



RAILWAY ADVENTURES IN 2022

MUDGEE WINE AND HERITAGE LONG WEEKEND ESCAPE



**With Scott McGregor and friends
30 SEPTEMBER - 3 OCTOBER 2022**

PRIVATELY CHARTERED TRAIN TO MUDGEE AND BEYOND

CPH Railmotor in the Bylong Valley, photo by Wayne Eade

OVERVIEW

Mudgee, a charming and popular heritage town nestled in the hills of the Central West Tablelands, is a community that's lost its train. There are existing lines north and south of the valley, but the 'missing link' of about 70 kilometres, with Mudgee in the middle, has not seen a train for twenty years. On this special adventure, we will bridge that gap with a fun filled round trip arriving in Mudgee by the Great Northern and Sandy Hollow Railways and returning by the Great Western Line and the existing operational section of the Mudgee branch line. This tour offers an opportunity to experience a grand loop with a couple of days in Mudgee in the middle to explore and indulge the senses, or if the desire takes you, you can ride our vintage rail motor on a full day run across the lines of the Central West through Dubbo, Orange, Bathurst to the town of Wallerawang. From there on the last day we'll all meet with our train at the village of Rylstone for the scenic journey down the Capertee Valley and the Blue Mountains back to Sydney.

Your arrival at our 4* Parklands Resort in Mudgee heralds the start of a three-night weekend holiday full of excursions, dinners and plenty of fine food and wine, all hosted in true Mudgee-style. Take a wine themed dinner at the stunning Lowes Winery, explore the history and heritage in Gulgong and Hill End and soak up the setting at Ruwenzori, Scott's private railway retreat, with a sunset soiree.

Your return to Sydney by private train via the historic 'Cement' town of Kandos on the Monday completes a very special, weekend of rail travel, wine tasting and the exploration of the rural heritage of one of NSW's most appealing regional destinations.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Exclusive private charter of the vintage 'tin hare' CPH Railmotors
- Train travel on the normally inaccessible Sandy Hollow line to Gulgong
- A rare rail trip down the spectacular Capertee Valley
- Train Travel over the Blue Mountains and scenic Mudgee line to Rylstone
- Morning tea and lunch along the way
- Three nights in the charming heritage town of Mudgee
- Two travel options to choose to tailor your weekend away
- Special entertainment and dinner in Mudgee's premier venues
- A full day touring wineries, museums, towns and gold rush villages
- Exclusive sunset cocktail reception at the outlandish Ruwenzori Retreat
- Take an optional train journey from Gulgong to Wallerawang via the west
- Services of your tour leaders, wine presenters and train managers throughout

MEET YOUR TOUR LEADERS



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. 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



DUNCAN AND BARBARA WASS

DUNCAN WASS Duncan is a voice over artist, and spent many years as a stage actor playing the fool with the likes of Queensland Theatre Company and Bell Shakespeare. He has known Scott since they did the *Tempest* together in 1982. With Barbara, he taught English in Japan and travelled extensively around the world. They also ran a teahouse and gallery before establishing a Holiday Accommodation management business in the Blue Mountains.

BARBARA WASS Barbara lives in the Blue Mountains and has a solid background in travel, tourism and hospitality. She has worked in wholesale and retail travel, events coordinator in a 5-star hotel, and as a small business owner and manager of spa cabins and a wedding venue. Barbara enjoys having the opportunity of meeting new people and has a real understanding of traveller's expectations and needs. She is also a member of Oral History NSW.

TOUR MAP



OUR PRIVATELY CHARTERED TRAIN - THE CPH RAILMOTOR

The CPH (or 42 foot) railmotors were introduced by the New South Wales Government Railways in 1923 to provide feeder service on country branch lines.

Often referred to as “Tin Hares”, having evolved at the same time as the mechanical lures used in greyhound racing in Australia, the first vehicle was placed in service on 17 December 1923 and based at Culcairn, in southern New South Wales.

They were lightweight vehicles and considerable care was taken in the original selection of materials used in their construction. One of the most innovative features was the underframe. No bolts or rivets were used in its construction, and it was fabricated entirely by welding. It is believed to be the first application of such a technique on a railway vehicle in Australia. The body was of timber construction, using mainly Queensland yellow wood, pines, and cedars. The cars were finished externally with tongue and grooved timber below the window line.

A total of 37 vehicles were built and they operated many branch line services throughout the state, from Kyogle in the north to the Riverina in the south, as well as extensively through the central-western regions, until their widespread withdrawal in November 1983 and replacement by road transport.



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:

- **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.

The clock tower and St Mary's church in the heart of Mudgee in Spring



Day 1 • Friday 30 September: SYDNEY - GULGONG - MUDGEE

Meet your hosts and train staff at Central Station bright and early for the departure of our adventure. This initially takes us up the main North Line, across the mighty Hawkesbury River and on into the heart of the Hunter Valley. We'll enjoy a hearty lunch at the Railway Hotel in Muswellbrook before taking a rare opportunity to ride the Sandy Hollow railway up the spectacular Bylong and Goulburn River Valleys, on the normally freight only railway line. This takes us west through fields, bush and the wooded hills of the Great Divide, before we strike the vast coal mines that are the reason for the line's reconstruction. We'll pass through the towns of Denman, Sandy Hollow, and Ulan before arriving into the historic gold rush era town of Gulgong. Our coach is on hand for the transfer to our leafy hotel set in immaculate gardens on the outskirts of Mudgee. We check in here for the next few nights. Dinner tonight is a local affair and complemented with a selection of fine Mudgee wines.

Overnight: Parklands Resort Mudgee 4 (L, D)*

Day 2 • Saturday 01 October: MUDGEE

After a hearty breakfast at the hotel we gather to explore the history and heritage of the town with a gentle walking tour. There's also some free time for a wander around town and a take a coffee break, before heading out on an excursion to Gulgong, the home of a rich collection of museums and gold rush heritage buildings. These include the new Gulgong Holtermann photographic museum, the vast Gulgong Pioneer's Museum, and the Gulgong Opera House. We will return to the hotel for a short break.

In the late afternoon we 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 Scott 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 you may wish to kick on and enjoy the atmosphere at one of the many venues in Mudgee's main street.

Overnight: Parklands Resort Mudgee 4 (B, D)*

On Day 3 and 4 we are offering you the option to tailor your weekend's activities to suit you. Below are two options to choose from. Mudgee or the Central West Loop.

OPTION ONE

Day 3 • Sunday 02 October: MUDGEE - HILL END - MUDGEE

Take a full day trip out to Hill End to explore the rich gold rush story in this beautifully preserved National Trust village. Heading South-West we meander along the old coach road gradually rising to the high tablelands at around 1000 meters. Once at Hill End you have some time to explore the extensive collections at History Hill and hear illuminating stories from our local guide. Morning tea and Lunch are included and a guided walk around town caps off the exploration of this once thriving place.

Back in Mudgee you have time to freshen-up before being chauffeured to one of Mudgee's favourite establishments for an entertaining evening of food, music and local wines with your host David Lowe and his team.

Overnight: Parklands Resort Mudgee 4 (B, L, D)*

Day 4 • Monday 03 October: MUDGEE - RYLSTONE - KANDOS - SYDNEY

This morning we travel by coach to Rylstone, a charming sandstone village dating back to the 1840's where you have time for a wander around the shops and cafes in the tree lined main street. Down at the station our train awaits for the short run to Kandos, a former industrial hub, famous for cement making in the early part of the 20th century. Here we explore the fascinating museum of its rural, colonial and industrial history before savouring a long lunch on the platform at the old railway station. Shortly after our train departs the scenery of the spectacular Capertee Valley unfolds and for the next hour we skirt the world's second largest canyon on our way south to the junction with the main western line at Wallerawang. From there your heritage train rolls over the magnificent Blue Mountains, arriving in Sydney in the early evening. (B, L)

OPTION TWO

Day 3 • Sunday 02 October: MUDGEE – CENTRAL WEST LOOP – WALLERAWANG

Transfer to Gulgong for an epic trip around the Central West on your special train, the vintage 'tin hare' Railmotor. Departing early, we head north on our train through Dunedoo and onto the junction of the cross-country line at Merrygoen. From here we head West from Dubbo and loop south on the main western line to Wellington stopping at Stuart Town for lunch at the local pub, the classic Ironbark Inn. After Orange, we pause at Millthorpe and Bathurst before arriving at Wallerawang in the late afternoon. Dinner is hosted at the hotel not far from the historic station.

Overnight: Black Gold Motel, Wallerawang 3 (B, L, D)*

Day 4 • Monday 03 October: WALLERAWANG - RYLSTONE - KANDOS - SYDNEY

After breakfast at your motel, it's down to the station to board the train for the hour and half run up along the Capertee Valley to Rylstone. Here you meet with the rest of our travellers and settle in for lunch at Kandos and the scenic run with the group back to Sydney. (B, L)



Ruwenzori

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 3 nights' accommodation in a quality hotel 4* resort hotel
OPTION TWO in quality 3 at Wallerawang
- Breakfast daily, 4 lunches and 3 dinners. (Drinks included at the Ruwenzori soiree)
- Comfortable chartered coaches
- Winery and Heritage tours and local excursions with guides
- Round train trip from Sydney on the special privately chartered 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' - Reasonable Fitness

You will need to be able to walk for a couple of hours at a gentle pace, remain standing in museums and galleries, get on and off coaches, trains and boats unassisted. These tours often include luggage handling services, short-distance transfers, privately chartered trains and longer stays in hotels so you can more easily choose to take time out.



Gulgong

SOME PLACES YOU'LL STAY

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



Parklands Resort Mudgee



Black Gold Motel, Wallerawang

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:

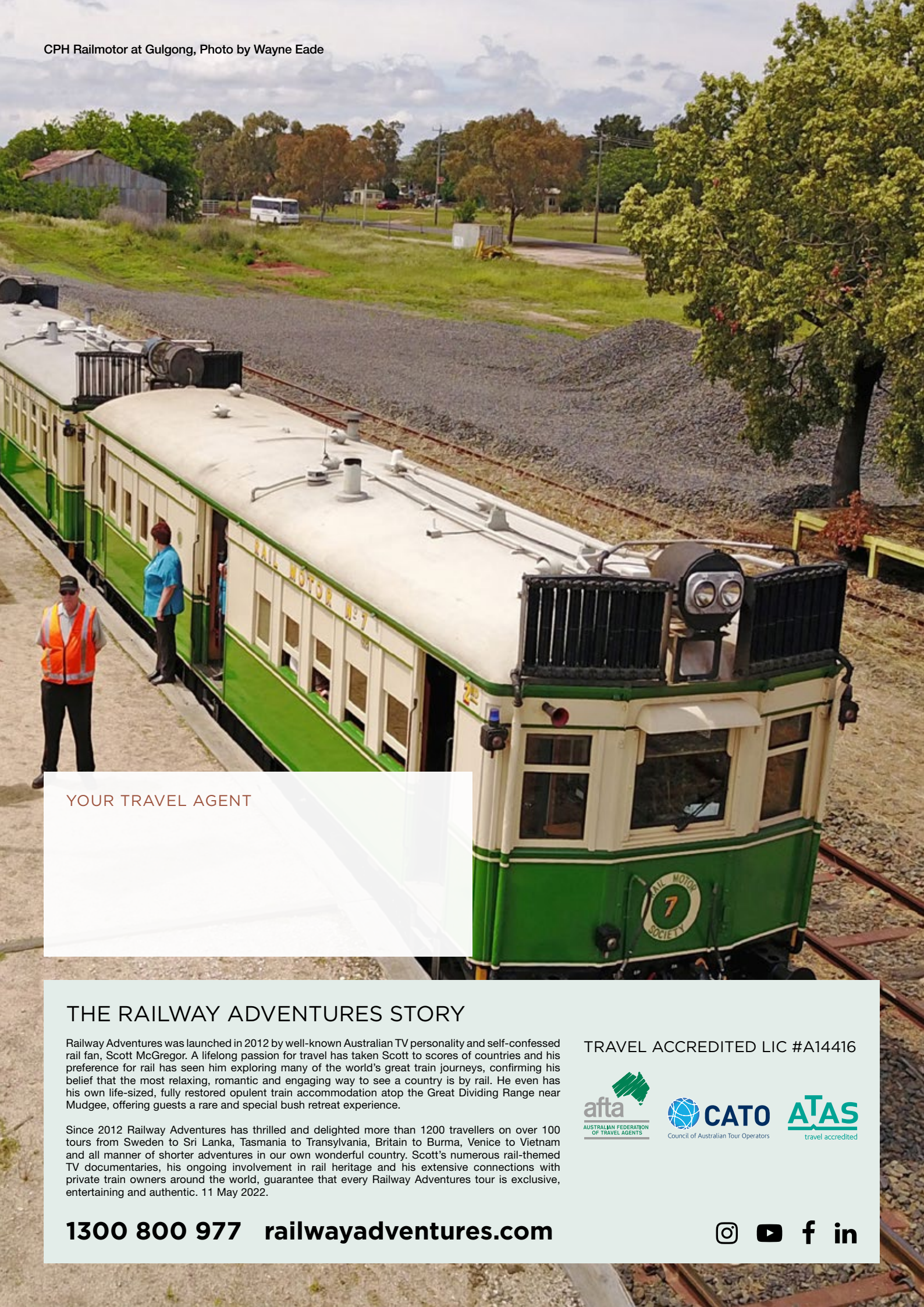
While you don't need to be a 'gym junky', a reasonable level of fitness is required for most of our tours. The ability to manage your own luggage, get on and off the train and coaches, walk for extended periods, stand comfortably, and climb steps and stairs will ensure you get the maximum enjoyment from 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.

PRICE

Per person twin share.....	\$2,495
Single supplement.....	\$610
Deposit (per person).....	\$250 at time of booking
Final payment due.....	16 August 2022



YOUR TRAVEL AGENT

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. 11 May 2022.

TRAVEL ACCREDITED LIC #A14416



1300 800 977 railwayadventures.com

