

KRUGER & ROVOS RAIL ESCAPE

Classic Tour | 14 Days | Physical Level 1

Johannesburg - Greater Kruger Region - Pretoria - Rovos Rail - Victoria Falls

Seek wildlife on morning and afternoon game drives in a private game reserve, before exploring Pretoria's landmarks. Step aboard the iconic Rovos Rail for a four-night journey to Victoria Falls, settling into elegant vintage carriages, savouring freshly prepared meals and watching the changing landscapes unfold. Along the way, discover Matobo National Park's granite hills and San rock art, then venture into Hwange National Park in search of elephants and other wildlife. This unforgettable journey ends in Victoria Falls, giving you a final taste of Zimbabwe's traditional dishes, music and hospitality.

- Enjoy thrilling game drives in a private game reserve
- Travel from Pretoria to Victoria Falls on Rovos Rail
- Discover San rock art and granite landscapes in Matobo National Park
- Enjoy a sunset dinner cruise on the Zambezi River
- Explore Victoria Falls with a guide
- Sample Zimbabwean cuisine at Dusty Road and enjoy a Boma dinner

TOUR MAP



KRUGER & ROVOS RAIL ESCAPE TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- All meals
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- Specified experiences on a shared basis
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escorts (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides
- Safe and secure with IATA

Additional costs Include your visa on arrival in Zimbabwe, and personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, early check in or late check out and other items not specified on the itinerary.

CLASSIC TOURS:

These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of South Africa and Zimbabwe on an excellent value group tour whilst travelling with like-minded people. The tours are on a fully-inclusive basis so you'll travel with the assurance that all your arrangements are taken care of. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escorts and local guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 1:

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights. 'Kruger & Rovos Rail Escape' is rated as a physical level 1 tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches, 4x4's, and walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

- You will need to climb steps into and out of open safari vehicles, with game drives following uneven, dusty tracks that can be bumpy.
- Morning safaris require early starts. Bring warm layers for cooler mornings and sun protection for daytime activities.
- Expect paths, slopes, steps and periods of standing during certain visits.
- Onboard Rovos Rail, expect steps, narrow corridors and connecting carriages. A steady balance is important when walking while the train is moving.
- Walking excursions include rocky paths, uphill sections, paths that can be wet and slippery.

Of course, our local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

The tour is 14 days in duration including international flights or 12 days in duration based on 'Land Only'.

Travellers booked on 'Land Only', the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour, or when booking pre/post night accommodation with Wendy Wu Tours.

Join the tour on Day 2 in Johannesburg and end the tour on Day 13 in Victoria Falls. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure. An informal Welcome Dinner will be held on Day 2 of the itinerary. If you miss this due to your arrival time, all information will be provided to you at breakfast the following morning.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It is our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate; in these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1-2: Arrive Johannesburg Meals: D

Fly overnight to Johannesburg, South Africa. On arrival at the airport, you will be met and transferred 45 minutes to your hotel. Depending on your arrival time, the rest of the day is yours to relax and settle into your surroundings.



Destination Information

Johannesburg - South Africa's largest city is a centre of business and culture, with a history closely linked to the discovery of gold.

Day 3: Travel to Greater Kruger Region Meals: B,L,D

Transfer 45 minutes to Johannesburg Airport for your flight to Hoedspruit. The flight is approximately one hour. On arrival, continue to your accommodation where you will enjoy lunch and settle into your surroundings. This afternoon head out on a game drive in an open safari vehicle to seek elephants, giraffes, antelope and predators among the bushveld.

Please note Luggage allowance on internal flights is limited to 20kg per person.



Day 4: On safari Meals: B,L,D

Rise early for a warm drink before setting out on a morning game drive. Watch the reserve awaken as you search for tracks and your local expert shares insight into the wildlife and habitats around you. Return to the lodge for breakfast, and spend time relaxing before lunch. This afternoon, venture out again, looking for wildlife as the heat of the day begins to ease.



Day 5: Explore the Reserve Meals: B,L,D

Enjoy another day of morning and afternoon game drives. Each outing brings a different perspective on the reserve, from birds calling in the trees to animals gathering around waterholes. Between drives, return to the lodge to enjoy your meals and some time at leisure in the peaceful safari setting.



Day 6: Travel to Pretoria Meals: B,L,D

Head out on a final morning game drive before leaving the reserve. Transfer one and a half hours to the airport, flying one hour to Johannesburg. On arrival in Johannesburg continue by road for approximately one hour to Pretoria. A packed lunch is provided today.

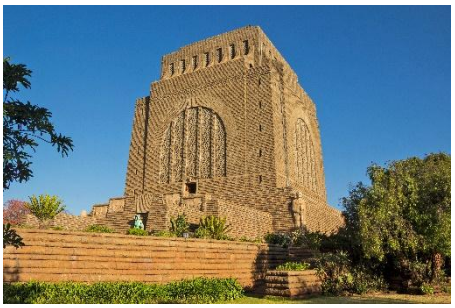


Destination Information

Pretoria - South Africa's administrative capital is known for its government buildings, historical landmarks and tree-lined avenues. Jacaranda blossom adds colour in season.

Day 7: Discover Pretoria Meals: B,L,D

This morning discover Pretoria on an orientation tour, viewing the Union Buildings and the Nelson Mandela statue in the gardens. Continue to the Voortrekker Monument, where exhibitions and a carved marble frieze provide an insight into the history of the Voortrekkers.



Later, transfer to Rovos Rail's station and board your train for a four-night journey to Victoria Falls. Settle into your suite and explore the elegant carriages before enjoying dinner as your journey begins.

Sightseeing in Pretoria will last approximately three hours.

Please note: Dress code onboard Rovos Rail for dinner is formal. Collared shirt and tie for gentlemen, with a jacket optional, and evening or cocktail dresses or suits for ladies.

Destination Information

Union Buildings – These government buildings overlook Pretoria from Meintjieskop. The grounds include a prominent statue of Nelson Mandela; the proposal describes an orientation visit rather than entry to government offices.

Voortrekker Monument – This monument commemorates the Great Trek and presents aspects of Afrikaner history through its architecture, marble frieze and exhibitions.

Day 8: Onboard Rovos Rail Meals: B,L,D



Spend the day enjoying life aboard Rovos Rail as your journey continues north towards Zimbabwe. Take a seat in the lounge or observation carriage and watch the changing landscapes pass by. Enjoy freshly prepared meals in the dining carriage, with time between them to read, relax and chat with fellow travellers.

This is a full day aboard the train, with no scheduled excursion. Please take care when moving around while the train is in motion.

Destination Information

Rovos Rail - Rovos Rail began with South African entrepreneur Rohan Vos's ambition to restore railway carriages for family holidays. After purchasing his first coaches in 1985, his personal project developed into a luxury rail business, launching its first passenger journey on 29 April 1989. Its restored vintage carriages preserve the craftsmanship and character of traditional railway travel, with wood-panelled interiors, elegant dining cars and comfortable private suites.

Day 9: Discover Matobo National Park Meals: B,L,D



Enjoy a leisurely morning aboard the train before an afternoon excursion to Matobo National Park. Explore a landscape of rounded granite hills and balancing rocks, with visits to San rock art sites and the grave of Cecil John Rhodes. You will learn about the history and cultural significance of this distinctive region before you return to the train.

Allow approximately five to six hours for the excursion.

Please note: The paths can be rocky and uneven, with uphill sections and exposed granite underfoot. Some viewpoints and rock art sites require a steeper ascent.

Destination Information

Matobo National Park - The park lies within the Matobo Hills World Heritage landscape, known for granite formations, rock art and enduring cultural and spiritual associations.

San rock art - Paintings preserved in shelters and caves provide an insight into the region's long human history.

Cecil Rhodes' grave - The grave lies on Malindidzimu, a hill with wide views over the surrounding landscape. The visit offers an opportunity to learn about the site's historical context and significance.

Day 10: Safari In Hwange National Park — Meals: B,L,D



Today you continue through Zimbabwe, enjoying the scenery from the train before an afternoon game drive in Hwange National Park. Explore in open safari vehicles, looking for elephants, antelope, giraffes and other wildlife. An expert will help you spot animals and understand the park's varied habitats before you return to Rovos Rail for your final night aboard.

Allow approximately three to four hours for the safari excursion.

Please note: Safari roads can be dusty and bumpy.

Destination Information

Hwange National Park – Zimbabwe's largest national park supports a rich variety of wildlife, including elephants, buffalo, giraffes and predators. Its woodland, open habitats and waterholes offer different settings for wildlife viewing.

Day 11: Arrive Victoria Falls — Meals: B,L,D



Enjoy breakfast aboard the train before arriving in Victoria Falls and bidding farewell to Rovos Rail. Have lunch, then transfer to your lodge for a two-night stay.

Later, you will board a shared dinner cruise on the Zambezi River. Watch the light change across the water as you look for hippos, crocodiles and birds along the riverbanks. Enjoy dinner aboard as the sun sets over the river.

Destination Information

Victoria Falls - This Zimbabwean town is a gateway to the falls and the Zambezi River, with woodland and riverside scenery surrounding the town.

Zambezi River - A dinner cruise provides time to enjoy the river's landscapes and observe wildlife and birds from the water. Sightings vary with natural conditions. This excursion is shared with other guests.

Day 12: Explore Victoria Falls Meals: B,L,D



After breakfast, explore Victoria Falls from the Zimbabwean side. Follow the rainforest paths between viewpoints, watching the Zambezi River plunge into the gorge below, as you discover the story of the falls.

Continue to Dusty Road in Chinotimba for lunch. Discover Zimbabwean flavours in a colourful township setting, with dishes prepared using traditional cooking methods, including open fires and cast-iron pots. This evening you will have dinner at The Boma, combining dinner with music, dance and a drumming experience.

The tour of the falls will last approximately two and a half hours.

Please note: Paths may be wet and slippery, with steps and uneven sections. The amount of spray and visibility vary by season, so a waterproof jacket and shoes with a good grip are recommended.

Destination Information

Victoria Falls - Known locally as Mosi-oa-Tunya, the falls form part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site shared by Zimbabwe and Zambia. Seasonal river levels influence the spray, visibility and appearance of the falls.

Day 13 - 14: Depart Victoria Falls Meals: B



After breakfast, transfer to Victoria Falls Airport for your overnight flight to New Zealand, arriving the following day.

KRUGER & ROVOS RAIL ESCAPE TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

Entry requirements – South Africa
New Zealand passport holders are currently permitted entry to South Africa without a visa for stays of up to 90 days.

Entry requirements – Zimbabwe
New Zealand passport holders require a visa to enter Zimbabwe, which is not included in the cost of your tour and is purchased upon arrival. Details will be provided in your final documentation, sent approximately two weeks prior to departure.

Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back in New Zealand. Your passport must also have at least 2 blank pages for stamps.

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate; Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa.

INSURANCE:

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

GROUP SIZE:

Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by a National Escort. On this Classic Tour, there will be no more than 18 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu Tours groups while you are travelling.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 10 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so. For groups with fewer than 10 travellers, departures will operate with local guides only.

EATING IN SOUTH AFRICA AND ZIMBABWE:

Eating in Zimbabwe offers a rich cultural experience, deeply rooted in local traditions and ingredients. In **Zimbabwe**, meals focus on **sadza**, a thick maize meal porridge, typically paired with relishes such as stewed meat, vegetables, or **nyama** (grilled meat). Popular dishes include **nyama choma** (roast meat) and **muriwo** (leafy greens). Both countries celebrate communal eating, with food embodying the warmth and hospitality of Southern African culture.

Eating in South Africa is a diverse and flavourful experience, reflecting the country's rich cultural heritage and its blend of indigenous, European, Asian, and African influences. The cuisine is influenced by the country's history and various ethnic groups. You'll find traditional African dishes, Dutch, British, Indian, and Malay-inspired foods, among others. The iconic braai, a barbecue feast of meats and traditional sauces, embodies communal gatherings. Biltong and droëwors offer savoury snacking options, while dishes like bobotie, a fragrant blend of spiced meat and custard, showcase Cape Malay influences. Indian-inspired samoosas and the unique bunny chow add further dimension to South African dining. From pap and wors, a staple pairing of maize porridge and sausages, to seafood harvested from the extensive coastline, the culinary scene is a celebration of diversity. Wine regions like Stellenbosch and cultural festivals highlight the country's love for wine and food. South African cuisine varies by region and cultural background, so there's a wide range of flavours and dishes to explore.

DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA & ZIMBABWE:

South Africa and Zimbabwe offer a mix of modern urban centres, established tourist facilities and rural communities where infrastructure and access to services can be more limited. South Africa’s major cities have extensive shopping, dining and transport facilities, while Zimbabwe’s main tourist destinations, including Victoria Falls, offer hotels, lodges and visitor services catering to international travellers.

However, development is uneven in both countries, and you may notice marked differences in housing, living standards and access to essential services, sometimes within the same town or city.

During your journey, road surfaces, mobile reception and internet speeds may vary, particularly in rural areas and wildlife reserves. Occasional interruptions to electricity or water supplies can also occur. Many tourist properties have backup arrangements, although these may not always support every facility. Service can follow a more relaxed pace than you are accustomed to at home, and journeys may take longer where roads are poorly maintained. A patient, flexible approach will help you enjoy your holiday, while your guide can explain local circumstances and assist with any practical concerns.

ACCOMMODATION:

Your accommodation has been selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family-run guesthouse in a smaller town or a heritage-type hotel. In remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard but do please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between New Zealand and Africa. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards are met.

All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities and air conditioning. Please note that not all accommodation will have TV or telephones in the rooms. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your Local Guide.

SOUVENIRS:

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions that demonstrates a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone so we aim to take you to places that hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

TIPPING POLICY:

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and Africa is no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time. In order to avoid any inconvenience Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount is given to your national escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed amongst your main service providers (for example local guides and drivers) throughout your tour. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the national escort. Any other tipping, such as tips for bathroom attendants or hotel porters that are taking luggage to your room, is at your discretion based on satisfaction of services received, as are gratuities for additional requested special services.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy, but we do recognize that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: Coaches or smaller vehicles are used for airport transfers, sightseeing and longer journeys. Vehicle size depends on the number of guests travelling. Road conditions vary, and traffic, roadworks and weather may extend driving times. Roads within private reserves and national parks may be unpaved and bumpy. All journey times are approximate, and some sightseeing days may continue directly to dinner without returning to the hotel.

Safari Vehicles: Game drives take place in open safari vehicles, providing views of the surrounding bush and wildlife. These vehicles are exposed to the elements, so bring warm layers for early morning drives and sun protection for daytime outings. Tracks can be uneven, dusty and bumpy, and boarding involves climbing steps into the vehicle. Game drives generally last approximately three hours, with much of this time spent seated.

Rovos Rail: Your itinerary includes a four-night journey from Pretoria to Victoria Falls aboard Rovos Rail. Accommodation is in private suites with en suite facilities, with meals served in the dining carriages and lounge and observation carriages available for relaxing. Boarding involves steps, and moving between carriages requires negotiating narrow corridors and connecting walkways. The train may sway or jolt, so use handrails and take care when walking aboard. Train movement and railway sounds are part of the experience, including overnight. Railway operations and border formalities may affect arrival times and excursion schedules. Formal dress is required for dinner aboard.

Boats: Enjoy a shared sunset dinner cruise on the Zambezi River. Boarding arrangements vary with the vessel and river level, and you may need to negotiate steps or a sloping gangway. Take care when moving around the boat and follow the crew's instructions when boarding and disembarking.

Flights: Scheduled domestic flights connect Johannesburg with Hoedspruit for your stay in the Kruger region, returning to Johannesburg before your transfer to Pretoria. Flight schedules may change, and airport procedures can involve walking, standing and waiting. The quoted checked luggage allowance is 20 kilograms per person.

APPROPRIATE DRESS:

South Africa and Zimbabwe are culturally diverse, and everyday dress is generally relaxed in cities and tourist areas. In South Africa, casual clothing is widely accepted, although modest dress is appropriate when visiting religious sites or more traditional communities. In Zimbabwe, modest clothing is particularly considerate in rural communities and places of worship. For these visits in either country, choose clothing that covers your shoulders and knees, and follow your guide's advice on local customs. Keep swimwear for beaches and swimming pools.

Pack lightweight clothing for warm days, with layers for cooler evenings, early morning game drives and changeable coastal weather. Bring comfortable walking shoes with good grip, a sunhat and a waterproof jacket for showers and spray at Victoria Falls. Long trousers and lightweight, long-sleeved tops also help reduce insect bites in the evenings. Smart casual clothing is suitable for most evening dining.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

Wendy Wu does not give specific health advice, but we do recommend you see your doctor at least six weeks prior to travel for advice and to allow time for any necessary vaccinations. Please remember to take your itinerary with you. Safe travel has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.safetravel.govt.nz

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.safetravel.govt.nz as in the event of an emergency, New Zealand Consular assistance will be more readily available.

Up until the day you travel, it is vital you keep up to date and familiarised with the entry requirements as these can change at short notice. You are personally responsible for completing any entry forms, conducting any covid tests (if necessary), etc and adhering to countries' specific entry requirements. You can also access the New Zealand Government's travel advisory service for up-to-date information about your destination on the same website.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice. If a visa is required, our Visa Department will be in touch with the paperwork and next steps. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

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