

Rovos Rail Diary of Events Page 1

1986	
20 Oct	Viewed coaches at Jewish Guild
8 Dec	Purchased 2702 19D locomotive from Lowenthals Scrap Metal for R14 000
9 Dec	Purchased 195 Diner SHANGANI from P C Schuster R4 000
1987	
21 Jan	Purchased 197 Diner from Van Ryn Cellars R15 000
18 Feb	Purchased 749 Sleeper
7 Mar	Purchased 1601 Sleeper from Clifford Harris in Wetton, Cape Town
June	Loco 2702, our first 19D commissioned
21 Aug	Purchased Kitchen 286 at an auction in Braamfontein
17 Dec	Moved 439 Loco, 6 class, from Winberg
1988	
1 May	Joy Strydom (nee Hayward) joined the company as its first employee in the marketing department.
3 Aug	First trip on national rail with coaches 2702,286,14083,14248,14131
14 Oct	First photos of train on Olifants Bridge near Witbank – also shot footage for first corporate video (Roger Williamson and Joy)
12 Nov	Pretoria – Cullinan for De Beers – first charter with Joy and Anthea as hostesses
Dec	6 Class Loco 439 commissioned
1989	
29 Apr	First scheduled 4 night journey to Eastern Transvaal
	Class 19D 2701 commissioned
1990	
April	Steam hauled journey to Cape Town, George, Bloemfontein and back to Pretoria. Loco 2702 and seven coaches departed on this publicity generating challenge.
1991	
20 Mar	Purchased 14167 (17 July 1992)
22 May	Launched 19D Loco 3360
July	Bruce Manson, our first chef, passed away
1992	
14 Feb	First rooms opened in the Victoria Hotel
5 April	Fly to Dar for inspection
3 Aug	Beatrice Collon started in the marketing department
1993	
28 Jan	Purchased lounge 235
3 May	Initial meetings with Tanzania Zambia Railway authorities (TAZARA)
4 May	Depart on Tazara train. Dar es Salaam to Kapiri Mposhe – an illuminating experience.
8 May	First run to Maputo
25 July	Landed Serenje with Richard Dobson, Nicholas Schofield, Don Broadly and Dr Vos en route to Dar es Salaam
6 Aug	First departure from Dar es Salaam
1994	
13 April	Launched 197 Diner
18 June	Marthie Fourie passed away
1 Dec	Purchased thirty eight coaches from South African Railways

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1995	
18 Jan	15063 caboose converted to an office - hauled to Cape Town
6 Mar	8109 sleeper launched on Victoria Falls journey
20 Mar	8050 sleeper launched on Victoria Falls journey
26 June	Coaches 21017, 235, 8042, 8131, 8024, 2282 launched on Victoria Falls journey
22 sep	Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) confirms R2.5m loan
28 sep	148 diner + 15021 caboose purchase Alan Liebson
1996	
3 Jan	Launched sleepers 3187, 3323, 8120
6 Jan	Launched diner 220, 1022, 235
8 Jan	Launched 4520
13 Jan	First double departure to Mpumalanga + Cape Town
16 Jan	First Knysna departure
27 Jan	Launched lounge 3213, sleeper 3199
28 Jan	Designed new lounge
10 Feb	Launched new lounge 3215 in thirteen days
23 Mar	148 diner launched
21 April	First double Victoria Falls departure
24 June	Launched 225 observation car, 1002 guards van, 8105 sleeper, 2242 kitchen
1997	
28 June	Launched 8104 sleeper
20 Sep	Derailment 1002, 2260, 8050, 8109 capital park
29 Sep	Launch 3297 lounge and sleepers 8125, 8142, 8144
7 Oct	Launched 4589 sleeper
13 Nov	Lease signed Capital Park
1998	
1 Jan	Move to Capital Park
27 Jun	Launch 8136 sleeper
11 Oct	Purchase 231 diner
13 Oct	Launched 4507 sleeper
19 Oct	Purchased 205 W K construction
9 Nov	Launch 8041 sleeper, 232 diner
1999	
20 Jan	Moved office to capital park
29 Apr	Ten year anniversary
2 May	Loco 3484 steamed first time
21 May	Launched 8080 sleeper
2 Nov	Launched 4510 sleeper
4 Nov	Launched 231 diner, 8337 lounge

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2000	
20 Feb	Twelve coaches derailed Bulawayo
24 Feb	Wash-a-way at Beitbridge due to flooding – 6 month repair required – 14 kilometres of line
1 July	Derailment 2 coaches 4589 + 8076
15 Sep	First Durban trip departed
1 Nov	Takeover of Vic hotel by Gaby Falkson
7 Nov	Last Komatipoort departure
2001	
30 Apr	Purchased Convair 440s Cochabamba, Bolivia
20 Jun	17h20 ZS-ARV 440 flight Corumbo – Puerto Suarez
23 Jun	Flight departed 05h45 Natal, Brazil – Roberts, Liberia arrived 16h45
25 June	Flight Abidjan – Ondangwa, Namibia and Pretoria
8 Aug	Derailment 8042, 8136 Capital Park
2002	
14 June	Purchased 1944 DC-3 DELANEY
2 Sep	Opened Lanseria lounge and office
12 Aug	ZS-BRV Convair 440 flight test
17 Sep	First Central African Air Safari with Airtours
2003	
2004	
2005	
8 Feb	Increased Capital Park area with lease soccer field + Twilight Engineering
16 Feb	Air Safari departure, Cape Town arrival, Cape Town departure and Durban arrival
April	Fourteen coaches purchased from South African Railways
24 Oct	First departure from Cape Town lounge at No 1 Adderley St
2006	
April	25NC 3442 ANTHEA commissioned
12 Jul	Derailment in front of Dar es Salaam train at Mbeya, Tanzania
8 Sep	Launched 8053 club car
11 Sep	Purchased two coaches 4933 + 4101 from Phillip Steele, Cape Town (ex Zimbabwe stock)
19 Oct	Launched club car 8158
2007	
29 Jan	Purchased nine coach Spier train
30 Jan	Fitted Weishaupt blower to 25NC 3442
9 Feb	Launched 3220 kitchen
13 Apr	Steam safari Port Elizabeth – Victoria Falls
16 Apr	Launch 237 observation car, 1091 staff and Pullmans 3291,8065,8066
18 Jun	Launched 20034 car carrier
21 Jun	Launched 8143 Pullman
2 July	Launched 20039 storage van for Dar es Salaam journeys
12 Oct	Commenced work on day train
28 Nov	Purchased sleepers 23219, 23299, 23167

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2008	
18 Jan	Launched 3364 Royal sleeper
9 Feb	Derailment 1017, 2260, 20034 + Sheltam loco in Zimbabwe on Cape to Cairo trip
21 may	Twelve coaches lost in fire
25 Jun	Launched sleeper 3178
4 July	Launched 4082 lounge
12 sep	Launched 3299 deluxe sleeper
24 sep	Launched 3533 25NC KING ZOG
26 sep	Launched 3219 deluxe sleeper
16 Oct	Launched 4098 deluxe, 3167 kitchen
26 Nov	Boardroom completed
2 Dec	Baby donkey, Lola born
5 Dec	Two baby impalas born
2009	
31 Jan	Launched 3964 generator car
3 Feb	Launched 3293 lounge, 2223 staff car
29 April	Twenty year anniversary - eight coach day train launched
7 May	Eight coach Ingwe train delivered to Pietermaritzburg