

EVENT AND OPTION LIST

Wednesday October 28th to
Wednesday November 4th 2020

CRESTA HALLOWEEN EVENTS

If just riding the Rovos Rail for four nights and days, and staying at the grand Victoria Falls Hotel, was not enough on its own, we have planned some memorable events and optional activities for the Cresta Halloween on the Zambezi. There will be plenty of time in between to relax and enjoy the scenery but not a moment will be wasted either.

Cresta partying and Halloween lunacy will be the order of every day.



DRESS: Since riders of the Cresta love nothing better than a photo of themselves looking cool, energetic, suave, traditional, sophisticated, ravishing, elegant and beautiful, and preferably all at the same time, raid your wardrobes, because DRESS is required for most events.

EVENT 1**COCKTAILS & DEPARTURE FROM
ROVOS RAIL PRIVATE STATION PRETORIA**

TRAIN DEPARTING 6PM

UNPUNCTUALITY WILL DISQUALIFY

We have booked a private train, the world's most luxurious and romantic Rovos Rail, the “Pride of Africa”, with 36 suites, for Cresta Halloween 2020. The train capacity is 72 guests. However, we have more places available to join us for most events for the “Long Weekend on the Zambezi” Option B, from Bulawayo, or Option C, in Victoria Falls.

We can personally attest to the Rovos Rail's “Pride of Africa” being the most luxurious and romantic train. It sets a standard above the Orient Express, Australia's “Indian Pacific”, the Glacier Express, Chinese “Soft Sleepers” and, heaven forbid, our very own RhB Gormino Car from Chur to St Moritz. The Rovos Rail suites are rolling five-star hotels.
A once-in a lifetime experience you have to do before you die.

**DRESS: Cresta “Traditionals”**

Day 1 - Oct 28

Day 2 – Oct 29

Day 3 – Oct 30

Day 4 – Oct 31

Day 5 – Nov 1

Day 6 – Nov 2

Day 7 – Nov 3

Day 8 – Nov 4

EVENT 2

CROSSING THE LIMPOPO

LATE EVENING DINNER ON THE ROVOS RAIL

We depart the Rovos Rail Pretoria Station for four lazy days, long lunches and dinners and the stunning African veldt, to the Victoria Falls Hotel, a once-in-life opportunity to enjoy Africa with Cresta friends, from your rolling suite.

We cross the Limpopo and the South African - Zimbabwe Border at Beitbridge.



DRESS: Cresta “Traditionals” and Passports

EVENT 3

MURDER ON THE ROVOS RAIL

What would an exotic train, on a lonely African veldt, under spectacular stars,
on a treacherous night, be without a horrible homicide?
One of your companions will be the victim and another the culprit of a murder (mystery).

It would be best to find them sooner rather than later.
Test your sleuthing skills. Are you Inspector Poirot or Inspector Clouseau?



DRESS: For Murder or Masked

EVENT 4**A RARE AND SPIRITUAL TREAT**

We arrive in Bulawayo Station and detrain for the day to visit

CECIL RHODES GRAVE IN THE MATOPOS HILLS
and after for
THE CRESTA “DOWN UNDER” WHITE LINEN BBQ LUNCH
at an unforgettable location



Matopos Hills is also a Rhino Reserve so keep your eyes peeled.

For a man who could have asked to be buried anywhere in the world, including Westminster, Cecil Rhodes, the giant of colonial Africa, with a vision the size of the continent, chose to be buried in the high rolling rocks of the indigenous Malindidzimu Shrine (resting place of spirits) in the Matopos Hills, outside Bulawayo.

It is a magnificent place, which exceeds the imagination. The Founders of Rhodesia and Zimbabwe are buried in the sheer rock of this spiritual place, which is respected and protected by the current rulers, despite the colonial past.

Our agents and friends in Bulawayo, Piers, Jane and Charlie Taylor, the best-known guides in Zimbabwe, will host our trip to Rhodes grave, the Cresta “Down-Under” White Linen BBQ Lunch in the Matopos Hills, and our Cresta Colonial Carousal at the Bulawayo Club. These are exclusive opportunities to revel in Africa and the history of one of its colonial giants.

*The grave of Cecil John Rhodes, within the Malindidzimu Shrine (resting place of spirits) in Matopos Hills.
Cresta Rider, Sir Charles Metcalf, designer of Rhodes Cape to Cairo Railway and the Victoria Falls Bridge, was one of Rhodes few friends invited to be at his burial.
The Rhino are not the only protectors of Malindidzimu Shrine.*

DRESS: Exclusively White

EVENT 5**THE 1920S CRESTA COLONIAL JAZZ CAROUSAL***

Travel back in our Rovos Rail, Edwardian Time Capsule to

THE BULAWAYO CLUB, BULAWAYO

One of history's classic colonial clubs, the Bulawayo Club is a testament to Zimbabwe's former occupation as a British colony and distant outpost of the Empire.

START OF OPTION B – THE BULAWAYO TEAM

Those not riding the Rovos Rail are invited to join us in Bulawayo, on either Thursday 29th, in time for the trip to Matopos on Friday, or Friday Oct 30th, in time for the Jazz Carousal, and to stay at the Bulawayo Club. Private Buses, from the Bulawayo Club to Victoria Falls, will include the Hwange National Park Safari and a scenic drive of five and a half hours to Victoria Falls on Sat Oct 31st.

**GLOSSARY:**

*CAROUSAL: Noun, A noisy or drunken feast or social gathering; revelry (1755)

** "Colonial Black Tie": We expect sartorial interpretations

*** Flappers: Noun, A generation of young Western women in the 1920s who wore short skirts, bobbed their hair, listened to jazz, and flaunted their disdain for what was then considered acceptable behavior (a.k.a. Lady Cresta Riders)

DRESS: "Colonial BLACK TIE", or Mess Dress
Cresta and Military Decorations,
Flappers***, Feathers and FRIPPERY**

EVENT 6

CRESTA SAFARI TO THE HIDE HWANGE NATIONAL PARK

Zimbabwe is home to one of Africa's largest National Parks at Hwange. In the afternoon, (after sleeping the morning) the Rovos train will make an unscheduled stop at Kennedy Siding, especially for us to take a private safari trip to The Hide, in Hwange. We will enjoy the game viewing and afternoon cocktails at Dove's Nest and The Hide waterhole.

Our expert game guide Charlie Taylor will be on hand to help with bird calls, the un-spotable lion or the galloping gazelle.

Transport by open Safari Truck

OPTION B – THE BULAWAYO TEAM

Option B riders will join us here by private bus from Bulawayo and stay at The Hide, a luxurious safari camp, for the night, before bussing on to Victoria Falls Hotel on Sunday morning. <http://www.thehide.com/>



DRESS: Casual Safari and Cameras

EVENT 7 **for Rovos and Bulawayo Teams**

DRAX HALLOWEEN ON THE ROVOS RAIL

UNDER A FULL HALLOWEEN MOON

There would seem to be only one perfect place for a Cresta Rider to spend Halloween, especially under a full moon, at Drax in St Moritz. However, since we will not be there, we will just have to recreate, DRAX on Rails.

The Bulawayo team is invited to join the Rovos Team on the Rovos train, for a special evening to enjoy the exquisite dining cars of the Rovos Rail and to dine and dance the night away before the Bulawayo Team will be transferred back to the Hide (a few miles) to spend the night before busing to Victoria Falls on Sunday morning.



DRESS: for DRAX HALLOWEEN
Spooky Vampires and Sexy Witches (or vice versa)

EVENT 8

MORNING ARRIVAL AT VICTORIA FALLS HOTEL PRIVATE PLATFORM

Rovos Railers will transfer, via a short stroll, to the grand Victoria Falls Hotel.
There are many hotels at Victoria Falls, but this is THE ONLY place to stay!

After a last leisurely breakfast on the train, the liveried porters of the Victoria Falls Hotel will meet us with champagne and convey our luggage from your Rovos suite to your suite or room at the Victoria Falls Hotel.



DRESS: Pink, for Champagne and Photos on the Platform

Day 1 - Oct 28

Day 2 – Oct 29

Day 3 – Oct 30

Day 4 – Oct 31

Day 5 – Nov 1

Day 6 – Nov 2

Day 7 – Nov 3

Day 8 – Nov 4

EVENT 9

LUNCH ON THE TERRACE OF THE VFH

START OF OPTION C – THE VICTORIA FALLS TEAM

If your time is constrained and/or you have never been to Victoria Falls, please fly down for a “Long Weekend” to join us in this stunning place and at the grand Victoria Falls Hotel, for some bewitching Cresta revelry and the CRESTA FALLS BALL.

Just relax and enjoy the stunning view and ambience.
After lunch, it’s a short walk to view the Falls.



DRESS: Pink

Day 1 - Oct 28

Day 2 – Oct 29

Day 3 – Oct 30

Day 4 – Oct 31

Day 5 – Nov 1

Day 6 – Nov 2

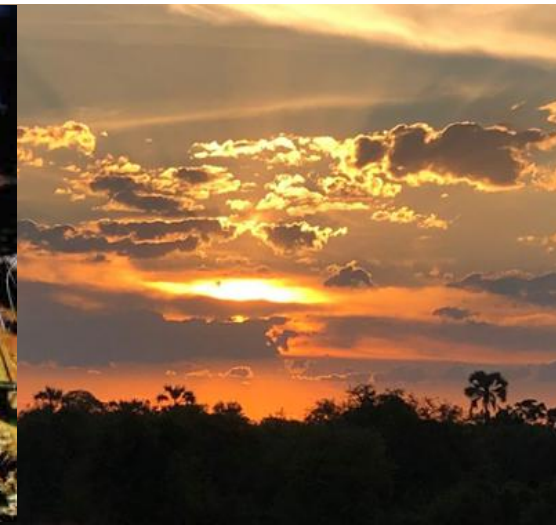
Day 7 – Nov 3

Day 8 – Nov 4

EVENT 10

AFRICAN QUEEN: COCKTAILS DOWN THE ZAMBEZI

We welcome the “Victoria Falls Long-Weekenders” of Option C, and if we have not seen enough African animals by now, we get up close and personal, drinking with the crocodiles, hippopotami, elephants, birds and, if we are lucky, the lion of the Zambezi River. Not to mention cocktails and sunset. Once again, our inimitable Zimbabwean guide Charlie Taylor, will join us for game sightings and share his intimate knowledge of all African flora and fauna.



DRESS: Pink

EVENT 11

CRESTA DELIVERANCE

ON THE ZAMBEZI

“Lewis, there’s something wrong”

There are few things as thrilling as the Cresta but rafting down the sixteen Class Five rapids below the Victoria Falls is one of them.

Hopefully we will not meet any hillbillies, but the Zambezi is spectacular and dangerous, with Rocks, Crocs and Drowning to make up for lack of hillbillies.



**DRESS: Shorts, T shirts, hats with straps and water-proof sandals
(Pack Them – Critical for walking the banks and not easy to find in Vic Falls), banjo**

AND NOW...

Your Adrenaline is Pumped

Vampires Vanquished

Witches Wenched

Step Back to Another Century

When the Cresta was Conceived

Industrial Revolution was Raging

Rail was Reaching Victoria Falls

Steam was Supreme

Attention: Cresta Riders, Airship Pilots, Mad Scientists, Explorers of the Universe, Admirers of Verbosity, Reprehensible Strangers, Those Lost in the Throes of Opium or Absinthe, Scallywags, Vagabonds, Ladies of the Night, Gentlemen of the Morning, Dandies, Fops, and Urchins...



The Cresta Zimbabwe Zealots
PRESENT



THE CRESTA FALLS BALL HALLOWEEN ON THE ZAMBEZI 2020



A Steampunk Masquerade
Live With [The Zambezi Argonauts] (TBC)



**David Livingstone's Ballroom, The Victoria Falls Hotel
MONDAY NOVEMBER 2**

Dress: Steampunk Masquerade

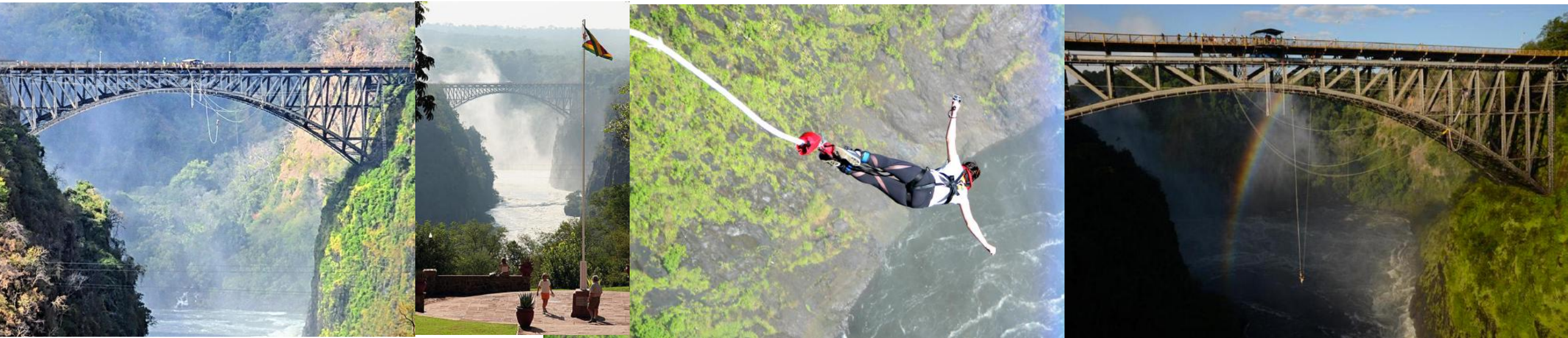
Carriages: Choppers at Dawn

EVENT 13

TOP FALLERS!

BUNGEE OR ZIP LINE OFF VICTORIA FALLS BRIDGE

After a sleepy morning recovery, for those afraid of riding from Top (AND WHO IS NOT?), or need another adrenaline shot, a bungee off the Victoria Falls Bridge is a new dimension in mastering your fear. We have successfully tested this hypothesis and encourage all able-bodied Cresta riders try the insanity of it.



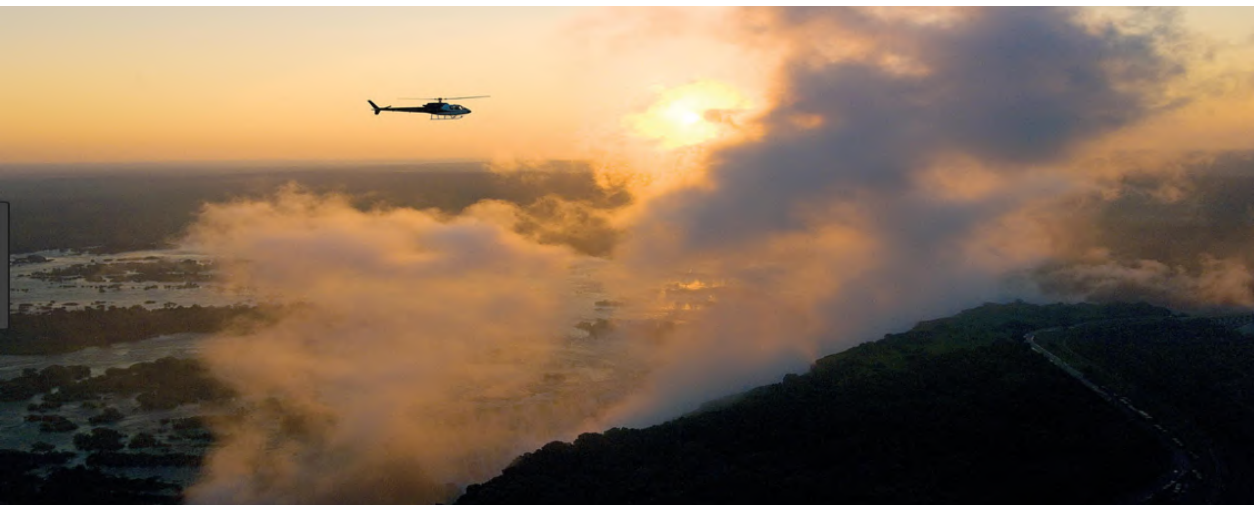
DRESS: Something Memorable in a Coffin

EVENT 14

Apocalypse Now

*“I love the smell of Cresta Riders in the morning”
(Zambezi Crocodile)*

Not to be Missed
The stunning view of Victoria Falls from the Air.
Whatever you expect, it's better.



DRESS: Casual and Cameras

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EVENT 15

AFRICAN EVENING RECOVERY

Dinner at the Jungle Junction at Victoria Falls Hotel with authentic native entertainment.



Day 1 - Oct 28

Day 2 – Oct 29

Day 3 – Oct 30

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EVENT 16

DEPARTURE TO HOME OR SAFARI

THE CRESTA CHRONICAL

November 2020

ALBUM, CHRONICAL AND CARTOONS

The Cresta would not be the Cresta without lots of great photo opportunities, an event “write-up” and, even-better, Exclusive Loon Cartoons.

We don’t intend to miss any opportunity:

A Cresta photographer, will be on board to record Cresta Halloween on the Zambezi, by photograph and photo albums.

Our secret scribe will chronical the events in usual Cresta “Write-Up” Style.

No slip of the lip, faux pas, gaffe or blunder will be missed.

Guess who is spying on you? A prize for guessing who is our Spook?



Our secret Cresta scribe will chronical our trip and produce a hard-back album of Cresta Halloween Zimbabwe. This exclusive purchase for all participants will be a lifetime keepsake.

WE NEED EARLY ADOPTERS!

We have underwritten the deposit for private hire of an entire African train and need you all to help pay for it.

There are only 36 suites and 72 places (assuming double occupancy) on the Rovos Rail private train (Option A).

We have expanded opportunities to join us for:
The “Long Weekend” Options
In Bulawayo (Option B) and
Victoria Falls (Option C)

BOOKING FORM BELOW

**ENQUIRES: Please email me at sjhford@me.com
or call me on +61 400 444 800**

Best Wishes, Simon Ford, Cresta Halloween 2020

THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE CRESTA HALOWEEN ZIMBABWE 2020

Simon Ford – Chief Spook and Booking Manager
Julie Ford – Chancellor of the Exchequer
African SMTC Members (TBC)
Sir Alasdair Hillary – Cartoonist
Ryan Larriman – Cresta Photos
Piers, Jane and Charlie Taylor – Zimbabwe Agents
Marielle Wynbergen - Rovos Rail
Giulio Togni – General Manager - Victoria Falls Hotel
Meghan Volkwyn – Sales Manager – Victoria Falls Hotel
Simba Tinha – VFH Bookings –
reservations3@victoriafallshotel.com
Cecil Rhodes – Spiritual Advice