

**AUSTRALIA****VINTAGE RAIL JOURNEYS: NORTH COAST RAIL TOUR** (TOUR CODE: 14669)**STARTS AND ENDS**

in Sydney

TRAVEL PERIODS21 Apr 25 - 30 Jun 25 & 02 Feb
26 - 27 Apr 26**EXPERIENCE****Cultural**
Rail**TRAVEL STYLE**

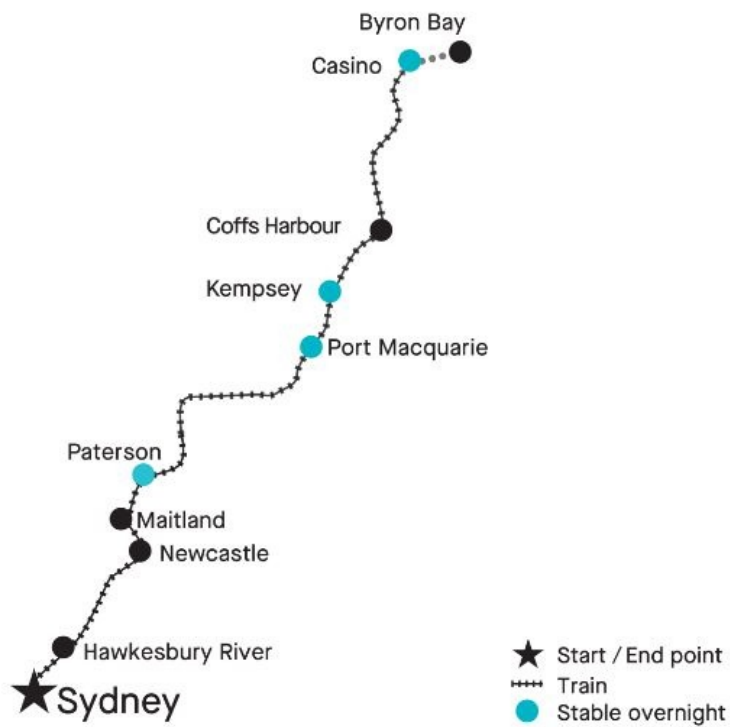
Rail Journeys

The North Coast Rail Tour is quickly becoming a favourite. Each day brings a new perspective of the stunning NSW coastline. Explore the picturesque Hastings River at Port Macquarie, the lush hinterland rainforest and vibrant community of the Northern Rivers, as well as the pristine creeks and tranquil surf beaches of the Macleay Valley Coast.

Highlights

- Discover Port Macquarie on a picturesque lunch cruise
- Experience the stunning views and history of the Byron Bay Lighthouse
- Uncover Australia's cultural heritage at the Slim Dusty Centre in Kempsey
- Explore Maitland's rich history and culture through a day of sightseeing

Embark on a memorable North Coast adventure aboard the Aurora Australis, starting from Sydney's Central Station. Travel through scenic landscapes, from the Hawkesbury River to the stunning North Coast. Explore Port Macquarie with a tranquil river cruise, visit Byron Bay's iconic lighthouse or Zentveld's Coffee Plantation, and discover the rich history of Kempsey and Trial Bay Gaol. Experience local culture, indulge in delicious meals, and soak in the beauty of New South Wales before returning to Sydney after a five-day rail journey.



INCLUSIONS

- All-inclusive dining with a selection of wines and beverages
- Four nights private ensuite accommodation onboard the train in a Heritage Twin Cabin
- Hospitality Attendant available to assist you, answer your questions, or prepare a comforting cup of tea or coffee
- Off-train excursions and entrance fees as per itinerary

ITINERARY

Day 1 Sydney McLeay Valley

The North Coast adventure begins at Sydney Central Station aboard the Aurora Australis. Choose to unwind in the lounge carriage or settle into your cabin as the journey north unfolds. Lunch will be served as the train heads towards Kundabung. The afternoon offers a mix of trivia and music while enjoying breathtaking views of the Hawkesbury River, Mullet Creek and Brisbane Water. After passing Newcastle and Maitland in the Hunter Valley, the train follows the North Coast Line, continuing alongside the Gloucester River. Meet fellow passengers over dinner onboard as the train stables for the night at Kundabung.

Lunch, Dinner



Day **2**

Port Macquarie

Enjoy breakfast onboard the Aurora Australis before boarding coaches for a scenic exploration of Port Macquarie.

Embark on a relaxing lunch cruise along the tranquil Hastings River, where you may spot dolphins, turtles, osprey and sea eagles. Take in the picturesque rural landscapes and abundant wildlife. After lunch onboard, travel by coach to Kempsey Station to rejoin the train. This afternoon, enjoy more stunning scenery as the train journeys inland before returning to the coast, passing Sawtell and Coffs Harbour. The train will stable for the night at Nammoonna.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **3**

Byron Bay

Enjoy breakfast onboard the Aurora Australis before selecting one of two off-train experiences for the day.

Option 1 – Byron Bay Lighthouse

Travel by coach to Byron Bay to visit the iconic Byron Bay Lighthouse. Built in the early 20th century to guide ships along

the coast, this lighthouse stands proudly at the most easterly point of mainland Australia. Once operated by resident keepers until 1989, it now features an automated light visible from the township of Byron Bay.

Option 2 – Zentvelds Coffee Plantation

Alternatively, visit Zentvelds Coffee Farm & Roastery, located in the heart of the Ballina-Byron Hinterland. Offering a unique 'crop to cup' experience, the farm produces, processes, roasts, and serves its own coffee beans, all cultivated and supplied from the stunning Northern Rivers region.

Next, journey aboard the Byron Solar Train, a world-first heritage train powered by solar energy. This restored 1949-era two-carriage train travels along a three-kilometre coastal track connecting Byron Town Centre with the North Beach precinct. As you relax, enjoy views of littoral rainforest, endangered coastal wetlands and the scenic Belongil Creek, part of Cape Byron Marine Park.

Following the morning's activities, enjoy lunch at the North Byron Hotel, a peaceful haven offering great food, music and the relaxed atmosphere Byron Bay is known for. Afterward, coaches will take you to The Farm before returning to the train at Casino. Dinner will be served onboard as the journey continues south, with the evening spent stabling at Kundabung.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **4**

Kempsey

Enjoy breakfast onboard the train before boarding coaches for a scenic drive to the Trial Bay Gaol. Opened in 1886 after 13 years of construction, it's hard to imagine building a prison in such a beautiful location. Today, this historic ruin stands as a tribute to those who lived and died here, with a museum and memorial providing insight into life during that time.

Next, visit the Slim Dusty Centre in Kempsey, an innovative museum celebrating Australia's cultural icons, Slim Dusty and Joy McKean. The museum honours the significant influence these two figures had on rural and regional Australia's country music scene. Enjoy lunch at the centre before returning to the train. Continue south along the North Coast Railway line, arriving at The Rail Motor Society in Paterson, where the train will be stable for the night. As sunset casts its golden light over the rolling hills of prime dairy country, relax and enjoy dinner onboard before retiring for the evening in Paterson.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **5**

Maitland Sydney

Enjoy your final breakfast onboard the Aurora Australis at The Rail Motor Society in Paterson. Today, explore Maitland, where you'll visit the 1870-built Grossmann House, beautifully restored by the National Trust in the 1960s and the Maitland Regional Art Gallery. Afterward, board the train for the last time and savour lunch onboard. As the journey takes you past Brisbane Water and the Hawkesbury River, enjoy one final dinner before concluding your rail adventure at Central Station, Sydney.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

ACCOMMODATION

Vintage Rail Journeys

UPGRADE AVAILABLE

Vintage Rail Journeys offers a unique and exceptional experience – combining the charm and excitement guests love with a new level of relaxation and care. From the moment you step aboard, every detail is thoughtfully handled, allowing you to unwind completely. Enjoy delicious meals, fine wine, and freshly brewed tea and coffee, along with a selection of expertly curated tours. The only decisions you'll need to make are what to savour and which Off Train Experience to explore.

Whether you're soaking in the ever-changing scenery from the comfort of your private cabin or heading to the lounge and dining carriages to share stories with fellow travellers, every moment is designed for your enjoyment. At night, the train is stabled to ensure you have a peaceful and restful sleep. Each carriage features a dedicated Hospitality Attendant, ready to assist with any needs, answer your questions, or prepare a comforting cup of tea or coffee.

HERITAGE TWIN CABINS

- Heritage Twin cabins accommodate 2 guests.
- By day, you have a 3-seat lounge
- By night, you have upper and lower bunks (one member of your party will need to be able to climb the ladder to the top bunk)
- You have your own ensuite, complete with the original fold down hand basin and fold down toilet



Room Upgrades

Heritage Single Cabin

Welcome to all solo travellers on board, with no single supplement for Heritage Single cabins. Each cabin features a comfortable Day Lounge, footrest, fold-down washbasin, and mirror. By night, it transforms into a cosy bed for a restful sleep. Conveniently, spacious shared bathrooms are located at both ends of the Singles carriage for your comfort.



Prices are dynamic based on travel dates. Please proceed to [Book Now](#) or [Contact Us](#) for details.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

2025 departure dates:

- 14 July
- 28 July
- 11 August
- 25 August
- 08 September

2026 departure dates:

- 25 May
- 08 June
- 22 June
- 06 July
- 20 July

Excluded

- International airfares and taxes
- Domestic airfares and taxes, unless otherwise specified in our holiday package
- Visa expenses, processing, and issuance fees
- Meals other than as specified in our holiday package
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (mini-bar, phone call, laundry, etc.),
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package