

South Africa

Also featuring Namibia | Botswana | Zimbabwe | Mozambique | eSwatini

Escorted Touring Holidays **2024 – 2025**



distantjourneys
Your Time to Explore



Children greeting bypassers

“A Warm Welcome Awaits”



I am delighted to introduce our new South Africa 2024/25 brochure, showcasing meticulously designed and insightful tours that allow you to truly explore this fascinating country, as well as neighbouring Botswana, Namibia and more with Distant Journeys.

South Africa has everything you could wish for in a holiday destination – vast savannah brimming with wildlife, world-class cities rich with history and vibrant culture, stunning scenic wonders such as Table Mountain and the Garden Route, a glorious year-round climate and friendly, welcoming people.

As Distant Journeys celebrates its 10th birthday in 2024, I am reminded of what Andrew, Richard and I set out to do from the very beginning. Our aim is simple – to make every moment of your holiday as memorable as it should be.

With over 80 years of experience between us, and the support of an immensely passionate and knowledgeable team, both here in the UK and overseas, we have created an exciting style of flexible touring holidays that meet exceptional standards.

Operated at a leisurely pace and providing you with unrivalled flexibility and value for money, we tailor our itineraries to the tastes of UK travellers.

The quality of our touring holidays means that Distant Journeys has been a winner on 18 occasions at the prestigious British Travel Awards, and was also awarded a 'Platinum Trusted' rating by independent reviews provider Feefo, for consistently delivering an excellent level of customer service.

We are so proud our customers love what we do, and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank every single one of you for the loyalty and trust shown over the years. It has been our absolute honour to create these holidays of a lifetime for you, and we look forward to helping you plan your next adventure soon.

And, for those of you who haven't travelled with Distant Journeys yet, a very warm welcome. Our friendly travel professionals are experts in the destinations we visit and would love the opportunity to share their passion with you at any time.

With best wishes for the season ahead,

Simon Whittle
Managing Director

OUR DISTANT JOURNEYS...

I first visited South Africa several decades ago and have returned dozens of times since. South Africa's allure starts with its coastlines, cities and unrivalled safari opportunities. It has a unique tapestry that weaves in warm hospitality and fascinating culture. Each visit unfolds new adventures, and I am particularly excited about the new Distant Journeys safari series which I had the pleasure of researching recently.



Andrew Laycock
Director

OUR DISTANT JOURNEYS...

South Africa is a country that has it all. The Big Five, history, culture, fantastic food and drink, great weather and exceptional value for money. All enveloped by stunning, diverse scenery. Within a 60-minute drive you may see impressive mountains, elegant vineyards, breathtaking beaches and enchanting forests. Plus, numerous wild animal sightings along the way if you are lucky!



Julia Kidd
Head of Sales & Organisational Development

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Why Choose Distant Journeys?



Award-winning holidays

Our aim is to offer exceptional value for money without compromising on the quality of your holiday. Our success is evident, with Distant Journeys winning at the prestigious British Travel Awards 18 times.



Meticulously designed tours

Many years of planning go into every detail of our holidays, and each element is carefully chosen with our customers' enjoyment in mind.



Personal knowledge and expert advice

Distant Journeys has a team of professional travel specialists with personal knowledge of the countries we visit, our selected hotels and the experiences offered.



Freedom to explore

Our holidays operate at a relaxed pace to give you plenty of time to fully explore and savour each area, as well as giving you some time to unwind. Many of our tours also have Freedom Days, to spend as you wish.



Hand-picked hotels

We only select accommodation which meets the high standards of quality, service and location our guests have come to expect.



Once in a lifetime experiences

From exciting rail journeys and cruises to exploring lesser-known gems, our holidays feature many incredible experiences which provide memories to cherish forever.



Expert Tour Managers, Train Managers and local guides or rangers

Our Tour Managers, Train Managers and local guides or rangers are all greatly experienced in their field, and have the right balance of organisational skills and local knowledge, coupled with warm, friendly personalities.



Personalise your travel arrangements

Flying from regional UK airports, typically at no extra cost, upgrading your flight and extending your holiday are just a few of the ways in which you can personalise your tour so it's perfect for you.



Book with confidence

Distant Journeys are fully bonded by the Civil Aviation Authority and The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited, meaning you can book in confidence, knowing your money is 100% safe.



Clockwise from top: Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa; Leopard, Namibia; Elephant, South Africa; Local woman, Botswana

Price Promise ✓

Early booking offers

Our philosophy is simple – the earlier you book the better the offer you will receive.

No last minute discounts

Distant Journeys never discount our holidays at the last minute, so you can be confident you will never see your holiday at a lower price than you paid.

No additional charges

Irrespective of any additional costs incurred by Distant Journeys as a result of currency fluctuations, air fare increases or other costs associated with your holiday, surcharges will never be added once you have confirmed a booking.

Price match

We want you to have the peace of mind when booking a Distant Journeys holiday that you are receiving the best possible price. So, if you see the same holiday cheaper, not only will we match that price, we will also give you £200 off the price of a future holiday with Distant Journeys.

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 88-91.

YOUR TOUR MANAGER SAYS...

South Africa is often referred to as 'A world in one country'. The diversity of landscapes, wildlife, different cultures, scenic beauty and the pure magic of Africa and its friendly people cannot be replicated. There is a famous quote by R. Elliot: "If you only visit two continents in your lifetime, visit Africa – twice".



Ella Bauer
South Africa

YOUR TOUR MANAGER SAYS...

South Africa is the perfect safari destination where you can experience wildlife up-close like nowhere else on earth. Our incredible history, many cultures, superb food, wines, value-for-money and amazing landscapes, enhanced by friendly people who will welcome you with open hearts, make this an unforgettable place to visit.



Marcos Solis-Peralta
South Africa



Holiday Styles To Suit You

Although our love of travel unites us, we all have our own individual requirements when it comes to how we travel. It's your holiday, and with Distant Journeys you can choose the style of holiday that suits you.

Classic Tours

Our Classic escorted tours are a great way to travel and experience a country's scenery, culture and sights with a group of like-minded people, guided by a friendly and knowledgeable Tour Manager and local guides or rangers who will bring the destination to life. Your carefully crafted touring itinerary includes a variety of wonderful activities and sightseeing excursions, many meals, and accommodation in top-quality hotels throughout. With our classic tour groups, good company and camaraderie is guaranteed.

Rail Journeys

South Africa's scenic views are perfectly matched by the elegance and style of travel from a bygone era, when travelling by rail on two of the most luxurious trains in the world. The distinctive sapphire-coloured carriages of the legendary Blue Train will take us on a 1,600 km journey from Pretoria to Cape Town on our Very Best of South Africa tour. We also have a number of itineraries featuring rail journeys with the iconic Rovos Rail, including the brand-new Namibian Rail Safari and South African Rail Discovery.

On board you can expect stylish interiors, comfortable cabins, impeccable dining and the services of a Train Manager. Travelling by rail allows you to explore at a relaxed pace, with no need to unpack and pack your belongings in between stops. Many miles can be covered overnight, giving you more places to discover during the day, with many different calling points and activities included.

Small Group Safari

Embark on an exhilarating journey through the heart of South Africa, joining an exclusive small group of no more than 18 travellers as we traverse breath-taking landscapes, from one game reserve to another, staying at elegant and impressive private lodges along the way. The allure of South Africa's wildlife beckons on our brand new tour, In Search of the Big Five – a meticulously curated Small Group Safari spanning 13 days, and with each day, the promise of extraordinary encounters electrifying the air.










Couple enjoying a safari in Africa

Exceptional Value

We are passionate about what we do, passionate about the countries we visit, the experiences we include, the service we offer and the value for money we deliver to our guests, without compromising on the quality of your holiday experience.

With Distant Journeys, value for money means we will provide you with the opportunity to discover Africa in comfort and style, with so much flexibility and so many experiences included in the itinerary, without it costing the earth.

So much included

-  Return international flights from the UK on award-winning scheduled airlines, with all on-board meals and drinks included
-  Choice of regional UK airports on selected tours
-  Carefully selected hotels offering quality and comfort. Daily breakfast is included in addition to a selection of other meals
-  Overseas transfers and transport
-  Porter service for your luggage
-  All pre-payable airport and resort taxes. All the entrance fees to the many incredible places
-  Experienced Tour Managers, Train Managers and local guides and/or rangers on all escorted tours
-  Once in a lifetime experiences
-  Visits to lesser-known hidden gems



Giraffes in Kruger National Park, South Africa



CUSTOMER TESTIMONIAL...

A fantastic tour which included lots of amazing experiences. Excellent choice of hotels which were all very different and well positioned. Just the right pace and balance between included activities and free time. Our guide Marcos was excellent and very knowledgeable, we learned so much about the country, the people and the wildlife. We had so many highlights – Table Mountain, the penguins on Boulders Beach, Featherbed Nature Reserve, Rovos Rail and included safaris. Our holiday finished with Victoria Falls, a cruise on the Zambezi and an unforgettable evening of African food, drumming and dancing. It truly was a holiday of a lifetime and we were very well looked after.

Miss Butler – Spectacular South Africa including Rovos Rail with Victoria Falls extension

Award-winning Customer Service

Great customer service is at the heart of everything we do, and we never lose sight of what matters most – you, our valued customers. We are with you every step of the way; before, during and after your tour. We recognise our guests are individuals, with different requirements, tastes and needs, and we tailor our support accordingly.

Our commitment to excellence has won us many awards, which recognise the superb customer service and high standards throughout the entire experience of booking and travelling with Distant Journeys. We are determined to continue to exceed expectations when it comes to our guests and their well-deserved holidays.

A team of dedicated travel experts

Our travel experts are friendly, well-travelled individuals with a passion for the destinations we visit, and love to share their experience and knowledge with you. We have travelled on our tours and visited the places you will visit, so we can offer advice from personal experience and give you practical recommendations.

Experienced Tour Managers, Train Managers and knowledgeable local guides or rangers

Distant Journeys' personally-selected Tour Managers work tirelessly to ensure your tour runs smoothly. They use their experience, local knowledge and organisational skills to make sure our guests can relax, knowing they are accompanied by a friendly and resourceful presence who is always on hand to help. When travelling by rail, our trusted partners at Rovos Rail and The Blue Train have a Train Manager on board to help with anything you need.

Local guides and rangers play an invaluable role when touring Africa too; sharing their knowledge of the culture, traditions and language of their country to provide helpful insights into the places we visit and first-hand recommendations to help guests feel truly immersed in their tour.



The Blue Train, South Africa

Hand-Picked Hotels

Distant Journeys appreciate the hotels in which you stay are an integral part of your holiday, which is why we take great care in hand-picking all the accommodation featured in our itineraries.

Location and quality are always paramount considerations, and we always strive to provide the best of both.

Hotel ratings

Each property has been personally inspected whilst planning our holidays, and you can be confident the hotels featured in this brochure have been carefully selected for their location, quality, facilities and level of service.

We understand from many years of experience that accommodation ratings may vary from country to country. We therefore provide our own ratings, which are based on the expectations of guests from the United Kingdom, alongside the official hotel rating. Please review our hotel directory on pages 80-84 for more information regarding the hotels included.

Location, location, location

Relax in the knowledge that every hotel has been carefully chosen to allow you to make the most of each destination you visit. In Umhlanga for instance, you stay at the five-star Beverly Hills Hotel, which offers spectacular views of the Indian Ocean.

Character and charm

Some hotels are more than just a place to rest. Whilst staying in Pretoria, we visit Irene Country Lodge – an oasis of tranquillity set in beautiful lakeside gardens, surrounded by the Camdeboo Forest.

Natural world

Some hotels simply make the most of their surrounding landscapes. For example, the Kruger Gate Hotel, ideally situated on the banks of the Sabi River, gives our guests incredible access into the game-rich reaches of the southern Kruger National Park.

WE RECOMMEND...

Greenfire Lodge is situated in the 50,000 hectare, privately-owned Balule Nature Reserve. Small and friendly, this is the perfect retreat to relax with your fellow guests whilst enjoying freshly prepared home-cooked fare following a wonderful day of game viewing. The owners and rangers are exceptionally knowledgeable and welcoming and all individual en-suite lodges, each with private decked verandas and floor to ceiling windows, offer breath-taking views of its ravine location. Early morning wake up calls are provided by a 'live' drum beat from outside your lodges! A truly special place!



Richard Hanson
Director



Kruger Gate Hotel, Kruger National Park, South Africa



Lion cub and mother, South Africa

Freedom & Flexibility

Imagine being able to enjoy all the benefits of travelling with a group of like-minded people: the fun, the camaraderie, the friendships, the hassle-free organisation – and at the same time being able to personalise your holiday so that it's perfect for you.

When it comes to having the freedom to tailor your holiday to suit your tastes and wishes, the flexibility provided by Distant Journeys cannot be beaten.

Fly from your local airport

To get your journey off to the best possible start, Distant Journeys offer you flights with British Airways from London Heathrow. Should you wish to add a connecting flight from Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen or Belfast City Airport, Distant Journeys will arrange this, at no extra cost.

Flight upgrades

If you would like to treat yourself to a little more comfort on your international flights, World Traveller Plus and Club World upgrades are available on selected routes. Please see page 85 for more.

Choose your safari experience

As well as dedicated safari tours, such as our brand-new In Search of the Big Five itinerary, when travelling on the Spectacular South Africa tour, you have a choice of safari experiences. You can experience South Africa's Big Five at Bayala Private Game Reserve or enjoy the 'Durban Safari' from the comfort of one of the world's most luxurious trains, on board Rovos Rail.

Freedom Days

For an escorted tour to be truly memorable, we believe you should have the freedom to customise your touring experiences to match your interests. That is why many of our tours have a number of Freedom Days for you to spend as you please. A journey through the Cape Winelands, the fascinating UNESCO World Heritage Site of Robben Island, and the historic Anglo-Zulu battlefields of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift are just a few of the choices available.

Extend your holiday

Distant Journeys offer four spectacular holiday extensions to finish off your African adventure – a three-night stay in Cape Town, Victoria Falls or Chobe National Park, or a six-night stay which incorporates the delights of both Victoria Falls and Chobe National Park, dependent on your choice of itinerary. Please see pages 72-75 for more information.

Personalise your holiday

You may wish to combine your holiday with a visit to see family and friends or explore another area within your chosen destination. We will be happy to make arrangements for you, it's all part of the Distant Journeys service.

Once in a Lifetime Experiences

Distant Journeys offer touring holidays to a selection of truly magical countries, featuring an incredible array of holiday experiences.

When you travel with Distant Journeys, you can be confident that not only will all the must-see sights be included, but you will also enjoy several extra special experiences to make your holiday as memorable as it should be.

Red sands of Sossusvlei

Join us on an extraordinary journey to Sossusvlei, a mesmerising and ethereal landscape nestled within the heart of Namibia's vast and awe-inspiring Namib Desert. Towering red sand dunes stretch as far as the eye can see, ever-shifting shapes painted in hues that range from burnished gold to fiery red as the sun gracefully rises and sets. The stark contrast of the crisp blue sky against the vibrant dunes creates a panorama that will leave you with memories etched in the sands of time.

Spectacular safaris

Southern Africa is one of the world's greatest safari regions, teeming with unparalleled wildlife, and each of our holidays will bring opportunities to experience the area's incredible natural world. Depending on your choice of itinerary, some of the spectacular safari options on our itineraries include the world-renowned Kruger National Park in South Africa, incredible Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe, and the true wildlife paradise of Chobe National Park in Botswana. Our brand-new small group safari tour, In Search of the Big Five, offers an unrivalled safari experience with stays in several private game lodges in the heart of the South African bush. As well as unforgettable game drives, these authentic accommodations are perfectly placed to observe the species surrounding them. Get your camera at the ready!

Iconic rail journeys

Be entranced by the stunning landscapes of South Africa from the comfort of the luxurious Blue Train. Included as part of our Very Best of South Africa tour, the distinctive sapphire-coloured carriages of the legendary Blue Train will take us on a 1,600 km journey from Pretoria to Cape Town.

When travelling on board Rovos Rail, 'the most luxurious train in the world', scenic views are matched by the elegance and style of travel from a bygone era. Available on many of our itineraries, discover the charming Edwardian period features of Rovos Rail, coupled with excellent onboard service.

Victoria Falls

Our South African tours offer the opportunity to visit Victoria Falls, the world's largest waterfall and one of the planet's greatest natural wonders. Among the unmissable included activities are a sunset cruise on the Zambezi River and a walking tour of the UNESCO World Heritage Site Victoria Falls to explore its magnitude, grace and beauty.



Clockwise from top: Sossusvlei Sand Dunes, Namibia; Rhino, Kruger National Park, South Africa; Rovos Rail; Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe



NEW

In Search of the Big Five – A small group safari

📅 13 days 💷 from £4,995pp 🌍 November 2024 – November 2025

Embark on an unforgettable South African safari adventure to witness the wild wonders of this diverse nation. Immerse yourself in the heart of untamed landscapes, where iconic animals roam freely amidst breath-taking panoramas.

In an intimate group of no more than 18, join us as we traverse lush savannahs and encounter the Big Five – lion, leopard, rhino, elephant and buffalo – up close. Be captivated by the rich cultural tapestry of the Rainbow Nation, and get ready for an experience of a lifetime, blending adventure and discovery in the heart of the untamed wilderness.

safari

/sə'fa:ri/

noun

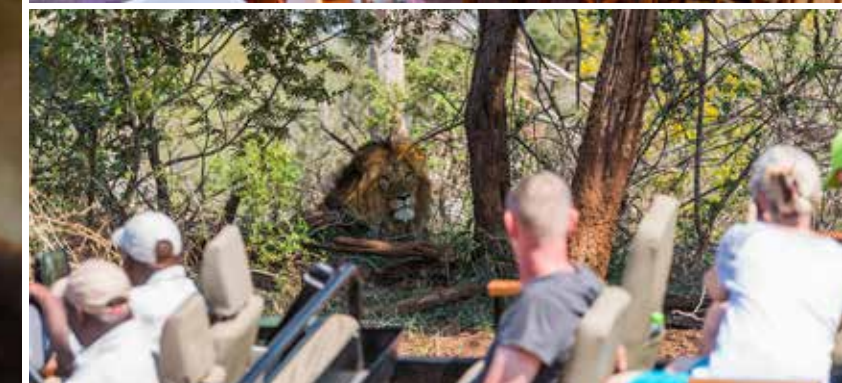
noun: **safari**

plural noun: **safaris**

1. an expedition to observe animals in their natural habitat, especially in Eastern or Southern Africa

2. "a week or two on safari"

Clockwise from above: Elephants drinking from waterhole; Main Lodge, Makalali Private Game Reserve, South Africa; Lion sighting on safari



Your holiday includes



Small group touring, with max. 18 passengers



Return economy flights with British Airways from London Heathrow, Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen or Belfast City Airport, and any domestic flights within South Africa. Inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty



Carefully selected accommodation in great locations, with all portage and applicable taxes. Enjoy stays at three wonderful private lodges, details of which can be found on pages 23 and 80-84



Daily breakfast, dinner each evening and eight lunches



Unforgettable experiences including:

- ★ Morning and afternoon open jeep game drives across some of South Africa's most revered private reserves
- ★ Stay near the quaint village of Dullstroom, known for its panoramic views and abundance of water
- ★ Dining under the stars overlooking the bushveld at Makalali Private Game Lodge¹



- ✓ Up to three safaris in Dinokeng Game Reserve
- ✓ Up to six safaris in Makalali Private Game Reserve
- ✓ Up to eight safaris in Balule Nature Reserve



Services of an English-speaking driver and ranger/guide



All overseas transfers and transport



Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 88-91. † Subject to weather conditions.



Walkersons Hotel and Spa, Dullstroom, South Africa



Cheetah

In Search of the Big Five

Days 1 to 6: UK - Dinokeng Game Reserve - Dullstroom - Makalali Private Game Reserve

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart from the UK airport most convenient for you with British Airways at no extra cost. Your flight will depart from London Heathrow, with complimentary regional connections from Manchester, Newcastle, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen or Belfast. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 2: Dinokeng Game Reserve, 2 nights

Upon arrival, and after the usual immigration formalities, we board our waiting coach for our transfer to Dinokeng Game Reserve, and the fabulous Mongena Private Game Lodge. En-route to the lodge, look out for our first animal and bird sightings. Settle in to our accommodation prior to our first open jeep game drive later in the day. **In-flight meals and drinks, and dinner included**

Day 3: Dinokeng Game Reserve

Wake early for a pre-breakfast game drive. Located in Gauteng, South Africa, Dinokeng Game Reserve is over 18,500 hectares and home to South Africa's Big Five: elephant, rhinoceros, buffalo, lion and cheetah. Later in the day, join an evening game drive or lake cruise for an opportunity to see elephants taking an afternoon bath, and hippos playing in the waters whilst relishing the magnificent African sunset. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 4: Dullstroom, Overnight

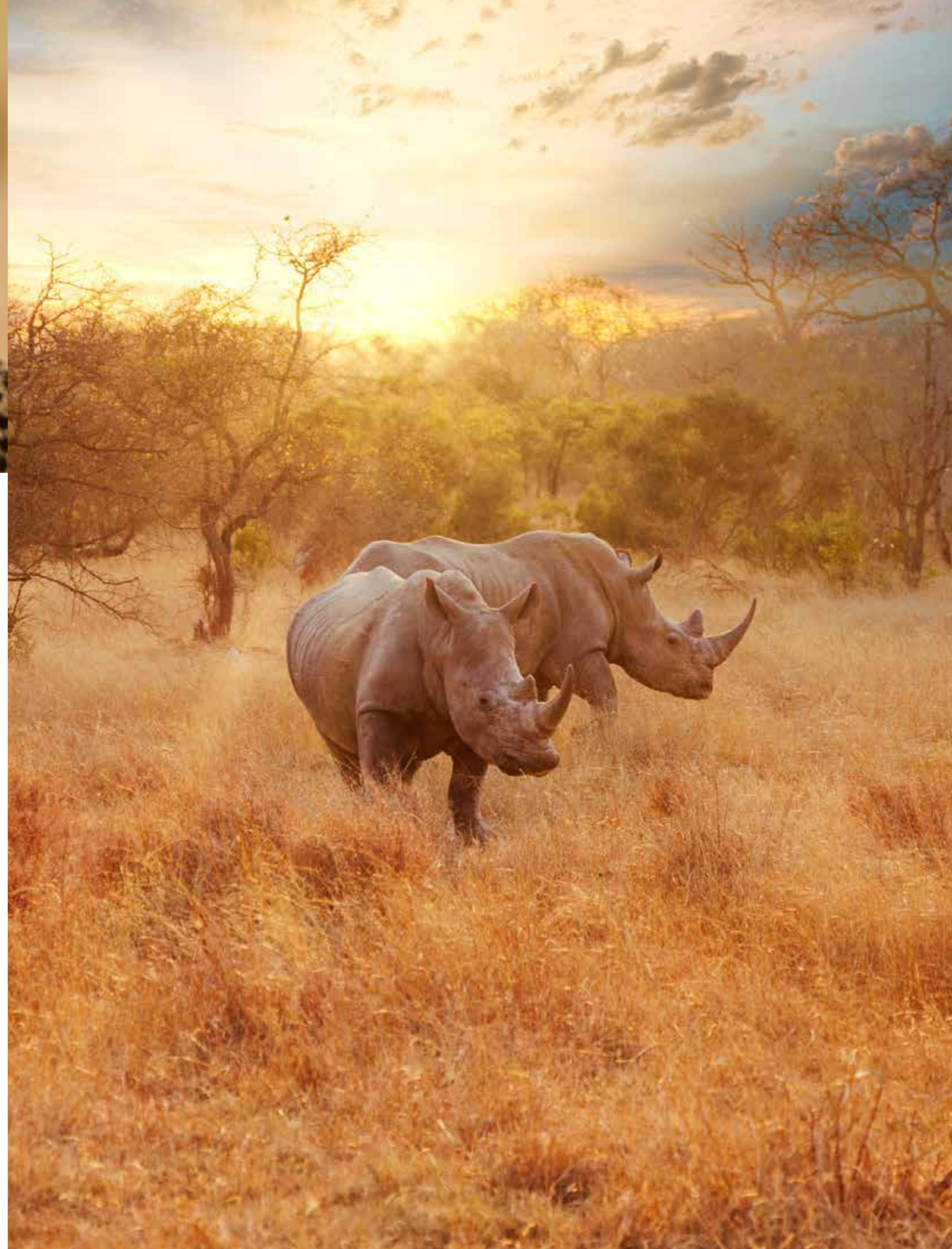
Following a hearty breakfast, we bid farewell to Mongena and the Dinokeng Game Reserve as we make our way eastwards into South Africa's beautiful Mpumalanga Province. The quaint village of Dullstroom is our destination – known for its excellent fishing opportunities, panoramic walks and fresh country air. Aptly named, Dullstroom ('stroom' meaning stream) enjoys an abundance of water, marking the beginning of the Crocodile River and home to other major tributaries. It serves as a convenient stopover en-route to our next two game reserves in the Lowveld region of Limpopo. Our hotel for the evening is the fabulous Walkersons Hotel and Spa. Reminiscent of a traditional Scottish country fishing lodge, relax in beautiful surroundings with a drink prior to dinner. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 5: Makalali Private Game Reserve, 3 nights

Early risers may wish to follow the Walkersons mountain trail, which is almost fully paved for safety and convenience, and covers a distance of approximately 1.8km to the summit. The views are fantastic and a number of antelope species can be seen in the area. After breakfast we continue our travels as we make our way to the Makalali Private Game Reserve. Upon arrival at the outstanding Main Lodge, settle in, and enjoy a welcome drink prior to lunch. Later in the afternoon we meet our rangers for our first open jeep safari at Makalali. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 6: Makalali Private Game Reserve

Rise early for our morning game drive as we continue our search for the Big Five. Keep your eyes peeled for cheetah and wild dog, who also call Makalali their home. Makalali means 'place of rest' in Shangaan – and you can do that in style today, by the main lodge's spectacular large crystal-blue pool, with its decking area overlooking the adjacent watering hole. Later, prepare for your afternoon game drive with accompanying sundowners. Enjoy! **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**



Rhinoceros



Elephant, Balule Private Game Reserve



Giraffe

In Search of the Big Five

Days 7 to 11: Makalali Private Game Reserve - Balule Private Game Reserve

Day 7: Makalali Private Game Reserve

Rise early to join the morning game drive. Hopefully by now, we may have ticked off three or four of the Big Five. Perhaps the leopard is being elusive? Enjoy another relaxing day prior to your afternoon game drive. Dinner this evening is a real pleasure as we dine under the stars in Makalali's stunning boma. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 8: Balule Private Game Reserve, 4 nights

Enjoy one final game drive prior to our departure. A short drive away, our final game reserve awaits. The privately-owned Balule Game Reserve is adjacent to and open-bordered with the greater Kruger National Park. Our home is the boutique Greenfire Game Lodge, which is situated in a beautiful natural environment, perfectly complimenting our safari experience. Become acquainted with this wonderful lodge, relax and enjoy an authentic home-cooked lunch prior to meeting our rangers and taking our first evening drive. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 9: Balule Private Game Reserve

Take an early morning drive. The rich diversity of vegetation within the Balule Reserve ensures excellent game sightings are guaranteed. In addition to the Big Five, there is an abundance of bird life and smaller mammals attracted by the riverine forest and open plains. Later in the day, we join our rangers for our evening drive. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 10: Balule Private Game Reserve

Whilst the big game is the undoubtable highlight of Balule, we can also look forward to spotting an array of other African wildlife, such as a variety of buck, zebra, giraffe, wildebeest and over 250 bird species living amongst the savannah, riverine forest and wooded mountains. Whilst back at the lodge, view the river or riverbed (dependent on season) from the comfort of your own secluded balcony, in between game drives. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 11: Balule Private Game Reserve

The landscape and wildlife in Balule is nothing short of superb. Enjoy our last full day in this very special reserve and of course, Greenfire Lodge. This evening, after our day's viewings, we join our new-found friends in Greenfire's boma and exchange memorable tales of our wildlife sightings, during our final South African dinner. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

On Safari

The lure of being on safari in Africa has captured the imagination of many a traveller. There is after all, nothing like the experience of hearing a lion's roar travelling across the open plains. It is one of life's great adventures.

The Big Five – elephant, leopard, rhino, lion and buffalo are the most sought after, yet you will also see animals such as zebra, giraffe, hippos, an abundance of bird life and many smaller mammals too.

Days will fall into a regular pattern of early morning and early evening game drives, prime times for spotting wildlife. Yet no two game drives will ever be the same – each safari offering an incredible array of experiences that you will continue to share for many years to come. On this tour, the lodges we stay in are highlights in themselves. From sun decks overlooking watering holes to dining under the stars, these are accommodations that will make your holiday so memorable.



Mongena Private Game Lodge, Dinokeng Game Reserve

The Mongena Private Game Lodge is set within the northern part of the vast 18,000 hectare Dinokeng Game Reserve. Offering varying terrain from bushveld to grassy floodplains, alongside the Mongena Dam and its surrounding wetlands, visitors can expect to experience the Big Five and much more. The lodge itself is surrounded by beautifully landscaped gardens, where zebra, springbuck and nyala roam free.

Lodge facilities include:

- ✓ Kingfisher a la carte restaurant
- ✓ Tshukudu bar
- ✓ Swimming pool

Activities:

- ★ Morning and evening game drives
- ★ Sunset cruises

Makalali Private Game Reserve, Makalali

A true closeness with nature awaits at the Makalali Private Game Reserve, situated in 26,000 hectares along with over 1,000 wild animals including all of the Big Five and an abundance of birdlife. Close to the Drakensberg Mountains, you can look forward to exquisite accommodation, excellent cuisine and a dream opportunity to experience the magic of South Africa's wildlife.

Lodge facilities include:

- ✓ Indoor and outdoor dining
- ✓ Viewing decks overlooking the waterhole
- ✓ Swimming pool

Activities:

- ★ Morning and evening game drives



Greenfire Game Lodge, Balule Private Game Reserve

Greenfire Game Lodge is situated in the 50,000 hectare privately-owned Balule Nature Reserve, adjacent to the greater Kruger National Park. Its secluded location and diversity of vegetation ensures that besides the Big Five, visitors can enjoy the rich bird life and smaller mammals that are attracted by the riverine forest and open plains. The lodge combines warm and personal service with state-of-the-art chalets from which guests have unparalleled views of the incredible wildlife around them.

Lodge facilities include:

- ✓ Restaurant and bar
- ✓ Swimming pool and sun deck
- ✓ Relaxing lounge

Activities:

- ★ Morning and evening game drives



Buffalo



Impala antelope buck



Leopard

In Search of the Big Five

Days 12 to 13: Balule - UK

Day 12: Depart Balule

One final game drive prior to breakfast and then it's time to bid farewell to South Africa's wildlife. No doubt we will have memories and stories to last a lifetime. We leave Greenfire and Balule as we make a short journey to Hoedspruit Airport in time for our flight to Johannesburg. Our onward flight to London Heathrow departs this evening. **Breakfast, and in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 13: Arrive UK

We arrive direct into London Heathrow this morning. For regional UK airports, flights will connect via Heathrow. After two fabulous weeks our search for the Big Five is complete. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Holiday Extension from only £895 per person

Extend your holiday with a visit to one of the planet's great natural wonders, Victoria Falls; visit Chobe National Park for more incredible safaris, or even add a stay in the magnificent city of Cape Town.

Victoria Falls

Three nights from only £1,595 per person

Feel the mist upon your face as you experience the wonder of Victoria Falls. The locals call it Mosi-oa-Tunya meaning "smoke that thunders", describing the sheer power of the falls. Located on the border of Zimbabwe and Zambia, it is one of the world's great natural wonders.



Victoria Falls & Chobe National Park

Six nights from only £2,855 per person

Teeming with wildlife, Chobe National Park, Botswana is most famous for its herds of elephants on the banks of the Chobe River and its mammoth buffalo population. It also lies in close proximity to the majestic Victoria Falls, making it the perfect addition to our Victoria Falls holiday extension.



Cape Town

Three nights from only £895 per person

Cape Town offers a kaleidoscope of experiences from pristine beaches to rugged mountains, world class cuisine to an incredible waterfront. The city boasts a diverse mix of cultures with towering Table Mountain as its breathtaking backdrop. A perfect addition to your African adventure.



Please see pages 72-75 for more details on these holiday extensions.

Departure Dates & Prices

2024 Departures

04 November 2024* **£4,995** per person

2025 Departures

20 January 2025 **£5,295** per person

16 February 2025 **£5,295** per person

03 March 2025 **£5,295** per person

07 August 2025 **£5,295** per person

09 October 2025 **£5,295** per person

10 November 2025 **£5,295** per person

* Please note, on this departure, guests will stay at Chisomo Safari Camp, Karongwe Private Game Reserve on Days 5-7.

Prices

Prices are per person based on two people sharing a twin or double room.

Single occupancy supplement

£1,295

Deposit

£1,000 per person if travelling Economy Class, £1,950 per person if travelling World Traveller Plus, and £3,750 per person for Club World.

Flight upgrades

Upgrade to World Traveller Plus from £1,395 per person return, or Club World from £3,895 per person return.

Visa information

A visa is not required for travel to South Africa. However, if you are planning to visit Victoria Falls or Chobe National Park, visa's for Zimbabwe will be required. For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 86-87.

Important Information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights.

The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 88-91.

Call to book

Our award-winning travel experts are happy to answer any questions you may have, and to help you book your holiday with Distant Journeys.

Call FREE on 0800 141 3742

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm **Saturday** 9.00am - 5.00pm

Sunday Open in peak season. See website for details.

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry.

Email: enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk





African Rail Adventure

📅 17 days 💷 from £7,795pp 🌍 September 2024 – November 2025

Our 17-day African Rail Adventure is the perfect holiday for anyone looking to combine exploration and excitement with the romance of railways.

Step aboard Rovos Rail, ‘the most luxurious train in the world’ and be transported to a bygone era of travel, where ever-changing landscapes unfold beyond the windows of the elegant wood-panelled carriages and where adventure-filled days give way to convivial evenings as the striking of a gong heralds dinner and the sounds of chatter fill the air.

Our two-week adventure between Pretoria and Victoria Falls traverses South Africa, Mozambique, the Kingdom of eSwatini and Zimbabwe; four unique countries which offer diverse landscapes, fascinating histories and a plethora of wildlife. See some of Africa’s most celebrated national parks as we go in search of the Big Five during excellent off-train excursions.

As always, when travelling with Distant Journeys we see all the well-known highlights including Victoria Falls and Kruger and Hwange National Parks. We also explore must-see gems such as the Great Zimbabwe Monuments and Matobo National Park. On board Rovos, all meals and selected drinks are included.

Chobe National Park is a relatively short drive from your final stop, Victoria Falls, so perhaps complete your exploration of Southern Africa with our three-night Chobe National Park holiday extension. With Africa’s largest elephant population and the Chobe River a focus for wildlife activity, it’s the perfect way to end your adventure.



Your holiday includes

- ✈️ Return economy flights with British Airways from London Heathrow, Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen or Belfast City Airport and any regional flights within Africa. Inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty
- 🏠 Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes
- 🍴 Daily breakfast and all meals on board Rovos Rail
- 🌍 Unforgettable experiences including:
 - ★ Sightseeing tours in Maputo, eSwatini (Swaziland), Great Zimbabwe Monument and Victoria Falls
 - ★ Game drives in Kruger National Park, Kapama Private Game Reserve and Hwange National Park
 - ★ Tour the scenic Panorama Route
 - ★ Discover Antelope Park
 - ★ Explore the unique history of Matobo National Park
 - ★ Sunset River Cruise at Victoria Falls
- 🚂 All-inclusive on Rovos Rail:
 - ✓ 11-nights on board Rovos Rail
 - ✓ All meals and selected alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks on board
 - ✓ Services of a Train Manager
- 🚌 All overseas transfers and transport
- 🛡️ Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 88-91.



Leopard



African cultural village



Rovos Rail

African Rail Adventure

Days 1 to 9: UK - Pretoria - Kruger National Park - Maputo - eSwatini - Kapama Private Game Reserve - Limpopo

Day 1: Depart UK

Your flight will depart from London Heathrow, with complimentary regional connections from Manchester, Newcastle, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen or Belfast. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 2: Pretoria, Overnight

We land in Johannesburg, where our waiting coach will take us to the delightful Irene Country Lodge, Pretoria. The day is ours to relax in the beautiful surroundings of our hotel. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 3: Pretoria

Following breakfast, we transfer to Rovos Rail's private railway station, with its leather chesterfield sofas and glamorous decor, where we complete our check-in formalities and meet fellow guests for our forthcoming rail adventure. Settle into our suites as our journey on the 'most luxurious train in the world' begins. Enjoy lunch in the dining cars and become acquainted with our surroundings. This evening, after donning our finest attire, enjoy exquisite cuisine accompanied by fine South African wines in the elegant surroundings of the dining car. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

Day 4: Panorama Route

Enjoy breakfast prior to today's exploration of the spectacular Panorama Route. Beginning our day at Pilgrim's Rest, we visit the area where gold was discovered in 1873. Once a lively town full of prospectors, Pilgrim's Rest has been wonderfully preserved. Next on our route is Bourke's Luck Potholes, in the Blyde River Canyon. Viewed via bridges and walkways, these wonderful geological cavities were formed by eddy-erosion from the Blyde and Treur Rivers. Our lunch stop is in Graskop, where we descend in a viewing lift to the forest, taking in the spectacular views of the gorge as we go. Once in the forest, wooden walkways will guide us along a 600 metre rail. We continue to Nelspruit, where our luxury train will be waiting. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

Day 5: Kruger National Park

Tour Highlight

An exciting day lies ahead with a visit to South Africa's biggest and most well-known safari areas, Kruger National Park. Following an early breakfast, we head into the park for a full day safari. Home to the Big Five – leopard, lion, rhino, buffalo and elephant, we hope to spot these magnificent creatures alongside cheetah, hippo, zebra and a vast array of other mammals, reptiles and birds that can be found in the park. After an exhilarating day on safari, we return to the comfort of our train, where the friendly staff will greet us with a glass of sparkling wine and a refreshing cold towel, and continue our journey to Mozambique. Following dinner, retire to the Lounge Car, with its elegant wing back chairs and comfy sofas, for a nightcap and recall the highlights of the day with your fellow passengers. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

Day 6: Maputo

We awake to find ourselves in Mozambique, on Africa's east coast. With a heady mix of African, Portuguese and early colonial architecture, Maputo is the country's capital and a city of contrasts. Enjoy a city tour to discover the influences of Maputo's past as we explore the Catholic churches, Victorian mansions and mosques sitting side by side. We take lunch in Maputo and return to the train later in the afternoon. Enjoy high tea in the comfortable lounge or observation cars as we journey towards the tiny Kingdom of eSwatini (formerly Swaziland). **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

Day 7: eSwatini

A day of discovery in the Kingdom of eSwatini (meaning "place of the Swazi") lies ahead. Our first stop is Swazi Candles, where we have the opportunity to see beautiful candle-making alongside wood carvings, textiles and basketwork from local craftspeople and artists. We continue to Mantenga Cultural Village for an insight into the Swazi way of life and its traditions dating back to the 1800s. This living museum has a number of fascinating traditional artefacts on display. Lunch is taken at Mantenga Lodge before returning to our waiting train. Take time to relax in the lounge or witness the ever-changing landscapes from the observation car as we return to South Africa. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

Day 8: Kapama Private Game Reserve

We depart early for our game drive in Kapama Private Game Reserve. Situated in South Africa's province of Limpopo, and spanning over 15,000 hectares of African bush, over 40 different species of mammals, including the Big Five, and 350 species of bird can be found here, in their natural habitat. We round off our morning with a visit to the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre. This unique African wildlife facility focuses on conservation and sustainability of rare, vulnerable and threatened species. We return to our train where we spend an afternoon relaxing and enjoying the elegant and atmospheric surroundings on board one of the finest trains in the world. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

Day 9: Limpopo Province

A leisurely day to relax and unwind onboard, as we traverse the Limpopo Province towards Zimbabwe. From the comfort and convenience of the train, we enjoy the beautiful scenery of the province including semi-desert, bush, tropical forests and spectacular mountains. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**



African Elephants



Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

African Rail Adventure

Days 10 to 14: Great Zimbabwe Monument - Antelope Park - Matobo & Hwange National Parks - Victoria Falls

Day 10: Great Zimbabwe Monument

Today, we travel to the Great Zimbabwe Monument, an imposing former city, built between the 11th and 15th century, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We explore the remains of this ancient city as we learn about the history of the Rozwi people who lived here. We return to the train late in the afternoon and continue our journey through Zimbabwe. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

Day 11: Antelope Park

After a restful night's sleep we spend our day in Antelope Park – home to many species of animals and birds, as well as the African Lion and Environmental Research Trust, which introduces the offspring of lions bred in captivity back into the wild. During our free time, there is a selection of optional activities available including canoeing, bird-watching cruises, game drives and elephant interaction to make our visit here even more memorable. Back on board Rovos, enjoy a cocktail in the lounge as we await the call of the evening gong. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

Day 12: Matobo National Park

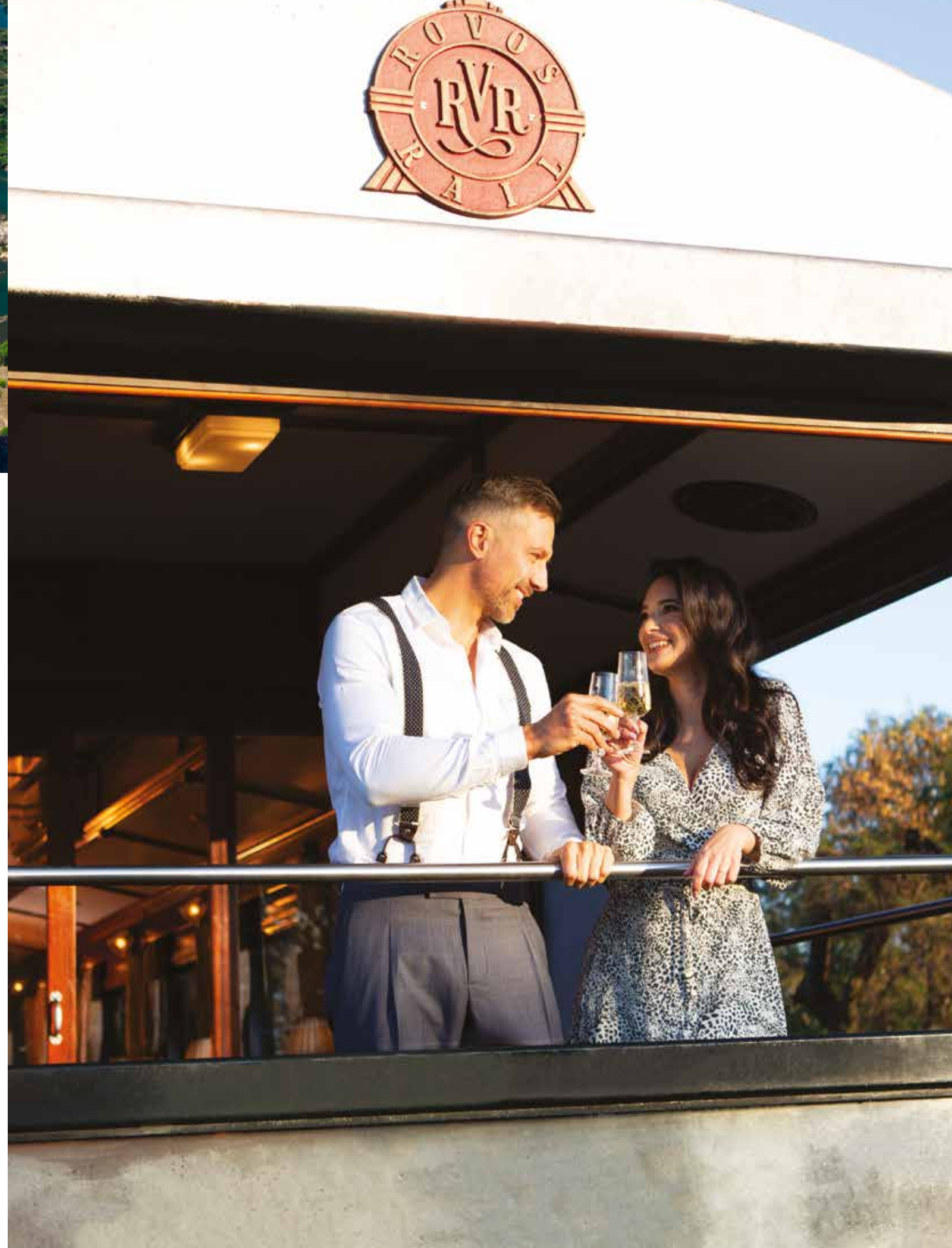
Located in southwest Zimbabwe, Matobo National Park is best known for the Matobo Hills, a region of spectacular granite rock formations created around two billion years ago. It is at Matobo Hills that Cecil John Rhodes is buried in a granite tomb overlooking the beautiful Matopos region. His resting place is aptly named 'World's View' and it was personally chosen as he loved the view from the top of the outcrop. The park is also home to many animals including endangered black and white rhinos and birds such as the black eagle. We also visit bushman's cave to view its impressive rock paintings and carvings. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

Day 13: Hwange National Park

Today's excursion takes us to Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe's largest national park, boasting the highest diversity of mammals of any national park in Africa – so get your cameras ready! Following our full day of game viewing we return to our train for our final night on board Rovos Rail. Once the traditional evening dinner gong is struck throughout the carriages for the final time, enjoy and reflect on some of the most incredible experiences of the past week and a half, over a wonderful dinner accompanied with fine wines and, of course, new-found friends. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

Day 14: Victoria Falls, 2 nights

Rovos Rail rolls into Victoria Falls Railway Station, bringing an end to our spectacular rail journey. Our waiting guide takes us on a walking tour of Victoria Falls town followed by a visit to the spectacular Victoria Falls. This awe-inspiring natural wonder, made up of five separate waterfalls, spans 1.7km across Zimbabwe and Zambia. We finish our day with a sunset cruise on the mighty Zambezi River, where we hopefully catch a glimpse of the crocodiles, hippos and elephants which live along this beautiful river. We spend our final two nights at either the delightful Insika Lodge Hotel, or the wonderful Ilala Lodge Hotel. **Breakfast and lunch included**



Rovos Rail



Rovos Rail



Zambezi River, Zimbabwe



Zebras

African Rail Adventure

Days 15 to 17: Victoria Falls - UK

Day 15: Victoria Falls Freedom Day

A Freedom Day in Victoria Falls to spend as you please. Nearby Chobe National Park offers an opportunity to explore the magnificent Chobe River, famous for its huge herds of elephants. Perhaps enjoy a wonderful insight into Zimbabwean rural life with an excursion to a local village. Or alternatively, relax in the surroundings of your hotel. **Breakfast included**

Day 16: Depart Victoria Falls

Following our spectacular journey traversing the African continent aboard the elegant Rovos Rail, we travel to the airport mid-morning for our flight to Johannesburg. Our onward flight to London Heathrow departs this evening. **Breakfast, in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 17: Arrive UK

Our direct British Airways flight from Johannesburg arrives into London this morning and our African Rail Adventure comes to an end. Connecting flights to regional UK airports will connect at London Heathrow. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Holiday Extension from only £745 per person

Chobe National Park is a relatively short drive from Victoria Falls, and with its huge population of elephants and herds of buffalo, offers the perfect opportunity to include another wonderful safari experience. Or head for the magnificent city of Cape Town and discover the delights of this charming city.

Chobe National Park

Three nights from only £1,395 per person

Teeming with wildlife, Chobe National Park, Botswana is also known as 'The Land of the Giants', and is most famous for its herds of elephants and its mammoth buffalo population. As the heat of the African sun beats down across the plains, wildlife congregate in and around the banks of the Chobe River - a truly magical sight to behold.



Cape Town

Three nights from only £745 per person

Cape Town offers a kaleidoscope of experiences from pristine beaches to rugged mountains, world class cuisine to an incredible waterfront. The city boasts a diverse mix of cultures with towering Table Mountain as its breathtaking backdrop. A perfect addition to your African adventure.



Please see pages 72-75 for more details on these holiday extensions.

Departure Dates & Prices

2024 Departures

	Pullman (Rovos Rail suites)	Deluxe
16 Sep 2024*	£7,795pp	£10,195pp
30 Oct 2024	£7,795pp	£10,195pp

2025 Departures

	Pullman (Rovos Rail suites)	Deluxe
07 Jan 2025	£8,195pp	£10,695pp
11 Mar 2025	£8,195pp	£10,695pp
08 Apr 2025	£8,195pp	£10,695pp
03 Jun 2025	£8,195pp	£10,695pp
18 Aug 2025*	£8,245pp	£10,695pp
02 Sep 2025	£8,245pp	£10,695pp
02 Nov 2025	£8,245pp	£10,695pp

* These departures operate in a reverse direction to the itinerary featured, beginning in Victoria Falls and finishing in Pretoria.

Prices

Prices are per person based on two people sharing a twin or double room.

Single occupancy supplement

Pullman Suite
£2,595

Deluxe Suite
£3,695

Deposit

Pullman Suite

£2,000 per person if travelling Economy Class, £2,950 per person if travelling World Traveller Plus, and £4,750 per person for Club World.

Deluxe Suite

£2,500 per person if travelling Economy Class, £3,450 per person if travelling World Traveller Plus, and £5,250 per person for Club World.

Flight upgrades

Upgrade to World Traveller Plus from £1,395 per person return, or Club World from £3,895 per person return.

Visa information

A visa will be required for Zimbabwe. For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 86-87.

Important Information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights.

The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 88-91

Call to book

Our award-winning travel experts are happy to answer any questions you may have, and to help you book your holiday with Distant Journeys.

Call FREE on 0800 141 3742

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm **Saturday** 9.00am - 5.00pm
Sunday Open in peak season. See website for details.

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry.

Email: enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk





Namibian Rail Safari

📅 17 days 💷 from £8,995pp 🌍 March 2025 – November 2025

Join us on an unforgettable adventure with Rovos Rail to discover the true magic of Namibia. Travel at a relaxed pace, reminiscent of a bygone era, and watch the vast and untamed landscapes of Namibia unfold.

From the captivating Atlantic coastline to the dramatic deserts and wild beauty of Damaraland, every moment is a masterpiece. On board, you'll enjoy elegant accommodation, delicious fare and impeccable service as you journey through this untouched African paradise.

Each stop along the way offers unmatched discovery. Explore the spectacular Etosha National Park as we search for lions, elephants and cheetahs, and marvel at the iconic rolling red dunes of Sossusvlei. Go on safari to world-class parks brimming with wildlife and discover the vast Fish River Canyon, the largest canyon in Africa and one of Namibia's most visited attractions.

Our journey concludes with a taste of South Africa. We'll enjoy a scenic cruise along the Orange River, the largest in the country, and visit the cities of Kimberley and Pretoria.

Those looking to extend their African adventure have the option to spend three nights in either Cape Town or the incredible Victoria Falls, or spend six nights enjoying both Victoria Falls and Botswana's Chobe National Park.



Your holiday includes

✈️ Return economy flights with British Airways from London Heathrow, Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen or Belfast City Airport and any domestic, or regional flights within Africa. Inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty

🏠 Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes

🍴 Daily breakfast, and all meals on board Rovos Rail

🌍 Unforgettable experiences including:

- ★ Sightseeing tours in Walvis Bay, Upington
- ★ Game drives in Etosha National Park
- ★ Visit a cheetah conservation project
- ★ Experience the red sand dunes of the Sossusvlei
- ★ Explore Quiver Tree Forest
- ★ Discover Fish River Canyon
- ★ Visit the Kimberley Diamond Mine Museum

🚂 All-inclusive on Rovos Rail:

- ✓ Nine-nights on board Rovos Rail
- ✓ All meals and selected alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks on board
- ✓ Services of a Train Manager

🚌 All overseas transfers and transport

🔒 Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 88-91.



Swakopmund, Namibia



Namibia coastline



Female cheetah with her cubs

Namibian Rail Safari

Days 1 to 8: UK - Swakopmund - Walvis Bay - Otjiwarongo - Etosha National Park - Sossusvlei

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart from London Heathrow with British Airways for an overnight flight to Johannesburg, South Africa. Connecting flights to London Heathrow from Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen or Belfast City are available at no extra cost. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 2: Swakopmund, 2 nights

Connect via Johannesburg for an onward flight to Walvis Bay, Namibia. After clearing customs, we will be met at the airport and transferred to the coastal town of Swakopmund, where we spend our first two nights in Africa at the Swakopmund Hotel. A colonial port town full of seaside charm and old German architecture, settle in and explore the delights of Swakopmund for yourself. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 3: Swakopmund

Walvis Bay is home to a great natural lagoon which attracts tens of thousands of birds, including pelicans and flamingos that flock together by the thousands. This morning, following breakfast, we visit the lagoon to learn more about this fascinating area, the stunning flamingos providing some great photo opportunities. We continue to Pink Lake, another hotspot for birdlife, and continue to Sandwich Harbour where dramatic 100m-high sand dunes run straight into the ocean. Following an adventurous drive on the dunes, we return to Swakopmund where the remainder of our day is at leisure. Perhaps dine in one of the towns many excellent seafood restaurants or enjoy a Bavarian beer and a bratwurst! **Breakfast included**

Day 4: Walvis Bay

Following breakfast, we transfer to Walvis Bay train station, where the magnificent Rovos Rail awaits our arrival. Following check-in formalities, board and settle in for the adventure of a lifetime. As the train departs for Otjiwarongo, admire the geological wonder of the ancient Namib desert, from the panoramic windows in our suites. Estimated at somewhere between 55-88 million years, it may well be the oldest desert in the world. Lunch is served in the dining car. Meals are all freshly prepared by expert chefs, harnessing the flavours of local produce. As our journey continues into the afternoon, head to the observation car for a better view of the endless Nabi desert and appreciate the timeless grace of Rovos and understand first-hand why it enjoys its stellar reputation for unparalleled hospitality and comfort. Following dinner, we retire to our suites. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

Day 5: Cheetah Conservation Fund

Following breakfast, we transfer to the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) in Otjiwarongo. Founded in 1990, the CCF is singularly dedicated to protecting wild cheetahs. These exquisite creatures, known for their astonishing speed, have seen their numbers dramatically fall, with 90% of the world's wild cheetahs lost in the last century. Through this conservation project, we discover exactly what is being done to preserve and, hopefully, restore their population. We return to our train for lunch and spend an afternoon relaxing and enjoying the onboard comforts as we continue our journey. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

Day 6: Etosha National Park, Overnight

Tour Highlight

After breakfast this morning, we pack our overnight bags (Rovos will provide tog bags in our suites for our convenience) as we make our way into the heart of Etosha National Park for an overnight lodge stay. Etosha National Park is a sublime game viewing experience with 114 mammal species as well as 340 bird species. Following lunch at our lodge, we embark on an afternoon game drive. Keep a keen eye out for the elusive black rhino, tragically nearing extinction but remarkably stable in this region. Meaning 'great white place', Etosha is part of the Kalahari basin and salt pan, and is so large that it's visible from space. The absence of trees makes for abundant game viewing as the animals are unobscured. This evening enjoy dinner and share stories from the day's sightings. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 7: Etosha National Park

An early morning game drive awaits. Etosha not only boasts lions, elephants, cheetahs and leopards, but rarer species like the black-faced impala, Hartmann's mountain zebra, and the adorable Damara dik-dik (the smallest antelope in the world). Between animal sightings, learn about the remarkable landscape. Afterwards, we return to the train to enjoy the onboard facilities. Take tea in the lounge or observation car at your leisure, but save space for the feast that awaits in the dining car this evening. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

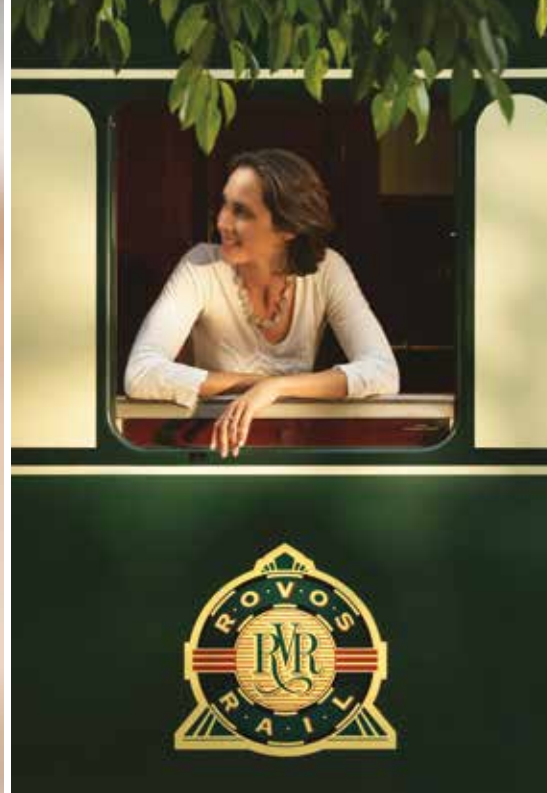
Day 8: Sossusvlei, Overnight

Tour Highlight

This morning we find ourselves approaching Windhoek, the charming capital of Namibia. With our small overnight bag packed for our next adventure we transfer to the airstrip for our short flight to Sossusvlei. The red dunes, loaded with iron oxide, are made of sand blown from the coast and are millions of years old. One of Namibia's best known attractions, the spectacular red sand dunes of Sossusvlei are a photographer's delight! Following lunch at our lodge, we venture out for an afternoon desert drive. Following sunset, a magnificent bush dinner brings our day to a close. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**



Himba woman



Rovos Rail

Namibian Rail Safari

Days 9 to 14: Deadvlei - Windhoek - Garas Park - Kolmanskop - Fish River Canyon - Orange River - Kimberley

Day 9: Deadvlei and Windhoek

Our desert drive this morning takes us to Deadvlei, where petrified camel thorn trees stand starkly against the mesmerising red dunes and vivid blue sky. Admire these exquisite trees up close and take in the hypnotic beauty of the region. Afterwards, we take our short return flight back to Windhoek. Following lunch at the Windhoek Country Club, embark on a tour of the city. Visit the Trans-Namib Transport Museum, the Independence Memorial Museum, the beautiful Evangelical Lutheran Church, and the Namibia Craft Centre, housed in a former brewery. We return to the haven of our Rovos Rail hotel-on-wheels, settling in for our onward journey. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

Day 10: Keetmanshoop and Garas Park

Following the excitement of the last few days, enjoy a leisurely morning on board as we continue our journey across the Nabi desert. This afternoon, disembark to visit the town of Keetmanshoop and Garas Park. Home to roughly 300 specimens of Aloe dichotomus, otherwise known as Quiver trees, these distinctive plants make a serene oasis, resplendent against a backdrop of ancient rocks. Returning to the train, enjoy high tea in the observation car, or the comfortable lounge. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

Day 11: Luderitz and Kolmanskop

This morning, we travel to the ghost town of Kolmanskop. An abandoned German mining town which was once at the forefront of Namibia's diamond trade, we learn of Kolmanskop's history as we stroll around the town's buildings now taken over by the Namibi desert. We lunch in nearby Luderitz before returning to our train. Take a seat in the observation car, or relax with a cocktail before dinner. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

Day 12: Fish River Canyon

Tour Highlight

This morning we arrive at the awe-inspiring Fish River Canyon. The largest canyon in the southern hemisphere and second only to the Grand Canyon when it comes to sheer magnitude. We return for lunch on board and mid-afternoon we say goodbye to Namibia as we cross the border into South Africa. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

Day 13: Upington and the Orange River

After all our Namibian adventures, it's time for a taste of South Africa! We head for Upington and enjoy a walking tour of this quaint city, named after Attorney General of the Cape, Sir Thomas Upington who captured the notorious Orange River pirate leader, Klaas Lucas. Enjoy a (pirate-free) scenic cruise along the serene Orange River, prior to lunch. Settle in for a relaxing afternoon on board, followed by a sumptuous dinner this evening. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

Day 14: Kimberley

It's time to explore the diamond city of Kimberley. Following breakfast, embark on a tour of the Diamond Mine Museum and the Big Hole. 150 years ago, word spread that diamonds had been discovered in the area and a flood of prospectors descended to create the largest hand-dug excavation in the world! It's truly a remarkable sight. We return to the train to enjoy the ever-changing vistas as Rovos continues its journey to Pretoria. As our final evening on board approaches, join fellow guests and reflect on the incredible experiences we have enjoyed together. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**



Above: Dead Camelthorn trees in Deadvlei, Sossusvlei, Namibia; Below: Fish River Canyon, Namibia



Rovos Rail



Quiver trees, Keetmanshoop, Namibia



Pretoria, South Africa

Namibian Rail Safari

Days 15 to 17: Pretoria - UK

Day 15: Pretoria, Overnight

As we approach the end of our tour, we arrive into Rovos Rail's private rail terminal in Pretoria, and we take a short drive to the beautiful Irene Country Lodge for our final night. Relax in the wonderful surroundings of your hotel. **Breakfast included**

Day 16: Depart Pretoria

After two memorable weeks, it is time to bid our Namibian adventure adieu as we depart Pretoria and make our way to the airport for our flight to London Heathrow. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 17: Arrive UK

We arrive at Heathrow in the early morning. Head home with memories of your African escapades! Those embarking on regional UK flights will connect via London Heathrow. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Holiday Extension from only £645 per person

Extend your holiday with a visit to one of the planet's great natural wonders, Victoria Falls; visit Chobe National Park for more incredible safaris, or even add a stay in the magnificent city of Cape Town.

Victoria Falls

Three nights from only £1,595 per person

Feel the mist upon your face as you experience the wonder of Victoria Falls. The locals call it Mosi-oa-Tunya meaning "smoke that thunders", describing the sheer power of the falls. Located on the border of Zimbabwe and Zambia, it is one of the world's great natural wonders.



Victoria Falls & Chobe National Park

Six nights from only £2,855 per person

Teeming with wildlife, Chobe National Park, Botswana is most famous for its herds of elephants on the banks of the Chobe River and its mammoth buffalo population. It also lies in close proximity to the majestic Victoria Falls, making it the perfect addition to our Victoria Falls holiday extension.



Cape Town

Three nights from only £645 per person

Cape Town offers a kaleidoscope of experiences from pristine beaches to rugged mountains, world class cuisine to an incredible waterfront. The city boasts a diverse mix of cultures with towering Table Mountain as its breathtaking backdrop. A perfect addition to your African adventure.



Please see pages 72-75 for more details on these holiday extensions.

2025 Departures

	Pullman (Rovos Rail suites)	Deluxe
18 Mar 2025	£8,995pp	£10,995pp
09 May 2025	£8,995pp	£10,995pp
11 Nov 2025	£8,995pp	£10,995pp

Prices

Prices are per person based on two people sharing a twin or double room.

Single occupancy supplement

Rovos Rail Pullman Suite
£3,195

Rovos Rail Deluxe Suite
£4,195

Deposit

Pullman Suite

£2,000 per person if travelling Economy Class, £2,950 per person if travelling World Traveller Plus, and £4,750 per person for Club World.

Deluxe Suite

£2,500 per person if travelling Economy Class, £3,450 per person if travelling World Traveller Plus, and £5,250 per person for Club World.

Flight upgrades

Upgrade to Premium Economy or World Traveller Plus from £1,395 per person return, or Club World from £3,895 per person return.

Visa information

A visa is not required for travel to Namibia or South Africa. However, if you are planning to visit Victoria Falls or Chobe National Park, visa's for Zimbabwe will be required. For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 86-87.

Important Information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book. Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 88-91.

Call to book

Our award-winning travel experts are happy to answer any questions you may have, and to help you book your holiday with Distant Journeys.

Call FREE on 0800 141 3742

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm **Saturday** 9.00am - 5.00pm
Sunday Open in peak season. See website for details.

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry.
Email: enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk





South African Rail Discovery

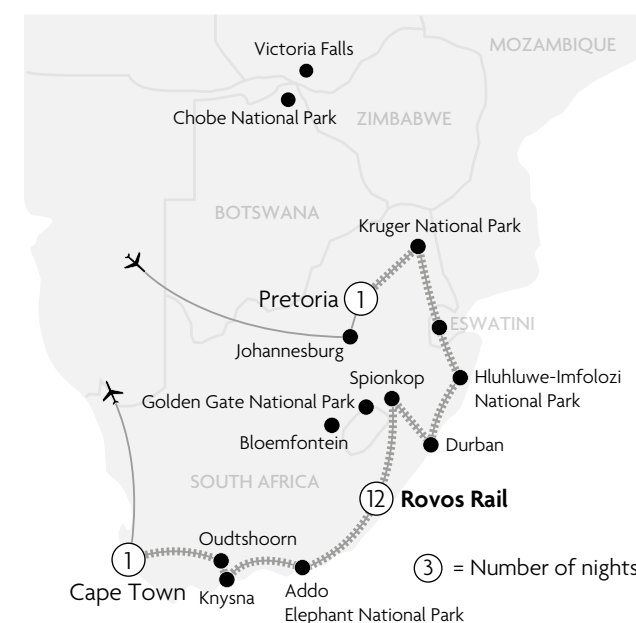
📅 17 days 💷 from £7,395pp 🌍 October 2024 – November 2025

South Africa is one of the most beautiful countries in the world – and there is no better way to explore it than from the comfort of the ‘most luxurious train in the world’, Rovos Rail.

This brand-new tour promises adventure in abundance, meandering across the country at a leisurely pace along the rails, and with each calling point plenty of opportunity to fall in love with everything that makes South Africa so special.

Explore the jacaranda-lined streets of Pretoria and enjoy exhilarating game drives in some of the country’s most revered national parks and game reserves. Walk the battlefields of Spionkop, explore the history (and ostriches!) of Oudtshoorn, and see why Cape Town is continuously ranked as one of the most spectacular cities in the world.

Leave your worries behind and explore the allure of South Africa through the lavish lens of Rovos Rail’s ‘Pride of Africa’ enjoying 12 spectacular all-inclusive nights. On board, guests can relax in comfort and style and experience wonderful service and cuisine.



Clockwise from above:
Rovos Rail; Ostriches; Viewing elephants while on safari



Your holiday includes

- ✈️ Return economy flights with British Airways from London Heathrow, Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen or Belfast City Airport. Inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty
- 🏠 Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes
- 🍴 Daily breakfast and all meals on board Rovos Rail
- 🌍 Unforgettable experiences including:
 - ★ Sightseeing tour in Durban
 - ★ Game drives in Kruger National Park, Hluhluwe-Imfolozi National Park, Spionkop Game Reserve and Addo Game Reserve
 - ★ Visit the Spionkop battlefields
 - ★ Explore Knysna Lagoon
 - ★ Visit an Ostrich farm
 - ★ Explore the Cango Caves
- 🚂 All-inclusive on Rovos Rail:
 - ✓ 12-nights on board Rovos Rail
 - ✓ All meals and selected alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks on board
 - ✓ Services of a Train Manager
- 🚌 All overseas transfers and transport
- 🔒 Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 88-91.



Pretoria, South Africa



Rovos Rail



Kruger National Park, South Africa

South African Rail Discovery

Days 1 to 5: UK - Pretoria - Kruger National Park

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart the UK from London Heathrow with British Airways. Connecting flights to London Heathrow from Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen or Belfast City are available at no extra cost. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 2: Pretoria, Overnight

Our flight arrives into Johannesburg and we transfer to the idyllic Irene Country Lodge in Pretoria. Enjoy the range of facilities available at your disposal. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 3: Pretoria

Late afternoon, we transfer to Rovos Rail's private station in Pretoria, where our splendid luxury hotel-on-wheels awaits. For the next 13 days enjoy unparalleled comfort, from each wooden-panelled and tastefully decorated suite to the gorgeous dining cars where feasts await for breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, and dinner. As our train departs Pretoria, dress for dinner and enjoy your first evening on board. **Breakfast and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

Day 4: Rovos Rail

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast as the day is ours to relax and enjoy. See the rolling hills of eMakhazeni, eNtokozeni, and Dullstroom pass by from large panoramic windows. Around lunch, the view will shift to the majesty of the Drakensberg Mountains, named for the 'dragon spine' that the Voortrekkers saw when gazing at these spiked, weathered peaks. The same range is referred to as uKhahlamba in isiZulu, meaning 'barrier of spears'. Enjoy a drink in the lounge prior to dinner. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

Day 5: Kruger National Park

Tour Highlight

Rise for an early breakfast this morning to fuel us for our game drive in the world-renowned Kruger National Park. Established in 1898 to protect South Africa's beautiful wildlife, the Kruger is home to 147 mammal species, 114 reptile species, 507 bird species, and 336 tree species. Visitors flock from around the globe to see the Big Five – hopefully we will have some good sightings. After lunch, we return to the train for tea in the lounge car, followed by dinner. Sink into the softness of your bed and dream of lions roaring. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

Day 6: eSwatini (Swaziland)

This morning we complete border formalities and cross into the Kingdom of eSwatini. Completely landlocked and surrounded by South Africa, this tiny Kingdom's beauty belies its diminutive size. Also known by its former name Swaziland, we visit the Swazi Candles Centre, followed by the 'living' Mantenga Cultural Village. Both attractions provide us with the opportunity to learn about the culture and heritage of eSwatini. Following lunch, we return to our train, crossing back into South Africa this afternoon. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

Day 7: Hluhluwe-Imfolozi National Park

Tour Highlight

Enjoy an early breakfast this morning before heading out for today's adventure. We transfer to Hluhluwe-Imfolozi National Park for another game drive. Hluhluwe boasts of being the oldest reserve in Africa. Whilst far smaller than Kruger at 960km², it is known for its rich wildlife (including the Big Five) and extensive conservation efforts. After our exciting game drive, we return to our train for lunch and travel south along the Indian Ocean coastline. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

Day 8: Durban

After breakfast, we head into South Africa's third-largest city, Durban. We explore the stunning botanical gardens and enjoy lunch with panoramic views of the beachfront at nearby Umhlanga. Spot the iconic lighthouse and count the ships that dot the silver horizon, awaiting notice from the harbour. Return to the comfort of our train for afternoon tea, accompanied by the view of the aptly named Valley of a Thousand Hills, prior to dinner. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

Day 9: Spionkop

After breakfast, we travel back in time as we transfer to Spion Kop Lodge. Here we learn of the battle fought on 24th January 1900 during the Second Boer War that led to a calamitous British defeat, where Winston Churchill, Louis Botha, and Mahatma Gandhi were all present! Following lunch, choose to relax at the lodge or embark on an afternoon game drive. We return to the train late afternoon, where we can relax prior to dinner. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

Day 10: Golden Gate National Park

Today's adventure first takes us on a drive through Golden Gate National Park. Situated in the rolling foothills of the Maluti Mountains, the park is known for its eroded sandstone cliffs and outcrops in shades of orange-hue and golden ochre. We visit the quaint town of Clarens, and continue to the Sandstone Heritage Trust, where we can view an impressive collection of heritage trains. Our train meets us at Bethlehem, where we've time to freshen up and maybe enjoy a pre-dinner apéritif. **Breakfast and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**



Rovos Rail



Bloemfontein, South Africa

South African Rail Discovery

Days 11 to 15: Bloemfontein - Addo Elephant National Park - Knysna - Oudtshoorn - Cape Town

Day 11: Bloemfontein

This morning finds us in Bloemfontein, or as it is known by the locals 'Bloem', the judicial capital of South Africa. In Afrikaans, Bloemfontein translates as 'fountain of flowers' and we find the streets lined with thousands of rose bushes as we tour the city. As well as being the birthplace of JRR Tolkien, 'Bloem' is filled with history and we enjoy a visit to the highly regarded Anglo-Boer War Museum. We rejoin our waiting train and begin our journey across the mesmerising Karoo, a semi-desert which was once an inland sea. Admire the unique vegetation and scattered towns dotted with the charming windmills that characterise the region. We slowly descend the Great Escarpment as we wind our way back to the coast. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

Day 12: Addo Elephant National Park

Another morning, another adventure! Following breakfast, we head into the Addo Elephant National Park, South Africa's third largest reserve. Addo stretches from the Karoo over the Zuurberg Mountains and Sundays River Valley, all the way to the coast. The park is home to one of the densest elephant populations in the world and an experience that we won't soon forget. After our game drive, we return to the plush comforts of Rovos Rail for lunch. As the afternoon rolls by visit the train's quaint gift shop, browse the extensive drinks offering, and enjoy your meals alongside vistas of the South African landscape. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

Day 13: Knysna

Today, we pack an overnight bag (a tog bag will be placed in our suites for our convenience) for our stay at Fancourt Hotel & Resort. Upon arrival at Port Elizabeth, we disembark and travel via Oudebosch to Knysna on South Africa's renowned Garden Route. At Knysna we board our waiting ferry for our tour of Knysna lagoon. View the magnificent Knysna Heads, two gargantuan sandstone cliffs that stand sentinel to the lagoon mouth. Later, we transfer to the magnificent Fancourt Hotel & Resort, perched at the foot of the Outeniqua Mountains. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 14: Oudtshoorn

This morning we visit Oudtshoorn, another semi-desert region at the foothills of the imposing Swartberg Mountains. The town is regarded as the heart of the 'Klein Karoo' and back in the ostrich boom of the early 20th century, provided much of the world's boas and feathered hats, adorning socialites and fashionistas alike. Following a fascinating tour of an ostrich farm our afternoon visit takes us to the ancient Congo Caves, with its massive dripstone halls and monumental limestone formations. Later we travel to Prince Albert Road Station, where our luxury train awaits to welcome us back on board for our final evening. As evening descends, don your finest attire and enjoy a final dinner with the many friends we have made on our journey together. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

Day 15: Cape Town, Overnight

Our final day on board as we view the spectacular mountain ranges and the scenic winelands passing by. Early evening brings our arrival into Cape Town and we bid a fond farewell to Rovos Rail. We transfer to the hidden gem of the Camps Bay Retreat for our overnight stay. **Breakfast and lunch PLUS selected on-board drinks included**



Addo Elephant National Park, South Africa



Swartberg Mountains, Oudtshoorn, South Africa



Rovos Rail



Plains zebra and cattle egret

South African Rail Discovery

Days 16 to 17: Cape Town - UK

Day 16: Depart Cape Town

After two weeks making memories, it is finally time to make our way back home. We head to the airport for our flight to London Heathrow. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 17: Arrive UK

We arrive at Heathrow in the morning with packed bags and minds full of memories of our African adventures. Those continuing to other regional UK airports will connect via London Heathrow. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Holiday Extension from only £645 per person

Extend your holiday with a visit to one of the planet's great natural wonders, Victoria Falls; visit Chobe National Park for more incredible safaris, or even add a stay in the magnificent city of Cape Town.

Victoria Falls

Three nights from only £1,595 per person

Feel the mist upon your face as you experience the wonder of Victoria Falls. The locals call it Mosi-oa-Tunya meaning "smoke that thunders", describing the sheer power of the falls. Located on the border of Zimbabwe and Zambia, it is one of the world's great natural wonders.



Victoria Falls & Chobe National Park

Six nights from only £2,855 per person

Teeming with wildlife, Chobe National Park, Botswana is most famous for its herds of elephants on the banks of the Chobe River and its mammoth buffalo population. It also lies in close proximity to the majestic Victoria Falls, making it the perfect addition to our Victoria Falls holiday extension.



Cape Town

Three nights from only £645 per person

Cape Town offers a kaleidoscope of experiences from pristine beaches to rugged mountains, world class cuisine to an incredible waterfront. The city boasts a diverse mix of cultures with towering Table Mountain as its breathtaking backdrop. A perfect addition to your African adventure.



Please see pages 72-75 for more details on these holiday extensions.

Departure Dates & Prices

2024 Departures

	Pullman (Rovos Rail suites)	Deluxe
16 Oct 2024	£7,395pp	£9,595pp
29 Oct 2024*	£7,395pp	£9,595pp

2025 Departures

	Pullman (Rovos Rail suites)	Deluxe
31 Mar 2025	£7,795pp	£9,995pp
23 Apr 2025	£7,795pp	£9,995pp
19 Oct 2025	£7,795pp	£9,995pp
03 Nov 2025*	£7,795pp	£9,995pp

* These departures operate in a reverse direction to the itinerary featured, beginning in Cape Town and finishing in Pretoria.

Prices

Prices are per person based on two people sharing a twin or double room.

Single occupancy supplement

Rovos Rail Pullman Suite
£2,995

Rovos Rail Deluxe Suite
£3,995

Deposit

Pullman Suite

£2,000 per person if travelling Economy Class, £2,950 per person if travelling World Traveller Plus, and £4,750 per person for Club World.

Deluxe Suite

£2,500 per person if travelling Economy Class, £3,450 per person if travelling World Traveller Plus, and £5,250 per person for Club World.

Flight upgrades

Upgrade to World Traveller Plus from £1,395 per person return, or Club World from £3,895 per person return.

Visa information

A visa is not required for travel to South Africa. However, if you are planning to visit Victoria Falls or Chobe National Park, visa's for Zimbabwe will be required. For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 86-87.

Important Information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 88-91.

Call to book

Our award-winning travel experts are happy to answer any questions you may have, and to help you book your holiday with Distant Journeys.

Call FREE on 0800 141 3742

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm **Saturday** 9.00am - 5.00pm
Sunday Open in peak season. See website for details.

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry.

Email: enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk





Clockwise from above:
Table Mountain, Cape Town; Zulu girl with beaded souvenirs

Spectacular South Africa

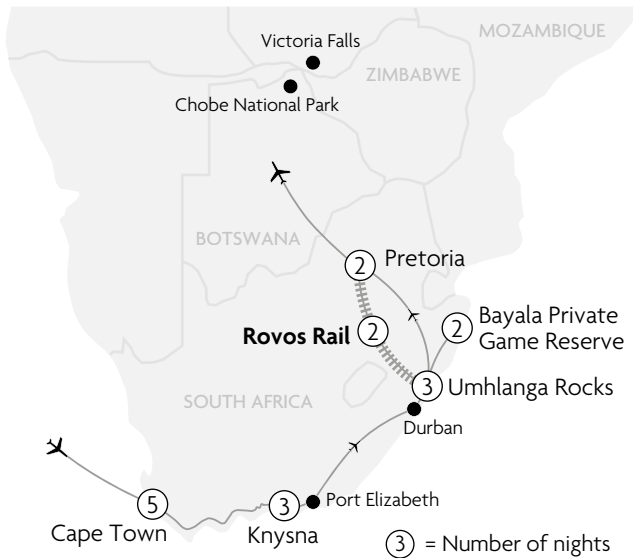
📅 18 days 💷 from £4,365pp 🌍 September 2024 – September 2025

It's not surprising South Africa has become one of the world's most popular touring destinations. The country offers vibrant and colourful cities, stunning and diverse landscapes, interesting heritage, an unparalleled abundance of wildlife and a sunny climate. What's more, with no jet-lag, the holiday begins as soon as you land.

This leisurely 18-day tour covers all the country's major attractions with a perfect blend of included sightseeing tours and Freedom Days to spend as you please. An undoubted highlight is a two-night safari in a Big Five private conservancy situated in the heart of Zululand.

With superb accommodation, all breakfasts and many other meals included, the Spectacular South Africa tour really does offer exceptional value for money and with the option to encounter stunning wildlife with two nights at the Bayala Private Game Reserve or two luxurious all-inclusive nights aboard Rovos Rail on a 'Durban Safari', you can safari as you please.

Take the opportunity to explore Africa further by extending your holiday with a three-night stay at Victoria Falls, with a guided walking tour of the UNESCO World Heritage Site Victoria Falls and a cruise on the Zambezi included; or add a stay amid Botswana's abundant wildlife and make it a fabulous six-night extension to Victoria Falls and Chobe National Park.



Your holiday includes

- Return economy flights with British Airways from London Heathrow, Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen or Belfast City Airport, and any domestic flights within South Africa. Inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty
- Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes
- Daily breakfast, five lunches and two dinners. All meals in Bayala Private Game Reserve or on-board Rovos Rail
- Unforgettable experiences including:
 - ★ Sightseeing tours in Cape Town, Knysna, Durban and Pretoria
 - ★ Visit Cape Point and Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens
 - ★ Tour South Africa's coastline along the world-renowned Garden Route
- When choosing Bayala Private Game Reserve:
 - ✓ Three safaris in Bayala Private Game Reserve
 - ✓ All meals included
- When choosing Rovos Rail 'Durban Safari':
 - ✓ Choice of a safari in Spionkop Game Reserve or tour of the Spionkop battlefields
 - ✓ Safari experience in Nambiti Private Reserve
 - ✓ All meals on board
 - ✓ Selected alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks on board
 - ✓ Services of a Train Manager
- Services of an experienced Tour Manager
- All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout
- Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 88-91.



Cape Town



African Penguins



Mossel Bay Lighthouse

Spectacular South Africa

Days 1 to 8: UK - Cape Town - Garden Route - Knysna

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart from the UK airport most convenient for you with British Airways at no extra cost. Your flight will depart from London Heathrow, with complimentary regional connections from Manchester, Newcastle, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen or Belfast.

In-flight meals and drinks included

Day 2: Cape Town, 5 nights

We land in magnificent Cape Town, where our waiting coach will take us to the President Hotel. The rest of our day is at leisure until the early evening when we gather for drinks and become more acquainted for our forthcoming travels together. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 3: Cape Town and Kirstenbosch

A tour of South Africa's Mother City takes us around Cape Town's most important buildings and monuments. Experience first-hand the vibrant cultures and history and enjoy the city's wonderful scenery. Weather conditions permitting, we shall take a cable car ride to enjoy spectacular views from the top of Table Mountain, followed by a walk through the colourful Malay Quarter of Bo Kaap. We drive through Green Market Square and District Six and continue to Company Gardens and the Houses of Parliament, City Hall, the Castle of Good Hope and Slave Lodge. This afternoon we visit the superb Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. These gardens were founded in 1913 to preserve the country's unique flora, and they are world-renowned not only for their beauty and diversity, but also for their magnificent setting against the eastern slopes of Table Mountain. **Breakfast included**

Day 4: Cape Point

Today, we venture out of the city to explore the spectacular landscapes surrounding Cape Town. Our day begins with a scenic drive through the pretty seaside suburbs of Sea Point and Camps Bay. We continue via Hout Bay, a charming fishing harbour with magnificent mountain views, before driving along Chapman's Peak, one of the world's most breath-taking coastal drives. We reach the Good Hope Nature Reserve and Cape Point, where the Atlantic and Indian Oceans' currents are fabled to meet. We continue to Boulders Beach, home to a colony of the endangered African Penguin. Enjoy a visit to Simon's Town prior to our return to Cape Town later in the afternoon. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 5: Cape Town Freedom Day

This is our first Freedom Day, where we can choose to relax or explore as we please. Our Distant Journeys Tour Manager will be on hand to help with advice on things to do, where to eat, make any arrangements and book excursions for you to further explore the area. Perhaps take a journey to discover the winelands of the Western Cape. The tour will take us through the valleys and vineyards of the Cape Winelands and includes a cellar tour and wine-tasting in one of the region's fabulous wineries. The scenery as we drive across the Helshoogte Pass to Stellenbosch is spectacular, and upon arrival we will have plenty of time to discover the second oldest settlement in South Africa. The town's oak tree-lined streets and white-washed Cape Dutch-style buildings make this a delight for exploration on foot. Enjoy a stroll as well as a spot of lunch whilst watching the world go by. We also have time to visit Franschhoek before returning to our hotel later in the afternoon. **Breakfast included**

We recommend

Western Cape Winelands

A full day excursion including a cellar tour, wine tasting, quaint towns and stunning scenery.



Day 6: Cape Town Freedom Day

A further Freedom Day where you may choose to relax by the pool or possibly take an optional trip to Robben Island. Once reserved for high profile prisoners of the apartheid regime, today Robben Island is a monument recognising the iconic struggle of heroes including Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu. The island was brought to the world's attention when Nelson Mandela was released from prison in the early 1990s after serving more than two decades for the crime of speaking out against the apartheid government. Today, Robben Island is a UNESCO World Heritage Site – acting as a museum as well as a reminder of the price Nelson Mandela and so many others paid for the freedom of democracy. **Breakfast included**

Day 7: The Garden Route & Knysna, 3 nights

We say goodbye to Cape Town today, as we begin our Garden Route tour. Our journey takes us to Swellendam, a one-time rebel republic's capital. We continue eastward through undulating countryside and peaceful villages to Mossel Bay, where we visit the Post Office Tree – a place 16th and 17th-century sailors left their letters for returning ships to carry to Europe. From Mossel Bay we continue to Knysna and our next three nights will be spent at either the Protea Knysna Quays, or Simola Country Estate. **Breakfast included**

Day 8: Featherbed Nature Reserve

This morning, we have included an excursion to The Featherbed Nature Reserve, a unique 150-hectare private nature reserve, which encompasses the whole of the Western Head of Knysna, and is one of South Africa's Natural Heritage Sites. We cruise across Knysna Lagoon and spend time enjoying the spectacular coastal scenery. The reserve is home to many native flowers and trees, as well as the endangered Blue Duiker (the smallest known antelope species in Africa), Cape Mountain Tortoises, Blue Cranes (South Africa's national bird) and rare Black African Oyster Catchers. Your afternoon is free to relax or stroll around Knysna's pretty waterfront. **Breakfast included**



Zebras



Knysna Lagoon



On safari

Spectacular South Africa

Days 9 to 15: Knysna - Umhlanga Rocks - Bayala Private Game Reserve - Pretoria

Day 9: Knysna Freedom Day

On our Freedom Day, we will have the opportunity to join an optional tour to the Cango Caves and Oudtshoorn, South Africa's ostrich capital. The day begins with a drive over the visually stunning Outeniqua Pass as we make our way to the beauty of the semi-arid Klein Karoo. Enjoy a tour of the magnificent Cango Caves, a vast series of colourful limestone caverns, which to this day have only been partially explored. This is followed by a guided tour of an ostrich farm, tracing the ostrich from egg to adulthood. Finally, drive via the laid-back country town of Oudtshoorn, with its pretty Victorian buildings. Later in the day we return to Knysna. **Breakfast included**

We recommend

Oudtshoorn & the Cango Caves

Featuring spectacular mountain landscapes, majestic caves and a tour of a working ostrich farm.



Day 10: Umhlanga Rocks, 3 nights

This morning, our journey continues along the Garden Route, via Plettenberg Bay, stopping en-route to enjoy some fantastic photographic opportunities. After lunch, we continue to Port Elizabeth in time for our flight to Durban. Upon arrival we transfer to the luxurious Beverly Hills Hotel, ideally situated overlooking the Indian Ocean, in the upmarket resort of Umhlanga Rocks. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 11: Umhlanga Rocks

After breakfast, enjoy a half-day sightseeing tour of nearby Durban. Visits include Victoria Embankment and City Hall. We also explore the impressive Durban Botanical Gardens, founded in 1849 and home to a fine array of African, Asian and American trees and shrubs. With a prime beachfront location and unobstructed sea views, relaxing by the hotel's huge pool is a wonderful way to unwind in the afternoon. **Breakfast included**

Day 12: Umhlanga Rocks Freedom Day

A day at leisure to spend as you please on South Africa's beautiful Dolphin Coast. Why not take a full-day optional excursion to explore the 19th-century Anglo-Zulu battlefields of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift? Learn about the fascinating history of the battles that took place in January 1879 and witness the landscape on which the fighting occurred. Alternatively, embark on an immersive day trip to the tiny country of Lesotho. Travel in a 4x4 vehicle in order to cross Africa's highest pass: the 9,435-foot high (2,876 metres) Sani Pass, to enter this intriguing land-locked kingdom. Once inside, pay a visit to a Sotho village to experience how the locals live. **Breakfast included**

Day 13: Bayala Private Game Reserve, 2 nights

This morning we travel along South Africa's Elephant Coast to the magnificent Bayala Private Game Reserve situated in the heart of Zululand. Nestled within a non-malaria, 'Big Five' private conservancy of close to 30,000 hectares of unspoiled wilderness, Bayala Private Safari Lodge and Camp provides the perfect venue for your safari experience. Upon arrival we will enjoy lunch prior to check-in; each of our thatch-roofed en-suite rooms are tastefully decorated with neutral bushveld colours. Later in the afternoon we take to our open jeeps for our first game drive around the reserve. Bayala is teeming with wildlife including giraffe, wildebeest, zebra, hyena and white rhino, as well as over 450 different bird species. After a thrilling afternoon we return to our lodge in time for dinner. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 14: Bayala Private Game Reserve

Tour Highlight
This morning we wake early for another exciting game drive. Bayala is home to the Big Five, so keep a look out for elephant and lion as well as the more usual game species. We return to our lodge in time for breakfast where you are free to relax until the heat of the day subsides later in the afternoon. Perhaps read a book or take a swim in the pool enjoying the sights and sounds of the African bush. Later in the day we return to our jeeps for another game drive prior to dinner. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 15: Pretoria, 2 nights

All good things must come to an end and, following a leisurely breakfast, we leave Bayala and make our way back to the coast. We stop for lunch at a seafront restaurant before driving to Durban where we board our flight to Johannesburg. Upon arrival we make our way to Irene Country Lodge for two nights. **Breakfast and lunch included**



As an alternative to the two-night stay in Bayala Private Game Reserve (Days 13-15), you have the option to recapture the romance of a bygone era, by joining the luxurious Rovos Rail on an all-inclusive two night 'Durban Safari'. See the following two pages (56-57) for full details of this alternative itinerary.



Dining



Porters

Spectacular South Africa

Days 13 to 15 alternative: Rovos Rail 'Durban Safari' - Pretoria



Described as 'the most luxurious train in the world', step aboard Rovos Rail to find lovingly restored, wood-panelled coaches with period Edwardian features, and enjoy fine cuisine in five-star luxury.

When choosing the Rovos Rail 'Durban Safari' alternative, days 13-15 will be as described on this page. Please note that your Tour Manager will not accompany you on the train. Instead you will be looked after by the Train Manager and their excellent crew.

A choice of suites

Rovos Rail provides a choice of Pullman and Deluxe Suites, both offering every modern convenience and comfort with fittings and facilities that are of the highest standard. The suites accommodate one or two passengers with the option of double or twin beds. All have en-suite bathrooms with shower, toilet and basin.

Day 13: Rovos Rail, 2 nights

This morning, we make our way to Durban Rail Terminal in time for our magnificent overland rail journey. We depart Durban and travel through the stunningly scenic Valley of a Thousand Hills. Following lunch, an afternoon excursion takes us to the fascinating Ardmore Ceramics Gallery. Ardmore Ceramics is a story about the Zulu people whose sense of rhythm, colour, dance and song, as well as the spirit of the African imagination, can be seen in the artwork produced in the gallery. Returning to the train, we make our way to Ladysmith, enjoying dinner with new-found friends along with some fine South African wines. Afterwards, relax in the comfort of the Lounge Car with an after-dinner drink. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

Day 14: Spionkop & Nambiti Private Game Reserve

Following an early wake-up call and a sumptuous breakfast we have a choice of excursions. The first option is to take an open-jeep safari in Spionkop Reserve, boasting a rich selection of wildlife including white rhinoceros, giraffe and antelope. Alternatively, you may wish to join the Spionkop battlefields tour. Britain marched into the South African war in the spring of 1899, confident that it 'would all be over by Christmas!' The war lasted three years and was to become the costliest Britain had ever fought.

In the afternoon, we arrive at Elandslaagte, where we disembark for an afternoon safari experience in Nambiti Private Game Reserve. Nambiti has an incredible biodiversity including savannah, grasslands, thornveld and tall acacia trees. Enjoy our open-jeep 4WD safari in search of the Big Five. Nambiti is also home to over 40 other species of game including cheetah, giraffe, hippo, hyena, impala, eland and zebra. On return to the train, enjoy a drink in the Lounge Car prior to dinner. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

Day 15: Pretoria, 2 nights

Take it easy today as we continue our journey north. Enjoy the panoramas as we traverse the gold mining areas of Gauteng (literally translated as Place of Gold). Our arrival into the Rovos Rail Terminal in Capital Park is scheduled for late afternoon, and upon arrival our waiting coach will take us to re-join our fellow passengers at Irene Country Lodge, for our final two nights. **Breakfast and lunch included**



Observation carriage



Mother cheetah and her cub



African woman in traditional dress



Sunset on safari

Spectacular South Africa

Days 16 to 18: Pretoria - UK

Day 16: Pretoria

This morning, enjoy a tour around the city of Pretoria. Included is the Union Building, Voortrekkers Monument and Melrose House. Our afternoon is at leisure. There is the option of a visit to the Ann Van Dyk Cheetah Breeding Centre. Established in 1971, as the De Wildt Cheetah Research Centre, the centre has performed an important role in the preservation and protection of cheetahs. **Breakfast included**

Day 17: Depart Johannesburg

The day is yours to spend as you please prior to our departure to the airport later in the day. Perhaps use the opportunity to visit the region's liveliest township, Soweto, home to over 2 million people and steeped in history. This evening we board our flight for our home bound journey to the UK. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 18: Arrive UK

We arrive at our chosen airport via Heathrow. After 18 fabulous days, our Spectacular South African adventure comes to an end. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Holiday Extension from only £1,595 per person

Victoria Falls is just over an hour and a half away from Johannesburg by air; and Chobe National Park is a relatively short drive from Victoria Falls, so now is the perfect opportunity to experience one of the planet's great natural wonders and more incredible safari regions.

Victoria Falls

Three nights from only £1,595 per person
Feel the mist upon your face and experience the wonder of the majestic Victoria Falls on our three-night holiday extension. The locals call the falls Mosi-oa-Tunya meaning "smoke that thunders", describing the sheer power of the falls. Located on the border of Zimbabwe and Zambia, just a one hour flight from Johannesburg, the falls were designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1989 and remain one of the world's great natural wonders.



Victoria Falls & Chobe National Park

Six nights from only £2,855 per person

Teeming with wildlife, Chobe National Park in Botswana is most famous for its herds of elephants on the banks of the Chobe River, lions striding through the grasslands and its mammoth buffalo populations. It also lies in close proximity to the majestic Victoria Falls, making it not only the perfect addition to our Victoria Falls holiday extension, but a fantastic way to finish your African adventure.



Please see pages 72-75 for more details on these holiday extensions.

Departure Dates & Prices

Including Bayala Game Reserve

2024 Departures

25 September 2024	£4,365 per person
06 November 2024*	£4,365 per person

2025 Departures

15 January 2025	£4,365 per person
05 February 2025	£4,365 per person
02 April 2025	£4,365 per person
06 August 2025	£4,565 per person
10 September 2025*	£4,565 per person

* These departures will stay at Zulu Nyala Heritage Lodge, rather than Bayala Game Reserve.

Including Rovos Rail

2024 Departures

	Pullman <i>(Rovos Rail suites)</i>	Deluxe
25 Sep 2024	£5,275pp	£5,875pp
06 Nov 2024	£5,275pp	£5,875pp

2025 Departures

	Pullman	Deluxe
15 Jan 2025	£5,275pp	£5,875pp
05 Feb 2025	£5,275pp	£5,875pp
02 Apr 2025	£5,275pp	£5,875pp
06 Aug 2025	£5,485pp	£5,995pp
10 Sep 2025	£5,485pp	£5,995pp

Prices

Prices are per person based on two people sharing a twin or double room.

Single occupancy supplement
Bayala Private Game Reserve
£1,145

Rovos Rail Pullman Suite
£1,595 (September 2024 – April 2025)
£1,695 (August 2025 – September 2025)

Rovos Rail Deluxe Suite
£1,975 (September 2024 – April 2025)
£2,045 (August 2025 – September 2025)

Deposit

£1,000 per person if travelling Economy Class, £1,950 per person if travelling World Traveller Plus, and £3,750 per person for Club World.

Flight upgrades

Upgrade to World Traveller Plus from £1,395 per person return, or Club World from £3,895 per person return.

Visa information

A visa is not required for travel to South Africa. However, if you are planning to visit Victoria Falls or Chobe National Park, visa's for Zimbabwe will be required. For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 86-87.

Important Information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 88-91.

Call to book

Our award-winning travel experts are happy to answer any questions you may have, and to help you book your holiday with Distant Journeys.

Call FREE on 0800 141 3742

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm **Saturday** 9.00am - 5.00pm
Sunday Open in peak season. See website for details.

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry.
Email: enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk





The Very Best of South Africa

📅 25 days 💷 from £6,245pp 🌍 November 2024 – October 2025

South Africa is one of the world's most exciting destinations, with dramatic Atlantic and Indian Ocean coastline, vibrant and colourful cities, diverse landscapes and an abundance of wildlife. Add in a reliably sunny climate and no jet lag, and it's easy to see why South Africa is a dream holiday destination.

To get the most out of the country's many varied attractions, we've put together the ultimate tour – The Very Best of South Africa. Over 25 unforgettable days, we will explore lively cities, head out on safari in search of the Big Five, and take one of the world's most luxurious train journeys.

As always with Distant Journeys, the itinerary includes all the must-see attractions plus several once in a lifetime experiences, all conducted at a leisurely pace. In a tour full of highlights, the stand-out experiences include two nights on safari in the world-famous Kruger National Park, and a wonderful two-night journey on board the legendary Blue Train.

With Victoria Falls just a short flight from Johannesburg by air, and Chobe National Park a relatively short drive from Victoria Falls, extending your South African adventure to include one, or both of these incredible experiences is easier than you think. Choose from our three-night Victoria Falls holiday extension, or our six-night Victoria Falls & Chobe National Park extension.



Clockwise from above:
Zebras; Cape Winelands; Traditional South African dress

Your holiday includes

✈️ Return economy flights with British Airways from London Heathrow, Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen or Belfast City Airport and any domestic flights within South Africa. Inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty

🏠 Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes

🍴 Daily breakfast, ten lunches, one high tea and six dinners. All meals on board The Blue Train

🌍 Unforgettable experiences including:

- ★ Sightseeing tours in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban and Pretoria
- ★ Visit Cape Point and Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens
- ★ Explore the Western Cape Winelands
- ★ Tour South Africa's coastline along the world-renowned Garden Route
- ★ Experience the Cango Caves
- ★ Safaris in Kruger National Park
- ★ Tour the scenic Panorama Route

🚂 All-inclusive on The Blue Train:

- ✓ Visit Kimberley's 'Big Hole' diamond mine
- ✓ All meals on board
- ✓ Selected alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks on board

📖 Services of an experienced Tour Manager

🚌 All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout

🛡️ Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 88-91.



Cape Town city and Table Mountain



The Blue Train



Chapman's Peak, Hout Bay, Cape Peninsula

The Very Best of South Africa

Days 1 to 8: UK - Johannesburg - The Blue Train - Cape Town

Day 1: Depart UK

Choose the UK airport most convenient for you and depart with British Airways. Your flight to South Africa will depart from London Heathrow and we can arrange regional connections from Manchester, Newcastle, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen or Belfast at no additional cost. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 2: Johannesburg, 2 nights

We land in Johannesburg, where our waiting coach will take us to the Protea Hotel Johannesburg Balalaika Sandton, ideally situated in Johannesburg's fashionable Sandton district. The rest of our day is at leisure until the early evening, when we shall gather for drinks so we may become acquainted for our forthcoming travels together. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 3: Johannesburg

Today we will be introduced to Johannesburg with a full day tour of the city and its best-known township, Soweto. We begin at Constitution Hill, a former prison and military fort which is now a living museum telling the story of South Africa's long journey from colonialism and apartheid to democracy. Soweto (an acronym for South Western Townships) is a sprawling urban complex of over 2 million people, an area known for its rich political history and vibrant trend-setting culture. Visit key sites including Vilakazi Street, famed for having been home to two Nobel Peace Prize winners in Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu; the Hector Pieterse memorial and Regina Mundi, the largest Roman Catholic church in South Africa. We end our afternoon at Rosebank Sunday Market, a lively centre of arts and craft stalls, bric-a-brac, food stalls and live music with stunning views of the Johannesburg skyline. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 4: The Blue Train, 2 nights

Tour Highlight

This afternoon we check in at Pretoria Station and board The Blue Train to embark on one of the most incredible railway journeys in the world. Our Blue Train experience begins the moment we step into the train's VIP departure lounge. Settle in with an aperitif and delicious canapes and be entertained by live music, whilst we await the beginning of our adventure. Once on board, our butler will escort us to our Deluxe Suite and give us an orientation tour of the train as our 1,600 km journey to Cape Town begins. Our suite provides a spacious lounge by day and a peaceful sanctuary by night. Settle in to life on board as The Blue Train rolls out of Pretoria, before High Tea is served. Dinner is a stylish affair, so dress up to the nines and enjoy a drink in the Lounge Car prior to a sumptuous dinner paired with exquisite wines. **Breakfast, high tea and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

Day 5: The Blue Train, Kimberley

This morning The Blue Train arrives into Kimberley, the capital of South Africa's Northern Cape. Kimberley prospered thanks to the discovery of diamonds in the area and during our stop here we learn more about the diamond rush with a tour of the fascinating Open Mine Museum. Learn more about the intriguing history and peer over the edge of the Kimberley 'Big Hole' diamond mine. Returning to the train, lunch is served and the afternoon is ours to enjoy as we watch the vast African panoramas unfolding. A delicious dinner of local cuisine and fine Cape wines will round off a wonderful day. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected on-board drinks included**

Day 6: Cape Town, 4 nights

Enjoy breakfast before we bid farewell to The Blue Train as we arrive into beautiful Cape Town, where our rail journey ends. Our waiting coach will take us on a short orientation tour of the city prior to our arrival at The President Hotel, in Bantry Bay. With views of the Atlantic Ocean, the hotel is only a short drive away from the trendy Victoria & Alfred Waterfront. **Breakfast included**

Day 7: Cape Town and Kirstenbosch

Our day begins with a tour of Cape Town, South Africa's Mother City, taking in its impressive buildings and monuments, its lively yet relaxed atmosphere, and of course, picturesque scenery. Enjoy a cable car ride to the top of Table Mountain, weather permitting, followed by a relaxing stroll through the Malay Quarter of Bo Kaap. We'll also visit Greenmarket Square and District Six. During the apartheid, around 60,000 residents were removed from District Six, and we'll pay a visit to the museum dedicated to them. Also enjoy a stroll through Company Gardens and take a drive past the Houses of Parliament and City Hall. Our morning comes to a close as we visit the Castle of Good Hope and Slave Lodge, a museum covering the long history of slavery in South Africa. This afternoon, we'll be visiting the exquisite Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens located alongside the eastern slopes of Table Mountain. The gardens were founded in 1913 to preserve South Africa's unique flora. Today, the medicinal garden is home to 2,500 species of plants native to the Cape Peninsula, including the Protea (sugarbush). This is the national flower of South Africa and represents hope. **Breakfast included**

Day 8: Cape Point

Leaving the city behind today we discover the beautiful and scenic landscapes that surround it. Enjoy a scenic drive through Bakoven and Camps Bay, before taking a short cruise from Hout Bay to Duiker Island to see its famous seal inhabitants. Our journey continues along Chapman's Peak Drive, a 9 km coastal road with breathtaking views to the Good Hope Nature Reserve and Cape Point, where the Atlantic Ocean is fabled to meet the Indian Ocean. We will also visit Boulders Beach to witness its African Penguin Colony, established in 1983. The raised boardwalks offer the greatest viewing experience. As we travel back to Cape Town, we stop at Simon's Town – home to the South African Navy and famed for its maritime history – before arriving back into Cape Town in the late afternoon. **Breakfast and lunch included**



Dutch Reformed Church, Franschhoek



Ostrich

The Very Best of South Africa

Days 9 to 12: Cape Town - Franschhoek - The Garden Route - Oudtshoorn

Day 9: Cape Town Freedom Day

Our first Freedom Day, so we can relax or explore as we please. Your Tour Manager will be on hand to advise on things to do, where to visit and the best places to eat. They can also arrange additional excursions to help you explore the area to its fullest. One of our optional trips includes a boat ride to Robben Island, an island museum commemorating the struggles of heroes including Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu. The island was brought to the attention of many after Mandela was released from prison in the early 1990s, after a two-decade-long battle against the apartheid government. Today the island is a museum and UNESCO World Heritage Site that pays its respects to Nelson Mandela and many others that paid for the freedom of democracy. **Breakfast included**

We Recommend

Robben Island

Experience this UNESCO World Heritage site, which is preserved as a memorial to those who spent many years incarcerated here.



Day 10: Franschhoek, 2 nights

With a vast expanse of vineyards set against a landscape of towering green mountains, the Cape Winelands are home to some of South Africa's most stunning scenery. As we leave Cape Town behind, our winelands journey begins with a picturesque drive through valleys and vineyards and includes a cellar tour and wine-tasting in one of the region's fabulous wineries. Upon arrival in Stellenbosch, we will have plenty of time to discover the second oldest town in South Africa. The oak tree-lined streets and whitewashed Cape Dutch-style buildings make this a delight for exploration on foot. We continue to Franschhoek via the scenic Helshoogte Pass, spending the next two nights at the delightful Protea Hotel. **Breakfast included**

Day 11: Franschhoek Freedom Day

French Huguenots settled in Franschhoek in 1688, bringing their vines with them. Over 300 years later, this lovely winelands town still retains many of its French roots. It's a wonderful place to spend a relaxing day exploring its art galleries, stylish architecture and wonderful array of cafes and restaurants. For those who would prefer to venture a little further, we have arranged tickets for the Franschhoek Wine Tram. This hop-on hop-off service provides a unique way to discover the Franschhoek Valley as you journey through the vineyards. **Breakfast included**

Day 12: The Garden Route & Oudtshoorn, Overnight

Today, we say goodbye to Cape Town's winelands, as we begin our Garden Route tour. Our journey takes us along Route 62, which links Cape Town in the Western Cape and Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape. We travel through numerous picturesque towns and villages including Worcester, Robertson, Montagu, Ladismith and Calitzdorp. Crossing the spectacular Huisrivier Pass, we descend to the laid-back country town of South Africa's ostrich capital, Oudtshoorn, where we enjoy a guided tour of an ostrich farm, tracing the ostrich from egg to adulthood. Our home for the night is either the historic Queen's Hotel, or the delightful Hlangana Lodge. **Breakfast and lunch included**



Cape Winelands



Cango Caves



Western Cape

The Very Best of South Africa

Days 13 to 17: Knysna - Umhlanga Rocks

Day 13: Knysna, 2 nights

After breakfast, we explore the pretty Victorian buildings of Oudtshoorn, before heading to the Cango Caves, a vast series of magnificently colourful limestone caverns, which to this day have only been partially explored. This afternoon, we take a drive over the visually stunning Outeniqua Pass as we make our way from the beauty of the semi-arid Klein Karoo to the Protea Hotel Knysna Quays, situated on the edge of Knysna Lagoon. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 14: Knysna Freedom Day

A day at leisure to relax or explore the beautiful scenery of Knysna Lagoon. An excursion to one of South Africa's Natural Heritage Sites, the Featherbed Nature Reserve is highly recommended. The reserve is a 150-hectare private nature reserve that encompasses the entire Western Head of Knysna. Soak up the stunning scenery on offer as we enjoy a cruise across the charming Knysna Lagoon. The reserve is home to many native flowers, trees and species – such as the endangered Blue Duiker, a native antelope. We may also catch a glimpse of Cape Mountain Tortoises, Blue Cranes and rare Back African Oystercatchers. **Breakfast included**

We Recommend

Featherbed Nature Reserve

Explore the unique flora and fauna of this beautiful private nature reserve, including a cruise on Knysna Lagoon.



Day 15: Umhlanga Rocks, 3 nights

Our South Africa journey continues along the Garden Route, via Plettenberg Bay, stopping for many photo opportunities along this fantastic route. After lunch, we travel to Port Elizabeth in time for our flight to Durban, located in the KwaZulu-Natal province. On arrival in Durban we continue to the upmarket Umhlanga Rocks and the wonderful Beverly Hills Hotel, with amazing views over the Indian Ocean. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 16: Umhlanga Rocks

After breakfast, we travel to Durban for a half-day tour to explore City Hall, Victoria Embankment and Durban's waterfront. Look out for the ornate Vasco da Gama Clock at the Port of Natal, passed on in 1897 by the Portuguese government. We also visit the Durban Botanical Gardens, Africa's oldest surviving gardens that were first founded in 1849. This afternoon, we head back to the hotel to relax – or, if you prefer, explore the local area at your own pace. **Breakfast included**

Day 17: Umhlanga Rocks Freedom Day

Another Freedom Day is upon us, presenting an amazing opportunity to participate in a new excursion. We recommend a full-day excursion to explore the 19th-century Anglo-Zulu battlefields of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift. Our knowledgeable, local guides will inform us about its fascinating history dating back to 1879. Alternatively, join an adventurous trip to the landlocked kingdom of Lesotho. Travel in style in a 4x4 vehicle over Africa's highest pass, the 9,435-foot high Sani Pass, to enter Lesotho. Inside, we visit a Sotho village to experience life like a local, making this trip a once-in-a-lifetime experience. **Breakfast included**



Umhlanga Rocks



Pretoria



Male lion

The Very Best of South Africa

Days 18 to 23: Kruger National Park - Hazyview - Pretoria

Day 18: Kruger National Park, 2 nights

Tour Highlight

This morning we travel to Durban Airport for our flight to Nelspruit Airport, from where we make our way to Kruger National Park, South Africa's largest game reserve. On arrival at the reserve, we will be met by a fleet of specially-adapted 4x4 vehicles which will transport us on our first safari in the Kruger. Renowned as one of South Africa's greatest wildlife-watching destinations, Kruger National Park is home to the Big Five – lion, elephant, buffalo, leopard and rhino – along with iconic African species, such as cheetah, giraffe, hippo, hyena and zebra. After a thrilling introduction to the Kruger, we arrive at the Kruger Gate Hotel. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 19: Kruger National Park

Early today, our experienced rangers help us explore the sights on a morning game drive in Kruger National Park. As we traverse vast areas of sweeping savannah, keep a look out for hippos bathing in rivers, warthogs quenching their thirst or possibly the elusive leopard lazing in a tree. We return to our hotel where there is time to relax and unwind before we head out on another game drive later in the afternoon. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Dinner Under the Stars



While staying at the Kruger Gate Hotel, if weather permits, we shall enjoy a traditional African bush experience, eating dinner under the stars, next to a roaring fire at the hotel's boma.

Day 20: Hazyview, 2 nights

Following breakfast, we check out from the hotel and enjoy our final game drive in Kruger National Park in our 4x4 vehicles. This morning's route explores new areas of the park and provides a great opportunity to spot even more of South Africa's incredible wildlife. We leave the park in the afternoon, transfer to a comfortable, air-conditioned coach and journey to the Sabi River Sun Resort in Hazyview, for our next two nights. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 21: Hazyview

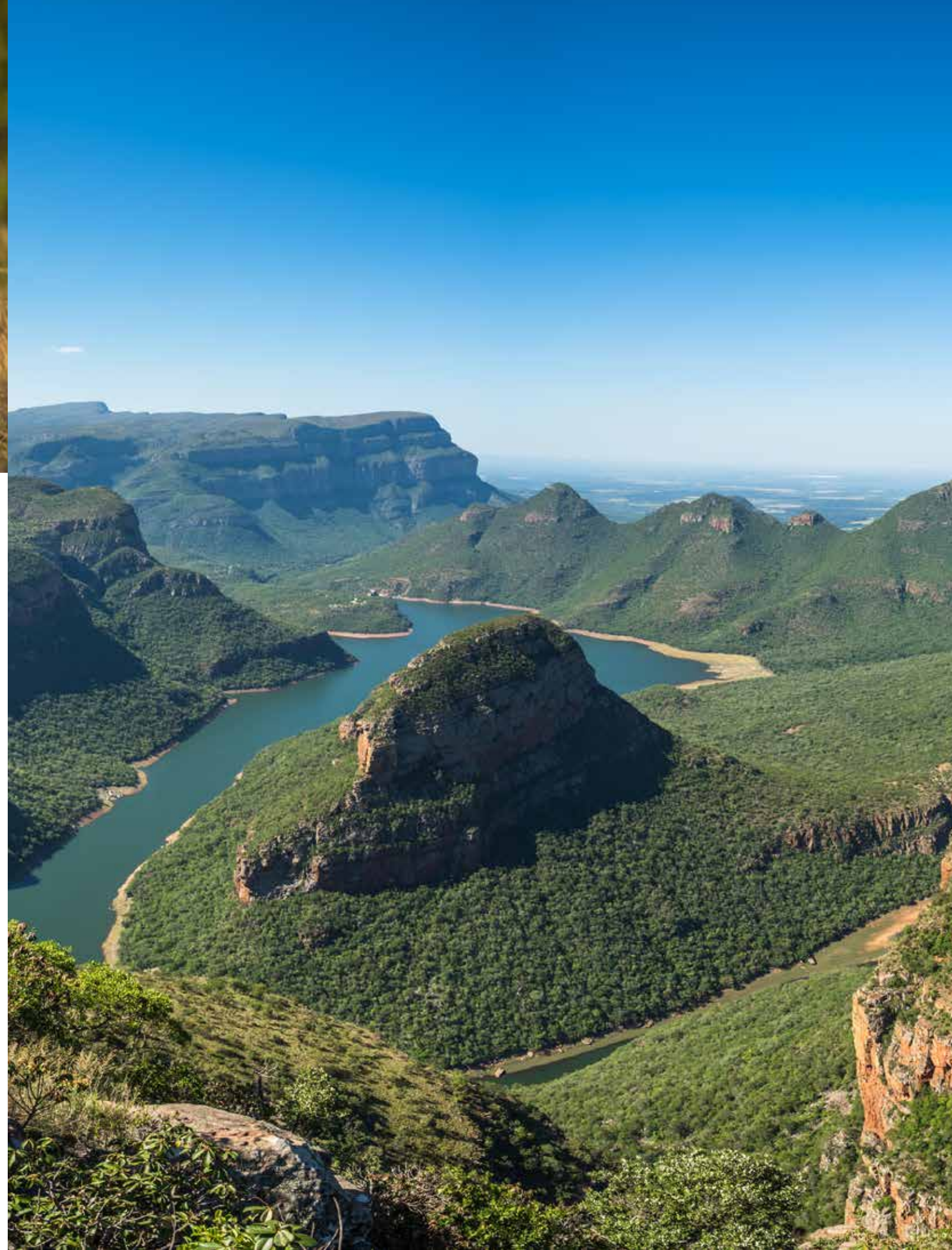
We spend our day exploring the Panorama Route, winding our way through some of South Africa's most spectacular scenery of mountains, waterfalls and canyons. We follow the incredible Blyde River Canyon, a deep gorge which carves its way through 20 miles of the Drakensberg Escarpment, separating the temperate grasslands of the highveld and the drier savannah beyond. Highlights of the day include the rainforest at God's Window, Bourke's Luck Potholes and the Three Rondavels. We also visit the former gold mining town of Pilgrim's Rest to see the Victorian-era wooden and corrugated houses lining its main street, and to learn about its chequered history. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 22: Pretoria, 2 nights

Today we travel west, ascending the Drakensberg Escarpment from the low country to the wide-open spaces and vast farmlands of the Highveld. Upon arrival into Pretoria, we make our way to the delightful Irene Country Lodge, situated just a 15-minute drive from the city centre, for our final two nights in South Africa. **Breakfast included**

Day 23: Pretoria

This morning, we visit the wonderful city of Pretoria. We will visit the Union Building and Voortrekkers Monument before paying a visit to Melrose house, a charming Victorian mansion and museum. Afterwards, we return to our hotel where our afternoon is at leisure to relax in the most beautiful of settings. **Breakfast included**



Three Rondavels, Blyde River Canyon



Jacaranda trees, Pretoria



Local child



White rhinos in the bush, Bayala Game Reserve, South Africa

The Very Best of South Africa

Days 24 to 25: Johannesburg - UK

Day 24: Depart Johannesburg

The day is ours to spend as we please prior to our departure to the airport later in the day. Perhaps visit the Ann Van Dyk Cheetah Breeding Centre. First established in 1971, the cheetah conservation centre is home to rare cheetah species and aims to release cheetahs born in captivity into the wild. This evening we say goodbye to South Africa and board our flight for our homebound journey to the UK. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 25: Arrive UK

Arriving into London Heathrow this morning, our Very Best of South Africa experience comes to an end. Connecting flights to UK regional airports connect at Heathrow. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Holiday Extension from only £1,595 per person

Victoria Falls is just over an hour and a half away from Johannesburg by air; and Chobe National Park is a relatively short drive from Victoria Falls, so now is the perfect opportunity to experience one of the planet's great natural wonders and more incredible safari regions.

Victoria Falls

Three nights from only £1,595 per person

Feel the mist upon your face and experience the wonder of the majestic Victoria Falls on our three-night holiday extension. The locals call the falls Mosi-oa-Tunya meaning "smoke that thunders", describing the sheer power of the falls. Located on the border of Zimbabwe and Zambia, just a one hour flight from Johannesburg, the falls were designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1989 and remain one of the world's great natural wonders.



Victoria Falls & Chobe National Park

Six nights from only £2,855 per person

Teeming with wildlife, Chobe National Park in Botswana is most famous for its herds of elephants on the banks of the Chobe River, lions striding through the grasslands and its mammoth buffalo populations. It also lies in close proximity to the majestic Victoria Falls, making it not only the perfect addition to our Victoria Falls holiday extension, but a fantastic way to finish your African adventure.



Please see pages 72-75 for more details on these holiday extensions.

Departure Dates & Prices

2024 Departures

	Deluxe <i>(The Blue Train suites)</i>	Luxury
01 Nov 2024	£6,245pp	£6,775pp

2025 Departures

	Deluxe <i>(The Blue Train suites)</i>	Luxury
24 Jan 2025	£6,245pp	£6,775pp
21 Feb 2025	£6,245pp	£6,775pp
11 Apr 2025*	£6,245pp	£6,775pp
31 Oct 2025	£6,595pp	£7,145pp

* This departure stays at Hlangana, Oudtshoorn and the Capital Pearls Hotel, Umhlanga.

Prices

Prices are per person based on two people sharing a twin or double room.

Single occupancy supplement Deluxe Suite

£1,695 (November 2024 – April 2025)
£1,895 (October 2025)

Luxury Suite

£1,895 (November 2024 – April 2025)
£2,065 (October 2025)

Deposit

£1,000 per person if travelling Economy Class, £1,950 per person if travelling World Traveller Plus, and £3,750 per person for Club World.

Flight upgrades

Upgrade to World Traveller Plus from £1,395 per person return, or Club World from £3,895 per person return.

Visa information

A visa is not required for travel to South Africa. However, if you are planning to visit Victoria Falls or Chobe National Park, visa's for Zimbabwe will be required. For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 86-87.

Important Information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Luxury Suites on The Blue Train are subject to availability at the time of booking.

Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 88-91.

Call to book

Our award-winning travel experts are happy to answer any questions you may have, and to help you book your holiday with Distant Journeys.

Call FREE on 0800 141 3742

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm **Saturday** 9.00am - 5.00pm
Sunday Open in peak season. See website for details.

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry.
Email: enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk



Holiday Extensions



Cape Town from only £645 per person

Table Mountain, Cape Town, South Africa

Welcome to Cape Town, a city that effortlessly weaves together natural beauty, rich history and a vibrant culture. With the awe-inspiring Table Mountain as its backdrop, the city has so much to offer; from the colourful streets of the Bo-Kaap, where the heritage of Cape Malay culture shines brightly to the sumptuous cuisine on offer at the beautiful V&A Waterfront.

Available with **In Search of the Big Five**, **African Rail Adventure**, **Namibian Rail Safari** and **South African Rail Discovery** tours



See pages:
18-25; 26-33; 34-41; 42-49

Day 1: Cape Town, 3 Nights
On arrival into Cape Town, you will be met and transferred to the Camps Bay Retreat in Cape Town. The hotel is a true hidden gem with picturesque views across the Atlantic Ocean and the Twelve Apostles Mountain Range. The rest of the day is spent at leisure for you to relax by one of three swimming pools or explore the wider area. **Breakfast included**

Day 2: Cape Town Freedom Day
Cape Town is a city calling out to be explored, so why not start the day admiring the vistas from atop Table Mountain. There is also the chance to head out to the south-western tip of South Africa, Cape Point; discover the delightful Cape Winelands or just enjoy the delights of Camps Bay. **Breakfast Included**

Day 3: Cape Town Freedom Day
This is it, your last day in Cape Town to explore at your own pace. With such a rich history, Cape Town still has visible scars from its apartheid days. We suggest a day trip to Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela spent 18 years in prison. A designated UNESCO World Heritage Site, you can take a walk through the old prison as well as a bus ride around the island with a fascinating commentary on places of note. **Breakfast Included**

Day 4: Depart Cape Town
Today, we say farewell to Cape Town as we travel to the airport to begin our journey home to the UK. Alternatively if staying in Cape Town pre-tour, you will join your fellow travelling companions and Tour Manager, ready for your adventures ahead. **Breakfast, in-flight dinner and drinks included**

Above: African Penguins
Below: Bo-Kaap District, Cape Town

Your Cape Town holiday extension includes:	2024 & 2025 Departures
Three nights accommodation with daily breakfast and all transfers.	From £645 per person
	Single occupancy supplement £475
<small>If joining after our 'In Search of the Big Five' safari, your flight from Hoedspruit to Cape Town is included. If joining after our 'African Rail Adventure' tour your flight from Cape Town to Johannesburg (or vice versa) is included. A supplement to the price shown will apply. Please call for details.</small>	

Victoria Falls from only £1,595 per person

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Victoria Falls is a UNESCO World Heritage Site of awe-inspiring beauty, described by the Kololo tribe living in the area in the 19th century as Mosi-oa-Tunya: 'The Smoke that Thunders'. As Victoria Falls is only a short flight from Johannesburg, it makes an ideal extension to your African touring holiday.

Available with **In Search of the Big Five**, **Namibian Rail Safari**, **South African Rail Discovery**, **Spectacular South Africa** and **Very Best of South Africa** tours



See pages:
18-25; 34-41; 42-49; 50-59; 60-71

Day 1: Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe), 3 nights
A morning departure takes us to Johannesburg Airport in time for our flight to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. Upon arrival, we meet our local guide and transfer to the outstanding Ilala Lodge or its sister property, the Palm River Hotel. This afternoon, we join a sunset cruise on the Zambezi River, a relaxing experience where we hope to see hippopotamus, crocodile and elephant as well as other wildlife species. **Breakfast included**

Day 2: Victoria Falls
Victoria Falls is a spectacular sight of awe-inspiring beauty, and this morning we take in incredible views of the falls from various vantage points during a walking tour. This afternoon we are free to enjoy a whole array of optional activities: fishing for tiger fish in the Zambezi, or perhaps a scenic helicopter flight for the ultimate panorama of the falls. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 3: Victoria Falls Freedom Day
A Freedom Day in Victoria Falls to spend as you please. For a wonderful insight into Zimbabwean rural life, join an excursion to a local village where we have the privilege of meeting the village chief and learning about the villagers' lives. Alternatively, relax by the pool at the hotel and spot the various wildlife that often frequents the hotel grounds! **Breakfast included**

Day 4: Depart Victoria Falls
We travel to the airport mid-morning for our flight to Johannesburg. An onward flight to London Heathrow departs in the evening. **Breakfast, in-flight dinner and drinks included**

Above: Cruise on the Zambezi River
Below: Photographing lion on safari

Your Victoria Falls holiday extension includes:	2024 & 2025 Departures
Return air travel from Johannesburg to Victoria Falls including applicable airport charges, three nights accommodation with daily breakfast in Victoria Falls, one dinner, a sunset cruise on the Zambezi River, walking tour of Victoria Falls, services of a local guide and all transfers.	All dates £1,595 per person
	Single occupancy supplement £245

Holiday Extensions



Chobe National Park from only £1,395 per person

Elephants, Botswana

Just a one-hour drive from Victoria Falls, Chobe National Park – ‘The Land of the Giants’, is best known as being home to the planet’s largest elephant population. The Chobe River is the focus of wildlife activity, as the heat of the African sun beats down across the plains, herds of wildlife congregate in and around the river – a truly magical sight to behold.

Available with the **African Rail Adventure** tour



See pages: 26-33

Day 1: Chobe National Park, 3 nights
We leave Victoria Falls this morning for our short journey to Botswana and our hotel for the next three nights the Cresta Mowana Safari Lodge. With an idyllic location on the banks of the Chobe River, it provides the perfect base for our Botswana adventure. This afternoon we venture into Chobe National Park on board a wildlife cruise. The banks of the Chobe River draw animals in their hordes, as they congregate to drink, bathe and play, and we hope to see hippos, antelope, buffalo and some of Chobe’s 120,000 elephants. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 2: Chobe National Park
Early this morning we head out on an exhilarating game drive. Chobe is teeming with wildlife, including many rare or threatened species; look out for the blue wildebeest, Cape buffalo, civet, crocodile, giraffe, hyena, zebra, and much more.

Above: Lilac-breasted roller, Chobe National Park, Botswana
Below: Buffalo, Botswana

After lunch at the hotel, there’s time to take it easy and enjoy the lodge’s facilities before we take our second game drive of the day. Chobe is also rich in birdlife, boasting more than 450 species of birds, so keep your binoculars ready. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 3: Chobe National Park
Today is at leisure for you to enjoy in your own way. There is the option of a further game drive for those who wish. We end the day with a spectacular sunset cruise on the Chobe River. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 4: Depart Chobe National Park
Sadly, we must leave Botswana and Africa today. This morning, we make our way back to Victoria Falls Airport in time for our flight to Johannesburg. Our onward flight to London Heathrow departs this evening. **Breakfast, in-flight dinner and drinks included**

Your Chobe National Park holiday extension includes:
Three nights accommodation in Chobe National Park, with daily breakfast, lunch and dinner, two wildlife cruises on the Chobe River, two game drives in Chobe National Park and all transfers.

2024 & 2025 Departures
All dates **£1,395** per person
Single occupancy supplement £275

Victoria Falls & Chobe National Park from only £2,855 per person

Chobe National Park, Botswana

Victoria Falls and Chobe National Park are two of southern Africa’s most remarkable destinations. Together they represent the perfect combination of landscapes and wildlife, and showcase everything that’s magical about southern Africa’s alluring charm.

Available with **In Search of the Big Five, Namibian Rail Safari, South African Rail Discovery, Spectacular South Africa and Very Best of South Africa** tours



See pages:
18-25; 34-41; 42-49; 50-59; 60-71

Day 1: Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe), 3 nights
A morning flight takes us to Victoria Falls. Upon arrival, we meet our local guide and transfer to either the Ilala Lodge, or Palm River Hotel. This afternoon, join a sunset cruise on the Zambezi. **Breakfast included**

Day 2: Victoria Falls
Victoria Falls is a spectacular sight of awe-inspiring beauty on the Zambezi River, and this morning we enjoy a walking tour. Afternoon at leisure. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 3: Victoria Falls Freedom Day
A Freedom Day in Victoria Falls to spend as you please. There are many optional excursions to enjoy, or perhaps just marvel once more at the falls. **Breakfast included**

Day 4: Chobe National Park (Botswana), 3 nights
A short drive takes us to Chobe. Later we venture into Chobe National Park to enjoy a wildlife cruise. The banks of the Chobe

Above: Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe
Below: Hippopotamus, Chobe National Park, Botswana

River draw animals in their hordes, as they congregate to drink. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 5: Chobe National Park
Early this morning we head out on an exhilarating game drive. Chobe is teeming with wildlife; look out for the blue wildebeest, Cape buffalo, hyena, and crocodile. Later in the day we join another game drive prior to dinner. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 6: Chobe National Park
There is the option of a further game drive this morning for those who wish. We complete our day with a spectacular sunset cruise on the Chobe River. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 7: Depart Chobe
This morning, we make our way back to Victoria Falls Airport in time for our flight to Johannesburg. Our onward flight to London Heathrow departs this evening. **Breakfast, in-flight dinner and drinks included**

Your Victoria Falls and Chobe National Park holiday extension includes:
All inclusions as outlined in the Victoria Falls holiday extension on page 73, as well as all the inclusions outlined in the Chobe National Park extension on page 74.

2024 & 2025 Departures
All dates **£2,855** per person
Single occupancy supplement £495



Rovos Rail

The Most Luxurious Train in the World



Observation balcony



Above: Pullman turndown; Below: Lunch starter



Bar service



Stepping off the train



For more than 30 years, family-run Rovos Rail has operated rail journeys through some of South Africa's most stunning scenery, in a style redolent of a bygone era of elegance and a spirit of African exploration.

Still overseen by Rohan and Anthea Vos, Rovos Rail's ethos is to share their love of the romance of rail travel with their guests by offering wonderful rail itineraries through Southern Africa.

Today, as you step aboard the beautifully restored vintage wood-panelled coaches and experience discreet and friendly service, top cuisine and a selection of South Africa's finest wines, you too can discover the delights of rail travel, on board Rovos Rail, dubbed 'the most luxurious train in the world'.

On our African Rail Adventure, Namibian Rail Safari and South African Rail Discovery tours, you can enjoy many incredible nights on Rovos Rail, visiting different countries across southern Africa, and providing memories to last a lifetime.

Distant Journeys also offers the opportunity to join Rovos Rail on our Spectacular South Africa tour. Travelling from Durban to Pretoria over three days, enjoy 800kms of wonderful scenery and fascinating excursions, on this all-inclusive and unforgettable experience.

Your exquisite suite

The beautifully rebuilt trains carry a maximum of 72 passengers in 36 superbly-appointed suites. These wood-panelled carriages have all been remodelled and refurbished to pristine condition, with period Edwardian features combined with all modern amenities; a cosy, comfortable retreat and home-from-home at the end of a fabulous day exploring the wonders of Southern Africa.

Pullman Suites (7m²)

Distant Journeys' guests will be accommodated in comfortable Pullman Suites. These suites can be configured with double or twin beds (side-by-side or upper and lower bunks).

Deluxe Suites (10m²)

The Deluxe Suites are slightly larger and include their own seating area and bar fridge, which will be filled with on-board beverages of your choice.

Royal Suite (16m²)

The largest of the suites available, The Royal Suites each take up half a carriage with their own private lounge area and en-suite bathroom with Victorian bath.

All suites feature the following facilities

- Double or twin beds
- Private en suite bathroom with shower, washbasin and toilet
- Bathrobe and slippers
- Tea-making facilities
- Power outlets including USB ports
- Safe
- Air-conditioning

Life on board Rovos Rail

Savour life in the slow lane throughout your journey. In keeping with the spirit of a bygone era, there are no radios or television sets on board; fewer distractions make for more relaxation. The use of mobiles is confined to the privacy of your personal suites.

During the daytime on Rovos Rail, guests mingle and socialise in the lounge car and observation car, whose big picture windows allow you to soak up the spectacular scenery.

In keeping with the stylish ambience, days on board are smart casual, with safari clothing and cool linens a popular choice, while evening attire is a little more formal. Enjoy the opportunity to dress up to the nines and revel in the elegance of the evening.



Couple dining

Observation and Lounge Cars

Rovos Rail's observation and lounge cars are the social hub of the train. The comfy sofas and cosy booths are ideal for chatting with friends or whiling away the hours in peace and quiet. Large picture windows make the most of the expansive landscapes, and guests can step out onto the open-air balcony to savour the fresh African air.

Elegant dining

Delicious food and drinks take centre stage on your all-inclusive Rovos Rail journey. An enthusiastic team of chefs take great pride in ensuring guests' every need is catered for, with an accent on fresh local ingredients and traditional speciality dishes as well as international favourites.

The striking of a gong heralds the start of service for lunch and dinner; the tables are set with crisp linens and sparkling crystal glasses and each delicious course is complemented with a selection of the finest South African wines. Both lunch and dinner are four-course meals, and the well-stocked bar is open from morning to late at night.

Sit back and take a traditional afternoon tea as some of the most varied scenery imaginable unfolds beyond the windows, and after dinner, the Lounge Car is where guests relax with a nightcap before bed.

Inclusions

- All-inclusive dining, including breakfast, lunch, dinner and afternoon tea
- All-inclusive wines, beers, spirits and non-alcoholic beverages
- All off-train experiences



The Blue Train A Window to the Soul of Africa



Lounge car



Above: Turndown service; Below: High tea



The Blue Train with Table Mountain



Relaxing on board

The Blue Train has been synonymous with luxury and hospitality since 1946. Its distinctive sapphire-blue carriages streaking through the spectacular scenery of South Africa.

Born of a dream to build a railway that would snake its way the entire length of the continent from Cape Town to Cairo, through the uncharted African interior, The Blue Train was originally named the Union Express. The plans were thwarted as the Great African Railway reached only as far as a bridge across the Zambezi River, overlooking the thundering smoke of Victoria Falls. However, The Blue Train grew its reputation as a 'Palace on Wheels' as it plied its route between Pretoria and Cape Town.

Today, The Blue Train epitomises luxury railway travel, marrying traditional discreet elegance and excellence with modern amenities and comforts.

Distant Journeys' Very Best of South Africa tour includes The Blue Train's two-night journey between Pretoria and Cape Town, a 31-hour expedition of 904 miles, through some of the most diverse and spectacular scenery offered by the African sub-continent.

Your comfortable suite

The Blue Train carries a maximum of 82 guests and offers a choice of two elegantly furnished suite categories; Deluxe or Luxury. Both suite types offer a spacious and relaxing lounge by day and a peaceful sanctuary by night, with goose-down pillows and cotton bed linen making for a blissful night's sleep. A personal butler is on hand 24 hours a day, to ensure that you have everything you need to make your journey on board The Blue Train the most perfect experience.

Deluxe Suites (8m²)

Distant Journey's guests will be accommodated in a wonderful and extremely comfortable Deluxe Suite.

Luxury Suites (10.25m²)

Offering more space, the delightful Luxury Suites benefit from bath tubs and a digital entertainment system, complete with a selection of music CDs and movies on Blue-Ray DVD.

All suites feature the following facilities

- Double or twin beds
- Private en-suite marble bathroom with luxury toiletries
- Air-conditioning
- Underfloor heating
- GPS system and TV monitor track the train's progress

Life on board The Blue Train

Life on the The Blue Train is slow, allowing guests to surrender to the luxury of their surroundings and watch the magnificent South African landscape unfold. On board guests can be assured of personal attentive service from a dedicated butler, comfortable suites, exquisite fine-dining and excellent wines.

Linking the suites are the Lounge and Club Cars, ideal for an aperitif, an interlude between meals, or an after-dinner conversation. Meet with new-found friends, or simply watch the ever-changing scenery pass by. Along your journey there is an off-train excursion to the once active diamond town of Kimberley.

To add to the stylish ambience on board The Blue Train, as the evening descends, the day's smart-casual dress code gives way to elegant evening wear. An opportunity to dress up to the nines so synonymous with luxury travel of yesteryear.

Dining Car

Dinner is a feast for all the senses, the tables in the Dining Car laid with crisp Irish linen and twinkling crystal glassware ready for an array of local cuisine and finest Cape wines. The background music provided by the Soweto String Quartet blends with the hum of lively conversation and the chinking of glasses. The talented team of chefs offers a changing menu of fine dining, using local produce and the freshest ingredients to serve meals that will live long in the memory.

Inclusions

- All-inclusive dining, including breakfast, lunch, dinner and afternoon tea
- All-inclusive wines, beers, spirits and non-alcoholic beverages



Attentive service on board

Africa Hotel Directory



Umhlanga – Beverly Hills Hotel



Balule Private Game Reserve – Greenfire Game Lodge

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The remote Greenfire Game Lodge is set in the 50,000-hectare, privately-owned Balule Nature Reserve, adjacent to the greater Kruger National Park. The ecological diversity within the reserve ensures that good game sightings are guaranteed. Accommodation is in well-appointed, twin-bedded chalets, each with en-suite bathroom, and isolated from each other in the riverine canopy. Each has its own viewing deck, while the central lodge offers panoramic views from the shady veranda, a comfortable lounge, and sun deck with an alluring swimming pool.



Bayala Private Game Reserve – Bayala Private Safari Lodge & Camp

Local rating: ★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Bayala Safari Lodge and Camp is a welcoming, stylish retreat set in the vast wilderness of the ancient kingdom of Zululand. Chances abound to see an array of wildlife – including the ‘Big Five’ and more – knowing that at the end of the day you will return to your welcoming lodge. Modern guest rooms have a cool, calming décor and local artworks on the walls, as well as en-suite bathrooms with walk-in showers. Dining is a relaxed affair, enjoyed in the stylish lodge or al fresco under the starry African skies.



Cape Town – Camps Bay Retreat

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Camps Bay Retreat is a true hidden gem with views across the Atlantic Ocean and the peaks of the Twelve Apostles Mountain Range. Set amongst four acres of a verdant green nature reserve in the delightful Cape Town suburb of Camps Bay, it boasts three swimming pools and a spa for an unforgettable wellness experience. Bella’s is the in-house restaurant offering local, organic ingredients to excite its guests. Each room is decorated in a unique style featuring natural charm and old-world allure.



Cape Town – The Cullinan

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Located in the heart of Cape Town’s waterfront area, the Cullinan is minutes away from the renowned Victoria & Alfred Waterfront and Table Bay, and only a short journey into central Cape Town . All rooms are luxurious and spacious and have commanding views of either the city, Table Mountain, the harbour or the Atlantic Ocean. The hotel features an à la carte restaurant, an outdoor pool, a gym, 24-hour room service and a lavish bar.



Cape Town – The President Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The President Hotel is located just a three-minute walk from Queens Beach, and both the terrace bar and the infinity pool offer stunning panoramic views of the Atlantic Ocean and Lion’s Head Mountain. Guest rooms are bright and contemporary, with flat screen TVs, air conditioning and convenient kitchenettes. The Island Restaurant serves everything from delicious buffet breakfasts to authentic wood-fired pizzas and locally sourced dishes. Meanwhile, The Deck Bar & Terrace is the place to kick back and enjoy an ice-cold drink and light snack.



Chobe National Park, Botswana – Cresta Mowana Safari Resort & Spa

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Cresta Mowana Safari Lodge & Spa boasts an idyllic location on the banks of the Chobe River, where no less than four countries meet. It is ideally placed as a springboard to venture out into the sublime surroundings, while the resort itself provides an oasis of comfort and style in which to relax. Resort facilities include a swimming pool, nine-hole golf course and fitness centre, and guest rooms are well-equipped with river-facing balconies. Enjoy all-day dining at Serondella Restaurant and relax with a drink at Savuti cocktail bar.



Dinokeng Game Reserve – Mongena Private Game Lodge

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Mongena Private Game Lodge is located in the malaria-free ‘Big Five’ Dinokeng Game Reserve, with an 8,000-hectare private traversing area within the 18,500 hectares of the Reserve. All of Mongena’s chalets are well-appointed with private bathroom, tea and coffee facilities, room safe and hairdryer. All chalets are well positioned amidst rolling lawns and indigenous landscaping – complete with roaming zebras, nyalas and springboks – and close to the Tshukudu breakfast restaurant, Kingfisher a la carte Restaurant, pool and Tshukudu bar area.



Dullstroom – Walkersons Hotel and Spa

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Set in the softly undulating hills of Mpumalanga, Walkersons Hotel and Spa gives visitors a heavenly experience and reassuring sense of Scottish Highland hospitality whilst unmistakably partaking in all that is South African. Rooms combine elegance and a rustic aesthetic with breath-taking views, a private patio and fireplace. The aptly named Flying Scotsman Restaurant, reminiscent of a Highland Castle, offers a truly first-class dining experience.



Franschhoek – L’Ermitage Franschhoek Chateau & Villas

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Surrounded by the majestic mountains of the Cape Winelands, you will find L’Ermitage Chateau & Villas. Expect sophisticated décor, crisp linens and splendid views from your private balcony. Each suite is decorated with custom furnishings and warm textures to create an inviting atmosphere. Enjoy a hearty breakfast in the restaurant on site and then for your other meals, Franschhoek is your oyster. Home to some of South Africa’s best restaurants, you won’t run out of places to experience.

Africa Hotel Directory



Franschhoek – Protea Hotel by Marriott

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Protea Hotel by Marriott is a historic property in the charming town of Franschhoek. Parts of the hotel date back to the 1880s and its spacious guest rooms are infused with a De Stijl style and an arty edge. After a day touring the vineyards, golf courses and restaurants of the surrounding area, the Protea is the perfect retreat. Guests can relax in the hotel's garden and swimming pool and enjoy dinner at the Hussar Grill, serving prime South African steaks and a superb selection of local wines.



Hazyview – Sabi River Sun Resort

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Sabi River Sun Resort is a destination in its own right, set in extensive grounds with an 18-hole golf course offering stunningly scenic views over the resort's hippo dam, all just a stone's throw away from the Kruger National Park. The modern, air-conditioned guest rooms combine a wild safari location with modern hotel comforts, not to mention picturesque views over the lush gardens. Sesonke Restaurant offers a selection of favourites, including hearty dishes with an African flair and locally sourced ingredients.



Hluhluwe – Zulu Nyala Heritage Safari Lodge

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Originally built in the 1940's and lovingly restored to its original colonial grandeur with tasteful themes to highlight Zululand's unique cultural heritage, Zulu Nyala Heritage Safari Lodge offers guests a unique stay. Enjoy buffet-style dining and a well-stocked bar in the Boma restaurant as well as a traditional Zulu Cultural Village on site. There is also a small library, a little shop full of curios and local impala, nyala and warthog roam freely, so keep an eye out!



Johannesburg – Protea by Marriot Hotel Johannesburg Balalaika Sandton

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Protea Balalaika is a peaceful hotel with a country feel offering easy access to the tourist attractions of Sandton, including nearby Nelson Mandela Square, Sandton City Mall and Johannesburg Zoo. Guest rooms are stylish, tranquil, spacious, and decorated in an English country style. There are two outdoor pools set in lovely grounds, along with a fitness centre. The Bull Run Restaurant is a New York-style steak house, while breakfast is served in The Conservatory, overlooking the lush gardens.



Karongwe Private Game Reserve – Chisomo Safari Camp

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Excellent Big Five game viewing awaits at Chisomo Safari Camp, aptly meaning "blessings". Overlooking the Makhutsi River, deep in the Big Five Karongwe Game Reserve, your safari camp offers a warm atmosphere with 22 luxury tented suites, each with ensuite and your own veranda. The camp is perfectly situated for game drives in search of wildlife followed by a sundowner as the sun sets over the magnificent Drakensberg Mountains. Other activities on offer include star-gazing, traditional cooking experience and gin tasting.



Knysna – Protea by Marriott Hotel Knysna Quays

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

With a sapphire lagoon at its feet, its location at the heart of the Garden Route and excellent rooms, the Protea Hotel Knysna offers travellers a first-class experience. The hotel sits on the Knysna Quays Waterfront, the ideal location to enjoy uninterrupted views of the lagoon. Its spacious rooms are decorated in warm earthy tones, and the hotel has a heated outdoor swimming pool and a wellness centre. Diners are spoilt for choice, with several fantastic places to eat within easy walking distance.



Knysna – Simola Country Estate

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Travelling along South Africa's famous Garden Route you will find Knysna and the warm welcome of Simola Hotel. Perched on top of Simola hill offers guests breathtaking views as you enjoy the air-conditioned rooms sophisticated en-suite interiors. Two restaurants aim to please every taste, from The Simola Club House offering signature dishes from across the globe and Lungalo Restaurant, glass walled on three sides offering beautiful views of the lagoon.



Kruger – Kruger Gate Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Kruger Gate Hotel is ideally situated on the banks of the Sabi River, nestled amongst the verdant, peaceful woodland. All guest rooms have en-suite bathrooms, air conditioning and complimentary WiFi. Guests can enjoy game viewing from the hotel's stunning infinity pool and savour sumptuous dining beneath the vast African skies accompanied by the crackle of wood fires. Dinner at Lapa Restaurant is a splendid affair, with a range of local and international cuisine laid out under a canopy of stars.



Makalali – Makalali Private Game Reserve

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Makalali Private Game Reserve is an ethnic retreat lying on 26,000 hectares of bushveld in South Africa's north-eastern Lowveld. Makalali boasts 'Big Five' wildlife spotting, along with cheetah, giraffe, zebra and kudu. The Lodge is newly built, with air-conditioned en-suite rooms featuring luxurious interiors with classic leather and wood furnishings. Guests can enjoy an array of African cuisine in its central dining area, while the outside Boma is ideal for an evening under the African sky.



Oudtshoorn – Hlangana Lodge

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Located on the golden mile in Oudtshoorn, Hlangana Lodge is a boutique Victorian hotel set amongst a beautiful exotic garden, decorated to highlight South African culture. Relax on a deckchair by the saltwater pool with a drink in hand, enjoy the immaculately kept gardens or sunbathe on your veranda. Rooms are contemporary, each with its own veranda, 24hr room service and next day laundry service. Continental buffet breakfast is served each morning in the sun-drenched breakfast room or on the patio.



Oudtshoorn – Queen's Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Queen's Hotel is the third-oldest hotel in South Africa and an oasis of elegance and charm in the centre of Oudtshoorn. The en-suite guest rooms all have WiFi, air-conditioning and satellite TV, and the hotel has a secluded courtyard garden plus a wonderful outdoor pool. Dine at the upstairs Colony Restaurant and enjoy a menu packed with South African specialities and signature dishes.



Pretoria – Irene Country Lodge

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Centrally located between Johannesburg and Pretoria, Irene Country Lodge is an oasis of tranquility set in beautiful lakeside gardens surrounded by the Cambedoo Forest. Rooms are comfortably furnished with local mahogany conveying an authentic South African ambience, and the shimmering outdoor pool is the perfect place to relax in the African sunshine.

Africa Hotel Directory



Swakopmund – Swakopmund Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

When visiting the Skeleton Coast of Namibia, the Swakopmund Hotel is a hidden gem. With striking German architecture, and housed in the town's old station building, your stay will take you back to a bygone era. With bright and spacious rooms all featuring air-conditioning, television, tea/coffee making facilities and ensuite bathroom the hotel also features a casino, swimming pool and cinema. There are three restaurants ranging from gourmet a la carte Platform One to lighter meals at the Whistlestop Café.



Umhlanga – Beverly Hills Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Since 1964 the award-winning Beverly Hills Hotel has been offering guests the very best in service, comfort and blissful views out over the Indian Ocean. All guest rooms have private ocean-view balconies and are bright and comfortable. The Sugar Club restaurant is open for all-day dining and cocktails are always available in Elements Café Bar. Meanwhile, the pool area is an idyllic place to relax and enjoy the ocean breeze.



Umhlanga – The Capital Pearls Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Perfectly located, only minutes walking distance to Umhlanga's main beach, The Capital Pearls exudes clean and modern interiors for a relaxing stay. Guests can enjoy a dip in the pool with ocean views or visit the wellness centre to unwind. Rooms are equipped with a flat-screen TV, private bathroom, air conditioning and free WiFi. A buffet breakfast is offered each morning with plentiful dining options within walking distance.



Victoria Falls – Ilala Lodge Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Ilala Lodge Hotel is a family-run hotel set amid beautifully landscaped gardens, ideally located just an eight-minute walk from the world-famous Victoria Falls. Each air-conditioned guest room at Ilala Lodge features golden honey teak furnishings and has its own balcony or patio from which to admire the wildlife. Hotel facilities include a large outdoor pool and sun terrace, while The Palm Restaurant offers all-day and al fresco dining under starry African skies, surrounded by the sound of the distant thunder of Victoria Falls.



Victoria Falls – Insika Lodge

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Insika Lodge, a modern boutique lodge of only 40 rooms, sits in a beautiful location among the Mapone trees, surrounded by streams, ponds and waterholes. The main lodge area comprises of expansive decks, a firepit, bar and deli and it's exquisitely decorated, well appointed rooms offer a rare African Elegance. Relax in the onsite infinity pool, or unwind at the spa and sauna.



Victoria Falls – Palm River Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

With an idyllic location on the banks of the Zambezi River and a short distance from the thundering Victoria Falls, the Palm River Hotel offers guests a tranquil space with well-appointed furnishings, uniquely designed rooms and a delightful dining hall that opens out onto a riverfront vista. Choose to dine outside under a canopy of indigenous trees from a menu of fresh, local ingredients. Take a dip in the infinity pool or visit the hotel's spa.

Our Airline Partners

Fly with award-winning scheduled airlines

Distant Journeys appreciate how important it is to make sure your holiday starts and ends in the best possible way. Our award-winning airline partner, British Airways, offers great quality and comfort in Economy Class cabins, which are all the more important when travelling long haul.

Make your holiday even more memorable with a flight upgrade. With priority check-in, lounge access and spacious comfortable seats, it will take your flying experience to a new level of comfort and service.



World Traveller

World Traveller, British Airways economy service is packed with comfort and benefits. Your seat is ergonomically designed and a whole world of entertainment awaits you with an on-demand service. Naturally, your experience includes complimentary drinks and a delicious assortment of meals designed by world renowned chefs.



Upgrade to World Traveller Plus from £1,395 return

World Traveller Plus is British Airways' long-haul premium economy service, providing a more comfortable, relaxing experience. In addition to enjoying wider seats, more legroom and a personal amenity kit, you'll also be able to enjoy a recently enhanced cabin, which includes a stylish new quilt and cushion, a bespoke menu and signature cocktails.

- Wider seat with greater recline, lumbar support, head rest and foot rest
- Small, intimate cabins with expert, attentive service
- Personal entertainment system with noise-reducing headphones
- Priority boarding
- Amenity kit



Upgrade to Club World from £3,895 return

Club World offers superior levels of comfort and service. Enjoy your own space with a seat which converts into a 6ft fully flat bed. Inspired by some of the world's top chefs, the Club World restaurant style dining combines irresistible local and international flavours to create a mouth-watering experience every time.

- Access to private lounges
- Dedicated check-in desks, fast track security and priority boarding
- Complimentary Elemis treatments available at London Heathrow lounge
- An array of indulgent treats and healthy options from the Club Kitchen that you can help yourself to, throughout the flight
- Luxury bedding and amenity kit by The White Company

Important information: Prices shown are for return flights and are supplements to the individual tour price. Prices are subject to the availability of flights and may change. However, the correct price will always be confirmed before you book. Images shown are representative of the product and may vary dependant on the aircraft type. Seat pitch is dependent on the aircraft type. World Traveller Plus and Club World are for long haul services.

Important Information

We recommend that you read our Important Information, together with our Booking Conditions before booking your holiday.

Entry requirements

The following information on entry requirements, passports and visas is for British Citizens only. Any visa information covers visa requirements for the duration our tour stays in any given country. If you intend to stay longer you should seek additional information before booking.

Holders of a British Subject passport, non-British citizens and holders of a passport endorsed in any way should check immigration requirements with the relevant embassy or consulate of the country to be visited, as should clients with dual nationality or renounced citizenship.

It is important to recognise that whilst the information below is correct at the time we go to print, all requirements may change, and all clients must check the up-to-date position in good time before departure with the Embassy or consulate of the country(ies) you are travelling through and to.

We also suggest referring to the UK government's Foreign Travel Advice website gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice for advice about travelling abroad, including the latest information on safety and security, entry requirements and travel warnings.

Passports

A valid ten-year British passport is required for all our holidays, valid for a minimum of six months after your return date to the UK. If you are not currently in possession of a valid passport, please make sure you leave plenty of time before your holiday to apply for this document.

A full British passport presently takes approximately up to 10 weeks to obtain. If you are 16 or over and have not yet arranged a passport, you should apply for one at least 10 weeks before your departure from the UK. The UK Passport Service must confirm an applicant's identity before issuing their first passport and will ask them to attend an interview to do this. Please note, if you need to apply for visas after you receive your new passport, you will need to factor in additional time for this.

For more information on passport and entry requirements please visit the Government Passport Office website or see our website for more details.

Visas

This table provides a quick guide, for British Citizens, to which countries require a visa. If visas are required it is highly recommended you allow for a minimum of two blank pages per visa required, three if travelling to Zimbabwe. If a visa is being purchased locally, we recommend you have the correct amount, in the relevant currency, as change is not always available.

Country	Visa required	Cost
Botswana	No	
eSwatini	No	
Mozambique	No	R200 administration cost payable to Rovos Rail
Namibia	No	
South Africa	No	
Zimbabwe	Yes	USD \$55 per person for a single entry USD \$70 per person for a double entry

Applying for your visa

The below information provides guidance on how to apply for your visa. Alternatively, if you would prefer to have assistance with your visa and have the application process managed by a visa company, we recommend The Visa Travel Company.

The below information provides guidance on how to apply for your visa. For more detailed information along with useful links to the Foreign Office please refer to the FAQ section of our website.

Botswana

Currently a visa is not required for any travellers entering Botswana. **Important:** If travelling to Botswana, as we enter/depart via Zimbabwe, please also refer to information on Zimbabwe visas.

eSwatini

Currently a visa is not required for any travellers entering eSwatini.

Mozambique

A visa is not required for Mozambique if staying for less than 30 days. A entry fee of 650 Mozambican meticals is payable to enter the country. Rovos Rail will handle on your behalf for an estimated cost of R200 per person.

Namibia

Currently a visa is not required for any travellers entering Namibia.

South Africa

Currently a visa is not required for any travellers entering South Africa.

Zimbabwe

If travelling to Zimbabwe a visa is required.

If you are extending your holiday to Victoria Falls your visa can be arranged on arrival at Victoria Falls Airport, together with payment. If you are travelling to Victoria Falls on our African Rail Adventure, Rovos Rail will help facilitate whilst travelling onboard.

If you are only planning to visit Victoria Falls a single entry visa will be required. However, if you are considering taking our day excursion to Chobe National Park from Victoria Falls, or are booking our Chobe, or Victoria Falls & Chobe Holiday extension you must purchase a double entry visa for Zimbabwe.

NOTE: Entry requirements may change and it is your responsibility to ensure you are in possession of all necessary travel, passport, visa, and other entry requirements before departure. All costs incurred in obtaining such documentation must be paid by you. We regret we cannot accept any liability if you are refused entry onto any transport or into any country due to failure on your part to obtain and carry all required documentation.

Health & vaccinations

Health facilities, hygiene and disease risks vary worldwide and may change at any time. You should take health advice from your GP or local travel clinic about your specific needs as early as possible and ensure that vaccinations or preventative measures are taken early enough (which may be a month or more prior to departure) to be fully effective by the date of travel.

In addition to the UK government's own travel advice website, we also recommend visiting the NHS Travel Vaccinations website, nhs.uk/conditions/travel-vaccinations for more information any required vaccinations.

Travel insurance

We highly recommend that you take out sufficient and appropriate travel insurance. We recommend you do this at the time of booking so that in the event of cancellation, providing it is covered by your policy, your deposit (less any applicable excess) is protected. Distant Journeys work alongside Staysure to offer you a range of comprehensive single trip and annual multi-trip insurance policies.

Staysure™

Distant Journeys customers will benefit from a 15% saving on the base premium of Annual-Multi Trip or Single Trip policies booked through our insurance partner Staysure. For a no obligation quotation, call Staysure on Freephone 0800 652 1125, and quote reference DJIS to be eligible for the 15% saving. Alternatively, visit our website distantjourneys.co.uk/insurance

Medication and pre-existing conditions

If you have any pre-existing medical conditions or walking difficulties, you should inform us at the time of booking. It is your responsibility to ensure that any medication you are carrying is permitted to be taken into the countries you are visiting. We recommend you consult with your GP and relevant embassy before booking or travelling. Always carry medicines in their original, labelled packaging and in your hand-luggage along with a copy of your prescription. Whilst we recommend only carrying enough for the duration of your time away, a small spare supply can be useful. Check that the expiry dates of your medicines will be valid for the duration of your visit abroad.

Mobility on tour

Many of our itineraries include sightseeing tours which involve walking for medium to long periods of time and over uneven surfaces. Steps may also feature, either as part of a tour or within your accommodation. For your enjoyment we recommend a reasonable level of fitness and mobility is required for all tours.

Due to the limited accessibility to many of the sights and restrictions on included activities, our tours are generally not suitable for wheelchair bound customers or customers with restricted walking abilities. Both Rovos Rail and the Blue Train are unfortunately unable to accommodate the use of wheelchairs on their trains.

If you are in any doubt of the suitability of any of our tours, or have reduced mobility in any way, it is essential you discuss this with us before making a booking.

Travel documents

On payment of a deposit, your holiday is confirmed, and we will send you your confirmation email. It is important you check this email as soon as you receive it. Check the tour name and departure date is correct, check names exactly match your passport and familiarise yourself with the times of your flights. If anything is incorrect, please call us immediately.

Travel documents, which include electronic air tickets, helpful information, and a final itinerary, can be accessed using the Distant Journeys app, approximately 2-3 weeks prior to your departure. Luggage labels will be sent at the same time.

Weather

Below is a guide on the typical weather you can expect whilst on tour, however it is important to note that climates may vary between different regions. Note: Weather patterns are generally becoming less predictable so the information we provide should be used as a guide only and is no guarantee of the weather at the time you travel. We also recommend checking up-to-date weather forecasts before you travel.

Botswana

The weather is generally hot and humid, with daytime temperatures in Chobe rarely dropping below 30°C, although the evenings and early mornings tend to be cooler. June and July tend to be a few degrees cooler with daytime temperatures in the mid to high twenties. December through to March see the most rainfall within Chobe, characterised by downpours in the afternoon.

eSwatini

eSwatini's (formerly Swaziland) summer is October-April. Generally, during this period whilst hot and sometimes wet the vegetation is green and there is abundant birdlife. The dry winter months run from May to October. Winter mornings and evenings can be chilly, dropping as low as 5°C June-July.

Mozambique

Mozambique has a subtropical climate. The dry season lasts from April to December, with temperatures between 25°C and 32°C, the rainy season runs January to March, when you can expect slightly higher temperatures and an increase in humidity.

Namibia

Expect temperatures from 25°C to 30°C during the day in the cooler months of April and May, with little or no rainfall and low humidity. Early morning and evening temperatures will drop to around 13°C or lower. Rain is most likely to occur in the form of afternoon downpours in March and November. Daytime temperatures rise to around 30°C, but with humidity still generally low in these months.

South Africa

In the Western Cape areas of Cape Town and the Garden Route, summers tend to be warm, cooled by ocean breezes, with rain falling occasionally. Umhlanga and Bayala, found in KwaZulu-Natal can have very hot summers. Johannesburg and Pretoria are situated at altitude on the highveld plateau and generally enjoy a hot climate with the occasional thunderstorm. Due to the altitude evenings can be a little cooler. Kruger is likely to be hot with occasional thunderstorms in the late afternoon and early evening.

Zimbabwe

September to November marks the end of the dry season and the weather is generally hot and humid. The falls are at their lowest level, which gives excellent visibility from the Zimbabwe side. Rains in late October and November transform the terrain into a lush, green oasis. In January to March the height of the summer and rainy season can produce dramatic thunderstorms in the afternoons. The falls are in full flow, although some views can be limited due to the mist produced by the falls.

Clothing

Dress for our tours is generally relaxed and informal during the day, dressing to suit the weather conditions and the activity you are undertaking. Evening dinners are also informal, with smart casual dress being the norm. Whilst on safari in Africa, is it recommended to wear natural colours such as khaki, green or beige as bright colours can attract insects and cause diversions for the wildlife.

It's likely there will be occasions when exploring you'll be walking on uneven surfaces, so we recommend sturdy and comfortable walking shoes. Wearing layers of clothing means it's much easier to deal with potentially varied weather conditions – remember it will be cooler at higher altitudes - and it's always advisable to carry a waterproof, good insect repellent, a high factor sunscreen lotion and a hat for protection from the sun.

Rovos Rail and The Blue Train: If travelling on Rovos Rail, or the Blue Train, evening attire is more formal – for gentlemen, a jacket and tie is a minimum requirement, while for ladies a cocktail / evening dress or suit is suggested. On our multi-day rail tours there will be occasional themed evenings where guests can dress up accordingly or opt for smart casual.

Bear in mind some countries you will visit adopt a more conservative standard of dress than we are used to in the UK. When visiting sacred places, it is recommended that arms and legs are covered. Women may also wish to take a shawl to cover their shoulders and all visitors should wear long trousers, or skirts or shorts that reach below the knee. Taking off your shoes is also a prerequisite before entering many sacred places.

Currency, credit cards and currency cards

Country	Currency	Additional information
Botwana	Botswana Pula	Botswana Pula cannot be obtained before entering Botswana
Eswatini	Swazi Lilangeni	South African Rand is widely accepted
Mozambique	Mozambican metical	South African Rand and US Dollars are widely accepted
Namibia	Namibian Dollar	South African Rand is widely accepted
South Africa	Rand	
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe Dollar	Zimbabwe dollar cannot be obtained before entering Zimbabwe

If travelling on our African Rail Adventure when visiting eSwatini and Mozambique, USD will be accepted. When travelling on our Namibian Rail Safari, South African Rand will be accepted whilst on Rovos Rail.

No matter which country you are travelling to please take note of the following general advice:

- ATMs are generally available in major cities, less so in rural areas.
- Credit cards are generally widely accepted in the majority of hotels, cruises, larger international restaurants and shops, although be aware credit card payments may incur an additional fee.
- If purchasing small items or purchasing from local shops, restaurants and markets, local currency is always recommended.
- Outside of major cities, with the exception of hotels, local currency is always recommended.
- If you are planning to use your debit or credit card whilst travelling, advise your bank of your travel plans in advance so you do not encounter potential problems when trying to withdraw cash or make a payment.
- When you change money, ask for some small bills and keep these, along with coins separate from the larger ones, so that they're readily accessible. Carrying small notes and coins separately is also handy for tipping.
- It is always worth carrying a small amount of UK Sterling or US Dollars as these can always be readily exchanged.
- Keep your exchange receipts as these may be needed if you want to exchange any remaining currency you have at the end of your trip.

Currency Cards

In addition to using Travel Credit cards and Debit cards, a currency card is also a popular way of buying currency for your holiday. You can preload these before leaving the UK and many also o er advantageous exchange rates. If travelling to multiple countries, different currencies can be loaded and used for card payments or ATM cash withdrawals.

We recommend the Revolut card, which offers 150 currencies and enjoys favourable exchange rates, making it a perfect card to use for any card payments, such as hotels and restaurants. You can withdraw cash from ATMs whilst abroad, but there is a limit of £200 per month, before paying a 2% fee.

For further benefits on using currency cards and more information on Revolut please visit distantjourneys.co.uk/revolut-currency-card

Tippling

In Africa, it is customary to offer gratuities, particularly in the hospitality industry, as a way of showing your appreciation for good service. Tips remain discretionary, however if you are happy with the service you have received, we would suggest the following amounts:

- Tour Manager: R100 - R150 / USD \$5.00 - \$8.00 per person per day, up to a maximum of R1000 per couple
- Local Guide: R50 - R75 / USD \$3.00 - \$4.00 per person per day
- Driver: R50 - R75 / USD \$3.00 - \$4.00 per person per day, up to a maximum of R500 per couple

Safari's

- Ranger: R100 - R150 / USD \$5.00 - \$8.00 per person per day
- Tracker: R50 - R75 / USD \$3.00 - \$4.00 per person per day

In most safari camps, guides and trackers are tipped directly, with other staff usually sharing the proceeds of the 'general staff tip box'.

Rovos Rail & The Blue Train

- Between R100 - R150 / USD \$5.00 - \$8.00 per person per day

There will be a marked envelope in your suite that you can hand directly to the Train Manager who will distribute any amounts on a pro-rata basis among the staff on board.

Baggage allowance

You are entitled to carry one suitcase per person. Total dimensions for each piece must not exceed 158cm (62in) and weight must not exceed 20kg (44lbs). Dimensions for luggage are calculated by adding together the length, height and depth of the piece of baggage. In most instances this will be less than the airlines permitted allowance and is restricted to accommodate for coach and, or train capacity, domestic flights and where applicable local health and safety laws. We are unable to accommodate more than one suitcase per person, or any oversized pieces of luggage.

Personal and valuable items such as cameras, medication, money / credit cards etc. should be carried in a travel bag or on your person.

Airline seats

With many airlines you can pre-book your seats prior to check in to give you a wider choice of seat selection. Please note, many airlines now charge for this service. Pre-selected seating is not guaranteed and can be charged at the airlines discretion.

Domestic flights

All domestic flights within our tours are booked on a group basis. Your tour manager will fully assist with the check-in process for these flights.

Freedom Days

During your tour, you can book a range of additional optional excursions and activities. These are at an additional cost, subject to availability and seasonal operations, and may be subject to minimum/maximum numbers. When booking locally, in some countries these excursions can only be paid for in cash.Details on the Freedom Day experiences available for your tour, along with costs and information on how to book, may be found on our website alongside the itineraries of each individual tour.

Public holidays

On occasions some of our tours may be travelling during National or Public Holidays, some of which are religious. In some instances, this can mean a limitation of services, reduced opening hours for shops and restaurants and . that some attractions are much busier than normal.

Seat rotation on coaches

On group tours we offer a fair system of seat rotation to allow all passengers to experience a variety of views. Exceptions cannot be made to this policy.

Smoking

Smoking, including electronic cigarettes, is not allowed at any time onboard our coaches or any flight. Within hotels, smoking and the use of electronic cigarettes may be restricted to designated areas. We'll endeavour to ensure there are frequent stops on any coach trip, however we can't guarantee smoking facilities will always be available.

Tour Manager

An experienced English-speaking Tour Manager accompanies our Spectacular South Africa and Very Best of South Africa Holidays. They are there to ensure your comfort, answer your questions and make your holiday relaxed and memorable. If you are travelling on any of our multi-day railtours, your pre/post train journey will be managed by an English-speaking local guide/driver, pre and post your rail journey. Upon check-in with Rovos, you will be looked after by the Rovos Rail Train Manager and their crew. If travelling on our In Search of the Big Five you will be looked after by an English-speaking local driver/guide. If you are extending your holiday to Victoria Falls or Chobe you will be looked after by an experienced English-speaking local guide.

Power Cuts South Africa

The government in South Africa has ordered the national utility companies to implement a system of controlled power outages, known as load-shedding, to conserve supplies and increase capacity. These outages are in the form of a power cut, typically lasting only a few minutes but occasionally longer. The hotels used by Distant Journeys have back-up generators, so any disruption caused by load-shedding will be minimal.

Further information

The information provided here is as a general guide only. For more detailed information please refer to our FAQ section on our website distantjourneys.co.uk

Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements 2018

Part 1: General

The combination of travel services offered to you is a package within the meaning of the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018. Therefore you will benefit from all EU rights applying to the packages. We, Distant Journeys Limited, a company registered in England with company number 08994196 and registered office at 8 Hattersley Court, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 2AY, will be fully responsible for the proper performance of the package as a whole. Additionally, as required by law, we have protection in place to refund your payments and, where transport is included in the package, to ensure your repatriation in the event that we become insolvent.

Part 2: Key rights under the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018

- Travellers will receive all essential information about the package before concluding the package travel contract.
- There is always at least one trader who is liable for the proper performance of all the travel services included in the contract.
- Travellers are given an emergency telephone number or details of a contact point where they can get in touch with the organiser or the travel agent.
- Travellers may transfer the package to another person, on reasonable notice and possibly subject to additional costs.
- The price of the package may only be increased if specific costs rise (for instance fuel prices), and if expressly provided for in the contract, and in any event not later than 20 days before the start of the package. If the price increase exceeds 8% of the price of the package, the traveller may terminate the contract. If the organiser reserves the right to a price increase, the traveller has a right to a price reduction if there is a decrease in the relevant costs.
- Travellers may terminate the contract without paying any termination fee and get a full refund of any payments if any of the essential elements of the package, other than the price, has changed significantly. If before the start of the package the trader responsible for the package cancels the package, travellers are entitled to a refund and compensation where appropriate.
- Travellers may terminate the contract without paying any termination fee before the start of the package in the event of exceptional circumstances, for instance if there are serious security problems at the destination which are likely to affect the package.
- Additionally, travellers may at any time before the start of the package terminate the contract in return for an appropriate and justifiable termination fee.
- If, after the start of the package, significant elements of the package cannot be provided as agreed, suitable alternative arrangements will have to be offered to the traveller at no extra cost. Travellers may terminate the contract without paying any termination fee, where services are not performed in accordance with the contract and this substantially affects the performance of the package and the organiser fails to remedy the problem.
- Travellers are also entitled to a price reduction or compensation for damages or both where the travel services are not performed or are improperly performed.
- The organiser has to provide assistance if the traveller is in difficulty.
- If the organiser becomes insolvent, payments will be refunded. If the organiser becomes insolvent after the start of the package and if transport is included in the package, repatriation of the travellers is secured. Distant Journeys Limited has taken out insolvency protection for flight-only booking and flight inclusive packages by way of our Air Travel Organiser's Licence number 10913, issued by the Civil Aviation Authority, Gatwick Airport South, West Sussex, RH6 0YR, UK, telephone 0333 103 6350, email: claims@caa.co.uk. For package holidays which don't include flights, Distant Journeys provides full financial protection by way of a bond held by The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT) (ABTOT membership number 5427) and in the event of their insolvency. You may contact ABTOT'S 24/7 helpline on 01702 811397 and advise you are a customer of an ABTOT protected travel company. Travellers may contact this entity if services are denied because of Distant Journeys Limited's insolvency. Please see our Booking Conditions for further information.

Part 3: The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 can be found here:
legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/634/contents

Booking Conditions

Distant Journeys Booking Conditions. Published March 2024

1. Important

The following booking conditions together with our [Privacy Policy](#), the general information contained in our tour brochure and any other written information we brought to your attention before we confirmed your booking form the basis of your contract with Distant Journeys Limited, a company registered in England with company number 08994196 and registered office at 8 Hattersley Court, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 2AY ("we", "us", "our"). Please read them carefully as they set out our respective rights and obligations. By asking us to confirm your booking, we are entitled to assume that you have had the opportunity to read and have read these booking conditions and agree to them.

In these booking conditions references to "you" and "your" include the first named person on the booking and all persons on whose behalf a booking is made or any other person added to a booking or to whom a booking is transferred.

Except where otherwise stated, these booking conditions only apply to the tour arrangements shown in our brochure (including accommodation required both before and after your main holiday and activities and other services) which you book with us and pay for before departure from the UK and which we agree to make, provide or perform (as applicable) as part of our contract with you.

All references in these booking conditions to "holiday", "booking", "tour" or "arrangements" mean such tour arrangements unless otherwise stated. All bookings are made pursuant to these booking conditions. Please be aware that your deposit is non-refundable where you choose to cancel your holiday.

By making a booking, the first named person on the booking (the "lead name") agrees on behalf of all persons detailed on the booking that:

- he/she has read these booking conditions and has the authority to and does agree to be bound by them;
- he/she consents to our use of information and personal data in accordance with our [Privacy Policy](#) and is authorised on behalf of all persons named on the booking to disclose their personal details to us, including where applicable special categories of data (such as information on health conditions or disabilities and dietary requirements);
- he/she is over 18 years of age and resident in the United Kingdom and where placing an order for services with age restrictions declares that he/she and all members of the party are of the appropriate age to purchase those services;
- he/she accepts financial responsibility for payment of the booking on behalf of all persons detailed on the booking.

The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 will apply to your contract. For more information on your rights under these regulations please see the link www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/634/contents

2. In these booking conditions

- Any reference to an EU regulation in these booking conditions should be taken to mean the UK legislation which replaces (or has replaced) that EU regulation and/or any EU regulation which continues to have effect in the UK as a result of being incorporated into UK law (in all cases referred to as 'retained EU law'). Changes to retained EU law are likely to be made over time. Reference to any EU regulation in these booking conditions is intended to refer to the relevant retained EU law at the applicable time.
- Unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances means a situation which is beyond our control, the consequences of which could not have been avoided even if all reasonable measures had been taken. Such situations are likely to include (whether actual or threatened) war, riot, civil strife, terrorist activity, industrial dispute, natural disaster, fire, flood, an outbreak of a serious illness at your holiday destination, severe adverse weather conditions, closure, restriction or congestion of airports, other transport hubs or airspace, flight restrictions imposed by any regulatory authority or third party and any volcanic activity. Unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances also include the covid-19 pandemic and its impact on travel. When we refer to the covid-19 pandemic in these booking conditions, we mean the pandemic resulting from the illness or disease caused by the novel coronavirus which is now called severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and any mutations or variants of the same and/or any other coronavirus (and its mutations and variants) which is treated as part of the same pandemic and/or another pandemic however described.

3. Special requests / fitness to travel medical conditions / disabilities / reduced mobility / allergies / special dietary requirements

If you have any special request, you should advise us in writing at the time of booking. Although we will endeavour to pass any reasonable requests on to the relevant supplier, we regret we cannot guarantee any request will be met. Failure to meet any special request will not be a breach of contract on our part. Confirmation that a special request has been noted or passed on to the supplier or the inclusion of the special request on your confirmation invoice or any other documentation is not confirmation that the request will be met. All special requests are subject to availability and we cannot guarantee that your special request will be met.

Many of our itineraries include sightseeing tours which may involve walking for medium to long periods of time and over uneven surfaces. Steps may also feature, either as part of a tour or within your accommodation. Different modes of transport, such as safari vehicles, houseboats, sampans and rickshaws may also be used.

This is not an exhaustive list and it is therefore a condition of booking that you are fit and able to take care of yourself for the duration of the tour. You must have a level of fitness suitable for your chosen tour and must recognise that if you do have any disabilities or walking difficulties you may find access to certain attractions and/or parts of your tour restricted.

Our tours may not be suitable for people with certain disabilities, medical conditions or significantly reduced mobility. Before you make your booking, we will advise you as to whether the proposed holiday arrangements are generally suitable for someone with reduced mobility. However, reduced mobility of course means different things to different individuals as we fully appreciate that individual capabilities, restrictions and requirements are likely to vary considerably. When we refer to reduced mobility, this means any material reduction in mobility whether this is permanent or temporary and whether caused by age or by physical or mental disability or impairment or other cause of disability.

If you have any doubts about the suitability of a tour or should you suffer from any medical condition, disability, significant reduction in mobility or significant allergy which may affect your tour (including any which affect the booking process) or have any special requirements as a result, please tell us before you confirm your booking so that we can assist you in considering the suitability of the arrangements and/or making the booking. We will need to notify our suppliers to ensure that they can meet your needs. In any event, you must give us full details in writing at the time of booking and whenever any material change in your condition, disability or mobility occurs. You must also promptly advise us if any medical condition, disability, reduced mobility or significant allergy which may affect your holiday develops after your booking has been confirmed.

We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance to a customer for walking, dining, pushing their wheelchair, getting on and off motor coaches or other transportation vehicles or other personal needs. Therefore, customers who need such assistance, or customers with disabilities or special needs must be accompanied by a companion capable of providing all assistance required.

We may require a doctor's note to confirm that you are fit to travel if we have concerns about your ability to participate in a tour.

You must have travel insurance to cover any medical condition, disability, significant reduction in mobility or significant allergy.

Acting reasonably, if we or our suppliers are unable to properly accommodate the needs of the person(s) concerned, we will not confirm your booking or if you did not give us full details at the time of booking, we will cancel it and impose applicable cancellation charges when we become aware of these details. On occasion, the decision to cancel can only be made at the time the person concerned joins the tour as it may only be apparent at this stage that we cannot properly accommodate the needs of the person concerned. We will not be liable for any expenses arising from your being precluded from joining or completing the tour for any such reason and no refunds or compensation will be paid.

We will advise our suppliers of any allergy information you provide us with. However, you must take appropriate precautions to protect yourself whilst on holiday. Without limitation, it is your responsibility to ensure that any food you are intending to consume does not include anything to which you are allergic at the time you order or purchase this.

Please see further information relating to mobility aids and destination specific term by visiting the FAQ section of our website www.distantjourneys.co.uk/faqs

4. Minimum number of bookings

The operation of all tours is conditional on us securing the minimum number of bookings required to operate the tour. Unless notified otherwise, the minimum number which we aim for in respect of each tour is 15* travellers, or if travelling to Japan, the minimum number is 20 travellers. For Private Tours, Holiday Extensions and our African multi-day railtours, the minimum number is 2 travellers. For Solo Tours, the minimum number is 10 travellers. *For Enchanting Australia, the minimum number in 9 travellers. Where sufficient numbers cannot be achieved, we reserve the right to cancel or change a scheduled tour. Please also see clause 13. We will endeavour to make any decision to cancel or significantly change a tour no less than 60 days prior to the scheduled departure date of the tour but in any event will notify you no less than 20 days prior to the departure date of the tour.

If you are offered a new travel date as a result of this clause 4, it is your responsibility to advise your travel insurance company of your new travel dates. We are not liable for any loss in failed insurance claims if you fail to do this.

5. Booking and making payment for your arrangements

To secure any booking, you must pay the applicable deposit as notified to you at the time we provide our quotation or full payment if booking 90 days or less (130 days or less if booking an African multi-day railtour) before the start of the tour. We reserve the right to return your deposit and decline to issue a booking confirmation at our absolute discretion. The deposit or full payment, as applicable, must be received by us within 7 days of booking to ensure your place on the tour is held. Bookings will be automatically cancelled if the applicable deposit or full payment, as applicable, is not received by us and we will have no further liability to you. Deposits are non transferable and non refundable except as expressly set out in these booking conditions. We therefore recommend that you have adequate insurance to cover this.

The balance of the tour price (after deduction of the applicable deposit) must be received by us no less than 90 days (130 day on an African multi-day railtour) prior to the start of your tour. If we do not receive all payments due (including any surcharge where applicable) in full and on time, we are entitled to assume that you wish to cancel your booking. In this case, we will be entitled to keep all deposits paid or due at that date. If we do not cancel straight away because you have promised to make payment, you must pay the cancellation fees shown in clause 14 depending on the date we reasonably treat your booking as cancelled.

Please Note: If you are a single customer, unless travelling on one of our Solo Tours, the applicable single supplement will be added to your invoice at the time of your booking. We will aim to accommodate single customers in twin or double rooms, with single occupancy.

6. Your contract

Subject to availability we will confirm your booking by issuing our confirmation invoice. This invoice will be sent to the lead name. If your confirmed arrangements include a flight, we will also issue you with an ATOL Certificate.

Please check this invoice and the ATOL certificate carefully as soon as you receive them. Contact us immediately if any information which appears on any document appears to be incorrect or incomplete as it may not be possible to make changes later. We regret we cannot accept any liability if we are not notified of any inaccuracies (for which we are responsible) in any document within 10 days of our sending it out. We will do our best to rectify any mistake notified to us outside these time limits but you must meet any costs involved in doing so.

If you wish to, you may contact us by e-mail for any of the reasons mentioned in these booking conditions (for example, to request an amendment) providing you do so to enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk

A binding contract between you and us comes into existence when we dispatch our confirmation invoice for all bookings.

7. Law and jurisdiction

We both agree that English law (and no other) will apply to your contract and to any dispute, claim or other matter of any description which arises between us ("claim") (except as set out below). We both also agree that any claim (and whether or not involving any personal injury) must be dealt with by the Courts of England and Wales only unless, in the case of court proceedings, you live in Scotland or Northern Ireland. In this case, proceedings must either be brought in the courts of your home country or those of England and Wales. If proceedings are brought in Scotland or Northern Ireland, you may choose to have your contract and any claim governed by the law of Scotland/Northern Ireland as applicable (but if you do not so choose, English law will apply). You may also use the ATO dispute resolution service, see clause 21.

8. Your obligations whilst on tour

- You must follow the Tour Manager's or, where applicable, Coach Captain's instructions at all times to ensure on tour safety. You acknowledge that failure to do so may result in restricted access to places of interest on tour or, if necessary for your own safety and/or that of other customers, withdrawal from the tour. On our multi-day railtours and Private Tours, your obligation is to the appropriate Distant Journeys representative, be that a local guide, Train Manager, or driver guide.
- All our customers are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly and acceptable manner and not to disrupt the enjoyment of others. If in our reasonable opinion, or in the reasonable opinion of any person in authority, you behave in such a way to cause danger, distress or upset or distress to any third party or damage to any property or the environment, we are entitled, without prior notice, to terminate the holiday of the person(s) concerned. In this situation, the person(s) concerned will be required to cease all use of the holiday services including leaving the tour and any accommodation. We will have no further responsibility toward such person(s) including any return travel arrangements. No refunds will be made and we will not pay any expenses, costs or loss incurred as a result of the termination.
- When you book with us, you accept responsibility for any damage or loss you cause. You and/or your party may also be required to pay for loss and/or damage caused by your actions and we will hold you and each member of your party jointly and individually liable for any damage or losses caused by you or any member of your party. Full payment for any such damage or losses must be paid directly to the hotel manager or other supplier prior to departure. If you fail to make payment, you will be responsible for meeting any claims (including legal costs) subsequently made against us as a result of your actions together with all costs we incur in pursuing any claim against you.
- You must make your own enquiries regarding your tour, including being aware of any relevant government travel or safety warnings.

9. Tour price

Prices shown in our brochures and on the website are believed correct at the time of publication. We reserve the right to alter our advertised (brochure or website) tour prices, introduce supplements or correct pricing errors at any time before your booking is confirmed. We also reserve the right to correct any errors in any tour price and not be legally bound in the case of incorrect pricing and acknowledgement of such an error does not mean acceptance of it. We will advise you of any error of which we are aware and of the revised applicable price at the time of booking. Once the tour price has been confirmed at the time of booking, clause 10 below will apply.

10. Price Promise

Early booking offers: Whilst we may offer promotional discounts and/or additional inclusions on some tours, these offers reduce in value closer to the departure date meaning the earlier you book the better offer you will receive.

Last minute discounts: It is our policy never to sell any holiday cheaper than originally advertised. In the unlikely event we reduce the price of your holiday to below what you have already paid (after any discounts have been applied), we will contact you to refund the difference.

Additional charges*: We guarantee that no surcharge will be added to the basic price of your holiday once your booking has been confirmed, irrespective of any fluctuation in currency exchange rates, increases in international included economy air fares, or increases in other costs associated with your holiday other than the circumstances set out in the paragraph below which are expressly excluded from the price promise. In return for this guarantee and its risk to us, we shall not be able to make any refunds in the event of favourable exchange rate variations or other decreases in costs which would otherwise result in the reduction of the selling price except for the circumstances identified in the paragraph below.

Price match: Price match applies to an identical holiday operated by another tour operator (excluding travel agents and arrangements made independently) at the same or a lower price within 7 days of booking with us. By 'identical holiday', we mean one which: (i) departs on the same day from the same airport, with the same flight number and carrier, (ii) visits the same destination(s) for the same duration and offers the same number of included excursions/meals, (iii) features the same accommodation and board basis, and (iv) utilises the same services of a Tour Manager/Coach Captain. If this happens we will refund the difference between the cost of the holiday you have booked with us and the price of the identical holiday offered by the competitor. Plus, we will give you £200 per person towards a future booking. Our Price Promise applies once a booking is confirmed and a contract exists between us. It applies to tour prices only and does not include ad hoc or optional services such as airline upgrades, holiday additions, extended stays or regional connecting flights. Additionally, this price promise does not apply to optional services including, but not limited to: visa charges, excursions and amendment fees.

***Exclusion:** The price promise excludes surcharges which are a direct consequence of changes in the level of taxes, fuel surcharges or fees chargeable for services applicable to the holiday imposed by third parties not directly involved in the performance of the holiday, including, but not limited to, tourist taxes, landing taxes, embarkation or disembarkation fees at ports and airports or airline fuel surcharges. Where such circumstances apply, you will be charged for the amount of any increase in accordance with this clause. However, if this means that you have to pay an increase of more than 8% of the price of your confirmed holiday (excluding any insurance premiums, amendment charges and/or additional services or travel arrangements), you will have the option of accepting a change to another holiday if we are able to offer one (if this is of lower quality you will be refunded the difference in price), or cancelling and receiving a full refund of all monies paid to us, except for any insurance premiums and any amendment charges and/or additional services or travel arrangements. Should you decide to cancel for this reason, you must exercise your right to do so within 7 days from the issue date printed on your final invoice. We will consider an appropriate refund of insurance premiums paid if you can show that you are unable to transfer or reuse your policy. Should the price of your holiday go down due to the changes mentioned above, then any refund due will be paid to you less an administrative fee of £25. There will be no change made to the price of your confirmed holiday within 20 days of your departure nor will refunds be paid during this period.

11. Tour features

The features of the tour are set out in the tour brochure. We make no representations about the features of any tour other than those expressly set out in the tour brochure and these booking conditions.

12. Brochure validity

The tour brochure and these booking conditions are valid for the departure dates as stated in the tour brochure, or additional departure dates we may introduce, unless otherwise expressly advised by us.

13. Variation or cancellation by us

As we plan your holiday arrangements many months in advance we may occasionally have to make changes or cancel your booking and we reserve the right to do so at any time. We reserve the right to alter or change the accommodation, carriers, vehicles, vessels or any other service(s) which form part of any tour at any time for any reason and cancel or alter the itinerary and/or tour at any time without notice as we consider necessary for any reason whatsoever including road, weather or traffic conditions, non-performance of suppliers, industrial action, operational conditions and requirements, water level problems, excessive winds or unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances. Errors in the details of advertised and/or confirmed tours and/or other details occasionally occur and we reserve the right to correct these whenever they occur.

- In the event of industrial action affecting air, rail, cruise or other tour related transportation we will make every effort to contact the lead name and advise of alternative arrangements (if any).
- Most changes made to a confirmed tour will be insignificant and we have the right to make these. If we make an insignificant change to your holiday, we will make reasonable efforts to inform you as soon as reasonably possible if there is time before your departure. No compensation is payable for insignificant changes. Examples of insignificant changes include alteration of your outward/return flights and/or coach journeys by less than 12 hours, changes to aircraft type (if advised) or carrier, destination or departure airport to one in a similar geographical location, change of accommodation to another of the same or higher standard, minor changes to the itinerary.
- Occasionally, we have to make a significant change to a confirmed tour and we reserve the right to do so. A significant change is a change made before departure which, taking account of the information you give us at the time of booking or which we can reasonably be expected to know as a tour operator, we can reasonably expect to have a significant effect on your tour. Examples of "significant changes" include the following, when made before departure:

- A change of accommodation area for the whole or a significant part of your time away.
- A change of accommodation to that of a lower standard or classification for the whole or a significant part of your time away.
- A change of outward departure time or overall length of your arrangements by more than 12 hours.
- A change of UK departure airport except between:
 - The London airports: Gatwick, Heathrow, Luton, Stansted, London City and Southend
 - The South Coast airports: Southampton, Bournemouth and Exeter
 - The South Western airports: Cardiff and Bristol
 - The Midlands airports: Birmingham, East Midlands and Doncaster Sheffield
 - The Northern airports: Liverpool, Manchester and Leeds Bradford
 - The North Eastern airports: Newcastle and Teesside
 - The Scottish airports: Edinburgh, Glasgow, Prestwick and Aberdeen
- A significant change to your itinerary, for example missing out a significant destination entirely.

In the event we have to significantly alter any of the main characteristics of your confirmed arrangements or accepted special requirements, we will provide you with the following information in writing as soon as possible: (i) the proposed alteration and any impact this has on the price; (ii) in the event that you do not wish to accept the alteration, details of any alternative holiday arrangements we are able to offer (including the applicable price); (iii) your entitlement to cancel your booking and receive a full refund if you do not want to accept the alteration or any alternative holiday arrangements offered; and (iv) the period within which you must inform us of your decision and what will happen if you don't do so.

- If you choose to cancel your booking in accordance with clause 13(4), we will refund all payments you have made to us within 14 days of the date the cancellation takes effect and terminates your contract (which is usually the date we send you a cancellation invoice following receipt of your written cancellation notification). If we don't hear from you with your decision within 7 days (having provided you with the above mentioned information for a second time), we will assume that you have chosen to accept the change or alternative booking arrangements. No compensation will be payable or other liability accepted where a change results from unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances.
- Occasionally, it may be necessary to cancel a confirmed booking. We have the right to terminate your contract in the event (i) we are prevented from performing your contracted holiday arrangements as a result of unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances and we notify you of this as soon as reasonably possible or (ii) (where applicable) we have to cancel because the minimum number of bookings necessary for us to operate your group holiday has not been achieved and we notify you of cancellation for this reason as referred to in clause 4. Where we have to cancel your booking in these circumstances, we will refund all monies you have paid to us for your booking within 14 days of the effective date of cancellation (see clause 13(5)) but will have no further or other liability to you including in respect of compensation or any costs or expenses you incur or have incurred as a result, including without limitation any payments in relation to travel insurance premiums. We will of course endeavour to offer you alternative holiday arrangements where possible which you may choose to book (at the applicable price) in place of those cancelled. We also have the right to cancel if you fail to make payment in accordance with the terms of your contract in which case clause 14 will apply.
- Please note, a full refund entitlement only arises where we are prevented from performing your contracted holiday arrangements as a result of unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances in accordance with clause 13(6) and we exercise our right to cancel as a result. Without limitation, you will not be entitled to a full refund and cancellation charges are likely to apply where such circumstances affect your ability to travel on your holiday rather than our ability to perform or provide the contracted arrangements. This may be the case, for example, where measures applied by the UK or any other government or public authorities mean you are unable to leave your home/local area and/or travel to or gain entry into the country(ies) where your holiday is due to take place. The issue of advice or recommendations against travel by public authorities (such as the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office) does not automatically mean we are prevented from performing your holiday arrangements but may instead affect your ability to travel. Any obligation to quarantine or self-isolate on your return to your country of residence does not affect our ability to provide your holiday and will not entitle you to cancel without paying our usual cancellation charges.
- In the event that unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances occur in the place of destination of your holiday or its immediate vicinity and significantly affect the performance of the contracted arrangements or the carriage of passengers to that destination, you will be entitled to cancel prior to departure without payment of cancellation charges and receive a full refund of all monies you have paid to us for your booking (except for any previously incurred cancellation or amendment charges and travel insurance premiums).

Where applicable, you must notify us of your wish to cancel for this reason in writing. Providing we are in agreement that you are entitled to do so in accordance with this clause, we will send you a cancellation invoice to confirm the cancellation. Any refund then due will be paid in accordance with clause 13(5) above. We will notify you as soon as practicable should this situation occur. You will not be entitled to any compensation. Please note, certain situations arising from or in connection with the covid-19 pandemic may constitute unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances. However, this does not mean they will entitle you to cancel and receive a full refund as set out in this clause or in regulation 12(7) of the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018.

- If we have to make a significant change to or cancel a confirmed tour, we will pay you reasonable compensation in the following circumstances*:
 - If, where we make a significant change, you do not accept the changed arrangements and cancel your booking; or
 - If we cancel your booking and no alternative arrangements are available and/or we do not offer one.

The compensation that we offer does not exclude you from claiming more if you are entitled to do so.

Period before departure within which notice of Cancellation or major change is notified to you	Compensation payable per person booking
91 days or more	Nil
75 – 90 days prior to departure	£10
60 – 74 days prior to departure	£20
30 – 59 days prior to departure	£30
Less than 30 days prior to departure	£40

IMPORTANT NOTE: We will not pay you compensation in the following circumstances:

- where we make an insignificant change;
- where we make a significant change or cancel your arrangements more than 90 days before departure;
- where we make a significant change and you accept those changed arrangements or you accept an offer of alternative travel arrangements;
- where we have to cancel your arrangements as a result of your failure to make full payment on time;
- where the change or cancellation by us arises out of alterations to the confirmed booking requested by you;
- where we cancel due to insufficient bookings;
- where we are forced to cancel or change your arrangements due to unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances.

Very rarely, we may become unable to provide a significant proportion of the arrangements that you have booked with us after you have departed. If that occurs we will, if possible, make alternative arrangements for you at no extra charge and where those alternative arrangements are of a lower standard, provide you with an appropriate price reduction.

14. Amendment or cancellation by you

If you wish to make any amendments to your confirmed booking you must notify us in writing as soon as possible. Whilst we will do our best to assist, it may not always be possible to make such amendments. Where we can, an amendment fee of £75 per person will be payable together with any costs incurred by ourselves and any costs or charges incurred or imposed by any of our suppliers in making this change. You should be aware that these costs could increase the closer to the departure date that changes are made and you should contact us as soon as possible. A change of tour dates will normally be treated as a cancellation of the original booking and rebooking in which case cancellation fees will apply. Changes may result in the recalculation of the tour price where, for example, the basis on which the price of the original tour was calculated has changed. Where we are unable to assist you and you do not wish to proceed with the original booking we will treat this as a cancellation by you. A cancellation fee may be payable in accordance with these booking conditions.

Transfer of booking:

If you or any member of your party is prevented from travelling, that person(s) may transfer their place to someone else, subject to the following conditions:

- that person is introduced by you and satisfies all the conditions applicable to the holiday;
- we are notified not less than 7 days before departure;
- you pay any outstanding balance payment, an amendment fee of £75 per person transferring, as well as any additional fees, charges or other costs arising from the transfer; and
- d) the transferee agrees to these booking conditions and all other terms of the contract between us.

You and the transferee remain jointly and severally liable for payment of all sums. If you are unable to find a replacement, cancellation fees as set out below will apply in order to cover our estimated costs. Otherwise, no refunds will be given for customers not travelling or for unused services.

Important Note: Certain arrangements may not be amended or transferred after they have been confirmed and any alteration could incur a cancellation charge of up to 100% of that part of the arrangements. Air Passenger Duty will always be non-refundable.

You may cancel your booking by notice to us in writing, this may be by letter or email, and payment of the applicable cancellation fee as shown below. Cancellation notifications are not effective until received by us in writing (if received by us on a weekend day or public holiday the notification will be treated as having been received by us on the next working day). Should one or more member of a party cancel, it may increase the per person holiday price of those still travelling and you will be liable to pay this increase.

In calculating our cancellation charges, we have taken account of possible cost savings and the generation of income from other bookings which may be able to utilise cancelled services to the extent this is likely to be achievable. The following cancellation fees apply to each individual person who cancels and where shown as a percentage are based on the total cost of the arrangements which are being cancelled excluding any insurance premiums, amendment fee or previously incurred cancellation fees which are all non-refundable in the event of your cancellation:

Cancellation fees

Period before your tour commences within which written notification of cancellation is received by us:

Tour cancellation period	Fee per person
More than 90 days prior to departure	Loss of Deposit
90 days to 75 days prior to departure	50% of holiday price
74 days to 60 days prior to departure	60% of holiday price
59 days to 30 days prior to departure	75% of holiday price
30 days prior to departure or less	100% of holiday price

Note: If travelling on The Brahmaputra River & Darjeeling tour, India, the following tour cancellation fees will apply

Tour cancellation period	Fee per person
90 days prior to departure or less	100% of holiday price

Note: In travelling on African Rail Adventure, Namibian Rail Safari, or South African Rail Discovery tours, the following cancellation fees will apply

Tour cancellation period	Fee per person
130 days to 30 days prior to departure	75% of holiday price
30 days prior to departure	100% of holiday price

NB Transferring to another departure date is highly likely to be treated as a cancellation by our suppliers and the cancellation fees above will apply. Depending on the reason for cancellation, you may be able to reclaim these cancellation charges (less any applicable excess) under the terms of your insurance policy. Claims must be made directly to the insurance company concerned.

Important Note: Certain arrangements may not be amended or transferred after they have been confirmed and any alteration could incur a cancellation charge of up to 100% of that part of the arrangements. Air Passenger Duty will always be non-refundable.

15. Our liability

- (1) We promise to make sure that the holiday arrangements we have agreed to make, perform or provide as applicable as part of our contract with you are made, performed or provided with reasonable skill and care. This means that, subject to these booking conditions, we will accept responsibility if, for example, you suffer death or personal injury, or your contracted holiday arrangements are not provided as promised or prove deficient as a direct result of the failure of ourselves, our employees, agents or suppliers to use reasonable skill and care in making, performing or providing, as applicable, your contracted holiday arrangements. Please note, it is your responsibility to show that reasonable skill and care has not been used if you wish to make a claim against us. In addition, we will only be responsible for what our employees, agents and suppliers do or do not do if they were at the time acting within the course of their employment (for employees) or carrying out work we had asked them to do (for agents and suppliers).

(2) We will not be responsible or pay you compensation for anyinjury, illness, death, loss (for example, loss of enjoyment or loss of possessions), damage, expense, cost or other claim of any description if it results from:

 - a) the acts and/or omissions of the person affected; or
 - b) the acts and/or omissions of a third party unconnectedwith the provision of the services contracted for and which were unforeseeable or unavoidable; or
 - c) unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances.

(3) We cannot accept responsibility for any services which do not form part of our contract. This includes, for example, any additional services or facilities which your hotel or any other supplier agrees to provide for you where the services or facilities are not advertised by us in our brochure or on our website and we have not agreed to arrange them as part of our contract and any excursion or activities you purchase during your tour. In addition, regardless of any wording used by us on our website, in any advertising material or elsewhere, we only promise to use reasonable skill and care as set out above and we do not have any greater or different liability to you.

(4) The promises we make to you about the services we have agreed to provide or arrange as part of our contract, and the laws and applicable standards of the country in which your claim occurred, will be used as the basis for deciding whether the services in question had been properly provided. If the particular services which give rise to the claim were provided in compliance with the applicable local laws and standards, the services will be treated as having been properly provided. This will be the case even if the services did not comply with the laws and standards of the UK which would have applied had those services been provided in the UK. The exception to this is where the claim concerns the absence of a safety feature which might lead a reasonable holidaymaker to refuse to take the holiday in question. Please note, however, our obligation is to exercise reasonable skill and care as referred to in clause 15(1). We do not make any representation or commitment that all services will comply with applicable local laws and standards and failure to comply does not automatically mean we have not exercised reasonable skill and care.

(5) Except as set out in clause 15(6) or as otherwise permitted by English law, we do not limit the amount of damages you are entitled to claim in respect of personal injury or death which we or our employees have caused intentionally or negligently. For all other claims, if we are found liable to you on any basis, the maximum amount we will have to pay you is three times the total holiday cost (excluding any insurance premiums and amendment charges) paid by or on behalf of the person(s) affected in total, unless a lower limitation applies to your claim under clause 15(6). This maximum amount will only be payable where everything has gone wrong and you have not received any benefit at all from your holiday.

(6) Where any claim concerns or is based on any travel arrangements (including without limitation, the process of getting on and/or off the transport concerned) provided by any air, sea or rail carrier to which any international convention or EU regulation applies where we have arranged that travel as part of our contract, our liability (including the maximum amount of compensation we will have to pay you, the types of claim and the circumstances in which

damages / compensation will be payable) will be limited as if we were the carrier in question as referred to in this clause 15(6). The most we will have to pay you for that claim if we are found liable to you on any basis is the most the carrier concerned would have to pay you under the applicable international convention(s) or EU regulation(s). Such conventions and regulations include the Warsaw Convention as amended or unamended, the Montreal Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air 1999 and for airlines with an operating licence granted by an EU country, the Regulation (EC) No 889/2002 on air carrier liability in the event of accidents, the Athens Convention relating to the carriage of passengers and their luggage by sea 1974 (as amended by the 2002 protocol), and Regulation (EC) No 392/2009 on the liability of carriers of passengers by sea in the event of accidents, the Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims as amended by the 1996 protocol and the Convention of 1980 concerning International Travel by Rail (COTIR) as amended and Regulation (EC) No 1371/2007 on rail passengers' rights and obligations. You may also have rights under regulation (EU) no 1177/2010 concerning the rights of passengers when travelling by sea and inland waterway or regulation (EC) no 1371/2007 on rail passengers' rights and obligations. Where a carrier would not be obliged to make any payment to you under the applicable international convention or EU regulation (including where any claim is not notified and issued in accordance with the stipulated time limits), we, similarly, are not obliged to make a payment to you for that claim. When making any payment, we will deduct any money which you have received or are entitled to receive from the carrier for the claim in question. Copies of the applicable international conventions and EU regulations are available from us on request. Please note that strict time limits apply for notifying loss, damage or delay of luggage to the airline or ferry / cruise operator. Any proceedings in respect of any claim (including one for personal injury or death) must be brought within 2 years of the date stipulated in the applicable convention or EU regulation.

- (7) We cannot accept any liability for any damage, loss, expense or other sum(s) of any nature or description which (a) on the basis of the information given to us by you concerning your booking prior to our accepting it, we could not have foreseen you would suffer or incur if we breached our contract with you or (b) did not result from any breach of contract or other fault by ourselves or our employees or, where we are responsible for them, our suppliers or (c) relates to any business (including without limitation, loss of self employed earnings).

16. Conditions of carriers or other suppliers

Many of the services which make up your holiday are provided by independent suppliers such as airlines or cruise lines. Those suppliers provide these services in accordance with their own terms and conditions usually referred to by airlines or cruise lines as conditions of carriage. Some of these terms and conditions may limit or exclude the supplier's liability to you, usually in accordance with applicable international conventions or EU regulations (see clause 15(6)). Copies of the relevant parts of these terms and conditions and of the international conventions / EU regulations are available on request from ourselves or the supplier concerned.

17. Risk and travel insurance

You acknowledge and accept that there are inherent risks associated with our tours, for example unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances, hazards of travelling in undeveloped areas, travel by boat, train, automobile, aircraft or other means of transportation particularly in underdeveloped countries or more remote locations, forces of nature, political unrest and accident, illness, epidemics or pandemics in regions without means of rapid evacuation or medical facilities. We cannot accept any liability regarding the provision of medical care or the adequacy of any care that may be rendered where it is provided by third parties.

It is a condition of your booking and your responsibility to ensure that you have sufficient and valid travel insurance to cover your booking with us. We reserve the right to decline your booking if adequate proof of such current and valid travel insurance is not provided to us if requested. Please note that we do not check individual policies for suitability. We insist you take out appropriate travel insurance to cover as a minimum: pre-existing medical conditions, medical expenses, repatriation in the event of accident or illness, cancellation by you for any reason, cancellation charges, loss of luggage, early return following death of a relative as defined in the respective proposal forms or emergency repatriation, for example in the event of accident or illness. It is your responsibility to ensure that the insurance fully covers all your personal requirements and the specific risks outlined above. Please read your policy details carefully and take them with you on your tour. It is your responsibility to ensure that the insurance cover you purchase is suitable and adequate for your particular needs. If you choose to travel without adequate insurance cover, we will not be liable for any losses no matter how arising, in respect of which insurance cover would otherwise have been available. If you have any questions, these should be raised with your travel insurance provider.

18. Itinerary changes and travel advice

During local or national holidays, certain facilities such as museums and restaurants, sightseeing tours and shopping may be limited or not available. Alternatives will be offered if possible.

Your safety is our first consideration and if the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) advises against travel to a certain country, we act on this advice. The FCDO issues regular advice and updates on its website www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice which you are recommended to consult before booking and in good time before departure. Up to date UK border control measures are available at www.gov.uk/uk-border-control. You are responsible for making yourself aware of FCDO advice in regard to the safety of the countries and areas in which you will be travelling and to make your decisions accordingly.

19. Baggage allowance

You are entitled to carry one suitcase per person. Total dimensions for each piece must not exceed 158cm (62in) and weight must not exceed 20kg (44lbs). Hand luggage must not exceed total dimensions of 115cm (45in) and weight 5kg (11lbs). Personal and valuable items such as make-up, cameras, medication, passport, money/credit cards etc should be carried in a travel bag or on your person. You must ensure that luggage meets the weight requirements as overweight or oversize items will not be carried. Some carriers may impose a small surcharge per day for a second suitcase per person. Excess baggage is always at your cost.

Knight Inlet: If travelling to Knight Inlet, on our Canada tours, as access is by floatplane, you will be restricted to one piece of luggage weighing no more than 14kg. We suggest taking a small bag for this trip and arranging storage for your main luggage.

20. Young travellers

Travellers who are less than 16 years old on the departure date must be accompanied by and share a room with an adult aged 16 or over. Children under 8 years cannot be accepted on our tours, unless travelling on a private tour.

21. Complaints and Arbitration

If a problem occurs during your tour, you must advise our representative (South Africa only – or appropriate manager, senior personal, when travelling on Rovos Rail) immediately so that steps can be taken to resolve the matter and you can continue to enjoy the remainder of your tour. You must also advise the supplier concerned. If your complaint is not resolved locally, please contact us by email at info@distantjourneys.co.uk or call 01695 577 961.

If you remain dissatisfied, any complaint must ideally be made in writing to us giving full details within 30 days of the end of the tour. If you fail to follow this procedure, your right to claim compensation you may otherwise have been entitled to may be affected or even lost as a result.

In the unlikely event of our being unable to reach an amicable resolution of any complaint, you may use the AITO dispute resolution service which provides a simple and inexpensive method of arbitration on documents alone. Full details are available on request.

22. Tour price and duration

All prices in our brochure(s) are quoted in English pounds (Sterling). The information contained on our website and in our other advertising material is believed to be correct to the best of our knowledge at the time of printing or publication. Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the website, quotations and prices at the time of publication/printing or when they are given to you, regrettably errors may occasionally occur and information may subsequently change. You must therefore ensure you check all details of your chosen tour (including the price) with us at the time of booking. The number of days duration stated in each itinerary includes day of departure and day of return. Tour durations may vary should you choose to have a stopover, and airline flight schedules and the itineraries in our brochure(s) should be used as a guide only.

23. Included in your fare

All airfares from the UK in economy class (unless specified at the time of booking), coach travel and overseas transfers* whilst travelling as part of the group or on one of our organised stopoverprogrammes, service of a Tour Manager*, Train Manager*, or Coach Captain* (if applicable), portorage whilst on tour, airport transfers, meals as specified, accommodation as specified (please note, the third bed in a triple room may be a rollaway bed), sightseeing and admissions and other services as expressly indicated in the itinerary.* Should you be travelling outside of the main group travel dates from or to the UK transfers are not included on any outbound or return stopovers. These are available to purchase at an additional cost. * On Private Tours, you will receive the services of a driver(s) and local guides, or a driver guide, as appropriate.

NOT included in your fare

Meals not specified in the itinerary, drinks unless specified in the itinerary, laundry, passport and visa fees, Dubai Tourism tax (if stopping over), expenses of a personal nature and any other items which are not expressly included in the cost of your tour. Changes to flight schedules may require additional overnight accommodation at either commencement or completion of tour which is at your own expense.

24. Airfare conditions

Your Distant Journeys travel expert will book the most appropriate fare for your tour based on the information you provide to us. Full details and conditions may be obtained from your travel expert. Changes to original tickets will incur amendment or cancellation fees, are subject to availability and surcharges may apply. Please see clause 14 above. Please note: all airfares are subject to routing restrictions. Airfares and applicable taxes are subject to increase without notice due to fare and tax changes, surcharges dependent on class available at time of booking and other factors outside our control, subject to the provisions of clause 10(Promise Made). Please contact your travel consultant for the applicable rules and regulations.

At the time of booking please ensure you supply your first name and surname as they appear in your passport, as these must be stated on your flight ticket. In some instances, the airline will also request your middle name. You may not be able to travel if the name on your passport and documents do not match. Any costs for ticket changes due to an incorrect name on paperwork which has been sent to you, will result in a cost which we will pass on to you.

25. Flights

For flight inclusive tours, the flight timings given on booking are for general guidance only and are subject to change. The latest timings will be shown on your confirmation documents. As flights only become available to book around 11 months in advance, we are only able to confirm upgrade prices at time of booking your flights. However, the actual flight times will be those shown on your tickets which will be dispatched to you approximately two weeks before departure.

You must accordingly check your tickets very carefully immediately on receipt to ensure you have the correct flight times. It is possible that flight times may be changed even after tickets have been dispatched – we will contact you as soon as possible if this occurs. We have no control over the allocation of seats by the airline, and even if you have requested or made payment directly with the airline to pre-book seats, no guarantees can be made. The provision of such seats does not constitute a term of your contract with us.

Specific instructions relating to departure and travel arrangements will be sent electronically with your air or other travel tickets approximately 2 weeks before departure. You must check your documents very carefully immediately on receipt to ensure you have the correct flight times and other up to date travel information. It is possible that flight times may be changed even after documents have been sent. We will contact you as soon as possible if this occurs.

In accordance with EU regulation (EC) No 2111/2005 as incorporated into UK law and amended, we are required to bring to your attention the existence of a UK Air Safety List which contains details of air carriers who are subject to an operating ban in the UK. The UK Air Safety List (which is updated from time to time) can be found on the UK CAA's website www.caa.co.uk.

We will advise you of the actual carrier(s) (or, if the actual carrier(s) is not known, the likely carrier(s)) who will operate your flight(s) at the time of booking. Where we are only able to inform you of the likely carrier(s) at the time of booking, we will advise you of the identity of the actual carrier(s) as soon as we become aware of this. Any change to the operating carrier(s) after your booking has been confirmed will be notified to you as soon as possible.

If the carrier with whom you have a confirmed reservation becomes subject to a UK operating ban and we/ the carrier are unable to offer you a suitable alternative the provisions of clause 11 will apply.

Any change in the identity of the carrier, flight timings, and/or aircraft type (if advised) will not entitle you to cancel or change to other arrangements without paying our normal charges except where specified in these conditions.

26. Delay and Denied Boarding Regulations

If you suffer a delay in your outbound travel arrangements, we will do our best to ensure you make the start of your tour or, if this cannot be achieved, join it as soon as possible. Any costs we incur in making any alternative arrangements in this situation where the delay was due to your own actions will be your responsibility.

In the event of any flight delay or cancellation at your UK or overseas point of departure, the airline is responsible for providing such assistance as is legally required by the Denied Boarding Regulations (see below). Except where otherwise stated in our brochure or on our website, we regret we cannot provide any assistance in such circumstances other than information and advice to the extent we are in a position to do so.

We cannot accept liability for any delay which is due to any of the reasons set out in clause 15 (2) of these Booking Conditions (which includes the behaviour of any passenger(s) on the flight who, for example, fails to check in or board on time). In addition, we will not be liable for any delay unless it has a significant effect on your holiday arrangements.

If your flight is cancelled or delayed, your flight ticket is downgraded or boarding is denied by your airline, depending on the circumstances (including the airport of departure and/or return of the flight and whether you are flying with a UK or EU airline), the airline may be required to pay you compensation, refund the cost of your flight and/or provide you with accommodation and/or refreshments under Regulation EC 261/2004 (as amended by The Air Passenger Rights and Air Travel Organisers' Licensing (Amendment)(EU Exit) Regulations 2019 ('UK Denied Boarding Regulations'). You must pursue the airline for the compensation or other payment due to you. All sums you receive or are entitled to receive from the airline concerned by virtue of these Regulations represent the full amount of your entitlement to compensation and/or any other payment due to you where applicable. This includes any disappointment, distress, inconvenience or effect on any other arrangements. The fact a delay may entitle you to cancel your flight does not automatically entitle you to cancel any other arrangements even where those arrangements have been made in conjunction with your flight. We have no liability to make any payment to you in relation to the UK Denied Boarding Regulations or in respect of any flight cancellation or delay, downgrading of any flight ticket or denial of any boarding as the full amount of your entitlement to any compensation or other payment (as dealt with above) is covered by the airline's obligations under the UK Denied Boarding Regulations. If, for any reason, we make any payment to you or a third party which the airline is responsible for in accordance with the UK Denied Boarding Regulations, you must, when requested, assign to us the rights you have or had to claim the payment in question from the airline. If your airline does not comply with its obligations under the UK Denied Boarding Regulations, where applicable, you may use the CAA Passenger Advice and Complaints Service. See www.caa.co.uk/passengers/resolving-travel-problems for further details.

A number of Governments are introducing new requirements for air carriers to provide personal information about all travellers on their aircraft to the Authorities before the aircraft leaves the UK. The data will be collected either at the airport when you check in or in some circumstances when, or after you make your booking. Accordingly, you are advised to allow extra time to check in for your flight. Where we collect this data, we will treat it in accordance with our Privacy Policy.

27. Passports, visas and health requirements

It is your responsibility to meet all applicable entry and other requirements of your destination country (ies) as well as those applicable on your return home. You must ensure that all your travel documents (physical and electronic), including your passport,visas / visa waivers, evidence of any other health related requirement and currency are in order, meet all applicable requirements and are valid for travel. All costs incurred in meeting all requirements applicable to your holiday must be paid by you. If you attempt to travel without fully complying with all requirements, you are likely to be refused boarding on your flight or other transport or entry into your destination country.

We cannot accept any liability and cancellation charges will apply (as set out in clause 12) if you are refused entry onto any transport or into any country, or decide not to travel, due to failure (or inability) on your part to obtain and carry all required documentation or to otherwise comply with all applicable requirements.

The passport and visa requirements applicable to the holidays we offer are shown on the FCDO website www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice. You must check entry and other official requirements for all countries to or through which you are travelling as well as any requirements applicable on your return to your home country, at the time of booking, and in good time before, and close to departure. Requirements may change and travel restrictions may be imposed (which could be at no or very short notice prior to departure). You must also keep up to date with this information while you are away.

A British passport would can take up to 10 weeks to obtain and may take longer. If any member of your party (who is a British citizen) is 16 or over and hasn't got or previously held a British passport, even more time needs to be allowed as the UK Passport Service has to confirm your identity before issuing your first passport. If any person on the booking is not a British citizen or holds a non British passport, you must check the applicable passport and visa requirements with the embassy or consulate of the country (ies) to or through which you are intending to travel. Please ensure that you check the latest position on applying for or renewing a passport at the earliest opportunity.

Details of any compulsory health requirements applicable to your holiday appear on the weblink below for the National Travel Health Network and Centre. It is your responsibility to ensure you obtain details of and comply with all recommended and required vaccinations, health precautions and other health related in good time before departure. You must also keep up to date with the latest information. Details are available from your GP surgery, local travel clinic and the National Travel Health Network and Centre www.travelhealthpro.org.uk. Vaccination and other health requirements/recommendations are subject to change at any time for any destination, including at short or no notice. Please therefore check with a doctor or clinic or other reliable source of information not less than 6 weeks prior to departure and also closer to departure to ensure that you are aware of and can meet the necessary requirements and have the latest information.

In the event that you have not received any compulsory vaccination, you may be unable to enter your destination country(ies) or to access certain services and may encounter other difficulties. You will not be entitled to cancel (without payment of cancellation charges) or receive any refund and we will not have any responsibility for any costs or expenses you suffer as a result in any such situation.

It is the responsibility of the person who makes the booking to ensure that all persons travelling are in possession of all necessary travel and health documents before departure. If failure to have any necessary travel or other documents results in fines, surcharges, other financial penalty, costs or expenses being incurred by us, you will be responsible for reimbursing us accordingly.

28. Financial security, ATOL and AITO membership

We hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence issued by the Civil Aviation Authority (ATOL number 10913). All flights and flight inclusive holidays we offer are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you buy an ATOL protected flight or flight inclusive package from us, you will receive an ATOL Certificate. This lists what is financially protected, where you can get information on what this means for you and who to contact if things go wrong.

We, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL Certificate, will provide you with the services listed on the ATOL Certificate (or a suitable alternative). In some cases, where neither we nor the supplier are able to do so for reasons of insolvency, an alternative ATOL holder may provide you with services you have bought or a suitable alternative (at no extra cost to you). You agree to accept that in those circumstances the alternative ATOL holder will perform those obligations and you agree to pay any money outstanding to be paid by you under your contract to that alternative ATOL holder. However, you also agree that in some cases it will not be possible to appoint an alternative ATOL holder, in which case you will be entitled to make a claim under the ATOL scheme (or your credit card issuer where applicable). If we, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL certificate, are unable to provide the services listed (or a suitable alternative, through an alternative ATOL holder or otherwise) for reasons of insolvency, the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust may make a payment to (or confer a benefit on) you under the ATOL scheme. You agree that in return for such a payment or benefit, you assign absolutely to those Trustees any claims which you have or may have arising out of or relating to the non-provision of the services, including any claim against us, the travel agent or your credit card issuer where applicable. You also agree that any such claims may be re-assigned to another body, if that other body has paid sums you have claimed under the ATOL scheme.

The Civil Aviation Authority can be contacted at Aviation House, Beehive Ringroad, Crawley, West Sussex, RH6 0YR, UK tel +44 (0)333 103 6350, www.caa.co.uk

In the event of our insolvency we, or any appointed insolvency practitioner, may disclose your personal information to the CAA, and/ or any insurers so that they can assess the status of your booking and advise you on the appropriate course of action under any scheme of financial protection. The CAA's General Privacy Notice is at www.caa.co.uk/Our-work/About-us/General-privacy-notice

We provide full financial protection for our package holidays which don't include flights, by way of a bond held by The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited.

The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT) provides financial protection under The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 for Distant Journeys (ABTOT membership number 5427) and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for:

1. Non-flight packages

ABTOT cover provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled or repatriation if transportation was included in your package. Please note that bookings made outside the UK are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with Distant Journeys.

In the unlikely event that you require assistance whilst abroad due to our financial failure, please call our 24/7 helpline on 01702 811397 and advise you are a customer of an ABTOT protected travel company.

You can access The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 here: www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/634/contents

We are a member of AITO, The Specialist Travel Association. All AITO members are required to provide the highest level of customer satisfaction by concentrating on three main pillars: Choice, Quality and Service – as enshrined in their Quality Charter. Every company admitted to AITO is financially assessed and bound by AITO's own code of business practice. AITO requires that we arrange financial protection for all holidays, including accommodation-only options and tours, as well as any other arrangements. This financial protection applies to customers who are resident in the UK at the time of booking and to most overseas customers who have booked directly with us.

29. Coaches

On our group tours, to ensure all customers have the opportunityto enjoy front and window seats, a daily seat rotation system is employed on all of our coaches and you must follow the seat rotation system.

If you suffer from travel sickness, you should arrange medication or other alternatives to treat symptoms as we cannot make allowances in the seat rotation policy for this, in fairness to other guests.

30. Optional activities and dining

Optional activities and dining are subject to availability, seasonal / operational factors and minimum / maximum numbers. More details on optional tours may be found on our website. On occasion, it may not be possible to arrange an included activity. Suitable alternatives will be arranged. Inclusions may also be subject to change.

31. Medication

It is your responsibility to ensure that any medication you need tocarry is permitted to be taken into the countries you are visiting. We recommend you consult with your GP and relevant embassy before booking and review in good time before your departure as advice may change. Any medical services and costs required on tour are at your expense. We strongly recommend suitable and adequate travel insurance.

32. Images, photographs, maps and information

The photographs in the brochure and information provided represent typical scenes and descriptive detail for each tour, but it is possible that the subject matter may not be seen or experienced whilst on the tour itself. Some pictures may have been digitally enhanced.

Maps or tour depictions contained in this brochure or any other brochures issued by Distant Journeys, are intended as an indication only and should not be relied upon as the actual route taken during the tour. Distant Journeys are not liable to you for any variation to the tour.

33. Prompt assistance

If, whilst you are on holiday, you find yourself in difficulty for any reason, we will offer you such prompt assistance as is appropriate in the circumstances. In particular, we will provide you with appropriate information on health services, local authorities and consular assistance, and assistance with distance communications and finding alternative travel arrangements. Where you require assistance which is not owing to any failure by us, our employees or sub-contractors we will not be liable for the costs of any alternative travel arrangements or other such assistance you require. Any supplier, airline or other transport supplier may however pay for or provide refreshments and/ or appropriate accommodation and you should make a claim directly to them. Subject to the other terms of these booking conditions, we will not be liable for any costs, fees or charges you incur in the above circumstances, if you fail to obtain your prior authorisation before making your own travel arrangements. Furthermore, we reserve the right to charge you a fee for our assistance in the event that the difficulty is caused intentionally by you or a member of your party, or otherwise through your or your party's negligence.

35. Amendments to these booking conditions

These booking conditions may be subject to amendment from time to time. Amendments will be posted on the Distant Journeys website www.distantjourneys.co.uk



Other Destinations

India

Sri Lanka

Australia

New Zealand

Japan

Vietnam & Cambodia

China

Canada & Alaska



To book, call our travel experts FREE on

0800 141 3742

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm **Saturday** 9.00am - 5.00pm **Sunday** Open in peak season. See website for details.

Email enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk **Visit** distantjourneys.co.uk

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This brochure has been printed using Carbon Balanced Paper, in conjunction with the World Land Trust conservation charity.

