Namibia Safari aboard Rovos Rail

https://www.irtsociety.com/journey/namibia-safari-rovos-rail/



Overview

The Highlights

- Nine nights aboard *Rovos Rail*, one of the world's finest luxury trains;

- The Big Hole in Kimberley, site of one of the world's most famous diamond rushes;

- Visit the Fish River Canyon, second largest canyon in the world;

- Tour of Windhoek, a cosmopolitan city with a strong German influence;

- Game drives and overnight at Mokuti Lodge, located in the game-rich Etosha National Park;

- Overnight stay at the world-famous Sossusvlei, a stunning pan in the Namib Desert surrounded

by massive red sand dunes;

- Visit to a cheetah conservation center;

- All accommodations, meals, alcohol (on board) and off-train excursions included.

The Tour

The 12-day Namibia Safari is an unforgettable 1,500 mile (3,400 km) trek through one of the earth's most interesting and alien landscapes, all aboard *Rovos Rail.*

Departing from Pretoria, the first stop is Kimberley, center of one of the world's famous diamond rushes, where there is an opportunity to savor the 1870s atmosphere of the mine 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.

Itinerary

Day 1: Depart Pretoria

Gather at Rovos Rail's private Capital Park station in Pretoria. Board the *Rovos Rail* for a late morning departure. Settle into your private cabin, and enjoy lunch and dinner on board as the train travels south toward the goldfields of the Witwatersrand.

Day 2: Kimberley

Arrive in Kimberley this morning. Capital of the Northern Cape, Kimberley is well known for the discovery of diamonds that led to its establishment in 1871. Enjoy a tour of the Big Hole and Diamond Mine Museum.

Back on the train, lunch is served as you 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. Afternoon tea and dinner are served on board.

Day 3: Upington & the Orange River

After breakfast, disembark for a walking tour of Upington, oasis town on the Orange River, surrounded by the Kalahari Desert and famous for its wine. Next, enjoy a sunset cruise on the Orange River.

Back on board, lunch is served and Namibian border formalities will take place. Dinner is served

en route to Holoog.

Day 4: Fish River Canyon

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast and lunch on the train this morning. This afternoon, explore the gigantic Fish River Canyon, largest canyon in Africa. The vast rocky landscape breaks up into a series of spectacular cliffs. Its size is impressive: 100 miles (161 km) long, up to 17 miles (27 km) wide and 1,800 feet (550 m) at its deepest.

Return to the train for dinner on board.

Day 5: Kolmanskop & Luderitz

After breakfast, transfer to the ghost town of Kolmanskop, 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 rumored to roam the Namib.

Return to the train for dinner.

Day 6: Keetmanshoop & Garas Park

After breakfast, visit Keetmanshoop and Garas Park, home to the famous Quiver Trees, and roughly 300 specimens of the Aloe dichotomy. The prehistoric trees have forked branches that reach up to 16 feet (5 meters) making for great photographic opportunities.

Return to the train for a relaxing day on board. Enjoy lunch, afternoon tea, and dinner as the train rolls onward.

Day 7: Sossusvlei

After breakfast, transfer to the airstrip for your short flight to Sossusvlei.

After check-in and lunch at the lodge, embark on an afternoon desert drive followed by a bush dinner after sunset.

Day 8: Sossusvlei & Windhoek

Enjoy an early morning desert drive with breakfast in the vlei (dry marsh). 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 color, 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."

Depart Sossusvlei on the one-hour flight back to Windhoek. Have 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 in the city — and the Namibia Craft Centre.

Rejoin the train early evening for dinner.

Day 9: Cheetah Conservation Project

After a leisurely morning onboard the train, visit a cheetah conservation project in Otjiwarongo this afternoon.

Founded in Namibia in 1990, the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) is dedicated to saving the cheetah in the wild.

After, return to the train for dinner.

Day 10: Etosha National Park

After breakfast, transfer to Mokuti Lodge in Etosha National Park, home to 114 mammal species, including the rare and endangered black rhino and black-faced impala. Lunch, afternoon game drive, dinner and overnight at the lodge.

Day 11: Etosha National Park

Early morning game drive in the Etosha National Park, where blue wildebeest, mountain and plains zebra, giraffe, hyena, lion, cheetah, leopard as well as 340 species of birds may be spotted. Return to the lodge for breakfast and check-out.

Transfer to Tsumeb station where *Rovos Rail* awaits. Lunch and afternoon tea are served as the train travels southwest towards the Atlantic Ocean. Enjoy a 1920s-themed dinner on board this evening.

Day 12: Walvis Bay

Enjoy breakfast as the train traverses the Namib Desert. Midday arrival at journey's end, Walvis Bay.

Reverse itinerary

Day 1: Depart Walvis Bay

Depart Walvis Bay aboard *Rovos Rail* late afternoon and settle into your private cabin. Enjoy lunch on board as the train travels east across the Namib Desert. Afternoon tea and dinner on board while traveling across the Namib Desert towards Otjiwarongo.

Day 2: Cheetah Conservation Project

After breakfast, visit a cheetah conservation project in Otjiwarongo this afternoon.

Founded in Namibia in 1990, the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) is dedicated to saving the cheetah in the wild.

After, return to the train for lunch, afternoon tea, and dinner.

Day 3: Etosha National Park

After breakfast, transfer to Mokuti Lodge in Etosha National Park, home to 114 mammal species, including the rare and endangered black rhino and black-faced impala. Lunch, afternoon game drive, dinner and overnight at the lodge.

Day 4: Etosha National Park

Early morning game drive in the Etosha National Park, where blue wildebeest, mountain and plains zebra, giraffe, hyena, lion, cheetah, leopard as well as 340 species of birds may be spotted. Return to the lodge for breakfast and check-out. Rejoin the train at Tsumeb station for lunch, afternoon tea and dinner on board.

Day 5: Sossusvlei

After breakfast, disembark the train in Windhoek, where you will board a light aircraft for the short scenic flight to Sossusvlei. After check-in and lunch at the lodge, embark on an afternoon desert drive followed by a bush dinner after sunset.

Day 6: Sossusvlei & Windhoek

Enjoy an early morning desert drive with breakfast in the vlei (dry marsh). 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 color, 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."

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Rejoin the train early evening for dinner.

Day 7: Keetmanshoop & Garas Park

After a leisurely breakfast and lunch, visit Keetmanshoop and Garas Park, home to the famous Quiver Trees, and roughly 300 specimens of the Aloe dichotomy. The prehistoric trees have forked branches that reach up to 16 feet (5 meters) making for great photographic opportunities.

Return to the train for afternoon tea and dinner as the train rolls onward.

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After breakfast, transfer to the ghost town of Kolmanskop, followed by lunch in Lüderitz. Lüderitz is known for its
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After breakfast, explore the gigantic Fish River Canyon, largest canyon in Africa. The vast rocky landscape breaks up into a series of spectacular cliffs. Its size is impressive: 100 miles (161 km) long, up to 17 miles (27 km) wide and 1,800 feet (550 m) at its deepest.

Return to the train for lunch, afternoon tea, and dinner on board. Border formalities will be conducted on arrival in South Africa.

Day 10: Upington & the Orange River

After breakfast, disembark for a walking tour of Upington, oasis town on the Orange River, surrounded by the Kalahari Desert and famous for its wine. Next, enjoy a sunset cruise on the Orange River.

Re-board the train for lunch, tea, and dinner.

Day 11: Kimberley

Breakfast on board, followed by a morning tour of Kimberley. Capital of the Northern Cape, Kimberley is well known for the discovery of diamonds that led to its establishment in 1871. Tour the Big Hole and the Diamond Mine Museum before returning to the train for lunch and tea. Enjoy a 1920s-themed dinner on board this evening.

Day 12: Pretoria

Enjoy breakfast as the train continues to travel northeast through the goldfields of the Witwatersrand via Krugersdorp, Germiston and Johannesburg. Arrive at Rovos Rail’s private Capital Park station in Pretoria midday.

Dates & Prices

2026 Dates

November 22 - December 3

Accommodations	Double	Single	Deposit
Pullman Gold	ZAR 215,000	ZAR 322,500	25%
Deluxe	ZAR 273,000	ZAR 409,500	25%
Royal			
ZAR 336,000	ZAR 672,000	25%	

Prices are per person
Tour priced in South African Rand (ZAR). For approximate exchange rates, visit http://www.xe.com.

2027 Dates

April 6 - April 17
April 19 - April 30
May 4 - May 15
May 17 - May 28
October 23 - November 3

Accommodation	Double	Single	Deposit
Pullman Gold	ZAR 258,000	ZAR 387,000	25%
Deluxe	ZAR 327,600	ZAR 491,400	25%
Royal			
ZAR 403,200	ZAR 806,400	25%	

Prices are per person
Tour priced in South African Rand (ZAR). For approximate exchange rates, visit http://www.xe.com.

2028 Dates

March 26 - April 6
May 3 - May 14
May 8 - May 19
May 21 - June 1
November 7 - November 18
November 20 - December 1

Accommodation	Double	Single	Deposit
Pullman Gold	ZAR 280,000	ZAR 420,000	25%
Deluxe	ZAR 355,000	ZAR 532,500	25%
Royal			
ZAR 438,000	ZAR 876,000	25%	

Prices are per person

Tour priced in South African Rand (ZAR). For approximate exchange rates, visit http://www.xe.com.

More

Rates include all accommodation, meals, beverages on board (except international/French champagne), room service, limited laundry service on board, excursions, entrance fees, flights to/from Sossusvlei and government tax.