

Steamfest: 25 Years ~ Hunter Valley Rail!

15 April
2010
4 Days

Day 1: Home—Maitland, Maitland Gaol (LD)

Departing from Sydney we travel to Maitland, home of **Steamfest**. This year's festival is the **25th anniversary** of Steamfest, and it is larger than ever before with a number of vintage steamers coming out of retirement and museums for this historic weekend. We will enjoy morning tea at Thornton, before Lunch at the **amazing buffet at East Maitland Bowling Club**. This afternoon we will visit **Maitland Gaol**, situated near the East Maitland railway and hear the history of this amazing place, from the hardened convicts who did their time here, to the Victorian pansies painted on the chapel walls which were only discovered a couple of years ago. Our **accommodation is the newest motel in Maitland with all ground floor rooms and onsite restaurant**. Enjoy a hearty 3 course dinner before retiring for the night.
[The Bradford Hotel, Hunter Valley 02 4937 7999 \(3 nights\)](#)



\$695ppts
\$174s/s



For those who wish to continue the nostalgic tour into yesteryear there will be a coach trip to **Historic Morpeth**, this village at one point rivalled Sydney for the capital of the colony of NSW. There will be time to explore the shops ranging from teapots and antiques, model cars, grandfather clocks, and morpeth moonshine to old fashioned ginger beer and boutique designer clothing.

Day 2: Kurri Kurri Murals, Hunter Valley Gardens, Ogishi Glass, Wine & Fudge Tasting (BLD)

22 Today after a full country breakfast, we tour **Kurri Kurri's Murals**, set to rival those of Chemainus in Canada. We go to **Peterson's Champagne House for a tasting**. Then it is off to the award winning **Hunter Valley Gardens**, inspired by Butchart gardens in Canada and host to hundreds of thousands of visitors, with formal gardens, international gardens and the ever popular children's story book gardens. You will have plenty of time to wander at your own pace or as an option, book a buggy tour of the gardens (approx \$15). **Lunch is at the Garden's restaurant**. After lunch, visit the workshop of **renowned glass blower, Ogishi** and view her magnificent art works. We then wander back through the vineyards for a **wine and fudge tasting** at one of the Hunter's famous wineries before returning to our motel.



Day 3: Steamfest plus Morpeth Option (BD)

All aboard, today is one of the biggest days for **Steamfest**. We have **organised a ride in a couple of vintage steamers** for your enjoyment, and there are many stationary steam engines, spruikers, markets and lots of stalls for your enjoyment. There is a full day's entertainment at Steamfest, and our coach will drop you at the main station venue, from where you can explore according to your interests. There is such a large range of stalls so visit our Northern Highland Travel Stall!

Day 4: Steamfest Activities plus Maitland Regional Art Gallery option (BL)

This morning we return to Steamfest for some more fun and enjoyment. For those who prefer, there is the option to spend the morning at the **Maitland Regional Art Gallery** which was completely redeveloped in 2009 and has an inspiring time capture project installed in the building which highlights the lives of Maitland women. After a whistlestop lunch at **Northern Highland Travel's new depot**, which was inspired by the circular architecture of a Queensland railway, to fit in with the heritage rail culvert which runs through the property, we will make our way back to Sydney.

Please note that Steamfest Programs were not available at time of printing, but will be released in February 2010, and extra train rides and packages can be booked through Northern Highland Travel, at your own cost.