



Les carnets de voyage

Un “train” nommé désir...

Diplomatic World reprend sa tradition de consacrer plusieurs pages aux voyages à travers le monde... Osons la magie du rail, traversons le temps et l'histoire... Tant de trains ont fait fantasmer des écrivains comme Agatha Christie, Valéry Larbaud, Paul Morand, Pierre Mac Orlan: tant de belles intrigues, tant de princes, de grands ducs, de lords et de ces milliardaires, sans oublier les magnats hongrois et les boyards roumains... Les voyages en train sont comme des histoires d'amour: on sait quand elles commencent, mais pas quand elles prennent fin.

Emile Zola disait: “Rien ne développe l'intelligence comme les voyages”, qu'en pensez-vous?

“Mythical Trains of the World”

“It is true when Einstein rode home on a locomotive; it was a good train of thought.”

The power, the strength, unstoppable, feel the earth shake as the iron dinosaur thunder passes you, exquisite creation of industrial age, 100 tons of power thundering around us.

Beginning of Modern Railroads

In the old times, railroads, called wagon ways, were used in Germany as early as 1550. This extraordinary invention was used to pull horse-drawn carts, much easier for a horse than pulling on dirt roads.

By 1776, iron had replaced the wheels and the wood in the rails. Horse power was still needed for pulling the carts. Within a few years, flanged wheels were introduced, an important design which revolutionized the later locomotives.

The invention of steam engine was crucial to the modern railroads and trains. Horses were replaced by steam-powered engines in 1803. The first person to patent a passenger road locomotive was Julius Griffiths.

George Stephenson is considered to be the inventor of the first steam locomotive engine for railways. Having received very little education, Stephenson grew up in an extremely poor environment. He worked in shafts and taught himself to read and write. He became the engine builder for colliery and built his first locomotive for the Stockton and Darlington Railway Line. Stephenson achieved the engineer position and started building the line's first locomotive, the Locomotion.

In 1857, George Pullman invented The Pullman Sleeping Car. It was designed for passenger who travelled overnight. Sleeping cars were not that comfortable for early sleepers and the Pullman Sleeper was not very comfortable.

Beginning in Belgium

A British entrepreneur named John Cockerill tried to gain a dispensation from the King of Netherlands in order to build a railway line from Brussels to Antwerp but it wasn't much of a success. After Belgium gained independence in 1830, there was a rise in discussion regarding the development of railway line in Belgium using the steam locomotion which was already developed in England. The first railway in continental Europe was between Brussels-Groendreef/Allée verte and Mechelen.

“The Trains of Today”

In the 1960s and early 1970s, there was a growing interest in the development of much faster trains that could be used as a means of transportation. This raised significance in an alternative high-speed technology centered on magnetic levitation, or maglev. The train runs on an air cushion created by electromagnetic reaction between an on-board device and another embedded in its guide way.





En sirotant un ‘wee dram’ de whisky sur “The Royal Scotsman,”

À bord d’un train de luxe de tout élégance, découvrez la beauté inégalable des Highlands écossais en profitant de tout le confort possible. Vallées majestueuses, pics montagneux et lacs miroitants défilent pour le plus grand plaisir des voyageurs à bord du Royal Scotsman - l’Écossais Royal - qui longe les côtes vierges et sillonne les vallées sauvages de l’Écosse. Assis dans la voiture panoramique, sirotant un ‘wee dram’ de whisky, comme disent les Écossais, vous pourrez peut-être apercevoir un cerf juché sur un pic rocheux couvert de bruyères ou une martre bondissant d’un buisson. Vous aurez également le privilège de vous arrêter pour visiter des châteaux, des distilleries de whisky typiques et des villages pittoresques. Lors d’une halte, un ‘laird’ - propriétaire foncier écossais - vous fera visiter son domaine ou vous rencontrerez des pêcheurs remontant leurs filets. Au départ d’Edimbourg, la capitale écossaise, le Royal Scotsman vous conduit au cœur des Highlands, tout en vous permettant de déguster les meilleurs produits locaux servis dans les voitures-restaurants. Après le dîner, vous pourrez découvrir les contes et légendes qui marquent l’histoire de l’Écosse, narrés avec talent par un barde en tartan. Le lendemain matin, vous pourrez choisir entre un petit-déjeuner continental ou typiquement écossais, à prendre dans votre cabine ou dans la voiture-restaurant. Nos Chefs sont triés sur le volet et suivent régulièrement des formations avec les plus grands cuisiniers, notamment Raymond Blanc, Michel Roux et Charlie Trotter. La splendeur édouardienne de la voiture panoramique du Royal Scotsman est l’invitation parfaite pour savourer les plaisirs d’un voyage raffiné. Ses nombreuses fenêtres offrent une vue panoramique du paysage changeant dont vous apprécierez toute la beauté depuis le confortable intérieur ou la charmante véranda ouverte. Le train s’arrête pour la nuit sur une voie de garage. Vous pourrez ainsi dormir dans le calme le plus total.



A terrific journey on
Royal Canadian Pacific



When it comes to luxury rail tours, Royal Canadian Pacific offers one of the finest experiences in the world. A Royal Canadian Pacific journey is about leaving the world of everyday life behind and relaxing; revitalizing in an environment of rail travel. The Royal Canadian Pacific luxury train brings to life the nostalgia associated with the romance of rail travel. Life on board is relaxed, pampered...in short, fit for royalty. Stepping on board is akin to stepping back in time to an era of elegance, grace and classic luxury; a place where the view outside your window is unspoiled and timeless - oblivious to the rush of today’s world. Snow capped mountains, lush green valleys, sparkling rivers and endless forests...the Canadian Rockies are known worldwide for their spectacular scenery and pristine wilderness. Canadian Pacific Railway has been bringing visitors from all over the world to experience this exceptional destination because it is said that if you cannot export scenery, it is better to import tourists.





«La vraie valeur d'un voyage n'est point où vous êtes à la fin du parcours, mais qui vous êtes devenu au cours du trajet»

Découvrez le monde en train de luxe, avec discoveryTRAINS

Notre société, spécialisée depuis quatre ans dans les voyages en train, est heureuse de vous offrir l'occasion de parcourir les plus beaux paysages du monde, en trains de luxe. Que ce soit en Europe, en Russie, en Chine, en Amérique du Nord, vous trouverez chez nous un large éventail de voyages avec un dénominateur commun: luxe et convivialité. Nous vous présentons ci-dessous deux d'entre eux. Laissez-vous choir et goûtez aux plaisirs d'un parcours en train croisière!

El Transcantabrico, Espagne.

De Léon à Saint Jacques de Compostelle (ou vice-versa), votre hôtel roulant vous emmènera à travers vallées, plateaux et montagnes sur un itinéraire riche en découvertes patrimoniales, culinaires et géographiques. Tout au long du parcours, chaque escale est l'occasion d'une excursion, d'une visite, d'un déjeuner ou d'un dîner et pendant 8 jours vous serez choyé par une équipe attentive et passionnée. Le train «El Transcantábrico Classic» comporte des voitures-salon et des wagons-lit de luxe, chacun étant doté de l'air conditionné, d'une penderie, d'un lit double et d'une douche et WC privatifs. Comme le train ne roule pas la nuit, vous dormirez merveilleusement bien, prêt pour une nouvelle journée de découvertes le lendemain. Déjà d'un excellent rapport qualité/prix, ce circuit est encore plus abordable si vous réservez tôt: à partir de seulement 2200 euros par personne.

Le Transcanadien, Canada

Un voyage extraordinaire à travers l'immensité de l'ouest canadien et les Rocheuses. De Toronto à Jasper, voyage à bord du train transcontinental «Le Canadien» de ViaRail, avec cabines confortables à deux lits avec WC privatif, salle de douche à l'extrémité du wagon. Repas servis dans la voiture-restaurant. Voiture dôme et voiture salon. A Jasper, correspondance avec un train de luxe privé pour un périple de 2 jours suivant le sillon des Rocheuses, avec au programme le mont Robson (le plus haut sommet des Rocheuses canadiennes), le col Yellowhead, le lac Moose et le fleuve Fraser. Nuit à l'hôtel à Quesnel et le lendemain poursuite à travers des paysages époustoufflants et diversifiés jusqu'à Whistler. Parmi les points forts, des vues panoramiques du canyon du Fraser, la traversée du pont Deep Creek, l'un des plus hauts ponts ferroviaires au monde, et les berges des lacs glaciaires. Nuit à Whistler puis un autre train, classique et aux grandes baies vitrées, prend le relais pour des vues spectaculaires de la baie de Howe et de la chaîne Côtière, des chutes Brandywine, du mont Garibaldi et de l'impressionnant canyon Cheakamus avec une arrivée à Vancouver en soirée. Ce périple dure 7 jours pour un budget d'environ 2700 euros.

Nous sommes à votre disposition pour étudier votre projet personnalisé et pour vous parler plus en avant de nos gammes de voyages en train à travers le monde, que ce soit des circuits en trains de luxe, en trains de ligne, de la billetterie ferroviaire ou bien nos formules train plus séjour.



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“Taiwanese” Secrets

Cruising through the different cities such as Taoyuan, Hsinchu, Miaoli, Taichung, Changhua, Jiayi, Tainan, as well as other smaller cities, the train makes its way through the beautiful scenery of Taiwan. The train stations have tourist information counters everywhere in the big cities and English-speaking staff helps you with your journey planning and train ticket. If you talk slowly, people will understand and help you with whatever you need. Food is available at most stations as well as on the trains. The biggest train station in Taipei is called Taipei Main Station, which is located in the old part of the city. The Taipei train station can be quite intimidating and nerve-racking. It's a massive place, full of people and there are a billion signs with Chinese characters all over the place. But if you calm down and take a deep breath, take your time, and go to the information counter, you will get all the help you need in case you can't find your platform.



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Taiwan Railways Administration, MOTC



© Photos par M. Chia-zhung Chiu
Taiwan Railways Administration, MOTC



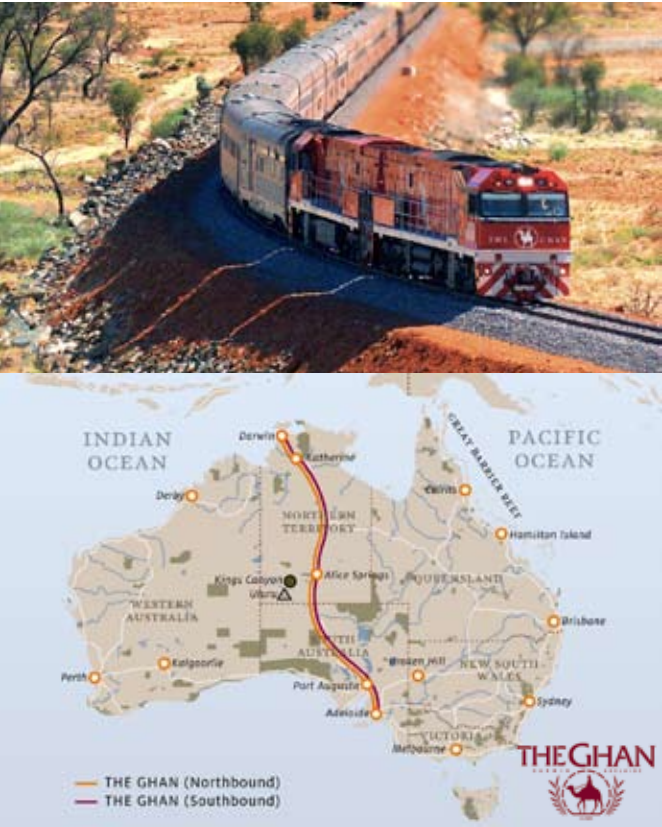
“Platinum’s on the rise, Playboy’s in disguise, I’m just trying to find a mountain I can climb”
Peru Rail

There are many ways to reach the mountain which can be taken according to your need. First, the Vistadome is the ideal train for those who want to be in contact with the environment and appreciate the wonderful journey to Machu Picchu. Surrounded entirely by glass and wagons with large panoramic windows offering incomparable scenic views and innumerable opportunities to capture amazing pictures, Vistadome travelers feel connected and part of the impressive landscape of Peru. The Vistadome also has air conditioning and heating, leather seats that adjust the body to provide comfort and relaxation during the entire trip. The other way is via the Expedition is a service designed for the traveler’s

comfort, with four passenger seats located in front of each other, so you can share your experience, and for the faithful backpack that is always with you we offer racks placed above the seats. Also, this train has panoramic windows, air conditioning and heating, and Andean music that creates a cheerful atmosphere. The Expedition is a service designed for the traveler’s comfort, with four passenger seats located in front of each other, so you can share your experience, and for the faithful backpack that is always with you we offer racks placed above the seats. Also, this train has panoramic windows, air conditioning and heating, and Andean music that creates a cheerful atmosphere.

Once traversed by the Afghans,
Now run by “The Ghan,”

Named after the Afghan cameleers who once traversed this route, The Ghan will take you from one edge of this continent to the other, through the very centre of Australia. As you embark the journey, you travel by rail between Adelaide, Alice Springs and Darwin and you are board on one of the great train journeys of the world. A journey on The Ghan is an incomparable way to travel to the two jewels of Australia’s Northern Territory – the Red Centre and the tropical Top End. No journey aboard The Ghan is complete without taking in both of these must-see destinations. Each new day begins with a fresh panorama of this changing landscape. Red earth and cobalt blue skies – the essence of Central Australia takes on a character of its own with every passing hour. Leave the train in Alice Springs to tour locations close to Australia’s heart with Whistle Stop and Optional Tours. These tours, which last from a few hours to a few days, include an extraordinary range of opportunities for discovering the region’s most fascinating sites.



Across the magnificent Russian steppes, here comes the Golden Eagle: Trans-Siberian Express

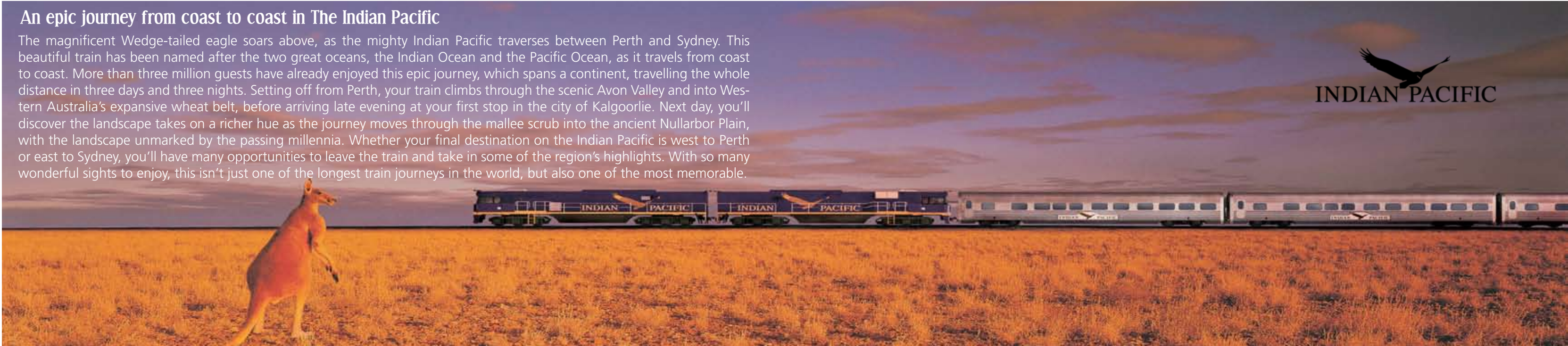


Ranging as far as Russia’s arctic and the Crimea, the train consists of an Imperial suite with a king-sized bed, dressing table and lounge area. When you enter the suite, you will find it very spacious and if you have already travelled with it, you will notice that it has an improved butler service. A particular delight of the Golden Eagle is one of their beautifully appointed restaurant cars, the venue for chefs to serve carefully-prepared meals using wherever possible only local ingredients. Whether it is the world-re-

nowned ‘Borscht’ or Omul – a fish unique to Lake Baikal – they offer a culinary experience representing the very essence of Russia. The sleeping compartments are modern and well-designed. The rooms have individually controlled heating, Air conditioning, shower, safe, wardrobe, Cd and Dvd player, television, and beds that fold into seats. You may get a guided tour and enjoy the afternoon barbeque. You can enjoy the sounds of the pianist playing in the evenings; and the bar stays open until the last person leaves. Grand Moscow’s red square, Kremlin, and Kremlin museum are also included in the tour.

An epic journey from coast to coast in The Indian Pacific

The magnificent Wedge-tailed eagle soars above, as the mighty Indian Pacific traverses between Perth and Sydney. This beautiful train has been named after the two great oceans, the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean, as it travels from coast to coast. More than three million guests have already enjoyed this epic journey, which spans a continent, travelling the whole distance in three days and three nights. Setting off from Perth, your train climbs through the scenic Avon Valley and into Western Australia’s expansive wheat belt, before arriving late evening at your first stop in the city of Kalgoorlie. Next day, you’ll discover the landscape takes on a richer hue as the journey moves through the mallee scrub into the ancient Nullarbor Plain, with the landscape unmarked by the passing millennia. Whether your final destination on the Indian Pacific is west to Perth or east to Sydney, you’ll have many opportunities to leave the train and take in some of the region’s highlights. With so many wonderful sights to enjoy, this isn’t just one of the longest train journeys in the world, but also one of the most memorable.



“British leg, of Orient Express...British Pullman

If you want to go back in the heyday of great train travel, you should definitely step on board the British Pullman. You are surrounded by a world of pure indulgence as you are seated in vintage carriages that once ran on legendary 1920s services such as the Brighton Belle and Golden Arrow.



As you are served with gourmet cuisine and champagne, you slide along the journey through eye-catching scenery to destinations all over Britain. The journey is full of glamour, fun and a dash of adventure all day and weekend along with the expeditions to cities, country houses and sporting events. The name derives from the father of luxury train travel, George Mortimer Pullman with coaches, all having a different story. Some of the carriages have been used by the British Royal family. Some of the carriages have transported leading personalities such as President de Gaulle and Nikita Khrushchev. Two of the coaches have also taken part in the funeral of Winston Churchill. The amazingly renovated British Pullman has pleased passengers with luxury trips and weekend breaks to historic towns of the British countryside.



Travel in a palace coloured blue, Hiram Bingham takes you from Cusco to Machu Picchu

One of the most luxurious ways of travelling between Cusco and Machu Picchu is via the Hiram Bingham. The name of the train derived from the explorer who discovered the fascinating remains of the Inca citadel, Machu Picchu. The carriages are painted a distinctive blue and gold and the interiors are luxurious, warm and inviting with elegant decoration in the style of the 1920’s Pullman trains. As you step on board, you are surrounded by a world of polished wood, gleaming cutlery and glittering crystal.



Each of the carriages has been furnished in polished wood and brass with large chairs and plenty of space to stretch out. As you board, the tables are exquisitely laid, ready for your meal, with gleaming crystal and polished cutlery. If you board this train, you will be crossing the beautiful Andes and some of the most beautiful and most difficult and dangerous places to lay tracks in the world. This spirit of endeavor and romance that colors the railways of Peru, taking its name from the explorer Hiram Bingham who discovered the lost city of the Incas is celebrated by The Hiram Bingham.





Eastern and Oriental express:
La plus romantique journée de votre vie

Par-delà les villes d’Asie du Sud-Est, au cœur d’impénétrables forêts équatoriales et d’imposantes montagnes, se trouve un monde bien connu des voyageurs d’antan... Un monde de rizières et de plantations de caoutchoucs, de vestiges coloniaux, de boys en costume blanc et de cocktails sirotés sous la véranda. Aujourd’hui, cette région est traversée par un train de luxe au charme et au romantisme incomparables, dont les passagers sont choyés dans un style délicieusement rétro et qui évoque mystère et aventure. Il s’agit du train Eastern and Oriental Express, qui transporte ses passagers dans un cadre somptueux, entre Singapour, la Malaisie, la Thaïlande et le Laos. Les voitures étincelantes de ce train d’exception traversent des villes aux échoppes colorées et aux temples dorés, ainsi que des minuscules gares fleuries issues d’un autre temps. Sur la route, les passagers débarquent pour explorer les rues animées de Penang et le pont de la rivière Kwai. Enthousiasmant, enrichissant et extrêmement élégant, l’Eastern and Oriental Express vous propose un voyage absolument unique au cœur de l’Asie. Chaque matin, un petit-déjeuner de avec croissants frais, de café ou de thé, de jus de fruits et de fruits frais vous est apporté dans votre cabine. Pour les passagers qui souhaitent se lever tôt et profiter des magnifiques paysages, le thé et le café leur seront servis dans la voiture panoramique à partir de 07h00.



«Dans le plus pur style colonial, la collation de l’après-midi, du thé aromatique Earl Grey accompagné de gâteaux, vous sera servi dans votre cabine.»

Alors que le train parcourt la jungle et les paysages tropicaux, passe devant de vénérables temples, le long des rivières et des rizières, rendez-vous dans la voiture panoramique. Ouverte sur les côtés, elle vous permet d’apprécier les multitudes de paysages. La rencontre avec d’autres voyageurs fait partie des nombreux plaisirs du voyage... Très prisée, la voiture panoramique offre un cadre idéal d’échange et de détente. La voiture panoramique est dotée d’un salon bar aux airs de véranda coloniale, avec son parquet en bois, ses chaises et ses canapés. Toutes les cabines sont équipées de l’air conditionné et d’une salle de bains attenante avec douche, lavabo et toilettes. L’Eastern & Oriental Express vous garantit une expérience inoubliable. Le circuit classique relie les trépidantes villes de Singapour et Bangkok et comprend une visite de la capitale de Penang, Georgetown et une courte croisière sur la rivière Kwai.



Venice Simplon: La quintessence du Voyage



Reconnu comme une œuvre d’art, icône de l’Art Déco, le légendaire Venice Simplon-Orient-Express représente la quintessence du Voyage, un Voyage à nul autre pareil. Embarquer à bord vous fera revivre les heures florissantes des grands express européens, un temps où grâce rimait avec élégance. Les voyages en train à travers les majestueux paysages d’Europe sont évocateurs d’aventure, de romance, de style. Ils permettent de relier magnifiquement entre-elles des villes qui ont écrit l’histoire de ce continent. Pour cette expérience de voyage unique au monde, les confortables cabines, véritables écrans parés de fines marqueteries et de laiton étincelants, rivalisent avec le personnel de bord et ses délicates attentions. Des moments délicieux, sublimés par une cuisine aux couleurs subtiles, qui resteront gravés à jamais dans vos souvenirs.

Chaque cabine est équipée de son propre cabinet de toilette avec lavabo, eau chaude et froide, serviettes damassées et nécessaire de toilette. Durant la journée, elles disposent d’une banquette pullman. Lors du dîner servi en voiture-restaurant, elles sont transformées par les soins de nos stewards en de confortables chambres. Déjeuners, dîners et brunches sont servis par notre personnel italien dans l’une des trois voitures-restaurants : Lalique, Etoile du Nord ou Chinoise. Le petit déjeuner ainsi que le thé de l’après-midi sont servis en cabine.

Northern Belle... beautiful, bello, moo!

The 1930s style of “Belle” trains and the British Pullman carriages, combined together echo the chic of the Northern Belle train. As you enter the train, you see that the interiors have been decorated beautifully with maquetry and brassware. While you are passing through the different landscapes, you can benefit from the enticing cuisine based on the produce from the landscapes.





Feel proud to be in the “Pride of Africa”

This train is indeed the “Pride of Africa” with its interesting equipments and excellent meals. This is one of the finest ways to discover South Africa. The train is gifted with beautiful Rhodesian teak, equipped with king sized beds, fully open windows and an open air deck. The accommodation is very spacious, with the bathroom designed in a way displaying the combination of original fittings and the modern technology of hot showers. In a normal 14 day tour, it covers major portions of South Africa, Zambia, Tanzania, and parts if Botswana and Zimbabwe. The very spacious suites offer passengers the

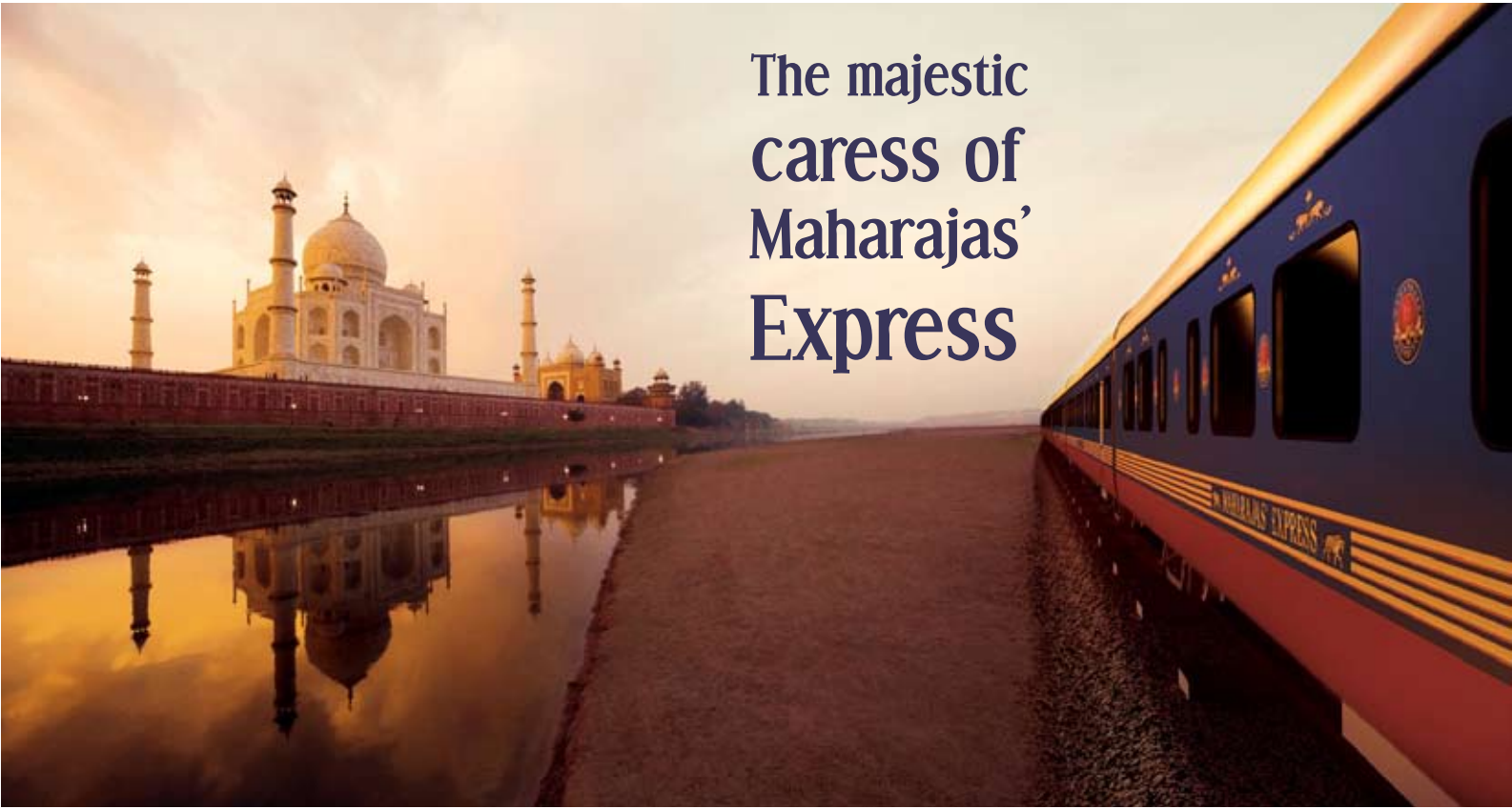


opportunity to travel in privacy, comfort and luxury, with fittings and facilities that are of the highest standard. There is the most amazing opportunity to visit “The Big Hole” (The Kimberly Mine) which is one of the most outrageous sites in the world, Victoria Falls hotel overnight stay will certainly freshen you up for the next day tours to Zambezi River sunset cruise which is a dream come true. The second largest canyon in the world called Fish River Canyon will also be one of the highlights of the tour. Travel the garden route from Knysna and visit Addo Elephant Park and Ostrich farm adding a pleasure to the journey.

Margaret Thatcher, Nelson Mandela, and Desmond Tutu’s rein of “The Blue Train”

The rein of “The Blue Train” stretches from Pretoria to as far as Cape Town and lasts for 27 hours covering 994 miles with one sightseeing stop. In this gorgeous train, you will find golden brown walls, upholstered closets and the logo “B” everywhere. The in-room phone services are present to call the butler which is very convenient. The butler service is very professional and experienced. One of the Butler has served Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu and Margaret Thatcher. The rooms are equipped with air conditioning, Tele-vision, Cd and Dvd systems. The Blue Train’s suspension, braking, lighting and under-floor heating systems have been designed and customized with our

guests’ comfort as the primary consideration, allowing them to savor the experience of a smooth, pleasurable ride. When you are taking the tour with this train, you may look forward to 4 night stay in 5 star hotels, 4 nights stay in safari camps including the meals, drinks, laundry service etc. After a beautiful stay, you get a private full-day wine land tour. Avoid all the hassle of transportation means and ask for VIP airport assistance in Cape Town, Maun and Johannesburg. If this is not enough for fun, have a spectacular helicopter experience at Eagle Island which will blow your mind.



The most luxurious train in India that you can encounter known for its high class and luxury. One interesting piece of fact is Maharajas’ Express holds the record for the largest train compartment in the world. In the train, you see large picture windows, with spacious rooms equipped with LCD Televisions, DVD player, telephone, digital climate control, wireless internet access etc. A train that never falls short of providing you a royal experience, Maharajas’ Express features four cabin configuration - Deluxe Cabin, Junior Suite, Suite and Presidential Suite. The main suite, called “Presidential Suite”, is the largest train accommodation in the world which comprises of an entire cart, has two bedrooms, two bathrooms, large seating area with couch, chairs and desk. You also have a personal butler for the suite. You look up only to find a beautiful ceiling decorated

with elegant hand painted decoration and has mirror tiles. One exotic Safari bar with the choicest collection of house brands of wines, beer and spirits with snacks come complimentary to every passenger. There’s also a lounge cum bar Rajah Club with comfortable club arm-chairs. It is said that one can witness a different India after every hundred kilometer. Royal Palaces, Forts, Rich natural bounty, Untamed Wildlife... there’s so much to soak-in and store memories for a lifetime. The most amazing view of Taj Mahal at sunrise is the major highlight of the journey. You can also travel by camel cart to party on sand dunes where you can enjoy a barbeque and drinks. You can also have wildlife view throughout the journey and maybe catch a glimpse of tiger. There is also a possibility of golf and Spa.





On the traces of
“Lawrence
d’Arabie”



A gaily trip starts off in Amman as the passengers are on board the historic Hejaz Railway with live music and cocktails on the train. This ambiance is devastated by a breath-taking abduction of one guest on horseback. Survivors get off the train and plan how to liberate the hostage over spiced coffee in Lawrence of Arabia tent. Continuing on the train, we journey towards an old Ottoman fortress, anticipation building up until a superb lunch is served and the mystery is solved. Originally built to transport pilgrims from the city of Damascus in Syria to the city of Madina in Saudi Arabia, The Hejaz Railway measured about 1050mm gauge railway. After a few years of its completion in 1908, the train was severely damaged during the First World War by Lawrence of Arabia and the Arab Revolt. Parts of the Hejaz Railway survived and some of the sections are still functioning today.



The “Ferrari train,
goes like a bullet”

“The future is here” . *Italo* is a high speed containing a system of locomotion which is distributed throughout the different cars of the train rather than the front and the back. By doing this, they increase the space by 20 percent in onboard capacity. This almost eliminates the vibration and the noise produced, reducing the shock between cars. This results in an increase in the safety and decrease in the maintenance cost. *Italo* is lighter by 70 percent compared to the competition. By doing this, there is a massive decrease in the energy consumption by 15 percent. According to the different factors such as weight/ power ratio, onboard space, comfort, energy consumption, safety and maintenance, *Italo* is one of the most efficient trains ever built. The staff is trained at NGV training school.



Why are trains so wide?

Train tracks were originally laid out for horse-drawn wagons on which the early locomotives were tested. The width of a rail track is 4 feet, 8 ½ inches, large enough to fit the back of two horses so that the wagon can be attached and pulled by the horses. As it started in United Kingdom, most of the railway around the world was constructed by the British and the rolling stock was manufactured in Britain. This is how the gauge became the standard universal size.