SOUTHERN AFRICA
BY RAIL, ROAD AND AIR

With Scott McGregor
13 – 26 August 2018

· JOHANNESBURG · CAPE TOWN · FRANSCHHOEK ·
· KAPAMA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE · LIVINGSTONE (VICTORIA FALLS) ·

AND THE LEGENDARY ROVOS RAIL
**OVERVIEW**

When it comes to spectacular diversity, there’s nowhere in the world like Southern Africa. Its mix of stunning landscapes, fascinating cultures and natural wonders has captured the imagination of explorers, empire builders and travellers for eons. Right from the first landings of Portuguese sailors in the 15th Century, the wealth of the region has been an irresistible draw for fortune hunters of all sorts. But today’s adventurers are drawn by different riches – from the majestic game parks and wild savannah landscapes to the rugged coastlines, lush winelands and the ever colourful cities and towns, it’s no surprise Southern Africa is on many a traveller’s ultimate bucketlist.

South Africa is also fortunate to have a wealth of classic rail journeys and unique trains that make travelling in this wonderful region even more special. Chief among these is Rovos Rail, a train that has a rightful claim to its billing as the most luxurious in the world. Travelling from Pretoria to Cape Town and up to Victoria Falls, you’ll be guided through the history and culture of this fascinating region. Get up close and personal with Africa’s iconic wildlife on a private game reserve, savour the region’s finest cuisines and famous wines, explore the mighty Zambezi by boat and steam train and see inside the world’s largest diamond mines. And that’s just the start of what you’ll experience on this grand tour of Africa’s great southern lands.

**WHY TRAVEL WITH US**

The joy of travelling is no longer confined to the destination—the mode of travel is a large part of the experience. Railway Adventures offers a truly unique perspective on some of the world’s most spectacular holiday destinations, with the assurance that the journey is just as magical and unforgettable as what is discovered at the end of the line. With us, you can confidently expect:

- **Small group sizes** — a maximum of 20 passengers per trip guarantees an intimate experience with less time spent queuing, more time with your guide, and better access to sightseeing destinations.
- **Unique itineraries** — each itinerary has been meticulously developed by a team with great cultural awareness and many years’ knowledge of each destination. You are guaranteed to experience the best that each destination has to offer.
- **Authentic local experiences** — whether it’s a little-known yet impressive steam railway, a small boutique hotel or an authentic restaurant, know that you will experience something special on our tours.
- **Expert local guides and local operators** — we employ local guides to share their passion and knowledge of the places they call home, while our partners on the ground offer us support and backup all the way.
- **Customer satisfaction** — our testimonials speak for themselves. Thousands have travelled with us over the years and many come back year after year, often bringing friends along! On our customer satisfaction ratings, over 97% would recommend us to others and/or travel with us again.
- **Fully escorted** — our team of tour leaders is experienced and capable, entertaining and considerate, and together with our local guides, has your needs well covered. They will help with everything along the way, giving you the peace of mind to soak up your surroundings. And you’ll find them jolly good company to boot!

**MEET YOUR TOUR LEADER**

SCOTT MCGREGOR has been involved in the media for over 30 years as an actor, presenter, writer and producer. But it’s now sharing his love of travel, and particularly railway travel, where Scott’s passion lies. Graduating from NIDA in 1979, he appeared in a wide range of stage, film and TV roles including the lead in the ABC’s epic mini-series 1915. He has presented and hosted numerous prime-time ratings winners including many years as the handyman on Better Homes and Gardens and Room For Improvement. He presented two series of his own Railway Adventures for Channels 10 and 7 and a number of programs for The History Channel. After more than a decade leading tours he establish Railway Adventures in 2012. He also owns and operates RUWENZORI—an Orient Express style tourist retreat on the Great Dividing Range near Mudgee.
HIGHLIGHTS

- Two nights aboard the lavish Rovos Rail train in a Pullman Suite, including all meals and alcoholic beverages
- Two nights’ all inclusive stay in a contemporary private game lodge in the Greater Kruger National Park region
- A full-day tour of Cullinan, including a trip on the Diamond Express steam train and lunch
- Half-day Table Mountain tour
- Full-day Franschhoek Wine Tram tour
- Guided tour of the UNESCO World Heritage Listed Victoria Falls
- Farewell dinner on the opulent Royal Livingstone Express Train

HOW YOU WILL TRAVEL

The best train trips possible, private luxury coach for off-train travel and many other appealing ways to travel. Here’s a selection:
Day 1 · Monday 13 August: ARRIVE JOHANNESBURG

Arrive at Johannesburg Airport and transfer to our hotel, located in the heart of the bustling entertainment hub of Gauteng. Our hotel is known for its charming English countryside atmosphere and is close to Sandton Mall and Nelson Mandela Square, just a 15-minute walk away. In the evening, join Scott and your fellow travellers, and get to know each other over a hearty welcome dinner in the hotel’s restaurant.

Overnight: Protea Hotel by Marriott Johannesburg Balalaika Sandton, Johannesburg (D)

Day 2: Tuesday 14 August: JOHANNESBURG

After breakfast, we transfer by coach to Hermanstad Train Station, approximately 45 minutes away. Here we board the Diamond Express steam train for a day trip to the historic mining town of Cullinan. It was here that the world’s biggest gem-quality diamond was found. It was later crafted into crown jewels for Edward VII. Our German built steam loco and train of vintage carriages runs on the same railway on which a noted British foreign correspondent made his escape from captivity during the Anglo-Boer War, hidden in a freight train. His name was Winston Churchill.

We visit the Cullinan Diamond Mine and tour the vast facility, which is renowned as a source of large, high-quality gem diamonds, including Type II stones, as well as being the world’s most important source of very rare blue diamonds.

After our return to Johannesburg in the afternoon, feel free to enjoy an evening at leisure. Scott will be happy to offer suggestions on popular restaurants and other activities you might be interested in trying.

Overnight: Protea Hotel by Marriott Johannesburg Balalaika Sandton, Johannesburg (B, L)

Day 3: Wednesday 15 August: ROVOS RAIL

After breakfast at the hotel, enjoy a half-day tour to the historic and vibrant urban region of Soweto, including lunch at the grand Pretoria Train Station. This sprawling metropolis of more than 3.5 million people on the outskirts of Johannesburg is synonymous with South Africa’s turbulent past and its hopes for the future. Our tour will see us walking the footsteps of great figures such as Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu. Along the way, we’ll visit the Mandela Squatter Camp, see an African merchant of traditional medicines, and experience how a typical family lives. In a jam-packed day, we’ll also visit the Hector Peterson’s Memorial Stone, Freedom Square in Kliptown and Nelson Mandela’s home before he was jailed. We’ll finish at the Apartheid Museum – a powerful and moving experience for any visitor.

We then board Rovos Rail, our luxurious home away from home for the next two nights. This magnificent train has really earned its reputation as truly world-class travel experience. It’s a rare occasion when you can travel through some of Africa’s most magnificent scenery aboard an authentically refurbished Edwardian-style train. All meals are served on board in the grand dining car and drinks are included. You can relax in the lounge and observation cars and of course in your beautifully appointed private compartment.

Overnight: Rovos Rail (B, L, D)

Day 4: Thursday 16 August: ROVOS RAIL

At around 10am our train arrives in Kimberley. We will have an opportunity to visit the Big Hole, a gargantuan open-pit and underground mine. With a surface area of 42 acres, it is claimed to be the largest hole excavated by hand. We’ll also have time to feed the mind at the Diamond Mine Museum.

Just after midday we depart Kimberley and precede overnight via De Aar (the country’s second-most important railway junction) and Beaufort West to Matjiesfontein.

Overnight: Rovos Rail (B, L, D)

Day 5: Friday 17 August: CAPE TOWN

Breakfast, lunch and dinner on the train

After breakfast, we pull into the historic village of Matjiesfontein, founded in 1884 by the legendary and energetic Scottish railway man, James Douglas Logan. Next stop Cape Town via Touws River and Worcester. We arrive at Cape Town Station at around 6pm. The exceptionally scenic city of Cape Town is a city unlike any other. Sandwiched between the slopes of the iconic Table Mountain and the glistening sapphire waters of Table Bay it’s jaw-droppingly beautiful. Add to that a bustling harbour, world-class beaches, top-notch vineyards, and mountainous surroundings brimming with diverse flora and fauna, and you’ll see why Cape Town captivates the hearts of all who visit.

After being dropped at the hotel by private transfer, we’ll enjoy a five-star meal and a complimentary port before retiring for the evening.

Overnight: More Quarters Hotel, Cape Town (B, L, D)
Day 6: Saturday 18 August: CAPE TOWN
After breakfast at the hotel we head off on a half-day Cape Town city and Table
Mountain tour. This tour takes us on a fascinating journey through the city, before
heading to the base of Table Mountain. We then travel by cable car to the top
of the mountain where we will enjoy spectacular, panoramic views of the city
and its mountainous surrounds. Visible at times from 200 kilometres out at sea,
the mountain made the anchorage of Table Bay easy to find and attracted early
seafarers to the ‘Tavern of the Seas’ for shelter, drinking water and fresh produce.
Lunch is included and then the afternoon and evening are yours to enjoy as you
choose. A short walk from our hotel takes you to the buzzing bistro, boutiques,
cafes and restaurants of Kloof Street, where you can enjoy the energy of the city
and truly experience Cape Town. Options to explore Cape Town further include
many world-class contemporary art galleries, and the Kirstenbosch National
Botanical Garden, which lives up to its reputation as the most beautiful garden
in Africa and one of the great botanic gardens of the world. Alternatively, take
in a Whales & Wine Tour or a picnic at sunset on Signal Hill, the choice is yours!
Overnight: More Quarters Hotel, Cape Town (B)

Day 7: Sunday 19 August: CAPE TOWN
Enjoy your second day of discovering all that Cape Town has to offer. Alternatively,
take the day to relax and recharge while enjoying the hotel facilities. Help yourself
to one of the books or board games from the library and chat to the friendly hotel
staff over complimentary afternoon high tea in the lounge.
Overnight: More Quarters Hotel, Cape Town (B)

Day 8: Monday 20 August: ROBBEN ISLAND - FRANSCHHOEK
In the morning, we’ll leave the hotel and make our way to the Clock Tower
(Nelson Mandela Gateway) to board the ferry to Robben Island. The three-and-
a-half-hour tour includes a return trip across beautiful Table Bay (30-minute
ferry ride) and a visit to the maximum security prison where Mandela was held.
During the 45-minute bus tour of the prison, our expert guide will reveal the
history of this important site – with the rare opportunity to meet an ex-political
prisoner. Later, explore the Murray’s Bay Harbour precinct attractions, such
as the Muslim shrine, or kramat, and the Museum Shop, and take time out for
lunch where you choose.
Next up, we take a coach trip to Franschhoek, idyllically situated in the Cape
winelands, this peaceful country retreat is one of the oldest towns in South
Africa and means French Corner in Afrikaans.
Our hotel for the next two nights has become one of the ultimate getaways in
its class. Capturing the essence of 4-star luxury, this impeccably appointed
hotel provides unparalleled views of the mountains and is the perfect setting
for a taste of the legendary Cape Wine Routes. This evening we enjoy dinner
at the hotel
Overnight: Le Franschhoek Hotel and Spa, Franschhoek (B, D)

Day 9: Tuesday 21 August: FRANSCHHOEK
Today we get back on the rails, with a full day on the Franschhoek Wine Tram.
This hop-on hop-off tour is the best way to discover the true essence of the
Franschhoek Valley, with its picturesque vineyards, breath-taking scenery,
world-class cuisine, fine wines, and a 300-year history to explore.
Lunch and dinner is at your leisure.
Overnight: Le Franschhoek Hotel and Spa, Franschhoek (B)

Day 10: Wednesday 22 August: KAPAMA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE
This morning we will make our way to Cape Town International
Airport (about one-hour by road) to board our flight to
Hoedspruit. After arrival, another one-hour road transfer will
deliver us to our charming lodge in time for lunch.
Kapama epitomises the authentic African safari experience.
stretching across 13 000 hectares, towards the Kruger area,
with top-class private accommodation. Our lodge features
opuslently furnished public spaces and an expansive wooden
deck leading to a rim-flow swimming pool. Beyond lies and
expanses of soft river sand, where atmospheric, lamp-lit
dinners are enjoyed under the stars. As you’d expect, Kapama
is known for its diverse wildlife experiences and is a home to
what’s known as the Big Five of African animals.
Get set because this afternoon we head out bush on the first
of our game drives.
Overnight: Kapama River Lodge (B, L, D)
Day 11: Thursday 23 August: KAPAMA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE
This morning we board the Jeeps again to witness the early morning majesty of the African savannah before breakfast back at the lodge. Mid-morning is time to relax. Perhaps treat yourself to a spa treatment. Considered one of the finest safari spas in Africa, the Spa situated at River Lodge has six sumptuous treatment rooms in a setting surrounded by stillness and sweeping bushveld. Arranged around a generous central lap pool the spa evokes a sense of calm you rarely experience. Lunch is at the lodge. Then we hit the trail again in search of Africa’s legendary wildlife. 
Overnight: Kapama River Lodge (B,L,D)

Day 12: Friday 24 August: LIVINGSTONE (VICTORIA FALLS)
Our final early morning game drive is followed by breakfast at the lodge and road transfer to Nelspruit Airport. We board our flight to Livingstone, arriving at our hotel mid-afternoon. After all the excitement of Kapama, you’ll have the chance catch your breath and freshen up before a relaxed, two-hour sunset cruise. Step back in time to the luxury of yesteryear. Our wood-panelled, double-storey river boat will take us upward and westward along The Zambezi River while we enjoy drinks and canapés. The 4th largest river in Africa, The Zambezi forms a natural border between Zambia and Zimbabwe. Dotted with islands and sandbanks, the stretch of the river preceding Victoria Falls is bordered on the Zimbabwean side by the Zambezi National Park. Spot large herds of elephants as they come down for an evening drink, or lazy crocodiles and hippos catching the last rays of the sun. Bird watching along the riverfront is spectacular with Fish Eagles, starlings and a multitude of other species adding their own energy to the magnificent African sunset.
Overnight: David Livingstone Safari Lodge & Spa (B)

Day 13: Saturday 25 August: LIVINGSTONE (VICTORIA FALLS)
Get ready for a big day with a hearty breakfast at the hotel. Today we’ll take a half-day tour of the Falls. One of the original natural wonders of the world, Victoria Falls is a World Heritage Site and an extremely popular tourism attraction. Known locally as Mosi-oa-Tunya, ‘The Smoke that Thunders’, this awe-inspiring spectacle is accessible from both Zambia and Zimbabwe. Our farewell dinner this evening is on board the Royal Livingstone Express – a classic ‘time travel’ experience back into history. Conveyed by beautiful and lovingly restored steam locos and carriages, the dinner trip incorporates a classic steam train expedition with a set, five course fine dining experience provided by Royal Livingstone Hotel. The journey runs along 15 kilometres of the newly refurbished Mulobezi railway line that runs through the heart of the Zambezi River Valley.
Overnight: David Livingstone Safari Lodge & Spa (B,D)

Day 14: Sunday 26 August: Tour Departure
It is now time to bid our fellow travellers a fond farewell. Enjoy breakfast at the lodge before checking out and your transfer to the airport for the flight home.

**INCLUSIONS**
- 11 nights’ accommodation in well appointed hotels
- Two nights on the Rovos Rail train from Pretoria to Cape Town in a Pullman Suite, including all meals; all alcoholic and other beverages; 24-hour full room service and bar facilities; limited laundry service; excursions accompanied by a qualified tour guide (where applicable); entrance fees to places of interest
- Meals as specified in your itinerary
- Drinks included with welcome and farewell dinners
- VIP personalized meet and greet upon arrival
- Transfers throughout
- Comprehensive sightseeing with expert local guides
- All excursions and entrance fees to attractions as listed in the itinerary
- Domestic and regional flights within Southern Africa
- Zambia Visa
- Gratuities

**PRICE**
Per person twin share......................... $9,890
Single supplement.............................. $2,795

**Deposits**
Deposit (per person) ....................... $1000 at time of booking
Final payment due by ....................... 13 June 2018

**EXCLUSIONS**
- International flights
- Airport transfers on departure
- Meals and services not mentioned in itinerary
- All other personal expenses such as drinks, phone calls, laundry services, camera fees where applicable
- Excursions listed as optional and extra in the brochure
SUGGESTED FLIGHTS
We have suggested flights for this itinerary depending on your departure point from Australia, any preferred stopovers en-route and/or your planned pre- and post-tour activities. We can also investigate your preferred airline and offer you a solution based on connection times and prices. Contact 1300 733 323 to discuss your options.

HOW TO BOOK
Download a booking form from our website and follow the easy steps to getting on board. Alternatively, contact Platinum Travel & Tours on 1300 733 323 or enquiries@platinumtravel.com if you’d prefer a form be sent to you.

Complete the form and submit it, along with your $1000 pp deposit to secure your place on the tour.

DETAILS SUBJECT TO CHANGE
We endeavour to have all the details of our tours correct at the time of printing. However, sometimes factors beyond our control may affect the final inclusions and prices. These factors may include, but not be limited to: significant fluctuations in currency exchange rates, individual hotel/restaurant decisions that may affect bookings; weather events forcing a change of itinerary; unexpected trackwork on rail lines, unexpected closure of site attractions and so forth. Therefore, items mentioned in the brochure such as quoted prices, hotels and inclusions are subject to change. If a change is imposed on us, we will endeavour to ensure the substitute is of the same quality that you’ve paid for.

TOUR PACE / LEVEL OF FITNESS:
Our itineraries are designed to make the most of each destination, so a reasonable amount of activity is built into most days, which is why we call them adventures. Our philosophy is to offer you the best experience possible, while leaving you, our guest, the flexibility to pace yourself and choose how much or how little you want to do. Each Railway Adventures tour incorporates periods of free time for your own exploration and relaxation. While you don’t need to be a ‘gym junky’, a reasonable level of fitness is required for most of our tours.

The ability to manage your own luggage, get on and off all manner of trains and coaches, walk for extended periods, stand comfortably, and climb steps and stairs will ensure you get the maximum enjoyment from your adventure.

ADDITIONAL TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS
In addition to assisting with flight suggestions and bookings, we can also give you some ideas of what you could do before and after your Railway Adventure. We can also organise your all-important Travel Insurance for you. Call our office on 1300 733 323 if you would like to discuss options.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS
For more information on factors such as travel insurance requirements, fitness levels, fees and charges, tour cancellations, payment schedules and so on, please refer to our Terms and Conditions, which accompany the booking form. They can also be found on our website.

WHERE YOU WILL STAY
Hand-picked hotels and resorts based on location, customer feedback, value and atmosphere. Here’s a selection;

Kapama River Lodge
More Quarters Hotel, Cape Town
Rovos Rail
Le Franschhoek Hotel & Spa
A passion for train travel can manifest itself in many ways. Founder and director of Railway Adventures, Scott McGregor, has made much of his obsession over the years. “Travelling to boarding school on the Mudgee Mail gave me a sense of how an active social life and long-distance trains can be a good combination.” Building a rural retreat out of a collection of vintage railway carriages in the early 1980s gave Scott a new perspective on rail heritage. During this time, he also operated his first tour—the Antipodean Renaissance Express—an experience he has never forgotten. Trading in vintage memorabilia and furniture sourced largely from the railways was also a source of great inspiration. Scott traveled far and wide trading and collecting for his Sydney shop, Off The Rails.

Hosting a couple of TV documentary series about great train journeys paved the way for leading his own train journeys. Once just an enjoyable part-time hobby, “getting paid to do what I love” has, naturally enough, led to a more substantial commitment and ultimately the launch of Scott’s own dedicated train travel and touring company.

This tour is operated by Platinum Travel Corp in association with Scott McGregor’s Railway Adventures. ATAS Accreditation No: A10597