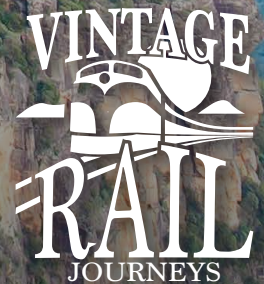




Golden West Rail Tour



G'day and
welcome aboard



W



All change

We hope you are as excited as we are to be finally allowed out to see this amazing country of ours! As is often the case with rail operations, we have some major trackworks to contend with for this tour, forcing us to run the tour over the same route, but in a clock wise direction.

We can't start the rail tour at Sydney Central, rather we will commence at Katoomba Station on Wednesday, at 08:25am.

We recommend that you travel to the Blue Mountains and spend a day or so exploring before the tour. More details on this option are available at the end of this brochure. We are unable to go to Kandos, however we think you'll be delighted with Gulgong instead.

5 Days and 4 Nights

Departs: Katoomba Station
8:25am Wednesday

Returns: Sydney Central
4:30pm Sunday

All inclusive
No hidden costs

Highlights include:

- Mayfield Garden,
- Adagio Mill in Orange,
- Historic town of Gulgong,
- The Hunter Valley,
- Paterson Rail Motor Society,
- A 'Riverboat Postman' cruise on the Hawkesbury River.



Day 1

Katoomba - Bathurst - Orange

Wednesday

Your Golden West adventure starts at Katoomba Station in the Blue Mountains. Once on board, you can choose to sit in the lounge or dining cars, or your private cabin while we travel through the Blue Mountains to the highest point at Mt Victoria. Travelling across the Darling Causeway through the 10 tunnels that replaced the Lithgow Zig-Zag and on through Lithgow we cross the Great Dividing Range.

By mid morning we will arrive in Bathurst, where we will board buses to transfer to Mayfield Garden, one of the world's largest privately owned cool climate gardens. Covering more than 64 hectares, the scale of the gardens is truly breathtaking.

Lunch will be provided for you at the garden where you can enjoy it at your leisure in numerous picnic spots.

Our bus will return us to Bathurst, where we can visit the National Racing Museum at Mt Panorama, the Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum or the newly opened Bathurst Rail Museum.

We will re-board our train and make our way to Orange at 5:00pm.

Dinner will be served on-board the train at Orange Station, where we will be stabled for the night.

Subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control.



Day 2

Orange – Merrygoen – Gulgong

Thursday

After breakfast on board, we have a range of activities for you to choose as you spend the morning in Orange. Visit the beautiful Cook Park, 4.5 hectares of parkland in the heart of Orange. Spend time at Adagio Mill which specialises in alpaca fibre.

We will re-board our train at 11:00am, and enjoy lunch on board as we head towards Dubbo before changing direction at Merrygoen.

From here we head to Gulgong - famous as the birth place of Henry Lawson, and as the town on the ten dollar note. Dinner will be served on board the train at Gulgong Station where we will be stabled for the night. After dinner, we will be entertained at the Prince Of Wales Opera House by the locals and their 'Lawson's Gulgong Mates' show, reliving the days of the gold rush.

Subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control.

Day 3

Gulgong - Binnaway Junction - Werris Creek

Friday

Enjoy breakfast on board the train before spending the morning in historic Gulgong. We have a range of activities for you to choose from to give you just a taste of what this great town has to offer. Visit the Gulgong Gold Experience, Pioneer Museum or spend time in the historic town centre.

We are back on the train at 11:20am for lunch and are headed to Werris Creek, arriving at Binnaway Junction by mid-afternoon. At Binnaway Junction, you will have the opportunity to quickly stretch your legs while the train changes direction.

Dinner will be served on-board the train at Werris Creek Station, where we will be stabled for the night. Make sure to Visit the Rail Journeys Museum and the Australian Railway Monument after dinner.

Subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control.

Day 4

Werris Creek - Maitland - Paterson

Saturday

Enjoy Breakfast on board as we head to Maitland Station where we will disembark to enjoy the best that the Hunter Valley region has to offer using our private Aurora Explorer shuttle bus. Our first stop is the spectacular Hunter Valley Gardens featuring 10 amazingly themed gardens with influences from all over the world. Included in the Aurora Explorer shuttle bus circuit will be cellar door wine tastings at selected wine makers.

Your Explorer circuit will also include the Hunter Valley Gardens Shopping Village with its unique collection of boutique retailers promoting the best local produce, artistic talent, contemporary cafe dining and cellar door wine tasting.

Lunch today is at your own choice and cost.

Your Aurora Explorer buses will return you to Paterson station throughout the afternoon where we will be stabling at the Paterson Rail Motor Museum. The museum will be open for after hours visitation.

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

Subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control.



Fitness & Mobility

Our tour does not require a special level of fitness, however you must have 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.

Day 5

Paterson - Hawkesbury - Sydney

Sunday

Enjoy breakfast as we travel to the spectacular Hawkesbury River. This morning we travel alongside Brisbane Water and right by the water at Mullet Creek. We will depart the train at the Hawkesbury station for a lunch cruise with the 'Riverboat Postman'. The Riverboat Postman started its run in 1910 and still to this day delivers mail and other essentials to the river-access-only residents on behalf of Australia Post.

After our cruise we will board the train for the last time and our return trip to Central Station. You will have had a truly memorable Vintage Rail Journey!

Subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control.

Joining and departing the tour

Due to extensive track closures for track maintenance, Vintage Rail Journeys has been forced to make changes to the itinerary, such that we can no longer start the rail tour at Sydney Central. Rather, the rail tour will commence at Katoomba Station on Wednesday at 8:25 am.

We recommend that you travel to the Blue Mountains on Tuesday morning and enjoy a day in the Blue Mountains Villages. Please let us know and we will ensure that a complementary Blue Mountains Hop-On Hop-Off bus ticket is provided. We recommend staying at the Fairmont Resort and Spa, Leura - please mention that you are travelling with Vintage Rail Journeys. On Wednesday morning a bus will take you to the Katoomba Railway Station in time for the *Aurora Australis* departure.

If you are making your own way from Sydney we recommend that you take the 6:23 am Blue Mountains Train (BMT) which is scheduled to reach Katoomba Station at 8:22 am. You can then board the *Aurora Australis* in time for departure at 8:25 am.

Regardless of the option you choose, we would appreciate you letting us know (either by phone on **1300 421 422** or via email **bookings@vintagerailjourneys.com.au** how you will be arriving.

Tours are planned by G'Day Rail (Australia) Pty Ltd AB