



9-13 September 2020

# Golden West Rail Tour

As seen in  
**THE  
Senior**  
newspaper

VINTAGE  
  
RAIL  
JOURNEYS

[vintagerailjourneys.com.au](http://vintagerailjourneys.com.au)

1300 421 422





# G'day and welcome aboard

**Step back in time with the team at Vintage Rail Journeys and travel in style on board a fleet of newly restored 1960s ex-Southern Aurora sleeping carriages.**

Celebrate Australia's diverse history and rich culture with visits to regional towns, gardens and attractions. You will also travel on rail lines which don't have scheduled passenger services, making this a real adventure.

This exceptional journey through some of Australia's most breathtaking scenery features sandstone cliffs by the Hawkesbury River, the stunning coastline to Newcastle, the far regions of the Central West and the Jurassic rainforest of the Blue Mountains.

Stroll around the Hunter Valley wineries, roam the spectacular Mayfield Garden, while sampling the finest produce that the region has to offer.

**Unpack only once and enjoy everything that slow rail touring provides. The itinerary is designed so that we only travel during daylight hours. We don't want you to miss any of the spectacular scenery.**

Highlights include:

- A 'Riverboat Postman' cruise on the Hawkesbury River,
- The Hunter Valley,
- Werris Creek,
- Orange Farmers Market,
- Mayfield Garden,
- Kandos and the Capertee Valley,
- Blue Mountains Villages

**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

**Sightseeing** is included in private chartered coaches at each stop for off train excursions, and we also offer the unique 'Aurora Explorer' concept.

**5 Days and 4 Nights**

**Departs:** Sydney Central  
9 September 2020  
9:30am Wednesday

**Returns:** Sydney Central  
13 September 2020  
6:30pm Sunday

**Pricing (GST inclusive)**

Twin Share ..... \$3,495 per person  
Single ..... \$3,495

**All inclusive  
No hidden  
costs**





# Your carriage awaits you!

You might remember the iconic Southern Aurora running between Sydney and Melbourne from the 1960's to the 1980's. The darling of Australian travel, the Southern Aurora was first class in its day.

Vintage Rail Journeys is proud to share with you our passion for Australian railway history. Our heritage partners have lovingly restored these carriages to their original condition and maintained them ever since. This is luxury 1960's style, and we hope you love the experience.

## Sleeping Arrangements

The Aurora Australis will be stabled overnight for sleeping, and you may elect to sleep on the train in a twinette (2 to a cabin) or a roomette (single use only). The Twinette cabin has bunk beds and one member of your party will need to be able to climb a ladder up to and down from the top bunk.



## Fully escorted

Your heritage Rail tour will be led by a professional, trained Tour Manager, assisted by on board crew to ensure you will enjoy a trouble free adventure.

## Luggage

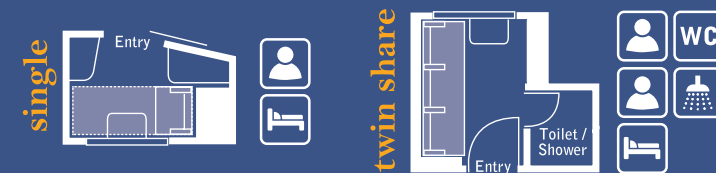
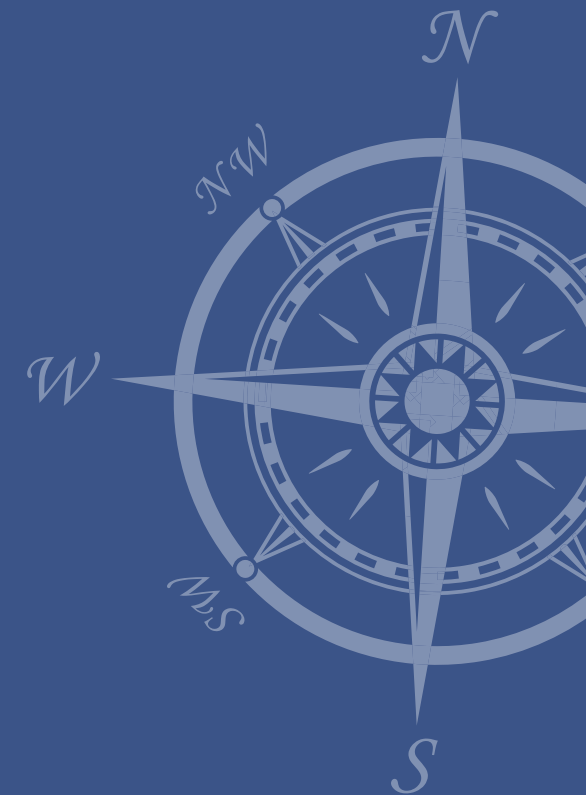
Your in-cabin luggage allowance is a 30kg per person suitcase plus a suit bag. There is limited hanging space available in the cabin. If this Rail tour is part of a longer tour, you will be able to store larger items in our luggage van.

## Wine and alcoholic drinks

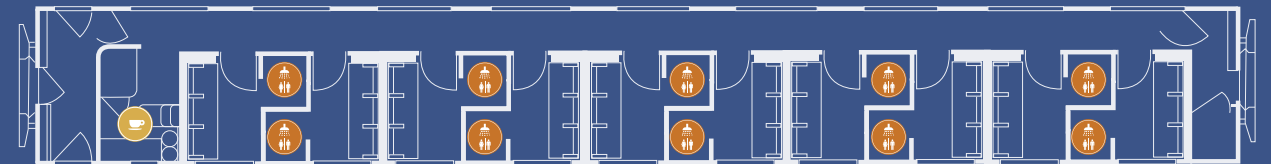
Water, Soft drinks and Juices are included. The bar on the Aurora Australis is licensed to sell alcoholic drinks. These are at additional cost and can be charged to your cabin for the tour duration. In support of local producers, local wines will be sold on the train at cellar door prices.



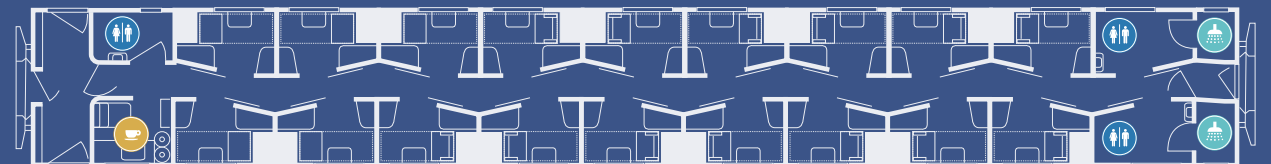
# Carriage plans



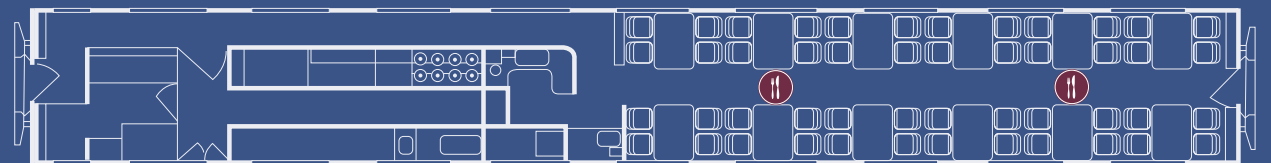
## TWIN-COMPARTMENT



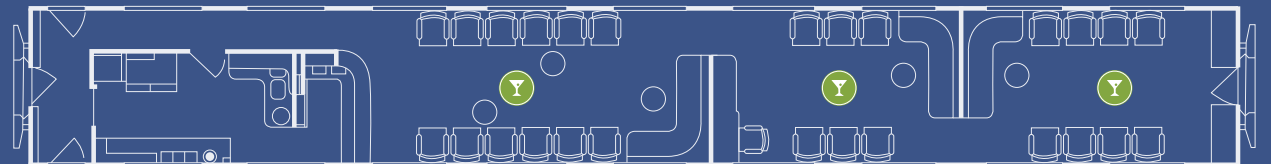
## SINGLE COMPARTMENT



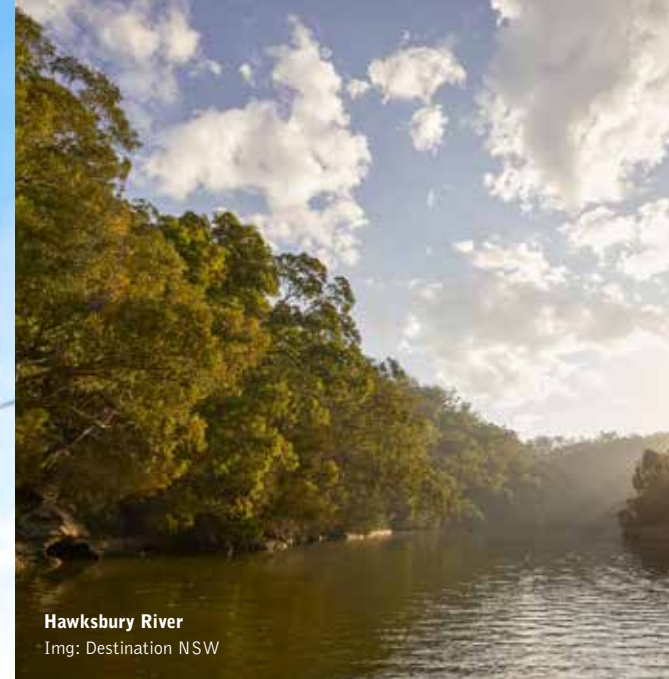
## RESTAURANT



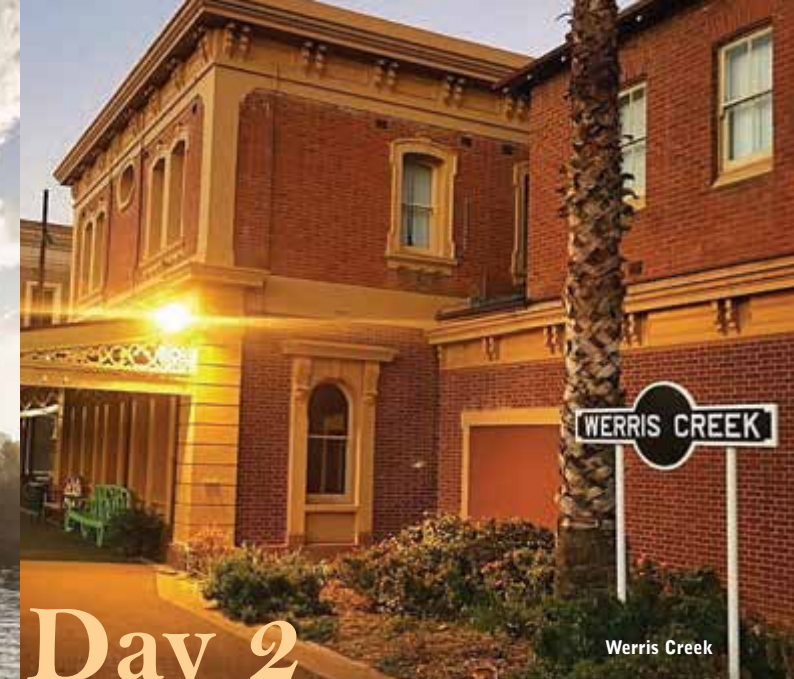
## LOUNGE CAR







Hawkesbury River  
Img: Destination NSW



Werris Creek

## Day 1 Sydney - The Hawkesbury - Cessnock

**Wednesday 9 September 2020**



Your Golden West adventure starts at Sydney's Central Station. Once on board, you can choose to sit in the lounge or dining cars, or your private cabin while we travel to the spectacular Hawkesbury River. We will depart the train for a lunch cruise with the 'Riverboat Postman'.

We then rejoin the train and travel right by the water at Mullet Creek and alongside Brisbane Water. We skirt around Newcastle and on to Maitland in the Hunter Valley. The train will be stabled for the night at Neath Station on the private South Maitland Railway – they don't have any passengers on this line!

*Subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control.*

## Day 2 Hunter Valley Gardens & Vineyards – Werris Creek

**Thursday 10 September 2020**



Today we will 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 Neath Station throughout the afternoon in preparation for a 3pm departure. We will travel the remainder of the Hunter Valley, and on through Ardglen Tunnel to Werris Creek. We will visit the Australian Rail Monument and Railway Journeys Museum. Dinner will be served on-board the train at Werris Creek Station, where we will be stabled for the night.

*Subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control.*







Cook Park Begonias



Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum

## Day 4

## Day 3 Werris Creek – Binnaway Junction – Orange

**Friday 11 September 2020**



Enjoy breakfast on board the train traveling along the freight only line from Werris Creek, arriving at Binnaway Junction by mid-morning. At Binnaway Junction, you will

have the opportunity to quickly stretch your legs while the train changes direction.

We will re-board our train and enjoy lunch as we make our way to Orange. Visit the beautiful Cook Park, 4.5 hectares of parkland in the heart of Orange. This is a 145 year old, traditional Victorian style park which embodies the seasonal colours of Orange.

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.*



## Orange – Mayfield Garden – Bathurst – Kandos

**Saturday 12 September 2020**



Enjoy Breakfast on board as we head to 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 or the Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum. We will then have the rare opportunity to ride the closed Gwabegar line from Wallerawang, up the Capertee Valley to Rylstone and then back to Kandos, the town famous for its cement works.

We will take a short walk through town for an after hours visit to the Kandos Museum, and learn more about the fascinating industrial history of this town. We will then enjoy a true Aussie dinner at the Kandos Hall, followed by a bush dance! We will stay for the night in the tranquility of Kandos.

*Subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control.*



Mayfield Gardens  
Img: Destination NSW





**Leura, Blue Mountains**  
Img: Destination NSW



**Scenic World, Blue Mountains**  
Img: Destination NSW



**Katoomba**  
Img: Destination NSW

## Day 5 Kandos – Katoomba – Sydney



**Sunday 13 September 2020**

Enjoy breakfast as we travel back down the stunning Gwabegar line and cross the Great Dividing Range to Wallerawang. On through Lithgow and through the 10 tunnels that replaced the Lithgow Zig-Zag, then cross the Darling Causeway on the way to Mount Victoria.

Stopping at Mount Victoria, you will depart the train and board your Blue Mountains Explorer Bus, which gives you access to the 'Hop-on, Hop-Off' service to explore the vibrant Blue Mountains Villages in your own time. Walk out to the edge at Echo Point, see the majestic Three Sisters. Take a 'Scenic World' ride (optional extra – tickets may be bought on the train). Check the waterfalls and the vibrant villages. Visit Everglades Historic House and Gardens. Leuralla Toy and Railway Museum is a must visit!

Lunch is at your own arrangements in the picturesque Blue Mountains villages.

At 3:00pm we will again board the train for our return to Central Station. You will have had a truly memorable Vintage Rail Journey!

*Subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control.*



**The Three Sisters, Blue Mountains**  
Img: Destination NSW





# Information and Bookings

## How to make a reservation

Phone Vintage Rail Journeys on **1300 421 422** to make your reservation. You will be asked to complete and send in a booking form (10% deposit required).

Full payment is due 65 days prior to tour departure as per the booking form. Cancellation charges are detailed on the booking form.

## Joining and departing the tour

All tours commence and terminate at Sydney Central Railway Station. Approximately 10 days prior to departure you will receive a welcome letter confirming the tour departure time and also any information specific to the tour on which you are travelling.

## 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.

Tours are planned by G'Day Rail (Australia) Pty Ltd trading as Vintage Rail Journeys

## Legend



Breakfast



Lunch



Dinner