Rovos Rail's Copper Trail: Lobito to Victoria Falls

https://www.irtsociety.com/journey/lobito-to-victoria-falls-copper-trail/



Overview

The Highlights

- Fifteen days aboard one of the world's top luxury trains, with all meals and drinks included; complimentary mini-bar in your compartment

- Three-night stay in South Luangwa National Park

- Visit to the Copper Mine outside Kolwezi, one of the largest copper resources in the world

- Walking tours in Huambo, Kuito, Luena

- Visit to the Lusaka's elephant sanctuary

- Visit to the Choma Museum and Craft Center *(Lobito-Victoria Falls direction only)*

The Tour

Join Rovos Rail on the 15-day Lobito to Victoria Falls: Copper Trail epic trek from the Atlantic Ocean to the African heartland. Journey through Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The journey begins in Lobito and ends at the majestic Victoria Falls.

Itinerary

Day 1 – Lobito

The train departs from Lobito. Guests may freshen up in their suites before joining fellow travelers. Lunch is served in the dining cars as the train travels through the Benguela province. Enjoy afternoon tea and a lecture in the lounge car, followed by a formal dinner in the dining cars as the train crosses into the Huambo province.

Day 2 – Huambo

After breakfast in the dining car, enjoy a tour of Huambo, the second-largest city in Angola and one of the old kingdoms on the central plateau. Afterwards, depart for Boas Agus as lunch is served in the dining car. After dinner, relax on board as the train journeys on to Kuito.

Day 3 – Kuito

Enjoy a stroll through the town of Kuito, built in the historical heart of the Ovimbundu kingdom. Depart for Savinguila as lunch is served in the dining cars. Enjoy afternoon tea service before dinner as the train weaves toward Luena.

Day 4 – Luena

Enjoy a walking tour of Luena to learn more about the recent history of Angola. Lunch follows as the train travels on toward Cameia, alongside the Cassai River. The catchment of the Cassai River encompasses a vast eco-region of 560,000 miles (900,000 square kilometers) with an incredibly rich fish fauna. There may be an opportunity to see the local fishermen at work. In the evening, a formal dinner is served en route to Luau on the Angola border.

Day 5 – At Leisure

After crossing the DRC border, lunch is served as the train moves toward Malonga. Take some time to relax and enjoy a leisurely day on board before settling in for an “African” themed dinner in the evening.

Day 6 – At Leisure

Enjoy another day in luxury as the train travels on toward Mungulunga, Mutshatsha and finally Kolwezi.

Day 7 – Copper Mine

Disembark at Kolwezi for a visit to a copper mine in an area that is home to one of the world’s largest known copper and cobalt resources. After brunch at Katebi Lodge, return to the train and depart for Tenke.

Enjoy a formal dinner in the dining cars en route to Sofumwango for overnight.

Day 8 – Lubumbashi

Enjoy a drive through the city of Lubumbashi, considered the mining capital of the DRC. Return to the train and depart for Mushoshi. A formal dinner is served in the evening as the train travels toward Sakania, on the DRC border.

Day 9 – South Luangwa National Park

Disembark and transfer to Ndola Airport for a chartered flight to the South Luangwa National Park. Enjoy lunch upon arrival followed by check-in. In the afternoon, embark on a game drive in the Luangwa Valley, followed by dinner and overnight at the camps.

Days 10 & 11 – South Luangwa National Park

On both of these days, enjoy an early morning game drive (approximately 3 hours) before returning for brunch. Take the afternoon at your leisure to relax and enjoy the park. Tea service and an afternoon game drive follow before dinner in the evening back at camp.

Day 12 – South Luangwa National Park

After breakfast, enjoy a final game drive in the park before transferring back to the airport for a flight to Ndola, Zambia. Rejoin the train at the station and venture onward to Kapiri Mphoshi.

Day 13 – Elephant Sanctuary and Kafue

After breakfast, visit Lusaka's elephant sanctuary. Here, teams rescue and rehabilitate orphaned elephants with the focus of returning them to the wild in the Kafue National Park.

After, return to the train and travel to Kafue. Enjoy a sunset cruise on the Kafue River before settling back in on the train in time for dinner.

Day 14 – Choma

The train departs from Kafue Station crossing the Kafue railway bridge, a 1,500-foot (477-meter) long steel girder truss bridge of 13 spans, each at 110 feet (33 meters), supported on concrete piers. Arriving in Choma, enjoy a short walk to the Choma Museum and Craft Center. Established in 1988, the museum displays the cultural heritage of the Tonga tribe of the Southern province of Zambia. In the evening, enjoy a “1920s” themed dinner.

Day 15 – Victoria Falls

Arrive at Livingstone for Zambian border formalities before our journey’s fantastic end at the incomparable Victoria Falls.

Reverse itinerary

Day 1: Victoria Falls

Board Rovos Rail’s luxury train this afternoon. The train departs Victoria Falls and crosses the bridge to Livingstone. Named after David Livingstone, the Scottish explorer and missionary who was the first European to explore the area, Livingstone served as the province’s capital until 2012.

Guests may freshen up in their suites before joining fellow travelers in the lounge or observation cars for afternoon tea.

A formal dinner is served in the dining cars en route to Choma.

Day 2: Kafue River

Breakfast and lunch are served on board. This afternoon, the train crosses the Kafue railway bridge – a 1,500-foot (477-meter) long steel girder truss bridge of 13 spans, each at 110 feet (33 meters), supported on concrete piers.

Disembark for a sunset cruise on the Kafue River with drinks. Return to the train for dinner en route to Lusaka, the country’s capital, for overnight.

Day 3: Lusaka

Morning visit to Lusaka's elephant sanctuary, where teams rescue and rehabilitate orphaned elephants with the focus of returning them to the wild in Kafue National Park. Return for to the train for lunch, afternoon tea and dinner on board as the train travels through the Central Province to Kabwe and Kapiri Mposhi.

Day 4: South Luangwa National Park

Transfer to Ndola Airport for a chartered flight to the South Luangwa National Park and transfer to respective camps. Lunch is served upon arrival, followed by check-in for a three-night stay. In the afternoon, embark on a game drive in the Luangwa Valley, followed by dinner and overnight at the camps.

Days 5 & 6: South Luangwa National Park

Spend two full days in South Luangwa National Park, with early morning and afternoon game drives, and all meals at the camps.

Day 7: South Luangwa National Park

After a final morning game drive, transfer back to the airport for a flight to Ndola, Zambia. Rejoin the train at the station and depart for Lubumbashi.

Day 8: Lubumbashi

Following breakfast, enjoy a drive through the city of Lubumbashi. Return to the train and depart for Lukuni. This afternoon, the train pass by Luishia, an old open-pit copper and cobalt mine. Dinner is served en route to Kolwezi.

Day 9: Copper Mine

Disembark at Kolwezi for a visit to a copper mine. This area is home to one of the world's largest known copper and cobalt resources. After brunch at Katebi Lodge, return to the train and depart for Kasombo.

Enjoy a formal dinner in the dining cars en route to Mutshatsha for overnight.

Day 10: At Leisure

Enjoy a leisurely day relaxing on board and taking in the scenery as the train passes Kakopa en route to Malonga, and later on to Dilolo.

Day 11: Luau

After crossing the Angolan border, there will be a walking tour of Luau, the start of the Benguela line. This afternoon, as we travel along the Cassai River through a vast eco-region rich with fish fauna, watch for local fisherman at work in the villages of Cassai and Cameia.

Day 12: Luena

Learn more about the recent history of Angola during a walking tour of Luena. Afternoon at leisure – chat to your fellow travelers over afternoon tea or watch the passing scenery from the open-air observation platform.

Day 13: Kuito

Morning stroll through the town of Kuito, built in the historical heart of the Ovimbundu kingdom. Re-join the train for lunch, tea and dinner on board, heading to Huambo.

Day 14: Huambo

After breakfast, enjoy a tour of Huambo, second-largest city in Angola and one of the old kingdoms on the central plateau. Play dress up this evening for the 1920's themed dinner on board (smart casual dress is also acceptable).

Day 15: Lobito

Arrive at Lobito Station mid-morning for your journey's end.

Dates & Prices

2027 Dates

July 5 - July 19
July 22 - August 5

Accommodation	Double	Single	Deposit
Pullman Gold	$18,200	$26,400	25%
Deluxe	$24,000	$34,700	25%
Royal Suite	$31,500	$63,000	25%

Tour priced in US Dollar (USD). View approximate exchange rates.
All prices are per person.

2028 Dates

July 3 - July 17
July 20 - August 3

Accommodation	Double	Single	Deposit

Pullman Gold	$20,020	$29,029	25%
Deluxe	$26,400	$38,280	25%
Royal Suite	$34,650	$69,300	25%

Tour priced in US Dollar (USD). View approximate exchange rates.
All prices are per person.

More

We work with the best hotels, lodges, tour and safari operators in the region. Contact us for more information about adding on to your Rovos Rail journey.

IRT Insights: IRT's Angela Walker and Rachel Hardy loved their journey aboard Rovos Rail's Pride of Africa. Click here for part one of their report on the train, here for part two.