

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 Wellington rail journeys

Tuesday 19 November – Saturday 30 November 2024

(optional extension to Christchurch, South Island, to Wednesday 4 December 2024)

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. Explore the Taranaki Region of New Zealand – Mt Taranaki and New Plymouth - as well as journeying on the paddle steamer Waimarie on the Wanganui River. Experience the Northern Explorer rail journey from Auckland to Wellington, and there is the option to continue to the South Island aboard the Interislander ferry, and journey on New Zealand's Coastal Pacific and spectacular TranzAlpine rail journeys, as well as Christchurch's restaurant tram, as part of a five day/four night extension.



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).

Tuesday 19 November 2024 – to Auckland

A mid morning departure from Australia on a flight to Auckland, for a mid afternoon arrival. The recommended group flight from Sydney will be met in Auckland, and transfer arranged to our city hotel, where you can enjoy a walk along the foreshore of Auckland Harbour, before a meal at leisure at one of the many restaurants on the harbour foreshore, in front of our hotel. Overnight Auckland.

Wednesday 20 November 2024 (B/D) – Auckland sightseeing

Enjoy a day of sightseeing in and around Auckland, with options to cruise on the Hauraki Gulf and 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.

Thursday 21 November 2024 (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.

Friday 22 November 2024 (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 ensuite – rooms share bathrooms in this regional NZ outpost.)

Saturday 23 November 2024 (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 three 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.

Sunday 24 November 2024 (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.

Monday 25 November 2024 (B) – Whanganui paddle steamer and vintage tram

This morning we visit Whanganui to experience both a restored vintage tram in operation, and also to experience a cruise on the beautiful historic paddle steamer Waimarie that operates from Whanganui. Enjoy a simple luncheon purchased aboard. The picturesque river city of Whanganui has an interesting history. During the late 1800s the city was an important trading centre, with the Whanganui River serving as a key transportation route for goods and people. The city's rapid expansion during this period has left its mark on the city's architecture. Notable buildings include the Royal Whanganui Opera House and the Sarjeant Art Gallery. We return to Stratford for dinner at leisure and overnight Stratford.



Tuesday 26 November 2024 (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.

Wednesday 27 November 2024 (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.

Thursday 28 November 2024 (B/MT) – Northern Explorer to Wellington

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 south to Wellington. The journey through Tongariro National Park, with its three spectacular volcanic mountains – Tongariro, Ngāuruhoe and Ruapehu – is a highlight, a place of extremes and surprises, where snow-blanketed fields, ancient lava flows and dense beech forests can be seen side by side. Equally we journey around the Raurimu Spiral - a single-track railway spiral, starting with a horseshoe curve, overcoming a 139-metre height difference on the North Island Main Trunk Railway is a notable feat of civil engineering, having been called an "engineering masterpiece." An early evening arrival into Wellington – we transfer to our hotel and the evening is free to enjoy a meal at one of the many nearby cafes and restaurants on Wellington's harbour shores. Dinner at leisure and overnight Wellington.

Friday 29 November 2024 (B/D) – Wellington sightseeing

After breakfast we board Wellington's Cable Car for the scenic ride from Lambton Quay through the hillside terraced houses of Kelburn to the lookout perched high above the city. Inspect the Cable Car Museum, before a pleasant walk down through the Botanic Gardens. With 25 hectares of specialised plant collections, colourful botanical displays, unique landscape, protected native forest, and views over Wellington City, our walk ends at the Rose Garden and Glasshouses. Enjoy a well deserved morning refreshment at their tea house before we depart for a scenic drive around the extensive coastline of the city. In the later afternoon you can choose to enjoy some time in the acclaimed Te Papa 'Museum of New Zealand' with its huge Maori collection, amongst other world-class exhibits. Tonight enjoy a farewell dinner for those leaving us to return to Australia, or join for a welcome dinner with those joining us for the continuation of the tour to New Zealand's South Island. Overnight Wellington.

Saturday 30 November 2024 (B/L) – to Australia or New Zealand's South Island

Those returning to Australia have a relaxing morning before a mid afternoon transfer to Wellington Airport for flights back to Australia. Alternatively join us on the midday crossing aboard the Interislander Ferry to Picton on New Zealand's South Island. After the scenic crossing of the Cook Strait, we enter Queen Charlotte and Marlborough Sounds to the port of Picton. Enjoy luncheon aboard, before a mid afternoon arrival. Check in to our Picton accommodation for the night and dinner is at leisure.

Sunday 1 December 2024 (B/L) – to Australia or New Zealand's South Island

A relaxing morning to explore the sites of Picton, before we board the Coastal Pacific for the scenic rail journey along the eastern coastline from Picton through Kaikoura to Christchurch. We enjoy the rail travel with **New Zealand's new Scenic Plus Dining service**, with food and drink included and served at your seat, as well as a private observation car to enjoy the journey. The line passes the vineyards of Blenheim, hugs the coastline for much of the journey south, and then crosses the Canterbury Plains to Christchurch. On arrival we transfer to our hotel, dinner is at leisure, and overnight Christchurch.

Monday 2 December 2024 (B/D) – Christchurch



Enjoy a leisurely day of sightseeing in this fine English city – as it rebuilds from the earthquake that damaged much of the city centre – evidence that is still very clear. With punts gliding along the Avon River, a temporary Anglican Cathedral and even trams! Internationally famed as 'The Garden City', Christchurch's well-established expansive parks and public gardens owe much to the planning and foresight of the city's founding fathers.

The centrally-located 161 hectare Hagley Park, the Botanic Gardens, the four leafy inner-city avenues, Victoria Square and spectacular gardens such as Mona Vale on the banks of the River Avon bear testimony to this legacy. Visit the Christchurch Art Gallery and Museum and other cultural sights, and explore walking in this very attractive city. Dinner tonight is aboard the Christchurch Tramway Restaurant Car – the only one in New Zealand - travel the tram lines of the city and enjoy dinner. Overnight Christchurch.

Tuesday 3 December 2024 (B/L/D) – Christchurch to Greymouth return – the TranzAlpine

Today we join what has been described as one of the world's great rail journeys – the TranzAlpine Express - that traverses the Southern Alps between Christchurch and Greymouth. The trip is 223.8 kilometres long and takes four and a half hours. There are 16 tunnels, and 5 viaducts, the highest being the 'Staircase' standing at 73 metres. Leaving Christchurch we travel across the fields of the Canterbury Plains with its rich farmland, before ascending into the Southern Alps, with spectacular gorges and river valleys of the Waimakariri River. From Arthurs Pass we descend steeply to the lush beech rain forest of the West Coast and to Greymouth. A small historic gold mining community, where the precious metal is still mined today. We travel in **New Zealand's new Scenic Plus Dining service class**, with all meals and drinks included in the experience. Greymouth is now a service centre for the west coast, and a jumping off point for the scenic south west of the island. We return in the afternoon to Christchurch, retracing our steps but with a different perspective as we view the scenery approaching from the opposite way. Again experience the all inclusive meal and drink service aboard the Scenic Plus carriages, with private observation carriage. Overnight Christchurch.

Wednesday 4 December 2024 (B) - the International Antarctic Centre and to Australia

After a relaxed breakfast we check out of the hotel late-morning and head to the International Antarctic Centre near Christchurch's International Airport. Established in 1992 the centre presents an incredible world of ice and mystery, ambition and endeavour. Experience snow and ice, survive an indoor Antarctic storm, learn about life at Scott Base and see what it takes to work on the ice. Watch Little Blue Penguins, snuggle in with huskies, experience an Håggglund ride, an awesome 4D theatre, a massive HD screen and more. Enjoy luncheon and in the early afternoon walk to the nearby Christchurch International Airport for your flight back to Australia. There are direct Christchurch flights to Australia's eastern seaboard capitals, or you may prefer to transit Auckland for a return to Australia.

ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

Accommodation in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch is in 4½ - 5 star hotels, and in regional New Zealand in 3 ½ - 4 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 2 guests - bookings will be confirmed in order of receipt of a deposit of \$2,000 per person.

12 days (19 to 30 November 2024) Auckland to Wellington

- \$7,860 per person on a twin share basis, plus airfares to/from Australia
- \$1,670 single supplement for sole use of hotel/motel accommodation

5 days (30 November to 4 December 2024) Wellington to Christchurch

- \$3,750 per person on a twin share basis, plus airfares to/from Australia
- \$780 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 at Jones and Turner, Travel Associates, Paddington, NSW 2021. 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.

NORTH ISLAND



A NEW ZEALAND RAIL JOURNEY

Forgotten World Rail Adventure

Tuesday 19 November – Saturday 30 November 2024
(optional extension to Christchurch, South Island, to Wednesday 4 December 2024)

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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EXTENSION FROM WELLINGTON TO THE SOUTH ISLAND

..... Please book me/us to travel from Wellington to Christchurch on the optional tour extension.

AIR TRAVEL TO/FROM NEW ZEALAND

..... Please book me/us to travel from Sydney to Auckland on the recommended flight on 19 November 2024

..... Please book me/us to travel from Wellington to Sydney on the recommended flight on 30 November 2024

..... Please book me/us to travel from Christchurch to Sydney on the recommended flight on Wednesday 4 December 2024

City of departure / return to Australia (if not Sydney)

..... Economy class air travel

..... Business class air travel

..... 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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December 2023