

GREAT SOUTHERN RAIL JOURNEY

RAIL FROM BRISBANE TO SYDNEY, MELBOURNE AND ADELAIDE

DALE CHIHULY GLASS INSTALLATION, ADELAIDE BOTANIC GARDENS

SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S LIMESTONE COAST

Sunday 19 to Wednesday 29 January 2025

'With its rugged coastline, sun-kissed beaches, forested peaks, and exhilarating capital cities, the stunning journey between Brisbane and Adelaide feels like nowhere else in Australia.' *Journey Beyond Rail*. Join us for an **eleven day / ten night tour that includes the Great Southern train journey (4 days / 3 nights)** from Brisbane through Sydney, Melbourne and to Adelaide, two nights in Adelaide to visit the Dale Chihuly Glass installation in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens, and then **four nights on the Limestone Coast**. In the warmer months of December and January, when the Ghan from Adelaide to Darwin does not operate, the train is rebranded as the Great Southern and offers the opportunity to travel in style between Brisbane, Sydney and Adelaide – and vice versa. Explore Adelaide's Botanic Garden for the stunning glass installation by Seattle based artis **Dale Chihuly** – day inspections and an evening illumination – before heading to the Limestone Coast for three days and fournights of realxing exploration of the landscape, towns and seafood.



Outline of the tour

SUNDAY 19 JANUARY 2025 (D) – join a mid-morning flight to Brisbane (rail options are available) then transfer to our city hotel. Enjoy the afternoon sightseeing, exploring along the Brisbane River, and with dinner together. Overnight Brisbane.

MONDAY 20 JANUARY 2025 (B/L/D) – enjoy breakfast, then transfer to the Great Southern train and familiarise yourself with your compartment. After setting off from Brisbane, enjoy lunch on board and a relaxing afternoon settling in to your private cabin before arriving at the coastal town of **Coffs Harbour**. As the sun dips beneath the horizon, enjoy a unique beachside dinner where you'll feast on local produce and fresh seafood matched with fine wines, while the waves lap at the shore nearby. After a few leisurely hours, you'll reboard the train and set off for the night. We travel south through Nambucca Heads, Macksville, Kempsey and Taree, and wake in the morning as we pass through Gloucester and Dungog, en route to Maitland – the jumping off point for our exploration of the Hunter Valley.

TUESDAY 21 JANUARY 2025 (B/L/D) – begin with a hearty breakfast aboard before a full day of Off Train Excursions. Today you can choose your own adventure - the **Hunter Valley, Newcastle or Port Stephens**.

Hunter Valley Wine Region: Known for superior semillon and shiraz, the Hunter Valley is around 50kms inland from the New South Wales coast. After breakfast on board, you'll disembark and spend the day visiting cellar doors in Australia's oldest wine region. From historic Maitland Station (1880), you'll take a relaxing coach ride into this fertile valley, home to around 150 wineries ranging from slick big-name producers to small-scale boutique bottlers. Your day amongst the vines will take you to some of the region's finest wineries, from stylish and contemporary to marvellously historic, and relaxed and fun. Generous tasting times will allow you to savour the full range of Hunter Valley offerings. In between wine tastings, you'll also sit down for a platter-style lunch. Suitably wined and dined, you'll return to the coach to make the leisurely journey to Broadmeadow Station, meeting the Great Southern to continue your journey southwards.

Port Stephens by Land: Port Stephens' sun-soaked beaches, dunes and beautiful waterways are essential east coast highlights. After breakfast on board, the Great Southern pulls into old-time Maitland Station, from where it's a relaxed one-hour coach ride to Anna Bay, home to the impressive Stockton Sand Dunes. Soaring to an improbable 30m high and 1km wide in some places, these colossal sand hills are the largest mobile dunes in the Southern Hemisphere. A guided 4WD excursion is the best way to experience the beaches and dunes. After the 4WD tour, you'll be coached to lunch to savour fresh local produce. Back on the coach, it's a short drive back to meet the Great Southern at Broadmeadow Station.

Port Stephens by Sea: Port Stephens is a natural world stage, encompassing beautiful beaches, stunning sand dunes and clear waterways a true highlight of the east coast. After breakfast on board, the Great Southern pulls into old-time Maitland Station, from where it's a relaxed one-hour coach ride to the marina at Nelson Bay, just east of Port Stephens. Here you'll enjoy a relaxed cruise on the Bay, spotting playful bottlenose dolphins in their glorious natural habitat. Following a pleasant morning on board the 78ft catamaran, you will be coached to lunch to savour fresh local produce. Back on the coach, it's a short drive back to meet the Great Southern at Broadmeadow Station.

Newcastle Explorer: Newcastle is a city on the rise, where creative energy and heritage architecture collide with surf beaches and a hard-edged industrial legacy. Take a day to discover the many charms of Australia's third-oldest city. After breakfast on board, the train will pull into Maitland Station, from where you'll travel by coach to Queens Wharf on the waterfront in 'Newy'. There's enough here to keep you busy all day: an observation tower, marina, ferry dock, cafes, restaurants, pub, brewery... But an easy-going two-hour Newcastle Afoot walking tour will give you a broader sense of the city, finishing with lunch with a view. In the afternoon, choose between an hour of free time to explore the city or relaxing by the beach. Back on the coach, you'll transfer to Broadmeadow Station, where you'll reboard the Great Southern. In the evening, return to the train to enjoy a regionally-inspired meal prepared on board before retiring for the night.



Gold Premium Compartment



Gold Premium Dining Car

WEDNESDAY 22 JANUARY 2025 (B/L/D) – after enjoying breakfast on board, you can choose to visit Melbourne or enjoy a relaxed afternoon in the **Moorabool Valley**, visiting an excellent winery.

National Gallery of Victoria: Explore the oldest and most visited art collection in Australia at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV). Enjoy a private tour with a knowledgeable NGV Guide, showcasing collections from a range of international and local artists, exhibitions, programs and events, from contemporary art to major international historic exhibitions, fashion and design, architecture, sound and dance. Finish the tour on the banks of the Yarra River at Melbourne Skydeck, the Southern Hemisphere's highest public observation tower. From here, you'll enjoy lunch at Eureka 89, where you'll dine on a carefully crafted menu showcasing local and seasonal produce while taking in views of Melbourne and beyond. In the late afternoon, the coach will transfer you back to the train at Inverleigh to continue your journey south.

MCG Tour: The Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) is not only an iconic sporting institution, but also an impressive landmark solidified in Melbourne's skyline. On this Off Train Experience, guests will take a tour of the MCG with the insight and knowledge of a Melbourne Cricket Club member. Be regaled with the highs and lows of sporting history and take away some useful trivia for your next quiz night. Having worked up an appetite, transfer to Eureka 89 for lunch. Eureka 89 is within Eureka Tower on Melbourne's South Bank, which is also home to the Southern Hemisphere's tallest public observation deck. Here, you'll dine on a crafted menu showcasing local and seasonal produce while taking in the views of Melbourne and beyond. After lunch, you'll make your way back to the train to continue your journey south.

Old Melbourne Gaol: Head to the Old Melbourne Gaol, which from 1842 until its closure in 1929 was the scene of 133 hangings, including Australia's most infamous citizen, Bushranger Ned Kelly. Enjoy a private tour through the building and cells, seeing firsthand what life was like for all those men and women who lived and died here so many years ago. Having worked up an appetite, transfer to Eureka 89 for lunch. Eureka 89 is within Eureka Tower on Melbourne's South Bank, which is also home to the Southern Hemisphere's tallest public observation deck. Here, you'll dine on a crafted menu showcasing local and seasonal produce while taking in the views of Melbourne and beyond. After lunch, you'll make your way back to the train to continue your Journey South.

Moorabool Valley Winery: Victoria is well-known for its excellent food and wine scene and this is certainly on display at Clyde Park in the Moorabool Valley. A little over an hour from Melbourne, Clyde Park is a beautiful vineyard, cellar door and bistro set among rolling hills. Here, you'll enjoy a sumptuous lunch and cool climate wines while being entertained on the glorious lawns. A short 15 minute coach ride back to Inverleigh Station will see you rejoin with fellow guests, boarding the train in time for a delectable dinner while en-route to Adelaide.

THURSDAY 23 JANUARY 2025 – (B/L) as the train journeys through the charming Adelaide Hills, enjoy your last breakfast on board before a mid morning arriving into Adelaide and the end of your Great Southern train journey. We transfer to our Adelaide hotel, leave luggage, and enjoy a morning walk through the Adelaide Markets. Then to Glenelg on the tram for a simple bayside lunch at leisure, before returning to the hotel. The afternoon is free to explore at leisure, with dining your own arrangements tonight. Overnight Adelaide.



FRIDAY 24 JANUARY 2025 – (B/L) – this morning we visit the Adelaide Botanic Gardens for the **Dale Chihuly Glass Art Installation**. As you meander under majestic trees and through the lush landscapes of Adelaide's Botanic Garden, experience an event by the world's most celebrated contemporary glass artist. Embark on a leisurely journey of artistic discovery through Adelaide Botanic Garden's manicured landscapes and magnificent tree-lined avenues. In this curated outdoor exhibition, you will discover **15 large-scale glass sculptures** by world-renowned artist, Dale Chihuly. Then a deep dive into the world of Dale Chihuly in an accompanying exhibition that explores the celebrated artist's life, career, inspirations, epic installations, and his remarkable influence on contemporary glass art. Groupings of Chihuly's glass sculptures erupt from the lush rainforest inside the magnificent Bicentennial Conservatory where they appear to sprout like 'hybrid plants' from the vegetation within. The exhibition offers tantalising glimpses behind the doors of the Chihuly hot shop and insights into how the towering sculptures placed through the Botanic Garden were conceived, transported and built on site. After our visit we make tracks for the National Wine Centre, and enjoy a wine tasting and simple luncheon. The mid and late afternoon is free to explore North Terrace's stand out museums and gallery – the Art Gallery of South Australia, the South Australian Museum, and the Migration Museum, as well as the grounds of the University of Adelaide. Dinner at leisure and overnight Adelaide.



SATURDAY 25 JANUARY 2025 – (B/D) – we depart Adelaide and head for the Limestone Coast, through Mt Barker, Murray Bridge and along the Coorong. We will stop for luncheon enroute, before arriving at our destination – the quiet seaside town of Beachport. Enjoy a simple meal together and overnight Beachport.



SUNDAY 26 JANUARY 2025 – (B) – over the next two days we will enjoy relaxed sightseeing around the Limestone Coast. Today, a mid-morning departure to explore along the Coorong – established in 1966, the Coorong National Park is a spectacular saline lagoon stretching 140km. It is separated from the Southern Ocean by sand dunes of the Youngusband Peninsula, and is internationally significant under the Ramsar agreement as a migratory wader and waterfowl refuge.

MONDAY 27 JANUARY 2025 – (B/L) – we visit Kingston, Cape Jaffa and Robe, the latter renowned for its crayfish, which we plan to enjoy for a relaxed luncheon. Simple walks, coastal scenery and views across the Southern Ocean. Dinner at leisure and overnight Beachport.

TUESDAY 28 JANUARY 2025 – (B/D) – a relaxing day in and around Beachport – explore the small village, enjoy a swim, coffee and relaxing day, before we meet for our farewell dinner. If the weather is amenable, we plan to have a relaxing outdoor meal with local fresh seafood and other products, and some goon Coonawarra wines! Overnight Beachport.

WEDNESDAY 29 JANUARY 2025 – (B) – a depart mid morning and head via Penola and the Coonawarra. Visit the Mary MacKillop Penola Centre celebrating the life and legacy of Australia's first Saint, Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop. A morning coffee and we head towards Adelaide, with a stop for luncheon. A late afternoon arrival at Adelaide airport for flights back to the eastern seaboard, or stay overnight in Adelaide for flights the following day.

GREAT SOUTHERN ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

Gold Twin accommodation provides a comfortable sleeper cabin featuring private ensuite with shower / toilet / washbasin, and upper and lower berths that convert to a three-seater lounge by day. **Gold Single** accommodation is a compact sleeper cabin featuring a bed that converts to a seat by day and shared shower/toilet facilities located at the end of the carriage. Gold twin and Gold single service includes power outlets in cabins; in-cabin music channels and journey audio commentary available; all-inclusive dining in the Queen Adelaide Restaurant; all-inclusive Australian wines, beers, base spirits and non-alcoholic beverages; all-inclusive Off Train Excursions.

Gold Premium accommodated is a newly designed, contemporary cabin, with guests having exclusive access to the Gold Premium Lounge and Gold Premium Dining carriage for meals and socialising. Enjoy delicious breakfasts, two-course, regionally inspired lunches and delectable four-course dinners in beautiful surrounds, accompanied by a selection of premium beverages. Gold Premium offers some special touches to make the journey special, like priority check-in and an increased luggage allowance, a private en suite, luxury amenities, tour preferencing and more.

Platinum accommodation enhances the romance of rail travel. Stylishly appointed and spacious cabins are complemented by discreet, personalised service and access to the exclusive Platinum Club carriage for meals, relaxation and socialising. As you'd expect, the food and wine is of the highest standard. Enjoy hearty breakfasts, two-course lunches and four-course dinners, all regionally inspired and paired with champagne and premium wines. And it all begins before you've even stepped aboard. Platinum guests receive private transfers before and after your journey, beginning the adventure in style. Platinum cabins offer luxe extras, like a full-size en suite, expansive window views from the train, and exclusive use of the Platinum Club carriage. Add to that the luxurious linen, French Champagne, Bracegirdle's chocolates, a nightcap at turndown and more, and you're in for an exceptional experience.

By day, your cabin is configured as a private lounge with deluxe seating, a table and two ottomans. By night, you'll enjoy a deep, comfortable sleep as the lounges convert into a comfortable bedroom with either a double or twin beds. It's the perfect place to relax and take in the amazing views passing by your panoramic windows but, for a more social experience, head to the Platinum Club. Thoughtfully appointed to embody the spirit of the train's Australian heritage, the décor features quartzite tabletops, timber flooring, brass fittings and leather banquette lounge seating in tones of ash, moss and sepia. The carriage offers a daytime lounge setting with adaptable dining options.

FARES AND BOOKING – Sunday 19 to Wednesday 29 January 2025

FARES (incl. GST) include rail and coach travel; meals and refreshments as indicated; three night's accommodation aboard the Great Southern; all-inclusive meals, fine wines, and beverages aboard the Great Southern; a regionally-inspired menu paired with a selection of local wines; Off Train Experiences as described at Coffs Harbour, the Hunter Region (Hunter Valley, Port Stephens or Newcastle) and Melbourne / Moorabool; four nights accommodation at/near Beachport, SA on the Limestone Coast; sightseeing as indicated. Fares for travel to Brisbane and from Adelaide are additional.

Please note it is also possible to join us in Adelaide for the tour, NOT including the Great Southern rail experience.

Adelaide to Adelaide

Thursday 23 to Wednesday 29 January 2025

\$ 4,430 pp	double / twin share in hotel/motel rooms
\$ 950 pp	supplement for sole use of hotel/motel rooms

Brisbane to Adelaide

Sunday 19 to Thursday 23 January 2025

Great Southern rail journey Brisbane to Adelaide (fares from):

Tour Fare:	\$3,270 + / \$4,590 ^ pp	Gold Twin Cabin (two persons occupying the cabin)
	\$5,885 + / \$8,260 ^ pp	Gold Twin Cabin (sole use of the cabin)
	\$2,950 + / \$4,190 ^ pp	Gold Single cabin
	\$4,890 + / \$5,590 ^ pp	Gold Premium twin Cabin (two persons occupying the cabin)
	\$8,800 + / \$10,060 ^ pp	Gold Premium twin Cabin (sole use of the cabin)
	\$6,990 + / \$8,090 ^ pp	Platinum twin / double Cabin (two persons occupying the cabin)
	\$12,580 + / \$14,560 ^ pp	Platinum twin / double Cabin (sole use of cabin) and sole use hotel rooms

+ 25% payment at time of booking. Balance 50 days prior to departure. Cancellation at anytime is loss of payment made.

^ Payment in full at time of booking. Rail fare is refundable until 24hrs in advance, less \$200 cancellation fee

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please call us on (02) 9326 9660, 0418 585 838 or email at sjr@digitor.com.au for further details or information.

BOOKING, CANCELLATION AND TRAVEL CONDITIONS

Bookings will be accepted on the attached form. Cancellation fees apply as follows: the initial deposit is non-refundable. Rail fares as described above. After payment of further deposits towards the final tour cost, costs for tickets, accommodation, sightseeing etc made on your behalf will incur cancellation charges equal to the cancellation charges incurred to us, imposed by suppliers/operators, plus a fee to cover administrative costs – more than three months prior to departure, \$1,000 per person; within three months, \$2,000 per person. No refund will be made from three month's prior to departure. All cancellation or administration charges imposed by the suppliers/operators of components of this tour must be borne by you, the passenger. Responsibility - St James' Rail acts only as the organiser of the tour. Transportation, accommodation and other tour arrangements are made by our licensed travel agent, Jones and Turner Travel Associates, Paddington. On acceptance of tickets and travel documents for this tour, which may be evidenced in writing by a ticket, voucher, letter, or other document, you accept that neither St James' Rail nor representatives from any other firm supplying services in conjunction with this tour programme, shall be liable in contract or in tort (actionable wrong) for any injury, loss, damage, accident, sickness, delay or additional expense to you or your possessions arising directly or indirectly by force majeure or other events which are beyond our control, or which are not preventable by reasonable diligence on our part, including, but not limited to, civil disturbance,

fire, floods, acts of God, acts of Governments or other authorities, changes in itinerary, weather, strikes, war, transportation disruption, failure of machinery or equipment, industrial action, quarantine or any other cause. Where travel is by scheduled carrier, or charter service, that carrier's responsibility is limited in accordance with their conditions of carriage. Similarly all luggage is your responsibility, and we cannot be held liable for any loss or delay however caused. The care of your travel documents are your own responsibility. All expenses incurred by loss must be borne by you. Airline regulations and conditions are written on the airline tickets and are issued to passengers subject to their acceptance of these conditions. Changes in exchange rates, taxes and any land arrangements costs may alter the price of the tour, and St James' Rail reserves the right to change, amend or cancel this tour and/or itinerary if necessary. We reserve the right to amend the itinerary en route to account for unforeseen changes or conditions, or to improve the tour experience for the majority, as determined by the tour leader. Passports and visas – a valid passport with six months validity from the end of the tour is required. St James' Rail cannot accept responsibility for any losses or expenses incurred as a result of a passenger not holding valid and necessary passport or visa documents.

INSURANCE

Travel insurance is highly recommended to protect yourself against cancellation fees, health and other travel risks. An insurance policy can be sent to you from our travel agent, Sarah Manche, MTA Travel, for your consideration. Obtaining insurance cover for the tour is your responsibility.

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DALE CHIHULY GLASS INSTALLATION, ADELAIDE BOTANIC GARDENS

SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S LIMESTONE COAST

Sunday 19 to Wednesday 29 January 2025

YOUR CONTACT DETAILS:

Name:

Address: Suburb: Postcode:

Home tel: Mobile:

Email:

BOOKING DETAILS:

Passenger 1 Name:

Passenger 2 Name:

Passenger 3 Name:

Passenger 4 Name:

PAYMENT: I have enclosed / sent by EFT \$ as deposit (\$2,000 per person) for the above booking and agree to pay the balance by 1 November 2024. An email acknowledging receipt of your deposit will be forwarded.

SLEEPING CAR ACCOMMODATION ABOARD THE GREAT SOUTHERN:

Gold single compartment - roomette

Gold Twin compartment - twinette

Gold Sole use twin compartment

Premium Gold Twin compartment - twinette

Premium Gold Sole use Twin compartment

Platinum Double / Twin compartment Double or Twin bedding

Sole use Platinum Double / Twin compartment Double or Twin bedding

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION: Sole use Room Double Room Twin Room

TRAVEL TO BRISBANE AND FROM ADELAIDE:

..... I will make my / our own flight / travel arrangements

..... Please call to discuss your travel preferences.

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 Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) to Scenic Journeys by Rail, or payment by credit / debit card – a merchant fee of 1% applies for MasterCard, Visa, is preferred.

EFT Payment details are:

Bank: Westpac
Account name: Scenic Journeys by Rail
BSB: 033 364
Account: 612826
Reference: GS 2024 (and your surname) – some bank transfers cannot accept this, so please email your reference.

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

Payment can also be made by cheque payable to Scenic Journeys by Rail.

You can either mail to:

SJR
PO Box N400
GROSVENIOR PLACE 1220

Or make deposit of the cheque at a Westpac Bank, directly to the above account.

August 2024