

GRAND
SOUTHERN LOOP

NEW SOUTH WALES SOUTH AUSTRALIA VICTORIA

— AUGUST 2021 —



from \$6,990* pp





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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the most epic heritage rail journey offered in two generations. This incredible tour aboard the 1961 built heritage railmotor 621/721 offers an unparalleled in-depth exploration of three states.

With a mixture of must see sights and exclusive experiences, you'll find virtually everything is included allowing you to relax and truly immerse yourself in each destination.

In several cases, we will stop for two or three nights allowing you to see more of each destination with free time to explore on your own.

From the vast outback of New South Wales and South Australia's Flinders Ranges to a thundering

steam train in the Bugle Ranges and the romance of an Edwardian mansion in the Victorian countryside, each day will bring new sights and experiences.

Everything is exclusive, meaning no crowds or queues. Even your luggage will be sent by road meaning there is no limit on the size of your bag.

Fully escorted by Cruise Express, this tour of all tours is one for the record books! We invite you to come with us and explore.

Welcome aboard!



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Top - Enjoy spectacular views from the **Living Desert & Sculptures** at Broken Hill

Above - the comfortable interior of heritage rail motor 621/721

Far left - From Port Augusta, travel on the historic **Pichi Richi Railway** to Quorn in the Flinders Ranges

Left - Vist historic **Seppeltsfield Winery** in the Barossa Valley for a tour, wine tastings and lunch

ITINERARY

----- August 2021

FRIDAY 6TH

Board your heritage rail motor 621/721 at Sydney Terminal. Soon we will be rolling through the beautiful Blue Mountains enjoying the stunning views. Enjoy lunch onboard before a stop at Bathurst where there will be time to visit the nearby Rail Museum. Continuing on through ever changing countryside we will arrive in Parkes late afternoon. Tonight enjoy a welcome dinner and drinks at the historic Parkes Showground. Overnight: Local motels - **L,D**

SATURDAY 7TH

Rejoining your rail motor we head west and away from main roads through small towns such as Condobolin and Euabalong West. Watch as the soil turns red and the countryside gives way to scrub. By lunchtime, we will be in the tiny outpost of Ivanhoe where we will take a short break to stretch our legs. Passing through Menindee we'll reach Broken Hill in the late afternoon. Tonight enjoy dinner at the iconic Palace Hotel with a Priscilla themed drag show. Overnight: Local motels - **B,L,D**

SUNDAY 8TH

Today we'll visit some of the iconic sights of Broken Hill such as the Line of Load Memorial, Sulphide Street Railway & Historical Museum, Pro Hart Gallery and the Living Desert and Sculptures. Take in the breathtaking views while enjoying sundowners at Mundi Mundi Plains Lookout followed by dinner at the Silverton Hotel. Overnight: Local motels - **B,L,D**

MONDAY 9TH

Today the rail motor passes through Cockburn into South Australia and will make a short stop at historic Manna Hill Station. Disembark at Peterborough and transfer to Steamtown Heritage Rail Centre for a tour and lunch. Returning to the train we'll pass through ever changing countryside as we head towards the rail junction at Crystal Brook where we'll call in at the local pub for an afternoon drink. After arriving at Port Augusta we'll transfer to our motel and enjoy dinner with fellow travellers. Overnight: Standpipe Motor Inn (or similar) - **B,L,D**

TUESDAY 10TH

After breakfast transfer back to the station to board the historic Pichi Richi Railway. The line which opened in 1879 is part of the old Ghan route to Alice Springs and passes through the spectacular Pichi Richi Pass on its way to Quorn. This quaint town was once the junction of two railroads and retains many of its historic buildings. You have the opportunity to explore on your own or take a Brill Railmotor shuttle to the nearby rail yards to view the collection. Enjoy lunch at the Transcontinental Hotel then return by train to Port Augusta arriving late afternoon. Dinner tonight is at a local restaurant. Overnight: Standpipe Motor Inn (or similar) - **B,L,D**

WEDNESDAY 11TH

Our rail motor journeys south today for a short run to Adelaide. Transfer to your hotel with the rest of the day at leisure. Rundle Mall is close by as is the Art Gallery and Museum. Tonight we will transfer to Largs Bay and enjoy dinner at Largs Pier Hotel, overlooking the St. Vincent Gulf. Return to our hotel late evening. Overnight: Ibis Adelaide (or similar) - **B,D**

THURSDAY 12TH

Mid-morning we'll travel to the historic Seppeltsfield Winery. Seppeltsfield was established in the Barossa Valley by Joseph and Johanna Seppelt just 15 years after the European settlement of South Australia in 1850. Tour the winery then enjoy a food and wine pairing flight and lunch. Return Adelaide with the rest of today at leisure. Overnight: Ibis Adelaide (or similar) - **B,L**

FRIDAY 13TH

After breakfast transfer by coach to Mount Barker railway station. Board our Streamranger Heritage Railway privately chartered steam-hauled train for a thrilling journey all the way to Victor Harbor. There is free time to explore and have lunch before returning to the train for the journey back to Mount Barker. Transfer to Mount Lofty for dinner at the spectacular Summit Cafe. Overnight: Ibis Adelaide (or similar) - **B,D**



Above - Former South Australian Railways steam locomotive 621 'Duke of Edinburgh' enroute from Mount Barker to Victor Harbor on the Steamranger Heritage Railway

SATURDAY 14TH

Return to the station to rejoin 621/721. We will journey up through the Adelaide Hills then make a short stop at Murray Bridge to stretch our legs. Shortly after crossing into Victoria, we'll stop at historic Serviceton Station for lunch before continuing on to Stawell. Disembark and transfer by coach to Boroka Lookout for stunning views over the Grampians. Check in to our motel and enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight: Country Plaza Motor Inn Halls Gap - **B,L,D**

SUNDAY 15TH

This morning we will visit the nearby Halls Gap Zoo for a guided tour before transferring back to Stawell. The train today goes cross country and south towards Gheringhap before turning north again for Melbourne. 621/721 will arrive at Melbourne's Southern Cross Station late afternoon where we'll disembark and take a short stroll across the road to our hotel. Join us for dinner and drinks tonight at Saint & Rogue, a nearby local gastropub. Overnight: Batmans Hill on Collins - **B,L,D**

MONDAY 16TH

After breakfast join a private history and laneways walking tour of Melbourne with a refreshment stop. The rest of the day is at leisure. Overnight: Batmans Hill on Collins - **B**

TUESDAY 17TH

This morning take the short walk to Southern Cross Station to board our private diesel-hauled heritage train to Geelong. Transfer by coach to Drysdale to board the historic Bellarine Railway for the scenic return journey to Queenscliff. On our return to Geelong the train continues to Winchelsea where we'll transfer to the nearby National Trust mansion Barwon Park for a tour and afternoon tea. Return to Melbourne for our Gala Dinner at a surprise mystery location. Return to our hotel late evening. Overnight: Batmans Hill on Collins - **B,L,D**

WEDNESDAY 18TH

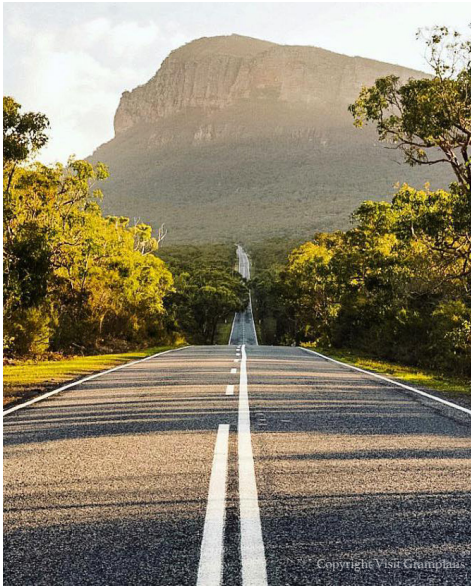
Your morning is free. We will depart Melbourne after lunch and make a short stop at Seymour Station for afternoon tea in the dining room. Upon arrival in Albury, we'll transfer to our hotel for check in before enjoying farewell drinks and dinner. Overnight: Atura Albury (or similar) - **B,D**

THURSDAY 19TH

Leaving Albury we will soon pass Wagga Wagga and Junee before the rail motor climbs the unique Bethungra Spiral. We'll stop at historic Cootamundra West Station for lunch before travelling through the Cullerin Ranges to Goulburn for a short stop. We anticipate a mid-evening arrival at Sydney Terminal at the end our epic and spectacular adventure - **B,L,D**



Above - Enjoy dinner and drinks at the historic Largs Pier Hotel



Above - From Stawell, visit Boroka Lookout and overnight at **Halls Gap** in the spectacular Grampians National Park

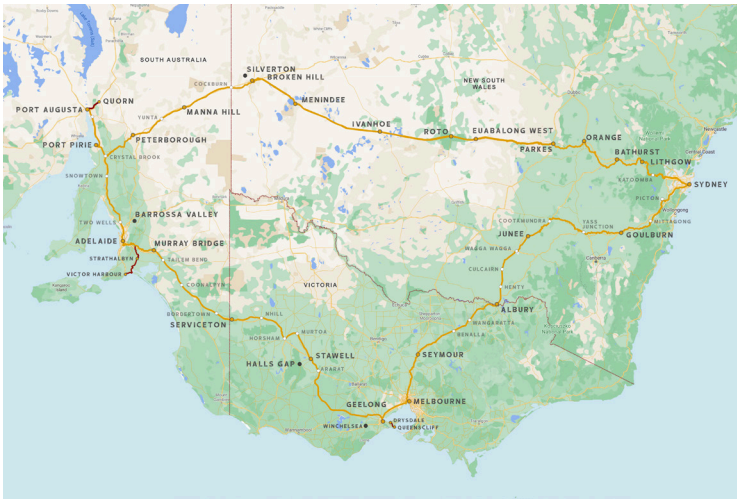


Left - Visit historic **Barwon Park** for afternoon tea. The 42 room mansion at Winchelsea was built by pioneer pastoralist Thomas Austin and his wife Elizabeth in 1871

INCLUSIONS

14 days

- Daylight service aboard heritage rail motor 621/721 including refreshments and unlimited tea, coffee and water
- Entry to the Bathurst Rail Museum
- Dinner at Parkes Showgrounds with beverages
- 1 night Parkes accommodation at a local motels with breakfast
- Off train experience at Roto^
- 2 nights Broken Hill accommodation at local motels with breakfast daily
- Exclusive dinner and show at the iconic Palace Hotel
- Full day sightseeing tour of Broken Hill including Line of Load Memorial and Sulphide Street Railway Museum
- Sundowners at Mundi Mundi Plains Lookout
- Dinner at the Silverton Hotel
- Off train experience at historic Manna Hill Station^
- Visit Steamtown Heritage Rail Centre at Peterborough with a guided tour and lunch
- Afternoon drinks at Crystal Brook Hotel^
- 2 nights Port Augusta accommodation at the Standpipe Motor Inn (or similar) with one dinner and breakfast daily
- Return diesel and steam-hauled journey from Port Augusta to Quorn on the Pichi Richi Railway with complimentary Brill railmotor shuttles to the rail yards
- Lunch at the Transcontinental Hotel Quorn with beverages
- 3 nights Adelaide accommodation at the Ibis Adelaide (or similar) with breakfast daily
- Dinner at Largs Pier Hotel with beverages
- Day tour to Seppeltsfield Winery in the Barossa Valley with a tour, wine tastings and lunch
- Return daylight steam-hauled journey on the Steamranger Historic Railway from Mount Barker to Victor Harbor
- Dinner at the Summit Café Mount Lofty with beverages
- Visit historic Serviceton^ railway station
- Visit Boroka Lookout in the Grampians National Park
- 1 night Halls Gap accommodation at the County Plaza (or similar) with breakfast
- Dinner at Flame Brothers Restaurant Halls Gap with beverages
- Entry to Halls Gap Zoo
- 3 nights Melbourne accommodation at Batmans Hill on Collins (or similar) with breakfast daily
- Dinner at Saint & Rogue gastropub with beverages
- Morning guided walking tour of Melbourne's laneways
- Return diesel-hauled heritage train journey by Steamrail Victoria from Melbourne to Geelong and Winchelsea
- Return journey from Drysdale to Queenscliff on the Bellarine Railway hauled by historic X class diesel locomotives
- Picnic lunch at Queenscliff
- Visit Barwon Park mansion with afternoon tea
- Gala dinner and beverages at a mystery Melbourne location
- Afternoon tea in Seymour Railway Station
- 1 night Albury accommodation at the Atura Hotel (or similar) with farewell drinks, dinner and breakfast
- Lunch at the historic Cootamundra West Station
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Group coach transfers throughout
- Cruise Express Tour Managers



Right - See **Melbourne** in an entirely different light with a small group walking tour taking in the history and laneways of this fascinating city

FARES

TWIN from \$6,990* pp
SOLO from \$7,790* pp

