

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. Water treatment plants are installed at several locations to treat the well and bore water to fit it for use in locomotive boilers.

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)

Between—	And—	Adult Fare.		Children Four Years and Under Fourteen Years.	
		1st Class.	2nd Class.	1st Class.	2nd Class.
Including Reserved Seats, Sleeping Berths (where provided), and Meals on the Trans-Australian and Perth-Kalgoorlie Lines.					
Fremantle	Port Augusta ..	£ 16 15 0	£ 11 9 6	£ 10 3 0	£ 6 16 6
	Pt. Pirie Junction ..	16 19 0	11 12 0	10 5 0	6 17 9
	Adelaide ..	17 11 3	12 0 3	10 11 9	7 2 6
	Melbourne ..	22 2 3	14 10 6	13 7 3	8 8 3
	Perth ..	27 6 9	17 8 9	16 10 3	9 18 9
Kalgoorlie	Port Augusta ..	14 0 3	10 1 3	8 5 8	5 18 5
	Pt. Pirie Junction ..	14 9 6	10 8 3	8 10 3	6 1 11
	Adelaide ..	15 6 3	10 12 9	8 19 3	6 4 9
	Melbourne ..	19 17 3	13 3 0	11 14 9	7 10 6
	Perth ..	25 1 9	16 0 3	14 17 9	9 0 6
Kalgoorlie	Sydney ..	24 19 9	15 19 9	14 16 9	9 0 3
	Brisbane ..	30 14 9	20 4 6	18 4 3	11 3 3

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

TRANS-AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY

(BRISBANE—PERTH)

Issued by

The Commonwealth Railways Commissioner

March, 1951

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.	8.10 p.m.	P.T.	Mon.	Wed.	Fri.	21 1431	Port Augusta (T) .. arr.	6.00 a.m.	A.T.	Th.	Sat.	Mon.
1046	169	Merredin	3.24 a.m.	..	Tu.	Th.	Sat.	— —	.. .. dep.	6.15 a.m.	..	..	..	..
1163	241	Southern Cross ..	6.40 a.m.	..	..	..	..	214 1451	Nectar Brook	7.04 a.m.	..	..	..	..
1240	380	KALGOORLIE (T)						18 1488	PORT PIRIE JUN.					
—	—	RR (Change Trains) arr. dep.	11.50 a.m.	..	..	..	..	— —	(T) RR* .. arr.	8.13 a.m.	..	..	..	..
1218	382	Parkeston (T)	1.32 p.m.	..	..	..	..	101 1622	(Change Trains) .. dep.	8.56 a.m.	..	..	..	..
1186	448	Karonie	3.38 p.m.	..	..	..	..	— —	ADELAIDE RR .. arr.	1.15 p.m.	..	..	..	..
894	510	Zanthus (T)	5.55 p.m.	..	..	..	..	— —	(Change Trains) .. dep.	6.40 p.m.	..	..	..	..
658	547	Kitchener	6.59 p.m.	P.T.	..	..	..	53 1682	Murray Bridge RR* arr. dep.	9.13 p.m.	..	..	..	..
603	615	Rawlinna (T)	10.42 p.m.	C.T.	..	..	..	— —	.. ..	9.30 p.m.	..	..	..	..
603	716	Loongana (T)	2.20 a.m.	..	Wed.	Fri.	Sun.	398 1818	Serviceton .. arr. dep.	12.57 a.m.	A.T.	Fri.	Sun.	Tu.
540	799	Reid	5.18 a.m.	..	..	..	..	— —	.. ..	1.35 a.m.	E.S.T.	..	..	..
404	918	Cook	9.52 a.m.	..	..	..	..	1416 2031	Ballarat RR .. arr. dep.	7.10 a.m.	..	..	..	..
372	985	Watson	11.52 a.m.	..	..	..	..	— —	.. ..	7.35 a.m.	..	..	..	..
499	1055	Barton	3.13 p.m.	C.T.	..	..	..	30 2105	MELBOURNE RR arr.	9.30 a.m.	..	..	..	..
392	1174	Tarcoola	9.00 p.m.	A.T.	..	..	..	— —	(Change Trains) .. dep.	6.30 p.m.	..	..	..	..
489	1222	Kingooonya (T) dep.	10.49 p.m.	..	..	..	..	534 2295	ALBURY RR .. arr.	10.20 p.m.	..	..	..	..
500	1274	Wirraminna	12.34 a.m.	..	Th.	Sat.	Mon.	— —	(Change Trains) .. dep.	10.40 p.m.	..	..	..	..
621	1318	Pimba (T)	2.30 a.m.	..	..	..	..	— —	.. ..	11.00 p.m.	..	..	..	..
287	1379	Bookaloo	4.30 a.m.	..	..	..	..	67 2694	SYDNEY RR .. arr.	9.20 a.m.	..	Sat.	Mon.	Wed.
								— —	(Change Trains) dep.	11.06 a.m.	..	..	..	..
								— —	.. ..	6.30 p.m.	..	Sat.	..	..
								— —	.. ..	7.40 p.m.	..	..	Mon.	Wed.
								39 3307	STH. BRISBANE arr.	2.25 p.m.	..	Sun.	..	..
								— —	.. ..	3.19 p.m.	..	..	Tu.	Th.
								— —	.. ..	5.17 p.m.	..	Sun.	Tu.	Th.

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.	10.55 a.m.	E.S.T.	Tu.	Fri.	Sun.	621 1989	Pimba (T) dep.	12.08 a.m.	A.T.	Sat.	Tu.	Th.
67	613	SYDNEY RR .. arr.	11.30 a.m.	..	..	..	..	500 2033	Wirraminna	2.10 a.m.	..	..	..	..
		.. ..	7.36 a.m.	..	Wed.	..	..	489 2085	Kingooonya (T)	4.10 a.m.	..	..	..	..
		.. ..	7.50 a.m.	..	..	..	..	392 2133	Tarcoola	6.56 a.m.	A.T.	..	..	..
		.. ..	7.46 a.m.	..	..	..	..	499 2251	Barton	10.49 a.m.	C.T.	..	..	..
		(Change Trains) .. dep.	9.01 a.m.	..	Wed.	Sat.	Mon.	372 2322	Watson	1.35 p.m.	..	..	..	..
534	1012	ALBURY RR .. arr.	9.10 a.m.	..	..	..	..	404 2388	Cook	4.28 p.m.	..	..	..	..
		(Change Trains) .. dep.	8.10 p.m.	..	..	..	..	540 2507	Reid	8.30 p.m.	..	..	..	..
		.. ..	7.01 a.m.	..	Th.	Sun.	Tu.	603 2590	Loongana (T)	11.27 p.m.	..	..	..	..
		.. ..	7.30 a.m.	..	..	..	..	603 2692	Rawlinna (T)	4.12 a.m.	C.T.	Sun.	Wed.	Fri.
		.. ..	7.50 a.m.	..	E.S.T.	Fri.	Mon.	658 2759	Kitchener	5.28 a.m.	P.T.	..	..	..
30	1202	MELBOURNE RR arr.	11.30 a.m.	..	..	..	..	894 2796	Zanthus (T)	6.46 a.m.	..	..	..	..
		(Change Trains) .. dep.	7.00 p.m.	..	..	..	..	1186 2858	Karonie	8.57 a.m.	..	..	..	..
1416	1276	Ballarat RR .. arr.	9.18 p.m.	..	..	..	..	1218 2924	Parkeston (T)	11.00 a.m.	..	..	..	..
		.. ..	9.20 p.m.	..	..	..	..	1240 2927	KALGOORLIE (T) arr.	11.10 a.m.	..	..	..	..
		.. ..	9.38 p.m.	..	Th.	..	..	— —	RR (Change Trains) .. dep.	3.10 p.m.	..	..	..	..
398	1489	Serviceton .. arr.	2.57 a.m.	E.S.T.	Fri.	Mon.	Wed.	1163 3066	Southern Cross	8.45 p.m.	..	..	..	..
		.. ..	2.50 a.m.	A.T.	..	..	..	1046 3138	Merredin	11.40 p.m.	..	..	..	..
53	1625	Murray Bridge RR* arr. dep.	6.20 a.m.	..	..	..	..	38 3307	PERTH arr.	7.10 a.m.	..	Mon	Th.	Sat.
		.. ..	6.40 a.m.	..	..	..	..			
101	1685	ADELAIDE RR .. arr.	9.15 a.m.	..	..	..	..			
		(Change Trains) .. dep.	1.15 p.m.	..	..	..	..			
18	1819	PORT PIRIE JUN.												
		(T) RR* .. arr.	4.15 p.m.	..	..	..	..			
		(Change Trains) .. dep.	5.05 p.m.	..	..	..	..			
214	1856	Nectar Brook	6.34 p.m.	..	..	..	..			
21	1876	Port Augusta (T) .. arr.	7.12 p.m.	..	..	..	..			
		.. ..	7.27 p.m.	..	..	..	..			
287	1928	Bookaloo	9.33 p.m.	..	..	..	..			

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.

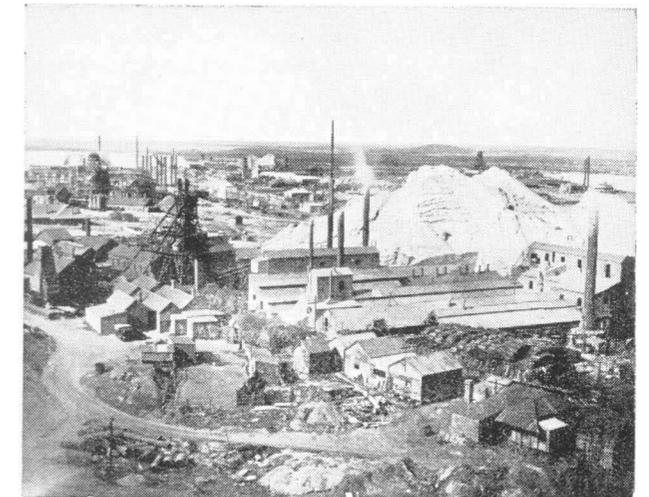
The comfort of the travelling public is the first consideration of the train staff, and it is the duty of the conductors, who are provided in both first and second class cars, and the waiters in the dining car, to minister in every reasonable way to the comfort of passengers. Their instructions are to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



PORT AUGUSTA at the Head of Spencer's Gulf. (Photo by D. Darian Smith, Adelaide.)



KALGOORLIE—"The Golden Mile."