

The Queensland Coast

BY RAIL, ROAD, AIR AND SEA



with Mike Condon
1st – 12nd August 2019

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



Scott McGregor's

RAILWAY ADVENTURES

OVERVIEW

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 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 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
- Multiple day trips in Cairns



Hinkler Hall of Aviation, Bundaberg



MEET YOUR TOUR LEADER

MIKE CONDON was born into a railway family with connections to Queensland Rail stretching back to the 1890s, and was destined to share this passion of his. 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.

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 holiday destinations, with the confidence that the journey will be just as magical and memorable as what you find at the end of the line.

WITH US, YOU CAN EXPECT:

- **Unique itineraries** — each 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, you can be sure of experiencing 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.
- **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.
- **Fully escorted** — our tour leaders are experienced and capable, entertaining and considerate, and together with our local guides have your needs well covered. They help with everything along the way, providing peace of mind, and enabling you to relax and enjoy the journey. And you'll find them jolly good company, to boot!
- **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. Our customer satisfaction ratings show that over 97% would recommend us to others and/or travel with us again.

TOUR MAP



SOME WAY'S YOU'LL TRAVEL

Being rail enthusiasts we know that the journey itself is often more important than the destination. Wherever possible we have sourced interesting and nostalgic rail journeys and other noteworthy modes of transport. Here is an example of what you will experience:



Sea Quest Whitsundays



Tilt Train



Mary Valley Rattler Train

DAY 1 • Thu 01 Aug: 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 (or similar) (D)

DAY 2 • Fri 02 Aug: BRISBANE - GYMPIE

Farewell Brisbane after breakfast and travel north by Queensland Rail's inter-city express train to Gympie. 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 enjoy dinner at the hotel.

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

DAY 3 • Sat 3rd Aug: GYMPIE - HERVEY BAY

This morning 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.

Lunch at the Rattler Café, we continue north to the charming town of Maryborough, made famous as the birthplace of P.L. Travers, the author of Mary Poppins, and its historic railway station, then on to Hervey Bay for the night. This evening we enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

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

DAY 4 • Sun 4th Aug: HERVEY BAY - BUNDABERG

Today we enjoy a morning on the water 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.

Enjoy a few hours to explore, do some shopping and have a local lunch, before boarding our coach to Bundaberg. At Bundy we'll check into our hotel before heading to the famous Bundaberg Rum distillery, established in 1888, when seven Bundaberg locals decided to take the by-product from the growing sugar industry and open a rum distillery. Dinner is at leisure this evening.

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

DAY 5 • Mon 5th Aug: BUNDABERG - ROCKHAMPTON

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before heading out on a half-day exploration of the Bundaberg Botanical Gardens and a feast of experiences to enjoy, including the Hinkler Hall of Aviation and the Sugar Cane Railway. We'll enjoy lunch at the local café before we continue the journey north back on Queensland rail to the city of Rockhampton. We arrive just in time to freshen up and enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Quest Hotel, Rockhampton (or similar) (B, L, D)

DAY 6 • Tue 6th Aug: ROCKHAMPTON - WHITSUNDAYS

Heading out of town, we visit Mt Morgan, nestled high in the ranges southwest of Rockhampton. It is a once-thriving gold mining settlement and a well-preserved historic town full of remarkable timber buildings. It is home to the Mount Morgan Railway Museum, which will take you back in time, to see how travel and life was in our historic past. Returning to Rockhampton, we visit the Archer Park Rail and Steam Tram Museum, home to a 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. We then head to Rockhampton airport in the late afternoon for our flight to Mackay. We continue a short way north by coach to the Whitsundays our home for the next two nights.

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



DAY 7 • Wed 7th Aug: WHITSUNDAYS

This morning early, we head out from Airlie Port for a morning on the Barrier Reef with a sail 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, or similar, Airlie Beach (or similar) (B)

DAY 8 • Thu 8th Aug: WHITSUNDAYS - TOWNSVILLE

The day starts early on board the Spirit of Queensland continuing north to Townsville, arriving mid-morning. On arrival we will 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. A tour of the Reef HQ Aquarium and Castle Hill lookout round out the day. Settle in to our centrally-located hotel, enjoy lunch at leisure and explore the excellent facilities. Dinner this evening is at the hotel.
Overnight: Grand Chancellor Hotel, Townsville (or similar) (B, D)

DAY 9 • Fri 9th Aug: TOWNSVILLE

Start the day with a ferry cruise to wonderful Magnetic Island. Upon arrival we will transfer to an island tour coach to experience the history of the island, observe some of the wonderful wildlife and enjoy the scenery of this wonderful island. Lunch will be on your own at a selection of places at Horseshoe Bay. 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 10 • Sat 10th Aug: TOWNSVILLE - CAIRNS

Get ready for another big day of train travel as the line reveals itself, this is the wet country and is very scenic, passing highest mountains and widest rivers. This morning we transfer back to the Spirit of Queensland for a full day to enjoy 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 11 • Sun 13th Aug: CAIRNS - PORT DOUGLAS or KURANDA - CAIRNS

Today you have a choice. Travel with your tour leader by air-conditioned coach to Port Douglas to shop at the famous Port Douglas Markets that have been trading in locally-made handmade goods for almost 20 years. It became a Cotters Market in 1998, thereby guaranteeing that all products are made by the stallholders themselves. You will then ride on the Bally Hooley Steam Train, pulled by one of their two coal-fired steam locomotives, Speedy or Bundy. The locomotives are both over 55 years old, being the very last ones used by the Mossman Sugar Mill until they were replaced by diesel engines to do the work of hauling the sugar cane from the fields to the region's mill. We will then travel to beautiful Mossman Gorge for a wander through the rainforest followed by a light lunch at the recently opened Mossman Gorge Cultural Centre.

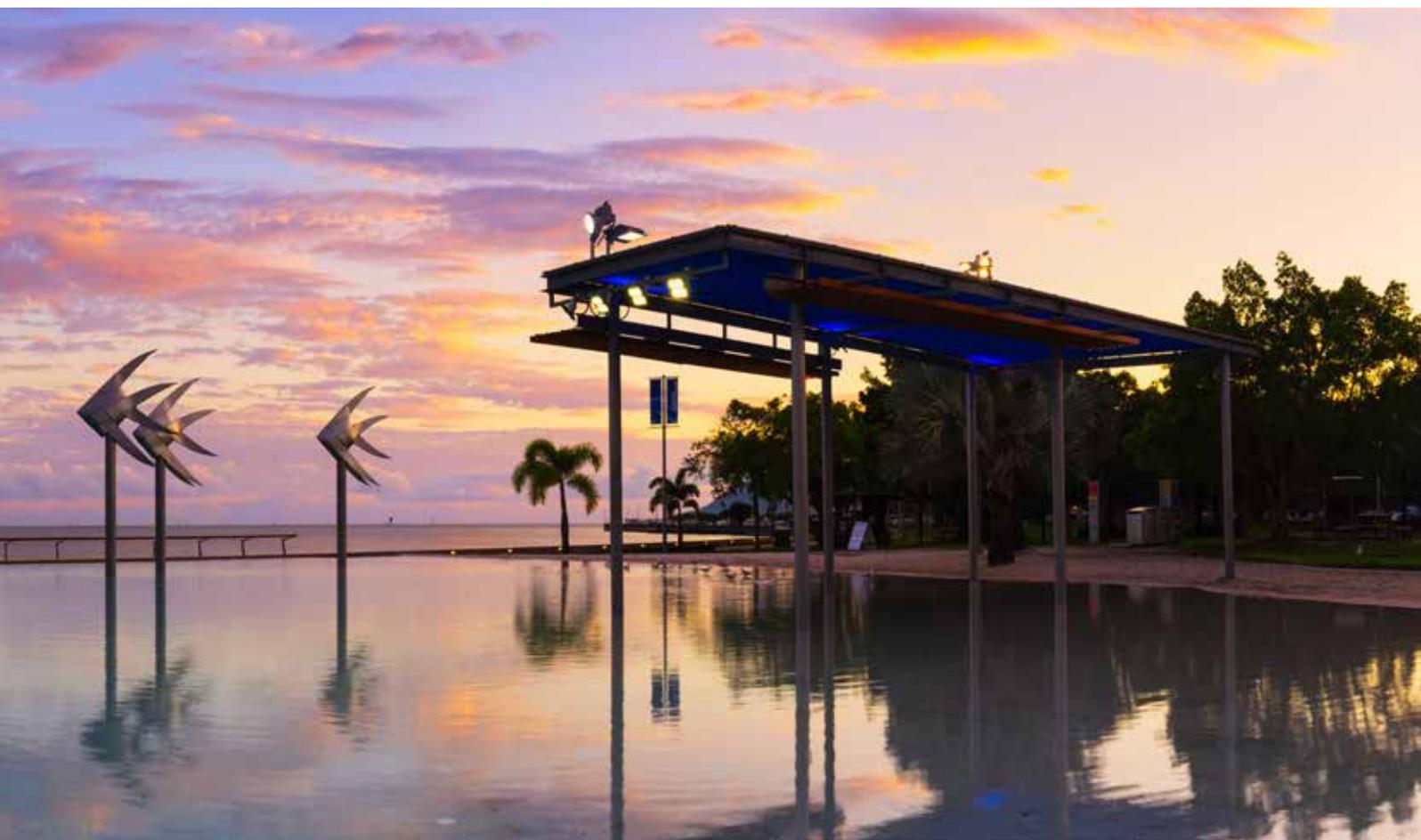
Or take a tour of the lush volcanic region of the Atherton Tablelands. Heading up the ranges south of Cairns, pause at Lake Eacham, an almost perfectly formed crater lake. Next is Lake Barrine and there is no better way to experience the rainforest than to take a cruise on this lake. Lunch should be pre-ordered at the Tea House prior to our cruise so that it is ready for you after exploring this special environment. The return trip to Cairns takes us a different way back, via Mareeba and onto Kuranda "The Village in the Rainforest". The Skyrail gondola is a special experience that takes us down to the coastal plain, flying over the canopy of the rainforest and marvelling at the wonderful views across the ranges and out over the Coral Sea. The choice is yours.

This evening joining our tour leader and all our fellow travellers for a delicious three-course farewell dinner at the scrumptious Raw Prawn on the colourful Cairns esplanade.

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

DAY 12 • Mon 12th Aug: CAIRNS - DEPART

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



Townsville

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 12 nights' accommodation in comfortable, centrally located hotels
- Unique heritage train journeys
- Breakfast daily, 5 lunches and 7 dinners as per the itinerary
- 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

PRICE

Per person twin share.....**\$4,985**
Single supplement.....**\$975**

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

SOME PLACES YOU'LL STAY

The properties we have selected have been hand-picked based on their location, customer feedback, value and atmosphere. Here's some of what you can expect on this tour:



Grand Chancellor, Townsville



Mary River Motor Inn Gympie



Novotel Oasis Hotel, Cairns



Quest, Rockhampton

Whitsundays

YOUR TRAVEL AGENT

THE RAILWAY ADVENTURES STORY

Railway Adventures, launched in 2012 by well-known Australian TV personality and self-confessed rail fan, Scott McGregor, has entertained and enlightened 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 adventures in our own wonderful country. New tours are launched regularly, inspired by new trains, new routes and what our travellers are telling us they want— travelling by train in a small group of like-minded people to some of the world's most fascinating destinations. 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.

TRAVEL ACCREDITED LIC #A14416



1300 800 977 railwayadventures.com

