

BRISBANE CLASSIC CITY STAY

GREAT SOUTHERN

BRISBANE TO MELBOURNE

DEPARTING FRIDAY

(JANUARY, FEBRUARY & DECEMBER)

6 Days / 5 Nights

Combine premium food and wine with stunning natural landscapes and some of the country's top cultural icons on this six-night tour of Australia's south-east. Enjoy the spectacular views and ancient rainforests of Mt Tamborine with much more to explore in and around the vibrant river city, Brisbane, before travelling in style on the Great Southern from Brisbane to Melbourne.

INCLUSIONS

- 3 nights accommodation in Brisbane including breakfast daily
- Full day Explore Mt Tamborine tour including lunch
- 2 nights aboard the Great Southern, Brisbane to Melbourne, including all meals, beverages and Off Train Experiences in Northern New South Wales, Hunter Valley and Melbourne
- 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 2 dinners

HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience the beauty of Mt Tamborine's ancient rainforests
- Take in breathtaking views from the iconic Scenic Lookout
- Enjoy a special beachside dining experience on the northern New South Wales coast
- Savour the flavours and sights of the picturesque Hunter Valley or Port Stephens
- Immerse yourself in cosmopolitan Melbourne

Please note itineraries are subject to change.

DAY 1 – ARRIVE BRISBANE

Welcome to Brisbane. After checking into your accommodation, your connection with this vibrant city begins, with a day to explore at your leisure. The Queensland capital has come of age, with elegant 19th-century sandstone buildings sitting alongside superb modern architecture and a cultural precinct lining the banks of the Brisbane River.

OVERNIGHT: 3 nights Sofitel Brisbane Central

DAY 2 – BRISBANE

Your time in Brisbane continues today, with a day to explore at your leisure. Perhaps catch a City Cat and take in the city from the water or venture across to South Bank, Brisbane's premier lifestyle and cultural destination. It's the perfect place to relax and unwind. (B)

DAY 3 – MT TAMBORINE

Today, visit Mount Tamborine in the Gold Coast hinterland. The mountain has spectacular views and ancient rainforests which you can explore at your own pace at Skywalk. Enjoy the native flora and fauna as you walk above the rainforest canopy. Savour a 2 course lunch before enjoying time to discover the boutique shops on Gallery Walk, from arts and craft, fashion to fudge, to honey and Australia's most awarded distillery, Tamborine Mountain Distillery. Travel through lush green hillside and valleys on your return to your Brisbane accommodation. (B,L)

DAY 4 – BOARD THE GREAT SOUTHERN IN BRISBANE

Your East Coast journey begins with a warm welcome at Hanworth House in East Brisbane, where you'll check in gather with fellow travellers for a celebratory start to your summer journey. After setting off from Brisbane on the Great Southern, life on board begins to unfold. Savour lunch as the train winds south, then settle into the rhythm of your cabin and the passing landscapes.

In the afternoon, the Great Southern arrives in the coastal town of Coffs Harbour. Here, the evening unfolds in true coastal style. As the sun sinks below the horizon, enjoy drinks and canapés on the sand at Charlesworth Bay before a signature outdoor dinner - weather permitting- showcasing fresh seafood and regional produce paired with local wines. The

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soundtrack is set by a live band and the gentle rhythm of waves on the shore. After a few unhurried hours, reboard the train and settle in for your first night on board. (B,L,D)

OVERNIGHT: 3 nights Great Southern

DAY 5 – GREAT SOUTHERN, HUNTER VALLEY, PORT STEPHENS OR NEWCASTLE

Start the day with a hearty breakfast on board before setting off on your choice of Off Train Experiences. Wine lovers can explore the picturesque Hunter Valley, Australia's oldest wine region. Known for Semillon and Shiraz, here you'll spend the day amongst the vines, visiting Tulloch and Brokenwood Wines followed by a platter-style lunch featuring local produce at Twine Restaurant. If you'd prefer to take to the skies, treat yourself to an optional upgrade with a Hunter Valley helicopter flight that soars over the rolling green hills, showcasing the best of the wine region and beyond.

Alternatively, discover Port Stephens by land or sea. Venture by 4WD across the vast Stockton Bight Sand Dunes, the largest mobile dunes in the Southern Hemisphere. Stop to admire your surrounds and drive to the top of a dune to take in the sweeping views - you may even choose to sandboard down. On the water tour, be dazzled by turquoise seas as you soak up the coastline on a relaxed boat cruise, with the chance to spot dolphins along the way. Whether by land or sea, after your Port Stephens adventure you'll enjoy a leisurely lunch at Nelson Bay Golf Club before returning to the train in the afternoon.

Closer to the city, explore Newcastle on a guided walking tour that reveals its coastal charm, capped with lunch at Scratchleys on the Wharf before returning to the train for a regionally inspired dinner. (B,L,D)

DAY 6 – GREAT SOUTHERN, REGIONAL VICTORIA OR MELBOURNE

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast on board as the Great Southern travels through Victoria's high country before choosing your next Off Train Experience.

Victoria is well-known for its excellent food and wine scene, which is on show at Clyde Park in the Moorabool Valley. Clyde Park is a beautiful vineyard, cellar door and bistro set among rolling hills. Here, you'll enjoy a long lunch and sample cool-climate wines while being entertained on the glorious lawns.

Alternatively, spend the day in cosmopolitan Melbourne to discover why it's considered the cultural and sporting capital of Australia. Highlights include the Ian Potter Centre at NGV Australia, with its remarkable collection of Australian art, and a behind-the-scenes tour of the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground, guided by a club member. History buffs may prefer the Old Melbourne Gaol, where stories of the past, including those of Ned Kelly, come to life.

To complete your Melbourne experience, take in the sweeping views from Melbourne Skydeck before ascending to Eureka 89 for a curated lunch showcasing seasonal local produce.

After lunch, your journey aboard the Great Southern comes to an end. (B,L)