

# ANZAC SOUTHERN AURORA

Great food, wine and scenery of regional NSW

Sydney – Bowral - Junee – Coolamon –  
Griffith – Temora - Stockinbingal – Parkes - Orange -  
Lithgow – Zig Zag Railway - Katoomba - Sydney

Monday 21 – Friday 25 April 2025



## Highlights include:

- Five day / four night rail cruise through regional NSW
- Travel in the 63<sup>rd</sup> year of the *Southern Aurora*
- *Southern Aurora* private sleeping compartments
- Meals in the dining car
- Enjoy drinks in the lounge car
- Scenery of the Riverina area of NSW
- Travel on freight only rail lines in country NSW
- All-inclusive dining, wines, beverages, tea & coffee
- Fairground Follies - Mechanical Music Museum
- Breakfast at Hillside Harvest, Orange
- Junee Railway Museum and Liquorice Factory
- Temora Aviation Museum
- Commemorate Anzac Day in Lithgow
- Zig Zag Railway, Katoomba and Leura

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 provide a unique experience to enjoy civilised country rail travel.

**Freshly prepared meals in the restaurant car** - aboard our train, freshly prepared 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 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 included with your meal, and afterwards relax in the lounge car with a cleansing ale or glass of port. Retire to your sleeping compartment at your leisure and sleep comfortably for the night.



The licensed lounge / bar car provides a spacious and social environment to relax in comfort and enjoy the views with a range of included 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 the night sky from your private bedroom from your compartment window, or be lulled to sleep by the 'rhythm of the rails.' The train remains stationary from mid to late evening to ensure a restful sleep. The air-conditioned 'Southern Aurora' offers single ('roomette') and twin ('twinette') cabins – twin cabins have ensuite 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 THE SOUTHERN, RIVERINA & CENTRAL WEST OF NSW

In April 2025 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. Hear the sounds of antique mechanical musical instruments in Bowral or wander the National Trust's Retford Park; taste wonderful olive oil at Morella Grove before viewing cotton ginning; or view the Murray Cod farming with a taste of local Riverina Calabria wines; explore the Bundawarra Centre and Temora Regional Museum; or explore the extensive Temora Aviation Centre. Featured visits to gardens, 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. Our Riverina Rail Tour heads south from Sydney into the heart of Australia's 'food bowl'. You'll receive a warm welcome from the communities of the Riverina, learn about the produce that they grow and the challenges and innovations in the region.



**OUR JOURNEY THROUGH NSW**

**MONDAY 21 APRIL 2025 (L/D) – from Sydney south through the Southern Highlands to Bowral and Goulburn** - a mid morning departure from Sydney Central Station has us travelling south towards the Southern Highlands. Lunch will be served onboard the train as we head to Bowral, where you will have the choice of two off-train experiences. **National Trust's Retford Park** was built in 1887 by the Hordern family and lavishly redesigned by James Fairfax in the 1960s - it is a place of great heritage significance located in the heart of Bowral. Be amazed by the 'Portuguese Pink' mansion while wandering the pristine gardens dotted with sculptures and artworks. With 60,000 artefacts, textiles, and furniture within its collection, enjoy a guided house tour, and a stroll around the stunning gardens. Alternatively visit the Fairground Follies - the Antique Mechanical Music Museum featuring an exciting and unique collection of fairground and mechanical musical instruments. Enjoy an interactive experience featuring cultural music, folk art, a 100-year-old carousel and much more – it is a place “Where good times of the past, make great times for today” – and you will enjoy both a guided tour and afternoon-tea. We rejoin the train in Moss Vale, enjoy dinner onboard as we travel to Goulburn and stable for the evening.



**TUESDAY 22 APRIL 2025 (B/L/D) – Junee, Coolamon and Murrumbidgee – rail museum, liquorice and chocolate factory, artisan cheese making and stargazing** – enjoy breakfast in the Dining Car as we leave Goulburn and continue along the Main South Line through Gunning, Harden and Cootamundra to Junee. Our first stop for the day is the Junee Roundhouse Museum featuring a 100-foot turntable, showcasing steam and diesel locomotives. The Junee Roundhouse is one of just a few surviving, working, railway Roundhouses in the Southern Hemisphere. While the Museum is part of the Roundhouse, the other part, including the turntable, is still used as a diesel locomotive servicing facility by Junee Railway Workshop. Our next stop is the Junee Liquorice and Chocolate factory. Hear from one of the chocolatiers about the process of liquorice and chocolate production, and view the production line. It is then a short drive to Coolamon for lunch. Enjoy a tour with an artisan cheese maker located in the heart of the Riverina, known for creating an innovative range of handcrafted cheese, followed by lunch. There is some free time to wander about Coolamon township before we rejoin the train and head towards Griffith and onto Murrumbidgee. After dinner onboard, enjoy a special stargazing experience in Murrumbidgee.





**WEDNESDAY 23 APRIL 2025 (B/L/D) – Morella Grove, Southern Cotton Gin, Murray Cod farming, Calabria Wines and to Temora** – after breakfast onboard, depart on one of the below off-train experiences. You can meet The Producers – Morella Grove Farm, Southern Cotton Gin and Whitton Malt House. Nestled in the lush Riverina region of New South Wales, Morella Grove is where the essence of nature meets Frank and his family’s passion for excellence. This award winning producer of olive oil, following a paddock to plate philosophy, is your first stop of the day. Morella Grove is a beacon of sustainability, in the Riverina’s arid beauty, they practise minimal intervention, respecting and nurturing the natural environment. Next a visit to Southern Cotton, an independently owned ginning facility located in Whitton. Consistently ranked as one of the best gins in Australia, the privately owned Southern Cotton provides fast, timely ginning for local growers. The tour concludes with lunch at the Whitton Malt House. There is an optional upgrade (cost to be advised) for a Whisky Tasting at Whitton Malt House (limited capacity) where you can try a curated selection of fine whisky’s. Alternatively you can explore farming and viticulture at the Murray Cod Farm and Calabria Wines. Specialising in producing premium pond grown Murray Cod, join a guided tour of Murray Cod Farm, which is committed to sustainability and operates with a focus on improving the natural environment. From here, journey onto Calabria Family Wines, where you’re invited to savour the essence of the families’ wines and the warmth of their traditions. Renowned for Italian hospitality, at Calabria Family Wines you will experience a fusion of flavours and aromas through the café bar menu, new museum and sensory wall, plus explore exquisite wines and discover new favourites. Enjoy a wine-tasting and Italian shared platter style lunch. Following the tours, rejoin the train in Yenda and travel onto Temora where we stable overnight, enjoying another delicious dinner onboard.



**THURSDAY 24 APRIL 2025 (B/L/D) – Temora Rural Museum, Temora Aviation Museum and through Stockinbingal, Forbes, Parkes and to Orange** – Breakfast this morning is served in the Dining Car, before we alight to explore Temora. Today you can choose one of two Temora tours - visit the Bundawarra Centre which houses the Temora Rural Museum. Spend the morning experiencing the history of the region including a cottage of hardwood slabs that was Sir Donald Bradman’s first home, a one room public school, bush church, country dance hall, printery, flour mill and ambulance station. Next is the Ambulance Museum which includes ambulance vehicles and conveyances dating back to 1897.

Alternatively spend the morning exploring the Temora Aviation Museum which was built on the site of the biggest and longest lasting RAAF Elementary Flying Training School during World War II. There are three main exhibit buildings to discover, the Museum which is in the original 10 EFTS Guardhouse; the second exhibition area, located in the Engineering Hangar overlooking the aircraft which are currently in maintenance; and the Display Hangar which houses the new exhibitions area along with the aircraft. Coaches return you to Temora Station where lunch will be served in the Dining Car as we travel on freight only lines via Stockinbingal, Quandialla, Forbes, Parkes, Manildra, Borenore and to Orange. There are many freight trains to pass on this single track line whilst we enjoy dinner served onboard the train, before stabling in Orange Rail Yard tonight.



**FRIDAY 25 APRIL 2025 (B/L/LR) – Lithgow, Zig Zag Railway, Blue Mountains and to Sydney** - enjoy breakfast aboard as we travel from Orange and towards the Great Dividing Range. Choose to alight at Lithgow for Anzac Day or stay aboard to ride the Zig Zag Railway. Join or watch the Anzac Day March as it proceeds from Eskbank St, along Main St to the Lithgow Fallen Heroes War Memorial in Queen Elizabeth Park, for the Memorial Service. Alternatively visit the Lithgow Zig Zag Railway and ride on the re-opened line. Established in 1869, you'll enjoy a relaxing ride on the nostalgic steam locomotive hauled train as it traverses the Great Lithgow Zig Zag. With a grazing boxed lunch served aboard, you will be ready to visit Katoomba and Leura where there is time to explore, before we return to the train and head to Sydney. Enjoy late afternoon refreshments as we descend the Blue Mountains, with views over the Jamieson Valley, through Lawson, Springwood and Glenbrook to the Cumberland Plain and Sydney Terminal Station, where we are due to arrive around 8.00pm – the end of our spectacular rail cruise aboard the Southern Aurora in April 2025.



**FARES\* (all rail/coach travel, accommodation, off train excursions, meals and a selection of wine, beer and other beverages, all included) – fares are:**

Sharing a twin cabin	\$3,595 per person
Sole use of a roomette cabin	\$3,545 per person
Supplement for sole use of twin sleeping compartment	\$2,875 per person

**NOTE:** These special fares are not refundable, however a higher fare (approximately \$1,100 per person extra) is available which can be refunded until 48 hrs prior to the tour, less a \$300 administrative fee.

**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

You can pay by EFT:

Bank: Westpac  
Account name: Scenic Journeys by Rail Pty Ltd  
BSB: 033 364  
Account number: 612826  
Reference: Anzac 'your name'

You can pay by Visa/MasterCard (1% merchant fee) or American Express (1.8% merchant fee) – email or text and we will call to get card details.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

This special fare is non-refundable, and available until 18 October 2024, unless sold out earlier. A 100% cancellation charge applies. A higher fare (approximately \$1,100 per person extra) is available which can be refunded until 48 hrs prior to the tour, less a \$300 administrative fee. Contact us if you wish to purchase the higher refundable fare. An insurance policy is available from our travel agent – Sarah Manche, MTA Travel – 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. The tour also operates under the terms and conditions of the train operator, JourneyBeyond, which can be found at: <https://vintagerailjourneys.com.au/terms-and-conditions/>

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# ANZAC AURORA 2025 RAIL CRUISE BOOKING FORM Monday 21 – Friday 25 April 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 full payment for the above booking. 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 / made my payment.

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 2025 (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.

Please call, email or text if you wish to make payment by credit card and we will contact you to obtain card details.

August 2024