

THE ROYAL TRAIN

ANZAC DAY IN SWAN HILL, VICTORIA

**Sydney - Melbourne – Bairnsdale – Lakes Entrance -
- Bendigo – Swan Hill – Melbourne - Sydney**

Monday 20 – Monday 27 April 2026



Highlights include:

- Eight day / seven night tour of regional Victoria
- Four days travel on the 'Royal Train'
- Parlor and State Cars from the Royal Train
- First Class sitting cars – plenty of room to move
- Select meals in the Dining Car of the Royal Train
- Two night stay in Bairnsdale
- One night stay in Bendigo
- Two night stay in Swan Hill
- Movenpick Hotel at Southern Cross Station
- Bairnsdale/Lakes Entrance sightseeing by coach
- Bendigo Tram tour
- Anzac Day March and Memorial Service Swan Hill
- Swan Hill paddle steamer on the Murray River
- Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement
- Swan Hill Light & Laser Spectacular
- Freshly prepared refreshments on the Sydney-Melbourne-Sydney XPT journeys
- Experience regal travel in rural Victoria

OVERVIEW OF OUR JOURNEY

We travel from Sydney to Melbourne aboard the NSW TrainLink XPT service in reserved First Class seating, enjoying freshly prepared refreshments, and then overnight Melbourne. The 'Royal Train' takes us from Melbourne to Bairnsdale, whilst enjoying luncheon in the Dining Car. Bairnsdale hotels for two nights. Explore Lakes Entrance the mouth of the Mitchell River and more, before rejoining the Royal Train to travel from Bairnsdale via Melbourne to Bendigo for overnight. Bendigo vintage tram ride, the luncheon in the Dining Car. We visit Swan Hill, participate in the Anzac Day march and services, then cruise on the PS Pyap paddlesteamer on the Murray River. Explore the Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement Museum, and their award winning light show. Return to Melbourne with luncheon aboard the 'Royal Train' as we return through Castlemaine and Kyneton. Overnight Melbourne opposite Southern Cross Station, before breakfast at the hotel and then travel back to Sydney aboard the NSW TrainLink XPT service, with freshly prepared refreshments served aboard.



THE ROYAL TRAIN

The 'Royal Train' – the Victorian Railways' (VR), along with other state rail authorities of Australia, operated Royal Trains to transport members of the Royal Family on their numerous tours of Australia, and in this case, on the Victorian rail network. The same carriages were also used for a number of vice-regal trains for the Governor-General of Australia and the Governor of Victoria, with the last Royal Train operating in 1988.

The St James Rail (SJR) 'Royal Train' will consist of the Parlor Car 'Yarra', two First Class sitting cars, a dining car, Mitta Mitta (fitted with sleeping berths, bathroom, kitchen, and a dining and lounge area) and State Car 4 (built in 1912 it features an observation balcony at one end, Governor's and Lady's bedrooms, dining room, kitchen, bathrooms - each with a bath, shower and toilet - and accommodation for ladies-in-waiting and other support staff) along with a baggage car.

Freshly prepared meals served in the dining car – we will enjoy a number of meals in the dining car, including a breakfast and luncheons aboard.

Drinks – barista coffee and tea is included whilst aboard the train, and a bar provides a selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks for purchase during the journeys to enjoy aboard the train.

OUR JOURNEY

MONDAY 20 APRIL 2026 (MT/L/AT) – from Sydney south to Melbourne – board the NSW TrainLink Sydney to Melbourne XPT with First Class reserved seating for a relaxing day of scenery through the Southern Highlands, across the Breadalbane Plains, southern NSW, and then through north east Victoria to Melbourne. We'll serve freshly prepared refreshments for morning tea, luncheon and afternoon tea. There is a buffet car to purchase beer / wine and other snacks. Arrive Melbourne's Southern Cross Station, where we cross the road and check in to the Movenpick Hotel - four-star accommodation minutes from our train. The evening is free to enjoy a meal in one of Melbourne's many fine restaurants – casual dining near the Yarra River, Italian favourites in Bourke St, Asian cuisine in Chinatown – all accessible from the trams that pass outside the hotel - free for city travel. Overnight Melbourne's Movenpick Hotel.

TUESDAY 21 APRIL 2026 (B/L) – aboard the 'Royal Train' to Bairnsdale – enjoy breakfast at our hotel, before joining the Royal Train at Melbourne's Southern Cross Station. As we head east into the Gippsland, enjoy luncheon in the Dining Car of the Royal Train as we head through Moe, Traralgon and Sale to Bairnsdale. On arrival transfer to our hotel and dinner is at leisure.

WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL 2026 (B/L) – Bairnsdale, Lakes Entrance, Mitchell River Silt Jetties, Paynesville and Raymond Island – enjoy breakfast before we head off on a relaxing day of sightseeing. Gain an overview of the city of Bairnsdale, before we head to Lakes Entrance. Visit the peaceful Mitchell River Silt Jetties, one of the longest in the world, perfect for birdwatching and photography. In the afternoon, we take a short drive to Paynesville for a ferry ride to Raymond Island to see wild koalas and other wildlife on a 1.2km walk on the island. Return to Bairnsdale for dinner in one of the local restaurants, Overnight Bairnsdale.



THURSDAY 23 APRIL 2026 (B/L/D) – aboard the ‘Royal Train’ to Bendigo – this morning we transfer to Bairnsdale Station to join the ‘Royal Train.’ We head west through Sale and Morwell towards Melbourne, before heading north west to Kyneton, Castlemaine and Bendigo. Enjoy luncheon aboard as we have a relaxing day journeying on the ‘Royal Train’ through the Victorian countryside. The railway line to Bendigo was one of the earliest in the colony and built to a high standard emulating British Rail – it almost sent the colony broke. On arrival in Bendigo transfer by coach to our hotel accommodation, opposite Lake Weeroona. Enjoy an afternoon stroll around the lake, before dinner tonight which is included and overnight Bendigo.

FRIDAY 24 APRIL 2026 (B/L) – Bendigo sightseeing and to Swan Hill – after breakfast explore Bendigo by heritage trams that operate through the city – a remnant of their once extensive tram network. With substantial public buildings the product of the gold rushes, Bendigo has an attractive city centre with parks, gardens and heritage sites. The Deborah Gold Mine provides an insight into the history of gold production, and the impressive fountain in the city centre is a sign of the historic wealth of the city. In the late morning board the ‘Royal Train’ and head to Swan Hill. Savour luncheon aboard as we traverse the western plains of Victoria towards the Murray River. On arrival transfer to our motel accommodation, and dinner is at leisure in one of the restaurants. Overnight Swan Hill.



SATURDAY 25 APRIL 2026 (ANZAC DAY) - (B/L) – Anzac Day March and Memorial Service in Swan Hill, the Pioneer Museum historic PS Pyap Paddlesteamer and light/laser show – after breakfast you can walk to the main street to view or participate in the Anzac Day March, and then follow to the Memorial Service at the Swan Hill Cenotaph. After the Memorial Service visit the Pioneer Settlement Museum. The visit includes a variety of working displays, buildings, restorations and exhibits to explore at your own leisure. From horse and carriage rides to restored vintage car rides, the Pioneer Settlement showcases Australian history with a hands-on journey. Watch as blacksmith forges steel and metals, printers at the Echo Print Shop work on 19th century wanted posters, music demonstrations and an opportunity to capture your visit in period costume. In the mid afternoon board the paddlesteamer PS Pyap for a cruise along the Murray, before enjoying the Laser Light Spectacular set on the banks of the mighty Murray River. ‘Heartbeat of the Murray’ is the first of its kind in the world to use a natural river environment and setting as its background to produce a 360-degree multi-media spectacular unlike anything ever seen in Australia. The use of water, light, laser, sound and special effects transports you back in time 30 million years to tell you the story of the Murray. Return to our motel for an included dinner and overnight Swan Hill.



SUNDAY 26 APRIL 2026 - (B/L) – luncheon in the Dining Car and the Royal Train to Melbourne - relax after breakfast or enjoy a final walk to view the Murray River, before we transfer to the railway station to board the Royal Train for our journey back to Melbourne. Enjoy a freshly prepared luncheon aboard as we head south through Kerang to Bendigo, and then through Castlemaine and Woodend to Melbourne. With lovely regional Victorian scenery and the stylish carriages of the Royal Train, you'll enjoy our final day of travel on these beautifully maintained carriages. On arrival in Melbourne, cross the road to our accommodation at the Movenpick Hotel, enjoy a last exploration of the city precincts, walk along the Yarra, enjoy a light repast at St Kilda – dinner is at leisure and overnight at the Movenpick Hotel, opposite the station.



MONDAY 27 APRIL 2026 (B/L/AR) after breakfast at the hotel, we cross the road to join the NSW TrainLink XPT service to Sydney. We return in reserved First Class seating, enjoying freshly prepared refreshments, as we head north east through Benalla, Wangaratta, Albury, Wagga Wagga, Cootamundra, Goulburn and through the Southern Highlands to Sydney. The conclusion of our 'Royal Train' tour in Victoria.

FARES* (all sightseeing, accommodation, rail/coach travel & meals as indicated) – fares are per person for two sharing a double/twin rooms in hotels - sole use of a hotel room is available for a supplement; using a Seniors Card or other half price concession for NSW TrainLink travel. Use of Concession rail vouchers is a reduction of \$60. Adult fares are an additional \$110)

Sharing a double/twin hotel room	\$5,590
Supplement for sole use of hotel room	\$870

TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE, please complete the attached booking form, scan and email to:

sjr@digitor.com.au

Or post to: SJR, PO Box N400, GROSVENOR PLACE 1220 with a cheque payable to St James Rail.

Preferred payment is by by EFT:

Bank: Westpac
Account name: Scenic Journeys by Rail Pty Ltd
BSB: 033 364
Account number: 612826

You can also pay by credit card (MasterCard or Visa) with a 1% merchant fee – please advise if you wish to do this and I will call to obtain card details.

A non-refundable deposit of \$2,000 per person is required to secure your place. The balance is payable by 21 January 2026. Cancellation charges apply as follows: Cancellation before 21 January 2023, loss of deposit. Cancellation from 21 January 2026 - no refund. An insurance policy is available from our travel agent – Sarah Manche – please advise if you would like us to forward a policy to you. The advertised itinerary is based on information at the time of printing. SJR reserves the right to amend the itinerary based on operational requirements imposed by the operator of the train and rail network owners. Full terms and conditions applicable to all SJR (St James Rail) tours are available on request.



Telephone 02 9326 9660

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Email sjr@digitor.com.au

THE ROYAL TRAIN BOOKING FORM

Monday 20 – Monday 27 April 2026

YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

Name:
 Address: Suburb: Postcode:
 Home tel: Mobile:
 Email:

BOOKING DETAILS

Passenger 1 Name: Senior / Concession Card No:
 Passenger 2 Name: Senior / Concession Card No:
 Passenger 3 Name: Senior / Concession Card No:
 Passenger 4 Name: Senior / Concession Card No:

PAYMENT

I have enclosed / sent by EFT \$ as deposit (\$2,000 per person) for the above booking and agree to pay the balance by 21 January 2026. Please advise us if you wish us to call to take credit card details. An email acknowledging receipt will be sent.)

HOTEL / MOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Double room (one large bed)
 Twin room (two separate beds)
 Sole use of hotel/motel rooms (sole use supplement payable)

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Please indicate any **dietary** or any other special requirement :

YOUR SIGNATURE

I have read the reservation conditions outlined above and accept them on behalf of myself and my party by whom I am authorised to make this agreement. I understand cancellation fees may apply. I have enclosed my deposit payment and agree to pay the balance as indicated above.

Signature of person making booking: Date:

Payment by cheque payable to St James Rail, or Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) to:

Bank: Westpac
 Account name: Scenic Journeys by Rail
 BSB: 033 364
 Account: 612826
 Reference: Royal (and your surname) – some bank transfers cannot accept this, so please email your reference.

If paying by EFT, please send this form marked accordingly, and/or send an email to sjr@digitor.com.au to advise us of your payment.

September 2025