



THE WONDERS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Discover a bygone era, with wine and wildlife aplenty, on this comprehensive 17-day journey from Cape Town to Botswana and into Zimbabwe, with a luxurious three-night stay onboard Rovos Rail.

Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries, Luxury African Safaris



Africa, South Africa, Botswana,
Zimbabwe



17 days from AU\$35,765 pp



Private

Journey Overview

Discover a bygone era, with wine and wildlife aplenty, on this comprehensive 17-day journey from Cape Town to Botswana and into Zimbabwe, with a luxurious three-night stay onboard Rovos Rail. While Cape Town is one of the most beautiful cities in the world, with its towering mountains, winding coastlines and famed wine regions, Botswana will astound with its Okavango Delta. This haven for wildlife is one of the most magnificent natural spectacles you can experience, home to all the stars of the animal kingdom. Spend your days soaking up the most exclusive camps and heading out on safari before flying into Zimbabwe to the majestic and plunging Victoria Falls. This is the African journey of a lifetime.

Journey Highlights

- Take the famed cable car into the clouds to the summit of Table Mountain
- Learn about the art, history and politics that have shaped fascinating Cape Town
- Master your South African wine palate exploring Cape Winelands
- Spend three nights aboard the luxurious Rovos Rail, travelling from Cape Town to Pretoria
- Enjoy spectacular encounters with wildlife by land, air and water in Botswana's Okavango Delta
- Feast your eyes on the awe-inspiring Victoria Falls, from Zimbabwe's Zambezi National Park



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Cape Town

Arrive in South Africa to a warm A&K welcome and transfer privately to your hotel. Overlooking the marina, with panoramic views of Table Mountain, One&Only Cape Town is a tranquil enclave on the doorstep of a vibrant city.

One&Only Cape Town

Day 2: Cape Town

Wake in 'the Cape', one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Rise early for the famed cable car to the summit of Table Mountain. Whether it is covered in a tablecloth of clouds or showing off against a crisp blue sky, Table Mountain is always spectacular. Your knowledgeable guide will deftly steer you away from the crowds to the best viewpoints, while revealing the fascinating history of the city. Next, chat to your guide about personalising your morning according to your interests. Perhaps wander the cobbled marketplace at Greenmarket Square, then explore the colourful 'freedom' houses of Bo-Kaap, to learn about the people and politics that have shaped the area.

Stop for tasty artisanal street foods before heading to Sea Point Promenade to admire the edgy and provocative art installations. Wander the Watershed Market to pick up handmade souvenirs and finish the day like a local with a bonbon and cheeky gin cocktail at a chocolate shop. Don't forget to visit the secret gin bar tucked behind it with your evening at leisure.

One&Only Cape Town | Meals: BL

Day 3: Cape Town

Explore the Cape Peninsula your way, with plenty of flexibility to suit your tastes and fitness levels. Take a walk through the bohemian fishing community of Kalk Bay, famous for its art galleries, brightly painted fishing boats and resident seals. You may like to walk among the penguins at Simon's Town or seek out a rogue splinter colony. If you're feeling energetic, perhaps take a hike inside the Table Mountain National Park, keeping your eyes peeled for ostrich, baboon, mountain zebra, bontebok and tortoise. Delight in deserted beaches strewn with ancient shipwrecks far from the usual tourist trail, before pausing for a gourmet picnic in a secluded wilderness location.

This afternoon, savour tasty treats at Noordhoek Farm Village, a thriving food hub where you can tuck into freshly made ice cream, artisanal treats, and aromatic java. Grab a bite and soak up the atmosphere. Then follow the 144 curves of Cape Town's most scenic road to a quiet spot where you can admire an extravagant African sunset.

One&Only Cape Town | Meals: BL

Day 4: Cape Town

Prepare for a full day of wine appreciation in Cape Winelands. Begin with a guided tour of the Dylan Lewis Sculpture Garden in Stellenbosch where you can admire over 60 sculptures carefully nestled among indigenous flora. Continue to the Oldenburg homestead to taste their complex and sustainably produced small-batch wines. Browse the quaint boutiques and art galleries in Franschhoek, while you learn about its French origins and the captivating backstory of its wine production. Follow it up with a delicious leisurely lunch at one of Franschhoek's wineries.

More wine tasting awaits this afternoon, on the comfortable veranda of Jacoline Haasbroek, owner of the award-winning My Wyn Wine Estate. Perhaps stretch your legs on a walk to the nearby waterfall afterwards. Wind down with a gentle stroll in one of the oldest Cape Dutch farms, trundling through the ever-changing tapestry and botanical diversity of its gardens.

One&Only Cape Town | Meals: BL

Day 5: Onboard Rovos Rail

After a morning and lunch at leisure, get ready for your rail journey to Pretoria aboard Rovos Rail — widely known as one of the most luxurious trains in the world. Settle into your private suite, with lashings of old-world charm and an Agatha Christie-esque atmosphere. Pop on your fluffy white gown and watch the spectacular mountain ranges of the Cape flow by. This evening, dress smartly to indulge in your first four-course dinner in the Victorian dining car, crafted by skilled chefs and paired with the finest South African wines.

Rovos Rail | Meals BD

Day 6: Onboard Rovos Rail

Wake stationed at Matjiesfontein, where you can wander through the historic Victorian village, and peruse the collection of vintage cars and railway carriages. Later this morning, travel from the gold-rich Highveld to the haunting barrenness of the Great Karoo. After lunch in the dining car, relax with the captivating views. There's an observation car with an open-air balcony to soak up the South African landscapes and often an onboard historian. You'll find places to socialise with fellow guests including a lounge car, gift shop and dining car, all designed with timeless elegance.

Rovos Rail | Meals: BLD

Day 7: Onboard Rovos Rail

Arrive at Kimberley, the diamond capital of South Africa. Kimberley was the first city in the Southern Hemisphere to integrate electric streetlights and the first Stock Exchange in Africa. Start your exploration of the city at its main attraction: the Big Hole, a hand-dug mine the size of eight football fields. Your guide will captivate you with fascinating stories of the city during the frenetic days of the 18th century diamond rush, with a tour of the once-operational diamond mine. Reboard Rovos Rail and enjoy lunch as the train travels northeast towards Klerksdorp and the grassland plains of Highveld.

Rovos Rail | Meals: BLD

Day 8: Johannesburg

Arrive at Pretoria, an historical city with gracious old architecture, historical sites, an emerging cosmopolitan centre, prosperous leafy suburbs and wide streets lined with Jacarandas. If you happen to arrive in November or December, the city will be covered in a purple haze of flowers.

Transfer to your hotel in Johannesburg and check into your hotel, the former residence of Nelson Mandela. This afternoon, visit the Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory, where you can wander through Madiba's post-presidential office, and view the permanent exhibition on Nelson Mandela's life and times.

Sanctuary Mandela / Meals: B**Day 9: Okavango Delta, Botswana**

Journey on to one of the most unspoiled oases in all of Africa, the Okavango Delta. On arrival into Botswana, you'll fly by light aircraft to your luxury camp in the Khwai Private Reserve. With almost half-a-million acres of pristine wilderness, floodplains stretch as far as the eye can see and the glistening waterways and emerald forests attract all the stars of the safari show.

Settle into your sophisticated tree-house room, shaded by the boughs of cool leadwood trees. This afternoon head out on a game drive, keeping your eyes peeled for elephant, lion, leopard, wild dog and enjoy sundowners before a delicious dinner.

Tuludi / Meals: BLD**Days 10-11: Okavango Delta**

With only a handful of camps in this private reserve, Tuludi offers almost exclusive game viewing. Spend two days exploring the area at your desired pace on day and night game drives. You'll also enjoy mokoro excursions through the Khwai River channels (season dependent). Don your safari gear and camera and rise early for a morning drive to catch the early prowlers. Stop for fresh, steaming coffee along the way, then make your way back to camp for breakfast or relish breakfast in the bush. Relax and soak up the camp's luxury ambience, perhaps cool off with a dip in your private plunge pool and take a siesta, before heading out again in the late afternoon for your second game drive. After refreshing scenic sundowners, head back to a mouth-watering dinner and share stories of your adventure.

Tuludi / Meals: BLD

Day 12: Okavango Delta

Join your bush pilot for a scenic helicopter ride over the wetlands to North Island Okavango safari camp, on its own private island. The flat plains submerged in water is stunning from above. Keep a lookout for large herds of buffalo no bigger than black ants, elephants and hippos in the water, and plenty of antelope.

Unlike most camps, North Island Okavango has water-based activities almost all year round. Surrounded by a mosaic of islands and channels, your tent sits peacefully in front of a hippo-filled lagoon, under the boughs of wild ebony trees. At night sit on the deck listening to bell frogs tinkle and watch as fireflies flit across the water. If it's cold, stargaze around a crackling firepit on the deck.

North Island Okavango / Meals: BLD**Days 13-14: Okavango Delta**

Spend two days exploring the Okavango Delta on foot, land and on water. Game drive through vast tracts of pristine wilderness in search of lion, leopard, cheetah, elephant, hippo and the rare sitatunga antelope. View the wildlife at eye level on a boat or traditional mokoro safari through the lily-filled channels. And tick off some of the Okavango specials from your bird-list — the slaty egret, Pel's fishing owl and the African skimmer to name a few.

Activities start early in the morning accompanied by a dawn chorus of wildlife. In the afternoon, after a traditional siesta, you may choose to cruise on an engine boat or in a mokoro, expertly punted by a skilled local poler. Mokoro silently glide through the waterways, allowing close-up views of a vast array of wetland birds.

North Island Okavango / Meals: BLD**Day 15: Okavango Delta - Zambezi National Park**

Fly Northeast to Kasane where you will transfer by road into Zimbabwe and on to your lodge in the Zambezi National Park. Old Drift Lodge is nestled within a wild paradise on the banks of the Zambezi River, frequented by elephant, buffalo, herds of sable, eland, zebra, giraffe, kudu, waterbuck and impala. Your suite has its very own viewing deck, with a private plunge pool and star bed. Enjoy delicious dining, enriched using fresh seasonal ingredients and herbs grown in the gardens.

Old Drift Lodge / Meals: BLD

Day 16: Zambezi National Park

Victoria Falls is an awe-inspiring experience. No photograph can begin to depict the reality, and nothing can prepare you for your first humbling sight. Follow your guide through the rainforest to the falls, followed by lunch at the Lookout Café. Sit back and feast with breathtaking views.

Spend the rest of the day exploring the national park your way. Animal sightings are frequent from Old Drift Lodge, and the remote location on the river enable fantastic birdwatching year-round. Enjoy game drives, river safaris, guided walks, or perhaps venture further afield to explore the town.

Old Drift Lodge / Meals: BLD

Day 17: Depart Victoria Falls

Transfer to Victoria Falls International Airport for your onward flight.

Meals: B

Map



Accommodation

Old Drift Lodge, Victoria Falls



Old Drift Lodge enjoys a privileged location overlooking the mighty Zambezi River. Set within the Zambezi National Park, this lodge makes the perfect base to explore Victoria Falls. From here, you also have great access to Victoria Falls town and the falls themselves.

Your tented living spaces are en suite and equipped with luxury facilities such as a private plunge pool and an outdoor bathing tub. Meals are prepared with locally sourced ingredients and herbs grown onsite.

Throughout, the lodge boasts incredibly scenic views over the river as well as a watering hole to the north. Animal sightings are frequent from the main lodge, and the remote location by the constant water source of the river enable fantastic birdwatching year-round.

Meanwhile, you can cover more of the surrounding area on guided hikes, game drives and river safaris. Here, you're likely to spot iconic African wildlife including giraffe, eland, kudu, elephant and many others.

Why we like it

- Located on the banks of the Zambezi River
- Closest lodge within the national park to Victoria Falls
- All-inclusive activities include guided tours, game drives and river and walking safaris
- Stylishly decorated luxury tents

Rovos Rail



Rovos Rail's elegant features evoke the spirit of a bygone era and just 72 guests are treated to this unforgettable African rail experience. The Deluxe Suites are cosy and stylishly decorated with wood panelling and polished timber finishes, each with en suite bathroom. Meals are a highlight with an emphasis on fresh local ingredients and traditional dishes with a selection of fine South African wines.

One&Only Cape Town



Gracing the city's fashionable vibrant Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, One&Only Cape Town enjoys panoramic views of the marina with Atlantic Ocean beyond and Table Mountain.

This luxury resort's seven-storey Marina Rise features 91 spacious rooms and suites with 24-hour butler service on request. With its crescent-shaped architecture, all rooms and suites enjoy uninhibited views of iconic Table Mountain or the picturesque harbour. Two landscaped private islands at the centre of the waterfront feature 40 Island rooms and suites and a tranquil spa.

A Michelin-starred chef headlines the resort's dining at Nobu, while renowned Franschhoek area chef, Reuben Riffel, offers a brasserie-style dining experience. Isola restaurant is exclusively available in-house providing a relaxed atmosphere during the day. The Vista Bar & Lounge is situated in the centre of the lobby and offers incredible panoramic views of Table Mountain.

An abundance of activities at the fully-supervised KidsOnly programme is available for children aged four - 11 years. There is a separate programme of activities for older children aged 12 to 17. Other amenities include an outdoor heated infinity pool, hot tub and fitness centre. One&Only Cape Town offers a luxurious seaside escape just steps from the city's hottest dining and shopping. Located 30 minutes by car from Cape Town International Airport.

Why we like it

- Located in the beating heart of Cape Town's fashionable Victoria & Alfred Waterfront

- Dine out in style at Nobu from Michelin-starred chef Nobuyuki 'Nobu' Matsuhisa
- Relax in a private cabana around the heated infinity pool
- The kids' club welcomes children from the age of four to 11
- Enjoy panoramic views of Table Mountain and the Atlantic Ocean

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