



RAILWAY ADVENTURES IN 2022

TROPICAL QUEENSLAND



With Scott McGregor & Bernadette Eichner

19 - 29 June 2022

• TOWNSVILLE • MAGNETIC ISLAND • TULLY • MISSION BEACH •
• DAINTREE RAINFOREST • COOKTOWN • KURANDA • CAIRNS •

INTRODUCTION

The moist laden trade winds from the Coral Sea help to create Australia's most abundant and lush natural environment, a region rich with diverse flora and fauna fringed by the sparkling coral coast and dressed in a canopy of green. It was a region that Captain Cook waxed lyrical in the Endeavours logbook on his epic voyage of discovery in 1770. He was not to know that his achievements almost came to naught on the sharp coral reefs during the last stage of his journey. His vessel, *HM Bark Endeavour*, was severely damaged and could only just make it to the mouth of a wide river where her crew could beach her and make good her hull. This took months but ultimately his story continued as it does to this day and the river and adjacent town bear the names from this moment in time.

All along the coast, starting from the Island he named 'Magnetic', we follow his route and his story. However, it is only one of many on this adventure. The Aboriginal legends, so much older, are there to explore as is the more recent colonial era with its gold rushes, sugar farming, coastal trading, railway building and tourism. This adventure has a distinct maritime theme, after all it was the only way in or out of this wild area until the coming of the railway in the late 19th century. The coast, the reefs and the mountains that descend sharply to the sea will be our domain as will the seaside resorts and quaint towns where we stay and in keeping with our brand there are a few trains to ride. Even Cooktown had a railway once upon a time. So climb aboard me hearties and let's explore the wonderful world of Tropical Queensland together.

HIGHLIGHTS

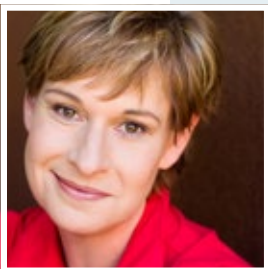
- Enjoy Magnetic Island's relaxed tropical lifestyle, secluded beaches, rugged nature, abundant wildlife and visit the World War II Fort Complex and Peter Lawson Fine Art Gallery
- Embark on the Spirit of Queensland from Townsville to Tully
- Visit the sugar town of Tully, also known as the wettest place in Australia
- Enjoy the peace and quiet of Mission Beach, home to the endangered Southern Cassowary
- Stay at and explore the largest continuous area of tropical rainforest on the Australian continent through a range of different tours
- Get to know Cooktown and its rich history starting with Captain James Cook's landing in 1770 to the Palmer River Gold Rush a hundred years later
- Unwind your way through a tropical paradise framed by rugged mountains with waterfalls tumbling forever into deep ravines on the Kuranda Scenic Railway to Cairns
- Optional tours to Green Island or Atherton-Herberton Historic Railway

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



BERNADETTE EICHNER

Bernadette is a trained actor, psychologist, businesswoman and writer. Passionate about the arts, culture and how others live, Bernadette's travel experiences are many and varied. She's explored every state and territory in Australia and has the greatest fondness for those 'out of the way', quirky experiences that can only be found outside the cities. Internationally, she's travelled to many countries across Asia, Europe, North America, and Africa. Bernadette has navigated groups of kids through Eisteddfod competitions, teens through personal development programs and adults across countries. She's been a big part of our team and has co-hosted many tours with Scott McGregor as well as running a few in her own right.

TOUR MAP



SOME WAYS YOU'LL TRAVEL

The best train trips possible, private luxury coach for off-train travel, guided walking where suitable, and other appropriate and appealing options to make exploration easy.



Spirit of Queensland



Daintree boat



Kuranda Scenic Railway to Cairns

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.



Day 1 • Sunday 19 June: ARRIVAL - TOWNSVILLE

Your adventure begins in the early afternoon when you'll meet your tour leader together with your fellow travellers for a welcome briefing followed by a visit to the Jezzine Barracks, a heritage precinct that commemorates the military and Aboriginal heritage of the Kissing Point headland. In the evening, we meet for a celebratory welcome dinner and drinks.

Overnight: Hotel Grand Chancellor or similar, Townsville (D)

Day 2 • Monday 20 June: MAGNETIC ISLAND

After breakfast we leave Townsville by ferry to visit Magnetic Island. Named by Captain Cook, the island has lots of charm and a good deal of history. Upon arrival, you join a fully guided bus tour that covers the island's major sights, including one or two exclusive secret spots. Throughout the day you'll learn about history, geography, flora, fauna and what it is like to live on an island in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. All this, with spectacular scenery as your backdrop.

Lunch will be had at Horseshoe Bay, and in the afternoon, you explore the Fort Complex constructed in 1943 during World War II to protect the region. Your day ends with a visit to Peter Lawson Fine Art Gallery, where you'll meet a talented local artist who is happy to discuss any of his works. Enjoy dinner at the hotel's restaurant this evening.

Overnight: Peppers Blue on Blue Resort or similar, Magnetic Island, (B, D)

Day 3 • Tuesday 21 June: TOWNSVILLE - TULLY - MISSION BEACH

Farewell Magnetic Island after breakfast as we take the short ferry ride back to Townsville, where we have some free time for a coffee before boarding the Spirit of Queensland. The mid-morning departure offers a gentle run up the coast, passing by sugar fields and cane tramways weaving their way across the North Coast rail line and the Bruce and Cook Highways. You have time to purchase some lunch on the train before we arrive in Tully in the early afternoon.

On arrival you take a guided tour of Tully Sugar Mill and learn about its colourful and interesting history and the inside workings of one of Australia's largest sugar mills, also one of the very few that continues to allow tourists. En route to spend the night at Mission Beach, you stop at the Golden Gumboot, a monument erected in Tully to celebrate its title of wettest place in Australia. On arrival at Mission Beach, we check in and you have time to explore the peaceful beach and surrounds. Later we enjoy dinner at the resort's restaurant.

Overnight: Castaways Resort & Spa or similar, Mission Beach, (B, D)

Day 4 • Wednesday 22 June: MISSION BEACH - DAINTREE RAINFOREST

Start the day with an early morning stroll along the foreshore of Mission Beach before our departure north. Deviating off the Bruce Highway, we stop for sightseeing and morning tea at the rather unusual Paronella Park, an oddity with a connection to the great Australian story of migration. The journey continues to the Daintree Forest with a stop for lunch in Port Douglas. On arrival at Cape Tribulation in the Daintree, you'll enjoy dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: Ferntree Rainforest Lodge, Cape Tribulation (B, D)

Day 5 • Thursday 23 June: DAINTREE RAINFOREST

Today is spent exploring the oldest continually surviving tropical rainforest in the world, and the largest rainforest in Australia. In the morning, you explore the diverse and extensive concentration of wildlife and vegetation of the Daintree on a river cruise, where you can encounter native birds water snakes, frogs, crabs and even crocodiles.


In the afternoon, you visit the Daintree Entomological Museum. This world-class private collection of rare and local butterflies, moths and beetles allows a hands-on experience to see and feel wildlife. Your evening is free at leisure.

Overnight: Ferntree Rainforest Lodge, Cape Tribulation (B, L)

Day 6 • Friday 24 June: DAINTREE RAINFOREST - COOKTOWN

Your last activity in the Daintree is an enriching tour where you will spend the morning with a local Kuku Yalanji guide, visiting some cultural sights, learning about the history of the people and how they have maintained their culture and adapted to modern day life. After lunch we depart north on the four-wheel drive road north to Cooktown. We make a few stops on the way including the Banneryearie River and further on through Cedar Bay National Park. Prior to reaching Cooktown, our last stop is at James Earl Lookout for a view of the many mountain ranges in the area. Check-in at your harbour-front accommodation and at sunset, over the picture postcard Endeavour River, we'll stroll to a local restaurant with the group to enjoy dinner.

Overnight: Seaview Motel or similar, Cooktown (B, L, D)



Day 7 • Saturday 25 June: COOKTOWN

After breakfasting this morning we'll set out to explore Cooktown. The town offers the ultimate connection with Captain James Cook, an intersection with the Guugu Yimithirr people, a good deal of mining history, an obscure long lost railway, a fascinating cultural story, and a tapestry of picturesque settings. You'll first visit James Cook Museum, which showcases stories of Captain Cook, Guugu Yimithirr people, Chinese migration and the Sisters of Mercy.

Later in the day, a Nugal-warra elder and story-keeper Willie Gordon will take you on a magical, award-winning rock art tours to his ancestral sites, high in the hills outside Cooktown. Here he shares the stories behind the art and explains how the paintings speak of the essence of life and the lore of his people. Your day of sightseeing ends with a visit to see the coloured sands at Elim Beach. The evening is free at leisure.

Overnight: Seaview Motel or similar, Cooktown (B, D)

Day 8 • Sunday 26 June: COOKTOWN

Waking to another Cooktown morning, we set off in search of the town's railway relics on a walking tour. Some elements are still available to be viewed, long after the closure of the railway lines in 1960. On return to the Main Street, we visit the Cooktown Museum, which contains a wide array of railway displays and information on the gold rush era, general history, and stories of the many cyclonic events over the decades in the region.

After lunch, we visit the Kuku Bulkaway Indigenous Art Gallery, operated by traditional owners, the Yuku-Baja-Muliku people. You will have some free time in the afternoon to explore the town on your own, before we gather again for a walk-through Cooktown Botanic Gardens and Grassy Hill to round off the day. The day will end with great views out to the sea and to a modern-day lighthouse. The evening is free at leisure.

Overnight: Seaview Motel or similar, Cooktown (B)

Day 9 • Monday 27 June: COOKTOWN - KURANDA - CAIRNS

After breakfast today we head south to Cairns, where you spend your final two nights on tour. The journey takes us out in the hinterland of the Palmer River stopping at such places as Bob's Lookout which offers a wide vista of views back towards Mount Lewis and Mount Carbine and over towards Mount Mulligan. We also have some down time at the Palmer River Roadhouse.

We will reach Kuranda in the early afternoon. There is time to explore this iconic rainforest clad town. It's then time to take a train, the ever-popular Kuranda Scenic Railway in first class comfort. This famous railway is brought to life with excellent commentary and astounding scenery as the railway line runs over the Great Diving Range and down the Barron River Gorge to Cairns.

Overnight: Novotel Cairns Oasis Resort or similar, Cairns, (B)

Day 10 • Tuesday 28 June: CAIRNS - OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

After breakfast this morning you have a few options to choose from. (Subject to numbers)

1 – Atherton-Herberton Historic Railway - After breakfast at the hotel, we depart for a tour of the region of the rich Atherton Tablelands. We start by travelling south across the Sugar Cane fields then up the steep Gillies Highway to the lush forests and farming country of the tablelands. First stop is the excellent Mining Museum and then we take the short run to meet the team at the Herberton Historic Railway Museum. Here we learn about the restoration work and history of the railways of the tablelands before sampling it ourselves with a run along the old line to the astounding Historic Village. You have time to explore the vast collection and witness a variety of big machines in action. We return via Mareeba and the mountain road back to Cairns.

2 – Green Island – Our Island ferry takes off from the Cairns wharf and you have a full day excursion with options to do as much or as little as you like. Green Island is one of 300 sand (coral) cays on the Great Barrier Reef, but it is the only one with a rainforest. It's a delightful place to explore, wander and swim. The island is only 1.6kms in circumference and about 600 meters across. Lunch will be provided at the Resort and if you're interested trips on the glass bottom boat and out to the platform on the Outer reef are included. You may just want to relax by the pool or stroll the island however, and the 45-minute return sea voyage will have you back in Cairns by 5.30.

3 – Of course you're always welcome to enjoy some free time on your own.

This evening we'll gather for a celebratory farewell dinner together on the Esplanade at the popular Raw Prawn restaurant.

Overnight: Novotel Cairns Oasis Resort or similar, Cairns, (B, D)

Day 11 • Wednesday 29th June: CAIRNS - DEPARTURE

Breakfast is at your leisure in the hotel and then you are free to continue your way to other awaiting adventures. Tour terminates. All out, all change. Please mind the gap! (B)



James Cook Museum

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 10 nights in comfortable, centrally located accommodation
- Breakfast daily, two lunches, and seven dinners
- Drinks included with welcome and farewell dinners
- 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

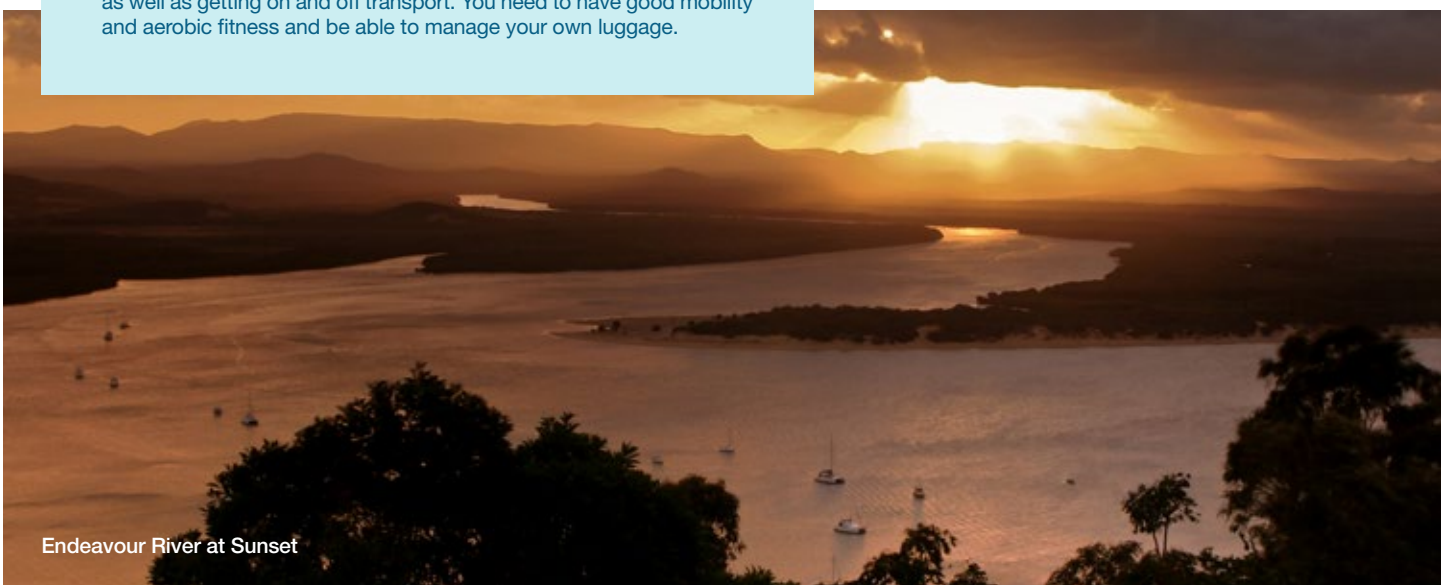
FITNESS RATING

 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.



Cooktown



Endeavour River at Sunset

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.

SOME PLACES YOU'LL STAY

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



Peppers Blue on Blue Resort, Magnetic Island



Heritage Lodge in the Daintree, Daintree Rainforest



Novotel Cairns Oasis Resort, Cairns

PRICE

Per person twin share.....	\$6,985
Single supplement.....	\$1,100
Deposit (per person).....	\$500 at time of booking
Final payment due.....	45 days prior to departure



YOUR TRAVEL AGENT

Daintree River

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. 16 February 2022.

TRAVEL ACCREDITED LIC #A14416



1300 800 977 railwayadventures.com

