

# JOURNEY INFORMATION

## Namilia Safari SPECIAL



## WALVIS BAY-CAPE TOWN ~11 NIGHTS~

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The Most Luxurious Train in the World



## NAMIBIA SAFARI SPECIAL

WALVIS BAY-CAPE TOWN

## 11 NIGHTS - 3800KM



#### **DAY 1: WALVIS BAY**

- 10:00 Check-in at Walvis Bay Station, Namibia.
- 11:00 The train departs for Otjiwarongo. 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. The train travels across the Namib Desert towards Otjiwarongo.
- Tea in the lounge and observation cars. The observation car will be leading the train until lunchtime tomorrow a different aspect that our rail enthusiasts enjoy.
- 19:30 Dinner is served in the dining cars. Dress: Formal

The Namib stretches for more than 2000km along the Atlantic coasts of Angola, Namibia and South Africa. The geology consists of sand seas near the coast while gravel plains and scattered mountain outcrops occur further inland. 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.

#### **DAY 2: CHEETAH CONSERVATION PROJECT**

- 07:00 Breakfast is served in the dining cars until departure.
- 09:00 Transfer (±60 min) to a **cheetah conservation project** in Otjiwarongo for a visit. Founded in Namibia in 1990, the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) is dedicated to saving the cheetah in the wild.
- 13:00 Lunch is served in the dining cars en route to Tsumeb.
- 16:30 Tea in the lounge car and observation car at the rear of the train.
- 19:30 Dinner is served in the dining cars. Dress: Formal

#### DAY 3: ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

Please pack a small overnight bag ready for the stay at Etosha. Tog bags have been placed in your suite for your convenience.

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

Transfer (±60 min) to a lodge in **Etosha** for overnight. Check-in and enjoy lunch.

- 15:00 Afternoon game drive (approximately 3 hours).
- 19:30 Dinner and overnight at the lodge. Dress: Casual

Etosha National Park (22270km²) offers great game viewing with many species of mammals, birds and reptiles. It gets its name from the Etosha pan (4760km²), which almost entirely lies within the park. Etosha is a large salt pan forming part of the Kalahari basin and means 'Great White Place'.

#### **DAY 4: 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.

06:00 Breakfast at the lodge until 07:00 followed by a game drive in the Etosha National Park.

Return to the lodge to freshen up and check-out by 10:45.

- 11:00 Transfer (±60 min) to the train at Tsumeb Station.
- 13:00 Lunch is served in the dining cars.
- 16:30 Tea in the lounge and observation cars.
- 19:30 Dinner is served in the dining cars en route to Kranzberg. Dress: Formal

#### **DAY 5: SOSSUSVLEI**

Please pack a small overnight bag for the stay in Sossusvlei.

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

Transfer to the airstrip. Depart in a light aircraft for a one-hour flight to a **Sossusvlei** lodge for overnight. 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 Desert were created by sand carried by the wind from the coast of Namibia. The sand here is over five million years old and is red in colour 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. Bags will be stored in the lodge's baggage area. Time of drive to be confirmed.

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

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

- 12:30 Depart Sossusvlei in a light aircraft for the one-hour flight to **Windhoek**.
- 14:00 Lunch at **Windhoek Country Club** followed by a city tour. Visit the **Trans-Namib Transport Museum**, the Independence Memorial Museum, the Evangelical Lutheran Church (a striking landmark) and the **Namibia Craft Centre** in the old Breweries Building.
- 18:00 The train travels south through the **Kalahari Desert**.
- 19:30 Dinner is served in the dining cars en route to Mariental. 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: KEETMANSHOOP & GARAS PARK

- 07:00 Breakfast is served in the dining cars until 10:00.
- 12:30 Lunch is served in the dining cars.
- 14:00 Visit **Keetmanshoop** and **Garas Park** (Quiver Trees), home to roughly 300 specimens of the Aloe dichotomy. The prehistoric trees have forked branches that reach up to 5m making for great photographic opportunities.
- 16:30 Tea in the lounge and observation cars.
- 19:30 Dinner is served in the dining cars. *Dress: Formal*

#### **DAY 8: LÜDERITZ & KOLMANSKOP**

- 06:00 Breakfast is served in the dining cars until departure.
- 08:00 Transfer (±60 min) to the ghost town of **Kolmanskop** for a visit followed by lunch in **Lüderitz**. Lüderitz is known for its museum, colonial architecture and wildlife including seals, penguins, flamingos and ostriches. Look out for the illusive legendary horses rumoured to roam the Namib.
- 18:00 Depart for Holoog. The observation car will be leading the train until after dinner.
- 19:30 Dinner is served in the dining cars. Dress: "Africa" Theme or Smart Casual

#### **DAY 9: FISH RIVER CANYON**

BORDER: ARIAMSVLEI, NAMIBIA / NAKOP, SOUTH AFRICA

- 06:00 Breakfast is served in the dining cars until departure.
- 08:30 Transfer (±60 min) to the **Fish River Canyon**.
- 13:00 Lunch is served in the dining cars.
- 16:30 Tea in the lounge and observation cars. Border formalities with South Africa.
- 19:30 Dinner is served in the dining cars en route to Upington. *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 10: UPINGTON & THE ORANGE RIVER

- 06:00 Breakfast is served in the dining cars.
- 08:30 | Enjoy a walking tour of Upington with a cruise on the Orange River.
- 11:00 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.
- 13:00 Lunch is served in the dining cars en route to De Aar, an important railway junction.
- 16:30 Tea in the lounge and observation cars.
- 19:30 Dinner is served in the dining cars. *Dress: Formal*

The Orange River is the longest river in South Africa (2432km/1511mi). It rises in the Drakensberg Mountains in Lesotho and flows westwards through South Africa to the Atlantic Ocean. It forms part of the borders between South Africa and Lesotho and South Africa and Namibia. Except for Upington, it does not pass through any major cities. 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 11: MATJIESFONTEIN**

- 07:00 Breakfast is served in the dining cars until 10:00.
- 13:00 Lunch is served in the dining cars. In the afternoon (time permitting), there is a chance for guests to disembark the train at Whitehill Siding and walk the 5km into Matjiesfontein. A member of staff will accompany the group.
- Tea in the lounge and observation cars. There is an opportunity to stroll through the historic village of **Matjiesfontein** (time permitting). Of special interest is the museum on the platform and a collection of historic cars and railway carriages to the right of the Lord Milner Hotel.

About an hour after Matjiesfontein, the train descends the escarpment through the **Hex River Valley** via four tunnels, the first and longest of which is 13.5km long. Guests are to be careful when walking through the train and may wish to turn on necessary lights.

19:30 Dinner is served in the dining cars. Dress: "1920s" Theme or Smart Casual

#### **DAY 12: CAPE TOWN**

Please ensure luggage is ready for collection 15 minutes before departure and that you have your passport.

- 07:00 Breakfast is served in the dining cars until 10:00. Trundle through the winelands of the Western Cape.
- 13:00 Lunch is served in the dining cars.
- 17:00 Arrive at journey's end at Cape Town Station.

Please dress accordingly for game drives: mornings can be cool then warm up considerably; afternoons can be warm then cool down considerably. Warm clothing, hats, comfortable shoes and sun protection are advised (season dependent). Rain capes are available.

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 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.

We strongly discourage giving any form of handout to children while travelling. This action may have detrimental consequences to local communities. If you would like to give responsibly, we support many local charities and would be happy to assist.

**INCLUDED:** Accommodation; all meals; all beverages on board; room service; limited laundry; excursions with a qualified guide (where applicable); entrance fees as per itinerary; government tax. **EXCLUDED:** All off-train beverages; international sparkling wine; gratuities; personal expenses; visas; travel insurance; pre- and post-tour transfers, accommodation and flights.

INCLUDED in off-train accommodation: Flights to/from Sossusvlei; overnight bag; accommodation; meals, water, tea/coffee and breakfast juices. EXCLUDED from off-train accommodation: All other beverages; laundry; personal expenses.

MEALS ON BOARD (unless adjusted) Breakfast 07:00-10:00 • Lunch 13:00 • Tea 16:30 • Dinner 19:30.



#### **ROYAL SUITES**

 $\pm 16m^{2}$  $\pm 172 ft^2$ 



Lengthways





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

## THE SUITES & COACHES

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. The three types of suites are elegant and spacious offering passengers privacy, comfort and luxury with double or twin beds and fittings and facilities that are of the highest standard. All have en-suites with shower, toilet, basin and bath (Royal only), tea facilities, safes, air conditioning,

linen and amenities and are serviced daily. There is adequate storage and small cupboards with hangers and shelves.

Suite layouts may differ from images.



 $\pm 10m^{2}$ 

 $\pm 108 ft^{2}$ 







Bed Dimensions: LxW in CM Double Lengthways: 189x189 Double Crosswise: 189x160 Split Twin: 189x75



Split Twin

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

## ROYAL SUITES



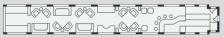




PILLARED DINING CAR

BANQUETTE DINING CAR

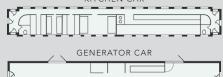












### **PULLMAN GOLD SUITES**

 $\pm 7m^2$  $\pm 76 ft^2$ 



Bed Dimensions: LxW in CM Double: 189x189 Split Twin: 189x75



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