

## **CONTENTS & ABOUT THE LUXURY TRAIN TRAVEL COMPANY**

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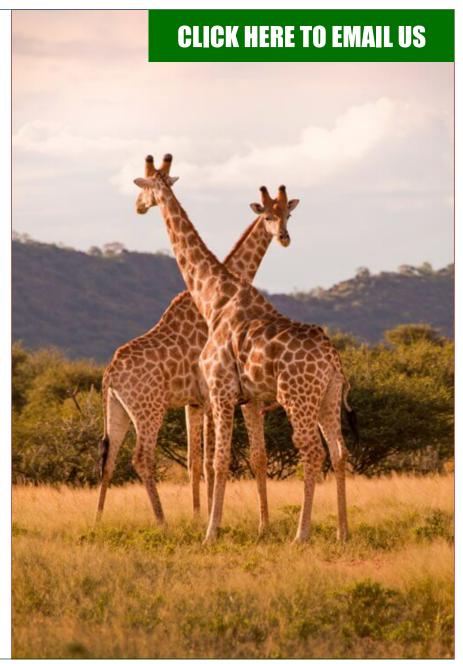
29 ... Recommended Reading

#### **ABOUT OUR COMPANY**

Established as one of the UK's leading, independent and family owned luxury train tour specialists, our focus is on well thought through private and personally selected rail adventures. Our emphasis is very much on the right trip for you and we work closely with you in order to achieve this. We regard the rail journeys we offer as a trip of a lifetime and use our experience and knowledge to make it that for you.

#### **ALL TOURS ARE FINANCIALLY PROTECTED**

We are members of **ABTA** (Y1699) and our tours are **ATOL** protected (license 10287) giving you full peace of mind when booking with us both for monies paid to us as well as the code of conduct and high standards we are both delighted to and required to uphold.







## THE AFRICAN EXPLORER: CAPE TOWN TO WINDHOEK BY LUXURY TRAIN

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please find full details of this itinerary in this dossier. If you have any questions at all please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards, The Luxury Train Travel Company.

#### THE LUXURY TRAIN TRAVEL COMPANY

- www.theluxurytraintravelcompany.com
- enquiry@theluxurytraintravelcompany.com
- **1** +44 (0)20 8191 0620
- ABTA member Y1699
- ATOL License 10287

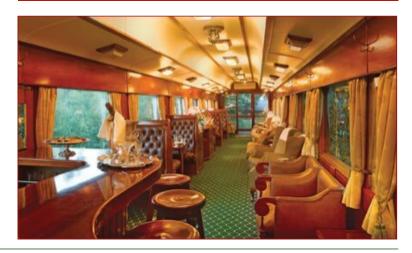
- **CAPE TOWN**
- **MATJIESFONTEIN** 
  - **UPINGTON** •
- **FISH RIVER CANYON** 
  - LÜDERITZ •
  - NAMIB-NAUKLUFT
    - **NATIONAL PARK**
    - **SWAKOPMUND** •
    - **ETOSHA PARK** 
      - WINDHOEK •



#### HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS AFRICAN EXPLORER TOUR

- ✓ More than 3,000 kilometers of railroad on the African Explorer private train.
- ✓ Cape Town, one of the world's most diverse and beautiful cities.
- ✓ Fish River Canyon, the largest canyon in Africa.
- ✓ The world's highest sand dunes in the Namib Desert and Sossusvlei.
- ✓ Bizarre rock formations and lunar landscape in Namib-Naukluft National Park.
- ✓ Safari tour of Etosha National Park.
- ✓ Lüderitz, the first German colonial settlement in present-day Namibia.
- ✓ Kolmanskop, ghost town from Namibia's diamond rush.
- ✓ Diverse flora and fauna of Namibia.
- ✓ Swakopmund, a historic town with colonial German architecture.
- ✓ Windhoek, a fascinating mix of African and European cultures.
- ✓ Namibian culinary specialties and select South African wines.

#### 14 DAYS / 13 NIGHTS STARTING CAPE TOWN









# DETAILED ITINERARY

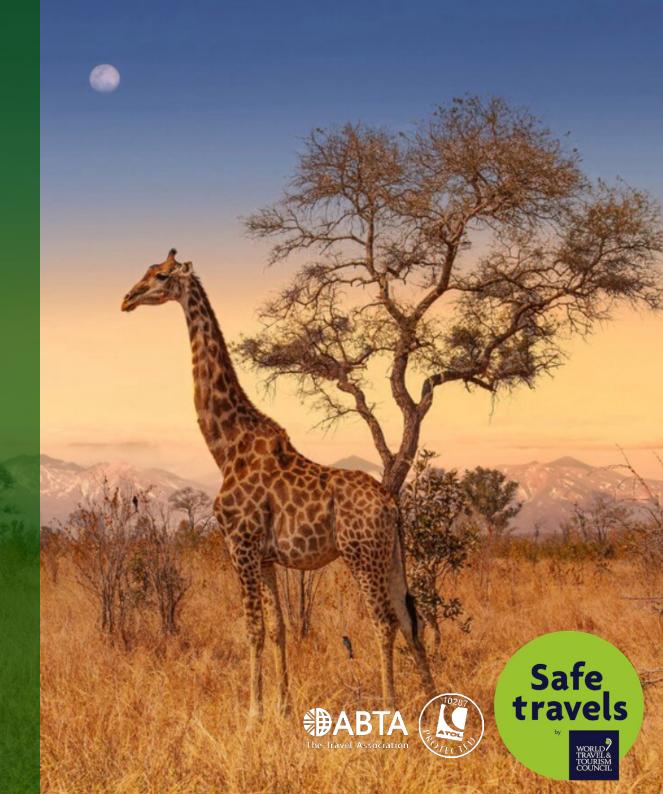
The following pages detail your itinerary day by day. All our trips are tried and tested and, between us, we have visited most destinations and accommodation. We like to offer our clients the greatest flexibility possible with their trip so if there are any pre or post tour experiences you'd like to add please do not hesitate to contact us.

"I can't tell you how much we appreciate all the pre planning you helped us with.

It was a trip of a lifetime experienced by few. Personally I feel privileged to have experienced this part of the world.

Thanks again for all you did for us."

Gail & Cathy Schuneman



DAY 1 DATE TBC

## **CAPE TOWN**

#### **WELCOME TO AFRICA & ARRIVAL IN CAPE TOWN**

Your journey begins in a destination that has drawn adventurers to Africa for centuries. Few places can rival Cape Town's spectacular setting, nestled between Table Mountain and the Atlantic Ocean. Take a pleasant stroll on the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront. You discover everything this multicultural melting pot has to offer during a fun and informative city tour in the afternoon. Later, enjoying a special welcome dinner.

**Meals Included:** Dinner.



## **OVERNIGHT**

#### THE COMMODORE HOTEL



Located in the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, The Commodore Hotel provides sweeping views of Table Mountain and Cape Town Harbour.





\*Hotel shown for guidance only with exact hotels not finalised until 6 weeks before the trip start date.

DAY 2 DATE TBC

## MON THE TRAIN

#### **MATJIESFONTEIN & HEX RIVER MOUNTAINS**

Your journey through Southern Africa truly begins as you board your private train, the African Explorer. Your friendly crew welcomes you aboard, and you discover the incomparable ease of rail travel as the African Explorer whisks you through green valleys and the dramatic tunnels of the Hex River Mountains.

You stop in the small railroad town of Matjiesfontein to soak up its colonial flair, including the charming Victorian-era Lord Milner Hotel, where Cecil Rhodes and Edgar Wallace used to stay.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.









DAY 3 DATE TBC

## MON THE TRAIN

#### TRAVEL ACROSS SOUTH AFRICA IN COMFORT

Today you enjoy a day of once-in-a-lifetime views from the comfort of your private train. As gorgeous landscapes pass by your windows, informative and entertaining lectures reveal local customs, culture and history that most travellers miss.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.









DAY 4 DATE TBC

## ON THE TRAIN

#### **AUGRABIES FALLS & UPINGTON**

From Upington a bus takes you to Augrabies National Park. As you stand before the world-famous Augrabies Falls, your senses come alive with their thunderous roar and refreshing spray—a truly invigorating wonder of the world! As the early evening sets in, your private train takes you further north.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.









DAY 5 DATE TBC

## ON THE TRAIN

#### **ENTER NAMIBIA & FISH RIVER CANYON**

Welcome to Namibia - a land of colour and texture, with landscapes almost too staggering to take in all at once. You marvel at its sweeping landscapes of deep, ancient ochre and its huge, aquamarine sky. In the distance, silhouettes of animals shimmer beneath the hot sun.

You arrive at Holoog Station and take a scenic bus tour to discover the awe-inspiring Fish River Canyon, the largest canyon in Africa. If you wish, you can take a short walk along the canyon's edge.

Before sundown, there is time for a quick excursion to the Quiver Tree Forest. Later you enjoy a biltong (traditional beef jerky) tasting.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.







DAY 6 DATE TBC

## ON THE TRAIN

#### THE NAMIB DESERT & OVERNIGHT IN A LODGE

In the morning, you arrive in Mariental, from where you take a scenic bus ride to your lodge (approx. 4 hours). Your lodge is a quiet oasis in the midst of the wilderness—the perfect place for stargazing.

Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner.

## **OVERNIGHT**

#### NAMIB DESERT LODGE



Warmly decorated rooms, as well as an airy thatched-roof restaurant, a bar & 2 outdoor pools make this an oasis in the desert.





\*Lodge shown for guidance only with exact lodge not finalised until 6 weeks before the trip start date.

**DATE TBC** DAY 7

## DESERT LODGE

#### EXPLORE THE STUNNING NAMIB-NAUKLUFT NATIONAL PARK

Today you take in the otherworldly beauty of the Namib Desert and have the opportunity to stand atop the biggest sand dunes in the world—immense, sculptural sand waves as dramatic and vast as the ocean. You've seen them in photographs, but nothing compares to real life. An excursion in open-top vehicles takes you to the famous Sossusvlei salt pan. Later, as the sun begins to set, you have the chance to join a desert safari. The natural beauty you see here is simply unforgettable.

**Meals Included:** Breakfast & Dinner.



## **OVERNIGHT**

#### NAMIB DESERT LODGE



Warmly decorated rooms, as well as an airy thatched-roof restaurant, a bar & 2 outdoor pools make this an oasis in the desert.





\*Lodge shown for guidance only with exact lodge not finalised until 6 weeks before the trip start date.

DAY 8 DATE TBC

## ON THE TRAIN

#### **WALVIS BAY & SWAKOPMUND**

Today you head back to the coast, this time to Walvis Bay (aka Whale Bay), a deepwater port city named for its historical abundance of southern right whales. Alternative to the bus ride, you can cover the distance from Namib desert to Walvis Bay in a small plane and take in the desert landscape from a bird's eye perspective on this panoramic flight (additional supplement, to be paid on spot).

Later you continue your journey via air-conditioned bus to the coastal city of Swakopmund, famous for its unique examples of German colonial architecture.

In the afternoon, you can enjoy a stroll on the promenade or a slice of Black Forest cake in Café Anton before heading back to your train.

Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner.







DAY 9 DATE TBC

## ON THE TRAIN

#### CATAMARAN CRUISE TO SPOT WILDLIFE

In the morning, you head for an exciting catamaran cruise including lunch from Walvis Bay. You might spot sea lions, pelicans, seals and flamingos. Afterwards you have leisure time in Swakopmund, bevor your let the day end with a sundowner.

Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner.







DAY 10 DATE TBC

## ON THE TRAIN

#### SPITZKOPPE: NAMIBIA'S MOST FAMOUS PEAK

You begin your day with a hearty breakfast, after which you continue your exploration of the Namib Desert. Today you arrive at Usakos, from where you head to the Spitzkoppe—known as Namibia's Matterhorn—and marvel at its immense, granite peak. The ancient rock paintings you see here speak to the fascination this famous landmark has long held for humankind. Later, you return to your private train, stopping in the evening to enjoy a braai—a traditional African barbecue—alongside your train, beneath a fabulously starry sky.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.









**DATE TBC DAY 11** 



## **PARK LODGE**

#### ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK: THE GREAT WHITE PLACE

After breakfast you drive to your lodge in Etosha National Park. Enjoy all the comforts of your lodge before taking a tour in open safari-vehicles (if you wish). A unique safari awaits: you might have the chance to observe elephants, wildebeests, birds and other wild animals, especially close to the watering holes and – with a bit of luck – you might even get a glimpse on lions and the very rare leopards. In the evening you have the chance to enjoy a traditional Boma before dinner.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Packed Lunch & Dinner.



## **OVERNIGHT**

#### KING NEHALE LODGE



Close to the Etosha National Park's King Nehale gate, this refined, modern lodge has contemporary villas with their own plunge pool.





\*Lodge shown for guidance only with exact lodge not finalised until 6 weeks before the trip start date.

DAY 12 DATE TBC

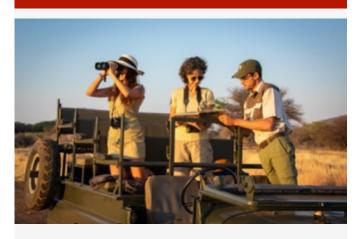
## ON THE TRAIN

#### A DAY ON SAFARI

Today is a safari day, and you jump into a jeep in the golden light of the morning. You set out in search of feathered, furry and fanged creatures in their natural habitats.

Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner.









DAY 13 DATE TBC

## **WINDHOEK**

#### NAMIBIA'S CAPITAL WINDHOEK & KATUTURA

This morning's unique train route is a veritable safari. Your private train passes through game farms where giraffe, antelope and ostrich are often visible from your window. Soon, you arrive in the Namibian capital Windhoek, where you embark on a fun and informative city tour.

Among the major sights of the day are the Christ Church—which combines neo-Gothic design with local African sandstone—and the Namibian parliament building, also known as the Tintenpalast (German for "Ink Palace").

Later in the day, you visit the township of Katutura and a local market, before heading back to relax at your hotel. That evening, you enjoy a special dinner in celebration of your exceptional journey and to say farewell to your fellow travellers.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

## **OVERNIGHT**

#### **AVANI WINDHOEK HOTEL**



In the bustling city centre, there are 2 sleek restaurants, one of which has a bar as well as a spa, a rooftop pool and a gym.





\*Hotel shown for guidance only with exact hotels not finalised until 6 weeks before the trip start date.

DAY 14 DATE TBC

## END OF TOUR

#### **GOODBYE TO WINDHOEK & ON TO YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE!**

After your last delicious breakfast in Africa, you get the shuttle to the airport for your flight home. Looking back on your rail adventure, you smile, remembering the amazing sights you've seen, feeling that you've become a true African explorer.

Meals Included: Breakfast.



Josie Dawson & Friends

"We had the best time, with plenty of laughs, trying to learn the local languages, we loved the Train ride, so many amazing sights, sounds and people.

You were always so helpful and prompt in sending us your replies."



2024

## **CLICK HERE TO EMAIL US**

#### AFRICAN EXPLORER DATES & PRICES PER PERSON IN GBP / USD

Starts in Cape Town on the 31st October 2024 & finishes Windhoek on the 13th November 2024

CABIN	ELEPHANT		LEOPARD	
TWIN	£ 8,595	\$ 12,030	£ 9,340	\$ 13,070
SINGLE	£ 13,140	\$ 18,400	£ POA	\$ POA

2025

#### AFRICAN EXPLORER DATES & PRICES PER PERSON IN GBP / USD

Starts in Cape Town on the 21st January 2025 & finishes Windhoek on the 3rd February 2025

CABIN	ELEPHANT		LEOPARD	
TWIN	£ 8,595	\$ 12,030	£ 9,340	\$ 13,070
SINGLE	£ 13,140	\$ 18,400	£ POA	\$ POA

#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

- The minimum number of participants required for a trip to run is 50. It is incredibly rare this number is not reached.
- Due to the intricate logistics of this tour, itinerary changes are sometimes unavoidable.
- On booking a non-refundable deposit of 20% of the total tour price plus any international flights we are booking for you. Full payment is required 90 days before the trip start date.
- International flights, tips, beverages, visa fees and any services not mentioned are not included in the price.

#### • Cancellation conditions:

- 92 or more days prior to departure: 20% of total price
- 91 to 42 days prior to departure: 45% of total price
- 41 to 11 days prior to departure: 80% of total price
- 10 and less days prior to departure: 90% of total price
- Any part of the program that is missed because of late arrival is non-refundable.



## THE AFRICAN EXPLORER TRAIN INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

#### **TOUR DESCRIPTION**

A railroad safari across some of Africa's most spectacular landscapes. Deep canyons, wide-open plains, wild animals and the highest sand dunes in the world. The voyage of a lifetime. Set out on an unparalleled adventure across South Africa and Namibia. The African Explorer train takes you from the metropolis of Cape Town to the otherworldly wonders of the Namib Desert. Travel in comfort and ease by private train, watching elephants and giraffes graze in fields outside your window.

#### **TOUR INCLUSIONS**

- √ 8 nights on board the African Explorer private train according to the category booked.
- ✓ 1 night in a Windhoek city hotel.
- ✓ 1 night in a generously spaced safari lodge at the entrance to Etosha National Park.
- ✓ 2 nights in a stylish lodge in the Namib desert.
- ✓ 1 night in a premium class hotel in Cape Town.
- ✓ Multi-lingual tour director from Windhoek to Cape Town throughout.
- ✓ English-speaking tour guide for max. 25 guests from Cape Town to Windhoek.
- ✓ Doctor on board.
- ✓ All meals as specified in the itinerary.
- ✓ All excursions and sightseeing including admission fees.
- ✓ Excursions and transfers in air-conditioned buses.
- ✓ All Airport transfers on day 1 and 14.
- ✓ Fascinating series of lectures on sights, history, daily life and culture.
- ✓ Extensive information materials.

#### NOT INCLUDED IN THIS TOUR

- ✗ International Airfare to / from the start / finish of your trip we can book these flights on request.
- ✗ Visas (if required) we can advise and partner with VisaCentral.
- \* Travel insurance to cover any medical treatment we recommend Citybond Suretravel.
- **X** Discretionary gratuities to drivers and guides.





## ABOUT THE AFRICAN EXPLORER TRAIN

Your hotel on rails, the African Explorer, offers two compartment categories with double or single bed, two air-conditioned restaurant cars, a bar car and a lounge car with panorama windows and an open observation platform at the end. Delicious three-course dinners are served nightly. The bar car, open around the clock, is the ideal place to relax over a beer or a glass of South African wine. It is a popular spot for reading and is the venue for fascinating on board talks.

There is no dress code on your private train and formal evening wear is not required. A laundry service is available during the entire trip. Large pieces of luggage can be stowed beneath the beds or on the upper luggage racks. However, since space on board is limited, we do recommend taking soft shell suitcases rather than hard shell. For your comfort and safety a doctor is on board throughout the journey.



## **ABOUT THE AFRICAN EXPLORER TRAIN**

#### **FOOD & DRINK**

The two air-conditioned restaurant cars of the African Explorer serve African and European culinary specialties. Dinners, which are served in three courses, are always a special highlight. In the bar car, you can relax with a cool Windhoek lager or one of South Africa's famous wines, listen to presentations given by your tour guide, enjoy a good read or have a stimulating conversation with your fellow travellers.

#### **OBSERVATION PLATFORM**

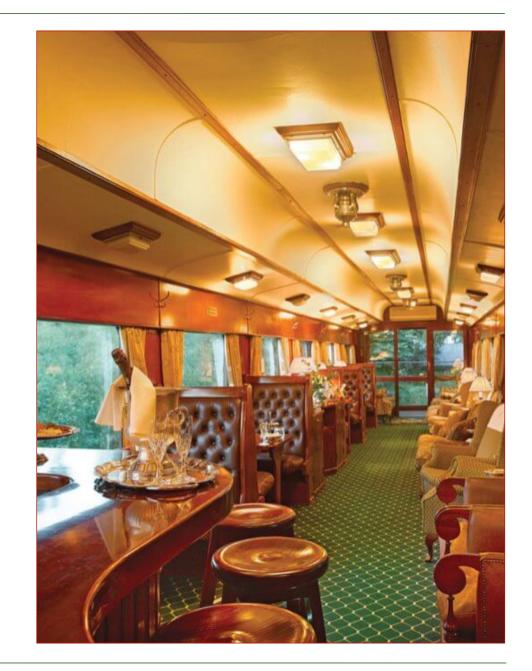
If the African Explorer is a hotel on wheels, then the open observation platform of the cozy lounge car is a rolling porch. A paradise for photographers and nature lovers alike—the uninterrupted views of the wilderness facilitate not only sightings of rare animals, but also makes it easy to take amazing photos. There are no annoying reflections or streaks that love to show up in photos taken through windows, instead it's just a direct connection to nature so that your journey becomes a true safari on rails.

#### **CABIN FEATURES**

All compartments feature 220/230V power outlets, a small safe, hand towels and clothes hangers. Beds are made daily by train staff. Windows in all compartments can be opened. Blinds and sun blinds are available.

#### LAUNDRY SERVICE & ON BOARD DOCTOR

Casual clothing is common on board, and you do not need formal wear for this trip. Laundry service is available throughout the train journey. And just in case, there is also a doctor on board for the entire journey.







# LEOPARD CLASS

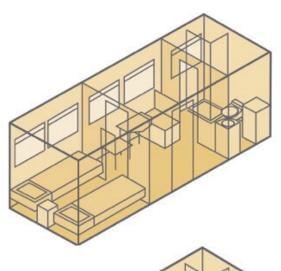
Leopard sleeping compartments feature a private shower and toilet, individually adjustable air-conditioning, 220/230V sockets, a small safe, towels, a closet with clothes hangers, small bedside cabinets, a hair dryer and travel size toiletries. The windows - equipped with blinds and sunshades - can be opened as needed. The compartments (approx. 10 sq m/107 sq ft) are equipped with two single beds or a double bed. There is a total of five cars in the Leopard category with three sleeper suites each.

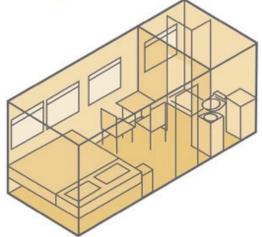




## LEOPARD CLASS

Photos and illustrations are for guidance only and may differ to your actual cabin





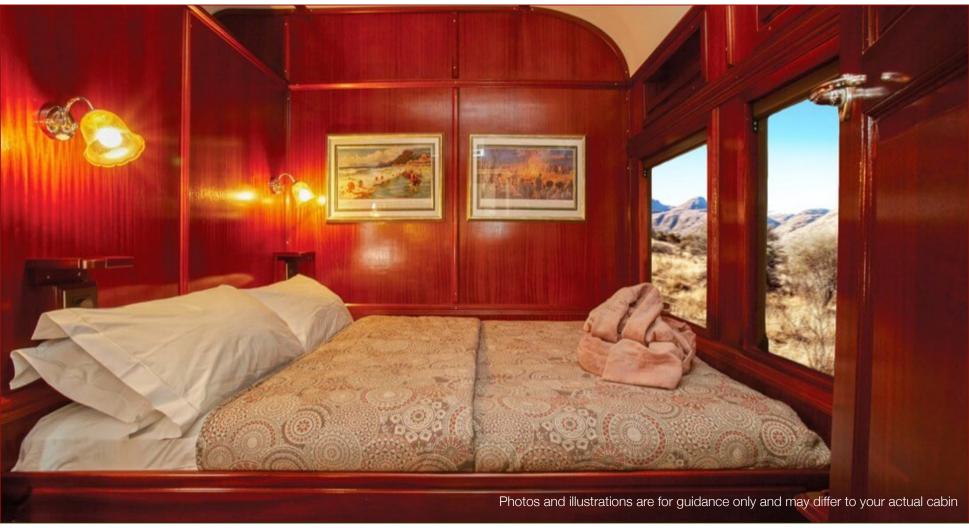






# ELEPHANT CLASS

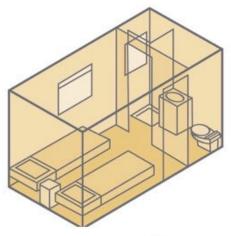
Elephant sleeping compartments feature a private shower and toilet, individually adjustable air-conditioning, 220/230V power outlets, a small safe, towels, a closet with clothes hangers, small bedside cabinets, a hair dryer and travel size toiletries. The windows - equipped with blinds and sunshades - can be opened as needed. The compartments (approx. 7 sq m/75 sq ft) are equipped with two single beds next to each other or a double bed. There is a total of five cars in the Elephant category with five compartments each.

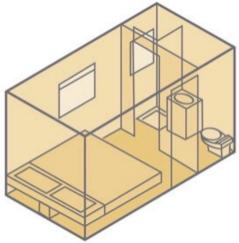




## **ELEPHANT** class

Photos and illustrations are for guidance only and may differ to your actual cabin











## **USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT THE TOUR**

#### HOW FAR IN ADVANCE DO I NEED TO BOOK?

This train tour is an exclusive trip with very limited departures through the year. Consequently we strongly advise our clients to book as far in advance as possible to avoid disappointment. This particularly applies to the higher level cabins which there is strong demand for.

#### CAN YOU OBTAIN & ADVISE ON THE VISAS FOR US?

Visas (if required) can be quite complex so we recommend using a specialist visa agent and have an arrangement with CIBT Visa Central who offer a reliable service for all the visas you will need for your trip. Of course, we provide all the necessary documentation which must accompany your application.

#### ARE YOUR TOURS FINANCIALLY PROTECTED?

Yes! All our trips come with financial protection either through our ATOL if the trip includes a flight or insurances which comply with the UK package travel regulations for any trip that does not include a flight. In addition our ABTA membership means we must adhere to their strict code of conduct.

#### CAN YOU BOOK INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS FOR US?

Absolutely! Our ATOL license means that we can book international or indeed internal flights. We get particularly good access to the best deals on British Airways as we are an appointed operator. Just let us know which airports you want to fly from or to and we will be more than happy to give a quote.

#### CAN YOU BOOK FURTHER TRAVEL FOR US?

Yes! We can offer extensions to further explore Africa at either end of the trip. Just ask us for details.

#### IS THIS REGION SAFE TO TRAVEL IN?

Many years back it had something of reputation but those times are long gone and the trip is now safe and trouble free for the vast majority of people. Your train is a private train so access is tightly controlled and our guides have your safety foremost in their minds throughout your trip with us.

#### CAN YOU BOOK FURTHER TRAVEL FOR US?

Yes! We can offer extensions to further explore Africa at either end of the trip. Just ask us for details.

#### LUGGAGE & CLOTHING TO BRING

We strongly recommend travel bags rather than hard shelled suitcases for this trip as the latter are hard to handle and stow away on the train. The dress code is casual throughout the trip. We recommend sturdy shoes for excursions and you can expect chilly nights even in summer.

#### AIR CONDITIONING

The train is air-conditioned with some cabins being centrally controlled while the higher class cabins have their own independent systems. Note that the air-conditioning only works when the train is moving above 30km / hour.

#### **CONDUCTORS**

Each carriage has two dedicated conductors there 24 hours a day to look after you.







## **USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT THE TOUR**

#### **TIPPING**

Tipping is always appreciated by our the people looking after you on the trip. Of course, any tipping is entirely up to you and should only be given for exceptionally good service. Final documents will include detailed information on who to tip as well as recommendations as to how much.

#### HOTEL CHECK-IN

Hotel check-in time is 2pm and check out by midday. Occasionally early check-in may be possible although this cannot be guaranteed.

#### MEDICAL & HEALTH

Depending on your country of origin, you may require vaccinations. Malaria tablets and hepatitis A vaccination are recommended. Please consult your physician.

#### TOILETS, WASHING & LAUNDRY

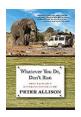
Small towels and sheeting is provided. Depending on your cabin class you will either have in cabin facilities or shared, end of carriage facilities. Opportunities for laundry are offered through the hotels and payable locally to them.

#### **DINING CAR & DRINKS**

Drinks are sold in both the dining car and by the conductors in your carriage. Payment is in Euros or US Dollars. Your conductor can provide you with hot or cold water. Drinks bought in the dining car are done so on a tab which is settled by you at the end of your trip. You must let us know of any dietary requirements before your trip starts.







#### WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T RUN

PETER ALLISON

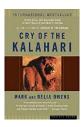
This is a great read for anyone going on a safari. It shows how hard but funny the life of a safari guide in the African bush can be. It's very easy reading, with lots of interesting facts, and somewhat educational.



#### LONG WALK TO FREEDOM

**NELSON MANDELA** 

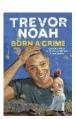
No trip to South Africa is complete without having read the autobiography of one of the countries greatest political leaders, Nelson Mandela.



#### CRY OF THE KALAHARI

MARK OWENS & DELIA OWENS

In the 1970s Mark and Delia Owens, two budding zoologists, set off into the desolate and unforgiving Kalahari Desert in Botswana to study wildlife. Deception Valley became their base and home for the next seven years. They lived alone in the wild, studying lions, brown hyenas, jackals, and other desert predators.



#### **BORN A CRIME**

TREVOR NOAH

With unflinching honesty and humour, Noah recounts his life as a 'crime' – a coloured (South Africa's term for anyone of mixed race) baby born to a Black Xhosa mother and a white Swiss father – under Apartheid.



#### THE LAST TRAIN TO ZONA VERDE

PAUL THEROUX

Following the success of the acclaimed Ghost Train to the Eastern Star and The Great Railway Bazaar, The Last Train to Zona Verde is an ode to the last African journey of the world's most celebrated travel writer.



#### **SOUTH AFRICA: A LITERARY COMPANION**

ISABEL BALSEIRO

Including short stories from some of South Africa's best and most renowned writers (Nadine Gordimer, J.M. Coetzee, and Alan Paton, to name only a few), this collection accompanies readers to a recent, but altogether different South Africa, reflecting perspectives of both the oppressed and the oppressors.



#### SOMEWHERE OVER THE RAINBOW

**GAVIN BELL** 

In his travels Bell found a country at odds with itself, swinging between hope and despair, buoyed by a sense of freedom and haunted by a fear of violent crime. It is a compelling portrait of a country in search of an identity.



#### THE CAFE DE MOVE-ON BLUES

CHRISTOPHER HOPE

Framed as a travelogue, this is a darkly comic, powerful and moving portrait of South Africa - an elegy to a living nation, which is still mad and absurd.

