



THE BLUE TRAIN

A WINDOW TO THE SOUL OF SOUTH AFRICA



*R*EFLECTIONS *I*N *B*LUE (19/01/2004)

Night is falling.

Through the window of my suite, a window as wide as the world,

I glimpse the first flicker of the evening star, casting its light upon the landscape.

I see a bird wheeling in the open sky, among clouds still tinged with the afterglow of sunset.

I see you.

Reflected in my reflections, lost in this dream that we dream together.

Where are we?

How far have we traveled?

You shrug and you smile.

The heart does not need a map, you say.

The soul doesn't need to know its coordinates of longitude and latitude.

All that matters...

*Is that we are somewhere between the moment of origin and the destiny that draws us on, towards the rising sun,
on tracks of steel that whisper their way from the ocean to the desert to the City of Gold.*

These lines connect us.

To people, to places. To each other.

Hurry, you say...



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THE EXPERIENCE IS ABOUT TO BEGIN...



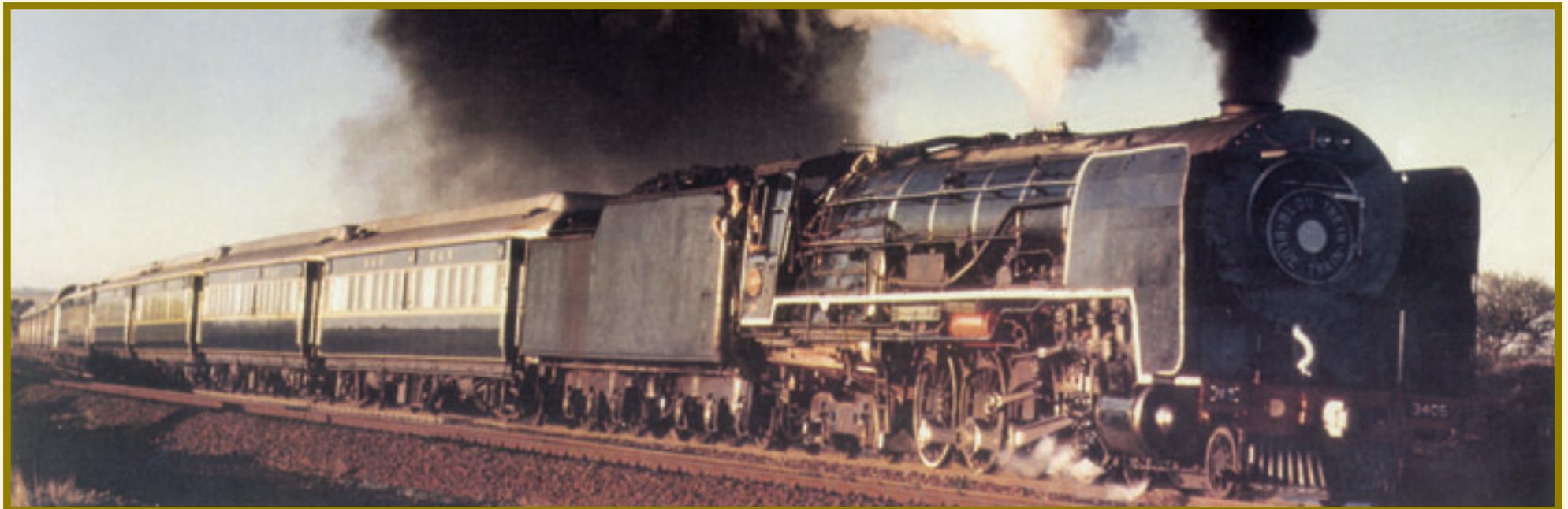
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HISTORY

IN THE TRACKS OF A LEGEND

For the Empire-builders of old, the uncharted African interior was the landscape of a dream in the making. A dream that would etch its course in parallel lines that snaked their way northward from the Atlantic shoreline, conquering the distance from Cape Town to Cairo. The dream was not to be, as the Great African Railway reached only as far as a bridge across the gorge of the Zambezi River, overlooking the thundering smoke of the Victoria Falls. But in the fading years of the 19th Century, the discovery of gold and diamonds drew thousands to the edge of the continent, and those lines of tempered steel began to bear the burden of industry, commerce, and society on the move. Soon, as the moneyed classes made their presence felt, the network added leisure travel to its list of duties, and in the slipstream of leisure came luxury. The Union Limited and the Union Express, ferrying passengers between the mailships of Cape Town harbour and the goldfields of the Witwatersrand, were the standard-bearers of steam-powered opulence in the easy-living heyday of the 1920's, boasting everything from card tables to ceiling fans to hot and cold water on tap. A coat of royal blue and cream would later give the trains their distinctive livery, and it was from this line, in these shades, that The Blue Train – a "Palace on Wheels" – would ride the rails to legend. Withdrawn from service during the dark days of World War 2, extensively refurbished and modernised in the Seventies and Nineties, The Blue Train went on to define a new era of luxury travel, making the switch from steam to electric and diesel, linking veld to sea, tradition to progress, with a sense of style, grace, and mesmerising power that have never come close to being matched.



TECHNOLOGY

IN THE HEART OF THE BLUE TRAIN MACHINE

From the Age of Steam to the Age of the Internet, The Blue Train has kept on track with ever-changing technology, in the process losing none of the style and grace that anchor it to a bygone era. In its earliest incarnation, as a direct descendant of the Union Limited and Union Express that plied their way between Johannesburg and the Cape coast, The Blue Train thundered down the rails at the command of a mighty steam locomotive. A wisp of romance still lingers from that coal-fired era, clouding the memory of an energy source that proved to be less powerful, less efficient, and far more difficult to maintain than its whisper-quiet replacement. Today, the dual Blue Train sets, differentiated only by their number of suites and the option of a Conference Car that doubles as an

Observation Lounge, are hauled by a fleet of diesel or electric locomotives. Whatever the motive, The Blue Train glides through the countryside at a maximum service speed of 90 km/h (58.2mph), ensuring that the noise level of 55 decibels, somewhere between the sound of soft rainfall and normal conversation, is never exceeded. Inter-suite sealing ensures utter privacy for guests, and even the power car goes about its business at a level no louder than a typical office airconditioner. All on-board services, with the exception of the gas stoves in the galley, are electrically operated, thanks to two diesel-powered generator sets, one of which is always on standby. Safety and technical excellence are of paramount importance on The Blue Train. Each suite, and every

public area, is fitted with a constantly-monitored smoke detection system. Two highly-qualified technicians are always on board, and the trains are thoroughly serviced at the Pretoria depot after every return trip. The Blue Train's suspension, braking system, lighting and underfloor heating have been designed and customised with guest comfort as the primary imperative, allowing guests to savour the experience of a smooth, safe, and pleasurable ride, made all the more memorable by every modern convenience, including a telephone service and a choice of digital entertainment channels that serve as the complement or the diversion to the landscape rolling outside the window.



WELCOME ON BOARD



Every epic needs its prologue. So, too, begins The Blue Train experience.

In the departure lounge, a warm-hearted welcome sets the wheels in motion for a voyage defined by the hallmarks of personal attention and devotion to detail. An hour before the train leaves the station, you are ushered into a world where anticipation is quietly heightened by the ease of check-in and the ambience of convivial relaxation, with a chance to enjoy a welcoming cocktail and an appetising delicacy or two from a butler's silver tray. Your luggage is labelled and safely whisked away, as the stage is set for a personal invitation to stroll onto the platform, step on board, and settle into your own private suite. Bon voyage. The experience is about to begin.

A SPACE TO ACCOMMODATE YOUR DREAMS

In a world of ever-shrinking boundaries, ever-intensifying demands, rail travel in the grand old tradition has become a luxury in itself. The luxury of the world outside your window, stretching to the far horizon, shifting to the whispering rhythm of the wheels. The luxury of time: time to indulge, time to reflect, time to savour sights, sounds, senses and sensations. But on The Blue Train, luxury assumes a new dimension, to become the working definition of everything your heart desires. You'll feel it from the moment you step into your suite, transformed by a magical act of alchemy from an elegant, spacious lounge by day, into a sanctuary of comfort and slumber by night with goose-down duvet and pillows, 100 percent cotton bedding, and a private bathroom with marble vanity basin, marble tiles and floor, gold fittings, and a choice of shower or bath. Freshen up and slip into the warm embrace of a Blue Train-monogrammed gown, as you plan your outfit for dinner. All suites come equipped with a writing-desk, ideally positioned next to the window, where you can note the view in style, or pen a picture-postcard to someone special. All on-board correspondence is personally stamped and dispatched by the Train Manager. Each suite is a world on its own, with airconditioning that is adjustable to your own liking, and radio and movie channels for your listening and viewing pleasure or tune into the driver's-eye-view camera, and watch the world ahead as you watch the world all around. Thanks to the constantly-updated GPS map, you can also keep close track of where you're going on the overhead monitor. On The Blue Train, the luxury of personal service comes as standard, with a dedicated butler at your beck and call, ready to meet your every whim and ensure an unforgettable experience. A late-night snack? An early-morning wake-up call? A dinner jacket in pressing need of a little tender care? At the touch of a telephone, your butler is waiting and ready. Here's to Suite Dreams...on The Blue Train, the ultimate definition of luxury in motion.

LUXURY SUITES



LUXURY SUITE DAY VIEW

The Luxury Suite extends your personal domain by more than a metre, and the twin or double bedded suite offers a deep, long tub for slow, luxuriant soaking. The Luxury Suite takes the choice of radio and movie channels even further, with a private digital entertainment centre and an inviting selection of music CD's and big-screen movies on DVD.



LUXURY SUITE NIGHT VIEW



DE LUXE SUITE DAY VIEW

DE LUXE SUITES

The De Luxe Suite features twin beds with shower or a double bed, with bath tub and hand held shower.



DE LUXE SUITE NIGHT VIEW

*B*OOKENDS TO A BANQUET

Linking the private suites that envelope guests in a realm of old-world luxury, are two wooden-panelled cars that serve as bookends to a banquet. The Blue Train's Lounge and Club Cars are ideally positioned for an aperitif, an interlude between meals, or an after-dinner conversation over coffee, Cognac, and Cuban cigars. Smokers will feel instantly at home in the burnished surroundings of the Club Car, where incandescent lamplight sets the tone for quiet reflection or the glow of good company. While away the miles with a game of cards, chess, or backgammon, tune in to the big-screen TV, or browse through a volume from the library as you savour your beverage of choice from the well-stocked bar. Unwind, relax, indulge.

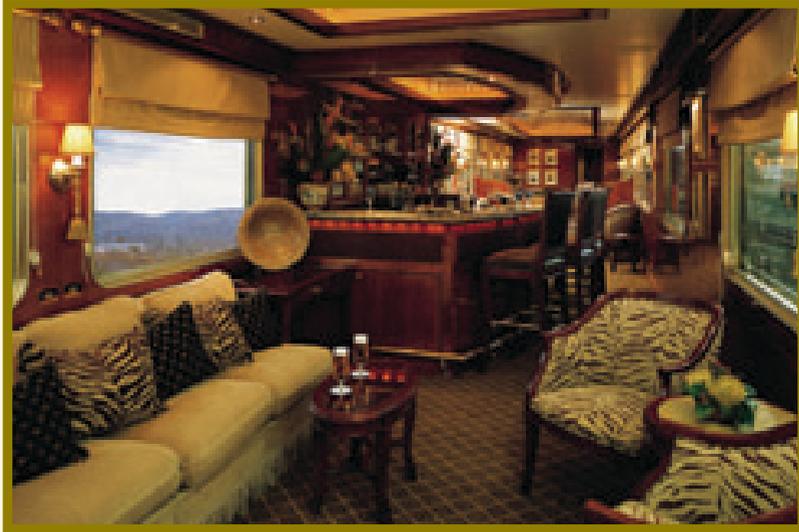


CLUB CAR



CLUB CAR

*A*CORDIAL SETTING FOR A GRAND TRADITION



LOUNGE

In the Lounge Car, bouquets of flame lilies adorn tables adjacent to the picture-windows, where the view of the ever-shifting landscape must compete with the original works of South African art on the walls. Settle down amongst the scatter-cushions on a plush and comfortable couch, and watch the world go by. The Lounge Car is the ideal setting for the grand English ritual of High Tea, served every afternoon at your leisure. Bringing together cultures and travellers from across the globe, The Blue Train is an exclusive society on the move.





A MOVABLE FEAST

From the soft and warm embrace of a goose-down duvet, to the mesmerising sight of a starlit sky outside your picture-window, The Blue Train experience is a banquet for the senses. Nowhere more so than in the Dining Car, where the reassuring heft of Sheffield cutlery and crystal glassware on crisp white linen sets the tone for the table of delights to follow. A meal on The Blue Train is an experience in itself, with the flavour of local cuisine, from Karoo Lamb to Ostrich Fillet to Knysna Oysters to award-winning cultivars from the Cape winelands, serving as the perfect complement to the landscape through which you are travelling. Lovingly prepared from the freshest produce and ingredients, artfully presented in the finest Silver Service tradition, The Blue Train's legendary cuisine – call it Cordon Blue – is an irresistible tribute to culinary mastery on the move. The Blue Train is fully equipped to accommodate Vegetarian, Halaal, Kosher, or other special dietary requirements, which must be specified when you make your reservation. Choose from two dinnertime sittings, or savour your meal in the comfort of your suite. Continental or Full English breakfast is served at your leisure. Every occasion on The Blue Train is special, but dinner occupies a platform all of its own. As the sky darkens over the landscape, the day's smart-casual dress code gives way to a parade of elegant evening-wear or traditional attire, in keeping with The Blue Train's classic livery and earthy African décor. Step inside this spectacular restaurant on wheels, and you're in a world where every taste is a memory in the making, a tantalising highlight on a menu of magical moments. Each meal is scored to a selection of equally tasteful background music, ranging from smooth jazz to light classical to the mellow tones of the Soweto String Quartet. Take your seat, and make yourself at home. The banquet is about to begin.



DINING CAR

GET A NEW VIEW ON BUSINESS

Staying on line. Keeping on track. Navigating your way through an ever-shifting landscape. Such are the challenges of business in the 21st Century. Meet them on the move, by stepping on board a world where business is pleasure...the Conference Car of The Blue Train. Seating up to 22 delegates in comfort and style, this one-of-a-kind venue provides an ideal setting for a meeting, a seminar, a think-tank or a get-together with a difference. Where else can you savour the indulgence of a luxury getaway, and at the same time get to grips with the pressing demands of your professional arena? From laptop ports to overhead projectors, from multimedia outlets to photocopy and fax, you'll find every facility you need to make your conference move as smoothly as the train on which you're travelling. For smaller or less formal sessions, with sufficient advance notice, the Conference Car can be transformed to suit your needs, with full business facilities, plush lounge seating and a breathtaking panorama of the world around you. Shift your focus. Energise your mind. Get a new experience of motivation in motion, as you get down to business unusual...on The Blue Train.



CONFERENCE CAR



COMBINATION OF CONFERENCE AND OBSERVATION CAR

A TREASURE TROVE ON THE MOVE

Spun through the loom of a slowly unfolding landscape, The Blue Train experience is a tapestry of memories in motion. Memories to cherish; memories to share; memories to revisit, time and again. Take stock of those moments, give them dazzling shape and form, in the style of a keepsake from one of the world's most exclusive boutiques. The Blue Train Boutique, adjacent to the Lounge Car, is a treasure trove of gems and minerals that reflect the deep and ancient soul of Africa. Baguettes, Marquises, black and yellow diamonds, white gold and platinum, Tanzanite stones in the mesmerising colour of The Blue Train itself. Competitively priced, exquisitely set and designed, these high-fashion items of jewellery-wear will prove ideal for a loved one, or as a glittering memento of an experience that will be forever close to your heart. Choose, too, from a range of quality items that bear the elegant herald of the vehicle of your dreams. From golf shirts to playing cards, from key rings to cufflinks to a lavish, limited-edition coffee-table book, these one-of-a-kind souvenirs will brand themselves into memory, and bring your Blue Train experience to life all over again.



BOUTIQUE

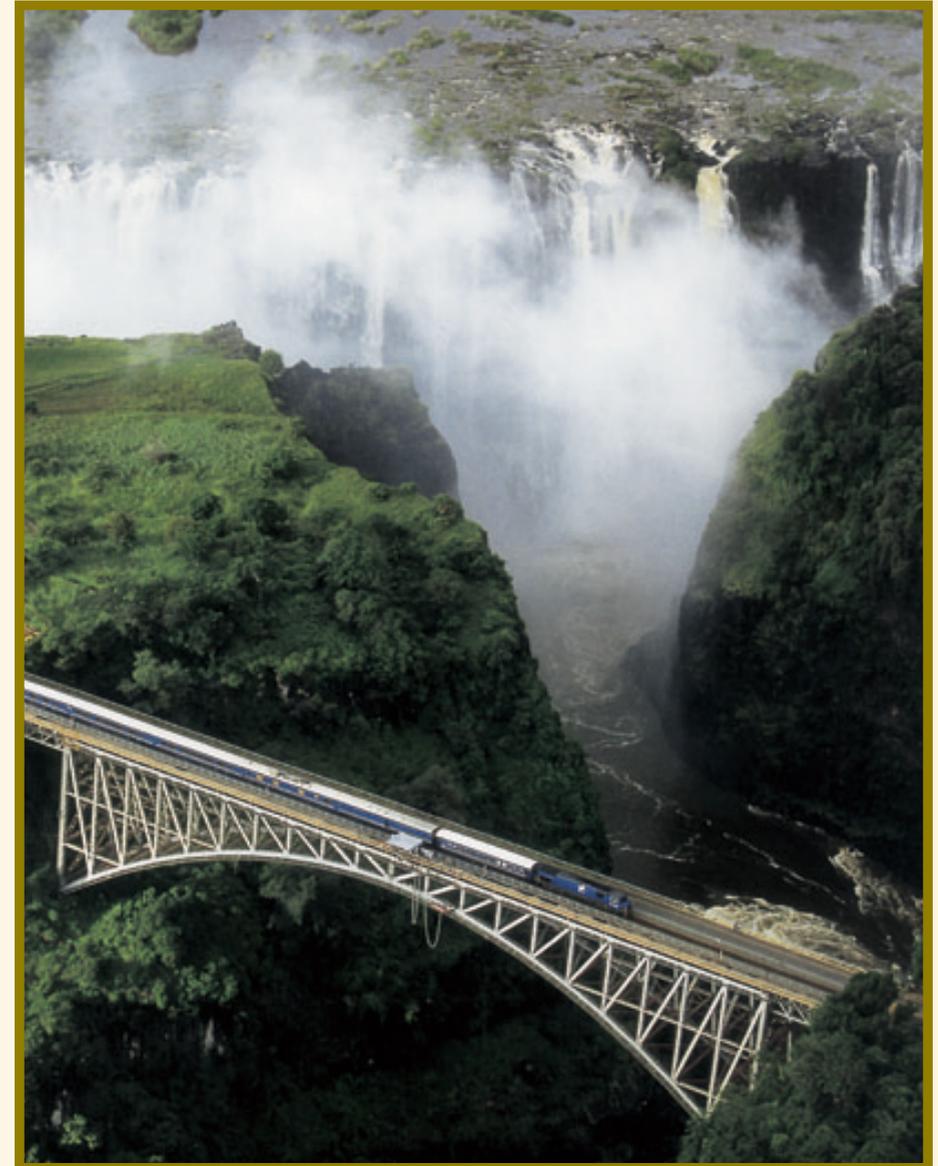




- - - - POSSIBLE CHARTING OPTIONS
 ——— SCHEDULED ROUTE

*T*HE ART OF CHARTING YOUR OWN COURSE

From a VIP cocktail breakfast, lunch or dinner, to a company incentive, to a product launch or re-launch with a difference, a Blue Train charter offers a memorable and invigorating reminder that you're going places. Fully equipped and capable of following any line that is compatible with its technology, The Blue Train can be chartered along its standard routes, or on custom jaunts or cross-border excursions lasting from a few hours to several nights. Combine the leisurely indulgence of rail travel with an invigorating round of golf in the Hoedspruit safari kingdom, or amidst the rolling mountains of a luxury golf estate on the breathtaking Garden Route. Slow down and unwind as you make your way to a game reserve for a close encounter with Africa's fastest land animal, in one of the continent's few cheetah sanctuaries. Or follow your lucky star to a bushveld casino resort, an African Las Vegas in the heart of an ancient volcano. It's your choice. It's your journey. It's your train. Business or pleasure, sales seminar or birthday celebration, on an all-inclusive Blue Train charter, the experience is up to you.



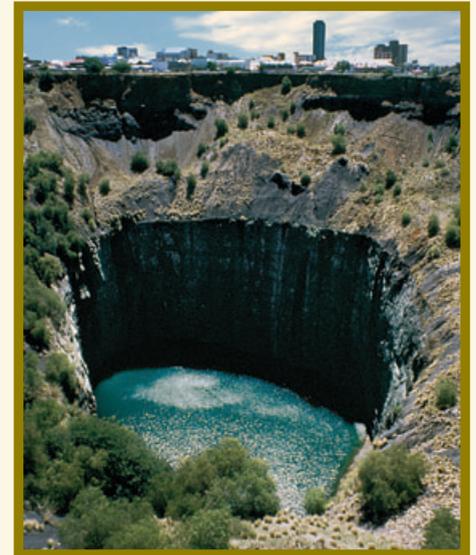
*T*HE BEWITCHING TAPESTRY OF RAIL COUNTRY

Weaving a distinctive thread of blue across the tapestry of a captivating landscape, The Blue Train winds its way through steep mountain passes, lush valleys of orchards and vineyards, windswept desert plains and undulating tracts of bushveld as it makes the classic connection between the monolith of Table Mountain and the jacaranda-lined streets of Pretoria.

*R*OUTE: PRETORIA – CAPE TOWN

*A*CITY BUILT ON THE SEDUCTIVE GLITTER OF DIAMONDS

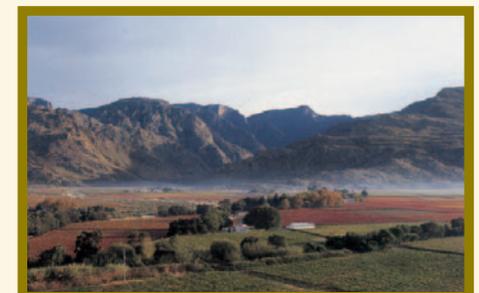
KIMBERLEY EXCURSION: Sparkling, flawless gem of the rails, The Blue Train finds a harbour to match its legend on the southbound route from Pretoria to Cape Town. The city of Kimberley, capital of the Northern Cape province, lies at the heart of one of history's great rushes for the glitter of mineral wealth. In 1869, the discovery of diamonds in the walls of a farmhouse lured thousands of fortune-seekers to stake their claim, clawing into bare earth, scraping away ramparts of gravel and shale, to form what would become the largest man-made hole on the planet: the Big Hole of Kimberley. One-and-a-half kilometres (one mile) in circumference, 365 metres (1 200 feet) deep, the crater would yield more than 14-million carats by the time war forced the closure of the mine in 1914. Today, quietly cloaked in the richness of its past, Kimberley offers the visitor an intriguing glimpse into an age of exploration and obsession, as well as the rare opportunity to prospect for a diamond all of your own...before you return to the glitter and allure of your gem of the rails.



ROUTE: CAPE TOWN – PRETORIA

*F*ALL FOR THE CHARMS OF A THIRSTLAND MIRAGE

MATJIESFONTEIN EXCURSION: A slice of sunbleached Victoriana in the mystical midst of the Great Karoo, the quaint oasis of Matjiesfontein offers guests a leisurely interlude of opportunity to indulge in the ambience of a bygone era. Hop aboard the tomato-red London double-decker that motors up and down the lonely high street, and pause for a traditional English tea at the Lord Milner Hotel, with its graceful façade and wrought-iron railings. Step into yesterday at the Antique Car Museum, or stroll to the edge of town and enjoy the endless panorama of the semi-desert, shimmering with the otherworldly allure of a mirage. Founded at the turn of the 20th Century by an English industrialist named James Douglas Logan, who was making his way to Australia when his ship was wrecked at the Cape of Good Hope, Matjiesfontein owes its origins to the fortuitous confluence of health-giving mineral waters and the railway that ran by them. A railway superintendent during his long and varied career, Logan understood the importance of a pause for refreshment on the arduous trek through the semi-desert interior. Soon, this “Paradise in the Great Karoo” became a destination in itself, drawing aristocrats, eccentrics, artists and explorers to its middle-of-nowhere charms, and later serving a more utilitarian purpose as an outpost for British soldiers during the South African War of 1899 to 1902. But in all the years, no visitor has been more celebrated or welcomed than The Blue Train that glides up to the platform on the northbound route from Cape Town.

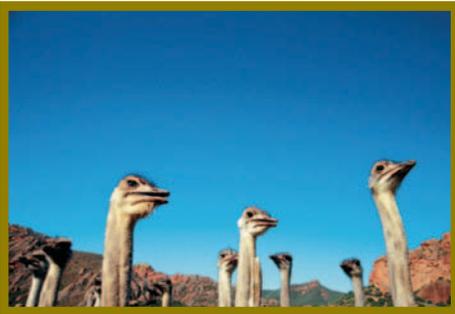


ROUTE: CAPE TOWN – PORT ELIZABETH – CAPE TOWN



From the raging Atlantic shoreline, The Blue Train also follows the legendary “Garden Route” along the Eastern seaboard, hugging the coastline of the warm Indian Ocean, wandering through an Eden of forests, lakes and wild flowers, before arriving in the Friendly City of Port Elizabeth on the fringes of Algoa Bay. On either route, guests are invited to make their closer acquaintance with the landscape on a series of leisurely excursions that have become an integral part of Blue Train lore. Rugged, verdant, desolate and majestic, South Africa is Rail Country – and there’s no better way to experience it, than on The Blue Train.

EXPLORE A SUBTERRANEAN WONDERLAND

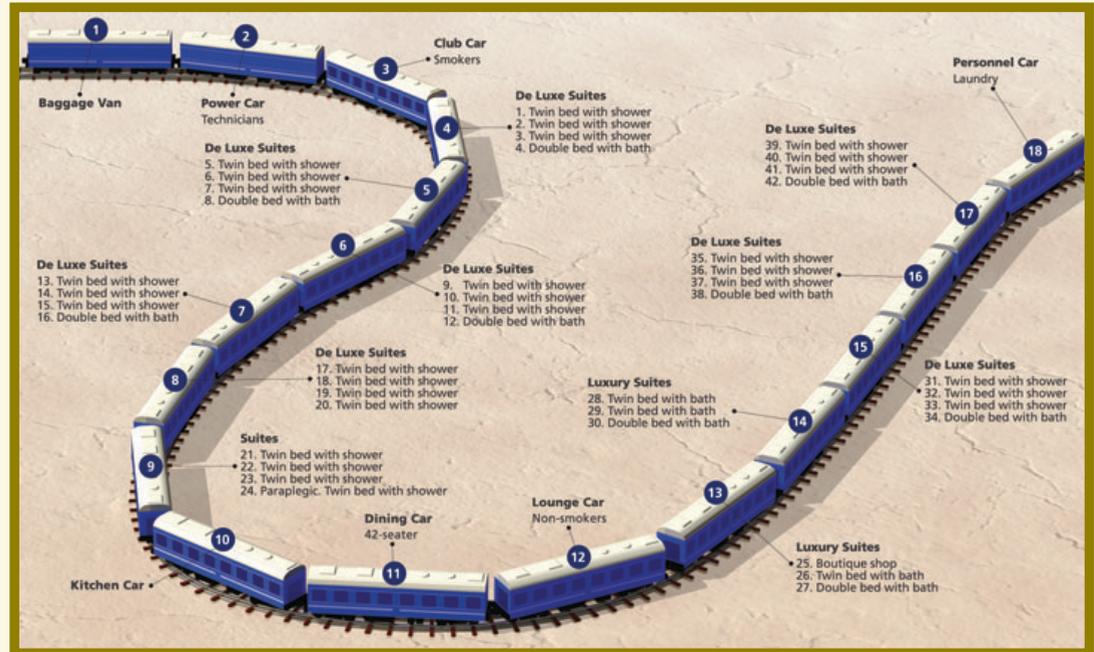


OUTDSHOORN EXCURSION: Once, the land lay below the ocean. Over millions of years, as strange new creatures began to appear on the planet, the floor of the continent rose, and water gave way to desert. The waves seeped slowly into the soil, sculpting chambers and tunnels from layers of crystal and limestone. For millennia, the wonders of this world within a world lay hidden from human eyes. Today, for guests travelling eastward on The Blue Train’s Garden Route to Port Elizabeth, the Cango Caves are the highlight of an excursion to Outdshoorn, which also boasts the attractions of a visit to an ostrich farm and lunch at an indigenous restaurant. Watched over by the massive sentinels of the Swartberg mountains, the Cango Caves offer an irresistible invitation to explore the depths of a primeval wonderworld, brought to startling life and light by the wonders of modern technology. Illuminating a world forged in darkness, discrete electric lighting crafts a bewitching shadow-play on galleries of stalactites and stalagmites, given names that can only hint at their subterranean grandeur: The Crystal Forest, the Devil’s Chimney, the Bridal Chamber, the Fairy Hall, the Rainbow Room. Extending for 1.2km (0.7 miles) below the plains of the Little Karoo, the Cango Caves follow a route as lined with awe and wonder, as the route of The Blue Train itself.

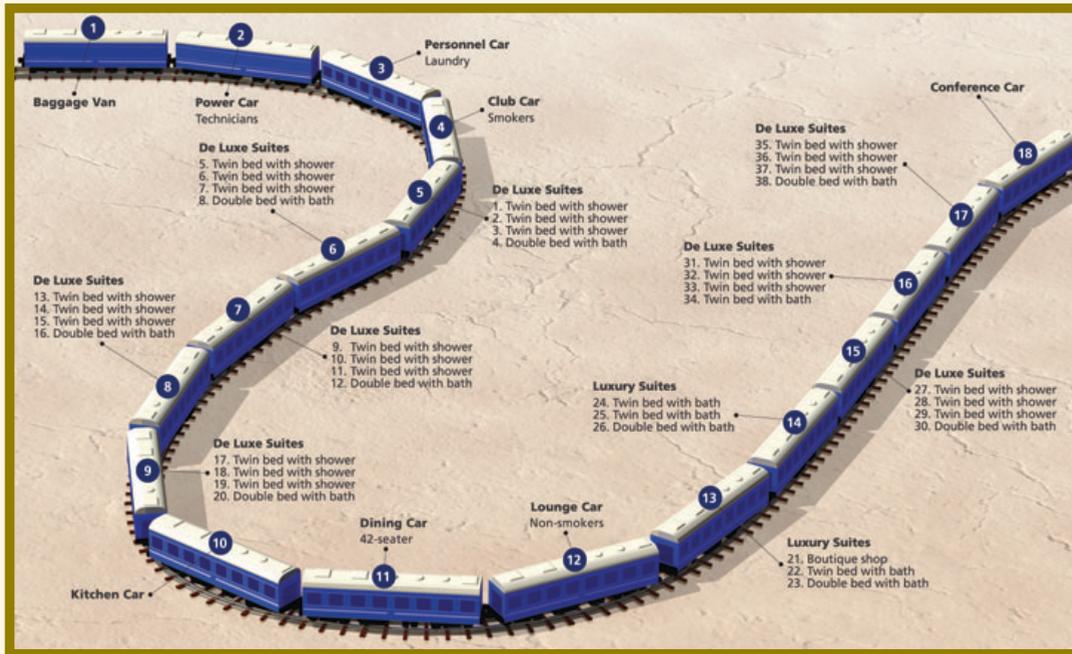




COACH LAYOUT



BLUE TRAIN SET WITHOUT CONFERENCE CAR ACCOMADATING 82 GUESTS



BLUE TRAIN SET WITH CONFERENCE CAR ACCOMADATING 74 GUESTS

FACTS & FIGURES

There are two Blue Train sets, which differ only in the number of accommodation cars and lounges. Trainset 1 accommodates 82 guests 41 suites. Trainset 11 accommodates 74 guests in 37 suites, and features a Conference/Observation Car at the back of the train. The Blue Trains travel at a maximum service speed of 90km/h (58.2mp/h), allowing ample opportunity to absorb the ever-changing countryside. The Blue Trains are 396 metres (433 yards) long and consist of 18 carriages, 11 of which are for the use of guests. The weight of each train is approximately 825 metric tons, excluding the weight of the locomotives. The Blue Trains each carry 31 000 litres (6 820 gallons) of water. Two diesel-powered generators sets, one always on standby, are used to supply The Blue Trains demanding power requirements. Each generator is capable of generating up to 550 KVA, with a 650 volt power supply to the train. A standard internal temperature of around 20 to 21°C (70 to 72°F) is maintained throughout the journey, even when the ambient temperature is 45°C (115°F). For guests' comfort, each suite has individual temperature controls ranging from 18 to 24°C (65 to 77°F). Each journey is escorted by a mechanical and electrical technician. A masterpiece of stainless-steel design, the fully air-conditioned kitchen car features walk-in cool rooms and freezers, ensuring that wines and hors d'oeuvres remain at optimum temperatures. A combination of electricity and gas, as well as microwave ovens, are used to prepare The Blue Train's gourmet cuisine.

Luxury suite coach



De Luxe suite coach



*I*MPORTANT PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

*A*ll-inclusive rates

With the exception of Caviar, French Champagne and external telephone calls, everything else on board The Blue Train is included in the all-inclusive rate.

*B*eds

The beds fold out of the panel concealing the seats under it. Should guests require their bed to be made during the day, please ring for a Butler.

*B*outique

Souvenirs and gifts are available for sale in the Boutique situated in the first luxury suite in coach 13. Guests are advised to speak to their Butler with regards to operating hours or a private appointment with the Boutique Manager. Should any international guest make a purchase of R500 or more they will be entitled to a 14% vat refund.

*B*utlers

Each coach has a Butler whose pleasure it will be to ensure that guests enjoy a memorable experience. Butlers are available 24 hours a day for the duration of the journey.

*C*heck-in

Guests are requested to check-in one hour prior to departure. Check-in takes place in The Blue Train VIP lounges situated at Cape Town and Pretoria stations. Guests embarking on The Blue Train's Port Elizabeth to Cape Town route will be welcomed and checked-in at a hotel in Port Elizabeth, before being transferred by bus to the station.

*C*heck-out

Half an hour before the train reaches its destination, the Train Manager will announce the procedures regarding luggage collection and disembarkation. Should guests require assistance with land arrangements, please contact the Train Manager.

*C*hildren

Children aged 2-years and younger are to share with parents or a responsible adult. No special meal menus are available for children. A strict children policy is applicable on board the train.

*C*limate

The train is fully air-conditioned and the temperature is individually controlled within

the suite. The temperature in the public areas (e.g. lounges and dining car) is centrally controlled. With the exception of the Cape Peninsula, southern Africa is a summer rainfall area with an average daily maximum temperature of between 25 and 30 degrees Centigrade. Although winters are generally mild, temperatures can drop to below freezing over night.

*C*onferences

The conference facility seats up to 22 delegates, offering technical support systems and include laptop ports, multimedia outlets, photocopying, fax and projectors. Special rates apply.

*D*ining

All meals and room-service snacks are included in the rate. Should guests require a snack the Butler can be contacted. Lunch and dinner are usually served in two sittings and cater for 42 guests per sitting, while breakfast is served between 7am and 10am at guests leisure.

*D*isabled people

One train set is compatible for disabled persons. Customised wheelchairs on board The Blue Train have been specifically designed to negotiate the train's corridors. A Butler will be on-hand to assist guests should they require.

*D*ouble beds

Due to the limited number of double beds it is advised that guests specify their preference upon making a reservation.

*D*ress code

In keeping with tradition it is a compulsory custom to dress formal for dinner to match the sheer elegance of The Blue Train. Evening wear is elegant and gentlemen are requested to wear a jacket and tie or traditional attire. During the day dress is smart casual.

*D*rinking water

Bottled water is supplied in suite. The butler will provide more water on request.

*E*lectricity

The electricity supply on board is 220 volts. Light switches are located at the door and the bedside table.

*F*irst aid

Trained first aid personnel are on-board at all times. In the event of an emergency, doctors and first aid personnel can be contacted at the various stations en-route.

*G*ratuities

To show appreciation at the end of the journey, guests may leave a gratuity in the box located in the Lounge Car. Gratuities are shared on a points system between The Blue Train personnel on board.

*G*uest amenities

Basic guest amenities are provided in the bathroom of the suite.

*L*anguages

South Africa has 11 official languages. English is widely spoken and understood.

*L*aundry

A limited on-board laundry and valet service is available and is included in the rate. Please contact a butler for assistance.

*L*ounge Car

The Lounge Car is designed as a meeting place for pre-lunch and dinner drinks and afternoon tea and is a no smoking area, while the Club Car is ideal for a post-dinner Cognac or Cuban cigar. The bar opens as soon as the train commences its journey and closes when the last guest departs.

*L*uggage

It is advisable to pack an overnight case for the journey, as only a limited amount of luggage can be stored in suite. Butlers will store additional baggage in the luggage car. Although great care will be taken, it is recommended that luggage be insured.

*M*alaria

If guests are travelling across the South African border, please consult a medical advisor about anti-malarial precautions and other necessary medication pertaining to the time of travel and destination.

*O*ff-the-train excursions

Excursions offered as part of The Blue Train experience are included in the all-inclusive rate. Guests are advised to wear comfortable shoes during the excursion. To enquire about the itinerary, the Butler can be contacted.

*R*oom service

Room service is available free of charge, except for the speciality menu.

*S*afes

Safes are provided in all suites. While every precaution is taken, The Blue Train cannot be held liable for loss of valuable items left unattended in suites.

*S*moking

Smoking is only permitted in the Club Car. All Suites, the Lounge and Dining Cars are strictly smoke-free zones.

*S*pecial dietary requirements

Kindly specify any special dietary requirements at the time of booking. The Blue Train is happy to accommodate all culinary requests.

*S*uite facilities

All suites offer en suite facilities featuring either a private shower or bath. Guests may choose between a De Luxe or Luxury suite. Individually controlled air-conditioning, remote controlled television, telephones and room safes are standard in each suite. Hairdryers are available on request. The television is concealed above the armoire. A remote control and individual headsets are located in the nightstand.

*T*elephone calls

The international telephone in suite will allow guests to dial the Train Manager or butler 24-hours a day. Should guests wish to make an outside call, they are welcome to contact the Train Manager or Butler, who will assist. The costs for external calls and facsimiles are not included in the rate.

*T*echnical

Two technical representatives are on board to ensure a trouble-free experience. They will happily share their knowledge with train enthusiasts.

*T*ime

South Africa is +2 hours GMT (summer time).

*T*he Train Manager

The Train Manager is on call at all times. Guests are welcome to contact him/her should they require assistance or information pertaining to the journey.

*V*isas

Travel agents or tour operators will assist in obtaining the necessary visas for destinations. The Blue Train offices are regrettably unable to assist with visas. Our reservation personnel will, however, gladly direct guests to the relevant authority.

*...There will be time, later, to gaze at the world outside, at the unfolding canvas of the African night,
at the darkness giving way to the dawn.*

*For now, it is laughter that lights the way, the clinking of glasses that leads us down the corridor
towards the dining-car.*

*For now, all that matters is that this is where we belong, and this memory, this moment, this experience...
Will forever belong to us.*

Night has fallen.

*We drink a toast to new friends, new tastes, new sensations, and my eye is drawn for an instant to
the world rushing by beyond the window.*

I think to myself...

*If I was out there now, I would look up to see a train passing through the landscape, with lights
in its windows, like stars against the sky.*

Where are we?

How far have we travelled?

I shrug and I smile.

We are on that train, travelling together, seduced by the promise of a fantasy in silent motion.

The only difference...is that the fantasy is real.

Come now. Follow your heart, follow your soul.

Through the window of The Blue Train, anything in the world is possible.

Susan Wittengenstein 19/01/2004.



THE BLUE TRAIN

A WINDOW TO THE SOUL OF SOUTH AFRICA

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