

Trains & Tracks of QLD & NSW

3 & 17 June
2010
13 Days

\$2998ppts
\$822s/s

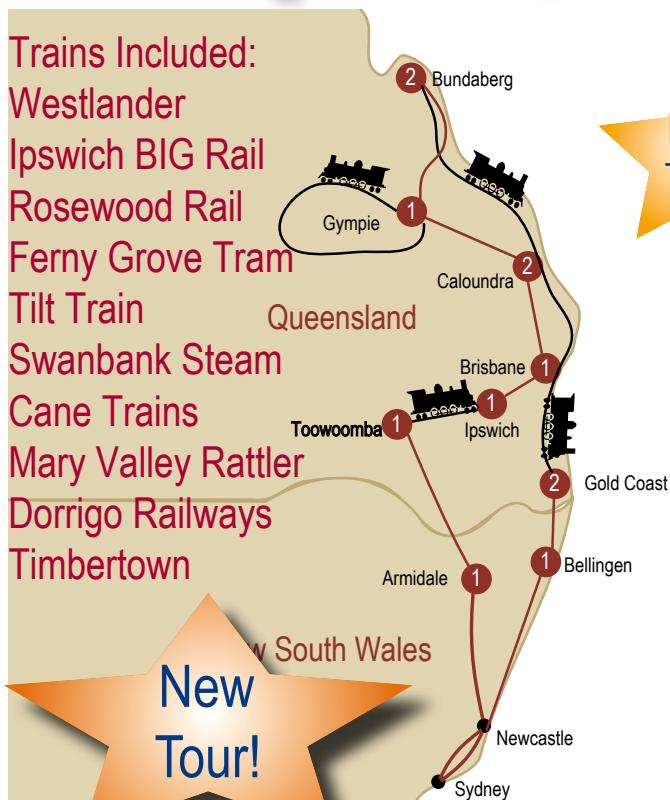
Trains Included:
Westlander
Ipswich BIG Rail
Rosewood Rail
Ferry Grove Tram
Tilt Train
Swanbank Steam
Cane Trains
Mary Valley Rattler
Dorrigo Railways
Timbertown



Just SOME Highlights:
Bundy Rum Distillery,
Carrara Markets, Tunnels, Museums,
Mooloolaba,
Bert Hinkler House, Maryborough, Buderim

Part of the tour takes place on the moving walkway, the same machine which was used to move the locomotives around the workshops. As well as historic engines and carriages there are also the modern day trains including a Tilt Train and Coal Haulage Simulators. Lunch will be in the canteen with some time in the afternoon at the **Rosewood Rail museum**. This museum has a number of trains that are used on a regular basis ranging from the Society's Steam Locomotive PB15-738, the historic rail-motor, Red Fred RM-55, or DEL-1604.

[Ipswich Sundowner Motel 07 3202 4622](tel:0732024622)



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New
Tour!

Day 1: Home—Armidale (incl Werris Creek) (LD)

Our coach will depart Strathfield, Hornsby, the Central Coast and the Hunter before making our way North along the New England Highway. At lunch in **Werris Creek**, once a major rail hub, we will explore their amazing workshop, museum and sculpture tribute to Railworkers.

[Armidale Motel 02 6772 8122](tel:0267728122)

Day 2: Armidale—Toowoomba (BLD)

Take a ride on the **Guyra Track Work Trolley** and explore their **Rail Museum**. Following this will be a stop at Ben Lomond, the highest point on the New England Railway Line. Here we will look at the old station and enjoy an opportunity for an icecream. Later in the day we will visit **Wallangarra and Jennings**, the twin towns on the NSW and Queensland border, where the Railway Station follows the different styles of both states in its architecture. You will notice the flatter linear look of NSW on the Jennings side, and the curves of the Queensland style in Wallangarra. In Warwick we visit the old Railway station made famous by the egging of the little digger during the conscription debates of WW1. Tonight we enjoy the **unique dining experience of Platform 9**. This restaurant is situated in the old dining room of the Toowoomba Railway Station.

[Toowoomba Motel 07 4631 8678](tel:0746318678)

Day 3: Toowoomba—Ipswich Rail Workshops (BLD)

This morning we board **Queensland Rail Westlander** for our morning journey over the Darling Range to Ipswich arriving mid morning in the industrial heart of Queensland. From here we make our way to the **Railway Workshops for a tour and some free time in this premier rail attraction**. Our tour will take in the Blacksmiths and Steam Rooms which are all a part of this once busy engineering workshop.

Day 4: Ipswich—Brisbane (BL)

Today we make our way to the **Queensland Historic Rail Centre** for a big day of big Steamers. Probably one of the museum's prized possessions is the **Maryborough**, construction number 91 of 1908, built by Walkers Ltd. When it entered service on the Government system, it had a boiler which operated at 150 pounds per square inch to drive its 48inch diameter driving wheels through its 15 inch diameter and 20 inch stroke cylinders. Today we enjoy lunch on the track before arriving at **Brisbane's Ferry Grove Tramway Museum**. This is a much different pace with half a dozen different trains and trams to experience. As our hotel is in the CBD tonight you have the opportunity to catch up with friends in the capital or perhaps try some local QLD produce for dinner.



[Sebel Citigate Brisbane 07 3222 1125](tel:0732221125)

Day 5: Brisbane—Sunshine Coast (BLD)

This morning we follow the tracks to the port with a **guided tour of Brisbane Freight, Rail and Port Facilities, seeing and hearing about** customs and security to freight management and all other associated aspects of these Facilities, a rare opportunity these days!

Heading onto the Sunshine Coast we will be “derailed” at **Buderim Ginger**, makers of over 3000 ginger products and 65 ice cream flavours. They are also home to the 108 year old Yandina Steam Train. This train has since been converted from steam but we will still be able to **experience the open carriages as we ride through the world’s largest Ginger processing plant and lovely gardens.**

[Anchorage Motor Inn 07 5491 1499 \(2 nights\)](#)



Day 6: Sunshine Coast (BD)

This morning is yours to enjoy some **free time at Mooloolaba** or perhaps visit Underwater World (own expense) or have a relaxing morning. This afternoon we visit **Woodford’s Narrow Gauge Trains and Museum**, which has specialised in super narrow gauge since 1971. The Society has acquired an irreplaceable collection of two-foot gauge steam, diesel and petrol locomotives and rollingstock from Queensland, Northern New South Wales, England and France.

Day 7: Sunshine Coast—Gympie (BLD)

The discovery of Gold saved fledgling Queensland when it was on the verge of going broke. Since then Gympie has come a long way. We step back in time and **join a unique rail journey.** Today’s locomotive, weighing in at just over 80 tonnes and with eight driving wheels, is a C 17 class and became the mainstay of the Queensland Railways. The Rattler’s spectacular journey begins at **historic Gympie Railway Station.** Built in 1913, the station building is a tribute to Gympie and the region’s “Golden” past. We pass through Gympie City, crossing the steep slopes of the Mary Riverland and the scenic Mary Valley experiencing rural life and view commercial dairies and livestock enterprises, and pineapples and macadamias. The **Mary Valley Line** has an abundance of curves, gradients and bridges, which were built before and during the First World War. We break our journey for a **Traditional Fettle’s Lunch.** The afternoon will see us reboard for our journey back to Gympie and our motel, where we can experience a town now known for its country and music festival, the Gympie Muster.
[Great Eastern Motor Inn 07 5482 7288](#)

Day 8: Gympie—Bundaberg (BLD)

This morning we continue to **Tin Can Bay** and then take the back road into **Maryborough**, a town of rail heritage. Firstly we visit the **whistlestop and with any luck have a ride on the town’s “Mary Anne” followed by a visit to Downer EDI Maryborough rail plant.** This site began in 1868 as Walkers Limited, with more than 700 steam, diesel and electric locomotives built here. The Maryborough site produced the entire Brisbane & Perth metropolitan fleet as well as the electric and diesel tilt trains for QR and some Narrow Gauge. Next stop will be the **Bundaberg Rum Distillery** for a tour of this iconic operation with a tasting at the end, and an opportunity to pick up some special rum types that are only sold here in Bundaberg as well as the more familiar labels.

[Comfort Inn Bert Hinkler 07 4131 2600 \(2 nights\)](#)

Day 9: Bundaberg Sugar Train, Hinkler House (BLD)

A leisurely day today starting with the **Bundaberg Botanic Gardens**, home to the **Sugar Cane and Rail Museum.** We **enjoy a ride** on one of their narrow gauge cane trains around the Botanic Gardens

including **Aviator Bert Hinkler’s House.** Lunch will be in the gardens before a tour of a local sugar cane mill. The cane farms will have only just started crushing for this year and this is a great way to see this natural product up close. Tonight for something different we visit one the few still remaining **Sizzler restaurants**, complete with their unique cheese bread and salad/dessert buffet.

Day 10: Bundaberg—Gold Coast (BD)

This morning you have some **free time in the city centre**, and admire the famous whale mural before we board the **Tilt Train for to Brisbane.** In Brisbane we change trains and continue on the new Gold Coast line to Helensvale where our coach will meet you. From here we make our way to the Vibe Hotel where we are staying for the next couple of days right in the centre of the goldcoast.

[Vibe Hotel Gold Coast 07 5539 0444 \(2 nights\)](#)

Day 11: Carrara Markets—Canungra (B)

We start our day with the morning at **Carrara Markets**, the biggest markets on the Gold Coast. From here we make our way to the Hinterlands of **Canungra** at the foot of the Lamington National Park. Canungra is also famous for the Timber cutters and the methods used to snig the cedar and other sought after timbers out of the surrounding forests. We will walk through the **old railway tunnel that Laheys’** built for his private rail. Not only was the tunnel dug by hand but it also needed to have a curve inside as well, amazing for the surveying tools available back in the early 1900’s. The **afternoon and evening will be free** on the Gold Coast to experience local eateries.

Day 12: Gold Coast—Bellingen (BLD)

Continuing south to Grafton we **follow the rail line** to Nana Glen, before arriving at the potato town of Dorrigo. Here we will be visiting one of the **largest collections of historic railway equipment in the Southern Hemisphere.** All railway vehicles in the collection are standard gauge. To date, the museum collection comprises 65 locomotives, 290 carriages and wagons and over 20 railmotors. The locomotives range from tiny, 8 ton, shunting units to the massive, 260 ton Beyer-Garratt (the largest locomotive in the southern hemisphere), many over 100 years old. The passenger carriages include specialised vehicles such as a prison van, rail pay buses, travelling post offices, bulk mail vans, sleeping cars, the former Premier’s car and a sleeping car allocated to General Douglas MacArthur. The freight rolling stock includes vehicles for the carriage of almost every commodity including grain, livestock, coal, oil, cement, biscuits, fruit, water, limestone, superphosphate, meat, milk, bitumen, explosives, machinery, coil steel, automobiles, and more. Our motel tonight is nestled on the hill of Bellingen in a peaceful country setting.

[Bellingen Valley Lodge 02 6655 1599](#)

Day 13: Bellingen—Home (BL)

This morning we say goodbye to the country and continue south to Wauchope, for one last **steam train ride at Timber Town.** We will enjoy morning tea and a look around before continuing back to the Hunter and eventually Sydney around 6pm.

