



HUNTER INSIGHTS

Thursday 21st May to Sunday 31st May 2009

We invite you to join us for our Hunter Insights tour, travelling by two chartered railcars. We visit the Lower and Upper Hunter regions of New South Wales, gaining a special perspective as we travel on several Upper Hunter railway lines. The tour takes in historic Morpeth, Cessnock, Singleton and Gulgong as well as river cruises on the Hawkesbury and Hunter Rivers. Other highlights include a guided tour of Belltrees, an historic Hunter property and meeting with students at the tiny outback school at Premer.

Our all inclusive tour is fully escorted and is certain to give an insight into some hidden corners of New South Wales.



Railmotors on the Muswellbrook Gulgong line

Photo: Peter Kitcher

DAY 1 Thursday 21st May Thirroul to Cessnock



MV Macquarie Princess

This morning we travel by coach from Thirroul to Berowra where we board our chartered heritage ferry "Macquarie Princess" for a leisurely cruise on Berowra Waters and the Hawkesbury River. In the afternoon we continue to Cessnock in the heart of the Hunter Valley. We stay for 2 nights at Cessnock.

DAY 2 Friday 22nd May Cessnock

Today we tour the Hunter district in the vicinity of Cessnock, which was first settled in 1826. It is named after Cessnock Castle in Scotland and is now the heart of the Hunter Valley wine-producing region with many of the iconic Australian wineries being located in the surrounding area. There is also an enormous coal mining industry for which Cessnock is one of the principal service towns. This morning we have a guided tour of Cessnock before visiting the Richmond Vale Railway and the coal mining museum. We will have a specially chartered steam train ride on the Richmond Vale line then a barbeque lunch. This afternoon we will visit Scarborough Winery at Pokolbin for inspection and tastings of their wines.

DAY 3 Saturday 23rd May Cessnock to Muswellbrook



This morning we board the railmotors at Maitland and proceed to Singleton where we have a guided inspection of the Royal Australian Infantry Corps Museum situated at the Singleton Army Barracks. The museum has a collection of infantry equipment, uniforms, weapons and memorabilia including a history of the Royal Australian Regiment's campaigns from Korea through to current peacekeeping operations. We then transfer to then to the restored Sisters of Mercy convent, Sacred Spaces, (pictured) for a tour of their buildings. The convent is one of several significant 19th century buildings in Singleton and has been occupied by the nuns since 1875. Reboard the railmotors for Muswellbrook where we have a town tour before arriving at the motel. A self guided heritage walk can be taken at your leisure during our stay in Muswellbrook.

DAY 4 Sunday 24th May Muswellbrook to Gulgong



A scenic journey aboard the railmotors passing through the Goulburn River National Park on the way to Gulgong. The views from this line are spectacular and are normally not seen by passengers as this is a freight only line. At Ulan Coal Mine near Gulgong we will have a specially arranged guided tour. Early afternoon we arrive at Gulgong for some free time, then after

dinner we attend a special theatrical performance at Gulgong's historic Prince of Wales Opera House. Gulgong retains its special character of a 19th century gold mining town and features the Henry Lawson museum.

Photo: Prince of Wales Opera House

DAY 5 Monday 25th May Gulgong to Tamworth

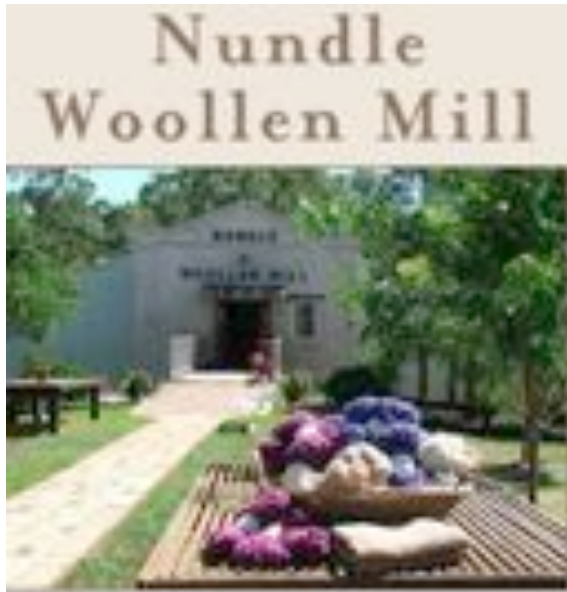


Today we will have the experience of travelling through the rural landscapes of the North West Slopes with its extensive broad acre farming interspersed with small towns and villages. We pass through Dunedoo and Binnaway to Premer where you will meet students of the local school - current enrolment is 12 students - and learn first hand of their school experience in a small community. Then on to Werris Creek to visit the Rail Journeys Museum and see the Australian Railway Monument which is a memorial to all those who have lost their lives whilst working for the railways. We continue to Tamworth where we spend the next two nights.

DAY 6 Tuesday 26th May Walcha

Morning city tour of Tamworth, the country music capital of Australia, including the award-winning "Walk A Country Mile" interpretive exhibition at the visitor information centre. Our coach then takes us to the small historic town of Walcha where we will have an introductory history tour before lunch at the Commercial Hotel. Some time to enjoy the Sculpture Walk or visit the nearby Arts and Crafts centre prior to continuing to the chasm at Apsley Falls where explorer John Oxley was..."lost in astonishment at the sight of this wonderful natural sublimity". Afternoon tea will be served on the railmotors as we return to Tamworth via the scenic Northern Tablelands line.

DAY 7 Wednesday 27th May Tamworth to Scone



This morning we visit the former gold mining town of Nundle. At the working woollen mill we have a tour followed by some time to see the heritage buildings in the main street of Nundle. Then we travel to the Arc en Ciel trout farm for an inspection of their farming practices, followed by a lunch of smoked trout. This afternoon we travel to Quirindi by coach to join the railmotors for the traverse of the Liverpool Ranges to Scone where we overnight.

DAY 8 Thursday 28th May Scone to Newcastle

Morning visit to the historic "Belltrees" property, one of the largest farms in the area. Beeltrees is the home of the White family with whom we have morning tea after a tour of the property. We board the railmotors at Scone for a late morning departure to Newcastle then we transfer to the former military establishment of Fort Scratchley for a full guided tour of the fort including explanations of its active role during World War II. Insights Tours has chartered Newcastle's Famous "Tram" - a genuine replica of the original Newcastle working tram - for a tour of historic central Newcastle. You will have the choice of taking the tour this afternoon or early tomorrow morning. Our hotel is situated within walking distance of the Hunter riverside precinct.



Fort Scratchley

DAY 9 Friday 29th May Newcastle to Gosford

Morning “tram” tour of the historical centre of Newcastle then board our chartered boat MV Nova for a cruise on the Hunter River to Morpeth, the historic river port about 3 hours upstream from Newcastle. Enroute you will see the Hunter River bridge at Hexham which will be specially opened for our passage. Lunch will be served on board. From Morpeth we transfer to the railmotors at Maitland for the trip to Gosford on the Central Coast for overnight.

DAY 10 Saturday 30th May Gosford to Bowral

Morning departure by rail motors travelling over one of the most scenic sections of railway line in NSW - between Gosford and Cowan we travel beside the Brisbane Water and cross the mighty Hawkesbury River. We take the freight lines to Meeks Rd Jct then to the south via Campbelltown, climbing to the Southern Highlands town of Mittagong. Here we alight for lunch at Sturt Café, part of the Winifred West arts and school establishment. In the afternoon we check in at the restored Berida Manor. This classic private resort recaptures the relaxed ambience of the 1920's whilst offering all modern facilities. This afternoon you will have the opportunity to make use of its extensive recreational facilities such as the heated indoor swimming pool, spa, sauna, billiards, tennis and just enjoy the relaxing ambience. Berida is situated within walking distance of Bowral and is just a few steps away from the Bowral Golf Course where a round of golf is also possible for an additional fee. We dine tonight in the Manor restaurant.



Berida Manor



DAY 11 Sunday 31st May Bowral to Thirroul

Morning visit to the Bradman Museum and Mt Gibraltar. Late morning we transfer to Ranelagh House for a three course traditional Sunday Roast lunch in the dining room. Following lunch we join our railmotors at Ranelagh's private railway station for the descent of the Illawarra Escarpment with a stop at Summit Tank lookout. We arrive at Thirroul in the late afternoon.

General Information

Cost

The cost of this tour is \$3,490 (AUD)

The cost includes:

1. all transportation as shown in the itinerary
2. accommodation on a twin share basis
3. all sightseeing excursions
4. all entrance fees
5. guided touring as specified in the itinerary
6. all meals
7. all taxes
8. services of Insights Tours escort throughout the tour

The additional costs are: drinks and items of a personal nature.

Places on the tour require a \$500 deposit.

The balance of \$2990 will be due by Friday 20th March, 2009.

To make a booking

Please complete the booking form and return to Insights Tours with a deposit of \$500 per person.

Cancellations prior to Friday 20th March, 2009

Refunds will be made less any cancellation fees imposed by third parties.

Cancellations after Friday 20th March, 2009

No refunds will be possible after Friday 21st March, 2009.

We strongly recommended that insurance cover be obtained. Insights Tours can assist you with insurance policy options.

Railmotors

Insights Tours has chartered two CPH (CPH1 and 7) railmotors from Paterson Railmotor Society. The railmotors are 1920's vintage and have total seating for 76, however the tour will be limited to 38 passengers to ensure comfortable and spacious travelling. There is a flushing toilet in each railmotor. The railmotors are not airconditioned and have opening windows. Complimentary morning or afternoon tea and coffee will be served by the hospitality attendants.

Coach

Insights Tours has chartered a coach which is airconditioned, toilet equipped and has well spaced seating. The coach will be utilised for all road travel and transfers. Once placed aboard the coach each day your luggage is transferred to the motel for that evening leaving you to relax and enjoy the journey.

Accommodation

All accommodation is of at least a 3 star standard. Ground floor accommodation is available upon request. The cost of the tour is based on twin share ensuite accommodation. Limited single accommodation is available for an additional cost of \$485.

Luggage

Please limit your luggage to 1 suitcase and 1 piece of hand luggage per person. Please note that portage of luggage is not provided but can be arranged at additional supplement if desired.

Water

Insights Tours provides complimentary bottled water on the coach so that whenever we are travelling by coach or transferring to the train you have the opportunity to procure a bottle.

Insights Tours

insights Tours is a boutique tour business operated by Paul and John Tuckerman. We arrange tours which utilise chartered trains, coaches and aeroplanes and provide passengers with spacious and ample 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.

Passenger numbers are limited to ensure a commodious travelling experience and to ensure that visits and guided tours are of maximum benefit. This tour is for a maximum of 38 passengers.

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

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.

If you would like details or assistance with any bookings, please contact Paul Tuckerman

Insights Tours

Telephone: 02 42 672535 or 02 42 675530

Facsimile: 02 42 675530

Email: paul@insightstours.com.au

Postal: 39 Buttenshaw Place
Austinmer NSW 2515

In person: 39 Buttenshaw Place, Austinmer (please make an appointment to ensure our office is attended when you visit)

BOOKING FORM

“Hunter Insights”
21st May to 31st May, 2009

Insights Tours

39 Buttenshaw Place
Austinmer NSW 2515
ABN 75 120 728 145

Telephone: 02 42 675530
02 42 672535
Facsimile: 02 42 675530
Email: paul@insightstours.com.au
Travel agents licence no. 2TA5859

Name/s:.....

Address:

.....

Telephone:.....Email.....

Any special requirements or requests:.....

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Room type: please circle your choice: Twin Double Single

Deposit / full payment

Cheque enclosed. (please make cheques payable to Insights Tours)

OR

Electronic / bank transfer. Our account details are:

- Name of account: Insights Tours client travel account
- BSB: 062 607
- Account number: 1013 1313

Signature/s: