

THE TRANS-AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY

“ And I crossed again
Over the miles of the saltbush plain—
The shining plain that is said to be
The dried-up bed of an inland sea,
Where the air, so dry and so clear and bright
Refracts the sun with a wondrous light,
And out in the dim horizon makes
The deep blue gleam of the phantom lakes.
For those that love it, and understand,
The saltbush plain is a wonderland.”—(A. B. PATERSON.)

To those who desire to obtain a conception of the continent of Australia, no experience is more helpful than a journey over the railway which links Western Australia with the Eastern States of the Commonwealth.

Distinguished people from many lands who have travelled overland to learn at first-hand the character of the country which lies beyond the populated seaboard, have been fascinated with the lure of the inland.

The inter-capital express trains operated by the State railway administrations connect with the Commonwealth's Trans-Australian Railway at the eastern terminal, Port Pirie, where the overland journey of 1,108 miles is commenced in a train replete with every modern convenience.

The aim of the Commonwealth Railways Commissioner is to provide on the Trans-Australian Railway all the amenities of a modern hotel. The restful lounges and spacious sleeping cabins have been designed to afford the utmost comfort to the traveller.

While the Trans-Australian journey does not present the scenic grandeur of other railway routes, it, nevertheless, offers glimpses of the unusual and offers an attractiveness and fascination found only in a sparsely-inhabited region. It may be the delicate colours in the sky at sunset, the peculiar outline of the hills, or the glimpse of a camel train, but it is certain that passengers who take the overland journey will be fascinated and interested.

TALKING POINTS.

The Trans-Australian Railway between Port Augusta and Kalgoorlie (1051 miles), was completed on 17th October, 1917. The extension from Port Augusta to Port Pirie Junction—56 miles—was opened on 26th July, 1937.

The railway runs for over 400 miles across the Nullarbor Plain, and, of that distance, over 300 miles is without a curve—the longest stretch of straight railway track in the world.

The Nullarbor Plain (Nulla—no, arbor—tree), has an area of probably 100,000 square miles, or more than the area of the State of Victoria. The geology of this strange region is little known, but it is obvious that at one time it was sea bed. The limestone, most of it full of preserved shells, was, of course, laid down under water.

In the country for about 300 miles west of Port Augusta there are established large sheep stations, which support nearly a million sheep. The average rainfall in this area is between 7 and 8 inches, and it is far from being the desert which many people imagine.

Tarcoola is the largest settlement between Port Augusta and Kalgoorlie. Before the construction of the railway the Tarcoola mail coach drawn by mule teams maintained a service with Port Augusta over a distance of 257 miles.

In the 1108 miles between Port Pirie Junction and Kalgoorlie there is not one permanent stream of fresh water. Water supplies are drawn from wells, bores, and dams.

The Commonwealth Railways Department operates its own stores to supply employees with meat, groceries, fruit and vegetables, clothing, and general house-hold lines. The main store is at Port Augusta with branches at Tarcoola, Cook, Rawlinna, and Parkeston. Employees at other locations are served from the “Tea and Sugar” train which traverses the line in each direction weekly.

Modern refrigerated butchers' vans are a feature of the “Tea and Sugar” train.

FARES.

(Subject to alteration without notice.)

† From	† To	Adult Fare.		Children Four Years and Under Fourteen Years.	
		Including Reserved Seats, Sleeping Berths (where provided), and Meals on the Trans-Australian and Perth-Kalgoorlie Lines.			
		* 1st Class.	2nd Class.	* 1st Class.	2nd Class.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Port Augusta ..	Fremantle	18 11 0	12 13 0	11 0 0	7 7 3
Pt. Pirie Junction		18 16 0	12 16 0	11 2 6	7 8 9
Adelaide ..		19 9 9	13 5 3	11 10 0	7 14 0
Melbourne ..	Perth	24 13 3	16 4 6	14 11 9	9 4 3
Canberra ..		30 12 3	19 11 6	18 3 0	10 19 3
Sydney ..		30 9 9	19 10 0	18 1 9	10 18 6
Brisbane ..		37 1 3	24 7 6	21 18 6	13 8 0
Port Augusta ..	Kalgoorlie	16 0 10	10 18 8	9 2 11	6 4 1
Pt. Pirie Junction		16 12 6	11 6 6	9 8 9	6 8 0
Adelaide ..		16 14 3	11 8 3	9 10 3	6 9 6
Melbourne ..		21 17 9	14 8 0	12 12 0	8 0 0
Canberra ..		27 16 9	17 13 6	16 3 3	9 14 3
Sydney ..		27 14 9	17 13 0	16 2 3	9 14 0
Brisbane ..		34 5 9	22 10 6	19 18 9	12 3 6

* Plus 6/- if Roomette or Twinette berth required between Melbourne and Adelaide.
† For travel in East-bound direction, the above-mentioned fares are increased as follows:—1st Class, adult 8/-, child 5/6d.; 2nd Class, adult 8/-, child 5/3d. This is due to a greater number of meals being served on the Trans-Australian train.

AVAILABILITY OF TICKETS.

Ordinary single inter-system tickets are available as follows:—

Single tickets between adjoining Systems, one month.

Single tickets between three or more Systems, three months.

Break of journey is permitted at any station, provided the journey to destination is completed within the period above mentioned.

LUGGAGE.

Free Allowance.

Passengers undertaking journeys between Capital cities—

1st Class 168 lb.

2nd Class 112 lb.

Journeys other than above—

1st Class 112 lb.

2nd Class 84 lb.

Luggage Checks.

Passengers may “check” their luggage between any of the places at which inter-system rail tickets are on issue.

PRESS NEWS.

A brief summary of the more important news of the day is made available in the lounge car en route.



COMMONWEALTH RAILWAYS

TIME TABLE

FOR THE

DIESEL-ELECTRIC
EXPRESS SERVICE

TRANS-AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY

(PORT PIRIE JUNCTION—KALGOORLIE)

AND

CONNECTING INTERSTATE
SERVICES BETWEEN
BRISBANE & PERTH

January, 1953

PERTH TO BRISBANE

TIME

Feet above Sea-level.	Miles from Perth.	Stations.	Times.	Feet above Sea-level.	Miles from Perth.	Stations.	Times.
38	—	PERTH ..	.. dep. 3.30 p.m.	392	1174	TARCOOLA ..	arr. 4.12 a.m.
			P.T. Tu. Th. Sat.			.. dep.	4.17 a.m.
1046	169	Merredin ..	.. 10.51 p.m.	489	1222	**Kingoonya ..	.. 5.24 a.m.
1163	241	Southern Cross ..	.. 2.26 a.m.	500	1274	Wirraminna ..	.. 6.31 a.m.
			.. Wed. Fri. Sun.	621	1318	**Pimba ..	.. 7.39 a.m.
1240	380	KALGOORLIE (T)		287	1379	Bookaloo ..	.. 9.00 a.m.
		RR ..	.. 7.45 a.m.	21	1431	PORT AUGUSTA	arr. 10.17 a.m.
		(Change Trains) ..	.. 10.05 a.m.	18	1488	(T) dep.	10.30 a.m.
1218	382	Parkeston ..	.. 10.13 a.m.			PORT PIRIE JUN.	arr. 11.50 a.m.
		.. dep.	.. 10.15 a.m.			(T) RR§	
1186	448	Karonie ..	.. 11.40 a.m.			(Change Trains) ..	.. 12.30 p.m.
894	510	Zanthus (Through)	.. 12.57 p.m.	101	1622	ADELAIDE RR ..	arr. 3.35 p.m.
658	547	Kitchener ..	.. 1.41 p.m.			.. dep.	4.20 p.m.
603	615	RAWLINNA (T)				(Change Trains) ..	.. 7.00 p.m.
		arr. 3.45 p.m.	C.T.	53	1682	Murray Bridge RR§	arr. 9.26 p.m.
		dep. 3.50 p.m.	..			.. dep.	9.46 p.m.
583	660	Haig ..	.. 4.42 p.m.	398	1818	Serviceton ..	.. 1.25 a.m.
603	716	Loongana (Through)	.. 5.53 p.m.			.. dep.	2.03 a.m.
619	746	742 Miles ..	.. 6.28 p.m.	1416	2031	Ballarat RR ..	arr. 6.55 a.m.
540	799	Reid ..	.. 7.38 p.m.			.. dep.	7.15 a.m.
473	865	Hughes ..	.. 8.50 p.m.	30	2105	MELBOURNE RR	arr. 9.00 a.m.
			..			(Change Trains) ..	.. 6.30 p.m.
404	918	COOK (T)		534	2295	ALBURY RR ..	arr. 10.20 p.m.
		.. arr. 9.46 p.m.	..			(Change Trains) ..	.. 10.40 p.m.
		.. dep. 10.01 p.m.	..			..	.. 11.00 p.m.
372	985	Watson ..	.. 11.12 p.m.	67	2694	SYDNEY RR ..	arr. 9.12 a.m.
499	1055	Barton (Through) ..	.. 12.48 a.m.			..	.. 10.55 a.m.
646	1091	397 Miles ..	.. 1.36 a.m.			(Change Trains) ..	.. 6.30 p.m.
499	1110	Wynbring ..	.. 2.06 a.m.			..	.. 7.40 p.m.
505	1150	*Malbooma ..	.. 3.01 a.m.			..	.. 8.03 p.m.
			..	39	3307	STH. BRISBANE	arr. 2.07 p.m.
			..			..	.. 3.04 p.m.
			..			..	.. 5.00 p.m.

TABLE (Subject to alteration without notice)

BRISBANE TO PERTH

Feet above Sea-level.	Miles from Brisbane.	Stations.	Times.	Feet above Sea-level.	Miles from Brisbane.	Stations.	Times.
39	—	STH. BRISBANE	dep. 11.25 a.m.	499	2196	Wynbring ..	.. dep. 12.53 a.m.
		..	E.S.T. Tu. Fri. Sun.			..	C.T. Sat. Tu. Th.
67	613	SYDNEY RR ..	arr. 12.15 p.m.	646	2216	397 Miles ..	.. 1.40 a.m.
		..	.. 7.25 a.m.			..	.. 2.30 a.m.
		..	.. 7.35 a.m.	499	2251	Barton (Through) ..	.. 2.30 a.m.
		..	.. 9.28 a.m.			..	.. 4.15 a.m.
		(Change Trains) ..	.. dep. 7.30 p.m.	372	2322	Watson ..	.. 4.15 a.m.
		..	.. 8.10 p.m.	404	2388	COOK (T)	.. arr. 5.25 a.m.
534	1012	ALBURY RR ..	arr. 7.00 a.m.			.. dep.	5.40 a.m.
		(Change Trains) ..	.. dep. 7.30 a.m.	473	2442	Hughes ..	.. 6.38 a.m.
		..	.. 7.50 a.m.			..	.. 7.53 a.m.
30	1202	MELBOURNE RR	arr. 11.30 a.m.	540	2507	Reid ..	.. 7.53 a.m.
		(Change Trains) ..	.. dep. 8.00 p.m.	619	2561	742 Miles ..	.. 8.59 a.m.
1416	1276	Ballarat RR ..	arr. 9.52 p.m.			..	.. 9.32 a.m.
		..	.. 10.12 p.m.	603	2590	Loongana (Through)	.. 9.32 a.m.
398	1489	Serviceton ..	arr. 2.55 a.m.			..	.. 10.44 a.m.
		..	.. 2.40 a.m.	583	2646	Haig ..	.. 10.44 a.m.
		..	.. 6.10 a.m.	603	2692	RAWLINNA (T)	.. arr. 11.33 a.m.
		..	.. 6.30 a.m.			.. dep.	11.38 a.m.
101	1685	ADELAIDE RR ..	arr. 9.00 a.m.	658	2759	Kitchener ..	.. 12.13 p.m.
		(Change Trains) ..	.. dep. 1.15 p.m.			..	P.T. ..
18	1819	PORT PIRIE JUN.	arr. 4.15 p.m.	894	2796	Zanthus (Through)	.. 12.56 p.m.
		RR§	.. 4.20 p.m.	1186	2858	Karonie ..	.. 2.26 p.m.
		(Change Trains) ..	.. dep. 5.00 p.m.	1218	2924	Parkeston	arr. 3.55 p.m.
21	1876	PORT AUGUSTA	arr. 6.21 p.m.			.. dep.	4.05 p.m.
		(T) dep.	6.30 p.m.	1240	2927	KALGOORLIE	RR arr. 4.15 p.m.
287	1928	Bookaloo ..	.. 7.40 p.m.			(Change Trains) ..	.. dep. 7.05 p.m.
621	1989	††Pimba ..	.. 9.00 p.m.	1163	3066	Southern Cross ..	.. 1.01 a.m.
500	2033	Wirraminna ..	.. 9.56 p.m.			..	.. Sun. Wed. Fri.
489	2085	††Kingoonya ..	.. 10.56 p.m.	1046	3138	Merredin ..	.. 4.10 a.m.
392	2133	TARCOOLA ..	arr. 12.01 a.m.			..	.. Tu. Th.
		..	.. 12.06 a.m.	38	3307	PERTH ..	.. arr. 11.30 a.m.
		..	.. 12.10 a.m.			..	.. C.T. ..

ALL INTERMEDIATE TIMINGS BETWEEN PORT AUGUSTA AND KALGOORLIE ARE APPROXIMATE, AND TRAINS MAY RUN AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

PERTH—BRISBANE

**Stops only when required to set down passengers from Kalgoorlie or beyond.

*Stops only when required to pick up first class passengers for Port Augusta or beyond.

BRISBANE—PERTH

††Stops only when required to pick up passengers for Kalgoorlie or beyond.

†Stops only when required to set down first class passengers from Port Augusta or beyond.

Explanation of Abbreviations and Symbols appearing in the above Time Table.

EST denotes Eastern standard time, which is 2 hours ahead of Perth time and 30 minutes ahead of Adelaide time.

PT denotes Perth time, which is 1½ hours behind Adelaide time and 2 hours behind Eastern standard time.

CT denotes Central time, which is 45 minutes ahead of Perth time and 45 minutes behind Adelaide time.

AT denotes Adelaide time, which is 1½ hours ahead of Perth time and 30 minutes behind Eastern standard time.

RR denotes Refreshment Rooms at which meals may be obtained.

RR§ denotes Refreshment Rooms at which light refreshments only may be obtained.

(T) Telegrams may be received at, or despatched from stations so marked.

COMFORT AND SERVICE.

The comfort of the travelling public is the first consideration of the train staff, and it is the duty of the conductors, who are provided in both first and second class cars, and the waiters in the dining car, to minister in every reasonable way to the comfort of passengers. Their instructions are to give ladies, children, elderly people, and invalids special attention.

Any complaints should be reported at once to the Senior Conductor or Senior Waiter, and if not rectified full particulars should be conveyed in writing to the Chief Traffic Manager, Commonwealth Railways, Port Augusta.

Suggestions for improvement of the service will be welcomed by the Chief Traffic Manager.

Special Notes:—

FOURTH TRAIN

When a fourth train is run westbound in any week between the Eastern States and Western Australia, it leaves South Brisbane on Wednesdays, Sydney on Thursdays, Melbourne on Fridays, Adelaide on Saturdays, and arrives at Perth on Mondays, running to the above schedule throughout.

In the Eastbound direction, the fourth train, when run, leaves Perth on Sundays, Adelaide on Tuesdays, Melbourne on Wednesdays, Sydney on Thursdays, and arrives at South Brisbane on Fridays, running to the above schedule throughout.

TRANS-AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY BOOKLET is being reprinted. Be sure to get a copy.