



**“A 5-Star Hotel
on Wheels
offering a
sublime
experience”**

Since its inception in 1946, The Blue Train has become recognized as the epitome of luxury rail cruise and an icon of the Southern African tourism, hospitality and leisure experience.

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 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 on board experience is complimented by scenic landscape as the train meanders across the Southern-most part of the African continent.

The Blue Train has cemented its place in history as the benchmark of luxury recreation. Some of the technology that has been incorporated into the newly revamped train includes a sophisticated suspension system which offers one of the smoothest rides that can be found on any train anywhere in the world and for additional safety, the locomotives have been fitted with a specially designed new breaking system.

There are actually two train sets to ensure there are regular scheduled departures. These are very similar in décor but have a slightly different composition. Train set 1 sleeps 74 guests, including a paraplegic suite. Train set 2 (usually marked in bold on the schedules) sleeps 58 guests but has an observation car/conference facility at the end, with windows on three sides for maximum enjoyment of the passing scenery. Both trains offer a choice of De Luxe and Luxury suites, the main difference being that the Luxury suites are about a meter longer and have a full-sized bath rather than a three-quarter. De Luxe suites come with a choice of either a shower or three-quarter bath.

The Blue Train mainly runs between Cape Town and Pretoria in either direction, with occasional alternative routes to Durban, Pilanesberg and Kruger etc. It can also be chartered for incentives or corporate functions such as product launches. For more info on charters email Herbert.masheula@bluetrain.co.za

Benefits and Facilities:

- An all-inclusive price
- Dining Car, seating 42 guests
- Lounge, where high tea is served
- Club Car (only place where smoking is permitted)
- Butler on call
- On board entertainment system
- Luxury and Deluxe Suites, each with private bathroom facilities.



FAST FACTS ABOUT...

The Blue Train is one of the finest luxury trains in the world and has been operating since 1946. The most popular and frequently operated journey is a 27-hour one-way overnight journey in either direction between **Cape Town and Pretoria** that takes guests through the spectacular African landscapes. The trains travel on selected Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in both directions.

The Southbound (PRY – CTN) off-train excursion is at the Kimberley Hole Diamond mine.

The Northbound (CTN – PRY) off-train excursion is at Matjiesfontein.

This overnight trip fits perfectly even into relatively short itineraries and guests can be assured of a good night's rest due to the smoothness of the ride. The Blue Train does not need to stop at night thanks to its advanced suspension system!

Charters and special packages are also available, incorporating game experiences, golf etc. See the website for the latest offerings www.bluetrain.co.za

There are 2 train sets that operate as The Blue Train. Train set 1 comprises 16 coaches and can accommodate 74 guests including one paraplegic suite. Train set 2 comprises 17 coaches and accommodates 58 guests and has an observation car/third lounge at the end – and is usually indicated in **bold** on the schedules. This Third lounge is only available when not being used as a conference facility.

Check-in is an hour before departure and guests can relax in the private Blue Train lounges at Pretoria or Cape Town train stations. 2008 departures from both Cape Town and Pretoria will be at 08h50, arriving the next day at 12h20.

All suites have the following facilities:

- o En-suite bathrooms - elegantly decorated with Italian marble and gold plated fittings
- o Fully remote controlled facilities – blinds etc.
- o Fully soundproofed
- o Air-conditioning, a safe and television
- o Personal butlers offer 24-hour room service
- o GPS system and TV monitor track the train's progress and share the driver's view

De Luxe suites offer:

- Twin beds with showers (most suites on the train offer this option) OR
- Double bed with three-quarter sized bath (limited availability)

Luxury suites have an extra m² of space, a personalized entertainment system and offer:

- Twin beds with full-sized bath (limited availability) OR
- Double beds with full-sized baths (limited availability)

Two lounges are available:

The Club Car Lounge : The only area where smoking is permitted. A very popular lounge after dinner as Cognac and Cigars are served. The lounge boasts a well stocked bar, coffee table books, magazines and board games.

The Lounge Car : A non-smoking lounge in which to relax and enjoy High Tea and snacks.

Guests all enjoy the finest **dining** on board. The Dining Car seats 42 people and serves meals in two sittings. The wine list has for a number of years secured the Annual Diner's Club Award of Approval.

Rates include: all meals, drinks (including South African sparkling wine) and off-the-train excursions. The high season rates apply from 1 September till 15 November every year. Rates exclude: gratuities, imported French Champagne, caviar and telephone calls outside the train.

Children 5 years and younger sharing a suite with their parents travel free of charge (maximum two children per suite). Children will have to share beds with parents / guardians, as The Blue Train does not have special beds for children in the suites). Children aged 6 years and older pay full adult rate per person sharing and will be accommodated in a separate suite. Please note that children have to be strictly supervised and are not allowed in the club car or lounge that are licensed to sell alcohol. There are no special children/infant meals available.

Dress code onboard the train is smart-casual during the day but a jacket and tie are **compulsory** for gentlemen in the evening. Ladies to dress elegantly for dinner.

More information on **The Blue Train** can be found on the website www.bluetrain.co.za