

# THE BLUE TRAIN FACT SHEET



The Blue Train combines five-star accommodation with the charm and romance of train travel. Take a journey into a timeless world of grace and elegance, where breath-taking scenery stirs your imagination and luxurious comfort soothes body and soul. Sit back and enjoy being pampered on South Africa's "Blue Jewel".

## Location

The Blue Train runs between Cape Town and Pretoria in both directions throughout the year and two trips a year between Pretoria and Durban (in either direction). The train can also be chartered for incentives or corporate functions such as product launches.

## Guest Services & Facilities

- The Club Car Lounge, situated at the front of the train, is the only area on the train where smoking is permitted. The lounge boasts a well-stocked bar, coffee table books, magazines and board games.
- The Lounge Car is a non-smoking lounge in which to relax and enjoy High Tea and snacks.
- The Dining Car seats 42 people and serves meals in two optional sittings.
- The Observation Car at the rear end of the train has windows on three sides for maximum enjoyment of the passing scenery (available on most departures).
- Boutique selling souvenirs and gifts.
- A limited on-board laundry and valet service is available.

## Dining

The Blue Train prides itself on the fine cuisine it offers its guests with meals that are accompanied by a wide selection of South African wines sourced only from boutique vineyards. The wine list has for a number of years secured the Annual Diner's Club Award of Approval.

On board chefs prepare their signature dishes using the freshest of local ingredients. From Karoo lamb, ostrich and venison, to Knysna oysters and other award-winning Cape cultivars. There's a menu for every taste. Whether you require Kosher or Halaal meals, or gluten-free vegan options, simply make your needs known at the time of reserving your passage.

For more information contact

## Accommodation

Comparable to the world's finest hotels, each suite on board the train offers five star luxurious accommodation with private en-suite bathroom facilities. The luxury element on board the train is accentuated by the personalised butler service.

The Blue Train operates 2 train sets. Train set 1 comprises **14 coaches** and can accommodate **52 guests** (used mainly for charters).

Train set 2 (used on a regular basis) is longer (455m) and comprises **19 coaches** and accommodates a maximum of **80 guests**. Set 2 also has an Observation Car at the rear of the train and one suite that is adapted for wheelchair users.

## De Luxe Suite

De Luxe suites offer twin beds with showers (most suites on the train offer this option) or double bed with three-quarter sized bath.

## Luxury Suite

Luxury suites have an extra m<sup>2</sup> of space, a Blu Ray player and offer twin beds or double beds with full-sized baths.

## Room Amenities

- En-suite bathrooms - elegantly decorated with Italian marble and gold plated fittings
- Fully remote controlled facilities – blinds etc.
- Fully soundproofed
- Air-conditioning & Under-floor heating
- Personal butlers offer 24-hour room service
- GPS system and TV monitor track the train's progress and share the driver's view
- Wi-Fi connectivity
- Goose-down and 100% percale-cotton bedding
- Entertainment system
- Safe



## Complimentary Services

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.

## Check in/out Times

Check-in is at 07h30 (an hour before departure) and guests can relax and enjoy pre-departure snacks and drinks. The train departs from both Cape Town and Pretoria at 08h30, arriving the next day at approximately lunchtime.

## Off Train Excursions

The Southbound (PRY – CPT) off-train excursion is at the Kimberley Diamond Mine Museum and the largest man-made hole on the planet.

The Northbound (CPT – PRY) off-train excursion is at Matjiesfontein (the entire village is a National Museum retaining its Victorian history).

## Dress Code

In keeping with tradition it is a compulsory custom to dress for dinner. Evening wear is elegant and gentlemen are required to wear a jacket and tie or traditional attire. During the day dress code is smart casual.

## Wheelchair/Special Needs

One train set has a suite that is adapted for wheelchair users. A customised wheelchair on-board The Blue Train has been specifically designed to negotiate the train's corridors. A butler will be on hand to assist guests should they require.

## Special Offer

Travel on The Blue Train and receive one complimentary night in a five star hotel, in either Cape Town or Pretoria, before or after the journey including bed, breakfast and a transfer between the hotel and station.

## Highlights of a Stay

Sipping bubbly in the bath and watching the changing vistas through the panoramic window as the train makes its journey through wide open farmlands, rugged mountains, semi-arid desert, dams pink with flamingoes, Cape Winelands, gold and diamond mining landscapes, an abundance of wildflowers and of course Table Mountain.

## Accolades & Awards

Africa's Leading Luxury Train 2013 World Travel Awards (winner for 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year).

World's Leading Luxury Train 2011 World Travel Awards (the eighth time it has won).

Gold in 2010 and silver in 2012 in the Condé Nast Traveller Readers' Awards in the Favourite Specialist Train category.

## Child Policy

Children 5 years and younger sharing a bed with their parents travel free of charge (up to a maximum of two children per suite). Children between 6 and 11 pay 50% of the adult rate, in a separate suite. Children 12 years and older pay the full adult rate per person sharing and will be accommodated in a separate suite.

Please contact us for the full child policy terms & conditions.

## Distances

The distance between Cape Town and Pretoria is just under one thousand miles and The Blue Train does the journey in roughly 27 hours.

## Contact Details:

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