



RAILWAY ADVENTURES IN 2022

North Coast Rail Tour

**CLASSIC 1960'S SLEEPING CAR TRAIN TRAVEL
TO THE MOST APPEALING DESTINATIONS IN NSW**



In conjunction with Vintage Rail Journeys

19 - 23 JUNE

23 - 27 OCTOBER

• PORT MACQUARIE • KEMPSEY • BYRON BAY • PATERSON •

THE EXPERIENCE

This journey takes you along the scenic North Coast Line through the Central Coast, the Mid-North Coast and Northern Rivers regions of New South Wales. You'll discover the beautiful Hastings River at Port Macquarie, the breathtaking hinterland rainforest and eclectic community of Byron Bay, the crystal clear creeks and the uncrowded surf beaches of the Mackay Valley Coast, and the history and heritage of Maitland & Morpeth. Unpack Only once and enjoy everything that slow rail touring provides.

HIGHLIGHTS

- North Coast Rail Line;
- Hastings River Dolphin Spotting Cruise;
- Byron Bay Solar Train;
- Food and shopping Byron Bay style;
- Slim Dusty Museum, Kempsey;
- Arakoon National Park;
- Historic Maitland & Morpeth.

Day 1 • Sunday: CENTRAL STATION, SYDNEY – PORT MACQUARIE (L,D)

Your North Coast adventure starts at Central Station, Sydney at approximately 9:00am. Welcome aboard the *Aurora Australis* where you can choose to sit in the lounge or dining cars, or your private cabin.

Today we'll spend all day on the train. We'll travel over the spectacular Hawkesbury River, alongside Mullet Creek and through the 'Venice of Australia' to Brisbane Water. We skirt around Newcastle and on to Maitland in the Hunter Valley, where we turn right to join the meandering North Coast Line.

At Gloucester, the North Coast Line starts to follow the Gloucester River, continuing the enjoyment of travelling beside the water. The Gloucester river joins the Manning River and we follow it through Taree and on to Wauchope on the Hastings River, the closest station for Port Macquarie. We'll arrive just in time for dinner, served on board in the Dining Carriages.

Subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control.

Day 2 • Monday: PORT MACQUARIE – CASINO (B, L, D)

Enjoy breakfast on board the *Aurora Australis* before boarding coaches to explore Port Macquarie.

We'll take a scenic lunch cruise of the tranquil waters of Port Macquarie, with the possibility of seeing dolphins, turtles, osprey and sea eagles. Enjoy the peaceful rural landscapes and abundant wildlife on the Hastings River.

We'll return to the train after lunch, as we continue up the North Coast Line. We will be travelling for around five hours through some more interesting landscapes. We will be inland for a while before turning to the coast again and travelling along the water, past Sawtell and through Coffs Harbour. We then head inland again, arriving at Casino just in time for Dinner.

We plan to stable for the night at Old Casino Railway Station which is the start of the Casino to Murwillumbah line. It ceased to operate in May 2004, and was formally closed in September 2020 to facilitate the construction of a rail trail.

Subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control.

Day 3 • Tuesday: CASINO – BYRON BAY – KEMPSEY (B, D)

Enjoy breakfast on board the *Aurora Australis* at Old Casino Railway Station. You will then board our 'Aurora Explorer' buses to take you to Byron Bay, a place known for its natural attractions and eclectic community.

While at Byron Bay, you have the option of visiting Zentveld's Coffee Plantation and Roastery which will see you walking through the plantation and seeing the coffee being grown, watching as the team roast the beans and tasting their Australian coffee creations. You'll also visit Duck Creek Macadamia Nuts, who have built a reputation as a producer of Australia's finest Macadamia Products. Alternatively, visit Cape Byron Lighthouse & Maritime Museum.

You will then ride the Byron Bay Solar Train, the world's first solar train. Lunch today is at your own choice and cost.

Your 'Aurora Explorer' coaches will return you to Casino Railway Station and we will then travel south to Kempsey Railway Yard where we will be stabling for the night. Dinner will be served on-board the train this evening.

Subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control.

Day 4 • Wednesday: KEMPSEY – PATERSON (B, L, D)

Enjoy breakfast on-board the *Aurora Australis* at the Kempsey Railway Yard.

We will then board coaches to enjoy a scenic drive to the Arakoon National Park and the South West Rocks area. National Parks in this area have the best vantage points to see whales during their annual migration (from May to November). Guests will walk through the Trial Bay Gaol, an open air museum which captures the history of the area.

Alternatively visit the Kempsey Museum, where you can experience Aboriginal history, boot making, timber industry, military history, natural history, dairy industry, shipping, historical vehicles to name just a few subjects touched on in the collections, displays and historic artifacts. You can also spend time in the Dunghutti-Ngaku Aboriginal Art Gallery, the gallery showcases and markets works of prominent, established and emerging Aboriginal artists of the Dunghutti region and Mid North Coast area.

We will then visit the Slim Dusty Centre, an innovative museum dedicated to Australia's iconic legend Slim Dusty where you will experience a wealth of music history and Australian culture and art. You will also enjoy lunch at the Slim Dusty Centre.

Your 'Aurora Explorer' buses will return you to Kempsey Railway Yard where we will continue along the North Coast Railway line to The Rail Motor Society, Paterson where we will be stabling for the night.

Dinner will be served on-board the train this evening.

Subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control.

Day 5 • Thursday: PATERSON – CENTRAL STATION, SYDNEY (B, L)

Enjoy breakfast on board the *Aurora Australis* at The Rail Motor Society, Paterson.

Today we have two options for you: Discover Maitland where you will spend time at the 1870 built Grossmann House, restored by the National Trust in the 1960's and the Maitland Regional Art Gallery.

Or, Discover Morpeth, an historic inland river port alongside the Hunter River. A visit to Morpeth is a real journey through time. Visit the narrow laneways, walk along sandstone footpaths and into heritage buildings where you'll discover unique shopping, artisan treasures and delightful treats.

At Maitland we will board the train for the last time, enjoying lunch as we travel back past Brisbane Water and the Hawkesbury River, concluding your rail journey at Central Station, Sydney at approximately 6:30pm.

You will have had a truly memorable Vintage Rail Journey!

Subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control.

TOUR MAP

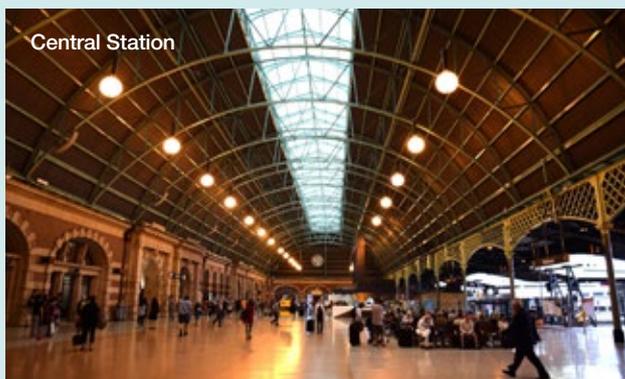


MEET YOUR TOUR OPERATOR

Vintage Rail Journeys is a new, Australian Owned, rail tourism business focused on providing customers with experiences throughout regional and rural NSW aboard vintage sleeping trains.

Our fleet of carriages were initially designed for the Southern Aurora overnight express passenger service between Australia's two largest cities – Sydney and Melbourne. We have painstakingly restored these ex-Southern Aurora carriages back to their original first class styling and re-named it the 'Aurora Australis'.

We look forward to you joining us on this adventure to continue the legacy of the Southern Aurora!



ALL INCLUSIVE - NO HIDDEN COSTS

- Sleep on the train in restored ex-Southern Aurora Sleeping carriages. Your private cabin converts to a day travel configuration.
- Dining and Lounge carriages are available when travelling,
- Meals are as listed in the tour itinerary. Meals served on the train are freshly prepared by our on board chef using local ingredients from each region,
- Water, Soft drinks and Juices are included. The Aurora Australis is licensed to sell alcoholic drinks which are at an additional cost. As our train is a licensed premises you cannot consume your own alcohol on-board,
- Sightseeing is included at each stop for off-train experiences on our 'Aurora Explorer' fleet of coaches.

FITNESS & MOBILITY

Our tour requires a reasonable level of fitness and a good level of mobility. Heritage trains are not designed to accommodate wheelchair bound or walker reliant passengers. If booking a twinette room, 1 member of your party will need to be able to climb a ladder up to and down from the top bunk. You will need to be able to embark and disembark trains, coaches and other methods of transportation without assistance, handle your own luggage, walk moderate distances, stand comfortably and climb steps and stairs.

PRICE (GST inclusive)*

Twinette	\$4,250 per person
Roomette (solo)	\$4,250 per person
Deposit (per person)	\$500 at time of booking
Final payment due by	90 days before departure

*2022 season prices ex-Central Station, Sydney. Cancellation Policy – If we are unable to run the tour due to COVID-19, we will provide a full credit for payment made by you, for one of our later tours

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 \$500pp 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.

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. 09 September 2021.



TRAVEL ACCREDITED LIC #A14416



1300 800 977

railwayadventures.com