

2022 Season

# Vintage Rail Journeys



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

Vintage Rail Journeys has developed a series of iconic rail tours travelling through some of Australia's most breathtaking scenery in regional NSW. Our aim is to 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.

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

**Sleep** on the train in restored ex-Southern Aurora Sleeping carriages. Your private compartment 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 at each stop for off-train experiences on our 'Aurora Explorer' fleet of coaches.

All inclusive  
No hidden costs





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# 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 all first class in its day.**

Vintage Rail Journeys is proud to share with you our passion for Australian railway history. We have lovingly restored these carriages to their original condition. 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 compartment) or a roomette (solo use only). The Twinette compartment 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.

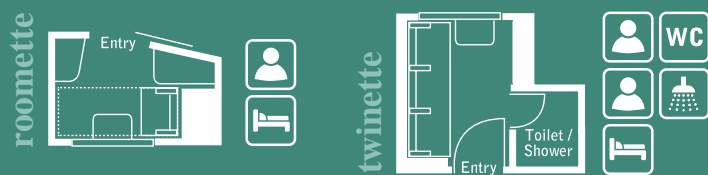
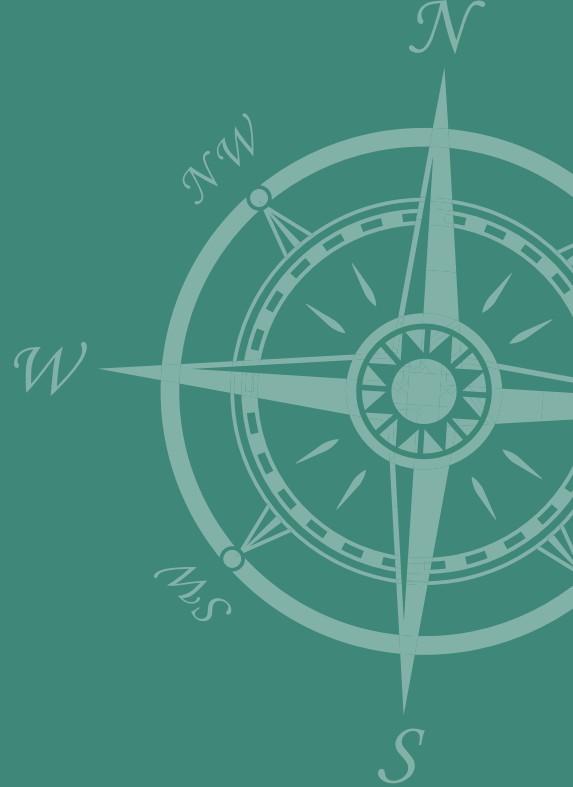
## Luggage

We recommend the use of aircraft 'carry on' luggage as there is limited space in the compartments. There is also hanging space available in the compartment. In the Roomette compartments, 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.

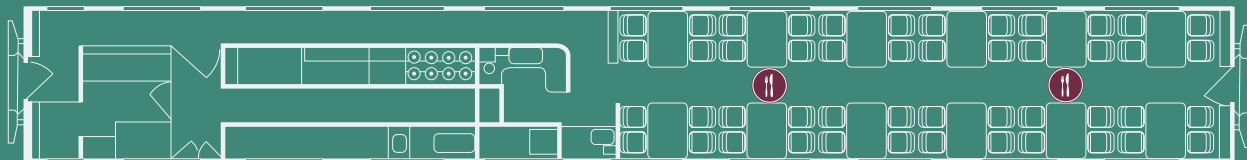
## Wine and alcoholic drinks

Water, Soft drinks and Juices are included. The *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.

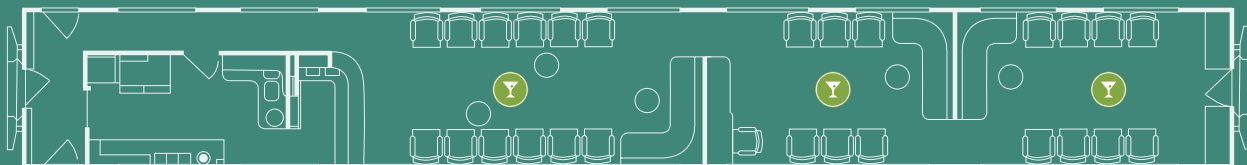
# Carriage plans



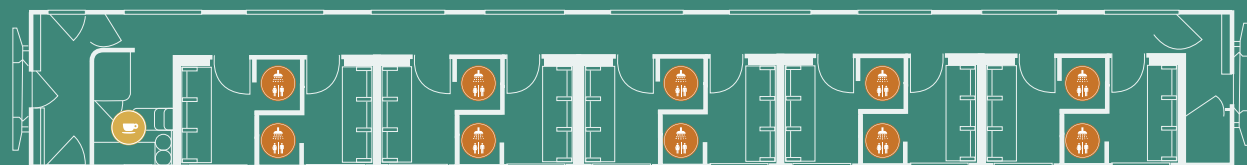
## DINING CARRIAGE



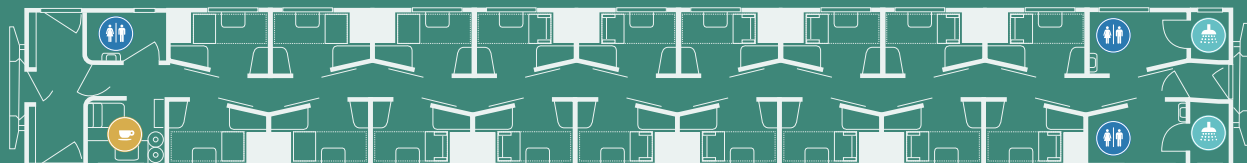
## LOUNGE CARRIAGE



## TWINETTE COMPARTMENT



## ROOMETTE (SOLO) COMPARTMENT







# Golden West Rail Tour

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.

## 5 Days and 4 Nights

**Commences:** Central Station, Sydney\*  
9:00am Sunday

**Concludes:** Central Station, Sydney  
6:30pm Thursday

\*May depart from Katoomba.

## Pricing (GST inclusive)

**Twinette:** \$4,250 per person

**Roomette (Solo):** \$4,250 per person

Please contact us on **1300 421 422**; visit [www.vintagerailjourneys.com.au](http://www.vintagerailjourneys.com.au); or contact your travel agent for available dates.

### Highlights include:

- A 'Riverboat Postman' cruise on the Hawkesbury River;
- The Hunter Valley;
- Werris Creek;
- Mayfield Garden;
- Kandos and the Capertee Valley;
- Blue Mountains Villages.

**B** Breakfast

**L** Lunch

**D** Dinner



During the Golden West Rail Tour we spend time in the ancestral lands of the Darkinjung; Darug; Eora; Kuringgai; Wonmarua; Wiradjuri and Gundungurra people.

# Day 1

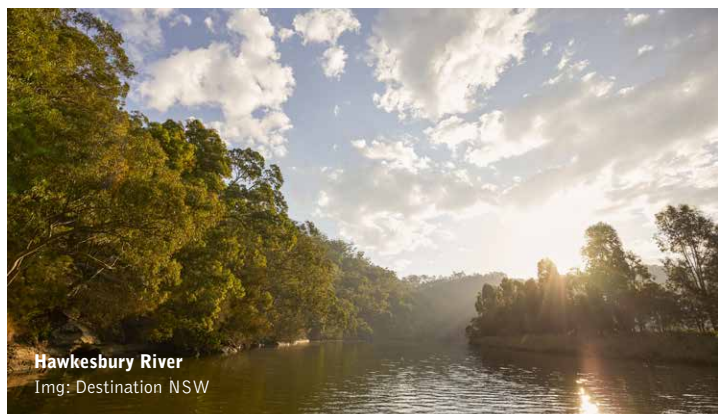
## Sydney - The Hawkesbury - Paterson

### Sunday

**L** Your Golden West adventure starts at Central Station, Sydney. Once on board, you can choose to sit in the lounge or dining cars, or your private compartment 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 river 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 The Rail Motor Society, Paterson.

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





# Day 2

## Hunter Valley Gardens & Vineyards – Werris Creek

### Monday

**B** Today we will enjoy the best that the Hunter Valley region has to offer using our private  
**D** '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.

Coaches will also take you to 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 Maitland Station throughout the afternoon in preparation for 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, before we move to the rail yard where we will be stabled for the night.

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



# Day 3

## Werris Creek – Binnaway Junction – Orange

### Tuesday

**B** Enjoy breakfast on board the train traveling  
**L** along the freight only line from Werris  
**D** Creek, arriving at Binnaway Junction by mid-morning.

We will continue our journey and enjoy lunch on the train as we make our way to Orange. Visit the beautiful Cook Park, 4.5 hectares of parkland in the heart of Orange.

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

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





# Day 4

## Orange – Mayfield Garden – Bathurst – Kandos

### Wednesday

**B** Enjoy Breakfast on board as we head to Bathurst, where we will board coaches 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.

At the garden, lunch will be provided for you to enjoy at your leisure in numerous picnic spots.

Alternatively, visit Abercrombie House, an outstanding example of Victorian Tudor style architecture, built by the Stewart family in the 1870s. The Morgan family purchased the house in 1969, have made major restorations and currently live in the house. Lunch will be provided at Abercrombie House.

After lunch, our coaches will return us to Bathurst, where we can visit the Bathurst Rail Museum or take a stroll into town. We will then have the rare opportunity to ride the closed Gwabegar line from Wallerawang, up the Capertee Valley.

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 Garden  
Img: Destination NSW



The Three Sisters, Blue Mountains  
Img: Destination NSW

# Day 5

## Kandos – Katoomba – Sydney

### Thursday

**B** 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. Leura Toy and Railway Museum is a must visit!

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

In the afternoon the bus will return you to Katoomba Station where we will board the train for our return to 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.*



# Riverina Rail Tour

Experience the heart of Australia's food bowl, stopping at regional towns and attractions throughout the Riverina. You will also travel on rail lines which don't have scheduled passenger services, making this a real adventure. Come with us to discover acclaimed wines, taste gorgeous fresh produce and explore the natural scenery throughout the region.

## 5 Days and 4 Nights

**Commences:** Central Station, Sydney  
9:00am Sunday

**Concludes:** Central Station, Sydney  
6:30pm Thursday

## Pricing (GST inclusive)

**Twinette:** \$4,250 per person

**Roomette (Solo):** \$4,250 per person

Please contact us on **1300 421 422**; visit [www.vintagerailjourneys.com.au](http://www.vintagerailjourneys.com.au); or contact your travel agent for available dates.

### Highlights include:

- Spectacular sea views from the Illawarra Railway Line;
- Historic Goulburn;
- Coolamon Cheese Factory;
- Piccolo Farm;
- Emeri De Bortoli's Private Garden;
- Temora Rural Museum and Ambulance Museum;
- Blue Mountains Villages.

**B** Breakfast

**L** Lunch

**D** Dinner





During the Riverina Rail Tour we spend time in the ancestral lands of the Gundangara; Wiradjuri; Darug; and Gundungurra people.

--- Main train line    .... Freight line    ● Stable overnight

# Day 1

## Sydney - Moss Vale - Goulburn



The Big Merino  
Img: Destination NSW

### Sunday

**L** Your Riverina adventure starts at Sydney's Central Station. Once on board the *Aurora Australis*, you can choose to sit in the lounge or dining cars, or your private compartment while we travel along the Illawarra Railway Line, through the Royal National Park and offering spectacular views of the South Coast to Wollongong. We then travel on a freight only line up the Illawarra escarpment, pausing at Summit Tank Railway Station, where you are provided with a rare opportunity to take photos of the stunning vista out to sea.

Lunch will be served onboard the train today, so that you can experience all that the *Aurora Australis* has to offer. We join the Main South Line at Moss Vale and continue to Goulburn where we depart the train and hop onto our private 'Aurora Explorer' buses to explore the sights and historic offerings of Australia's oldest inland city. The train will be stable for the night at Goulburn Station.

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



Coolamon Cheese Factory  
 Img: Destination NSW

## Day 2

### Coolamon – Griffith

#### Monday

- B** Enjoy breakfast on board as we leave
- D** Goulburn and continue along the Main South Line. We pass many interesting villages and towns today as well as travel through the Canola Trail, keeping an eye out for the many grain silos adjacent to the rail line. Today we spend time in Coolamon, stopping at the Coolamon Railway Station dated 1881. Coolamon is named after the Wiradjuri word for a vessel carrying goods, children and water, "Gullaman" and this little town offers us a warm welcome.

Flanked by the Train Station at one end of the street and the Fire Station at the other, we have developed an afternoon of ambling the beautifully preserved heritage main street of Coolamon. A stop at the Coolamon Cheese Factory is a must for anyone who likes cheese or is interested in the cheese making process. The Up-To-Date Store, built in 1909 plays host to a variety of museum displays and collections, a stroll through this heritage listed building will bring back memories for some and offer interesting stories for others. The Coolamon Fire Museum hosts a truly amazing private collection of fire fighting equipment, uniforms and memorabilia. Along with heritage museums and buildings, the main street contains many local shops, restaurants and cafes, making this afternoon an unforgettable experience for all.

We will return to the Coolamon Railway Station for an afternoon departure. We will travel along the Yanco to Griffith Line. Dinner will be served on-board the train at Murrumbidgee Grain Siding, where we will be stabled for the night in the serenity of the Australian Bush.

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



## Day 3

### Griffith – Temora

#### Tuesday

- B** This morning we'll board coaches to join the
- D** Piccolo Family (owners of Limone Dining Restaurant) who is hosting our breakfast this morning on their 20 acre farm just outside of Griffith. Using sustainable farming practices, all of their produce is harvested by hand and free of chemicals and pesticides. An excellent way to experience farming in Griffith as well as sample their delicious produce.

After breakfast we will enjoy the best that Griffith has to offer using our private 'Aurora Explorer' shuttle bus. Explorer stops include the Griffith Regional Art Gallery, the Griffith War Memorial Museum, Emeri De Bortoli's Garden 'Il Campo', various wineries, providores and local shops so that you can experience Griffith's distinctive food and wine culture.

Lunch today is at your own choice and cost.

Your 'Aurora Explorer' buses will return you to Griffith Station throughout the afternoon. We will then be travelling on the freight only Lake Cargellico Line. Dinner will be served on-board the train at Temora Rail Yard; where we will be stabled for the night.

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



# Day 4

## Temora – Orange

### **B** Wednesday

**L** Breakfast this morning is on board the *Aurora Australis* before experiencing Temora. Today you can choose one of two Temora tours.

1. The 'Aurora Explorer' Bus takes you directly to the Bundawarra Centre which houses the Temora Rural Museum. Spend the morning experiencing the history of the region including a cottage of hardwood slabs that was Sir Donald Bradman's first home, a one room public school, bush church, country dance hall, printery, flour mill and ambulance station. The Ambulance Museum includes ambulance vehicles and conveyances dating back to 1897 and originating from throughout Australia, including NSW, ACT and Victoria.
2. The 'Aurora Explorer' Bus will take you directly to the Temora Aviation Museum which was built on the site of the biggest and longest lasting RAAF Elementary Flying Training School during World War II. Spend the morning in the three main exhibit buildings, the Museum which is in the original 10 EFTS Guardhouse; the second exhibition area, located in the Engineering Hangar overlooking the aircraft which are currently in maintenance; and the Display Hangar which houses the new exhibitions area along with the aircraft.

Your 'Aurora Explorer' buses will return you to Temora Station and lunch will be served in the Dining Carriages as we travel on freight only lines via Stockinbingal.

There are many freight trains to pass on this single track line, and we are likely to experience substantial delays. Dinner will be served on-board the train as we travel through Parkes and onto the Broken Hill Line to Orange Rail Yard at an unknown time (!) where we will be stabled for the night.

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

# Day 5

## Orange – Katoomba – Sydney

### **Thursday**

**B** Enjoy breakfast as we travel from Orange towards the Great Dividing Range. 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.

In the afternoon we will return you to Katoomba Station where we will 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.*



Katoomba  
Img: Destination NSW



# North Coast Rail Tour

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 uncrowded surf beaches of the Macleay Valley Coast, and the history and heritage of Maitland & Morpeth.

#### Highlights include:

- 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.

#### 5 Days and 4 Nights

**Commences:** Central Station, Sydney  
9:00am Sunday

**Concludes:** Central Station, Sydney  
6:30pm Thursday

#### Pricing (GST inclusive)

**Twinette:** \$4,250 per person

**Roomette (Solo):** \$4,250 per person

Please contact us on **1300 421 422**; visit **[www.vintagerailjourneys.com.au](http://www.vintagerailjourneys.com.au)**; or contact your travel agent for available dates.



Breakfast



Lunch



Dinner





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



# Day 1

## Sydney – Port Macquarie

### Sunday

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

## Port Macquarie – Casino

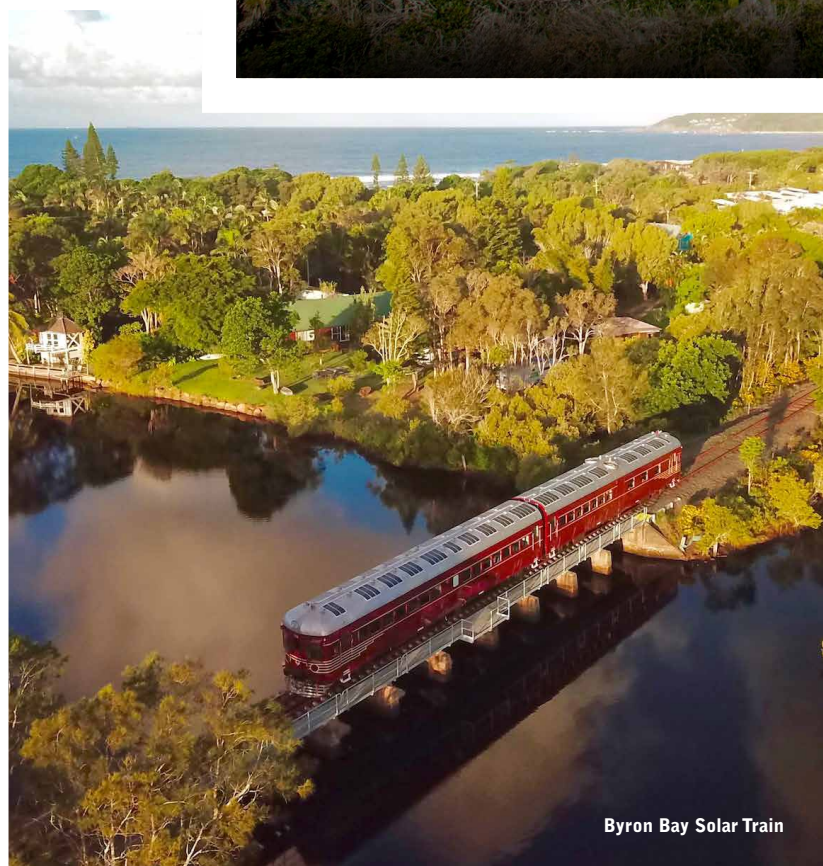
### Monday

- B** Enjoy breakfast on-board the *Aurora Australis* before boarding coaches to explore Port Macquarie.
- L**
- D** 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 tranquil rural landscapes and abundant wildlife on the Hastings River.

We'll return to the train after lunch, as we continue down 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 served in the dining carriages on-board the train.

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

## Casino – Byron Bay – Kempsey

### Tuesday

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

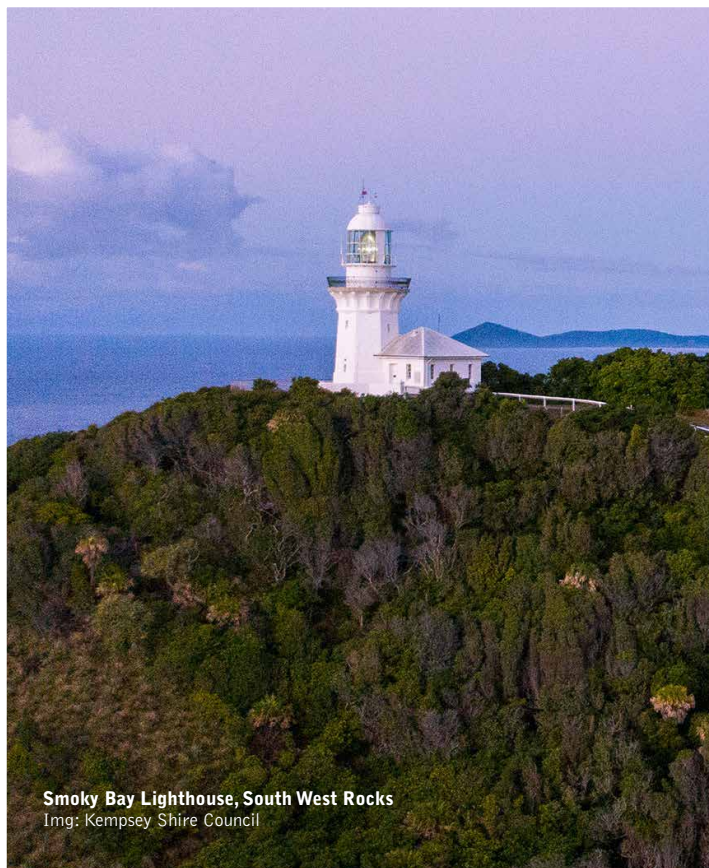
While at Byron Bay, you have the option of visiting Zentveld's Coffee Plantation and Roastery which will see you walking through the plantation and seeing the coffee being grown, watching as the team roast the beans and tasting their Australian coffee creations. You'll also visit Duck Creek Macadamia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

You will then ride the Byron Bay Solar Train, the world's first solar train, from North Beach into Byron Bay. 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 stabling for the night.

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

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



**Smoky Bay Lighthouse, South West Rocks**  
Img: Kempsey Shire Council





The Slim Dusty Centre  
Img: Slim Dusty Centre



Dunghutti-Ngaku Aboriginal Art Gallery  
Img: Visit NSW

## Day 4

### Kempsey - Paterson

#### Wednesday

- B** Enjoy breakfast on-board *Aurora Australis* at the Kempsey Railway Yard.
- L**
- D** 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, which showcases and markets work of prominent, established and emerging Aboriginal artists of the Dunghutti region and mid-North Coast area.



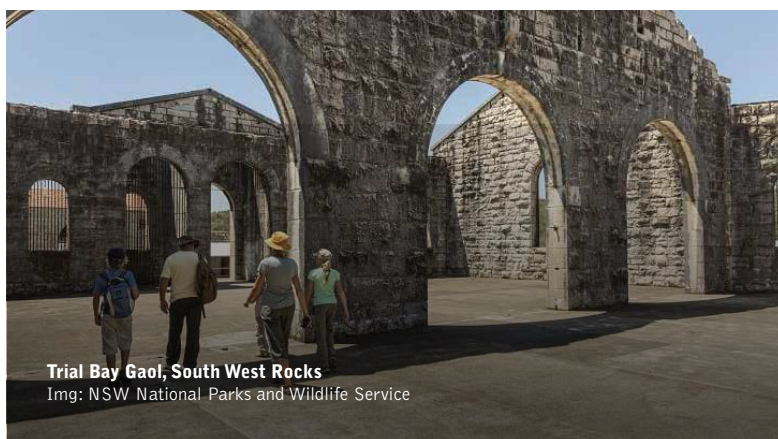


We will then visit the Slim Dusty Centre, an innovative museum dedicated to Australia's iconic legend Slim Dusty where you will experience a wealth of music history and Australian culture and art. You will also enjoy lunch at the Slim Dusty Centre.

Your Aurora Explorer coaches will return you to Kempsey Railway Station 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.*



**Trial Bay Gaol, South West Rocks**  
 Img: NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

# Day 5

## Paterson - Central Station, Sydney

### Thursday

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

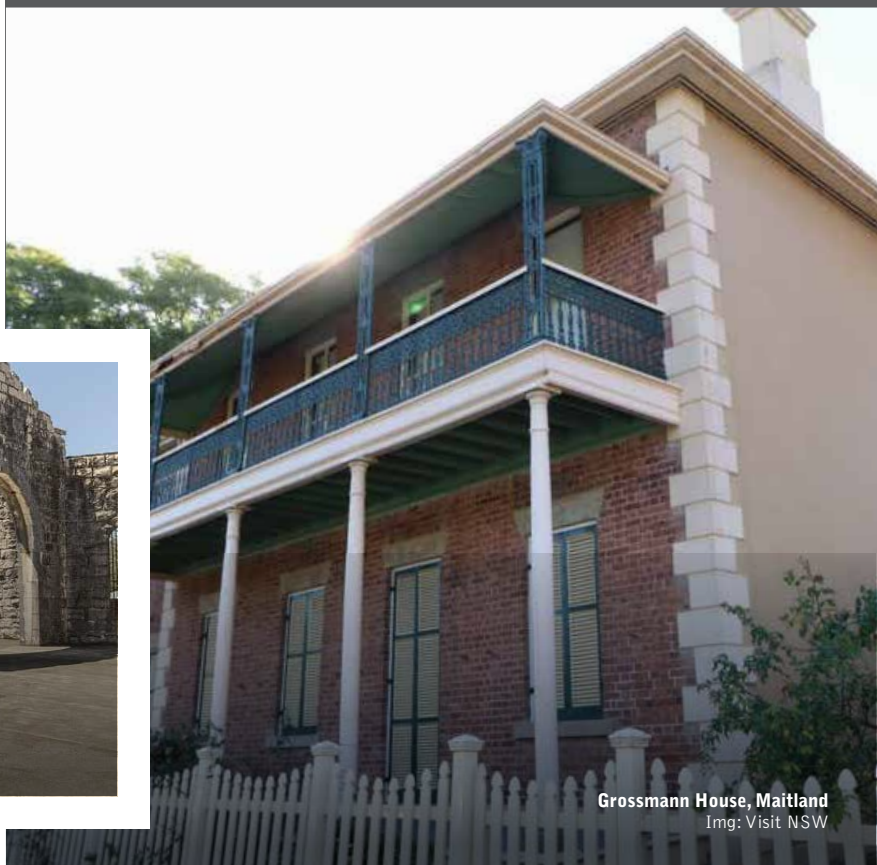
Today we have two options for you: Discover Maitland where you will spend time at the 1870 built Grossmann House, restored by the National Trust in the 1960's and the Maitland Regional Art Gallery.

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.*



**Grossmann House, Maitland**  
 Img: Visit NSW





# Information and Bookings

## How to make a reservation

Visit [www.vintagerailjourneys.com.au](http://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

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.

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

## Legend



Breakfast



Lunch



Dinner