



APRIL 2016

### **Train Travel in Southern Africa**

Incorporating a train journey into your itinerary adds an out-of-the-ordinary experience that is truly in a league of its own. Whether it's the iconic passage between Johannesburg and Cape Town or voyages to Victoria Falls, Dar Es Salaam or Namibia, there are experiences and destinations to suit all travellers.



#### **Rovos Rail**

Experience the ultimate in luxury rail travel aboard Rovos Rail's lavish trains which offer epic journeys throughout southern and East Africa. Since its inaugural trip in 1989, Rovos Rail – brainchild of South African entrepreneur Rohan Vos – has evolved into one of the world's greatest train journeys and is described as 'the most luxurious train in the world'.

Read more [here](#).



#### **Blue train**

Enjoy South Africa from the comfort and luxury of the Blue Train on a trip between Pretoria and Cape Town or Hoedspruit. The Blue Train's suspension, braking, lighting and under-floor heating systems have been designed and customised with guest comfort as the primary consideration, allowing them to savour the experience of a smooth, pleasurable ride.

Read more [here](#).



#### **Shongololo Express**

The Shongololo Express, operated by Rovos Rail as of January 2016, offers exciting Train Adventures across seven countries: South Africa, Botswana, Swaziland, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Zambia. The railway travel concept allows guests to capitalize on their time in Africa, travelling in comfort during the night, and enjoying safaris and excursions during the day.

Read more [here](#).



## Monthly Features



### Restaurant of the month

#### Royal Livingstone Express

Keeping to the theme of train trips, the Royal Livingstone Express is a unique dining experience combining the luxury of Sun International's Royal Livingstone hotel with the charm of rail travel. The train provides fine wining and dining as you travel through the picturesque Zambezi. Two dining cars seat 92 passengers for a 6-course gourmet dining experience.

Read more [here](#).



### Tour of the Month

#### Lunar Rainbow Tour

During full moon the Victoria Falls rainforest opens in the evening for special tours to witness the magic of the lunar rainbow. This is one of the few places on earth where this natural phenomenon occurs. The lunar rainbow is best seen at times of high water (April to July) when there is sufficient spray to create the moonbow effect. May viewing dates are 20, 21 and 22 May 2016.

Read more [here](#).



### New Product

#### Batonka Lodge, Victoria Falls

Due to open in June 2016, Batonka Lodge is located in the quiet residential suburb of Victoria Falls. The lodge will offer 22 rooms, all on ground level and overlooking a beautiful garden. Communal facilities include indoor and outdoor dining, a bar, a comfortable lounge, swimming pool, curio shop and activities desk.

Read more [here](#).

## Specials & General Updates

**Please note:** All information on Specials and Packages on offer by our partners is available on the Wilderness Window.

### SPECIALS:

The **Sabi Sabi 3 Night Fly In Package** has increased in price slightly due to Federal Air tariff increases.

The Wilderness Safaris and Associated Product **Bush, Beach & Battlefields Package** is a stunning 7 night package including Three Tree Hill (2 nights), Nambiti Plains Lodge (2 nights) and Rocktail Camp (3 nights).

And, the Wilderness Safaris and Associated Product **A Kenyan Journey** including Segera Retreat (3 nights) and Angama Mara (3 nights) has been extended to include the high season validity.

### UPDATES:

**&Beyond** has taken over the management of Matetsi Private Game Reserve. The reserve is currently undergoing an extensive \$10 million dollar investment, and will reopen on 15 July 2016.

**The Saxon Hotel** has won awards for Africa's and South African's leading boutique hotel. Shambalala Private game Reserve also won the award for Africa's and South Africa's Leading Private Game Reserve. The Saxon Spa is undergoing renovations from 4<sup>th</sup> April until end of Oct 2016.

**Federal Air** has cancelled the JNB/Phinda flight routing as of 01 August 2016.

**Duba Expedition Camp** (Great Plains) is now open and has hosted their first guests. Duba Plains Camp is now closed for a total reconstruction and is expected to re-open in January 2017. Once the new Duba Plains Camp opens, the Duba Expedition Camp will close.

	<p><b>Leeu Collection</b> has increased rates for Leeu Estate, Leeu House and Le Quartier Francais from 1 September 2016.</p> <p><b>Arathusa Safari Lodge</b> has implemented the voluntary Sabi Sand Guest Conservation Contribution initiated by the Sabi Sand Wildtuin (SSW). The amount of R50.00 pppn will be collected from guests voluntarily on departure. From 01 January 2017, however, the contribution will be added to accommodation invoices for pre-payment prior to guest arrival.</p> <p><b>Tsogo Sun</b> - Rates for Garden Court Sandton City, Southern Sun O.R. Tambo and Southern Sun Emnotweni have decreased effective 15 April 2016 for all new bookings.</p> <p><i>Terms &amp; Conditions apply to above Specials and Packages. Please contact us for details.</i></p>
<p><b>Shows and Events</b></p>	<p><b><u>Richard's Supper Stage Restaurant - Open daily (except Wednesdays)</u></b> Situated in Sea Point, and offers an evening of fun, entertainment and a buffet dinner. The Musical Revue of Cape Stories from the Mother City is filled with unique humor, intoxicating rhythms and soulful songs that celebrate the challenges and triumphs of the people of Cape Town.</p> <p><b><u>Hostex, Johannesburg (Sandton Convention Centre) – 3 – 5 May 2016</u></b> Hostex is Africa's leading hospitality and culinary expo in South Africa for good reason. Visitors will be treated to an exciting programme of demonstrations by top chefs, culinary displays, and nail-biting competitions for student chefs, up and coming chefs, and experienced chefs at the SA Chefs' Association Chefs Village.</p> <p><b><u>Franschhoek Literary Festival – 13 – 15 May 2016</u></b> For three days Franschhoek will become a bustling get-together of readers, writers, booksellers and publishers. Visit the Polemics and Politics themed Franschhoek Literary Festival. Tickets are available from the Franschhoek Wine Valley &amp; Tourist Association.</p> <p><b><u>Good Food &amp; Wine Show Cape Town – 26 – 29 May 2016</u></b> All of Cape Town's gourmets, gourmands and good-life devotees will be treated at South Africa's finest food and beverage exhibition. There is an exciting line-up of international celebrity and BBC chefs accompanied by South Africa's first class chefs in nine state-of-the-art kitchen theatres as well as a number of unique speciality shows. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online.</p> <p><b><u>Comrades Marathon, Pietermaritzburg – 29 May 2016</u></b> The world's greatest ultra-marathon, 89 kilometers long, the Comrades is a South African institution, internationally recognised for the body-sapping challenge it poses and the camaraderie it fosters among its thousands of participants. Run between the capital of KwaZulu Natal, Pietermaritzburg, and the coastal city of Durban, the race alternates annually between the up run from Durban and the down run from Pietermaritzburg.</p>

For further information on any of the above or other Associated Product, please email us directly.



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