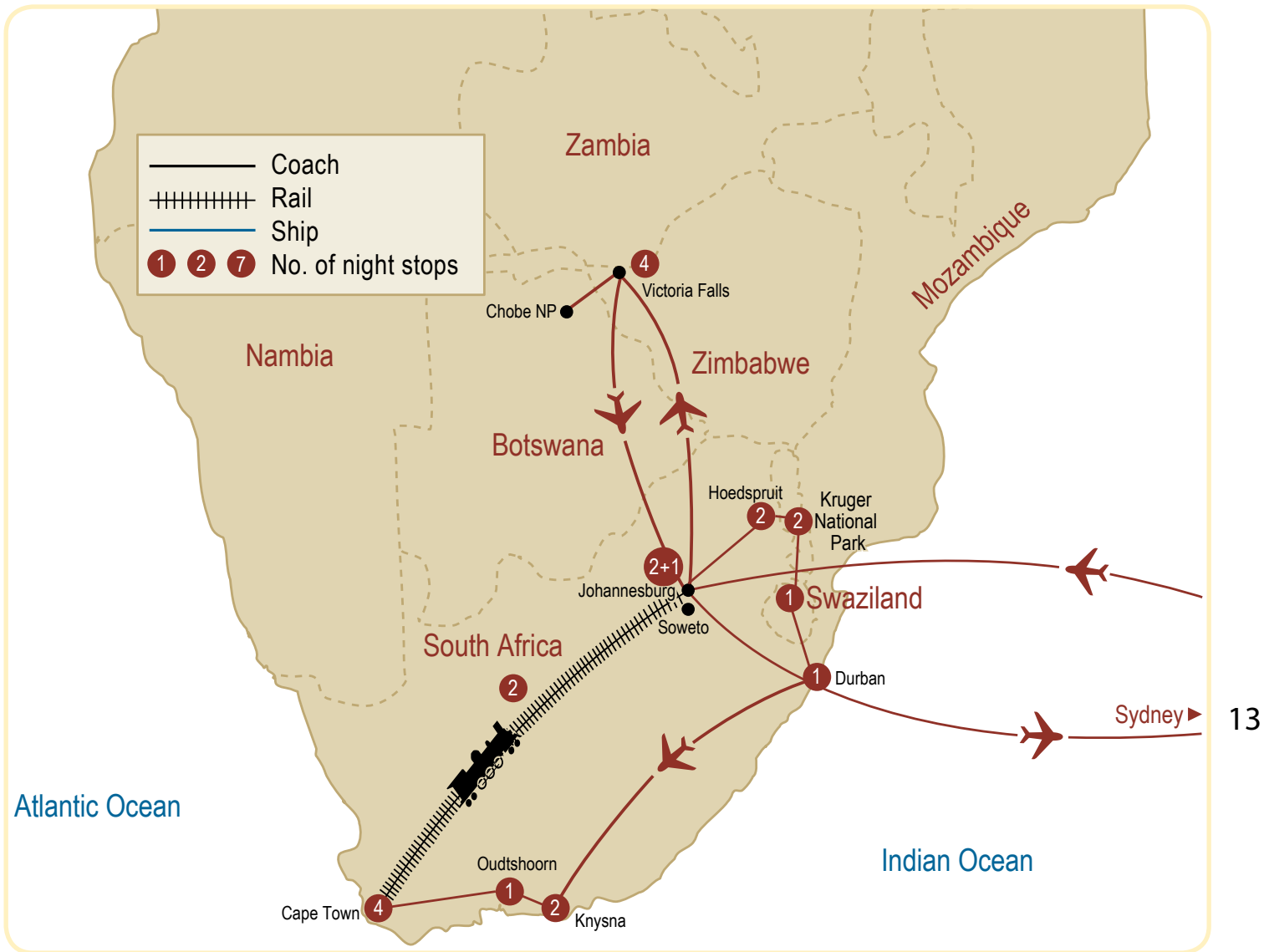
This morning we will enjoy another free day to relax and enjoy one of the many optional activities available. We highly recommend walking with lions, or riding an elephant, a helicopter ride, or horse riding. These can be pre-paid in Australia to allow you to plan your days and less currency conversions. Don't forget to include time to explore the local markets and shops as well. It is quite safe to walk in Victoria Falls, and the locals are very friendly.



### Day 23 & 24: Victoria Falls—Johannesburg—Home (B plus meals inflight)

This morning we board our flight to Johannesburg to meet our connecting flight back to Sydney. Once in Sydney our coach will meet us and begin our journey home dropping off at Hornsby, Central Coast and Newcastle.

# amazing africa...



We have marked out our tour on the map along with the number of nights at each destination. This map will allow you to see how much ground we will cover and give you a better understanding of the different countries that make up Southern Africa

## exclusive luxurious rovos rail...

On our tour you will enjoy our luxurious Rovos Rail Journey from Johannesburg to Cape Town - this is sure to be a highlight on your African Adventure!

