

A NEW ZEALAND RAIL JOURNEY

Forgotten World Rail Adventure

Drive your rail cart along 142 km of railway - 98 bridges and 24 tunnels, and Auckland to Taumarunui return rail journeys

Saturday 30 January – Monday 8 February 2027

Join us to New Zealand's North Island to experience a unique rail adventure – driving your own rail cart along the 142 km rail line from Okahukura to Stratford and return. We pass through 24 tunnels, and cross 98 bridges on this remarkable journey, experiencing local hospitality and the beautiful New Zealand countryside along the way. Also enjoy a day on Auckland's harbour visiting Waiheke Island, experience the Northern Explorer rail journey from Auckland to Taumarunui, and explore the Taranaki Region of New Zealand – from Mt Taranaki to New Plymouth.



ITINERARY

The itinerary for the tour, with an overview of activities, is below. Meals included are shown as Breakfast (B), Morning Tea (MT), Lunch (L), Afternoon Tea (AT), Light Dinner (LD) and Dinner (D).

Saturday 30 January 2027 – to Auckland

A mid morning departure from Australia on a flight to Auckland, for a mid afternoon arrival. Arrivals in Auckland scheduled around 1500hrs will be met, and for other flights, transfer by own arrangements by taxi or public transport to our city hotel. Enjoy a walk along the foreshore of Auckland Harbour, before a meal at leisure at one of the many restaurants near the harbour and Viaduct precinct, near our hotel. Overnight Auckland.

Sunday 31 January 2027 (B/D) – Auckland sightseeing

Enjoy a day of sightseeing in and around Auckland, with the included group activity a cruise on the Hauraki Gulf to explore Waiheke Island. Some free time before joining us for dinner in the Sky Tower's excellent revolving restaurant – enjoy views at evening light overlooking the city and harbour. Overnight Auckland.

Monday 1 February 2027 (B/L/D) – Auckland to Taumarunui on the Northern Explorer

After an early breakfast, we depart Auckland on KiwiRail's Northern Explorer service south to Taumarunui. Experience the North Island's lovely range of scenery as the Northern Explorer takes you through rolling green farmland, virgin bush and past quaint country towns. On arrival at Taumarunui we transfer to our motel and leave luggage. We visit the Nevalea Alpaca Farm – the largest in New Zealand – and as well as learning all about the animals and the farm, we enjoy luncheon in this picturesque location. This evening we enjoy a freshly prepared country-style dinner in our motel, before a good rest prior to beginning our rail adventure tomorrow. Overnight Taumarunui.



Tuesday 2 February 2027 (B/MT/L/AT/D) – rail carts - Okahukura to Whangamomona

After a hearty breakfast we travel the short distance to Okahukura by mini bus where our adventure begins. Board our rail carts (designed for two and with some for four) and we begin our 142km journey through 24 tunnels, and across 98 bridges on our way to Stratford. See the remnants of the original settlements along the line - the history of this landscape will resonate as you absorb the stories and relive the memories of New Zealand's pioneering past with this two-day journey back in time to Stratford. With morning and afternoon tea stops enroute, where we see local communities, we arrive at our destination for the first night, Whangamomona. Dinner and overnight accommodation is in the Whangamomona Hotel. (Most rooms at the Whangamomona hotel are not en suite – rooms share bathrooms in this regional NZ outpost.)



Wednesday 3 February 2027 (B/MT/L/D) – rail carts – Whangamomona to Stratford

After breakfast we rejoin our rail carts and begin our second day as we drive our carts towards Stratford. Through Pohokura and Te Wera, Douglas and Toko to Stratford. Morning tea, sightseeing and luncheon stops are included, and on arrival at Stratford we transfer to our excellent accommodation for two nights. Set in the foothills of Mt Taranaki, Stratford provides an excellent base to explore. Dinner is included in this small but vibrant town, and overnight Stratford.

Thursday 4 February 2027 (B) – Mt Taranaki, New Plymouth sightseeing



Today we explore the Taranaki Region – begin with breakfast on the slopes of Taranaki, and then time for a short walk to view the mountain that gives its name to the national park. From the impressive picture-perfect Mount Taranaki that towers 2518m over the region, we head via Opunake with its famous black sand beach to New Plymouth. Boasting the impressive Len Lye Centre for contemporary art, Puke Ariki Museum promoting the heritage of the Taranaki people, and the architectural masterpiece that is the Te Rewa Rewa bridge. Boasting rich volcanic soils, the local botanic gardens are also impressive, and we return to Stratford. Enjoy dinner at leisure. Overnight Stratford.

Friday 5 February 2027 (B/MT/L/D) – rail carts – Stratford to Whangamomona

After breakfast we rejoin our rail carts and begin our third day back behind the wheel as we drive our carts towards Whangamomona. Morning and afternoon tea, as well as luncheon stops are included as we traverse this forgotten world of the railway line piercing through the hills and valleys of the North Island. On arrival at Whangamomona we walk to our accommodation for the night. Whangamomona is New Zealand's answer to Western Australia's Hutt River Province, and prides itself on being a self proclaimed republic. Dinner and overnight Whangamomona.



Saturday 6 February 2027 (B/MT/L/AT/D) – rail carts to Okahukura and Taumarunui

Our final day on the rail carts as we return towards Okahukura. At the end of our journeying we will have travelled through 48 tunnels, and crossed 196 bridges – a unique experience few will have the privilege of taking. A perspective of being at rail level as we cross the countryside of the north island of New Zealand. At Okahukura we join our coach and return to Taumarunui - enjoy a simple country style dinner and overnight Taumarunui.

Sunday 7 February 2027 (B/MT) – Northern Explorer to Auckland

After breakfast we visit Laurens Lavender Farm - a family owned business growing around 8,000 lavender plants. Late morning we return to Taumarunui Railway Station to join the Northern Explorer north for our return to Auckland. An early evening arrival into Auckland – we transfer to our hotel and the evening is free to enjoy a meal at one of the many nearby cafes and restaurants on Auckland's harbour shores. Dinner at leisure and overnight Auckland.

Monday 8 February 2027 (B) – to Australia

A relaxed morning before we transfer to Auckland airport for flights back to Australia. There are a range of flight options to Australian cities.



ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

Accommodation in Auckland is in a 5 star hotel, and in regional New Zealand in 3½ - 4½ star hotels. Some accommodation in Whangamomona involves shared bathroom facilities. Breakfast is included most mornings, with lunches and dinners as identified in the itinerary. Where there is a range of lunch and dinner options, we have not included these in the itinerary to provide choice in style and time of dining.

CAPACITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TOUR

Fitness and mobility is necessary for participation in the tour. Tour passengers must be able to manage their own luggage, and to carry/wheel it on and off trains, from stations and coaches to hotels, and if necessary, up or down a flight of stairs. The tour involves travelling on golf carts on rail tracks, and the ability to move safely on unformed and uneven surfaces, such as rail tracks, is essential. There is also exploration of locations by walking. By payment of your deposit and tour fare you confirm that you are of a suitable level of mobility and fitness to participate in the tour and are aware of the nature of the tour.

FARES AND BOOKING PROCEDURES

The tour is limited in size to 20 guests - bookings will be confirmed in order of receipt of a deposit of \$2,000 per person.

10 days (30 January to 8 February 2027)

- \$8,860 per person on a twin share basis, plus airfares to/from Australia
- \$1,870 single supplement for sole use of hotel/motel accommodation

The deposit of \$2,000 per person should be forwarded by cheque, payable to St James Rail, along with the booking form, to: SJR, PO Box N400, GROSVENOR PLACE, 1220.

You can also pay by credit card (MasterCard / Visa) with a 1% merchant fee – please call to provide details.

You can also pay by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT):

Bank:	Westpac
Account Name:	Scenic Journeys by Rail
BSB:	033 364
Account Number:	612826
Reference:	Your name and 'NZ'

If paying by EFT, please email to sjr@digitor.com.au to advise you have done so. Please forward the booking form to the address above, or scan and email it.

BOOKING, CANCELLATION AND TRAVEL CONDITIONS

Bookings will be accepted on the attached form. Cancellation fees apply as follows: the initial deposit is non refundable. (Note conditions relating to COVID-19 below.) After further payment towards the final tour cost, costs for tickets, accommodation, sightseeing etc made on your behalf, cancellation will incur 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, \$3,000 per person. No refund will be made after two months prior to departure from Australia. 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 as the organiser of the tour. Some transportation, accommodation and other tour arrangements are made by 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. Full details of terms and conditions: if you would like a copy of the full terms and conditions applicable to all SJR tours please contact us and we will forward a copy to you. Special conditions relating to COVID-19 – if the tour is unable to proceed due to Government restrictions, SJR may at our election: postpone your travel arrangements to a future date, in which case we will issue you with a credit note equal to amounts paid at the time of postponement; or cancel your travel arrangements, in which case our contract with you will terminate. If we cancel your travel arrangements and our contract terminates, neither of us will have any claim for damages against the other. However, we will refund payments made by you less unrecoverable third party costs and less fair compensation for work undertaken by us up until the time of termination and in connection with the processing of any refund. SJR will refund payments it is able to recover or not incur from the various suppliers of services to this tour. Refunds will be made when the funds have been received by SJR from third party suppliers.

INSURANCE AND FURTHER INFORMATION

It is strongly recommended that you have a comprehensive travel insurance policy to protect yourself against cancellation fees, health and other travel risks. An insurance policy can be forwarded from our travel agent, Sarah Manche, at MTA Travel. Obtaining insurance cover is your responsibility. Please contact us on (02) 9326 9660 or 0418 585 838, or email to sjr@digitor.com.au for any further information.



A NEW ZEALAND RAIL JOURNEY

Forgotten World Rail Adventure

Saturday 30 January – Monday 8 February 2027

BOOKING FORM

YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

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

BOOKING DETAILS (Full passenger names EXACTLY as shown in passports:)

Passenger 1 Name:
Date of Birth: Passport No: Expiry Date:
Frequent Flyer No: Airline No:
Passenger 2 Name:
Date of Birth: Passport No: Expiry Date:
Frequent Flyer No: Airline No:

PAYMENT

I enclose \$ as deposit (\$2,000 per person) for the above. Cheques payable to St James Rail to PO Box N400, GROSVENOR PLACE, 1220. Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) details below. A letter acknowledging receipt will be forwarded.

Bank: Westpac
Account name: Scenic Journeys by Rail (trading as St James Rail)
BSB: 033 364
Account: 612826
Reference: NZ (and your surname)

Credit card payment is available, with merchant fees of 1.00% for Visa/MasterCard. Please call us to make payment by debit/credit card.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Single rooms: Double rooms: Twin (two bedded) rooms: Triple bedded room

DIETARY REQUESTS (we will do our best to accommodate and advise accordingly)

Please indicate any dietary request :
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AIR TRAVEL TO/FROM NEW ZEALAND

- Please call me to discuss air travel options
- I/we will make our own air travel arrangements

INSURANCE

- Please send an insurance policy from our agent Sarah Manche, MTA Travel.

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.

Signature of person making reservation: Date:

Cancellation charges will apply as advised in this itinerary. An insurance policy can be forwarded from our travel agent Sarah Manche, MTA Travel.

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Email	sjr@digitor.com.au	Web	www.stjamesrail.org

March 2026