



JOURNEY BEYOND
GREAT SOUTHERN
EASTERN EXPLORER
ADELAIDE TO BRISBANE



OFF TRAIN EXCURSIONS

Off-train excursions and experiences are subject to change and subject to availability. Capacity limits may apply. Fitness levels are guides only. Please speak to a staff member for further information. Timetables and excursions may vary on public holidays. All excursions are subject to cancellation or modification due to inclement weather, timetable variations or other unforeseen circumstances.



DAY 1 GRAMPIANS EXPERIENCE

(INCLUDED IN YOUR JOURNEY)

APPROXIMATELY 5 HOURS LOW/ MODERATE HAT, SUNSCREEN & ENCLOSED SHOES

The Grampians are justifiably famous for outdoor activities – bushwalking, rock-climbing and camping – but the region is also a centre for fabulous food and wine. Here’s your chance to taste the Grampians’ best offerings, with an optional walk or visit to a lookout for sweeping views across this majestic landscape.

From Stawell Station, enjoy a coach ride through picturesque countryside to your dining destination, where you’ll be wined and dined by the best local producers. The Grampians wine region zeroes in on late-ripening reds, notably spicy shiraz and cabernet sauvignon. Sparkling reds also feature, notably from the Great Western sub-region, a geological area riddled with seams of gold.

Feel like exploring further? Take a guided walk into the heart of Gariwerd, following Stony Creek upstream to the spectacular Venus Baths, where the creek flows over a sandstone shelf into a series of deep rockpools.

You can also choose to take a shuttle coach up to Boroka Lookout, from where you can survey the Grampians’ magical peaks, hazy valleys and forested slopes.

After a lavish dinner, your coach will spirit you back to Ararat Station, where you’ll reboard the Great Southern for your journey into the night.

RECOMMENDED FITNESS LEVEL:

Low – Dining experience.
Moderate – Optional walks.

DAY 2 CANBERRA ICONS

(EXCURSION OPTION INCLUDED IN YOUR JOURNEY)

APPROXIMATELY 8 HOURS LOW WATER PHOTO IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED

Our nation’s capital, Canberra is the stage for many of Australia’s political melodramas. But the city is also a cultural beacon, with some of the country’s top museums, galleries and memorials.

From Yass Junction, enjoy a one-hour coach ride across a scenic rural landscape into the Australian Capital Territory.

First stop is Parliament House, where you’ll be taken on a 30-minute snapshot guided tour of this amazing earth-covered building. Queen Elizabeth II cut the ribbon to open the building in 1988, 200 years after Australia’s first white settlement was founded at Sydney Cove. Perhaps you’ll pass some familiar faces as you stroll through the corridors of power.

After a generous lunch at Parliament House, enjoy one of four iconic Canberra destinations to visit: the **Australian War Memorial**, the **National Gallery of Australia**, the **National Museum of Australia**, or stay at **Parliament House** for an extended back of house immersive

tour. Learn more about the architecture, arts and the intricacies of working in such a dynamic building. These four institutions are ingrained in Australia’s cultural psyche and make for an engaging afternoon experience.

Please take the time to let your Hospitality Attendant know what you would like to do after your morning tour to secure your spot.

Back onboard your coach, you’ll move through the forests, fields and vineyards around Canberra, travelling an hour north-east to Goulburn Station where you’ll reboard the Great Southern in time for dinner.

Please note: Parliament House and Australian War Memorial security measures apply. Security screening and bag checks will be conducted.

This itinerary will vary on the January 4 journey. Please see your friendly Great Southern staff for details.

RECOMMENDED FITNESS LEVEL:

Low – Walking, some stair climbing.





DAY 3 COFFS HARBOUR EXPLORER

(EXCURSION OPTION INCLUDED IN YOUR JOURNEY)

APPROXIMATELY 4 HOURS LOW - MODERATE HAT & SUNSCREEN + SHOPPING OPPORTUNITY

A true gem of the northern New South Wales coast, Coffs Harbour is one of the bigger towns in the region. Built on the back of banana plantations, Coffs now buzzes with markets, cafes and yachts bobbing in the marina.

enthusiastic buskers, and quirky arts and crafts. It's an authentic snapshot of life in this heavenly coastal corner.

After arriving into Coffs Harbour Station, travel by coach to the Great Dividing Range. At 3500km, this is the third-longest mountain range in the world. Poised on the edge of the rainforest, Sealy Lookout is home to Forest Sky Pier, a viewing platform soaring dramatically out from the hillside. The views across Coffs Harbour's golden coastline to Solitary Islands Marine Park are magnificent.

Jetty Beach is nearby: paddle in the shallows, do a spot of beachcombing, or see what's biting as you chat to the fisherfolk along Coffs' historic timber jetty.

Worked up an appetite? Lunch is served back on the Great Southern as you cross the border into Queensland.

RECOMMENDED FITNESS LEVEL:

Low/Moderate – Walking will vary depending on how you use your time.

Back down in the town, enjoy free time to browse through the stalls at the Sunday morning Harbourside Markets. The vibe here is sustainable, ethical and local. Look forward to fresh produce, tasty snacks, rich coffee,

DAY 2 MURRUMBATEMAN FOOD & WINE TRAIL



(EXCURSION OPTION INCLUDED IN YOUR JOURNEY)

APPROXIMATELY 8 HOURS LOW HAT & SUNSCREEN + SHOPPING OPPORTUNITY

Backed by the Snowy Mountains, the hillsides around Canberra produce fabulous foodstuffs and sustain the booming Murrumbateman wine region. Sample the region's best produce on this decadent day out.

Your day-trip through the region will take you to three wine-lovers' destinations, highlighting the Murrumbateman's best sustainable, state-of-the-art and artisan offerings. Look forward to personalised tastings and a bountiful lunch.

After breakfast, the Great Southern pulls into Yass Junction in rural New South Wales. From here, a 30-minute coach ride will spirit you across rolling countryside to the Murrumbateman wine region. This compact, emerging wine region is home to 40 small wineries, delivering an intimate wine-tasting experience. As anyone who has endured a Canberra winter will tell you, the nights here are cool and crisp – even in summer. Combined with boundless sunshine, the climate is ideal for growing riesling, chardonnay, shiraz and cabernet sauvignon.

Your coach will then deliver you to Goulburn Station for your Great Southern departure in the early evening.

RECOMMENDED FITNESS LEVEL:

Low – Walking, some stair climbing.



DAY 3 BOARDWALK TO BEACH



(EXCURSION OPTION INCLUDED IN YOUR JOURNEY)

 APPROXIMATELY 4 HOURS  MODERATE  HAT & SUNSCREEN + SHOPPING OPPORTUNITY

About 30km south of Coffs Harbour is the little seaside town of Urunga, where a coastal boardwalk offers a fascinating insight into the local Indigenous culture and environment.

From Urunga Station it's a short coach ride to Urunga Boardwalk, where a local Indigenous guide will meet you. Stroll the boardwalk where the Kalang and Bellinger rivers meet the sea. Look for stingrays and herons wading in the mangroves as your guide interprets this unique ecosystem, highlighting local wildlife and bush tucker.

After the boardwalk, your coach will take you into Coffs Harbour. Enjoy some free time exploring the Sunday morning Harbourside Markets, wandering along the old timber jetty, or just relaxing on the sheltered Jetty Beach.

You'll also have the option of taking a shuttle through banana plantations into the Great Dividing Range. The views from Forest Sky Pier at Sealy Lookout, a viewing platform suspended 310m above Coffs Harbour, are truly unforgettable.

Lunch is served back on the Great Southern as you roll north towards Brisbane.

RECOMMENDED FITNESS LEVEL:

Moderate – Walking tour, approx. 2km of walking required.



DAY 3 BEACHSIDE MORNING

(EXCURSION OPTION INCLUDED IN YOUR JOURNEY)

 APPROXIMATELY 4 HOURS  LOW  HAT, SUNSCREEN & SWIMWEAR (OPTIONAL) + SHOPPING OPPORTUNITY

Northern New South Wales is all about beach life. This divine stretch of coastline is the promised land for surfers, fisherfolk and alt-lifestylers who prefer the beach to the big smoke. Coffs Harbour is the perfect encapsulation of this laid-back region.

From Coffs Harbour Station, a short coach ride delivers you to the compact Coffs Harbour waterfront precinct. A relaxed morning is ahead of you: wander along the town's historic timber jetty, which dates back to 1892; explore the northern breakwater leading out to Muttonbird Island; or lose a few hours wandering between the stalls at the Harbourside Market. A Sunday morning institution attracting upwards of 2000 visitors, this ethically-minded market presents the best of local produce, coffee, live music and artworks.

Down on Jetty Beach, the mood is more low-key. Paddle in the shallows, play some beach cricket or just read a book on the golden sand – an unhurried beachside morning is yours to enjoy. If you're feeling more adventurous, you'll also have the opportunity to visit the Forest Sky Pier viewing platform at Sealy Lookout, 310m above Coffs Harbour.

Head back to the Great Southern for lunch as your northbound journey continues.

RECOMMENDED FITNESS LEVEL:

Low – Walking will vary depending on how you use your time.



DAY 3 BONVILLE GOLF RESORT



(EXCURSION OPTION INCLUDED IN YOUR JOURNEY)



APPROXIMATELY 4 HOURS



LOW



HAT & SUNSCREEN; DRESS CODE APPLIES

Fancy a round of golf on a Sunday morning? Just a 20-minute coach ride into the lush Coffs Harbour hinterland, Bonville Golf Course is regularly voted the most beautiful course in Australia. Since opening in 1992, Bonville has often drawn comparisons with the famous Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia, home of the US Masters.

From Coffs Harbour Station, your coach will carry you and your golfing crew to Bonville, a par-72 championship course cut through the rolling foothills of the Great Dividing Range. Tall stands of eucalypts – blackbutt, ironbark and tallwood – are a highlight here, the forest marching up to verdant fairways and immaculate greens. Native wildlife is also a feature: look for sleepy koalas in the branches, as well as black cockatoos, kookaburras, water dragons, goannas, and swamp wallabies grazing on the grass.

Club and cart hire is included, with tee times staggered to ensure you enjoy a serene golfing experience.

After your round, ride the coach back to Coffs Harbour and the Great Southern in time for lunch and your departure for Brisbane.

Please note: guest will have the opportunity to play up to 9-holes of golf.

RECOMMENDED FITNESS LEVEL:

Low – Some walking required.

