AFRICA
BY PRIVATE TRAIN

An epic journey between Cape Town and Dar es Salaam aboard the luxurious PRIDE OF AFRICA

11th to 29th January; 27th September to 15th October 2018; 22nd January to 9th February 2019*
& 26th September to 14th October 2019

Noble Caledonia
Join us aboard the Pride of Africa, regarded by many as the most luxurious train in the world, for a journey through South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Tanzania, one of the great train journeys of the world.

In spite of all its regional difficulties, Africa still captures the imagination like no other continent and its varied cultures, extraordinary wildlife and perhaps most of all, the majesty of its landscape cast a lifelong spell on all who visit. From Cape Town we will travel the length of South Africa visiting the diamond town of Kimberley, the nation’s capital of Pretoria and stay two nights in a private lodge in Madikwe Game Reserve. Cross the border to the magnificent Victoria Falls and then across the mighty Zambezi River, travelling north to Zambia where we join the Tazara Railway line. We will climb towards the Zambian and Tanzanian border, almost the midpoint between Africa’s two Great Rift Valley lakes. Descend into the Rift Valley travelling through stunning scenery as the train negotiates the tunnels, switchbacks and viaducts of the escarpment. Time permitting we will visit the Selous Game Reserve, the largest on the continent and the very vision of ‘Timeless Africa’. Finally we reach the bustling city of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania.

Our View

Alexia Williams, our product manager, recently experienced the Pride of Africa and below are her thoughts on the train.

“The opulent Pride of Africa is billed for good reason as the “The Most Luxurious Train in the World”. The excellent service is evident the minute you arrive at the station. Luggage is whisked off and tagged and boarding is seamlessly done by compartment. Luggage arrives and a welcome tour of your suite is conducted by your attendant. Suites are wood panelled and comfortable with all amenities you would expect in a 5 star hotel. Soon it is lunch time. In keeping with the ‘bygone era’ theme a gong is sounded for all meals, no tannoy announcements here! Lunch and dinner are both four course fixed menus. The menus are given on arrival, if you can’t eat anything or simply don’t like something they are incredibly accommodating. All dishes are wine matched but if you would like to make your own wine selection, again this is fine. All in all, from spending time on board this exquisite train, I can understand why she has such a strong following and reputation.”
Day 1 London to Cape Town, South Africa. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Cape Town. Arrive in the morning and transfer to the Cape Grace Hotel located on the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront in Cape Town for an overnight stay. Remainder of the afternoon is at leisure.

Day 3 Cape Town to Matjiesfontein. Today we transfer to the train station to board our luxury train, Pride of Africa. Settle into your cabin and enjoy the changing landscape as we travel to Matjiesfontein, arriving in the early evening with time for a stroll through this quaint and historic little village. Of special interest is the museum on the platform and a collection of historic cars and railway carriages.

Day 4 Kimberley. Enjoy a leisurely morning on the train and after lunch we arrive into Kimberley. Here we proceed for a tour of the city, the ‘Big Hole’ and the Diamond Mine Museum with a historic tram ride (subject to availability). We leave Kimberley in the late afternoon. Ten minutes after departing Kimberley there is a shallow lake on the left hand side where spectacular flocks of flamingos can often be seen.

Day 5 Pretoria. This morning we pull into Pretoria, one of the most picturesque of South African cities. Enjoy a tour of the station and locomotive workshops (weather permitting) followed by lunch on the platform and a city tour of Pretoria. Return to the train in the early evening and depart for Zeerust.

Day 6 Zeerust to Madikwe Game Reserve. Arrive this morning at Zeerust and transfer to the Madikwe Game Reserve for a two night stay at Tau Game Lodge. Madikwe is one of the largest game reserves in South Africa offering great game viewing opportunities. It has been the recipient of an ambitious and successful restocking programme, with game indigenous to the area. The 75 000 hectares now boast an excellent wildlife population including the ‘Big Five’. You can also expect to see its packs of wild dog which are often sighted, both black and white rhino, extensive plains game including sable, gemsbok, springbok and giraffe, as well as over 340 species of birds.

Day 7 Madikwe Game Reserve. A full day to explore Madikwe. Enjoy an early morning and evening game drive in addition to other activities and make the most of the lodge’s excellent facilities.

Day 8 Gabarone, Botswana. After an early morning game drive we reboard our train in Gabarone for a mid-day departure. Border formalities en-route.

Day 9 En-route. Enjoy the day on board travelling through Zimbabwe. An expert historian will provide morning and afternoon talks. We pass Gwai and Dete along one of Africa’s longest stretches of straight railway line – 114 kilometres and along the eastern edge of the Hwange National Park where occasional sightings of animals can occur.

Day 10 Victoria Falls. Arrive at Victoria Falls this morning. Walk from the train to the “Grand Lady” Victoria Falls Hotel, a short way down the path. This evening we take a sunset cruise on the Zambezi River, a magical experience. Dinner will be taken at the hotel at the ‘Jungle Junction Restaurant’ named after an early train station there, but now is a lovely open-air dining area serving delicious, fresh food.

Day 11 Victoria Falls. Enjoy a relaxing day at leisure at Victoria Falls. A selection of optional tours will be offered for an additional cost, for example, join a guided tour of the falls, take the ‘Flight of Angels’ or enjoy a round of golf. In the late afternoon re-board the train and depart for Zambia with border formalities en-route.

Days 12 & 13 En-route. Two leisurely days on board our train to enjoy the good food and company whilst admiring the passing scenery as we journey through Zambia. There will be lectures on board during the day.

Day 14 Kasama, Zambia. Today we disembark in Kasama for an excursion to Chisimba Falls, a combination of three successive waterfalls. The Bemba people regard this as one of the most sacred places of power. Return to the train for our onward journey. There will be border formalities as we cross from Zambia to Tanzania.

Day 15 Makambako, Tanzania. After breakfast we will arrive in Makambako and commence our descent through the spectacular pass to Mlimba. The train travels alongside the Udzungwa Mountains as it negotiates the...
tunnels, switchbacks and viaducts of the escarpment towards the Selous.

Day 16 Selous. Enjoy a game visit in the Selous Game Reserve, the largest in Africa. Meals are enjoyed on board as the train departs Kisaki and descends into the Rift Valley from the highlands and traverses the fertile lands of Tanzania towards Gwata.

Day 17 Gwata to Dar es Salaam. Arrive in Gwata and continue the journey through to Dar es Salaam where on arrival we leave the train and transfer to the Hyatt Regency Hotel for an overnight stay.

Day 18 Dar es Salaam to London. After a morning at leisure we transfer to the airport and return to London by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 19 London. Arrive today.

* Please note that the January 2019 departure operates in the reverse direction from Dar es Salaam to Cape Town. Full itinerary can be viewed at www.noble-caledonia.co.uk

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**PRICES PER PERSON**

Based on double occupancy

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Price includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 11 nights aboard the Pride of Africa on full board basis including all drinks (excluding certain premium label spirits, wines and champagnes), overnight Cape Grace Hotel in a Luxury Room on bed and breakfast basis, 2 nights Tau Game Lodge in a Standard Chalet on full board basis, overnight Victoria Falls Hotel in Deluxe Central Room on full board basis, overnight Hyatt Regency Hotel, Dar es Salaam in a Sea View Room on bed and breakfast basis, excursions, local guides, on-board tour director, transfers, airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas, gratuities, optional excursions in Victoria Falls.

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In addition to our 11 nights spent on board the luxurious Pride of Africa, our itinerary also includes accommodation at some select hotels:

**CAPE GRACE HOTEL, CAPE TOWN** – overnight day 2

Right in the heart of the city, and yet removed, constructed on a quay at the Victoria and Albert waterfront, the five-star Cape Grace Hotel is well positioned to take advantage of the views of the harbour, the marina, and Table Mountain and of the convenience of a city centre location. The 120 air-conditioned guestrooms feature iPod docking stations and laptop-compatible safes. Beds have memory foam mattresses, Egyptian cotton sheets, down comforters, and premium bedding. Complimentary wireless and wired high-speed Internet access is provided. 42-inch plasma televisions are equipped with premium cable channels and free movie channels. All accommodations provide desks, complimentary newspapers and phones. Bathrooms offer separate bathtubs and showers, double sinks, bathtubs, and designer toiletries. All rooms feature a minibar and coffee/tea makers. Additional amenities include slippers and complimentary bottled water. Cape Grace Hotel has a full-service spa, a marina, restaurant, bar and lounge. There is also an outdoor pool.

**TAU GAME LODGE, MADIKWE GAME RESERVE** – overnight days 6 & 7

Privately-owned Tau Game Lodge was built in 1995 and overlooks a vast natural waterhole, which attracts a variety of game, as does the diverse vegetation which thrives in the fertile topsoil. The main body of the Lodge is two-levelled and has a comfortable lounge, bar and dining room which are semi open-air and overlook the waterhole. Delicious buffet breakfasts and lunches are generally served in the main building or on the verandah next to the plunge pool and dinner is served in one of the cosy boma’s under the stars, or in the lapa next to the main lodge. The accommodation consists of 30 luxury thatched chalets, all with views of the game approaching the water hole. Each chalet ensures privacy with its own viewing deck, en-suite bathroom, open-air shower, air-conditioning and ceiling fans.

**VICTORIA FALLS HOTEL** – overnight day 10

Popularly known as “the grand old lady of the falls” the historic Victoria Falls Hotel overlooks the Victoria Falls Bridge and the gorges below. Situated in acres of private garden, the charm and tranquil atmosphere of this five star hotel has earned international acclaim. The elegant decor and the old world charm of this gracious hotel is reflected in the wide colonial verandahs. The hotel’s 180 rooms are decorated in a manner that recaptures the comfortable charm of a bygone age, with colonial prints, four poster and canopy beds, antique furniture and well-chosen artifacts. Modern facilities and amenities mingle well with the old-fashioned ambience, including such 21st century travellers’ necessities as personal safes, minibars, bathrobes, digital satellite television and umbrellas for the convenience of guests visiting the Rain Forest surrounding the Falls. The main lounge with its old-fashioned traditional elegance and decor has a warm welcoming style, providing a perfect backdrop for relaxing with friends. The Bulawayo Room offers surroundings of exceptional comfort and luxury, going back to the turn of the century.

**HYATT REGENCY DAR ES SALAAM, THE KILIMANJARO** – overnight day 17

This is a modern oasis in the heart of the city. The luxurious five-star hotel has a superb waterfront location with spectacular views of the harbour and Indian Ocean and features 180 spacious and comfortably appointed rooms with authentic hospitality, and deluxe amenities. There is a range of excellent dining options. unwind at Anantara Spa, a comprehensive wellness centre that offers guests a wide selection of spa treatments in six private treatment rooms complemented by a sauna, steam rooms and a fitness centre. Alternatively, relax outdoors in the infinity swimming pool which, overlooking the Dar es Salaam harbour, offers some of the best views from any hotel pool in Tanzania.

+44 (0)20 7752 0000
THE PRIDE OF AFRICA

We are delighted to be working with Rovos Rail and their luxury train the Pride of Africa. Since its establishment in 1989, Rovos Rail has earned an international reputation for its truly world class travel experiences. Step aboard the wood-panelled coaches and enjoy fine cuisine in five-star luxury as some of the most varied scenery imaginable unfolds beyond the windows. Recapture the romance and atmosphere of a bygone era when privileged travellers experienced the magic and mystery of Africa in a relaxed and elegant fashion.

Your Suite
The train carries a maximum of 72 passengers in 36 superbly appointed suites. The sleeper coaches are some of the most spacious in the world, offering every modern convenience and comfort. The epitome of luxury, with handsome wood panelling and period Edwardian features, the air-conditioned suites accommodate two people offering the option of twin or spacious double beds. All are equipped with a writing surface and, for valuables, a personal safe. There is also a bar fridge filled with beverages of the passengers’ choice and room service is available 24 hours a day. In the en-suite bathrooms original fittings are combined with the modern technology of hot showers, hairdryers and shaver sockets. The Royal Suites, each of which takes up half a carriage, are spacious and elegant, measuring 16 square metres in size. Each has its own private lounge area and full bathroom with Victorian bath and separate shower. The Deluxe Suites measure ten square metres and have a lounge area and en-suite bathroom with shower and the Pullman Suites which measure seven square metres are equipped with a comfortable sofa-seat during the day and converted to double or twin beds for the evening.

Pullman Suite showing daytime configuration.
Deluxe Suite showing twin beds (configuration either L-shaped twin or double twin). Please note there are a limited amount of L-shaped cabins.
Royal Suite showing double bed.
Your Space
On board there is a non-smoking Observation Car at the rear of the train, while the coach next to it contains a small smoking lounge. A unique feature of the Observation Car is the enlarged windows and open-air balcony. At the centre of the train there is a non-smoking Lounge Car, which also houses the Gift Shop. Deep sofas and wingback chairs make for an extremely comfortable car. In maintaining the spirit of travel of a bygone era, there are no radios or television sets on board. As with all the service cars the lounges are air-conditioned, yet the windows can be opened allowing in the sights, sounds and scents of Africa.

Your Dining
The Pride of Africa has two 42-seater Dining Cars to accommodate the maximum complement of 72 passengers in total comfort at one sitting. An enthusiastic team of chefs are responsible for overseeing the very important task of ensuring guests’ every need is catered for. There is an accent on fresh local ingredients and traditional dishes such as game are a specialty. Every morning there is a full breakfast with dishes cooked to order and a buffet selection of fresh fruits and yoghurts. Lunch and dinner are set menus and both are complemented by a selection of excellent South African wines. Dietary requests will be catered for and guests can discuss the menus with the chef prior to the meals for alternative options.

Life On Board
In maintaining the spirit of travel of a bygone era, there are no radios or television sets on board. The use of mobile phones, laptops and essentially anything that has the ability to disturb other passengers is confined to the privacy of your suites only. For daytime on the train the dress is smart casual. The evening attire is more formal – for the gentlemen a jacket and tie is a minimum requirement while for ladies cocktail/evening dresses or suits.