

# ANZAC SOUTHERN AURORA

Great food, wine and scenery of regional NSW

Sydney – Upper Hunter Valley – Werris Creek – Uralla –  
Walcha Road – Premer - Binnaway – Dubbo - Orange -  
Wallerawang – Kandos – Rylstone – Katoomba - Sydney

Saturday 22 – Wednesday 26 April 2023



## Highlights include:

- Five day / four night rail cruise through regional NSW
- Travel in the 61<sup>st</sup> year of the *Southern Aurora*
- *Southern Aurora* private sleeping compartments
- Meals in the *Southern Aurora* Dining car
- Enjoy drinks in the *Southern Aurora* Lounge Car
- Anzac Day at Orange in the Central West of NSW
- Travel on freight only rail lines in country NSW
- Upper Hunter scenery, food and wine
- Uralla and Oxley Wild Rivers National Park
- Petersons Winery luncheon, Armidale
- Werris Creek Rail Museum and Rail Monument
- Western Plains Zoo visit and dinner
- Oxley Wild Rivers National Park visit
- Capertee Valley line to Rylstone

The ‘*Southern Aurora*’ – a 1960’s icon of the nation— the gleaming, stainless steel ‘*Southern Aurora*’ pioneered luxury overnight rail travel on the Sydney – Melbourne standard gauge rail line in the 1960’s. Just over sixty years since it began, the ‘*Southern Aurora*’s’ comfortable sleeping, lounge / bar and restaurant cars return to provide a unique experience to enjoy country rail travel.

**Freshly prepared meals in the restaurant cars** - aboard our train, superior quality food is served. Meals in the stylish air-conditioned restaurant car are a journey highlight, providing a unique and civilised culinary experience, accompanied by panoramic views. Quality table d’hote modern Australian meals are prepared by experienced chefs and served by professional waiters. Breakfasts feature fresh fruits, muesli, cereals, juices, a hot savoury course, toast and preserves. Luncheons and dinners aboard are quality two course meals, freshly cooked on the train – main courses, with tempting desserts and tea/coffee. A range of quality Australian wines are available to purchase with your meal, and afterwards relax in the lounge car with a cleansing ale, glass of port. Retire to your sleeping compartment at your leisure and sleep comfortably for the night.

The licensed 'Southern Aurora' lounge / bar car provides a spacious and social environment to relax in comfort and enjoy the views with a range of alcoholic and soft drinks. Enjoy your favourite drink with friends as the afternoon light illuminates colours and silhouettes of the Australian landscape.

**A night out aboard the 'Southern Aurora'** - overnight aboard features restful travel in cosy sleeping cabins. The well-appointed sleeping cabins provide a private and comfortable wide vision sitting room by day and are easily converted to a cosy bedroom at night. Watch from your private bedroom as the night sky passes outside your compartment window, and be lulled to sleep by the 'rhythm of the rails.' The train remains stationary from late evening until early morning to ensure a restful sleep. The air-conditioned 'Southern Aurora' offers single ('roomette') and twin ('twinette') cabins – twin cabins have en suite toilets, washbasins and hot showers, whilst single cabins have their own washbasin with two large toilet and showers at the end of the car. Sleeping berths are prepared with freshly laundered bed linen and blankets, with all cabins having fresh towels, luggage storage, power points, main, reading and night lights, cupboard and mirror. Complimentary toiletries are provided and tea and coffee is also available on board throughout the rail journey. Professional car attendants prepare your bedroom at night, and in the morning, refresh and raise beds, returning it for day use.

## **OUR JOURNEY THROUGH NORTHERN AND WESTERN NSW**

In April 2023 we combine the comfort and elegance of rail travel in lounge, dining and sleeping cars of the Southern Aurora, with the opportunity to experience some of the fine food, wines and scenery of regional NSW. You'll explore and taste gourmet foods and wines of the Upper Hunter, Northern Tablelands and Central West, as well as the scenery of the Hawkesbury and Brisbane Waters, Upper Hunter, the Liverpool Range, Northern Tablelands, Capertee Valley and Blue Mountains. Featuring visits to wineries, local gourmet producers, and offering great tastes aboard, prepared in the Southern Aurora's kitchen by talented chefs and served to you in the dining car. Experiences include:

- ❖ Hunter Valley local produce and winery visit
- ❖ Armidale's Petersons Winery for tasting and luncheon
- ❖ Uralla's historic McCrossins Mill; Gostwyck Chapel and the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park
- ❖ Walcha Road pub early evening visit
- ❖ Dubbo's Western Plains Zoo for inspection and dinner
- ❖ Anzac Day in Orange
- ❖ Capertee Valley scenery



## OUR JOURNEY THROUGH NSW

**SATURDAY 22 APRIL 2023 (L/D) – from Sydney north along the Hawkesbury River and Brisbane Waters to the Hunter Valley** - a mid morning departure has us travelling north, crossing the Hawkesbury River and Brisbane Waters toward Maitland and Singleton. Enjoy the first of many wonderful meals aboard prepared by our talented chefs. A fresh seafood platter (meat/vegan options available) travelling north towards the Hunter Valley. This afternoon we leave our train to taste local produce, rejoining for an evening drink and then dinner in the dining cars as we roll north west towards the Liverpool Ranges and to Werris Creek, where the train stables for the night.



**SUNDAY 23 APRIL 2023 (B/L/D) – to Uralla, sightseeing, Walcha Road Pub and northern tablelands scenery** – enjoy breakfast in the Dining Car as we head further north to Uralla. We leave the Southern Aurora and join coaches for our day of sightseeing, including visits in Uralla, to Petersons Winery for tastings and luncheon, view Gostwyck Chapel, and peer into the Dangar Falls in the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park. In the mis afternoon we rejoin the Southern Aurora and head south to Walcha Road, where we stop for a drink at the Walcha Road Pub – with little surrounding it, the rare experience of stopping your train at Walcha Road Station and walking to the pub is one many have enjoyed, and we are sure you will too ! Back on board enjoy dinner in the dining car as we head south to Werris Creek, where the train again stables for the night.

**MONDAY 24 APRIL 2023 (B/L/D) – Spring Ridge, Premer, Binnaway and to Dubbo** – wake this morning as we travel west on the freight only line through the wheatfields of Spring Ridge and Premer, and on to Binnaway. Enjoy breakfast and luncheon in the dining car before we alight from the Southern Aurora mid afternoon to explore the Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo. After out tour of the zoo, enjoy dinner and then return to the Southern Aurora for an evening nightcap and overnight.



**TUESDAY 25 APRIL 2023 (B/L/D) – Dubbo to Orange and to the Capertee Valley** – wake this morning as we head south east through Wellington towards Orange. Enjoy breakfast in the dining car, before our mid morning arrival to Orange. We leave the train and mark Anzac Day in the Central Western city of Orange. After the March and Anzac Day Ceremony, we rejoin the Southern Aurora for luncheon as we head east through Blayney and Bathurst towards Wallerawang.



At Wallerawang we leave the Main Western line and head north through Portland and Kandos towards Rylstone. The Capertee Valley is especially scenic, and we will enjoy some this evening, and more tomorrow when we depart from Rylstone. Enjoy a pre-dinner drink in the evening light as we head slowly towards Kandos – dinner is served in the restaurant car – enjoy a glass of wine, good conversation and retire to your sleeping cabin. The train stables overnight at Rylstone.

**WEDNESDAY 26 APRIL 2023 (B/L) – the Capertee Valley, Blue Mountains and to Sydney** – this morning we enjoy breakfast as the train heads south along the Capertee Valley, with the small communities of Clandulla, Capertee and Ben Bullen, before we rejoin the Main Western line and head east to Lithgow. Enjoy luncheon as we cross the Blue Mountains, with spectacular views of the Grose, Megalong and Jamison Valleys. Then descend through Lawson, Springwood and Glenbrook to the Cumberland Plan and Sydney - the end of our spectacular rail cruise to the Hunter Valley Northern Tablelands, and Central West regions of NSW aboard the Southern Aurora.

**FARES\* (all sightseeing, accommodation, rail/coach travel & meals as indicated) – fares are per person for two sharing a twinette compartment or sole use of a roomette compartment)**

Sharing a twin cabin or sole use of a roomette	\$4,990
Supplement for sole use of twin sleeping compartment	\$3,990

**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

A non-refundable deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to secure your place. The balance is payable by 1 March 2023. Cancellation charges apply as follows: Cancellation before 1 March 2023, loss of deposit. Cancellation from 1 March 2023 no refund. An insurance policy is available from our travel agent - Travel Associates, Paddington, 2021 – 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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# ANZAC AURORA 2023 OUTBACK NSW RAIL CRUISE BOOKING FORM Saturday 22 – Wednesday 26 April 2023

**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 (\$1,000 per person) for the above booking and agree to pay the balance by 1 March 2023. Please make cheques payable to St James Rail. A letter acknowledging receipt of your deposit will be forwarded.

**SLEEPING CAR ACCOMMODATION**

Twin compartment - twinette .....  
Single compartment - roomette .....  
Sole use twin compartment .....

**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: Anzac 2023 (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.

January 2023