

# THE ROYAL TRAIN

**Melbourne – Camperdown - the Great Ocean Road -  
Warrnambool – Port Fairy - Bendigo – Echuca -  
Deniliquin – Castlemaine – Melbourne - Sydney**

**Thursday 23 – Wednesday 29 November 2023**



## Highlights include:

- Seven day / six 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 Warrnambool
- Two night stay in Bendigo
- Great Ocean Road sightseeing by coach
- Port Fairy and Tower Hill sightseeing by coach
- Echuca paddle steamer on the Murray River
- Echuca (VIC) rail travel to Deniliquin (NSW)
- Bendigo Tram tour
- Movenpick Hotel, opposite Southern Cross
- Takako's 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 Takako's lovely freshly prepared refreshments, and then overnight Melbourne. The 'Royal Train' takes us from Melbourne to Camperdown, whilst enjoying breakfast in the Dining Car, where we board road coaches to travel to the Great Ocean Road, and to Warrnambool for two nights. Explore Port Fairy, Tower Hill and Warrnambool, before rejoining the Royal Train to travel from Warrnambool to Geelong and on to Bendigo for two nights, with breakfast and luncheon in the Dining Car. We visit Echuca, ride a paddlesteamer on the Murray River, then travel on the 'Royal Train' to Deniliquin in NSW, with luncheon and late afternoon refreshments aboard. We return to Bendigo, overnight, explore Bendigo and their trams, and then enjoy luncheon aboard the 'Royal Train' as we return through Castlemaine and Kyneton to Melbourne. We again overnight Melbourne opposite Southern Cross Station, before breakfast at the hotel and then travel back to Sydney aboard the NSW TrainLink XPT service, with Takako's 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 breakfasts, luncheons and light evening refreshments 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 aboard the train.

## OUR JOURNEY

**THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2023 (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 Takako's 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.

**FRIDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2023 (B/L/D) – aboard the 'Royal Train' and Great Ocean Road sightseeing** – enjoy breakfast in the Dining Car of the Royal Train as we head south west through Geelong, Winchelsea, Birregurra and Colac to Camperdown. Here we change to our chartered road coach and head south through the rich farmlands to the 'Shipwreck Coast.'

Enjoy luncheon, and then an afternoon sightseeing drive along the Great Ocean Road, with planned stops at the Twelve Apostles, Loch Ard Gorge, the London Arch (formerly London Bridge before it collapsed) and the Bay of Martyrs, along with the seaside towns of Port Campbell and Peterborough. In the late afternoon we check in to our accommodation for the next two nights, the Lady Bay Resort, Warrnambool. Dinner is included tonight and overnight Warrnambool.

**SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2023 (B/L/D) – Tower Hill, Port Fairy –** enjoy breakfast before we enjoy a relaxing day of sightseeing to Port Fairy and Tower Hill. Tower Hill Wildlife Reserve sits in the caldera of a large extinct volcanic crater. It is one of Victoria's most fascinating and significant geological formations. Volcanic cone-shaped hills rise from the lakes.



Port Fairy sits at the point of entrance of the Moyne River into the Southern Ocean. Whilst whalers and seal hunters predominated in the early nineteenth century, today this picturesque village is supported by tourism and fishing, being the base for one of the largest fishing fleets in Victoria. We return to Warrnambool with some time to explore the city, and then dinner is again included tonight. Overnight Warrnambool.

**SUNDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2023 (B/L) – aboard the 'Royal Train' to Bendigo –** this morning we transfer to Warrnambool Station to join the 'Royal Train.' Enjoy breakfast aboard as we head east through Camperdown, Colac and Geelong, 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. On arrival in Bendigo transfer to our hotel accommodation for the next two nights. Dinner is at leisure and overnight Bendigo.



**MONDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2023 (B/L/LR) – Echuca, Murray River Paddlesteamer, Deniliquin** – after breakfast we transfer to the railway station and catch a V/Line rail service for the 90-minute journey from Bendigo to Echuca. Sitting on the banks of the Murray River opposite the NSW town of Moama, Echuca was a thriving port in the days of the booming river trade, and the Port of Echuca Discovery Centre presents some of the town and river’s history, along with a portion of the original Echuca Wharf. Join a paddlesteamer for a cruise on the Murray River, before we return to Echuca Railway Station for our journey on the ‘Royal Train’ into NSW – on Victorian broad gauge rail lines to the NSW town of Deniliquin. We return through Echuca and to Bendigo in the later afternoon, with light evening refreshments aboard. Overnight Bendigo.



**TUESDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2023 (B/L) – Bendigo sightseeing, and then through Castlemaine, Knetong and to Melbourne** – 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. In the early afternoon board the ‘Royal Train’ and return to Melbourne. Enjoy luncheon in the Dining Car as we head through Castlemaine, Kyneton, Woodend to Melbourne. Cross the road to our accommodation at the Movenpick Hotel, enjoy a last exploration of the city precincts, walk along the Yarra, light repast at St Kilda – overnight Melbourne.

**WEDNESDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2023 (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 Takako’s lovely 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.



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**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.)**

Sharing a double/twin hotel room	\$4,490
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](mailto:sjr@digitor.com.au)

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

You can also pay 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 \$1,000 per person is required to secure your place. The balance is payable by 1 September 2023. Cancellation charges apply as follows: Cancellation before 1 September 2023, loss of deposit. Cancellation from 1 September 2023 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.

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Telephone 02 9326 9660      Mobile 0418 585 838      Email [sjr@digitor.com.au](mailto:sjr@digitor.com.au)

# THE ROYAL TRAIN BOOKING FORM

**Thursday 23 – Wednesday 29 November 2023**

**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 (\$1,000 per person) for the above booking and agree to pay the balance by 1 September 2023. Please make cheques payable to St James Rail. An email acknowledging receipt of your deposit 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 : .....

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**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](mailto:sjr@digitor.com.au) to advise us of your payment.

July 2023