



**THE BLUE TRAIN**

A WINDOW TO THE SOUL OF AFRICA

Welcome aboard South Africa's  
**"BLUE JEWEL"**

**Fact Sheet**

**“The greatest reward  
and luxury of travel is  
to be able to experience  
everyday things as if for  
the first time”**

**- Bill Bryson**

## **Key Guest Points**

- An icon of South Africa for over 70 years – one of the world’s great rail journeys.
- Voted Africa’s Leading Luxury Train for 11 consecutive years by the World Travel Awards
- A unique experience with a strong heritage – the ultimate and crowning jewel in your South African holiday
- Far more enjoyable than spending time between cities, queuing at airports. This experience affords guests hours of indulgence in the luxury of time to gaze upon the beauty of the ever-changing landscape on-board The Blue Train
- A perfect link between Cape Town and the Kruger National Park
- Great value: A two night experience of ‘forced relaxation’ on the Pretoria to Cape Town route or vice-versa – inclusive of 24-hour butler service, all meals and beverages, off-the-train excursions (weather and time permitting), minimum laundry service, cognacs and genuine Cuban cigars
- An inspired way to traverse South Africa and experience contrasting views of the beautiful South African countryside



## Location

The Blue Train depot is situated in the Capital City of Pretoria, known as the City of Tshwane. Pretoria is also known as the Jacaranda City due to the large number of Jacaranda trees that are planted on its streets, parks and gardens - a true spectacle to be enjoyed in full bloom during South Africa's spring season (September to November).





## Pre-departure Lounges

Your holiday begins the moment you step into any of The Blue Train's VIP lounges situated at Cape Town and Pretoria stations. Check-in is from 12h00 and departure from Pretoria and Cape Town stations is at 14h00. Guests are requested to check-in at least two hours prior to departure. At the VIP lounges, guests will be kept captivated and entertained with a live performance by a saxophonist while they indulge in gourmet canapes, pre-departure snacks, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.



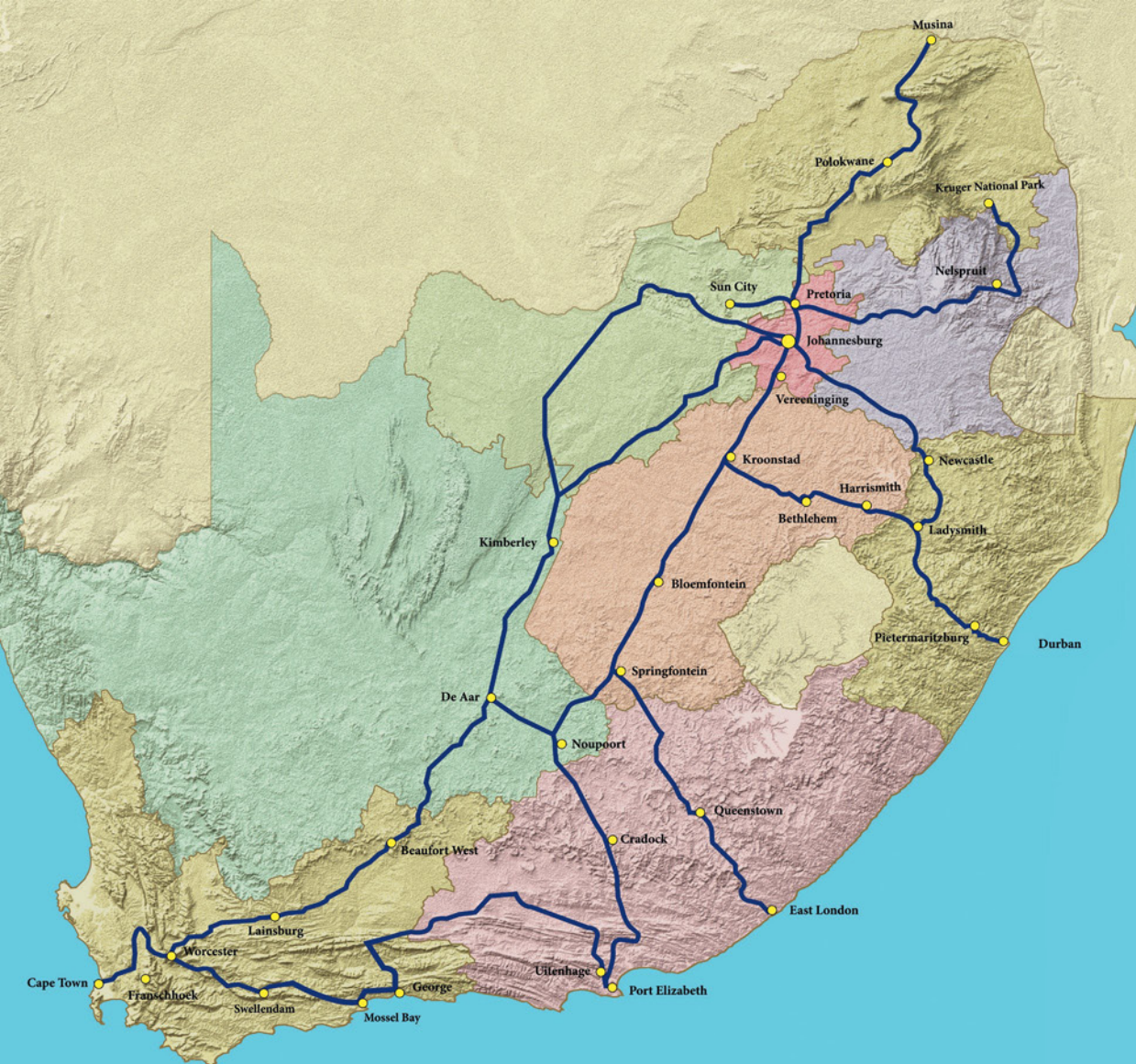
Pre-departure Lounge: Pretoria

The Pre-departure lounge in Pretoria is in the vicinity and is a few metres away from the Gautrain Pretoria Station. The Gautrain is South Africa's premier rapid rail and bus service which provides a fast, safe and cost effective link between O.R. Tambo International Airport (ORTIA) and nine key business hubs between Johannesburg and Tshwane (Pretoria), including Sandton. The Blue Train's Pre-departure Lounge in Cape Town is nestled up at Cape Town railway station, the main railway station of the 'Mother City', as the city of Cape Town is affectionately known.



Pre-departure Lounge: Cape Town





## Our Routes

### Pretoria - Cape Town - Pretoria

The Blue Train travels this 1600km (994 miles) journey over two nights. This allows visitors to surrender to the luxury of slow while taking their time to soak up some of South Africa's most magnificent landscapes. During the journey, the train is due to stop for an off-the train excursion (weather and time permitting), at the diamond town of Kimberley where one can explore the Big Hole and the Diamond Museum. Kimberley is one of the most unique and authentic historical destinations in South Africa, because of the Kimberley diamond mine, which occupies a surface of 17 hectares, 463 metres wide, for a depth of 240 metres, and it used to be active between 1871 to 1914.

The Big Hole in Kimberley is considered one of the deepest cavities excavated by man at a depth of 240 metres. Next to the Big Hole is the Kimberley Mine Museum, the first ever discovery of diamond reserves in the country. One of the most interesting facts about the Big Hole in Kimberley is that after the mining operations were finally over, "the Big Hole became the most visited tourist attraction in Kimberley." [www.thebighole.co.za](http://www.thebighole.co.za)





## Our Routes

Pretoria - Kruger National Park - Pretoria

The Blue Train also travels to South Africa's Limpopo Province, which is home to the Kruger National Park, one of the world's finest game parks, and home to Africa's Big Five. This is a return trip journey which takes place on selected months of the year, and offers guests an opportunity of some fantastic new "rail safari" combination packages with the many private safari lodges found in the Greater Kruger and Sabi Sands areas.

Departure time is 13h00 from Pretoria station and arrival time is at 05h00 the following day in the Kruger National Park and arrives back at Pretoria station the following day at 10h00.

Check-in at Pretoria station is an two hours prior to departure. This return trip Kruger National Park experience is inclusive of all applicable meals and beverages.



## 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 some of the finest boutique vineyards. The wine list has for a number of years secured the Annual Diner's Club Award of Approval. 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.





## 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 and guests can 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 large windows which offer full enjoyment of panoramic views of the passing scenery.

The Boutique shop is situated in the Observation Car. Guests have the opportunity to purchase souvenirs and gifts on-board.

A limited on-board laundry and valet service is available.

The Conference Car of The Blue Train, seating up to 22 delegates offering technical support systems and include laptop ports, multimedia outlets and projector.





## 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 onboard the train is accentuated by the personalised 24-hour butler service.

**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 | Entertainment system | Goose-down and 100% percale-cotton bedding | Safe



### De Luxe Suite

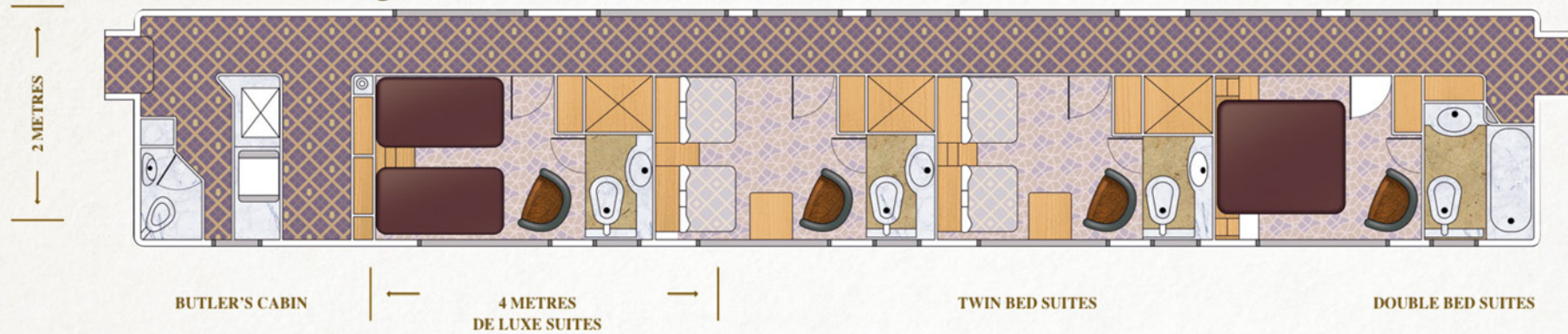
De Luxe Suites measure 8m<sup>2</sup> of space and offer twin beds or double beds with either a three-quarter sized bath or a shower in each suite. The same suite is a lounge area by day which is converted into a comfortable bedroom during the night.

### Luxury Suites

Luxury suites are the premier suites and measure 10.26m<sup>2</sup> of space and offer twin beds or double beds with either a full-sized bath or a shower in each suite. The same suite is also a lounge area by day and is converted into a comfortable bedroom during the night.



## Suite Configuration: De Luxe



## Suite Configuration: Luxury



The Blue Train operates 2 train sets on a weekly basis. Train set 1 comprises 14 coaches and can accommodate 54 guests.

Train set 2 is longer and comprises 19 coaches and accommodates a maximum of 82 guests. Both train sets have an Observation Car at the rear of the train.



## Experience life on-board The Blue Train

Sip on champagne while relaxing in the bath and gazing upon the ever-changing scenery through the panoramic window as the train traverses the vast farmlands, rugged mountains, semi-arid desert, dams, Cape Winelands, gold and diamond mining landscapes, an abundance of wildflowers and of course Table Mountain. Along the journey pink flamingos can be spotted at Kamfers Dam. Kamfers Dam, near Kimberley, is one of four breeding areas in Africa and the only one in South Africa of the lesser flamingo. The lesser flamingo is the smallest of the four flamingos and not quite as brightly coloured as the Caribbean flamingo. These birds can be seen here in large numbers of up to 60 000 birds (more than half of which are from the Southern African population).

[www.standardcharteredbank.com](http://www.standardcharteredbank.com)





## Charters

A Blue Train charter offers a memorable and invigorating reminder that you are going places.

The train fully equipped and capable of following any line that is compatible to its unique technology.

The Blue Train can be chartered along its standard route (Pretoria-Cape Town-Pretoria) or customised routes lasting from a few hours to several nights.

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!





# COVID-19 Hygiene Precautions:

The Blue Train is compliant for COVID-19 travel with several check points pre-departure and at departure, and emergency support onboard during travel, as follows:

## 1. The Booking Process

- When confirming bookings, guests will complete a pre-screening questionnaire which includes a declaration of COVID-19 symptoms.
- Should guests not meet the pre-screening requirements, the booking will be deferred to a later date.

## 2. Departure Day

- From the guests' departure points, a second pre-screening process will be initiated by way of a follow-up questionnaire.
- The questionnaire will be emailed to all guests, and in the questionnaire, if three or more questions are affirmative, The Blue Train's Health and Safety Department will make contact for further clarity.

## 3. Arrival at Pre-Departure Lounge

- On arrival at the Pre-Departure Lounge, guests will be welcomed by The Blue Train butlers wearing masks, latex gloves and maintaining a safe social distance of 2m.
- All the guests are required to wear a cloth mask and they will be requested to sanitize their hands on the sanitizer stations that will be made available.
- Butlers will assist with luggage, while keeping a safe distance, and after registering the luggage, guests will be accompanied to the Pre-departure Lounge, still observing safe social distancing.

## 4. The Check-in Process

- Checking in at the Pre-Departure Lounge, guests will observe social distancing protocol, standing in demarcated areas.
- Guests will be requested to sanitize their hands at the entrance of the lounge and each guest will undergo temperature scanning. If the temperature is above 37.5 degrees Celsius, guests will be taken to a cooling room.
- An on-board medical practitioner will attend to the guest and when cleared, the guest will then proceed to reception for check-in.
- If not cleared, the guest's booking will be deferred to a later date. After registration, a safety kit with three cloth masks, 50ml sanitizer, wet wipes and three pairs of latex gloves will be issued to each guest.

## 5. Pre-Departure Lounge Experience

- After checking in, while guests are enjoying canapes, sparkling wine and live music, they will be grouped based on travelling companions to ensure reduced risk of transmission, and also make contact traceability manageable in the event of a positive case.

## 6. On board The Blue Train

- The Blue Train crew will render services with a face mask and latex gloves and each staff member will be issued with their own hand sanitizer.
- All suites will be stocked with additional soap as part of the amenities.
- The air conditioning system will be cleaned and disinfected at every departure, to ensure good ventilation at all times.

## 7. The Dining Car

- In the Dining Car, tables that accommodate four guests will have an extended partition glass, offering complete closure and turning these into cubicles.
- Guests will only eat with their travelling companions.

## 8. The Public Areas

- The Observation, Lounge and Club Cars will only admit a maximum of 20 guests at a time.
- There will be constant cleaning of surfaces when guests leave the area.

## 9. Additional Support

- There will be a medical practitioner on board The Blue Train and an isolation car with two suites made available for quarantine purposes.
- Constant cleaning with steaming of all upholstery and surface disinfecting of all furniture, doors, handles, toilets, trash bins and toothbrush beakers will be done.
- All cleaning detergents will be in line with the World Health Organisation and South African Tourism guidelines.

## 10. En-route Screening for Guests

- There will be a medical practitioner on board The Blue Train and an isolation car with two suites made available for quarantine purposes.
- Constant cleaning with steaming of all upholstery and surface disinfecting of all furniture, doors, handles, toilets, trash bins and toothbrush beakers will be done.
- All cleaning detergents will be in line with the World Health Organisation and South African Tourism guidelines.

## 11. En-route Screening for Crew

All crew will be screened by the medical practitioner 3 times a day.

- If a crew member experiences high temperature, that member will be quarantined, and their functions will be taken over by another team member.
- In the event that a crew member shows symptoms of COVID-19 or any other medical condition on board the train, a medical Practitioner will attend to the crew member until an ambulance arrives to take the crew member to the nearest hospital.
- Should any guest test positive while en-route, a risk assessment will be conducted to identify all the areas and people that the positive case might have come in contact with.
- Our Medical Practitioner onboard will have all the approved PPE and medical supplies required to assist the patients until the patient can be taken to a hospital, and the patient will be isolated during that time.



# Important Pre-departure Information

**All-inclusive rates:** With the exception of Caviar, French Champagne and external telephone calls, everything on-board is included in the rate.

**Beds:** 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.

**Butlers:** 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.

**Wheelchair/Special Needs:** The Blue Train is not fully wheelchair friendly but it has a customised wheelchair on-board which has been specifically designed to negotiate the train's corridors. A butler will be on hand to assist guests should they require.

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

**Electricity:** The electricity supply on-board is 220 volts. Lights switches are located at the door and the bedside table.

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

**Gifts for travellers:** Post their Blue Train overnight journey, guests receive Blue Train-branded gifts and a certificate that 'authenticates' their experience and 'certifies' them as The Blue Train "Ambassadors". The Blue Train gifts are also for sale in the Boutique Shop should guests wish to purchase them for family and loved ones back home.

**Gratuities:** To show appreciation at the end of the journey, guests may leave a gratuity in the box located in the Club Car. Gratuities are shared amongst The Blue Train personnel on-board.

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

**Local vendors/In-bound destination management companies DMCs:** For peace of mind, it is advisable for international tour operators/travel agents to use local vendors/DMCs who will do their ground handling and ensure that clients are taken care of whilst away in a foreign country.

**Child Policy:** Children 5 years and younger sharing a suite with their parents travel free-of-charge (maximum of two children per suite). Children between 6 and 11 years old occupy a separate suite and pay 50% of the adult rate per person sharing. Should a child between 6 and 11 years old occupy a suite as a single occupant, they pay 50% of the adult rate – including the supplement. 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.

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

**Room service:** Room service is available free of charge, except for the specialty menu.

**Luggage:** 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 luggage in the Luggage Car. Although great care will be taken, it is recommended that luggage be insured.

**Safes:** 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.

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

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

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

**Guest amenities:** Guest amenities are provided in the bathroom of the suite.

**Check in/out Times:** For the Cape Town and Pretoria routes, check-in is at 12h00 (two hours before departure) and guests can relax to a live performance and enjoy gourmet canapes, pre-departure snacks and drinks. The train departs from both Cape Town and Pretoria at 14h00 and travels over two nights arriving at 10h00 for both Cape Town and Pretoria stations. Check-in for the Kruger National Park route is at 10h00 and the train departs at 13h00, arriving in the Kruger National Park at 05h00 the following morning and arriving back at Pretoria station the next at 10h00.

**Off-Train Excursions:** The Southbound (PRY – CPT) and the Northbound (CPT – PRY) off-the-train excursions are at the Kimberley Diamond Mine Museum, the largest man-made hole on the planet.

**Dress Code:** In keeping with tradition, dinner on-board The Blue Train is an elegant affair. Elegant evening wear for ladies, and gentlemen are required to wear at least a jacket or waistcoat or traditional attire. During the day dress code is smart casual.

**Distances:** The distance between Cape Town and Pretoria is 1600km (994 miles) under one thousand miles and The Blue Train journeys over two nights.. The Pretoria to Cape Town or Cape Town to Pretoria experiences are packaged as one way journeys. The distance between Kruger National Park and Pretoria is 557km (346 miles) and The Blue Train journeys one night to Kruger National Park and the return journey from Kruger National Park to Pretoria is also over one night. The Kruger National Park experience is packaged as a return journey.

## Accolades & Awards:

World Travel Award	Condé Nast Traveller Readers' Awards	The Diners Club International Awards	Prism Awards 2019	Africa's Travel Indaba
Africa's Leading Luxury Train for 11 consecutive years	The Favourite Specialist Train category	Wine List 2019 – Diamond Award Winner	Bronze Award Winner	Gold Award Winner
World's Leading Luxury Train for 8 years	Gold Award Winner 2010			
	Silver Award Winner 2012			