



Shongololo Express operates exciting adventure train trips, each traversing great stretches of Southern Africa to let you experience the wonderful topographic, social, historic, floral and wildlife diversity of these distinctive areas - south and west coast - the central and southern regions - and the northern and north-eastern areas of this richly endowed sub-continent.

THE SOUTHERN CROSS ADVENTURE

SOUTHBOUND

15 NIGHTS / 16 DAYS

This 16-day journey encompasses six countries on a route that is carefully crafted to deliver stunning experiences each and every day. The train travels between Johannesburg and Victoria Falls, stopping at carefully selected locations in South Africa, Swaziland, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Botswana. As the tracks unfurl a rare insight is offered into the cultural and geographical cocktail that makes Southern Africa so vibrant and exciting.



2012

DEPARTURES
02 Apr 12 To 17 Apr 12
01 Oct 12 To 16 Oct 12

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PRE-DAY - VICTORIA FALLS

Guests will be met upon arrival at Victoria Falls International Airport and transferred to the train. Having a pre-day allows guests to acclimatise and unpack prior to the first day of touring. A pre-night on board will include dinner, bed and breakfast.

Nature & Wildlife	Highlights & Leisure	Culture & People	OPTIONAL EXTRAS
ALL INCLUSIVE IN THE PACKAGE.			ALWAYS OPTIONAL

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

1. Flight of Angels

A highlight of any visit to Victoria Falls is a trip in a light aircraft or helicopter over the Falls. Enjoy a bird's eye view of one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World in all its magical splendour.

2. White Water River Rafting

Batoka Gorge provides one of the most intense sensory thrills imaginable. Its twenty-three white water rapids and striking scenery deep within the sheer black cliffs, afford the adrenaline junkie a wild roller coaster ride. The rapids are run in large rubber rafts, launched from just below the Falls. (Seasonal)

3. Elephant Riding

Seated comfortably on the back of nature's true "King of the Beasts", guests can experience an age-old African tradition. A mutually enriching and rewarding experience for man and elephant in a modern-day Africa.

4. Bungee Jumping from Livingstone Bridge

Spanning the gorge between Zambia and Zimbabwe, The Livingstone Bridge offers one of the world's highest bungee jumps (111 m). Challenge the limits of the mind and test the edge of fear by leaping off the impressive steel structure, with the Falls behind and the mighty Zambezi River below.

A pre-night on board will include dinner, bed and breakfast.

The train remains stationary at Victoria Falls Station over night.

DAY 01 - VICTORIA FALLS

Guests arriving at Victoria Falls International Airport today will be met and transferred to the train. Please note that you should arrive no later than 08h00 at the airport in order to be able to participate in the day's touring.

INCLUSIVE OPTION

The Victoria Falls

Forming the largest single "curtain" of falling water on earth (on average the curtain is 92 m deep) The Victoria Falls' 500m plume of spray can be seen from as far as 70 km away. The sound of the water can also be heard from kilometres away and up close this muted 'thunder' becomes a roar. In full flood, over 550 million litres of water per minute cascade over the brink. The vast width of the Falls, extending 1 708 m, allow for many safe vantage points from where you will be able to get different views of the roiling water as it crashes into the gorge and whose constant spray maintains the Rain Forest. The forest is an attraction on its own with many of the trees marked to help identification. These include fig, mahogany, date palm, milkwood and ebony. The bird life is also prolific and species that may be seen include the colourful sunbird and large trumpeter hornbill. Craft and curio shops abound with enough variety for everyone to find something to take home as a souvenir. (Morning. Distance travelled: ± 15 km)

The afternoon is spent at leisure.

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

1. Flight of Angels

See Pre-Day

2. White Water River Rafting

See Pre-Day

3. Elephant Riding

See Pre-Day

Nature & Wildlife	Highlights & Leisure	Culture & People	OPTIONAL EXTRAS
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4. Bungee Jumping from Livingstone Bridge

See Pre-Day

The train remains stationary at Victoria Falls Station over night.

DAY 02 - CHOBE NATIONAL PARK (BOTSWANA)

INCLUSIVE OPTION

Chobe National Park

A 70-kilometre road trip brings us to the Botswana border, where we cross into the famous Chobe National Park. There is a great array of wildlife and the Chobe elephants are well respected, as are the many hippos which can be seen in large numbers basking in the river. Highlights include a game drive in 4x4 vehicles and a river cruise on the Chobe River. Lunch (guests' own account) will be taken at a waterfront lodge where there is a swimming pool.

(Full day. Distance travelled: ± 200 km)

The train remains stationary at Victoria Falls Station over night.

DAY 03 - LIVINGSTONE (ZAMBIA)

INCLUSIVE OPTION

Across the Falls and into Livingstone

Guests cross the Great Zambezi River via the famous rail/road bridge. Our first stop is on the Zambian side of Victoria Falls before continuing to the town of Livingstone, named after David Livingstone, the Scottish missionary, who had an insatiable appetite for exploration and a desire to open Africa to the world. The existence of the Falls had of course been known to local tribes long before he 'discovered' them. Upon hearing stories about "Mosi oa Tunya" (the smoke that thunders), he arranged to be taken there by dugout canoe and on November 16, 1855 Livingstone came to the northern end of what is now Livingstone Island. From there he crawled to the edge of the precipice and beheld the spectacle of the waterfall for the first time. We visit the Livingstone Museum before heading to the Waterfront Lodge for lunch. Our last visit in the afternoon will be at the Fifth Gorge for a spectacular view of the Zambezi River.

(Full day. Distance travelled: ± 70 km)

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Lunchtime Boat Cruise

This spectacular lunchtime cruise on the Zambezi includes a buffet lunch and drinks.

Over night at Sikumi Tree Lodge

Guests have the opportunity to spend a night in a rustic lodge in Hwange National Park. You will depart from Victoria Falls after lunch in our Shongololo vehicles. Late afternoon you will board open 4x4 safari vehicles for a game drive. The package includes game drives, dinner, bed, breakfast and lunch. The following day, you will experience a series of game drives until late afternoon when you will rejoin the train at Dete Station.

Evening Activity

An off-rail dinner is planned for this evening.

The train departs for Dete after dinner.

Nature & Wildlife	Highlights & Leisure	Culture & People	OPTIONAL EXTRAS
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DAY 04 - HWANGE NATIONAL PARK

INCLUSIVE OPTIONS

Hwange National Park

Situated in the north-west corner of Zimbabwe, Hwange National Park is the nation's largest wildlife area and contains a variety of animals and bird species, but is most well known for its prolific lion population. Covering 1 462 000 hectares, Hwange is roughly the same size as Belgium. An early morning game drive in the park is followed by breakfast at the Sable Valley Lodge. After a morning of game viewing, lunch (guests' own account) will be at the Sikumi Tree Lodge. There will be an opportunity to relax at the pool for a while before we resume our game viewing later in the afternoon.

(Full day. Departure time depends on the gate opening times. Distance travelled: ± 120 km)

The train departs for Bulawayo in the evening.

DAY 05 - BULAWAYO AND MATOBO NATIONAL PARK

INCLUSIVE OPTIONS

1. Matobo Hills and Art Gallery (closed on Sundays)

Matobo means "bald headed ones" and aptly describes the dramatic hills and granite rocks of this area. Highlights include a visit to the burial place of Cecil John Rhodes, who gave the country its previous name of Rhodesia. Afterwards, we will go and visit one of the more accessible bushman caves, of which there are many hidden amongst the hills. There will be time for lunch (guests' own account) before joining a tour of the Natural History Museum, which is one of the best of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere. Lastly, we take a drive through the city and visit an art gallery.

(Full day; distance travelled: ± 150 km)

2. Matobo Hills and Railway Museum

Matobo means "bald headed ones" and aptly describes the dramatic hills and granite rocks of this area. Highlights include a visit to the burial place of Cecil John Rhodes, who gave the country its previous name of Rhodesia. Afterwards, we will go and visit one of the more accessible bushman caves, of which there are many hidden amongst the hills. There will be time for lunch (guests' own account) before joining a tour of the Natural History Museum, which is one of the best of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere. For rail enthusiasts, we replace the art gallery with a visit to the Railway Museum.

(Full day. Distance travelled: ± 150 km)

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

1. Chipangali

A visit to this famous wildlife orphanage gives an insight into the plight of these abandoned wild animals.

2. Rhino Tracking in Matobo National Park

After the morning tour of the recreational part of the National Park, join a ranger for lunch and set off on a walking safari through the bushveld searching for the trail of one of the Big 5, the rhino!! With some luck you could see or even get very, very close to this fascinating and endangered animal.

Please note that this activity will clash with the overnight and night encounter with lions at Antelope Park.

3. Overnight at Antelope Park & night encounter with lions

After the morning tour in the Matobos and lunch, we depart Bulawayo & head for Gweru. After a 90 minute drive we reach Antelope Park, our destination and stop for the night. Check in and rest or explore the grounds and enjoy the African sunset before dinner. After dinner the "Night Encounter" action will commence! We

Nature & Wildlife	Highlights & Leisure	Culture & People	OPTIONAL EXTRAS
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board an open safari vehicle & follow the lions on their hunt. THIS ENCOUNTER HAS NO GUARANTEES as the action could be over in a relatively short time or take hours before the lions have any luck.....or may be none at all! Next morning, wake up to the sounds of the bush and after breakfast you will join the rest of the group to enjoy the various activities on offer at Antelope Park.

The train travels to Somabhula in the evening.

DAY 06 – ANTELOPE PARK, GWERU

INCLUSIVE OPTIONS

Antelope Park - Walk with lions and lion cub viewing

Antelope Park's long-term project aim is to reintroduce the offspring of captive bred lions into the wild. But today there is one highlight and that is a walk with some of the lions - approximately 90 minutes accompanying lions varying in age from 3months to 15months. No leashes, no collars - the lions roam free with you through the African bush for an amazing photo opportunity. You may even be fortunate enough to experience a lion stalking some of the wildlife species which abound in Antelope Park. Back at the camp, you will also have the opportunity for about 20 minutes to view and interact with younger lion cubs.

Gweru Military Museum and Aviation Display

After lunch in Antelope Park, guests who are interested in military and aviation hardware will board a Shongololo bus and drive to the town of Gweru to visit the Military Museum.

Somabhula Primary School

Late afternoon after Antelope Park and the Military Museum, guests will head back to Somabhula for a visit to the local primary school. After a touching show prepared for us by children and teachers, there is a great opportunity to interact with them. Donations such as stationery and clothes as well as financial donations are always most welcome at this exceptional school.

(Full day. Distance travelled ± 50 km)

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

1. Canoe Hire

During our stay at Antelope Park, you will be able to take a canoe and paddle on your own on the river and observe the birdlife.

2. Game Drives

Take an open vehicle safari in a one hour game drive through the park.

3. Horseback game viewing

For experienced riders only. Enjoy one and a half hours on horse back through the park on a guided ride.

4. Elephant Riding

Two up on Africa's largest mammal for a 30 minute ride through the park.

5. Lion Breeding Project

"Alert" is the name of the project. The objective of this project is for the new generation of lions to be released into the wild.

6. Birdwatching Boat Cruise

Enjoy 45 minutes of birdwatching on the river in an open ten -seater boat.

After the return to the train in the early evening, we will depart for Bannockburn.

Nature & Wildlife	Highlights & Leisure	Culture & People	OPTIONAL EXTRAS
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DAY 07 - GREAT ZIMBABWE

INCLUSIVE OPTION

Largest monument in Africa south of the Pyramids

Great Zimbabwe, a hugely impressive monument situated on the south-eastern edge of the central plateau is the largest pre-colonial monument south of the Egyptian pyramids and is a celebrated achievement of the African people. Magical fables such as the story of King Solomon's Mines find their origins here amongst the ruins of an ancient city built by the Rozwi people. Discover how these ancient people lived and mined gold and silver, which were ultimately taken out of Africa by Arabic and Portuguese traders. The tour is followed by lunch at the Great Zimbabwe Hotel (guests' own account), after which we travel through attractive granite hill country to Rutenga.

(Full day. Distance travelled: ± 300 km)

Guests rejoin the train at Rutenga and travel to Beit Bridge where the train crosses into South Africa.

DAY 08 – DAY ON TRAIN TO SOUTH AFRICA

INCLUSIVE OPTION

Day on the train

Guests spend the day relaxing on the train which travels through the countryside of Limpopo, Gauteng and Mpumalanga provinces. The train stops in Nelspruit, the capital of Mpumalanga, where guests spend the night, departing for the Panorama Route the following morning.

Lunch will be served on the train today and our guides will host informative talks in the lounges.

DAY 09 - PANORAMA ROUTE

INCLUSIVE OPTION

Panorama Route

In 1873 gold was discovered in the area around the quaint town of Pilgrim's Rest, now a living museum and National Monument. The find attracted 1500 diggers and today, many of the restored miner's houses serve as shops. Further along the escarpment we find the great Blyde River Canyon, a gorge 26 km in length and 800 m deep, carved from the face of the escarpment. The Three Rondavels, three huge rock spirals rising out of the far wall of the canyon and resembling African huts present an unforgettable sight. Bourke's Luck Potholes are strange deep cylindrical cavities formed by river erosion and floodwater. From the vantage point of God's Window we gaze across the sweeping landscape of the Lowveld, where subtle fragrances of the lower region rise to merge with the crisp winds of the Highveld.

(Full day. Distance travelled: ± 280 km)

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Sunrise Balloon Experience

Early morning pick-up and transfer to the balloon launch site. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served on arrival, followed by a scenic balloon flight lasting about an hour. Cape sparkling wine will be served upon landing, followed by breakfast at a country lodge. After we will rejoin the rest of the group in Sabie town and continue on the Panorama tour.

(This activity is weather dependent)

The train remains stationary in Nelspruit.

Nature & Wildlife	Highlights & Leisure	Culture & People	OPTIONAL EXTRAS
ALL INCLUSIVE IN THE PACKAGE.			ALWAYS OPTIONAL

DAY 10 - KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

INCLUSIVE OPTIONS

Kruger National Park

The world-renowned Kruger National Park offers a wildlife experience second to none. Its 2 million hectares are unrivalled in diversity of life forms and the park is a world leader in advanced environmental management techniques. The park is home to an impressive number of species, e.g. 336 species of trees, 49 species of fish, 34 species of amphibians, 114 species of reptiles, 507 species of birds and 147 species of mammals. Game drives will be conducted in our air-conditioned vehicles.

(Full day. Departure time depends on the season, as gates open and close with sunrise and sunset. Distance travelled: ± 220 km)

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

1. Open Vehicle Safari

Game drives are conducted in open safari vehicles, specifically designed to ensure safety as well as optimum game viewing. Guides have intimate knowledge of the fauna and flora. Lunch (guests' own account) will be at one of the rest camps in the Park. Game viewing continues for the remainder of the afternoon.

2. Protea Kruger Gate Lodge

Depart from the train at 06h00 and travel through the Kruger National Park in open 4x4 game viewing vehicles, until at around noon you reach the Kruger Gate Protea Lodge, situated along the Sabi River at the Paul Kruger Gate. Check into your rooms, relax and enjoy the Lodge's facilities. After lunch (own account) and a siesta guests depart at 16h00 for a late afternoon game drive, returning to the Lodge at around sunset. Dinner and overnight at the Lodge. The next morning at 06h00 depart on an early morning game drive, returning to the Lodge mid-morning for brunch after which guests check out and are collected by a Shongololo vehicle and guide to return to the train. (Bookings subject to availability)

3. Private Game Reserve

At around 11h00 you will be transferred to this luxury lodge, situated in a private game reserve on the banks of the Sabi River, where lunch awaits you. After a siesta, followed by coffee and cake, you will depart on a sunset safari in search of the Big Five. Encounters with all spheres of the eco-system, from the smallest insect to the mighty African elephant are possible. After sundowner drinks in the bush you will return to the lodge for a delicious dinner. Early the next morning just before sunrise you will be woken to take an open vehicle game drive to experience the African fauna at its most active. A mouth-watering breakfast will round off your experience, after which you will be taken to join the rest of the group inside the Kruger National Park. Game viewing will be done en route to rejoin the train.

(Bookings subject to availability)

The train moves on to Komatipoort during the day and remains stationary over night.

DAY 11 - MPUMALANGA

Mpumalanga, meaning "Land of the Rising Sun" is a province of extraordinary natural beauty.

INCLUSIVE OPTIONS

1. Kruger National Park

The world-renowned Kruger National Park offers a wildlife experience second to none. Its 2 million hectares are unrivalled in diversity of life forms and the park is a world leader in advanced environmental management techniques. The park is home to an impressive number of species, e.g. 336 species of trees, 49 species of fish, 34 species of amphibians, 114 species of reptiles, 507 species of birds and 147 species of mammals. Game drives will be conducted in our air-conditioned vehicles.

Nature & Wildlife	Highlights & Leisure	Culture & People	OPTIONAL EXTRAS
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(Full day. Departure time depends on the season, as gates open and close with sunrise and sunset. Distance travelled: ± 220 km)

2. Nelspruit

Nelspruit is considered the Gateway to Mpumalanga Province. The city's sub-tropical climate, abundant sunshine and fertile soil provide perfect conditions for the cultivation of citrus and tropical fruits (mango, banana, avocado, macadamia and pecan nuts) resulting in the city's becoming a trading centre for the outlying fruit growing area. The Lowveld Botanical Gardens just outside the town have a rare collection of plant species and the first man-made rain forest. Lunchtime will be spent at the Riverside Mall. In the afternoon you will head to the nearby Sudwala Caves and Dinosaur Park. A guided tour in the caves will expose your senses to primitive Africa.

(Full day. Distance travelled: ± 130 km)

Guests rejoin the train at Komatipoort before crossing overnight to Maputo - Mozambique.

DAY 12 - MAPUTO (MOZAMBIQUE)

Maputo, the capital of Mozambique is a city of contrasts and offers an exciting mix of cultures. The city swings along to a beat like no other in Africa and offers true African hospitality. Its architecture is a blend of African, Portuguese and early Colonial traditions, with old Catholic churches side-by-side with mosques, fortresses, Victorian mansions and other buildings from a bygone era.

INCLUSIVE OPTIONS

1. At the Beach

Guests are transferred to the ferry port for a ride to a beach resort where you can relax in the sun or go for a swim. Lunch (guests' own account) can be taken at a restaurant specialising in Indian Ocean cuisine with an emphasis on the freshest seafood dishes prepared in traditional African-Portuguese ways. A late afternoon stroll along the beach will see local fisherman landing their catches.

(Full day. Distance travelled: ± 160 km)

2. At the Beach on the Marginal

Guests are transferred to Costa Do Sol "Coast of the Sun". En route to this famous landmark hotel & restaurant your Shongololo Guide will give you an orientation on your surroundings and outline what activities you will be able to do during leisure time today. A shuttle service will be available at certain times and locations which will be pointed out by your guide. Along the colourful Marginal (palm lined beach front) you will find many cafés and restaurants which specialise in Indian Ocean cuisine with its emphasis on the freshest seafood dishes prepared in traditional African-Portuguese ways. Enjoy an ice cold local 2M or Laurentina beer in one of the charming bars. While you stroll along the beach, you will be able to watch local fishermen cast their nets, manoeuvre their light dhows in the breeze, watch or even join in a game of beach volley ball or football, or simply take in the hustle and bustle of beach lifestyle in this up and coming city.

(Full day. Distance travelled: ± 40 km)

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Inhaca & Portuguese Islands

Pristine beaches & an idyllic Indian Ocean island atmosphere typify this excursion, one hour's cruise away. Lunch and soft drinks at a local restaurant are included in this tour. Guests can also snorkel, deep sea dive or go deep-sea fishing.

(Bookings are subject to availability. Prices are subject to confirmation at the time of booking.)

Evening Activity

Dinner at a local seafood restaurant.

Nature & Wildlife	Highlights & Leisure	Culture & People	OPTIONAL EXTRAS
ALL INCLUSIVE IN THE PACKAGE.			ALWAYS OPTIONAL

The train remains stationary at Maputo Station over night.

DAY 13 - MAPUTO (MOZAMBIQUE)

INCLUSIVE OPTIONS

Tour of Maputo

Today's tour offers guests a good impression of the character of the city. A visit to the municipal market is followed by a stop at the old Fortaleza, which dates back to 1769. Other interesting city sites include the Catholic Cathedral, the Civic Centre, Louis Trichardt Trek Memorial, Samora Machel Statue, the Jardim Tunduru (Botanical Gardens) and Eiffel's Iron House (Casa do Ferro). The Polana Hotel, built in the 1920s, with its striking white exterior and stunning décor, is the best-known landmark in the city and from its gardens one can see Xefina Island. Next we visit an art gallery where furniture and sculptures are crafted out of old AK47 weapons. A drive along the Marginal takes us to Costa do Sol. At Costa do Sol there is an opportunity to relax while having a cold drink. Lunch (guests' own account) will be at Mundos restaurant or alternatively in one of the other restaurants or hotels in town. After lunch we head back to the train. An afternoon high tea will be served on board while we rock'n roll through the countryside.

(Half day. Distance travelled: ± 60 km)

The train departs Maputo at around 15h00 and travels into Swaziland via the Goba Border Post to Mpaka station.

DAY 14 - SWAZILAND

The tiny Kingdom of Swaziland covers only 17 000 square kilometres, making it the second smallest country in Africa.

INCLUSIVE OPTION

Tour through Swaziland

YOU WILL NEED YOUR PASSPORT FOR TODAY'S TOUR.

After passport formalities guests will travel by road to Manzini enjoying amazing views of the Ezulwini Valley and the Komati River en route. This excursion into Swaziland will introduce you to everyday life in Africa's smallest kingdom. The Swazi Market is a bustling hive of activity and displays a wide variety of skillfully crafted woodcarvings, colourful textiles and superb basketwork for which Swazis are renowned.

(Full day. Distance travelled: ± 400 km)

Guests rejoin the train in Kaapmuiden, South Africa and continue overnight to Boksburg East – Johannesburg.

DAY 15 - PRETORIA / JOHANNESBURG / SOWETO

Gauteng is the economic power house of the Southern African region and home to some of Africa's greatest cities. The name of the province is a Sotho word meaning "Place of Gold", which is very suitable since much of the wealth of Gauteng has derived from this precious metal.

INCLUSIVE OPTIONS

1. Pretoria and Soweto

We will spend the morning in Pretoria, the administrative capital of South Africa. We visit the Union Buildings designed by the famous colonial English architect, Sir Herbert Baker and completed in 1913 and which now houses the offices of the President and Ministers. The buildings overlook the city towards the once fortified hills to the south. A grand bronze statue of "Oom Paul (Kruger)", the patriarch president of the ZAR or old

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Transvaal Republic, surrounded by his Boer fighters, dominates Church Square, at the centre of the city. Before leaving the capital behind, we visit the Voortrekker Monument which commemorates the Great Trek of the 1830s. In the afternoon we travel to Soweto to visit the Hector Petersen Memorial, named after the first student to lose his life in the 1976 uprising against the Apartheid government.

(Full day. Distance travelled: ± 200 km)

2. Johannesburg and Soweto

Our day starts at Constitution Hill in Braamfontein in the centre of Johannesburg. This is the new home of the Constitutional Court and the site of Johannesburg's notorious Old Fort Prison Complex, where many of South Africa's leading political activists were detained. We then head onto the Newtown precinct to visit Museum Africa previously known as the market of Johannesburg. This is all part of the history of the "City of Gold". This is followed by a lunch break (guests' own account) in the suburb of Rosebank, where you can experience the multi-cultural "Rainbow Nation" in a modern, ethnocentric setting. Rosebank showcases a mix of first and third world cultures and arts and crafts from all over the African continent. In the afternoon, we travel to Soweto to experience the heartbeat of this township, comprising one million people and made famous by the laws of Apartheid. We pass the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital (the largest hospital in the Southern Hemisphere) and also drive past the only street in Africa that once housed two Nobel Peace Laureates - Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela. We visit the Hector Petersen Memorial, named after the first student to lose his life in the 1976 uprising against the Apartheid government.

(Full day. Distance travelled: ± 150 km)

The train remains stationary in Boksburg East Station - Johannesburg for the night.

DAY 16 - TRANSFER DAY

Guests transferring to a hotel will be taken through during the morning. Guests leaving later out of OR Tambo International Airport may take optional tours during the day.

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

1. The Cradle of Humankind: Maropeng and Sterkfontein Caves

NB: This Tour departs the train at 08h00 (MIN 4 PAX).

The Cradle of Humankind development combines the Maropeng Visitor Centre and Sterkfontein Caves. Our visit will start at Maropeng (a Setswana word for "returning to the place of origin"), the visitor centre at the Cradle of Humankind. An exciting 4-billion-year journey through the elemental forces of water and ice, air, fire and earth is simulated on an underground lake. Visitors emerge at the beginning of the world after dipping through waterfalls and icebergs, into the eye of a storm, past erupting volcanoes and through the depths of the earth. The journey continues through an experience that highlights the history of our world and humankind as a species. Many original fossils are on display here. We continue with a visit to the Sterkfontein Caves, 10 km away and most famous for two world-renowned hominid finds, namely Mrs Ples in 1947 and Little Foot in 1997. Since excavations at the site first began, hundreds of hominid fossils as well as stone tools have been found here. The excavation of Little Foot and other fossils is an ongoing process at this still active fossil dig. The scientific exhibition here includes lifelike models of hominids as well as specific finds such as Mrs Ples, the Taung Child and Little Foot.

2. Lesedi Cultural Village

NB: This Tour departs the train at 08h00 (MIN 4 PAX).

We visit this multi-cultural African Village set among pristine bushveld and rocky hills. Experience the culture of five of South Africa's major indigenous tribes: the Xhosa, Zulu, Pedi, Basotho and Ndebele. Lunch is included.

3. Gold Reef City, Apartheid Museum & The World of Beer

Nature & Wildlife	Highlights & Leisure	Culture & People	OPTIONAL EXTRAS
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NB: This Tour departs the train at 09h00 (MIN 4 PAX).

Situated on the previous site of Crown Mine which closed in the 1970's, Gold Reef City is an entertainment centre showcasing Johannesburg as it was at the time of the "Gold Rush" in the mid 1800's. Of the different activities guests will have the options of going down a gold mine (at guests' own account) visiting the Apartheid Museum exhibiting a variety of photos, videos and other media dating back to the political regime in South Africa until 1994. The World of Beer is situated in the heart of central Johannesburg & makes a great lunch stop with a guided tour & beer tasting. Lunch is for guests' own account.

The option includes the transfer, the entrance fee to Gold Reef City, Apartheid Museum & the World of Beer with a tasting.

4. East Rand Mall or Emperors Palace

NB: This shuttle departs the train on every hour on the hour & returns on every half hour, departing from the train at 12h00 with the last bus departing the centre at 15h30 back to the train.

Emperors Palace is a mini Las Vegas here in Africa, with a modern shopping centre offering many shops and services including banking and ATMs. The centre also has a good selection of restaurants for lunch.

Included in the package price:

- Arrival transfer: airport - train
- Departure transfer: train - airport
- Accommodation on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis (as per itinerary)
- A free choice of available inclusive tours.

NOT included in our package prices:

- Airfares (national / international)
 - Lunches
 - Beverages
 - Laundry
 - Gratuities
 - Purchases of a personal nature
 - Tour add ons
 - Pre-night accommodation
 - Visas where applicable
 - Travel insurance
 - Transfers between the train and hotels
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PLEASE NOTE:

AS SHONGOLOLO EXPRESS USES THE NATIONAL RAILWAY FACILITIES OF ZIMBABWE, SOUTH AFRICA, MOZAMBIQUE, NAMIBIA, AND SWAZILAND, THE POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT TRAINS COULD BE DELAYED, STOPPED OR REROUTED AT ANY TIME -DAILY ACTIVITIES COULD THEREFORE BE SHORTENED, ALTERED, OR CANCELLED.

SHONGOLOLO EXPRESS DOES NOT ACCEPT ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY CHANGES TO THE DAILY PROGRAMME. HOWEVER THE COMPANY WILL ALWAYS ENDEAVOUR TO COMPLETE THE DAILY PROGRAMMES TO THE BEST OF ITS ABILITY.