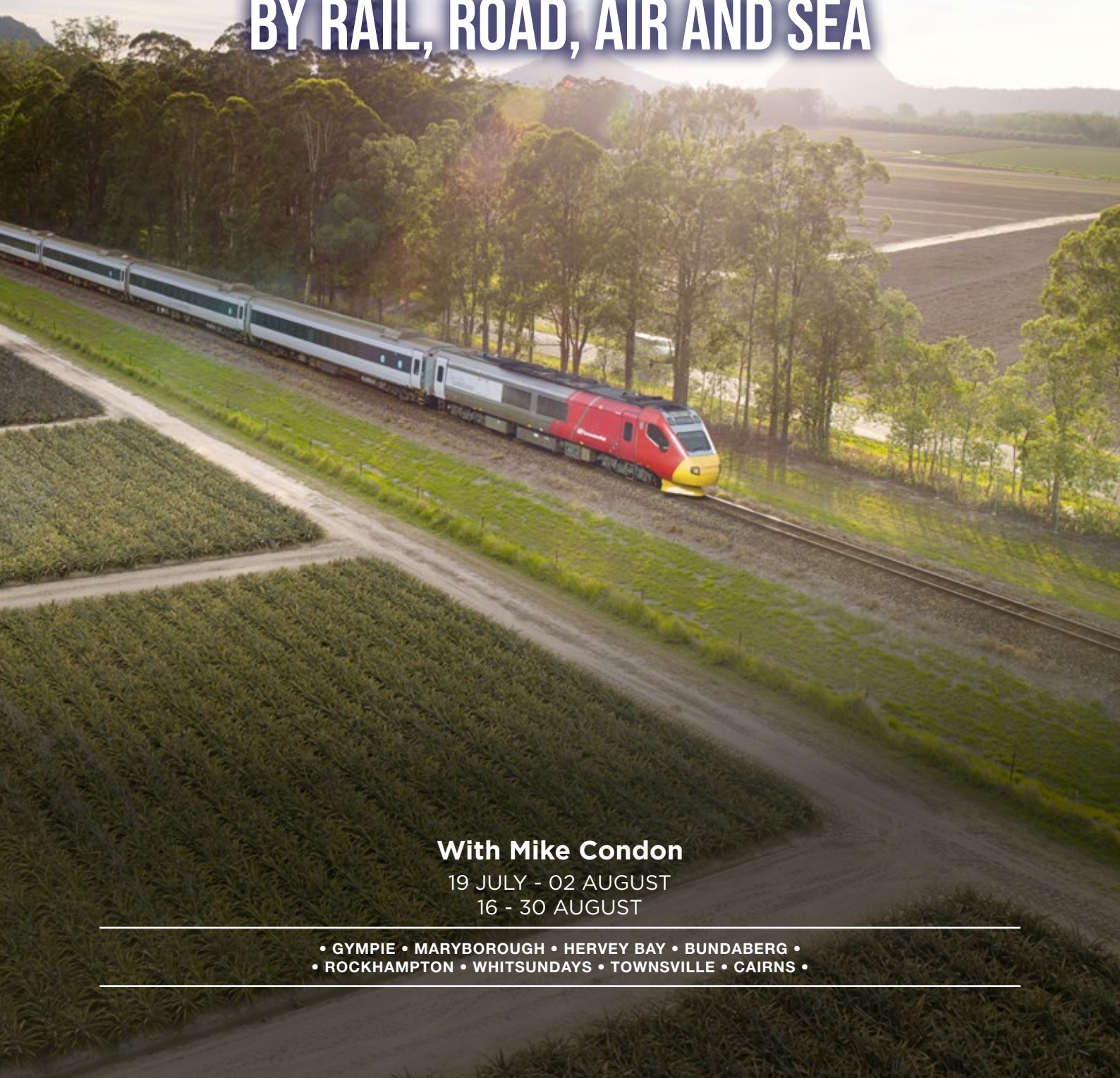




RAILWAY ADVENTURES IN 2022

The Queensland Coast

BY RAIL, ROAD, AIR AND SEA



With Mike Condon

19 JULY - 02 AUGUST

16 - 30 AUGUST

• GYMPIE • MARYBOROUGH • HERVEY BAY • BUNDABERG •
• ROCKHAMPTON • WHITSUNDAYS • TOWNSVILLE • CAIRNS •

INTRODUCTION

The route of the legendary 'Sunlander' is now the haunt of some of Australia's most advanced and efficient long distance passenger trains. Soak up the best the Sunshine State has to offer on an exciting and historical tour from Brisbane through the Wide Bay and Tropical North riding on the modern 'Spirit of Queensland', a train with comfort, style and a schedule that allows for a hop on hop off adventure all the way to Cairns in the far North. The blend of offerings on this comprehensive adventure includes an embarrassment of riches for the traveller, with a variety of train, boat and plane travel linking a plethora of fascinating places.

Our tour is inspired by the renaissance of heritage rail in Queensland and the re-launch of the wonderful Mary Valley Rattler, Gympie's special steam train. In addition to iconic rail trips, you will watch majestic whales in Hervey Bay, cruise out into the Whitsundays and Magnetic Islands and dine in style at premier eateries en-route. At the end of the day your well-appointed rooms and fine restaurants will be your home away from home. Drink a toast to your health and enjoyment of this classic Queensland railway adventure.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Take a variety of daylight trains up the Queensland coast
- Enjoy boat journeys around Magnetic Island and the Whitsundays and whale watching in Hervey Bay
- Steam train extravaganza on the Mary Valley Railway
- Explore historic cities, towns and villages
- Hinkler, Mt Morgan, Military, Rail and Reef Museum visits
- Comfortable coach connections along the way
- Behind-the-scenes look at the sugar, rum and rail industries
- Day trip in Cairns and around the region



MEET YOUR TOUR LEADER

Mike Condon

Mike Condon was born into a railway family with connections to Queensland Rail stretching back to the 1890s, Mike was destined to share his passion of trains. Inspired by railway books and antiques as a child, 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.



TOUR MAP



SOME WAYS YOU'LL TRAVEL

The best train trips possible, private luxury coach for off-train travel, guided walking where suitable, and other appropriate and appealing options to make exploration easy.



Sea Quest Whitsundays



Atherton-Herberton Historic Railway



Mary Valley Rattler Train

WHY TRAVEL WITH US

The joy of travel is not confined to the destination. How you travel is a large and rich part of the experience. Railway Adventures offers a truly unique perspective on some of the world's most spectacular destinations, with the confidence that the journey will be just as magical and memorable 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, we know that you will experience something special on our tours.
- **Expert local guides and local 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 • Tuesday: BRISBANE - GYMPIE

Meet at Brisbane for a welcome lunch and travel north by coach to Gympie. (We suggest you are in Brisbane by Noon.) Made famous in 1867 when James Nash discovered 72 ounces of gold in just six days, Gympie became known as “the town that saved Queensland from bankruptcy.” On arrival in this historic city, we’ll visit the Gympie Gold Mining and Historical Museum with its vast collection of artefacts and photographs and enjoy lunch at the café followed by a visit to Woodworks Museum with a tour of the workshop and mills. This evening enjoys a welcome dinner together at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Mary River Motor Inn, (or similar) Gympie (L, D)

Day 2 • Wednesday: GYMPIE - MARYBOROUGH

This morning you will enjoy an iconic heritage rail experience on the Mary Valley Rattler that will take you back to a time when rail travel was replacing horses as a means of transport. Dating back to the early 1900s, this rail link was built to service the growing need for goods in the goldfields around Gympie. The journey takes you through the upper reaches of the Mary Valley along the original line first established over 100 years ago. You’ll start your trip at the historic Gympie Station, still the largest timber railway building in Queensland.

After lunch at a local cafe, we continue north by coach to the charming town of Maryborough, made famous as the birthplace of P.L. Travers, the author of Mary Poppins where we meet Peter and Robert Olds who run a most illuminating engineering enterprise that amongst other things has constructed wheels for the Queen’s royal coach. Dinner at our hotel.

Overnight: Maryborough Hotel (B, L, D)

Day 3 • Thursday: MARYBOROUGH - HEVERY BAY

This morning we head to the workshops of the Maryborough City Whistle Stop. The team of volunteers will light up the replica of the Mary Ann, Queensland’s first locomotive of 1873, we even get to ride on a special run of this historic relic for a short distance down the track.

After time to explore the museum and lunch at leisure before heading to the coast.

Overnight: Mantra Hotel, Hervey Bay (or similar) (B, L, D)

Day 4 • Friday: HERVEY BAY - BUNDABERG

The early morning light beckons for today’s adventure onto the waters of the Bay with the Pacific Whale Foundation. Due to its protected waterways Hervey Bay is often home to hundreds of humpback whales who visit these waters on their journey north from Antarctica to the Great Barrier Reef, and who use it as a calf kindergarten to teach their young. We take the cruise and hear the story of the extraordinary migration with our local guide. Enjoy a few hours to explore, and have a local lunch, before boarding our coach to Bundaberg. At ‘Bundy’ we’ll tour the town and then check into hotel with the rest of the afternoon and evening being yours at leisure.

Overnight: Villa Mirasol, Bundaberg (or similar) (B, D)

Day 5 • Saturday: BUNDABERG

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before heading out on an exploration of Bundaberg starting at the beautiful Botanical Gardens. There follows a feast of experiences to enjoy, including the Hinkler Hall of Aviation and the quaint historic Sugar Cane Railway. We’ll enjoy lunch at the local café before heading to the famous Bundaberg Rum distillery which was established in 1888 when seven Bundaberg locals decided to take the by-product from the growing sugar industry and open a rum distillery. The rest of the evening is at leisure.

Overnight: Villa Mirasol, Bundaberg (or similar) (B, L)

Day 6 • Sunday BUNDABERG - ROCKHAMPTON

The morning is yours to enjoy the city and surrounds at leisure. In the mid-afternoon we continue the journey north to Rockhampton on the next leg of the old ‘Sunlander’ route with Queensland rail. ‘Rocky’ is one of Queensland’s oldest and largest cities and we arrive in the mid-evening just in time to check in, freshen up and enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Empire Studio Apartments, Rockhampton (or similar) (B, D)

Day 7 • Monday: ROCKHAMPTON

We go back in time this morning when we head out of town to visit the heritage settlement of Mt Morgan, nestled high in the ranges southwest of Rockhampton. It was once a thriving gold mining centre and is now a well-preserved heritage town full of remarkable timber buildings and a rich history. It is also home to the Mount Morgan Railway Museum which will reveal how travel and life was in the town’s ‘Golden’ days. Returning to Rockhampton, we visit the Archer Park Rail and Steam Tram Museum, home to a rare restored Purrey Steam Tram. Rockhampton was the only Australian city to use Purrey Steam Trams, which were built in Bourdeaux, France and operated between 1909 and 1939. The rest of your evening is at leisure.

Overnight: Empire Studio Apartments, Rockhampton (or similar) (B, L)

Day 8 • Tuesday: ROCKHAMPTON - WHITSUNDAYS

This morning is an early start with a sunrise flight to Mackay. Breakfast on arrival before we coach a short way north by coach has us arriving to the region of the Whitsundays, our home for the next two nights. This afternoon is at leisure to relax and explore Airlie Beach.

Overnight: Airlie Beach Hotel, Airlie Beach (or similar) (B, D)

Day 9 • Wednesday: WHITSUNDAYS


This morning early, we head out from Airlie Port for a morning by boat on the Barrier Reef, sailing around Whitsunday island, cruising passed Hamilton and Hook Islands and touching our toes in the pristine waters of Whitehaven beach. Your afternoon is free to explore the vibrant foreshore at Airlie Beach.

Overnight: Airlie Beach Hotel, Airlie Beach (or similar) (B, L)

Day 10 • Thursday: WHITSUNDAYS - TOWNSVILLE

The day starts early on board the Spirit of Queensland, and another leg by rail, continuing north to Townsville. We arrive in the mid-morning and meet with our coach to take a tour of the Army Museum of Queensland located in the beautiful Jezzine Barracks. The museum collects objects and stories relating to the history of the Australian Army in North Queensland. Check in to our centrally located hotel, home for the next 3 nights and enjoy some time at leisure to explore the excellent facilities. This afternoon head to the Reef HQ Aquarium to round out the day. Dinner this evening is at the hotel.

Overnight: Grand Chancellor Hotel, Townsville (or similar) (B, D)



The Esplanade Cairns

Day 11 • Friday: TOWNSVILLE

We start the day with a ferry cruise to wonderful Magnetic Island. Upon arrival the island tour coach takes us to experience the history and landscape of the island. Observe some of the wonderful wildlife and enjoy the scenery of this unique island. Lunch will be on your own at a selection of places at Horseshoe Bay after which there will be time to relax and walk on the island before our return ferry cruise. This afternoon and evening are yours at leisure.

Overnight: Grand Chancellor Hotel, Townsville (or similar) (B)

Day 12 • Saturday: TOWNSVILLE

Today is yours to catch your breath and relax around your hotel or further explore Townsville and its surrounds.

Overnight: Grand Chancellor Hotel, Townsville (or similar) (B)

Day 13 • Sunday: TOWNSVILLE - CAIRNS

Get ready for another big day of train travel on the great northern railway which slices through some of Australia's most captivating tropical scenery. This is the wet country, lush and verdant framed by Queensland's highest mountains and widest rivers. We travel once again on the Spirit of Queensland, enjoying the contemporary comforts of this beautiful train as we continue north to Cairns. We arrive in the late afternoon and transfer to our hotel in time for an evening at leisure.

Hotel: Novotel Cairns Oasis Resort, Cairns (or similar) (B)

Day 14 • Monday: CAIRNS - ATHERTON - HERBERTON - CAIRNS

After breakfast at the hotel, we depart for a tour of the region of the rich Atherton Tablelands. We start by travelling south across the Sugar Cane fields then up the steep Gillies Highway to the lush forests and farming country of the tablelands. First stop is the excellent Mining Museum and then we take the short run to meet the team at the Herberton Historic Railway Museum. Here we learn about the restoration work and history of the railways of the tablelands before sampling it ourselves with a run along the old line to the astounding Historic Village. You have time to explore the vast collection and witness a variety of big machines in action. We return via Mareeba and the mountain road back to Cairns.

We should arrive with plenty of time to freshen up and rest before enjoying a delicious three-course farewell dinner at the scrumptious Raw Prawn on the colourful Cairns esplanade.

Overnight: Novotel Cairns Oasis Resort, Cairns (B, L, D)

DAY 15 • Tuesday: CAIRNS - DEPART

Our tour comes to an end this morning after breakfast. Transfer to the airport for flights home or onward for other journeys.



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 14 nights' accommodation in comfortable, centrally located hotels
- Unique heritage train journeys
- Breakfast daily, six lunches and eight dinners
- Drinks included with welcome and farewell dinners
- Queensland Rail, flight and coach, with luggage transport throughout the tour
- Comprehensive sightseeing with your hosts and local guides
- All excursions and entrance fees to attractions, as listed in the itinerary
- Tipping and gratuities

WHAT WE DON'T INCLUDE

- Airport transfers on arrival and departure
- 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

FITNESS RATING

 Two 'Locos'

The most common grading for our tours. Two loco itineraries offer many activities that require a little extra fitness – walking on uneven ground, climbing hills to enter towns or historic sites, walks of 1-3 kilometres as well as getting on and off transport. You need to have good mobility and aerobic fitness and be able to manage your own luggage.

Townsville



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 us on 1300 800 977 or 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 junky', 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.

PRICE

Per person twin share.....	\$6,175
Single supplement.....	\$1,075
Deposit (per person).....	\$500 at time of booking
Final payment due.....	45 days prior to departure

SOME PLACES YOU'LL STAY

Hand-picked hotels and resorts based on location, customer feedback, value and atmosphere.



Mary River Motor Inn Gympie



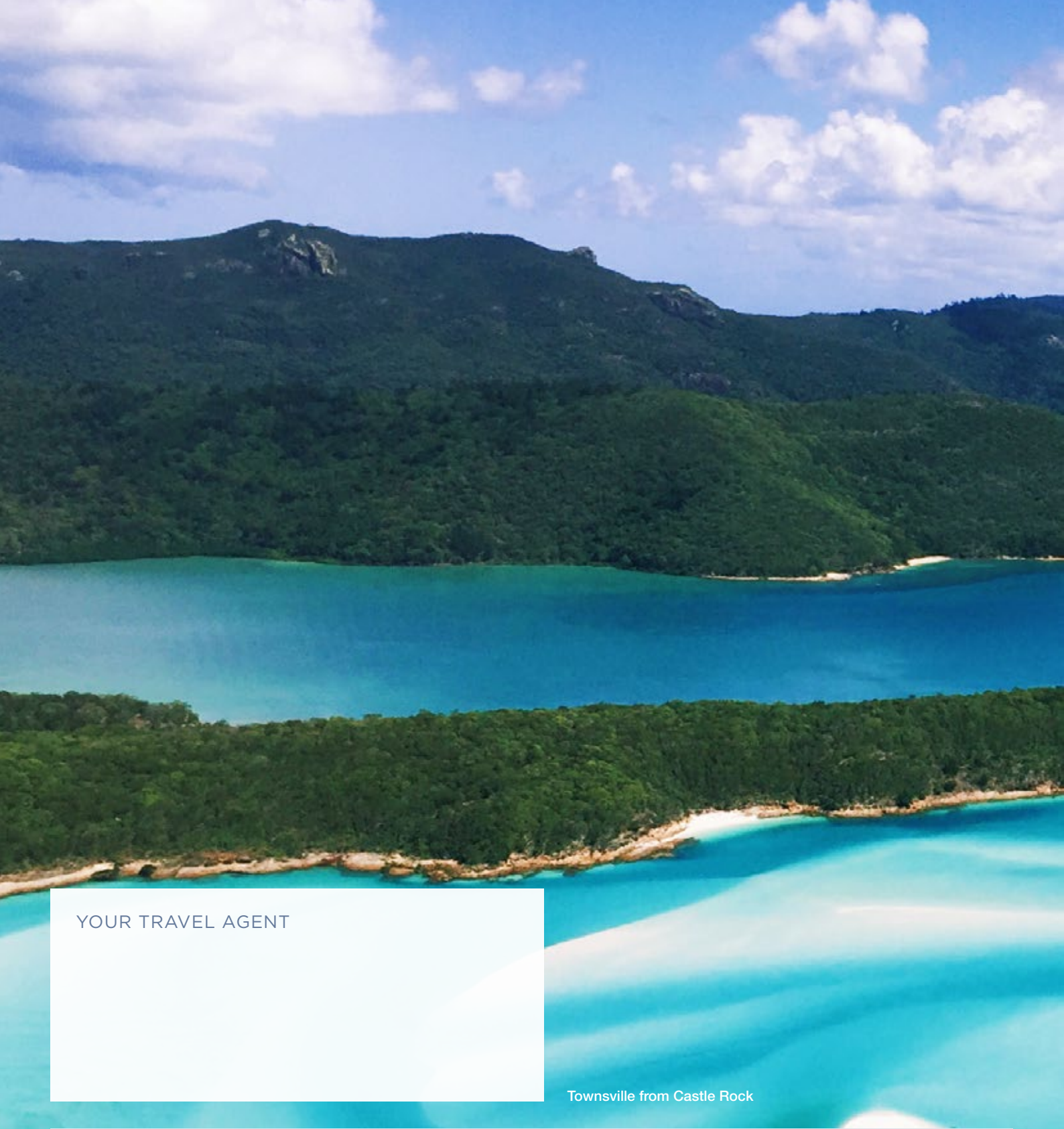
The Quest Hotel Rockhampton



Grand Chancellor Townsville



Novotel Cairns



YOUR TRAVEL AGENT

Townsville from Castle Rock

THE RAILWAY ADVENTURES STORY

Railway Adventures was launched in 2012 by well-known Australian TV personality and self-confessed rail fan, Scott McGregor. A lifelong passion for travel has taken Scott to scores of countries and his preference for rail has seen him exploring many of the world's great train journeys, confirming his belief that the most relaxing, romantic and engaging way to see a country is by rail. He even has his own life-sized, fully restored opulent train accommodation atop the Great Dividing Range near Mudgee, offering guests a rare and special bush retreat experience.

Since 2012 Railway Adventures has thrilled and delighted more than 1200 travellers on over 100 tours from Sweden to Sri Lanka, Tasmania to Transylvania, Britain to Burma, Venice to Vietnam and all manner of shorter adventures in our own wonderful country. Scott's numerous rail-themed TV documentaries, his ongoing involvement in rail heritage and his extensive connections with private train owners around the world, guarantee that every Railway Adventures tour is exclusive, entertaining and authentic. 21 December 2021.

TRAVEL ACCREDITED LIC #A14416



1300 800 977 railwayadventures.com

