



RAILWAY ADVENTURES IN 2021

MUDGEE WEEKEND ESCAPE



WITH SCOTT MCGREGOR AND FRIENDS

24 - 26 APRIL 2021

PRIVATELY CHARTERED TRAIN TO MUDGEE

OVERVIEW

This rarely offered opportunity to travel by private train on the scenic, normally inaccessible Mudgee branch line, and to be wined and dined in true Mudgee-style in a single weekend escape is a treat to remember!

With a well-known and much-revered train at our disposal, the retro-restored Capertee Valley Explorer (also known as *East Coast Heritage Rail*), made up of vintage heritage carriages, with lounge and bar services. We'll roll over the Blue Mountains, skirting the magnificent Capertee Valley to the rural idyll of Rylstone with a couple of stops and a sit-down lunch on board in the trains dining cars. Upon arrival in the charming village of Rylstone, you'll be transferred in comfortable coaches to the historic food and wine lovers' paradise of Mudgee, where the fun begins.

Staying in the best accommodation available, your weekend kicks off with an evening of retro music, fine food and wines at the famous Cellar by Gilbert Winery. The next day is devoted to exploring the region with tours of Mudgee, either at the heritage Gold Rush town of Gulgong or tastings more wines at the finest wineries of the Cudgegong Valley. We cap off the day with a sunset cocktail reception at Scott's private Rail-themed retreat, Ruwenzori.

Your return to Sydney by private train on the Monday completes a very special adventure to one of NSW's most appealing regional centres.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Exclusive private charter of the iconic *Capertee Valley Explorer* cruise train
- Train Travel over the Blue Mountains and scenic Mudgee line to Rylstone
- A rare rail trip down the spectacular Capertee Valley
- Morning tea and lunch in the heritage Dining Car from the Southern Aurora
- Two nights in the charming heritage town of Mudgee
- Special entertainment and dinner in Mudgee's premier winery venue
- Exclusive sunset cocktail reception at the outlandish Ruwenzori Retreat
- Services of your tour leaders, wine presenters and train managers throughout



MEET YOUR TOUR LEADER

SCOTT MCGREGOR



Scott McGregor has been involved in the media for over 30 years as an actor, presenter, writer and producer and over the last decade has extended his many interests into the world of travel. Inspired by his experiences hosting tours for the Powerhouse Museum and others he decided to establish Railway Adventures in 2012. Since then he has led more than 40 tours to almost 40 countries. Graduating from NIDA in 1979, he appeared in a wide range of stage, film and TV roles including the lead role in the ABC's epic mini-series *1915* and the *Coral Island*. He has presented and hosted numerous prime-time ratings winners including many years as the handyman on *Better Homes and Gardens* and the host of *Room For Improvement*. He presented two series of his own *Railway Adventures* for Channels 10 and 7 and a number of programs for The History Channel. He also owns and operates RUWENZORI which he built in the 1980's from vintage railway carriages on top of the Great Dividing Range near Mudgee in central NSW. Restored in an opulent Orient Express style it is now a popular tourist retreat for up to 13 people. Check it out at www.stayinatrain.com

TOUR MAP



DAY 1 • Saturday 24 April: SYDNEY - RYLSTONE - MUDGEE

Waiting at Central Station in Sydney will be your heritage train, “The Capertee Valley Explorer” made up of vintage carriages from the golden days of rail travel in the 1920’s (including lounge and sitting cars). Departing at 8.00am, you’ll head west over the Blue Mountains to Lithgow and Wallerawang where you will swing onto the historic and scenic Mudgee branch line. All the while, the vistas of the spectacular Capertee Valley will be on show. In Rylstone you’ll swap your private train for a chartered coach for the short trip to Mudgee, where you’ll check in to your hotel, your home for the next 2 nights.

After a quick freshen-up, walk next door to Cellar by Gilbert one of Mudgee’s favourite location for a fun evening of wine, food and music. A VIP wine tasting is included. We’ll get you back to your hotel with plenty of time to rest for the next day exploring the region.

Overnight: *Parklands Resort Mudgee (L, D)*

Day 2 • Sunday 25 April: MUDGEE

After a hearty breakfast at the hotel, we gather to begin a series of adventures. First up are a couple of short tours. One exploring the history and heritage of the town and another of the surrounding wine growing area. You’ll have some time for a wander around town and a coffee break before heading out on a choice of excursions: One to Gulgong, the home of a rich collection of museums and gold rush heritage buildings including the new Gulgong Holtermann photographic museum and the vast Gulgong Pioneer’s Museum. The other excursion will take you to a selection of Mudgee’s wineries to enjoy relaxed tastings from the winemakers.

In the late afternoon we will take a short excursion north to Cooks Gap on the Great Dividing Range for a sunset soiree reception at Scott McGregor’s private and unique railway themed retreat, Ruwenzori. Perched high on the mountains overlooking the valleys below, Ruwenzori is a collection of vintage railway carriages, restored in the Orient-express style, set amongst themed gardens and memorabilia. Featured in many travel articles and TV shows, it is a place that he loves to share with special friends. Here, on top of the mountain, you’ll enjoy a Mudgee sunset with canapes and local beer and wine before heading back to your hotel or into town. If you’re interested, you can kick on and enjoy the atmosphere at one of the many venues in Mudgee’s main street.

Overnight: *Parklands Resort Mudgee (B, D)*

Day 3 • Monday 26 April: MUDGEE - KANDOS - SYDNEY

This morning we travel by coach to Kandos, a former industrial hub, famous for cement making in the early part of the 20th century. Here we explore the fascinating museum with its rural, colonial and industrial history before savouring a local morning tea at the old railway station where our train is waiting to depart back down the valley beyond. Once again, you’ll be served a lovely lunch on board as your heritage train rolls on down the scenic Capertee Valley and over the magnificent Blue Mountains arriving in Sydney in the early evening. *(B, L)*


WHAT’S INCLUDED

- 2 nights’ accommodation in a quality hotel
- Breakfast daily, 2 lunches and 2 dinners, including some drinks (limited to approx. a glass a meal)
- Comfortable chartered coaches
- Winery and Heritage tour(s) with guides
- Return train trip from Sydney on the Capertee Valley Explorer special heritage train

WHAT WE DON’T INCLUDE

- Transfers to and from Central Station in Sydney
- Meals and services not mentioned in itinerary
- All other personal expenses such as drinks, phone calls, laundry services, etc.

FITNESS RATING

 One ‘Loco’ - fitness rating

PRICE GUIDE

Per person, twin share:

Parklands Resort Mudgee 4* \$1,985

Single supplement:

Parklands \$295

Deposit (Per Person) \$250

Final payment due by 10 March 2021



Parklands Resort Mudgee

HOW TO BOOK

Download a booking form from our website and follow the easy steps to getting on board. If you'd prefer a form be sent to you or make a booking over the phone please call 1300 800 977. Complete the form and submit it, along with your \$250 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:

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 the train and coaches, walk for extended periods, stand comfortably, and climb steps and stairs will ensure you get the maximum enjoyment from your adventure.

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 or by calling 1300 800 977.

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. 30 August 2019.



TRAVEL ACCREDITED LIC #A14416



1300 800 977
railwayadventures.com