



# ADVENTURE UPDATE

October 2007



GLOBAL GYPSIES PTY. LTD.

*This issue: Take Us Back to China \* Alice Springs & Return \* New Tours Brochure \* Christmas Gift Ideas \* Jeremy the Movie Star \* and more!*

## TAKE US BACK TO CHINA!

We knew our "Secrets of China Tour" would be good, but we had no idea how *incredibly* good. Everything about the trip exceeded our expectations. We want to go back! It's almost impossible to convey the thrill of it all without sitting down with you for several hours, and even then, it's almost one of those 'you had to be there' experiences, so much to see & do & learn - but we'll give it a go...



We had (naively) expected China to be sort of third-world. Well, eat humble pie, Gypsies! Everything ran like clockwork and things are happening so fast in that country that it makes your head spin! In Beijing, work on the Olympic Village is well advanced and hundreds of buildings are going up to cater not just for the event itself, but for the general anticipated population growth in the years to come. Roads in all the major cities we visited were (usually) of a good standard, trains & planes (usually) ran on time (one train travels at over 400 kms per hour!),

the food was delicious (we are now chopstick champions!), the hotels were of a high standard (although the beds were a bit hard!), the attractions we visited were all intriguing and well maintained, the shows we went to were of top international standard and SO interesting and different, our local tour guides all spoke good English (even though none of them had ever been out of China), and we even had great weather & relatively clean air - we didn't need to wear our anti-pollution 'surgical' masks once!



Drivers on the road were all polite to each other - even though there are millions of them! - there are no 'hoons', very little crime (ok, it could be argued there's a reason for this!), and you felt safe pretty much everywhere you went. Everywhere was clean and tidy and everyone has tremendous pride in their country, their province and their city, and surprisingly, people were quite open with their opinions and ideas, even about politics!

A guide was there to meet us at the appointed time on every single occasion and the only disappointments we experienced were that some things which had been promised to us on this side just couldn't be delivered once we arrived (such as helping out in the panda sanctuary). However, we believe that was more due to poor communication than to poor tourism product - overall, everything really excelled and everyone agreed that the trip was excellent value for money and a huge eye-opener.

The highlights of this amazing adventure would take all day to list, but for us, the icons of Tiananmen Square, Great Wall, Terracotta Warriors, Summer Palace, the evening performances of song, dance & martial arts, the food, the great body & foot massages and the 4-day cruise on the Yangtze River would have to be tops.



At the panda breeding sanctuary we all got to stroke a gorgeous chubby panda who was too busy scoffing bamboo shoots to worry about a few 'round-eyes' patting his fur! Also, twin babies had just been born and were in incubators (should that be in-'cub'-ators??). They were all hooked up to monitoring equipment - we could see them through viewing panels looking like tiny pink, hairless mice - just so cute.

But what made the trip so special was the wonderful group we had along. Everyone was fun, patient, tolerant, courageous and really adventurous. Thank you for joining us Jim & Lorraine Adams, Ron & Halina Berryman, Graham & Noelene Cooney, George Craggs, Lynn Fisher & Max Williams, Noel Robinson, Jenny Rose, Chris Silbert, Cecily Skrudland, Graham & Donna Slessar, Ellie Steinhart and Dani & Eddie Tomczak. You were all fabulous company!!



We'd go back again in a minute and hope to lead another tour there soon, but there just isn't time in the immediate future.

However, we'd be happy to work out an itinerary & make all the arrangements for any of you who'd like to go in a small group as independent travellers, so please give us a call if you're interested in seeing this fascinating, spectacular country - we can't recommend it highly enough!



## ALICE SPRINGS OUTBACK SAFARI

For the first time we ran back-to-back Kalgoorlie-Alice-Kalgoorlie safaris with two great and very different groups. On the first leg, Jeremy, Jan & Rebina were joined by Brian & Bob Bracknell, John Bailey & Shane Hoare, Anne Field, Garry & Sue Mason, Rona McNicol, Bill & Marion O'Neil, Pam & Jaakko Vassi (Pam is also our new Office Manager!) and Colin & Leisa Woodfield. On the return journey our convoy comprised Harry Butt & Mary-Ellen O'Hagan, John Humphrey, John & Judy Hunter, Chris Thomas & Naomi Roydhouse, Sally Vidalis & Damien Jacobsen.

We were SO lucky with the weather both coming and going! We expected it to be freezing at night & told everyone to pack beanies, thermals & hot water bottles. Instead we were graced with seemingly endless bright sunny days and crisp (but nowhere near freezing!) nights. The gloves & fleecy jammies were swapped for shorts & tee-shirts!



The crazy crowd on the first leg of the trip were into dress-ups. We had a 'Men in Tights' night to celebrate Pam's birthday when the boys did a very dodgy impersonation of The Village People, and then a 'surprise' masquerade party at the Farewell Dinner secretly organized by the mischievous clients! Highlights of both trips included the large amount of wildlife we saw while traveling along the Great Central Road including camels, donkeys, brumbies and dingoes, peaceful times spent in Palm Valley camped next to the dry river bed, a spectacular walk through Kings Canyon, an unexpected & wonderful rock art tour at Warakurna and sipping champagne at sunset at Uluru (Ayers Rock). Wow! Beat that!



We had several 'hobby' artists, photographers, writers & poets on both trips – even a PhD student completing a research project - and never cease to be impressed by the varied talents of our clever clients! Here's a painting from Anne Field who lives in Adelaide. She's even given it to us as a present! Thanks for the memories, Anne!

## SANTA'S PROBLEM SOLVER!!

Dear Santa, what do I get the outdoor enthusiast who has everything? Well, Virginia, how about a recreational 4WD training course Gift Voucher? They can use it on the training day of their choice, it's valid for 12 months, and it's great fun! It costs just \$275 for a recreational course, plus \$50 for optional accreditation.

Or, if they're planning the "Big Caravan Trip Around Australia", how about a copy of our popular 90-minute training DVD, "Caravanning with Confidence"? We've even got a Chrissie special happening – you get the DVD, Caravanning Checklists booklet, bumper sticker and a Christmas card - a package worth \$50! - for just \$34.95 plus postage! Order now & beat the rush!



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## KENNEDY'S & KIMBERLEY IN 2008!!

We hope you'll join us next year on a brand new expedition – our **Kennedy Ranges Discovery Tour**. Together we'll discover this scenic, ancient & remote mountain range, including new destinations on the west side and a 'rekkie' along the top of the range. What an adventure! It's from July 10-21 and will start & finish in Carnarvon. Special price of \$1350 per person with optional participatory catering for \$40 p.p.p.d. Limited seating for passengers (one seat has already gone!). Be quick on this one!

And just to show why it's best to book early, there is now a waiting list only for our 2008 Kimberley Explorer tour. It'll be the first time Jeremy's led a tour there for four years – even the passenger spots are full! However, if we get enough interest we MAY run another one. Call us if you're keen!

## NEW GYPSY BROCHURE HOT OFF THE PRESS!

Our 2008 Tours & Training Calendar is currently being printed. If you'd like a hard copy just give us a call. Or check out our website which is also being updated for next year's happenings at [www.globalgypsies.com.au](http://www.globalgypsies.com.au).

## RECOMMENDED VIEWING!!

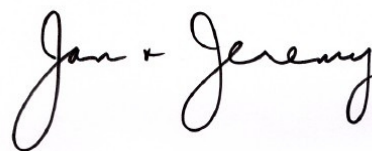
We're embarrassed to admit it, but up until last week we hadn't seen Al Gore's thought-provoking documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth". We were moved to do so after he won the Nobel Peace Prize and have to say that it's one of the most compelling presentations we've ever watched. If you haven't seen it yet, please get it out on DVD then visit <http://www.climatecrisis.net/takeaction> to see how you can make a difference. And with elections looming, it's a good time to reflect on just how you feel about the environment and how well the people in power are looking after it for you...after all, it's the only world we've got!

## JEREMY'S A MOVIE STAR!

Well, it never rains but it pours and August was the month for Jeremy to be a movie star! Brad Pitt, eat your heart out! At Karijini he was filmed & interviewed by the Great Outdoors (the program went to air in September) and also by Sorrel Wilby for Australian Geographic Magazine who was doing a feature on the "Warlu Way" (the newly named stretch between Exmouth & Broome). Sorrel's also producing an accompanying DVD on the subject which will be distributed with the January issue of the magazine. Our hero will probably be in that as well, so be sure to buy your copy!

In the same week Jeremy also appeared on Channel 31 and was interviewed by the West Australian Newspaper for a 'profile piece' (yet to appear). And then – wait for it! – we got a call from no less than the BBC in London! They were trying to set up an interview in Karijini for a new program which will air next year focusing on current events right round the world following the "Tropic of Capricorn" (similar in concept to their "Equator" program currently airing on SBS). Unfortunately we missed out on the "Beeb" interview due to other touring commitments, but it's nice to know we're in demand! Hello - is that Steven Spielberg calling??

Until next time, happy travels from -



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