CELEBRATE THE ADVENT OF AUTUMN WITH A ROUND TRIP OF CENTRAL NSW BY PRIVATE TRAIN

With Scott McGregor and Bernadette Eichner
27 February – 03 March 2021

• SYDNEY • BATHURST • ORANGE • MUDGEE •
• VIA THE BLUE MOUNTAINS • CAPERTEE VALLEY • THE GOLDEN WEST • THE ORANA REGION •
• THE GREAT DIVIDING RANGE AND THE CUDGEONG, BYLONG AND HUNTER VALLEYS •
INTRODUCTION

New South Wales is blessed with a number of interesting ‘cross country’ railways, linking the main lines radiating out from Sydney, allowing trains to follow a circular path in different regions of the state. One of these is the ‘Sandy Hollow line’, started in 1937, and completed, in part, in 1985. This normally freight only line is open to special trains from time to time and on this occasion our privately chartered nifty little Rail Motor has specific accreditation to traverse this scenic run. The interesting route of this cross-country link has allowed us to create a special Railway Adventure looping around the captivating highlights of the Central West of NSW.

Here is a region rich with history; appealing characters, great scenery, fine food, wine and places to stay. There are museums to fossils and folk history, legendary images and colonial incarceration and, not to be missed, Australia’s newest railway museum in Bathurst. There’s quaint Gold Rush era villages and bustling regional hubs, snaking rivers, cavernous coal mines, pristine bushland, canyons, ranges, and some of the finest farms, vineyards, grazing country, studs and native bush that you’re likely to see anywhere in the country.

Sometimes along comes the right train, at the right time, in the right place and here it is; a tour hosted by a Central West local, on your own hop on hop off private train on a loop around the heart of NSW, enjoying the best of the regions food, wine, entertainment and accommodation. All aboard a very special short escape to one of Australia’s most appealing and intriguing regions.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Exclusive use of the Central West Explorer, your privately chartered vintage 1960’s Rail-Motor with plenty of extra seats for comfort and space
- Train Travel over the Blue Mountains and scenic Mudgee line to Rylstone
- Train travel on the Great Western and Great Northern Railways
- Train travel on cross country railways to Gulgong and down the Sandy Hollow line
- Experience spectacular scenery around the Capertee, Cudgegong and Bylong Valleys
- Explore the colonial era village of Rylstone and the 1920's Cement town of Kandos
- Be enchanted by Abercrombie House, a veritable baronial castle in the Aussie bush
- Soak up fascinating museums of Fossils, Car-racing, Railways, old Gaols, Gold rush photographs, Rural heritage and wine making
- Stroll the national trust listed towns of Millthorpe and Gulgong
- Wine tastings and dinners at Borrodell, Craigmore, Bunnamagoo and Lowes
- Special entertainment and dinner at Lowe’s, Mudgee’s premier winery venue
- Exclusive sunset cocktail reception at the outlandish Ruwenzori Retreat
- Guided tours of Bathurst, Mudgee and Orange and commentary on board your train
- 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

BERNADETTE EICHNER

A skilled presenter, actor, psychologist and an emerging voice for the over-55’s, Bernadette owns and operates her own businesses helping organisations be the best they can be when it comes to their people. Her travel experiences are many and varied, from the wilds of the Kimberley to the port caves of Portugal, the treasures of Angkor Wat to the bright lights of Broadway, the magnificence of Scandinavia to the big skies of South Africa. Over the last two years, she has co-hosted many tours with Scott McGregor, including Scandinavia, Vietnam, Borneo, Japan, and Sri Lanka and started leading in her own right with our highly successful Borneo 2019 tour. Our client testimonials refer to her being well organised, fun, inclusive and empathetic.
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 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** — 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, 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. Our customer satisfaction ratings show that over 97% would recommend us to others and/or travel with us again.
- **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!
600 class Railmotor near Gulgong - photo Scot McGregor
Day 1 • Saturday 27 February: CENTRAL – RYLSTONE – KANDOS – BATHURST
Meet your hosts and train staff at Central Station bright and early for the departure of our adventure which initially takes us across the Cumberland Plain and up the Blue Mountains while morning tea is served on board. First stop is the iconic town of Katoomba where we take time to stretch our legs and have a look around before proceeding to Lithgow and Wallerawang where we branch off onto the Mudgee line and a journey around the scenic Capertee Valley. We arrive at the charming village of Rylstone, full of history and original colonial era buildings, a great place to enjoy some free time to take lunch in any number of local establishments or pubs. Continuing back down the line we pause at Kandos for a visit to the excellent museum dedicated to the crucial cement industry before continuing back down the Capertee Valley to the junction of the main western line at Wallerawang. A short run further on we take a stop at the village of Tarana where the pub, adjacent to the station, offers an ideal watering hole before we take the last scenic leg to Bathurst. After a short time to check-in, freshen up and relax we head out for dinner at the astounding Abercrombie House.

Overnight: Rydges Mount Panorama, Bathurst (D)

Day 2 • Sunday 28 February: BATHURST – ORANGE
This morning after breakfast at the hotel you can enjoy an early opening of the excellent Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum, home of an extraordinary collection, the lifetime work of Warren Somerville AM, features some of the finest and rarest specimens of mineral crystals and fossils from around the world. In the mid-morning we depart Bathurst on the steep run up to Blayney and onto Millthorpe where we pause for lunch at leisure and a stroll around this quaint town before continuing onto Orange. We check into our centrally located hotel a short walk from the station. Later we take a scenic coach trip out of town to have a feast of local wine and produce at the popular Borrodelle Estate and attached Sister’s Rock restaurant on the slopes of iconic Mt Canobolas. Enjoy the sweeping views from the terrace as the wine flows and canapes are handed around prior to the main meal featuring local produce and culinary delights.

Overnight: Quest Hotel, Orange (B, D)

Day 3 • Monday 1 March: ORANGE – GULGONG – MUDGEE
After breakfast on this the first day of Autumn, we wander back up to the station and depart Orange heading north on the inland route of the Great Western line to Dubbo. Passing through the villages of Mullion Creek, Stuart Town and Mumbili. We pause briefly at Wellington, originally established as a convict settlement in 1823 before continuing onto the fair city of Dubbo on the mighty Macquarie River. Here you have time to explore the interesting Dubbo Gaol museum and enjoy time for lunch on your own before we continue on the cross-country line to Gulgong via the junction of the Mudgee line at Merrygoen. From here we shunt onto the branch line taking us south across the fertile slopes to the historic gold rush era town of Gulgong. Noel our affable coach captain is on hand for the transfer to our hotel in Mudgee and some time to relax before heading out for an evening of wine, food and jolly good entertainment at the Pavilion at Lowe’s award-winning winery.

Overnight: Parklands Resort, Mudgee (B, D)

Day 4 • Tuesday 2 March: MUDGEE
After a hearty breakfast at the hotel, we gather to begin a series of local explorations. First up are a couple of short tours, one of 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 and hear from the winemakers. In the late afternoon we will then 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 to kick on and enjoy the atmosphere at one of the many venues in Mudgee’s main street.

Overnight: Parklands Resort, Mudgee (B, D)

Day 5 • Wednesday 3 March: MUDGEE – GULGONG – HUNTER VALLEY – SYDNEY
Today it’s up early to make the most of one of the most unique railway experiences in the state, a rare opportunity to ride the Sandy Hollow railway down the Bylong and Hunter Valleys on the normally freight only line. Departing Gulgong we head east through fields, bush and the wooded hills of the Great Divide before we strike the first of the vast coal mines that are the reason for the lines reconstruction. We pass the towns of Sandy Hollow and Denman before pulling in for an early hearty pub lunch at Muswellbrook at the appropriately named Railway Hotel, next door to the railway station before continuing onto Paterson. Here we take a break to view the collection and associated museum that is home to the train we are riding. The last stage of the journey is the run down the main North Line across the mighty Hawkesbury River and into Sydney in the early evening, stopping at Hornsby for anyone who may wish to alight here before pulling into Central and the end of our adventure around the Golden West.
WHAT’S INCLUDED
- 4 nights’ accommodation in quality hotels
- Breakfast daily, 1 lunch and 4 dinners
- Comfortable chartered coaches
- Winery and Heritage tours
- Entrances to museums and wineries as mentioned in the itinerary
- Specially chartered Rail Motor for rail travel throughout including on board morning and afternoon teas

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
럴 One ‘Loco’ - fitness rating
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 $500 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.

SOME PLACES YOU’LL STAY
Hand-picked hotels and resorts based on location, customer feedback, value and atmosphere.

Rydges Hotel, Bathurst
Parklands Resort, Mudgee
Quest Hotel, Orange

Please Note: Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

PRICE GUIDE
Per person twin share......................................$2,785
Single supplement...........................................$345
Deposit (per person)...............................$500 at time of booking
Final payment due by..............10 January 2021
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 1400 travellers on over 120 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. 27 May 2020.