

ICONS OF ENGLAND & WALES

TRAINS, BOATS AND PLANES

INCLUDING THE ICONIC DUXFORD AIR SHOW



7th - 24th September 2018
With Bob Daniel

• LONDON • PORTSMOUTH • BATH • BRISTOL • NORTH WALES •
• LIVERPOOL • YORK • CAMBRIDGE •



Scott McGregor's

RAILWAY ADVENTURES

OVERVIEW

Britain's empire was built on its naval strength, ruling the waves and the continents through mastery of the sea by sail and steam. Naval victories allowed the merchant fleets to feed the Industrial Revolution, which in turn depended on the Railway to drive its progress. Britain led the way with the invention and development of the modern steam railway ushering in the Golden Age of Railways and exporting the technology all over the world. Britain was also a leader in the world of aviation and it's aircraft engineers, responsible for such successes as The Spitfire, Lancaster, Harrier and Concorde have left a lasting legacy. This grand tour through the heart of England and Wales celebrates the three great modes of transport that have helped to make the UK what it is today.

Your tour, on all manner of trains and boats, will take you to great museums and an iconic air show, incorporating stunning scenery, astounding architecture and a vast, eclectic mix of Britain's cultural icons. All the way your luxury coach will be on hand for transfers, to manage luggage, and complete our excursions into Britain's heartland. There are river cruises and heritage steam train journeys, country houses and castles, cathedrals and colleges. All the way you'll reside in centrally located, quality accommodation, dine in a plethora of popular restaurants and have the fully escorted services of your experienced tour leader.

WHY TRAVEL WITH US

The joy of travelling is no longer confined to the destination—the mode of travel is a large part of the experience. Railway Adventures offers a truly unique perspective on some of the world's most spectacular holiday destinations, with the assurance that the journey is just as magical and unforgettable as what is discovered at the end of the line.

With us, you can confidently expect:

- **Small group sizes** — a maximum of 20 passengers per trip guarantees an intimate experience with less time spent queuing, more time with your guide, and better access to sightseeing destinations.
- **Unique itineraries** — each itinerary has been meticulously developed by a team with great cultural awareness and many years' knowledge of each destination. You are guaranteed to experience the best that each destination has to offer.
- **Authentic local experiences** — whether it's a little-known yet impressive steam railway, a small boutique hotel or an authentic restaurant, know that you will experience something special on our tours.
- **Expert local guides and local operators** — we employ local guides to share their passion and knowledge of the places they call home, while our partners on the ground offer us support and backup all the way.
- **Customer satisfaction** — our testimonials speak for themselves. Thousands have travelled with us over the years and many come back year after year, often bringing friends along! On our customer satisfaction ratings, over 97% would recommend us to others and/or travel with us again.
- **Fully escorted** — our team of tour leaders is experienced and capable, entertaining and considerate, and together with our local guides, has your needs well covered. They will help with everything along the way, giving you the peace of mind to soak up your surroundings. And you'll find them jolly good company to boot!



Bob Daniel

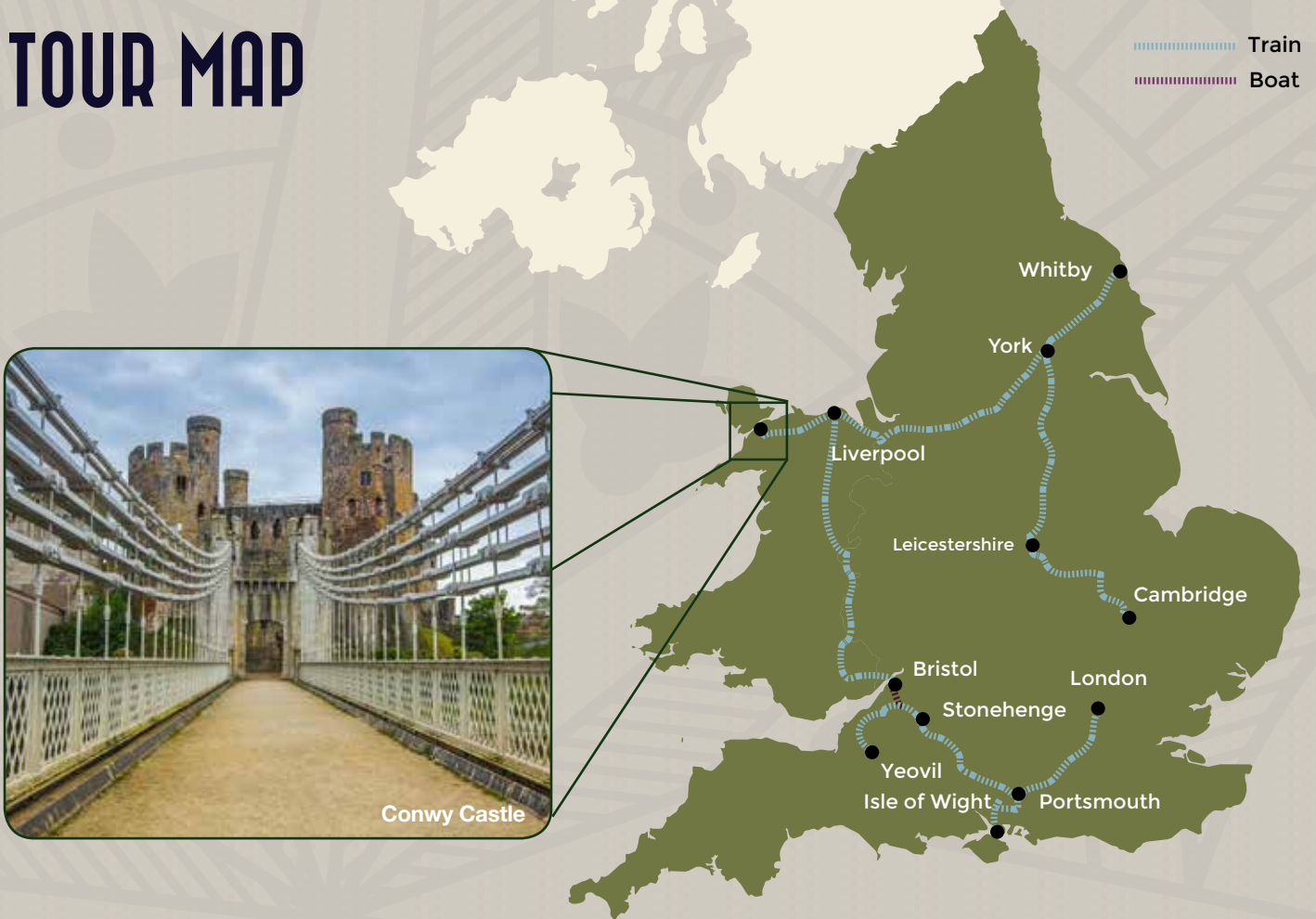
MEET YOUR TOUR LEADER

BOB DANIEL has been fascinated with trains all his life, his father having engineered the construction of many of the famous Australian trains during the 1950's and 60's such as the Southern Aurora and The Sunlander. Bob is also the founder and original owner of Guidepost Tours nearly 40 years ago, which now operate niche market tours to many destinations around the world. He regularly travels by rail on local trains throughout South East Asia and many other countries, discovering how the spread of rail routes has led to the development and enhancement of culture and life in rural communities and cities, even in undeveloped regions. Whilst still involved with the development of itineraries for Guidepost Tours and Railway Adventures, Bob is heavily involved with Heritage Rail Groups in New South Wales, is qualified in Rail Safety and Track Awareness, and travels regularly on steam and diesel tours as train manager or in other capacities.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Heritage railways of the Isle of Wight, North Wales and Yorkshire Moors
- Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, The National Railway Museum York
- Liverpool's dockyards, Bristol's port, York Minster and the wonders of Cambridge
- Great houses in Yorkshire, terraces in Bath and Abbeys in Whitby
- Ferry across the Mersey, locks at Foxton and SS Great Britain in Bristol
- Full day on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway to Whitby
- Stonehenge, royal residence of Osborne House, Castle Howard and Conwy Castle
- Visit to the Fleet Air Arm Museum
- A full day pass to experience the world renowned Duxford Air Show

TOUR MAP



HOW YOU WILL TRAVEL

Being rail enthusiasts we know that the journey itself is often more important than the destination. Wherever possible we have sourced interesting and nostalgic rail journeys and other noteworthy modes of transport. Here is an example of what you will experience:



Ffestiniog Railway, North Wales



Isle of Wight Railway



North Yorkshire Moors Railway

Day 1 • Friday 7 September: Arrive London

Make your way to our hotel, conveniently located in a quiet area just off of the vibrant Kensington High Street, a short walk to the tube station. In the evening meet with your tour leader Bob, and fellow travellers for drinks, a briefing, and a celebratory welcome dinner.

Overnight: Copthorne Tara Hotel, London (D)

Day 2 • Saturday 8 September: London – Greenwich – London

The Docklands Light Railway whips us down along the Thames to Greenwich where we will be given a combination ticket allowing us access to the major attractions, museums and galleries of the National Maritime Museum and Royal Observatory. While there we visit the great clipper ship the Cutty Sark and the historic tunnel under the Thames: the first tunnel to be built under a river and completed in 1843 by Sir Marc Isambard Brunel. We continue by ferry along the Thames to enjoy an early dinner at a popular London favourite.

Overnight: Copthorne Tara Hotel, London (B, D)

Day 3 • Sunday 9 September: London

Today is a free day in and around London to explore the many options on offer in this grand city. You may wish to take an excursion to the extraordinary collection at RAF Hendon Aircraft Museum or take the option to head into London for an afternoon visit to the Imperial War Museum. It has been recently refurbished for the WWI centenary; free admission and your travel card will cover the tube ride.

Overnight: Copthorne Tara Hotel, London (B)

Day 4 • Monday 10 September: London – Portsmouth

Today our luggage will go separately while we travel first class on the fast express service down the old London and South Western Railway from Waterloo to Portsmouth, now operated by Southwest Trains.

After some free time for lunch the afternoon revolves around the many icons of Portsmouth, with a museum pass to the extensive and fascinating Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. The afternoon is yours to explore the site and Bob will be on hand to help guide and illuminate the amazing collection of iconic ships, memorabilia and museum exhibits. Dinner this evening is in a local Portsmouth favourite.

Overnight: Queens Hotel, Portsmouth (B, D)

Day 5 • Tuesday 11 September: Portsmouth

After breakfast we transfer in our coach to the port where a catamaran ferry is standing by to take us across to the Isle of Wight. The ferry connects with the island's local electric train (vintage London Underground rolling stock) for the short run across the island to the terminus station of the Isle of Wight Steam Railway at Smallbrook Junction. This authentic heritage railway takes you by steam on the idyllic little line to the railway's depot at Havenstreet Station. Lunch is on your own at the railway's well-stocked café.

Continue to the end of the island's electric railway and then be transported by private coach to the chalk cliffs of the southern coast and back via the Needles Old Battery Museum, Osborne House and the towns of Newport and Ryde. We take the opportunity to visit Osborne House, one of Queen Victoria's favourite residences, designed by Prince Albert himself as a summer house and retreat for the Royal Family. The ferry brings us back to Portsmouth and our hotel for a free evening in this fair city.

Overnight: Queens Hotel, Portsmouth (B)

Day 6 • Wednesday 12 September: Portsmouth – Bristol

Our private coach departs from the hotel to take us to Bristol, via Stonehenge and Bath. First stop is to explore the mysteries and magic of Stonehenge. The main stones date from about 2500 BC and the new museum and gallery are a wonderful introduction to this iconic place. We make a stop at the charming village of Devizes for lunch on your own and time to wander around the small town, full of charming shops and a lovely museum showcasing the treasures that have been found in the area. A short distance away is our next stop Bath where, in the company of a local guide, the story of this ancient and colourful city is brought to life. Later we continue to Bristol to check into our hotel for 2 nights and enjoy dinner in the city.

Overnight: Holiday Inn Bristol City Centre, Bristol (B, D)

Day 7 • Thursday 13 September: Bristol

Today we take an excursion just a short way down the road to the Fleet Air Arm Museum, one of Britain's foremost collections of historic Naval aviation history. Here you can see a vast array of interesting exhibits including the story of the Battle of the Atlantic, the flight deck from HMS Ark Royal and Concorde, and many more across the 5 great halls of exhibits. Back in Bristol the afternoon is free to enjoy the many sites of the city or perhaps take the option of a fast train trip to Swindon to visit the Museum of the Great Western Railway- STEAM.

Overnight: Holiday Inn Bristol City Centre, Bristol (B)



Stonehenge



Day 8 • Friday 14 September: Bristol – Stourport-on-Severn

After breakfast at the hotel we meet our local guide who will reveal many interesting stories in and around Bristol. Our tour includes the city docks, Brunel's spectacular suspension bridge over the Avon Gorge and Temple Meads Station—all part of the majesty of this great city. To top it off, tour in and around the magnificent and historic SS Great Britain. A light lunch in the city precedes our journey by coach north towards Wales. Your hotel in Worcestershire is also the location for dinner this evening.

Overnight: Hallmark Hotel Stourport Manor, Stourport on Severn (B, L, D)

Day 9 • Saturday 15 September: Stourport-on-Severn – Llandudno

This morning we continue the scenic coach journey on to the North Wales seaside town of Llandudno, stopping along the way at Thomas Telford's iconic suspension bridge from 1826 and Stevenson's 1849 box or tubular railway bridge. Enjoy some time for lunch on your own before a guided tour of the 13th century, World Heritage Listed Conwy Castle. Arrive in Llandudno later in the afternoon with an option to enjoy an excursion on the 100-year-old cable funicular Great Orme Tramway that travels up to the 270-metre-high summit of the Great Orme, Britain's highest headland. This evening we'll enjoy dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: Llandudno Bay Hotel, Llandudno (B, D)

Day 10 • Sunday 16 September: North Wales Railways

Today we will embark on a series of train journeys on the railways of North Wales starting with a coach trip to Caernarvon to meet the Welsh Highland Railway. We steam down the line to Porthmadog and then transfer to Portmeirion for some time at leisure. The famous Ffestiniog Railway is the scene for more heritage train travel along the scenic line to Blaenau Ffestiniog. The Ffestiniog Railway is the world's oldest narrow gauge railway and the oldest railway company still operating trains. The journey climbs over 213 metres (700 feet) from sea level into the mountains, through tranquil pastures and magnificent forests, past lakes and waterfalls, round tight bends (even a complete spiral), clinging to the side of the mountain or tunneling through it. Time is allocated for lunch on your own at Portmeirion. The next leg takes us to Blaenau Ffestiniog where our coach will be waiting to transfer us back to the hotel.

Overnight: Llandudno Bay Hotel, Llandudno (B, D)

Day 11 • Monday 17 September: Llandudno – Liverpool

Board the train to Merseyside and the port city of Liverpool this morning. Our local guide is standing by to meet us and lead us on a tour of the city when we pull in. Liverpool's status as a port city has contributed to its diverse population; Europe's oldest Chinese population and Black African community being just a couple of the diverse communities within the city. Along the way we explore the spectacular Anglican Cathedral, one of Europe's largest, and delve into the story of the Mersey Beat on a guided tour aboard the famous Mersey Ferry. Later on, enjoy some free time back at the hotel and dinner at a local favourite.

Overnight: Jurys Inn, Liverpool (B, D)

Day 12 • Tuesday 18 September: Liverpool – York

Our morning train journey celebrates the route of the world's first true passenger railway, opened on the 15th of September 1830, taking us from Liverpool to Manchester and onto York. Enjoy a traditional afternoon tea at the famous Betty's Café and Tea Rooms and then begin an afternoon walking tour of the city with our local guide. Some of the sights include the grand curved station in York, a masterpiece of Victorian Industrial Age engineering, the old walled city, the Minster and the old town.

Overnight: Doubletree by Hilton Monkbar, York (B, L)

Day 13 • Wednesday 19 September: York – Whitby – York

Our adventure today is on one of the UK's most extensive and authentic heritage railways, the North Yorkshire Moors Railway, taking us to the charming seaside town of Whitby. Our coach takes us to Pickering to board the train and, once in Whitby, on about an hour's gentle journey across the moors drawn behind one of their fine steam locos. We visit the rambling ruins of the old abbey perched high on the hill overlooking the town. Enjoy a hearty lunch of fish and chips, of course, in the heart of this wonderful maritime town, and then enjoy the return trip by train in the afternoon. The evening is free to explore the many sites of York at night.

Overnight: Doubletree by Hilton Monkbar, York (B, L)

Day 14 • Thursday 20 September: York and surrounds

Sample the good life with a visit to Castle Howard, a grand country home built in the very early eighteenth century and the location for Brideshead Revisited, set within 1,000 acres of breathtaking landscape. The afternoon is then yours to continue exploring York, the grand old city of the North, or perhaps visit the National Railway Museum, housing an extraordinary collection of Britain's most iconic Railway treasures.

Overnight: Doubletree by Hilton Monkbar, York (B)

Day 15 • Friday 21 September: York – Leicestershire – Cambridge

After breakfast at the hotel, we travel directly from York to visit Foxton Locks. Later we continue south to Cambridge, arriving in the late afternoon where we settle in to our hotel right in the heart of the atmospheric city. Dinner is served in the hotel restaurant later in the evening.

Overnight: Hilton Cambridge City Hotel, Cambridge (B, D)

Day 16 • Saturday 22 September: Duxford Air Show – Cambridge

Immerse yourself in a full day at the Duxford Airshow, one of the world's biggest, featuring displays, shows, exhibits, and celebrations of everything from a Sopwith Camel to supersonic fighters. The Imperial War Museum in Duxford is Britain's best preserved WWII airfield. Historic buildings sit alongside the striking contemporary exhibition halls AirSpace and the American Air Museum. An amazing gathering of aircraft, exhibits and associated activities, we are assured of a most stimulating, fascinating and very full day.

Overnight: Hilton Cambridge City Hotel, Cambridge (B, D)

Day 17 • Sunday 23 September: Cambridge

A guided tour of the city of Cambridge begins this morning and takes in the museums at the university and a College visit. You may even want to take to the water and punt on the Cam! The afternoon is yours to enjoy the ambience of the town, soaking up this last day on tour and maybe doing some last-minute shopping before wandering back to the hotel. In the evening, join Bob and your fellow travellers for a lavish farewell dinner and drinks.

Overnight: Hilton Cambridge City Hotel, Cambridge (B, D)

Day 18 • Monday 24 September: Final farewell (B)

Our epic adventure concludes after breakfast in the hotel.

PRICE	Per person twin share.....	\$9,875	Deposit (per person)	\$1000 at time of booking
	Single supplement.....	\$1,585	Final payment due by	7 July 2018

INCLUSIONS

- 17 nights accommodation in centrally located hotels with daily breakfast
- First class rail travel (where available)
- Meals as per itinerary (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)
- Comprehensive sightseeing with expert local guides and experienced and knowledgeable host
- Excursions/entrances fees except those listed in the itinerary as optional
- 7 rail excursions, 2 boat trips, and comfortable luxury coach transport throughout
- Porterage on and off the coach and at all hotels with the exception of the Holiday Inn Bristol
- Luggage transport separately on days 4, 11 and 12 when travelling by train

Brunel's Clifton Suspension Bridge, Bristol



Duxford Airshow



EXCLUSIONS

- International flights
- Airport transfers on arrival and departure
- Excursions/entrances listed as optional in the itinerary
- Drinks with meals (except for welcome and farewell dinners)
- Items of a personal nature e.g. telephone, laundry, minibar
- Travel insurance

SUGGESTED FLIGHTS

We have suggested flights for this itinerary depending on your departure point from Australia, any preferred stopovers en-route and/or your planned pre- and post-tour activities. We can also investigate your preferred airline and offer you a solution based on connection times and prices. Contact 1300 733 323 to discuss your options.

HOW TO BOOK

Download a booking form from our website and follow the easy steps to getting on board. Alternatively, contact Platinum Travel & Tours on 1300 733 323 or enquiries@platinumtravelcorp.com if you'd prefer a form be sent to you.

Complete the form and submit it, along with your \$1000 pp deposit to secure your place on the tour.

DETAILS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

We endeavour to have all the details of our tours correct at the time of printing. However, sometimes factors beyond our control may affect the final inclusions and prices. These factors may include, but not be limited to; significant fluctuations in currency exchange rates, individual hotel/restaurant decisions that may affect bookings; weather events forcing a change of itinerary; unexpected trackwork on rail lines, unexpected closure of site attractions and so forth. Therefore, items mentioned in the brochure such as quoted prices, hotels and inclusions are subject to change. If a change is imposed on us, we will endeavour to ensure the substitute is of the same quality that you've paid for.

TOUR PACE / LEVEL OF FITNESS:

Our itineraries are designed to make the most of each destination, so a reasonable amount of activity is built into most days, which is why we call them adventures. Our philosophy is to offer you the best experience possible, while leaving you, our guest, the flexibility to pace yourself and choose how much or how little you want to do. Each Railway Adventures tour incorporates periods of free time for your own exploration and relaxation. While you don't need to be a 'gym junky', a reasonable level of fitness is required for most of our tours.

The ability to manage your own luggage, get on and off all manner of trains and coaches, walk for extended periods, stand comfortably, and climb steps and stairs will ensure you get the maximum enjoyment from your adventure.

ADDITIONAL TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

In addition to assisting with flight suggestions and bookings, we can also give you some ideas of what you could do before and after your Railway Adventure. We can also organise your all-important Travel Insurance for you. Call our office on 1300 733 323 if you would like to discuss options.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

For more information on factors such as travel insurance requirements, fitness levels, fees and charges, tour cancellations, payment schedules and so on, please refer to our Terms and Conditions, which accompany the booking form. They can also be found on our website.

WHERE YOU WILL STAY

The properties we have selected have been hand-picked based on their location, customer feedback, value and atmosphere. Here's some of what you can expect on this tour:



Copthorne Tara Hotel, London



Hilton City Centre Hotel, Cambridge



Jurys Inn, Liverpool



Queens Hotel, Portsmouth



HMS Victory - Portsmouth

THE RAILWAY ADVENTURES STORY

A passion for train travel can manifest itself in many ways. Founder and director of Railway Adventures, Scott McGregor, has made much of his obsession over the years. "Travelling to boarding school on the Mudgee Mail gave me a sense of how an active social life and long-distance trains can be a good combination."

Building a rural retreat out of a collection of vintage railway carriages in the early 1980s gave Scott a new perspective on rail heritage. During this time, he also operated his first tour—The Antipodean Renaissance Express—an experience he has never forgotten. Trading in vintage memorabilia and furniture sourced largely from the railways was also a source of great inspiration. Scott travelled far and wide trading and collecting for his Sydney shop, Off The Rails.

Hosting a couple of TV documentary series about great train journeys paved the way for leading his own train journeys. Once just an enjoyable part-time hobby, "getting paid to do what I love" has, naturally enough, led to a more substantial commitment and ultimately the launch of Scott's own dedicated train travel and touring company.



Scott McGregor's

**RAILWAY
ADVENTURES**

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