



 **GREAT SOUTHERN**

## BRISBANE 1-NIGHT CITY STAY

### GREAT SOUTHERN

BRISBANE TO MELBOURNE

DEPARTING SUNDAY

(JANUARY, FEBRUARY & DECEMBER)

4 Days / 3 Nights

Enjoy a relaxing overnight stay in Brisbane, where you can take in the city's laid-back charm before embarking on an unforgettable rail journey. Spend the evening exploring Brisbane's vibrant riverfront, enjoying world-class dining, or simply unwinding ahead of your departure. The following day, board the Great Southern for a scenic journey from Brisbane to Melbourne. Along the way, experience the diverse beauty of Australia's east coast, complete with immersive off-train excursions and exceptional onboard service, before arriving in the cultural capital of Melbourne.

#### INCLUSIONS

- 1 night accommodation in Brisbane including breakfast
- 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
- 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- 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 19<sup>th</sup>-century sandstone buildings sitting alongside superb modern architecture and a cultural precinct lining the banks of the Brisbane River.

**OVERNIGHT:** 1 night Voco Brisbane Central

#### DAY 2 – 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 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:** 2 nights Great Southern

#### DAY 3 – 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.



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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 4 – 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)