

Southern Queensland & Northern New South Wales



BY RAIL, ROAD AND
SPECIAL STEAM TRAIN

with Mike Condon
15th – 22nd May 2019

• BRISBANE • TOOWOOMBA • WARWICK • WALLANGARRA •
• TENTERFIELD • ARMIDALE • QUIRINDI •



Scott McGregor's

RAILWAY ADVENTURES

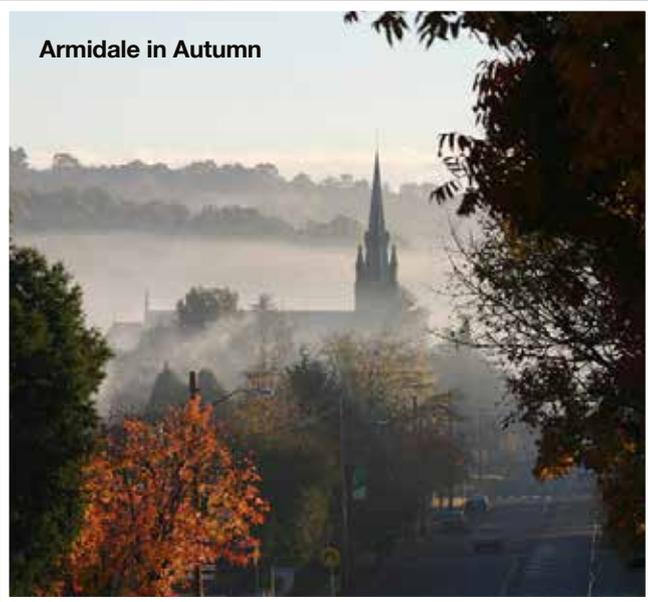
OVERVIEW

The first railway to travel between Sydney and Brisbane via the scenic New England route has been closed for decades. However, part of this iconic line is still maintained and occasionally a special rail tour brings it to life. This short but sweet adventure centres on an excursion along this historic railway, taking you across Southern Queensland's Granite Belt from Brisbane to Toowoomba, before continuing to Warwick for a special steam train journey up the range to Wallangarra. The trip incorporates tours in cities and towns along the way and features award-winning museums, grand old country mansions, wineries and woolsheds and some of Australia's most fascinating railway museums. Delicious meals, comfortable accommodation, a cast of interesting characters and plenty of intriguing stories complete this compact adventure along the route of an icon of Australia's rail history.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Embark on special steam train journeys in Swanbank and Warwick
- Visit the Workshops Rail Museum, Cobb+Co Museum and Sir Henry Parkes School of Arts
- View heritage railway preservation collections at Toowoomba, Warwick, Wallangarra, Guyra, Tenterfield and Armidale
- Enjoy special viewings of historic homesteads in Armidale and Tenterfield
- Ride in a private vintage carriage on the train trip from Warwick to Wallangarra
- Enjoy comfortable coach travel and luggage transport throughout
- Explore the delights of the Liverpool Plains and some quirky collections in Quirindi

Armidale in Autumn



MEET YOUR TOUR LEADER

MIKE CONDON was born into a railway family with connections to Queensland Rail stretching back to the 1890's, and so was destined to share this passion of his. Inspired by railway books and antiquities as well as being immersed in a household operational life of Queensland Rail, Mike soon found opportunities to travel with his father on locomotives. A career in media as a producer and director afforded Mike the professional skills to record his experiences by photographing and filming railways. For over 30 years, Mike has been trackside and on-board trains capturing unique scenes of railway journeys. Mike has also worked in the production of educational content, corporate marketing and information programs, training materials for the Australian Army's Aviation Corps, news gathering and training and operational reporting for the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service. Mike has a wide range of interests including history, arts and travel. His career has gifted him the opportunity to meet a very wide range of people from diverse backgrounds and he thoroughly enjoys engaging with new fellow travellers.

DAY 1: Wednesday 15th May 2019: ARRIVE BRISBANE

Arrive in Brisbane and head to our centrally-located hotel. In the evening, gather for a special welcome dinner and drinks with Mike and your fellow travellers.

Overnight: Hotel Pullman or similar, Brisbane (D)

Day 2: Thursday 16th May 2019: BRISBANE – TOOWOOMBA

After breakfast at the hotel, a short run down the road brings us to the Queensland Pioneer Steam Railway. Here we'll enjoy a quick tour by steam train down the former Swanbank coal railway that winds its way through a delightful semi-rural setting, showcasing the history and character of the location. Following this we'll pay a visit to the award-winning Workshops Rail Museum in Ipswich, Australia's oldest railway workshop still in operation and home to Queensland Rail's extensive heritage collection. Explore the exhibits to discover the enormous impact rail has had on the state and view the beautifully restored rolling stock, as well as Queensland's largest model railway, and treasured icons such as the Vice-Regal carriage and Australia's oldest working steam locomotive. Continuing the railway theme, we'll then view the Bluff Railway Station, with its beautiful setting, lush hanging gardens and delightful café in the old Station Master's residence.

Later in the afternoon we'll board our coach and travel up the range to the charming garden city of Toowoomba, where we'll check in to our hotel and have some time to relax before a late afternoon excursion to smell the roses at the beautifully laid-out Japanese Gardens. Just a short drive down the road is the wonderful railway collection at Downs Steam where dinner is laid on in style in the dining car.

Overnight: Bourke & Wills Hotel, Toowoomba (B, D)

DAY 3: Friday 17th May 2019: TOOWOOMBA – WARWICK

This morning we'll visit the extensive Cobb+Co museum and view its excellent collection and stories, before enjoying the panoramic views from Toowoomba's heritage-listed Picnic Point Lookout and Parkland. At this time, we stop for some free time for lunch and shopping before boarding our coach for the pleasant run across the lush Darling Downs, with a stop at Nobby for time to relax at the local pub. We'll arrive in Warwick at approximately 5.30pm and transfer by coach to our hotel.

Dinner this evening is at the hotel's award-winning restaurant.

Overnight: Coachman's Inn, Warwick (B, D)

DAY 4: Saturday 18th May 2019: WARWICK – WALLANGARRA – TENTERFIELD

After breakfast we'll head down to the station to meet our special steam-hauled train that will take us to the border town of Wallangarra. Settle into your private carriage for the leisurely run up the Great Dividing Range on the original Sydney to Brisbane railway, which dates from the 1880's. The train pauses for morning tea at Stanthorpe, before our arrival in Wallangarra on the Queensland – New South Wales border. Settle in for a lavish lunch on the long platform of this vast historic station, which also houses an interesting museum.

After lunch, continue into New South Wales, stopping in Tenterfield to view the extensive heritage collection at both the Sir Henry Parkes School of Arts and the wonderful old John Whitton-designed railway station, built in 1884.

Check in to our hotel and freshen up before heading out of town to Arrajay Downs, a family-owned farm where animals graze in a free-range environment. The authentically-restored barn is set up for our evening dinner and celebrations. The Fowler family will entertain us with an organic three-course dinner of free-range produce and roast veggies as the evening settles in over the farmlands and rolling hills beyond.

Overnight: Best Western, The Henry Parkes, Tenterfield (B, L, D)

DAY 5: Sunday 19th May 2019: TENTERFIELD – ARMIDALE

After breakfast this morning we'll travel south along the New England Highway, passing by rolling countryside and majestic stands of elm and poplar trees. We make a short stop at Glen Innes to view the standing stones and enjoy some free time for coffee and a fossick in the main street. Continue to Ben Lomond, a little station situated on the top of the Great Dividing Range which was, for a century, the highest railway station in Australia. We'll pause here to explore and take some photos of this cute little town.

Journeying on to Armidale, we'll make a stop at Guyra, where we'll be met by a small train of vintage section cars that will take us for a short run on a restored segment of the original main line down to the station. Here you'll have time to view the extensive heritage collection and enjoy a local lunch. On arrival in Armidale, we check in to our hotel and enjoy the afternoon at leisure. Dinner tonight will be at the hotel's restaurant, which showcases the finest seasonal produce from the New England region.

Overnight: Quality Hotel Powerhouse, Armidale (B, L, D)

DAY 6: Monday 20th May 2019: ARMIDALE

After breakfast today, enjoy a full day of sightseeing around this charming city. First off, we explore the grand old homestead of Booloominbah, which was designed by Horbury Hunt in the 1880's. This exceptional country mansion was originally owned by the White family and is now the head office of the University of New England.

Following this we'll visit the Victorian estate of Saumarez, another grand country homestead set in magnificent gardens, and a veritable time capsule of how the family lived and worked. The estate's café provides a mighty fine morning tea, a short intermission before a precursor to a guided tour of this authentic country estate. We'll then continue our round trip to Uralla, enjoying lunch at McCrossin's Mill Museum, and a visit to one of Australia's most historic iron foundries, a grand colonial woolshed and sheep station and the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park. We'll then head back to Armidale with a short stop at the commemorative atmospheric monument at Dangarsleigh. The evening is yours to spend at your leisure.

Overnight: Quality Hotel Powerhouse, Armidale (B, L)

DAY 7: Tuesday 21st May 2019: ARMIDALE – QUIRINDI

After breakfast this morning, we'll transfer to the railway station to board our train south. Heading out over the wide-open grazing country of the high tablelands, the line soon reaches the escarpment, where expansive views of the ranges and valleys beyond accompany our descent. The towns of Uralla, Walcha Road, Woolbrook and Kootingal along the Great Northern Railway pass by before we reach the hub of Tamworth. Crossing the Peel River, we then speed across the plain toward the junction station at Werris Creek to witness our train being combined with the service from Moree. After saying farewell to the trains, we'll take some time to explore the museum and displays at the grand old station and view the extensive National Railway Monument a short walk away.

Our coach will then meet us for the short run to Quirindi where we'll begin our exploration of the district. We'll take a tour to the lookout and the wonderful collection of memorabilia at Bob's Shed and enjoy a light lunch here before checking into our hotel in town. After some free time to settle in and freshen up, we'll view the amazing collection at the Quirindi Rural Heritage Village and take a ride around the lake on their miniature railway. In the afternoon we take a coach trip out to the quaint town of Nundle and visit the historic Woollen Mill, one of the last spinning mills still operating in Australia. After a short meander of the town we settle into the local pub for a jolly farewell dinner with drinks.

Overnight: Best Western RSL Motel, Quirindi (B, L, D)

DAY 8: Wednesday 22nd May 2019: QUIRINDI – SYDNEY (B)

Enjoy breakfast at a local café this morning before checking out and taking a short trip down the highway to Wallabadah to view the unique First Fleet Memorial Gardens. This will be followed by some free time to wander and have morning tea at the Willow Tree Inn before departing on the morning 'up' train from Willow Tree Station back to Sydney. We'll travel over the Liverpool Ranges, through the Hunter Valley and the Central Coast Line, finally arriving in the 'big smoke' at Central at around 4:30pm. Here, we complete our special adventure along the entire length of the original and historic Sydney-Brisbane railway.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 7 nights in comfortable, centrally-located accommodation
- Daily breakfast, 4 lunches and 6 dinners
- Drinks included with welcome and farewell dinners
- Comfortable chartered coach for transfers and excursions
- Comprehensive sightseeing with expert local guides
- All excursions and entrance fees to attractions, as listed in the itinerary
- Tipping and gratuities

WHAT WE DON'T INCLUDE

- Meals and services not mentioned in itinerary
- All other personal expenses such as drinks, phone calls, laundry services, camera fees where applicable
- Excursions listed as optional and extra in the brochure
- Flights

PRICE

Per person twin share	\$3,685
Single supplement.....	\$615
Deposit (per person).....	\$1000 at time of booking
Final Payment	15 March 2019

SUGGESTED FLIGHTS

We have suggested flights for this itinerary depending on your departure point from Australia, any preferred stopovers en-route and/or your planned pre- and post-tour activities. We can also investigate your preferred airline and offer you a solution based on connection times and prices. Contact 1300 800 977 to discuss your options.

HOW TO BOOK

Download a booking form from our website and follow the easy steps to getting on board. Alternatively, contact Railway Adventures on 1300 800 977 or at info@railwayadventures.com if you'd prefer a form be sent to you. Complete the form and submit it, along with your \$1000 pp deposit to secure your place on the tour.

DETAILS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

We endeavour to have all the details of our tours correct at the time of printing. However, sometimes factors beyond our control may affect the final inclusions and prices. These factors may include, but not be limited to; significant fluctuations in currency exchange rates, individual hotel/restaurant decisions that may affect bookings, weather events forcing a change of itinerary, unexpected trackwork on rail lines, unexpected closure of site attractions and so forth. Therefore, items mentioned in the brochure such as quoted prices, hotels and inclusions are subject to change. If a change is imposed on us, we will endeavour to ensure the substitute is of the same quality that you've paid for.

TOUR PACE / LEVEL OF FITNESS:

Our itineraries are designed to make the most of each destination, so a reasonable amount of activity is built into most days, which is why we call them adventures. Our philosophy is to offer you the best experience possible, while leaving you, our guest, the flexibility to pace yourself and choose how much or how little you want to do. Each Railway Adventures tour incorporates periods of free time for your own exploration and relaxation. While you don't need to be a 'gym junkie', a reasonable level of fitness is required for most of our tours. The ability to manage your own luggage, get on and off all manner of trains and coaches, walk for extended periods, stand comfortably, and climb steps and stairs will ensure you get the maximum enjoyment from your adventure.

ADDITIONAL TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

In addition to assisting with flight suggestions and bookings, we can also give you some ideas of what you could do before and after your Railway Adventure. We can also organise your all-important Travel Insurance for you. Call our office on 1300 800 977 if you would like to discuss options.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

For more information on factors such as travel insurance requirements, fitness levels, fees and charges, tour cancellations, payment schedules and so on, please refer to our Terms and Conditions, which accompany the booking form. They can also be found on our website

1300 800 977    

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