



ex-Sydney

North Coast Rail Tour



Winter 2021



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 our fleet of newly restored 1960s ex-Southern Aurora sleeping carriages.

This exceptional 4 day, 3 night 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 crystal clear creeks and uncrowded surf beaches of the Macleay Valley Coast, the breathtaking hinterland rainforest and eclectic community of Byron Bay, before crossing the border to the Queensland capital of Brisbane.

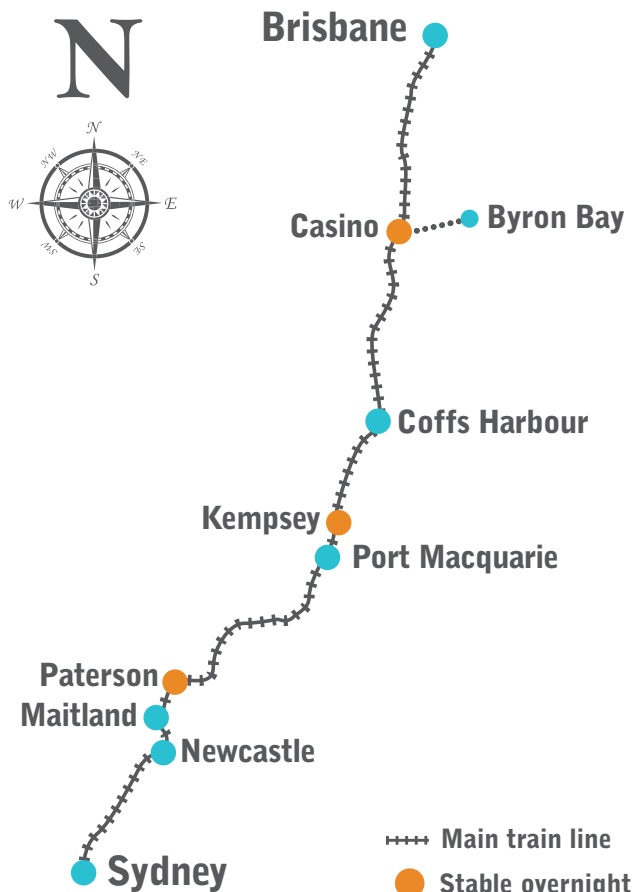
B Breakfast

L Lunch

D Dinner



During the North Coast Rail Tour we spend time in the ancestral lands of the Wonnarua; Bunghutti and Bundjalung people.



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:

- Historic Maitland & Morpeth;
- North Coast Rail Line;
- Arakoon National Park;
- Kempsey Museum;
- Byron Bay Solar Train;
- Food and shopping Byron Bay style;
- Heritage Rail Cars.

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.

4 Days and 3 Nights

Commences: Sydney Central
9:30am Wednesday

Concludes: Roma Street
5:00pm Saturday

Pricing (GST inclusive)

Twin Share: \$2,795 per person
Single: \$2,795 per person

Please contact us on **1300 421 422**; visit www.vintagerailjourneys.com.au; or contact your travel agent for available dates.



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

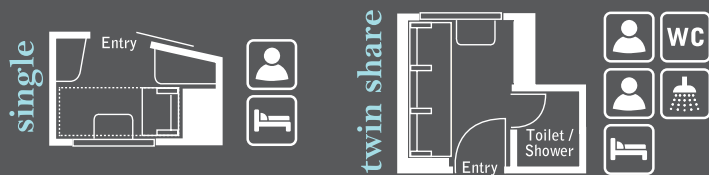
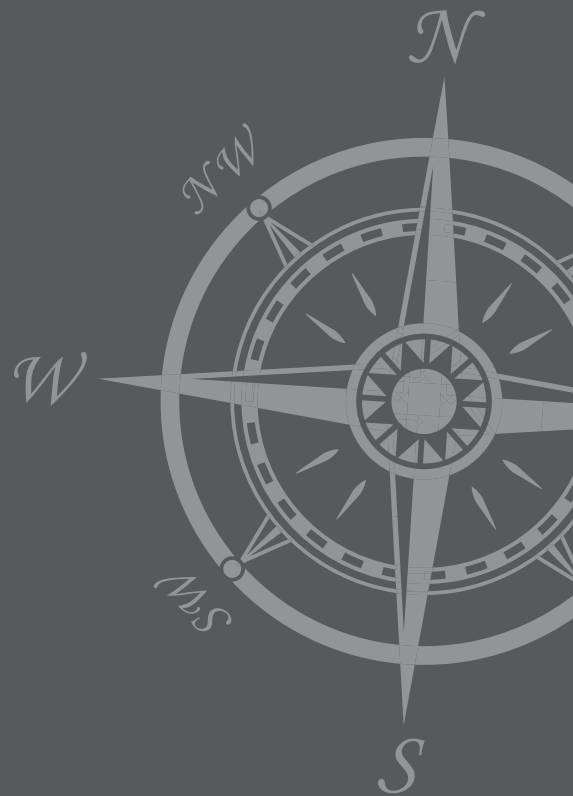
Luggage

As a guide, the space for luggage in the Twinette cabins is 98cm length x 24cm width x 59cm height. There is also hanging space available in the cabin. In the Roomette cabins, the luggage can be placed on the luggage racks above your footrest. Slim or soft luggage can be stowed under your seat. If this rail tour is part of a longer tour, you will be able to store larger items in our luggage van.

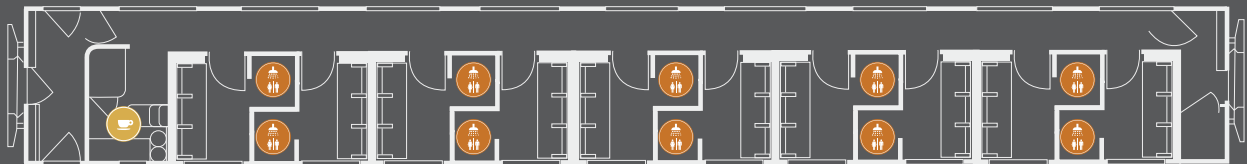
Wine and alcoholic drinks

Water, Soft drinks and Juices are included. The bar on the *Aurora Australis* is licensed to sell alcoholic drinks and are at an additional cost.

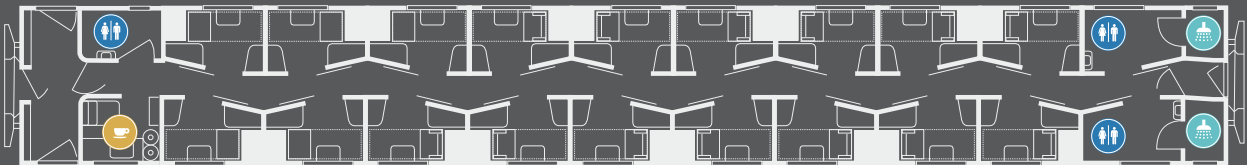
Carriage plans



TWIN-COMPARTMENT



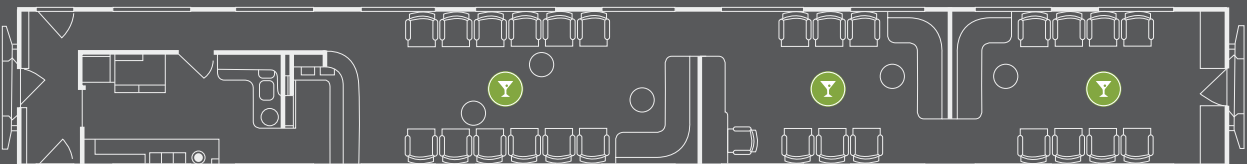
SINGLE COMPARTMENT



RESTAURANT



LOUNGE CAR







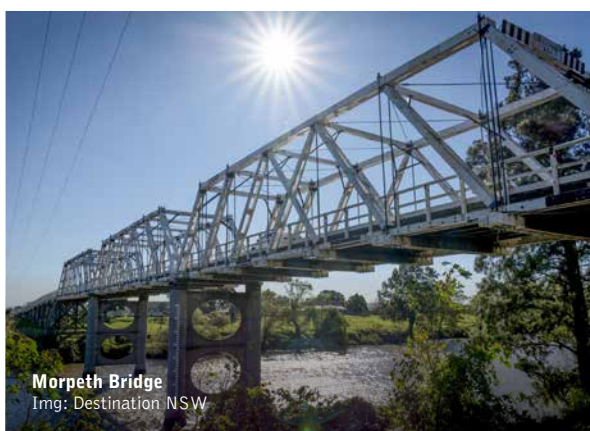
Day 1

Sydney – Maitland – Paterson

Wednesday

D Your North Coast adventure starts at Sydney's Central Station. Welcome aboard the *Aurora Australis* where you can choose to sit in the lounge or dining cars, or your private cabin while we 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.

At Maitland we disembark and have two options for you: Discover Maitland where you will spend time at the Visitor Information Centre, Maitland Regional Art Gallery, and take a walk along the Levee, a shopping precinct running parallel to the Hunter River. Or, Discover Morpeth, an historic inland river port alongside the Hunter River. A visit to Morpeth is a real journey through time.



Morpeth Bridge
Img: Destination NSW

Visit the narrow laneways, walk along sandstone footpaths and into heritage buildings where you'll discover unique shopping, artisan treasures and delightful treats.

Lunch today is at your own choice and cost.

Your 'Aurora Explorer' buses will return you to Paterson throughout the afternoon where we will be stabling at the Paterson Rail Motor Museum.

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

Subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control.

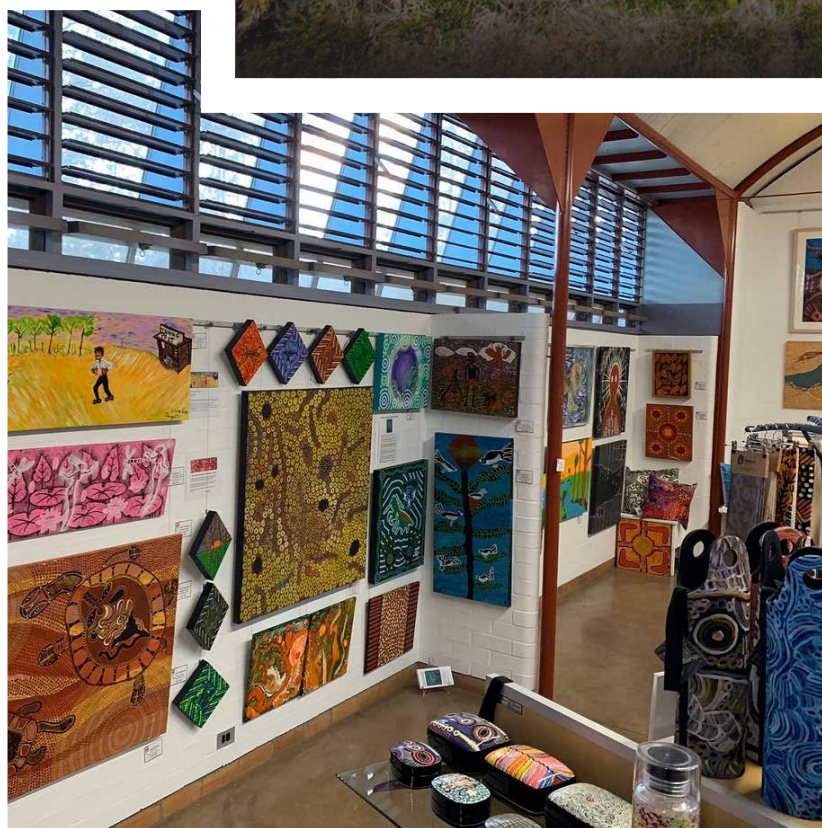
Day 2

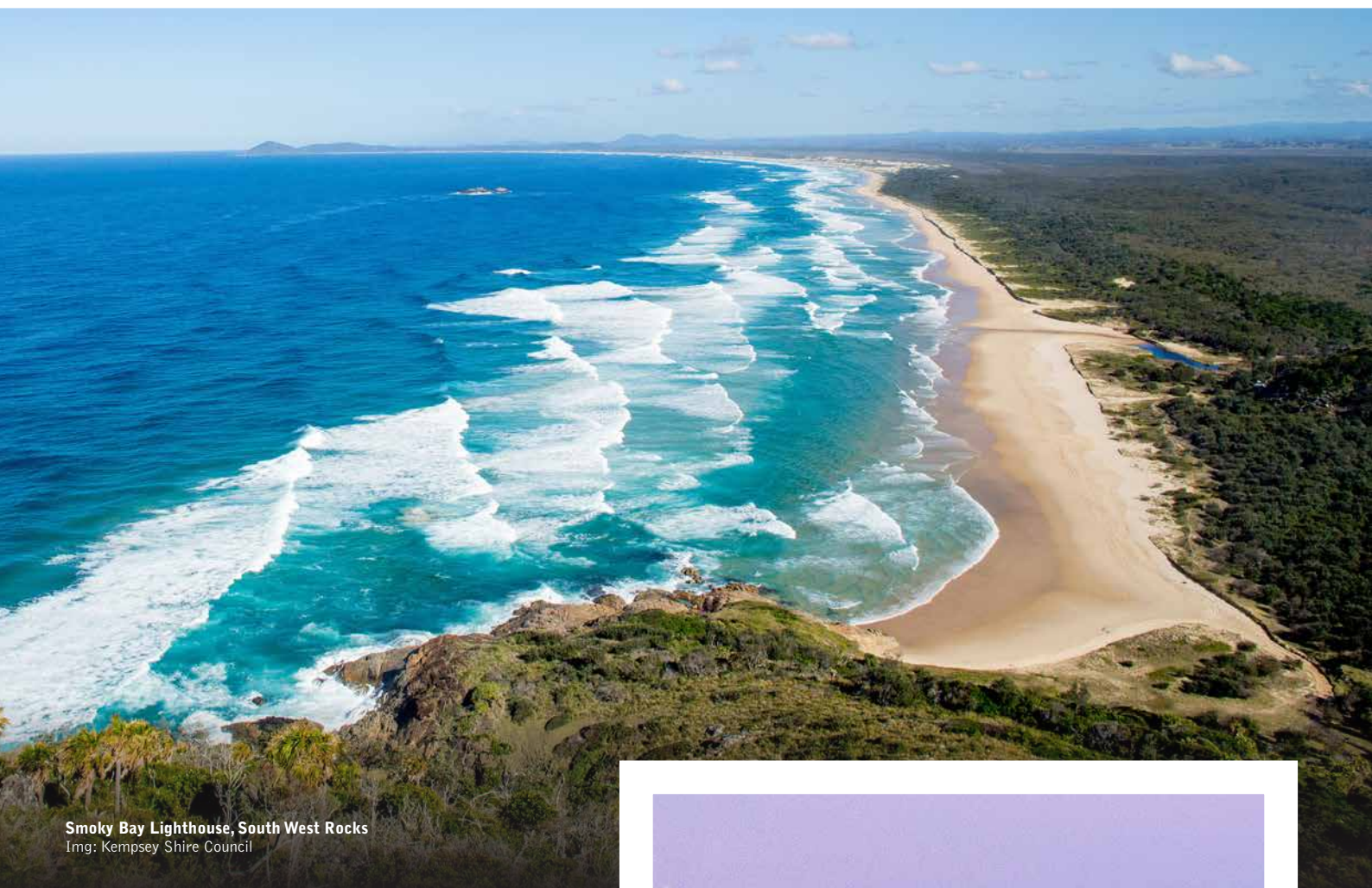
Paterson – Kempsey

Thursday

B Enjoy breakfast on board as we head along the
D North Coast Railway line to Kempsey. The 'Aurora Explorer' bus will take you into Kempsey where you will visit this mid-north coast town sitting by the Macleay River. We will 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. We will also 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.





Weather permitting we will also spend time in 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 gaol.

Lunch today is at your own choice and cost.

Your 'Aurora Explorer' buses will return you to Kempsey station throughout the afternoon 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.





The Farm, Byron Bay
 Img: Destination NSW



The Stone and Wood Brewery, Byron Bay
 Img: Destination NSW

Day 3

Kempsey – Byron Bay – Casino

Friday

- B** Enjoy breakfast on board as we keep travelling towards the
- D** Northern Rivers Region and today stop at the Casino Railway Station. The 'Aurora Explorer' buses will once again meet us to take you to Byron Bay, a place known for its natural attractions and eclectic community. You will have the opportunity to ride the Byron Bay Solar Train the world's first solar train.

While at Byron Bay, guests will have the opportunity to join the 'Aurora Explorer' bus with stops including The Farm, an 86-acre working biological farm in Ewingsdale; Stone and Wood Brewery who are local, independent and inspired by the idea of the 'village brewery'.



Lovers of shopping and fashion are in for a treat today in Byron Bay. The 'Aurora Explorer' bus will take you to Habitat North Beach which is nestled in the heart of the Arts and Industry Estate, and is Byron Bay's latest community and lifestyle hub. Of course no trip to Byron Bay is complete without a walk along Fletcher Street in the CBD. Dotted with all the best Byron Bay shops including charming boutiques, stocking luxuriant fashion labels and one-of-a-kind homeware pieces. You can also go to the beach, visit the many cafes, restaurants and bars or just wander through Byron Bay today.

Lunch today is at your own choice and cost.

Your 'Aurora Explorer' buses will return you to the heritage listed Old Casino Railway Station throughout the afternoon 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

Casino - Roma Street Station

Saturday

B Enjoy your last Breakfast on board with us this morning at the Old Casino Railway Station. Today you leave the *Aurora Australis* and board Heritage Rail Cars heading towards the border and into Queensland. Similar to the Rail Car you travelled on yesterday in Byron Bay, these self propelled vintage trains are as cute as a button! As part of your journey today you will traverse the Border Loop Spiral and tunnels, where the railway climbs 30 metres without making any forward progress. We hope you enjoy spending time on these rail cars today as you take the last leg of your North Coast Rail Tour with us.

Due to the limited capacity of the Heritage Rail Cars, there will be an early and late departure from Casino.

The early departure from Casino will enjoy an afternoon guided tour in the Queensland Capital, Brisbane.

The late departure from Casino will spend the morning exploring the vibrant regional centre of Lismore, home to one of NSW's most artistic communities, full of performers, painters, poets and musicians.

Concluding at Roma Street Station at 5:00pm, it's time to say goodbye to your Vintage Rail Journeys crew as you either head home or to your next adventure in sunny Queensland.

We hope you have had a truly memorable Vintage Rail Journey!

Subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control.





Information and Bookings

How to make a reservation

Visit www.vintagerailjourneys.com.au to complete our online booking form. You will be asked to provide a 10% deposit by credit card or direct deposit.

Full payment is due 90 days prior to tour departure as per the booking form. Cancellation charges are detailed on the booking form.

Joining and departing the tour

The North Coast Rail Tour commences at Roma Street Station, Brisbane, and concludes 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 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.

Luggage

As a guide, the space for luggage in the Twinette cabins is 98cm length x 24cm width x 59cm height. There is also hanging space available in the cabin. In the Roomette cabins, the luggage can be placed on the luggage racks above your footrest. Slim or soft luggage can be stowed under your seat. 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 and are at an additional cost.

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

Legend

B Breakfast **L** Lunch **D** Dinner