

SEPTEMBER 2025

PREPARED BY PAX MONDO



MEDIA KIT

A man wearing a dark cap and glasses is looking out from the window of a red steam locomotive. The locomotive is emitting a large plume of white steam from its smokestack. The background is a soft-focus landscape.

ALL ABOARD

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WEST COAST WILDERNESS RAILWAY IS A HERITAGE AND WILDERNESS JOURNEY LIKE NO OTHER.

A 2025 inductee into the Cultural Attractions of Australia, the unique rail experience stretches 35 kilometres of remote rainforest on Lutruwita/Tasmania's wild west coast, telling the story of one of the state's greatest feats of engineering, and the people who brought it to life.

Built in the late 19th century to transport Queenstown's copper riches across some of Tasmania's toughest terrain, West Coast Wilderness Railway today invites guests to step aboard the comfort of a meticulously restored heritage train, and take an immersive journey on the only operational Abt rack-and-pinion railway in the southern hemisphere.

Off-board, West Coast Wilderness Railway's spirit of hospitality extends to Tracks Café (Queenstown) and Tracks on Point (Strahan). Serving up wholesome menus of food, coffee, wine and beer, with a focus on Tasmanian produce, both make for delicious stops on any itinerary.

West Coast Wilderness Railway journeys depart from Strahan on 1950s heritage Drewry diesel locomotives, and from Queenstown aboard original steam locomotives. Each experience includes live commentary, stops at private stations, optional food and beverage service, and exclusive activities, including panning for gold and honey tastings.

01

RINADEENA, RACK & RAINFOREST

3 hours

Journey through the historic mining town of Queenstown, once cut off from the world except for the existence of this unique railway. Alight at Lynchford Station to pan for gold, or browse the Pioneer's Room to learn more about the history of Tasmania's west coast before boarding the train for your next destination.

Enjoy the feeling of complete immersion in the rainforest as the train begins the steep ascent towards Rinadeena Saddle, including three kilometres of the unique rack-and-pinion railway, an historically significant innovation that remains central to the railway's cultural importance today.

At Rinadeena, enjoy a bite to eat and a photography opportunity with your heritage steam locomotive, before stepping back onboard for your return to Queenstown.

02

TEEPOOKANA & THE KING

2 hours 45 mins

Step onboard a heritage Drewry diesel train at Strahan's Regatta Point Station, and head deep into the rainforest, while onboard guides share stories of those who built the railway and called it their home.

Journey over the Iron Bridge at Teepookana, once a thriving port town, before disembarking at Lower Landing Station on the King River. Enjoy a short, nature walk and taste honey, with its origins from local endemic species, before heading back to Strahan.

03

LYNCHFORD EXPRESS

1 hour 30 mins

Board a heritage train at Queenstown Station, and take the 20-minute journey to Lynchford, once a centre for pioneers, adventurers and those with gold fever.

Onboard, take a journey through the last 200 years, as your guide shares the stories of the pioneering folk who once called the railway their home.

Disembark at Lynchford Station and walk in their footsteps, pan for gold or take in the Lynchford Museum, before heading back to Queenstown with a new appreciation for the railway and its stories.

04

RINADEENA FOOTPLATE

6 hours

Commencing with a safety briefing at West Coast Wilderness Railway's rail maintenance facility, this ultra-immersive experience invites you to work alongside the crew to ascend Rinadeena Saddle's 1:16 gradient under the power of the southern hemisphere's only operating Abt rack-and-pinion system.

Join the driver and fireman as you undertake pre-departure checks, assist with driving and re-watering the locomotive, and complete a post-journey debrief.

This exclusive experience also includes a Devonshire tea snack pack, and a souvenir mug and gift bag.

JOURNEYS

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In September 2025, West Coast Wilderness Railway was proudly inducted into the Cultural Attractions of Australia list, a national collective showcasing Australia's most significant cultural experiences, and targeting travellers with niche interests.

As part of its inclusion in the collective, West Coast Wilderness Railway now offers an additional three bespoke experiences, available exclusively through the Cultural Attractions of Australia website.

BEYOND THE LINE

A premium rail journey and behind-the-scenes workshop tour.

EACH END OF THE LINE

A two-day hosted itinerary combining rail, storytelling and dining.

LIVE LIKE THE RAILWAY GM

A three-day hosted stay at Queenstown's Penghana, the heritage residence of former Mount Lyell Mining and Railway Company General Managers.

CULTURAL
ATTRACTIONS
OF AUSTRALIA



THE EXPERIENCE



CARRIAGE OPTIONS

PREPARED BY PAX MONDO

West Coast Wilderness Railway offers two types of carriage journeys for each departure. All carriages have been meticulously restored with upholstered booth seating, comfortable airflow, and heating and cooling. In both carriage options, passengers face the front of the train for one half of the journey, and the back for the other.

PREMIUM CARRIAGES

Offering a little more space, a carriage balcony and a delicious Tasmanian produce-driven menu, Premium Carriages provide a more luxurious experience.

Commencing with a glass of Tasmanian sparkling or juice, shorter journeys offer a morning or afternoon snack, while longer journeys may include up to four short courses served throughout.

STANDARD CARRIAGES

Using original heritage frames with updated internal fittings, Standard Carriages offer a comfortable enclosed journey with booth seats. Snacks and drinks may be brought onboard, or purchased at remote station kiosks along the journey.



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Onboard, Premium Carriage menus reflect the best of local produce, accompanied by Tasmanian beverages, while station kiosks serve up wholesome fare for Standard Carriage passengers.

Off-board, guests may indulge in delicious casual fare at either of West Coast Wilderness Railway's cafés.

TRACKS ON POINT **Regatta Point, Strahan**

Tracks on Point serves up great coffee and a popular selection of burgers, shakes and pancakes, along with a Tasmanian-focused wine and beer selection. It's the perfect spot to watch the sun go down with friends, or to grab a quick breakfast before joining the West Coast Wilderness Railway journey,

TRACKS CAFÉ **Queenstown Train Station**

Tracks Café offers a casual selection of breakfast, lunch and dinner meals with friendly service in the old train station in Queenstown. For a pre-journey breakfast and caffeine hit, or a leisurely meal and wine by the wood fire, it's another special part of the West Coast Wilderness Railway story for visitors and locals alike.



HERITAGE & HISTORY

DIGGING UP STORIES

EVERY WEST COAST WILDERNESS RAILWAY JOURNEY UNCOVERS WEST COAST TASMANIA'S REMARKABLE STORIES, IN THE VERY WILDERNESS WHERE THEY WROTE THEMSELVES INTO HISTORY.

Going For Gold

In 1844, lured by the prospect of gold on Tasmania's west coast, two Irish brothers and a Finn set up camp below a rocky outcrop on Mount Lyell near Queenstown. Though they found gold, their luck ran dry within just a few years.

Some years later, Irish prospector James Crotty led a syndicate of men financed by an interested party in Hobart to the same site. Extracting gold at the mine, which became known as Iron Blow, continued to prove difficult and slow, and the venture almost sent Crotty broke.

By the late 1800s, word of silver mines on the west coast had reached Bowes Kelly, who set out to claim his stake on "Silver City" in Zeehan. After touring the nearby Mount Lyell - and liking what he saw - he bought into what others had deemed a failed gold mine ... but turned out to be Australia's greatest copper mine.

Copper To Coast

While Mount Lyell yielded vast and valuable deposits of copper, it presented a new challenge - how could the copper be transported to the coast to realise the mountain's riches? Despite its location just 35 kilometres from a deep harbour, the surrounding wilderness was characterised by impenetrable rainforest, steep mountains, and rocky gorges. Bowes Kelly needed an innovative solution - and the Abt rack-and-pinion system proved to be just that.

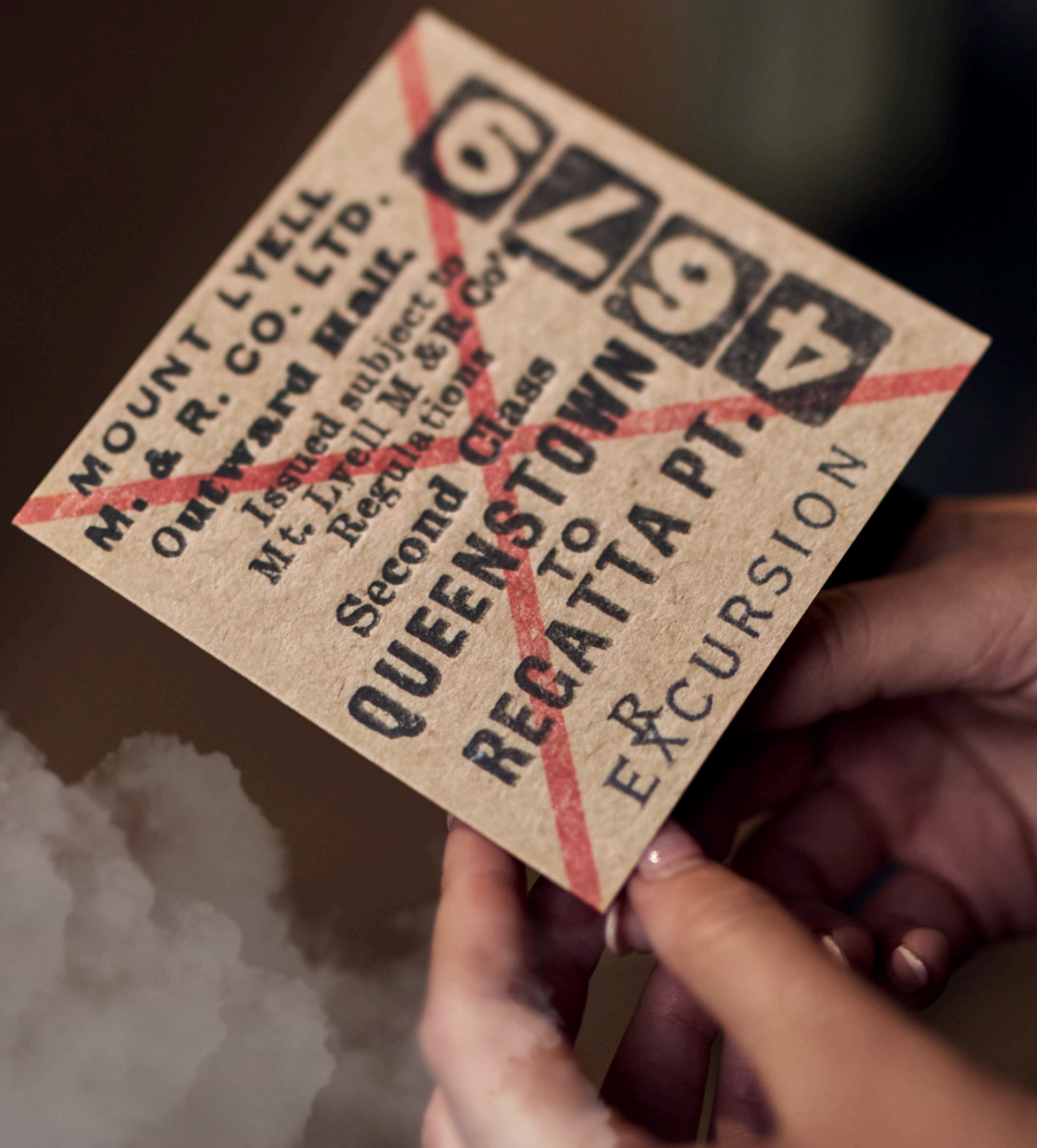
By 1899, teams of surveyors had cut through hundreds of kilometres of scrub, using only picks and shovels, to create a rail route from Mount Lyell to Strahan. The incorporation of the the Abt system - a third central rail along the middle of the track, featuring vertical teeth that engaged with cog wheels underneath the locomotive - supported heavy loads being hauled up the 1:16 gradient slopes of Rinadeena Saddle, and created a braking effect on descent.

Bowes' innovation and determination had revolutionised the railway, and changed the story of west coast Tasmania forever.

Holding On To Heritage

After several decades of use, the railway closed in 1963 in favour of road transport. When the mine later closed in the 90s, west coast locals rallied to rebuild the then defunct railway into an immersive tourist experience to sustain the remote community and its economy. West Coast Wilderness Railway was born.

MUSEUMS



As a heritage experience, West Coast Wilderness Railways provides a number of off-board opportunities to engage deeply with its proud history through interpretation and museums.

Queenstown Station Museum

Situated at the Queenstown platform, this museum features interpretative displays and a collection of original artefacts reflecting the human stories of the remarkable railway - from its construction in the 1890s, to its rebirth as one of Tasmania's most beloved tourist attractions. Wheelchair accessible.

Regatta Point Station Museum Room

Opened in Strahan in 2021, this museum room provides modern interpretation, unique artefacts, and real accounts from those who once lived along the line. Suitable for small wheelchairs; provides an audio experience for visitors with literary requirements.

Lynchford Pioneer Room

Redeveloped in 2023, and available exclusively to passengers visiting Lynchford Station on a train journey, this museum room provides insights into the region's mining history, and a collection of local minerals to learn more about the area's unique geology.



GETTING TO THE WEST COAST

PREPARED BY PAX MONDO

THE JOURNEY TO TASMANIA'S REMOTE WEST COAST WINDS THROUGH UNESCO-RECOGNISED WILDERNESS AREAS OF RAINFOREST, MOUNTAIN PLATEAUS, AND GLACIAL VALLEYS.

BY AIR

- Fly into Hobart or Launceston: both Hobart Airport and Launceston Airport offer daily direct flights from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, with connections from other major Australian cities.
- Fly into Burnie: Burnie Airport is the closest regional airport to Queenstown, and is serviced by flights from Melbourne.
- Fly into Strahan: Par Avion provides flexible private charter options from Melbourne, Hobart and Launceston

BY ROAD

- From Hobart and Launceston: between 3.5 and 4.5 hours, depending on whether you're finishing in Queenstown or Strahan
- From Burnie: between 2 and 2.5 hours, depending on whether you're finishing in Queenstown or Strahan

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THANK
YOU

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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