



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; or contact your travel agent for available dates.

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.



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

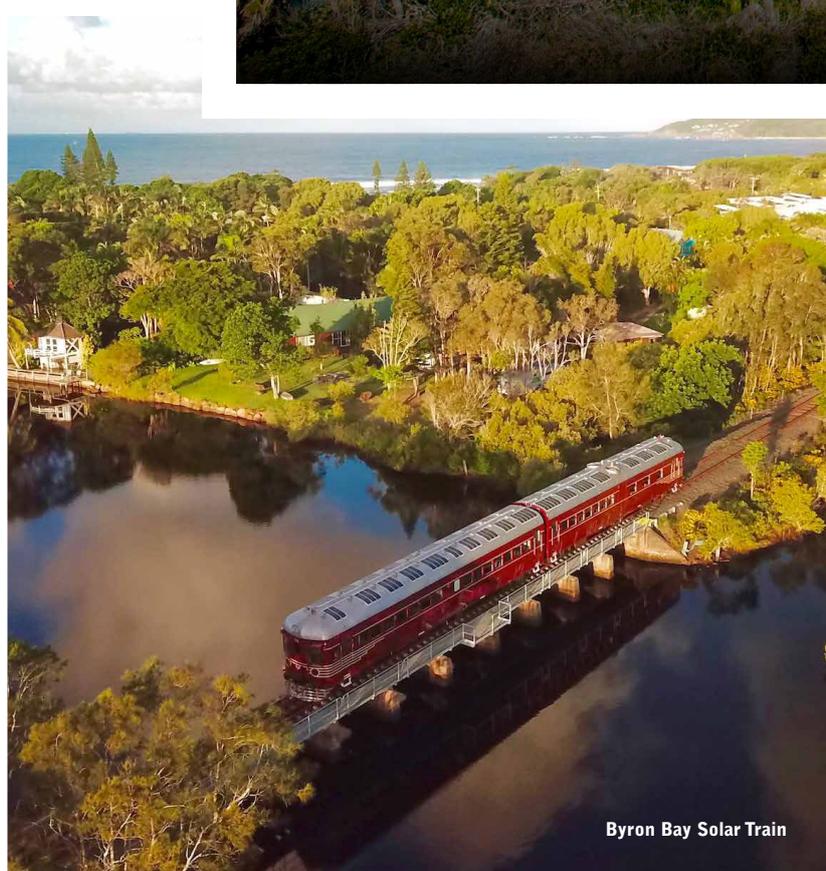
Monday

- 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.



Zentveld's Coffee Plantation and Roastery

Byron Bay Solar Train

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*
- L** at the Kempsey Railway Yard.
- 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.



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!

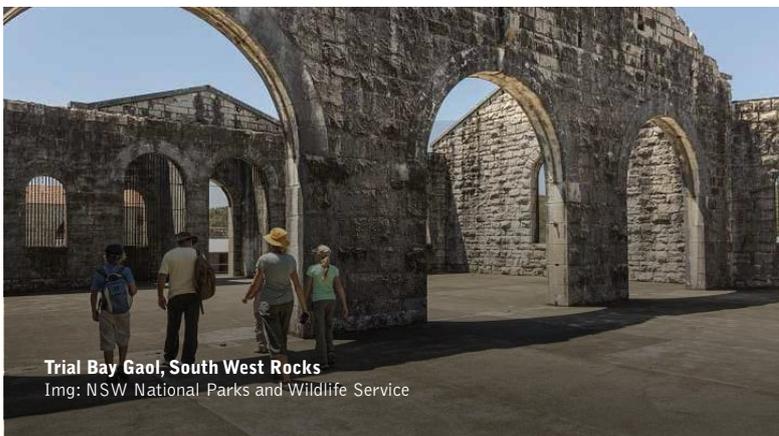
Subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control.

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.

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



Grossmann House, Maitland
Img: Visit NSW



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

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