



South West Queensland by Train

Sunday 18th to Sunday 25th May 2025



This tour features travel on multiple chartered heritage trains. We visit the South West Queensland regions of Maranoa and the Darling Downs as well as the New England and Northern Tablelands of NSW. Enjoy diverse scenery, fascinating historical, industrial and cultural insights and with the comfort and convenience of our spacious chartered coach.

Our specially crafted itinerary with unique insights and chartered train travel offers a unique touring experience. Let the adventure begin . . .

Day 1

Sunday 18th May – Thirroul to Newcastle

Join our coach at one of our Wollongong pick-up locations or at Heathcote or Pennant Hills. Other pick-ups possible by arrangement. Please contact us to discuss.

We travel by our coach to the Mooney Mooney Club for lunch then nearby we will meet our guide at the Broken Bay Pearl Farm to learn about their operations and production. Afterwards we continue to the Hunter region for our first night.

Overnight at the Mercure Newcastle Airport

Day 2

Monday 19th May – Newcastle to Glen Innes

We transfer by coach across the Hunter region to our chartered train (pictured) at Paterson. Enjoy the idyllic scenery of the Hunter Valley as well as the imposing Bucketts Range as our train takes us to Gloucester. Onwards by our coach which will take us high



into the ranges to the tiny settlement of Nowendoc for lunch at the Memorial Hall. After lunch we continue via Uralla to Glen Innes on the New England plateau at 1300m above sea level. Celtic immigrants and their descendants have made this region their home since the mid 1800's and today we will learn of this at the Australian Standing Stones at Glen Innes. Overnight at the New England Motor Inn, Glen Innes

Day 3

Tuesday 20th May – Glen Innes to Toowoomba

After breakfast we depart on our coach for the town of Stanthorpe - one of the few places in Queensland where it occasionally snows. Our chartered heritage train (pictured on front cover) will be waiting for us at Stanthorpe. We enjoy morning tea on this train as we pass through the scenic high-elevation apple-growing areas and the townships of The Summit and Applethorpe. The route to Warwick features scenic views much of which can only be enjoyed from a train. At Warwick we change trains and enjoy lunch aboard our next chartered train; a 2000 class railmotor (pictured below) as we travel to Toowoomba known as the Garden City where we arrive in the mid afternoon. A city tour orientates us with the city before arriving at our hotel.

Overnight at Potter's Hotel, Toowoomba



Day 4

Wednesday 21st May – Toowoomba to Warwick

Today we will visit the Cobb and Co Museum then the Toowoomba Art Gallery where one of the gallery's curators guide us through the Lindsay Gallery with its historic treasures of Ludwig Leichardt as well as paintings from the masters. We then join our chartered railcar with lunch served on our train as we travel to the settlement of Brookstead. The train reaches the end of the line just opposite the Brookstead Hotel,

and there will be time for a refreshing beverage if you wish before boarding our coach for a back-roads, scenic route to Warwick.

Overnight at the Jackie Howe Motel



Day 5

Thursday 22nd May – Warwick to Goondiwindi

This morning, breakfast will be served at Warwick Railway station then our train will depart towards Inglewood where we have a guided tour of the Coolmunda Organic Olives (pictured). Lunch will be served on board our train as we travel from Inglewood



further west to the regional service town of Goondiwindi situated on the northern bank of the Macintyre River. This afternoon we meet our guide for a visit to a local cotton farm then to see Goondiwindi Cotton's apparel production facility with an opportunity to purchase.

We stay 2 nights at the Best Western Ascot Lodge Motor Inn

Day 6

Friday 23rd May – St George day touring

An early start today so that we can enjoy the best of the Maranoa Region. Travelling on our coach to the town of St George situated on the banks of the Maranoa River; some of the highlights of our visit to St George will include a cruise on the river, visiting the historic Anchorage House then wine-tasting and lunch at Riversands Wines.

After lunch we transfer to the tiny settlement of Talwood where we board our train for a relaxing afternoon arriving at Goondiwindi near sunset for our second night at Goondiwindi.

Day 7

Saturday 24th May – Goondiwindi to Tamworth

After breakfast we board our railmotor for Yelarbon, enjoying the Darling Downs in the early morning light. Alighting at the village of Yelarbon, our coach will take us via less-



travelled routes over the border into NSW to the historic tin-mining town of Bingara. Lunch at the Imperial Hotel will be followed by a guided tour of the restored heritage Roxy Theatre. Southwards from Bingara we travel on Thunderbolt's Way to Barraba and Manilla to the city of Tamworth for our final night of the tour.

Overnight at the All Settlers Motor Inn, Tamworth

Images: lounge and saloon seating in 2000 class railmotor

Day 8

Sunday 25th May – Tamworth to Thirroul



We travel from Tamworth to Wyong by our coach where we will board our private chartered train for a specially arranged journey direct to Thirroul. Our very comfortable heritage train (pictured above) will travel via the Main North line and the picturesque Central Coast then skirting around central Sydney via the freight-only lines around towards Tempe. Insights Tours will take pleasure in serving lunch and accompanying beverages on board as we continue on the scenic Illawarra and South Coast lines to Thirroul. The tour concludes upon arrival at Thirroul in the late afternoon.

General Information & Booking Conditions

Cost

The cost of this tour is \$6,285 AUD.

The cost includes:

- good quality motel accommodation for 7 nights on a twin-share basis in ensuite rooms
- all meals
- travel by private chartered train on days 2 to 8 inclusive as described in the itinerary
- travel by private chartered coach for all road transport and transfers as described in the itinerary
- chartered cruise on the Maranoa River
- services of Insights Tours' Tour Escort throughout the tour
- all sightseeing excursions, guided touring and entrance fees to all places as specified in the itinerary
- all taxes, charges and tips
- a personal complimentary reusable metal water bottle

Additional costs

The additional costs are: drinks, travel insurance and items of a personal nature and anything not specified above.

Single supplement

Single occupancy of a room is available for an additional cost of \$646 AUD

To make a booking

Please complete the enclosed booking form and return it to Insights Tours with your deposit. Places on the tour require a \$500 AUD deposit.

The balance will be due by Wednesday 19th March, 2025.

Cancellation policy

For cancellations on or before Wednesday 19th March, 2025 the cancellation fee will be \$200 AUD per guest. For cancellations after Wednesday 19th March, 2025 the cancellation fee will be the total tariff.

Insights Tours strongly recommends that insurance cover be obtained.

No refunds can be made for any services which you choose not to avail.

Insurance

We strongly recommend that you consider obtaining travel insurance to cover cancellation fees as well as medical emergencies, lost luggage and unforeseen delays during the tour. Insights Tours can provide information about obtaining insurance. We are an accredited agent of Covermore insurance.

Viability of tour

In the event that the economic minimum number of guests is not reached, the tour will be cancelled by Insights Tours no later than Friday 21st March 2025 and we will refund in full any money paid.

Trains

All trains are chartered exclusively for Insights Tours and all are equipped with toilets. Guest numbers will be limited to 38 to ensure a spacious and enjoyable experience on all trains.

Day 2

At Paterson we shall join our two, chartered heritage CPH railmotors operated by The Railmotor Society. These are pictured on page 2 and were utilised on branch line services throughout NSW.

Day 3

Insights Tours has arranged the exclusive charter of a three carriage train from the Southern Downs Railway. Pictured on the cover of this brochure. It is a heritage train which was designed and operated on regional Queensland services.

Days 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

Insights Tours has arranged the exclusive charter of a 2000 class railmotor consisting of 2 interconnecting carriages equipped with air-conditioning and 2 toilets. This train is chartered from the Downs Railway at Toowoomba and is air-conditioned. It was modified for use as the Commissioner's train and is fitted out with 3 very comfortable seating areas including lounge chairs, tables and chairs, and conventional seating. The total seating capacity of the train is 56.

Day 8

We will enjoy travel aboard a East Coast Heritage Railway train consisting of a chartered heritage locomotive and carriages from Wyong to Thirroul. The train will travel direct from Wyong to Thirroul via the Sydney freight-only lines.

Coach

Insights Tours has chartered an air-conditioned, 49 seat coach for all road travel and transfers.

Luggage

Please limit your luggage to one suitcase and one piece of hand luggage per person. Guests accept responsibility for manoeuvring their luggage.

Joining and leaving the tour

Joining the tour is available from Wollongong, Woonona, Thirroul, Heathcote, Padstow and Pennant Hills. On day 8 the train will stop at Heathcote and Thirroul. Please contact us to discuss other pick up and drop-off points.

Health and fitness to travel

This tour involves numerous short walking sectors during guided tours and excursions. We recommend that guests be able to walk un-aided for up to a total of 2kms per day in sectors of up to 500m over various surfaces eg paved and uneven, unpaved surfaces, and boardwalks. At several locations it will be necessary to alight the trains utilising secure steps. If you or a travelling companion have a condition which may or does require any assistance or accessibility requirements, please contact us prior to booking as a medical questionnaire will be required to be completed and assessed before your booking can be accepted. It is a condition of booking that guests agree to comply with all health and safety related practices, procedures and requirements which may be either recommended or mandatory during the tour.

Guides

Insights Tours has engaged our own proficient guides for all guided touring described in the itinerary.

Meals

All meals are included and are a set menu. We take a lot of care to ensure that the menu is varied throughout the tour and features regional specialities where possible. Please ensure that you carefully note any dietary and/or any other requests and preferences on your booking form so that we can oblige your requirements.

Force Majeure

Insights Tours will not be liable for any failure or delay in performing an obligation under this Agreement that is due to any of the following causes, to the extent beyond its reasonable control: acts of God, accident, riots, war, terrorist act, epidemic, pandemic, quarantine, outbreaks of infectious disease or any other public health crisis, civil commotion, breakdown of communication facilities, natural catastrophes, governmental acts or omissions, changes in laws or regulations, national strikes, fire, explosion, generalised lack of availability of raw materials or energy.

Limitation of liability

Subject to Australian Consumer Law, Insights Tours does not accept any liability in contract, tort or otherwise for any injury, damage, loss, delay, additional expense or inconvenience caused by suppliers or third party

providers over whom Insights Tours has no direct control. Insights Tours arranges and coordinates services provided by suppliers and Insights Tours cannot guarantee the performance of suppliers.

Changes to the itinerary

There is always the chance that our itinerary could be delayed or curtailed in some way beyond our control. Except for prolonged or unexpected events, the tour will be conducted as closely as possible to the itinerary stated above. Every reasonable endeavour will be made to conduct the advertised itinerary however we reserve the right to alter the itinerary in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

Privacy and your data

Insights Tours provides data about you to third parties only to the absolute minimum necessary to provide you with our advertised services. For example; we provide your name to accommodation providers for the purposes of registration as a guest where this is required by regulation.

Image credits:

Cover Page; The Railmotor Society, Downsteam Railway, East Coast Heritage Rail.

Page 1: The Railmotor Society.

Page 3 & 4 : Tourism and Events Queensland.

Page 5 Downsteam Railway.

Page 6 East Coast Heritage Rail

All other images: John Tuckerman

About Insights Tours



Insights Tours is a tour company operated by Paul, Brigitte and John Tuckerman.

We arrange tours which utilise chartered trains, coaches and aeroplanes and provide our guests with spacious and comfortable accommodation. Our philosophy is to provide a tour with a spectrum of interesting visits, inspections and conveyances. Each tour is uniquely arranged to encompass the most interesting sights of the regions visited. Insights Tours engages our own guides to ensure that our passengers have the best insight into the location being visited.

Guest numbers are limited to ensure a commodious travelling experience and to ensure that visits and guided tours are of maximum benefit. This tour will be for a maximum of 38 guests.

Each of our tours is personally escorted ensuring you can relax in the confidence that all of the pesky administrative details and arrangements are taken care of.

If you would like details or assistance with any booking, please contact John:

Telephone: (+61) 02 4268 6581

Email: john@insightstours.com.au

Postal: PO Box 180, Thirroul NSW 2515

In person: 14 Allenby Parade, Bulli (by appointment)

