

Victorian Steam Safari

With Tony Glynn · 10 - 15 May 2019

· MELBOURNE · BENDIGO · ECHUCA ·
· DAYLESFORD · BALLARAT ·



Scott McGregor's

RAILWAY ADVENTURES

OVERVIEW

The dawn of the railway age in Victoria was perfectly timed, coming hot on the heels of the greatest gold rush in Australia's history. The windfall from mining royalties was crucial in funding the construction of the country's first mail line railways. These branched out in the 1850s and '60s to reach the 'Pot of Gold', the Murray River, at Echuca in 1864. Here riverboat trade was also booming. The coming of the rail line added another spoke to this already busy hub. Our special short adventure celebrates this golden age of rail and river transport in the colony of Victoria. It culminates in a kind of re-enactment of the famous 'meeting of the whistles' at the Port of Echuca, where steam train and steam boat connected in a hail of whistles echoing over the town and river – the sound that once reminded one and all of the prosperity and enterprise of their great state. Join us on a journey that showcases not only Victoria's culturally-rich cities and towns, but also its unique natural beauty, iconic gold-rush history, sublime local gastronomy and character-filled railways. We begin our journey by experiencing the efficient, modern regional rail service before embarking on steam-powered transport that takes us back in time, and then on to the state's northern border. Here we leave the tracks for the mighty Murray aboard the quaint PS Emmylou paddle steamer, where we'll enjoy a sumptuous lunch as we cruise down Australia's greatest river. Our next departure point is Bendigo staying in the grand old Shamrock Hotel and exploring the city at length. From here we pay a visit to Daylesford for a ride on the DERM Railway finishing up in Ballarat to enjoy its many attractions, including the recently revamped light and sound show at iconic Sovereign Hill.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy special trips by steam train on the Victorian Goldfields Railway, Steamrail Heritage Railway and the quaint Daylesford Spa Country Railway
- Sail and lunch on the iconic PS Emmylou paddle steamer on the Murray River
- Visit historic gold-rush towns, including Ballarat, Bendigo and Maldon
- Stay in the historic former Railway Administration Office, now the Quest Grand Hotel, in the heart of Melbourne
- Enjoy a sumptuous welcome dinner in Melbourne and farewell dinner at Ballarat's historic Craig's Hotel
- Explore Bendigo and Ballarat museums and townscapes on privately chartered vintage trams
- Visit the gold rush open-air museum of Sovereign Hill in Ballarat and experience the newly re-launched light and sound show
- Enjoy comfortable coach connections, most meals included and the service of your expert tour leader throughout

The Emmylou at Echuca



Tony Glynn

MEET YOUR TOUR LEADER

Tony Glynn is an experienced Travel Writer and Tour Leader for over 20 years having hosted tours with APT, Captain's Choice and more recently with Scott on a Railway Adventure Victoria. Whilst at Fairfax Regional he edited one of their leading travel and destinations magazines - Holidays Away and has had a long career as a travel writer mostly with Fairfax Media. Not only has he visited over 100 countries with Africa and all the Silk Route countries being his favourites, he also has travelled far and wide throughout Australia. When he's at home, he's known as a rugby tragic and did play for the NSW Waratahs in the 70's when he had a lot more hair. He also has had a passion for steam trains all his life and also enjoys trivia contests. You may have seen him on Millionaire or Thinktank. His two grandchildren Harry (3) and Isla (1 and a bit) are his treasures. Also, if anyone can help him with some useful golf hints to improve his golf handicap which is now 22, he will be very appreciative.

WHY TRAVEL WITH US

The joy of travelling is no longer confined to the destination—the mode of travel is a large part of the experience. Railway Adventures offers a truly unique perspective on some of the world's most spectacular holiday destinations, with the assurance that the journey is just as magical and unforgettable as what is discovered at the end of the line.

With us, you can confidently expect:

- **Small group sizes** — a small number of passengers per trip guarantees an intimate experience, with less time spent queuing, more time with your guide, and better access to sightseeing destinations.
- **Unique itineraries** — every itinerary has been meticulously developed by a team of expert travellers with many years' experience, an intimate knowledge of the destination, and with great cultural awareness. You are guaranteed to experience the best that each destination has to offer.
- **Authentic local experiences** — whether it's a little-known yet impressive steam railway, a small boutique hotel or an authentic restaurant, know that you will experience something special on our tours.
- **Expert local guides and operators** — we employ local guides to share their passion and knowledge of the place they call home, while our partners on the ground provide the best possible support and backup all the way.
- **Customer satisfaction** — our testimonials speak for themselves. Thousands have travelled with us over the years and many come back year after year, often bringing friends along. On our customer satisfaction ratings, over 97% would recommend us to others and/or travel with us again.
- **Fully escorted** — our team of tour leaders is experienced and capable, entertaining and considerate, and together with our local guides, has your needs well covered. They will help with everything along the way, providing peace of mind, and allowing you to relax and enjoy the journey. And you'll find them jolly good company to boot!

Day 1 • Friday 10 May • ARRIVE MELBOURNE

Arrive in Victoria's vibrant capital and check into your hotel. It's conveniently located right next to Southern Cross Station and is rich in railway history. The hotel was originally the headquarters of the Victorian Railway Administration Office. In the evening, we'll enjoy a celebratory, three-course welcome dinner with the whole group in the dining hall of the Quest Grand in Melbourne.
Overnight: Quest Grand Hotel, Melbourne, (D)

Day 2 • Saturday 11 May •

MELBOURNE - CASTLEMAINE - MALDON - BENDIGO

We depart Melbourne this morning, travelling by regional express train to the little goldfield town of Castlemaine. Here we take some time to explore this quaint town before taking our coach to continue our exploration at Maldon, an iconic gold rush town awarded the 'most intact townscape' by the National Trust. Here we'll embark on a private steam-hauled tour on the Victorian Goldfields Railway along the old branchline heading back to Castlemaine. On arrival we'll take our coach a short way north to Bendigo where we'll check into the historic Shamrock Hotel in the centre of the city for the next three nights.

Take some time at leisure to relax before meeting in the evening for dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: Shamrock Hotel, Bendigo (B, D)

Day 3 • Sunday 12 May • BENDIGO - ECHUCA - BENDIGO

Get ready for another big day of vintage steam train travel as we join Victoria's premier heritage rail operator, Steamrail on a gentle journey north. Settle into your private carriage and watch the landscape roll past your window as you enjoy the complementary cheese platter and drinks served in your own palatial parlour car as we travel through the towns of Elmore and Rochester, arriving in Echuca in the late morning.

On arrival we'll board the historic 'unofficial flagship of Echuca,' the PS Emmylou paddle steamer. Built in the 1980s around an original 1906 vintage steam engine, the Emmylou was named after the country singer Emmylou Harris. We board the boat for a sumptuous, first-class lunch as we cruise along the Murray River. We'll rejoin our train in the mid-afternoon for the return trip back to Bendigo where you can enjoy an evening at leisure.

Overnight: Shamrock Hotel, Bendigo (B, L)

Day 4 • Monday 13 May • BENDIGO

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel before heading out on a guided exploration of Bendigo, an iconic gold rush town rich with intriguing history and unique character. We begin our day by boarding our private charter of the Vintage Talking Tram that will take us on a short ride through the city to the Bendigo Tramways Depot and Workshop. Enjoy a guided tour and learn about the history, restoration and character of their iconic tram fleet.

Following this we'll board our Vintage Talking Tram once again to resume our tour of the city. The tour showcases the main sights and attractions of Bendigo and will take us to the Central Deborah Gold Mine where you have the option to don a hard hat and grab a miners' lamp as we descend 61m below the surface of Bendigo to walk in the footsteps of past miners on a guided tour. Travel through the labyrinth of underground tunnels with your guide and discover what the conditions were like for miners in the gold rush era.

The rest of the afternoon and evening are free to explore the city at your leisure.

Overnight: Shamrock Hotel, Bendigo (B)

Day 5 • Tuesday 14 May • BENDIGO - DAYLESFORD - BALLARAT

Today we'll depart Bendigo by coach and travel to Daylesford, a little town in the foothills of the Great Dividing Range. Here we'll take a privately-chartered trip on the historic DERM Railway. After some time at leisure to explore and have lunch on your own, board the railway for the 1.5hr scenic round trip. Afterwards, we'll continue by coach to Ballarat.

On arrival in this historic city we'll have some time to settle in to our centrally-located hotel before a visit to the gold rush open-air museum of Sovereign Hill. This living museum recreates Ballarat's first ten years after the discovery of gold in 1851. Costumed ladies and gents walk the main street, steam-driven machinery is in action, and panning for gold is a must (you get to keep the gold, too). In the early evening you'll enjoy the brand new sound and light show, 'Aura,' the Wadawurrung creation story told with projections on a magnificent lake. Gunfights and protests erupt under the night sky, and the gold rush is brought to life as never before.

Then we return to the hotel and regroup for a special farewell dinner in the grand dining hall of our historic hotel.

Overnight: Craigs, Ballarat (B, D)

Day 6 • Wednesday 15 May • BALLARAT - MELBOURNE - DEPART (B)

After a morning at leisure, we'll visit the Ballarat Tramway Museum for a look at their impressive collection of vintage trams. They were once the city's main form of public transport, and all of them are at least 100 years old. Enjoy a privately-chartered run of the quaint Ballarat 4-wheel tram and learn of the days when they dominated the city. Later, we'll check out of the hotel and travel by coach to Melbourne airport, or the city if you desire, where we will say our goodbyes.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 5 nights accommodation in comfortable, centrally-located hotels
- Many meals as specified in the itinerary
- Drinks included with welcome and farewell dinners
- Luxury chartered coach connections throughout
- Comprehensive sightseeing with your tour leader as mentioned
- All excursions and entrance fees to attractions, as listed in the itinerary

WHAT WE DON'T INCLUDE

- Airport transfers on arrival and departure
- Meals and services not mentioned in the itinerary
- All other personal expenses, such as drinks, phone calls, laundry services, etc.
- Excursions listed as optional and extra in the itinerary

PRICE

Per person twin share \$2,785
Single supplement..... \$350
Deposit (per person)..... \$500 at time of booking
Final Payment 10 March 2019

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.

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.

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.

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.

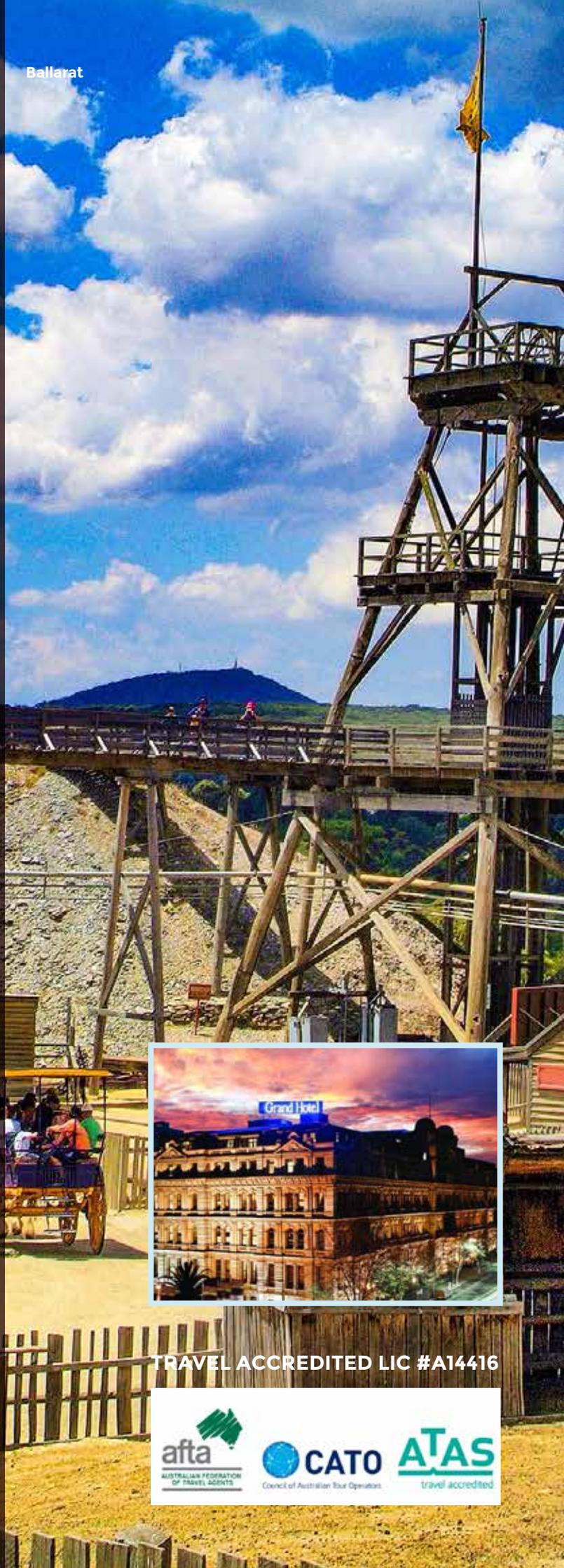
ADDITIONAL TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

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.

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

Ballarat



1300 800 977    

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