



RAILWAY ADVENTURES IN 2022

THE NEW SOUTH WALES OUTBACK

By Rail, Road and River



With Robert Kingsford-Smith or Graeme Hind

26 MARCH - 3 APRIL

14 MAY - 22 MAY

8 - 16 OCTOBER

15 - 23 OCTOBER

• BATHURST • PARKES • BROKEN HILL • MENINDEE LAKES • LAKE MUNGO • MILDURA • GRIFFITH •

The Explorer Train heading Outback, photo by Bernie Baker

INTRODUCTION

Outback NSW is stocked full of historic sights, astounding mining, rural and Aboriginal history, and some extraordinary natural wonders offering a wealth of variety in one vast package. This magnificent journey takes you across the entire length of the state and down to the Riverina in a giant loop made possible by the once-a-week train services linking Sydney with Broken Hill, and separately, with Griffith with Sydney.

Top of the list is the hugely important Lake Mungo World Heritage site – not always accessible and tightly monitored – and we are lucky enough to have our guide on hand to illuminate the significance of this amazing site and tell the story of the incredible discoveries made there. The Menindee Lakes, Broken Hill and the wild country around Pooncarie are all highlights of this Outback adventure, however it's the excursions at each end of the tour that set the scene. First, on the Central Tablelands at Bathurst, Parkes and Millthorpe and then a week later in Griffith in the rich heart of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area where our rural history and culture are on full display, confirming the fact that Australia is indeed a lucky country blessed with a rich agricultural heritage and an inspiring rural, mining and aboriginal legacy.

Take the train over the mountains to the wide-open plains, past the Darling River and back via the Murrumbidgee through Hay to our final hurrah in the wine and food bowl of Griffith, before taking the epic rail journey halfway across the state via the Great Southern Railway back to Sydney. Let Robert, and the characters you'll meet along the way, be your hosts for a great Australian rail and road journey like no other, in the wonderful, timeless, colourful NSW Outback.

HIGHLIGHTS

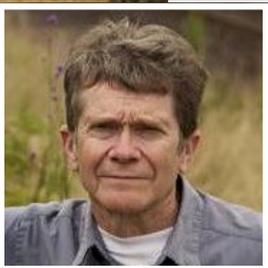
- Explorer and XPT train trips to Bathurst, Broken Hill and from Griffith to Sydney
- 2 days in the character-filled city of Broken Hill with full day excursions
- Enjoy the award-winning museums in Bathurst, Parkes, Hay and Griffith
- Full day tour to Silverton and the city sights of Broken Hill
- Take a sunset boat trip on the ecological wonder of Menindee Lakes
- Guided tour of the world heritage-listed Lake Mungo National Park
- Enjoy a paddle steamer cruise on the Murray River
- Explore history and culture in towns like Millthorpe, Pooncarie and Hay
- Services of your local guides, drivers and your experienced tour leader

Bathurst

MEET YOUR TOUR LEADER

Robert Kingsford-Smith

Robert has built on his childhood passion for railways of the 1960s, by embarking on a quest to record the world's disappearing steam locomotives on film. His often adventurous travels have taken him to over forty countries and the resulting photographs and articles have appeared in numerous publications in Australia and overseas. Robert has led groups of like-minded travellers in destinations as diverse as South America, Pakistan and South Africa. More recently he has become the celebrated tour leader on many Railway Adventure tours through Outback Queensland, India and Sri Lanka. His passion for history and wildlife has been well served on his travels and he combines his interests with regular and extensive train travel. Cairns is of special significance for Robert because his great-great-grandfather, R. A. Kingsford, was its first mayor.



TOUR MAP



SOME WAYS YOU'LL TRAVEL

The best train trips possible, private luxury coach for off-train travel and many other exciting ways to explore. Here's a selection:



Explorer train



'River Lady' boat cruise



Paddlesteamer on the Murray River

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 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.

Day 1 • Saturday: SYDNEY - BATHURST

We meet early at Central Station for a welcome briefing before boarding the XPT train to Bathurst. Your tour leader will share the background of the historic mountains line while riding first class over the mountains in the morning light. The Lithgow to Bathurst section of our journey is full of charming rural scenery, villages and stone arch remnants of the original 1860's permanent way. On arrival in the mid-morning, we head across to the Bathurst Railway Museum to explore the wonderful collection housed in this new state-of-the-art museum, and you can also enjoy time for morning tea. The next stop is another excellent Bathurst Museum; The Australian Fossils and Minerals Museum, featuring the world class Somerville collection. You also have free time to explore the town centre and have lunch on your own before we meet our coach in the mid-afternoon and transfer to the hotel to check in and relax. You have the option this afternoon to take a wander across the way to view the stunning collection at the Bathurst Motor Racing Museum adjacent to our hotel. In the evening we head out of town to enjoy a special evening soiree at the grand baronial homestead of Abercrombie House.

Overnight: Rydges, Bathurst or similar (D)

Day 2 • Sunday: BATHURST - PARKES

Our coach is on hand to take our luggage today and transfer us to the station where we board the XPT in the mid-morning which will take us the short distance to Millthorpe, a journey that rises almost 300m to the high open tableland country. Here we have free time to wander the heritage village and you'll have time to graze for lunch on your own. The next leg is by coach, heading off through the towns and villages of the Central West slopes to Parkes where we settle in for the evening with dinner provided at the nearby Coachman's Inn Bistro.

Overnight: The Henry Parkes Motel or The Astro Dish, Parkes (B, D)

Day 3 • Monday: PARKES - BROKEN HILL

The morning is free to enjoy the many museums in Parkes and check out the iconic Dish and the associated small museum there. Our coach is on hand for the morning to do a loop for us to hop on and hop off before taking us to the railway station for our trip west.

Our 'Explorer' train to Broken Hill departs at 12:48 and rolls across the plains past Condobolin, Ivanhoe and the Menindee Lakes where it crosses the Darling River and on to Broken Hill. Your train has an on-board buffet and arrival is scheduled for a bit after 7PM. Our coach is on hand to transfer us to our centrally located hotel where we check in for the next two nights and relax, just a stone's throw from your motel are pubs and restaurants and a cleansing ale at the grand and famous Palace Hotel may be just the ticket to settle the dust.

Overnight: Ibis Styles or Red Earth Motel, Broken Hill (B)

Day 4 • Tuesday: BROKEN HILL

Today is a full day of sightseeing in and around Broken Hill. We start by heading out to Silverton, billed as Australia's liveliest ghost town. We view the lookout to the Mundi Mundi Plains and take time at the excellent railway and heritage museum. Lunch is provided today at the Silverton Pub. Back in Broken Hill we continue our tour covering the main sights of the city starting with the Line of Lode Miner's Memorial, where we hear about the enormous impact the 'Silver City' had on the development of our great country. We take in the array of heritage buildings, churches, hotels, miner's cottages and modern homes. Before heading out to one of Broken Hill's most popular sights, the Sculpture Symposium where some of the world's leading sculptures are on show in a magical outback setting.

Overnight: Ibis Styles or Red Earth Motel, Broken Hill (B, L, D)

Day 5 • Wednesday: BROKEN HILL - MENINDEE

Enjoy a late start today with the option of visiting a couple of excellent art galleries and free time for an early lunch before we depart Broken Hill. We head East, taking our coach off the beaten track to Menindee Lakes and Kinchega National Park located on the banks of the Darling River.

Here we have a break to settle into our motel and then head out for a sunset Wetlands cruise on the River Lady, soaking up the atmosphere and the abundant bird life on the extraordinary Lake system, which is more than three times the size of Sydney Harbour. Tonight, we rest up back at Menindee at our rustic motel and you're also invited to head over to the Maidens Hotel across the road for a drink and dinner from their good old pub menu.

Overnight: Burke and Wills Menindee Motel (B, D)

Day 6 • Thursday: MENINDEE - LAKE MUNGO

After a light Breakfast at the motel we depart Menindee heading south following the course of the Darling River to Pooncarie and on to Lake Mungo. Lunch is provided at the Lake Mungo Lodge before we check in and then later we head out with our guide to explore this World Heritage area and enjoy a sunset at the serene Wall of China, the site of so many momentous discoveries. Back at the lodge enjoy a hearty dinner and a relaxing evening at the Lodge in the heart of the isolated Outback.

Overnight: Lake Mungo Lodge (B, L, D)

Day 7 • Friday: LAKE MUNGO - MILDURA

Today we take the drive from Lake Mungo heading south to the border of Victoria and the vibrant city of Mildura. We arrive and have free time for lunch before checking in to our hotel and enjoying some free time to relax. We'll then head out to explore some of the sights of the city on a town tour. Explore the Arts Centre and its Rio Vista Historic house, before boarding a relaxing sunset paddleboat dinner cruise on the mighty Murray River. The rest of the evening is at leisure in the hotel.

Overnight: Comfort Inn Deakin Palms or similar, Mildura (B, D)

Day 8 • Saturday: MILDURA - GRIFFITH

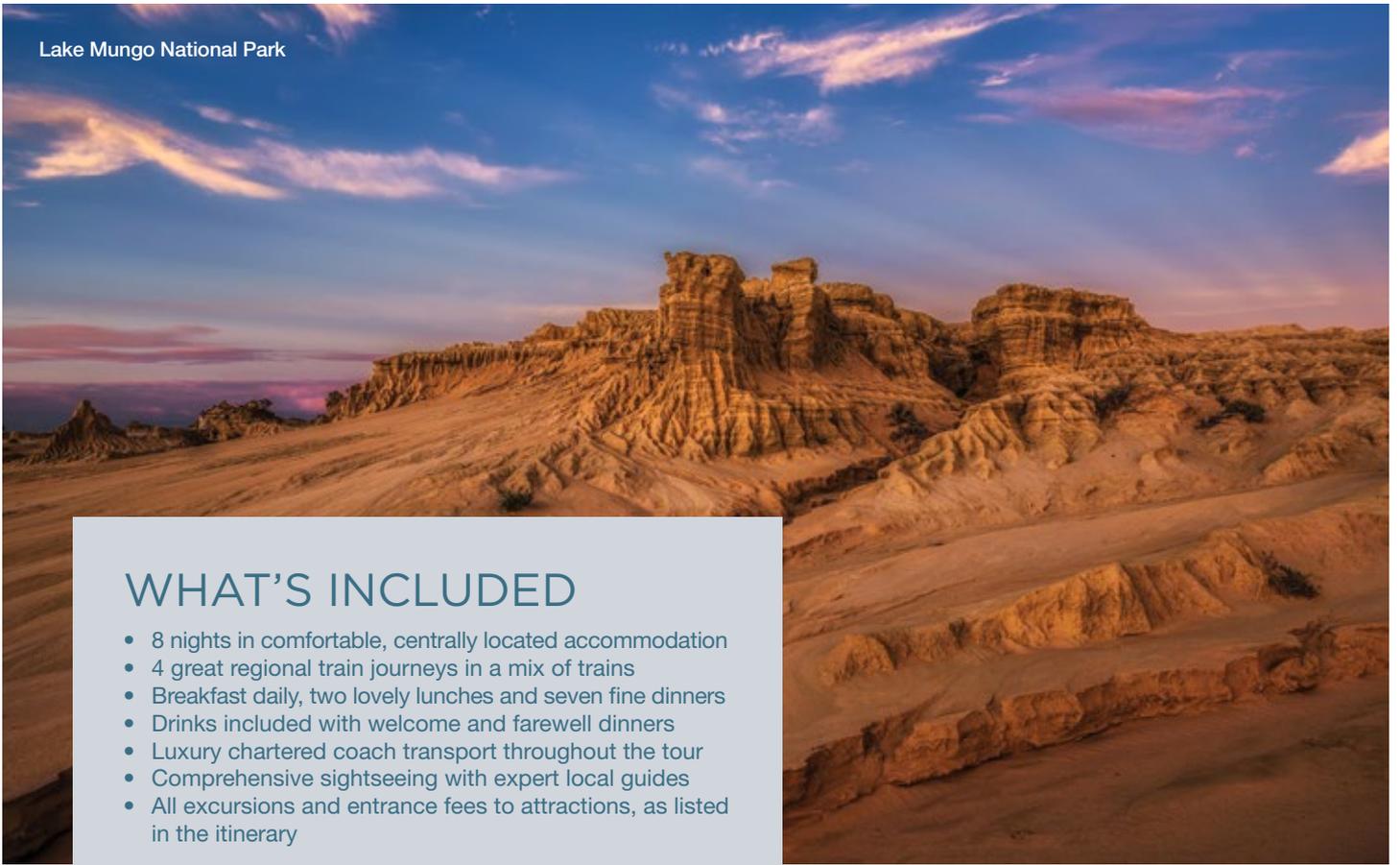
We depart Mildura early, heading first to Balranald where we'll have a coffee break and view the Murrumbidgee River. The rest of our drive is tempered with stops along the way, including some time to explore Hay and learn about its important place in our colonial history as a transport hub for the river trade and later in the nineteenth century, the railway. Enjoy free time for lunch at the excellent 'Shear Outback'. Further along the drive we come to Darlington Point, a quiet little town on the Murrumbidgee which was an important river crossing place for pastoralists and a base for the paddle steamers. Once in Griffith we take a short city tour before checking in to our hotel for some down time. Later on, wander across the road to a popular Italian restaurant for our special farewell dinner.

Overnight: Quest Hotel, Griffith (B, D)

Day 9 • Sunday: GRIFFITH - SYDNEY (B)

We transfer in the morning by coach to the railway station. Our Explorer train departs Griffith at 7:25am, taking the day to traverse a great chunk of NSW on its way back to Sydney. The changing landscape reveals the extraordinary nature of NSW from the plains up the slopes and over the highlands to the coast. Lunch can be purchased on board and your first-class seats offer a comfortable journey along the line. We arrive in Sydney in the late afternoon, where we say goodbye to our fellow travellers until the next great journey. (B)





WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 8 nights in comfortable, centrally located accommodation
- 4 great regional train journeys in a mix of trains
- Breakfast daily, two lovely lunches and seven fine dinners
- Drinks included with welcome and farewell dinners
- Luxury chartered coach transport throughout the tour
- Comprehensive sightseeing with expert local guides
- All excursions and entrance fees to attractions, as listed in the itinerary

WHAT WE DON'T INCLUDE

- 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.

Abercrombie House



Bathurst Rail Museum



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.....	\$4,985
Single supplement.....	\$645
Deposit (per person).....	\$500 at time of booking
Final payment due by....	45 days before departure

SOME PLACES YOU'LL STAY

Hand-picked hotels and resorts based on location, customer feedback, value and atmosphere. Here's a selection:



Rydgcs, Bathurst

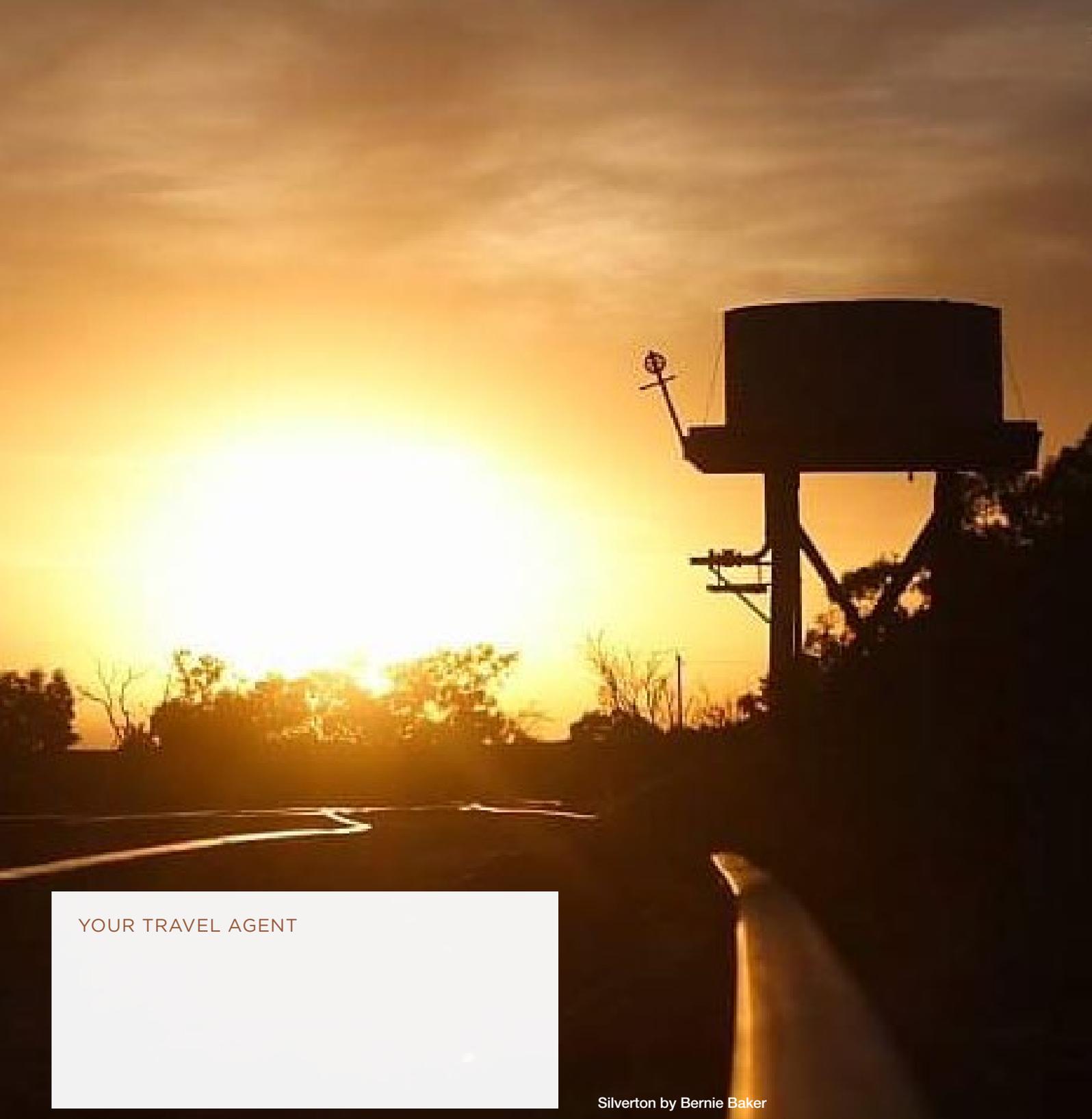


Lake Mungo Lodge



Quest, Griffith

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



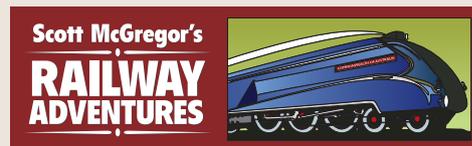
YOUR TRAVEL AGENT

Silverton by Bernie Baker

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 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. 22 November 2021.



TRAVEL ACCREDITED LIC #A14416



1300 800 977 railwayadventures.com

