



# MILESTONES & MEMORIES

**1988** Dramatically increased **coach-building** activity took place, plus the arrival and rebuild of loco 439, an 1893 6 Class. • The first **video** was shot and initial publicity photographs were taken. • **Joy Hayward** became Rovos Rail's first employee in the marketing department.



**1993** The first Rovos train trundled into **Dar es Salaam** – the trip has taken place every year since then.



**1997** Propnet (Transnet's property arm) signed the **lease** over the **Capital Park** property – 12 acres at the time, now grown to 60 acres. Today this is a shining example of a private railway yard of world-beating standard.

## 10th ANNIVERSARY

**1999** The official opening of the new Rovos Rail Station that coincided with the **10th Anniversary**, on which occasion Rohan's mother, Mrs Marjorie Vos, formally launched the Class 25NC locomotive 3484.



**1989** Restored the original 1893 railway hotel, the **Victoria Hotel**, as the new head office, staff quarters, training depot and departure point for the inaugural trip to Transvaal.



**1994** When tourism was at its lowest ebb in years, we committed ourselves to extending the route from **Pretoria to Victoria Falls** – now one of the most popular routes that has gained worldwide status. • A significant milestone was reached when we purchased **38 redundant** carriages from the railways, which was quite an achievement after nearly going bust a year earlier.



**2001** **Rovos Air** began developing with the purchase of two **1954 Convair 440** aircraft. They were used to convey train passengers from Polokwane to Victoria Falls in Zambia and also available for charter anywhere in Southern Africa. • A panoramic nine-day **African Collage** around South Africa was introduced. • A nine-day **Golf Safari** ran for the first time – five top-class courses with optional excursions for non-playing guests now operating three to four times a year.



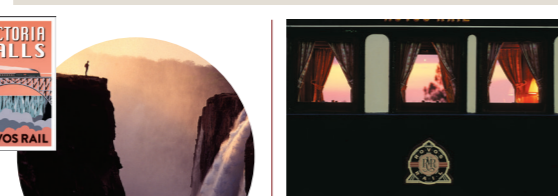
**1986** Rohan received the first letter of **permission** to run a train on the **national rail network**.



## FIRST BIRTHDAY

**1990** To celebrate the first birthday in **April 1990**, a fully steam-hauled **Pride of Africa** journeyed to Cape Town on a four-day trip. A succession of breakfast, lunch and dinner trips were run between **Cape Town and Simon's Town** for the travel industry, press and corporates.

**1992** A few trips were run to **Maputo in Mozambique** but the uncertain security situation and wreckage strewn along the track made this route unattractive. • Rohan piloted his twin-engined plane into the airport at **Dar es Salaam** – the first SA private aircraft to arrive there in 30 years. • The first rooms in the **Victoria Hotel** were opened after three years of restoration.



**1995** Coach 15021, an engineer's caboose, was overhauled and positioned in the **V&A Waterfront** to be used as a **Cape Town office**. • **Eight** rebuilt carriages were launched.



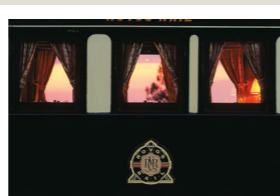
**1998** The workshop equipment was moved to Capital Park and **construction** started on the station, platform, crew rooms and other facilities. • Rovos reunited **South Africa and Namibia** by rail with a seven-day 3400km journey from Pretoria via Kimberley, Upington and the **Fish River Canyon** to Windhoek, and finally to the **Atlantic** coast at Swakopmund.



**1987** Major activity occurs while rebuilding loco **2702 BIANCA** and the seven carriages that were to depart on the **first journey**.



**1991** We launched the monthly **Pretoria to Cape Town** return trip – now the most regular journey on the schedule. • **Loco 3360, a 19D**, was launched in May after a nine-month rebuild.



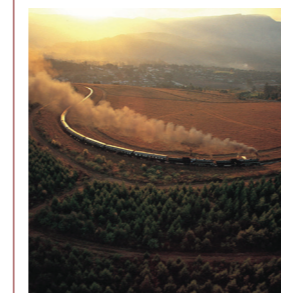
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**2000** Twelve coaches derailed in Bulawayo due to severe flooding so we changed the Victoria Falls route to Polokwane with a flight to Victoria Falls. • A **new safari** was introduced between **Pretoria and Durban** including game drives in the Kruger National Park, Mkhaya Reserve in Swaziland and Hluhluwe Reserve in Zululand.



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**1996** For the first time **two trains** departed on the same day from the Pretoria yard – one to the Eastern Transvaal and the other to Cape Town. The first journey from **Cape Town to George** was also run in this month. • In a year of frenzied activity, **15** rebuilt coaches, which were used to create the second train, were put into service.



**2002** The **13-day Southern Africa Air Safari** was introduced including an optional two-night journey on the train and two nights at six outstanding venues in South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Zambia. • A **1944 DC3** was added to the Rovos Air fleet.



**2003** The **building programme** was once again accelerated with the purchase of a further **14 coaches** from the Railways.



**2004** Discussions were ongoing about possibly traversing **Zimbabwe** again.

**2005** Started building **15** carriages. • In October, the first departure from the company's new lounge at **1 Adderley Street, Cape Town**, took place. • The **Club Lounge** and **Pullman** accommodation were launched.

**2008** The inaugural four **Cape-to-Cairo** itineraries were successfully completed. • Disaster struck in May when 12 frontline carriages were destroyed by a **fire** in the yard. • A **new** boardroom and educational **facility** was opened in the old restaurant building on our western border at Rovos Rail Station.



**2010** Coaches **3444** and **3863** launched in February. • Zimbabwe coach **4098** undertook its first journey with the Commonwealth bogies. • In April, we opened our first **guesthouse** in Cape Town, the **St James Manor**. • The refurbished financial offices, boardroom and training facilities were opened on May 1st. • The train from Cape Town was involved in a derailment at Centurion Station on April 21st. • **Lounge 3277, Pullman 3438 and Diner 6447** were launched. • In December, we purchased **Seaforth House** at 96 Main Road, St James, with a view to converting it into a **guesthouse**.



**2011** On January 21st we launched **Diner 5274** (fondly known as the 'Rust Bucket'), **Guards Van 3964, Observation Car 6320** as well as the last of the coaches damaged in the derailment. • In February, our **DC3 'Delaney'** was brought back from Windhoek to Pretoria. • We opened **St James Seaforth** Guesthouse in Cape Town on April 1st. • Rohan and Anthea's daughter **Brenda** joined Rovos Rail.



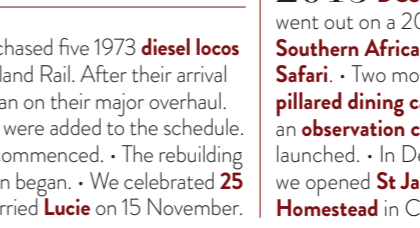
**2014** In February we purchased five 1973 **diesel locos** from Apex Industrial ex Queensland Rail. After their arrival in Pretoria in late June work began on their major overhaul. • Two more **Namibia** departures were added to the schedule. • A new **Victoria Falls** itinerary commenced. • The rebuilding of **10** coaches for the fourth train began. • We celebrated **25 years** on 29th April. • **Shaun** married **Lucie** on 15 November.



**2006** A direct journey between Pretoria and **Victoria Falls** was reintroduced travelling via Botswana. • A freight-train derailment ahead of us at Mbeya in Tanzania severely interrupted the **Dar es Salaam** journey.

**2009** March saw the arrival of a historic **35-ton steam crane**. • On April 29, the newly rebuilt eight-coach **excursion train** was launched on the occasion of our **20th anniversary**. • Rohan and Anthea's daughter **Bianca** joined Rovos Rail. • An **eight-coach** train was delivered to Ingwe in Pietermaritzburg in May for Eshimoya Rail. • We purchased a house named **The Homestead** at 94 Main Road, St James in **Cape Town**, with a view to turn it into a guesthouse. • We also purchased an existing six-room guesthouse in St James at 108 Main Road – **St James Manor**. • In October we expanded the station by 3 acres, taking a **lease** on the restaurant and auctioneer premises in order to create financial offices, a boardroom and training facilities. • In November, the Commonwealth **bogie modification** to the Zimbabwe coaches was approved by the railways.

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**2016** On 9 January, **Bianca** married **Brandon**. • On 21 January, the **first** Rovos Rail **diesel** locos hauled the train to Dar es Salaam. • On 17 February, the first **Shongololo Express** journey departed. • **Tulip** and **Alfie** were born to Mia Bella and Camilla, respectively.



**2007** We bought a **nine-coach train** from **Spier Wine Estate** to convert into a function and excursion train. • We rebuilt a train for Bushtracks and delivered it to Livingstone. • A diesel blower conversion on coal-firing **25NC loco MARJORIE** increased the range to 400kms. • The first **Pullman** coaches were launched, along with **237 Observation Car** and our first **motor vehicle carrier**.



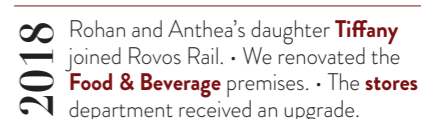
**2012** The rebuilding of **St James Homestead** in Cape Town began in May with six spacious rooms to add to the nine of the Manor and Seaforth already in operation. • **Wolf Mensing**, our loco and museum curator, passed away on 22 November. • The **first pillared dining car 3463** was launched in December.



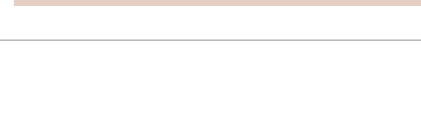
**2013** **DC3 'Delaney'** went out on a 20-day **Southern Africa Air Safari**. • Two more **pillared dining cars** and an **observation car** were launched. • In December we opened **St James Homestead** in Cape Town.



**2015** **Mia Bella** and **Camilla**, our Nguni heifers, arrived at Rovos Rail Station. • Rohan and Anthea's first grandchild, **Tallulah**, was born. • The Dar journey extended to **15 days**. • We bid **farewell** to the Rovos aircraft in May. • Rebuilt eight coaches. • Rohan travelled to **Congo** and **Angola** to negotiate traversing rights. • On 18 December we purchased the **Shongololo Express**.



**2018** Rohan and Anthea's daughter **Tiffany** joined Rovos Rail. • We renovated the **Food & Beverage** premises. • The **stores** department received an upgrade.



## 20th ANNIVERSARY

## 30th ANNIVERSARY

**2019** Rovos Rail celebrates its 30th year of operation on **29 April 2019**. • In July the **maiden voyage** of the Trail of Two Oceans sets off from **Dar es Salaam** in Tanzania for its 15-day sojourn to **Lobito**.

