

Yorke Peninsula, Trams & Tracks of SA & Victoria

28
September
2010
15 days

\$3329ppts
\$989s/s



**Includes
9 Train & Tram Rides!**

Day 1: Home–Bathurst (LD)

Departing Thornton, Newcastle, and the Central Coast we will make our way to Hornsby & Strathfield to collect our fellow rail enthusiasts. After a cuppa, we make our way up to the mountains, to Clarence Station, the start of the **Zig Zag Railway**. This line was built between 1866 to 1869 and was a major engineering feat with 3 viaducts and 2 tunnels. Our Class 10 Diesel or Steam Rail motor will take us to the bottom of the range before the train climbs back up the range offering us excellent views of the Zig Zag nature of laying the lines, which was used to overcome the steep gradients. We travel to Bathurst for our overnight stay.

[Country Comfort Bathurst 02 6332 1800](#)

72 Day 2: Bathurst–Cobar (BLD)

This morning we will enjoy morning tea in Wellington, then it's through Dubbo, the hub of the west and onto the black soil plains. After lunch at the 1990 flood ravaged town of Nyngan, we'll have time in the **Nyngan Museum** to view photos of the awesome flood. We will be surprised and impressed with the important mining town of Cobar where Lead, Silver, Zinc & Copper are shipped out of the town by rail.

[Town & Country Cobar 02 6836 1244](#)

Day 3: Cobar–Broken Hill (BLD)

Crossing the Darling at the river town of Wilcannia, the sandstone buildings give an insight into the wealth that was once evident. The highway snakes its way through the McCulloch range before entering into the "Silver City" of Broken Hill. This afternoon we visit the **Rail, Mineral & Train Museum**, where we will see the beginning of the Silverton Tramway. We will finish the afternoon with a visit to the **Line of Lode Lookout** on top of the slag heap towering over the railway station.

[Old Wilyama Motor Inn 08 8088 3355](#)

Day 4: Broken Hill–Port Augusta (BLD)

This morning we cross through the Fruit Fly tick gate at Yunta, before making our way into the now deserted town of **Terowie**, the meeting place of 3 different rail gauges, originally for stock and supplies and later minerals leaving Silverton and Broken Hill. We will have lunch and time to explore the remains of this community.

In **Peterborough**, we will visit **Steamtown**, a working museum which also houses the largest and still intact Roundhouse in the Southern Hemisphere. One of the restoration projects is the repair of the NSU55 an early 1950 diesel loco used on the Ghan to Alice. Another successful restoration was on the Narrow Gauge Y82 Steam train. Many of the guides have spent most of their working lives here in the roundhouse. In the afternoon we reboard our coach and continue on to the Spencer Gulf for the next 2 nights in Port Augusta, to unpack and relax.

[Standpipe Golf Motor Inn 08 8642 4033 \(2 nights\)](#)

Day 5: Port Augusta–Quorn Rail Day (BLD)

This morning we head north to Quorn, for one of the few days in the year where you can ride two very famous trains. The first, the **Pichi Ritchi Explorer**, is steam operated and will be pulling SA wooden carriages over 150 years old. We will be travelling about 32km out to Woolshed flats before returning to Quorn. The volunteers will serve our lunch at the **Railway Workshops** there will be time for questions and a look around. The afternoon will see us board the **Afghan Express**, for our trip to Port Augusta. This train dates back to the 1920 & 30's when the Ghan passed through Quorn on its way to Alice Springs. Our train, is a NM25 Steam Locomotive and was used until 1956 when the new standard gauged railway bypassed this famous route. The 39 km trip takes about two hours and our coach will meet us at Port Augusta railway station. This is South Australia's biggest railway day.



Day 6: Yorke Peninsula (BLD)

Before departing Port Augusta this morning we stop at the **Water Tower Lookout** for some impressive views of the Neck of the Spencer Gulf. From here we follow the coast down to the industrial city or **Port Pirie**, for a short tour before visiting the local visitors centre which is also home to the **South Australian Shark Museum**. We enjoy lunch at beautiful Port Broughton before making our way to the **Copper Triangle Towns** of Wallaroo, Kadina & Moonta. A **local guide** will come aboard this afternoon for our tour of these old mining towns, and the afternoon will include a walk out on the jetty at the bay. Then it's 'all aboard' the **narrow gauge railway at Moonta** for an afternoon ride, before visiting the **Historical Mineral and Mining Museum**, which, by the way is across the road from the old fashioned lolly shop! A short journey this afternoon as we cut across to Clare in South Australia's northern wine region, the Clare Valley with some **local red and whites on the table with dinner**.

[Sundowner Clare Valley Motel 08 8842 2799](#)

Day 7: Yorke Peninsula Sightseeing (BLD)

Today we enjoy a day **sightseeing on the Yorke Peninsula**. We will stop along the way for morning tea at Androssan. We will be crossing through Australia's richest wheat and barley growing area today. This grain is exported from the Androssan Port which is also home to Onesteel's huge Dolomite mine and loading facilities. One of the local beaches, **Tiddy Widdy** is home to Australia's "Blue Swimmer Crab" and at low tide they can be picked up off the white beaches. We continue south to Edithburgh, a mecca for fish with mullet, yellowfin and whiting all prolific, and once a busy grain export port. We visit **Yorketown, Warooka and Minlaton**, the barley capital of the world. First settled in the late 1800's, extensive restoration is taking place, from the sandstone buildings to the fishing shacks that dot the coastline. We go to Adelaide for the next four nights.

[Comfort Hotel Adelaide Riviera 08 8231 8000 \(4 nights\)](#)

Day 8: Free Day in Adelaide (BD)

Today we enjoy a **free day** in Adelaide. You can take a tram out to St Kilda to enjoy some time at the beach, or a host of other activities in this attractive capital city. You can book optional tours of the Barossa Wineries or a cruise. Talk to your consultant and this can be booked prior to departure or through your tour guide whilst on tour. Over dinner at our motel, we will regroup to share our experiences.



Day 9: Cockle Train & Victor Harbor (BD)

We will enjoy a tour of the **Mount Barker Rail Museum Workshops**. This depot houses the Southern Encounter, Highlander and sometimes the Cockle Train. The volunteers will have the steam running today and we'll **enjoy a run on the famous Cockle Train** along the south coast of the Fleurieu Peninsula, across farmlands and coastal dunes from Goolwa to Middleton **to Victor Harbor**, one of SA's premier holiday destinations. Buy your own lunch or catch the only classic horse drawn tram in the Southern Hemisphere over to Granite Island. A number of small boardwalks can be taken whilst there. At 4 pm we reboard our steam train for the journey back to our motel.

Day 10: Port Adelaide & St Kilda (BLD)

A leisurely start this morning with our first stop being at **St Kilda** For an organised tour of the **Tram Museum**. This museum now houses a collection of every electric tram that ever ran on the Adelaide system. They also have a couple of kilometres of private track which runs out to the Gulf which we will have a ride on. This tram yard has a number of A & B Class as well as the "Bendigo" trams which were built in Adelaide and used in other cities. After a lunch of fish and chips, we will make our way to **Port Adelaide** for a tour of the **Australian National Rail Museum**. This is rated as one of the best rail museums in the world and is home to the "**Tea and Sugar Train**" from the early dental and hospital carriages to some of the more recent surplus track laying equipment there is something for everybody here, and also the option of some free time in the Port. This afternoon we go to **Glennelg** a lovely port, for a buffet dinner at the popular **Watermark Hotel**.

Day 11: Adelaide–Bendigo (BLD)

We say goodbye to the river town and head towards Victoria. Morning tea will be in the grain town of **Coonalpyn** complete with a pedestrian subway to negotiate the rail lines over to the now almost deserted station. We continue towards Victoria, crossing into the State at **Bordertown** (hometown of Bob Hawke). This afternoon we pass through some of Victoria's premier agricultural country, through Nhill and across Charlton Warracknabeal to the lakes district, staying at Bendigo.

[Castle Motel 03 5472 2433 \(2 nights\)](#)



Day 12: Victorian Goldfields Rail (BLD)

Running through the Goldfields of Central Victoria, the **Victorian Goldfields Railway** brings the experience of Steam Railway Travel alive. Linking the historic towns of Castlemaine and Maldon, our train takes us through Box-Iron Bark Forest in a region that saw some of the richest gold mining in Australia. The line we are going to travel on today was closed in 1979, a section of it re-opened in 1986 and the final section opened in Easter 2004. The steam train may be either the **Steam K160 or J549 or J517**. The length of the run is about 36km return. We will also be able to visit and investigate the signal box, still used today. Lunch will be served on the train before taking the back road to the wealthy gold town of Bendigo. Why walk when you can catch a tram? And that is exactly what we will be doing today, on the famous **Bendigo Talking Tram tour**. This tramway began in 1890 and has been propelled over the years by battery banks, steam and now electricity. We will hear an excellent commentary about the history and architecture of the town from both the miners and the immigration of Chinese during the 1850's. There will be a stop for a walk around the tram depot where you can look inside many of the different styles of trams available for use. There is also an extensive restoration program where tram owners from all over Australia send their trams to be refurbished.



Day 13: Bendigo–Mansfield (BLD)

Upon arrival in Belgrave we will join the world famous **Puffing Billy** on the special **Steam and Cuisine Service**. This silver service three course menu will be served to us in our first class carriages. We hope to have a technical engineer volunteer in our carriage to give some more background information on the operations, (there are over 300 volunteers almost every day of the year.) Back at the coach we will continue to Mansfield, in the heart of Victoria's High Country, the backdrop for the film *The Man From Snowy River*.

[Mansfield Motel 03 5775 2377](#)

Day 14: Mansfield–Goulburn (BLD)

This morning we will make our way to **Albury Railway Station** for a stop at one of the most historic railway platforms in NSW. The broad gauge line from Melbourne reached the town in 1884, and originally travellers from NSW and Victoria changed trains to different gauges which met here. To accommodate this, a long platform was required and the covered platform is one of the longest in Australia. The clock tower is of interest, with different times posted when NSW and Victoria have had differing start dates for Daylight Savings. We make our way to Goulburn to our four star accommodation to the North of the City.

[Goulburn Heritage Lodge 02 4821 9377](#)

Day 15: Goulburn–Home (BL)

This morning we will spend some time at the **Goulburn Roundhouse Museum**. This working Roundhouse has heritage locomotives (steam and diesel), rolling stock and railway memorabilia. The centre shows the transition of locomotive maintenance, steam, to dieselisation. There is a large workshop building and we will enjoy a guided tour. Following lunch we travel through the southern highlands to Sydney arriving about 4pm and continue to the Hunter terminating at Thornton around 7.30pm.