



GLOBAL GYPSIES PTY. LTD.

## Top 40 Golden Rules of Travelling in the Outback

- Never travel alone. Go with friends, a club, or a professional 'tag-along-tour' operator.
- Don't go off the bitumen with a 2WD vehicle, or with a caravan, camper or any other vehicle that is not specifically designed for challenging off-road travel.
- Tell a friend or family member where you're going and when you're expected back.
- Let the police in the area know your travel plans – and remember to check in with them when you get back safely so they don't send out a search party!
- Plan ahead – be well equipped.
- Know the capabilities of you and your vehicle.
- Have some practice runs first – join a 4WD or caravan club and test your equipment, your knowledge and your ability to deal with problems.
- Keep your 4WD vehicle well maintained.
- Carry extra spare parts for your vehicle and your van/camper trailer.
- Plan your route carefully taking into consideration such important aspects as road conditions, weather forecasts, overnight stops, fuel stops, availability of food, water etc.
- Carry detailed maps and/or a GPS and know how to use them.
- Carry an Electronic Positioning Indicating Radio Beacon - EPIRB for short – for emergencies and know how to use it.
- Install a vehicle-mounted UHF two-way radio and learn how to use it (this only has sufficient range to communicate between vehicles travelling in close proximity).
- Consider installing an HF radio and joining the HFOz radio network.
- Carry a satellite phone – know how to use it and make sure it's charged (mobile phones will only have limited reception in remote areas).
- Don't take unnecessary risks – check out unfamiliar tracks or river crossings first, either by walking them or by asking other travellers you may meet on the road or via two-way radio.
- Carry extra water and moist tinned food.
- Make sure you are physically fit enough to endure an outback ordeal.
- If you're on any special medication, take extra supplies with you.
- Allow more time to get from A to B in the outback than you would on the bitumen - a 50 km trek that might take less than an hour on tarred roads could take a day or more in the bush!
- Learn basic bush survival techniques.
- Complete a basic mechanical course.
- Complete a basic first aid course and carry a first aid kit.
- Carry a tool box and know how to use it.
- Take a 4WD training course and carry appropriate recovery gear.
- Take out appropriate travel and/or health insurance.
- Don't camp in riverbeds – they can flood unexpectedly.
- In tropical areas, don't swim, paddle or fish unless you are 100% sure that the water is crocodile-free.
- Drink plenty of water as you travel & supplement it with Aqualyte or other rehydrant.
- Don't travel at night when wildlife or livestock may be on the roads.
- Finding that perfect shady spot and parking under a large tree is tempting, but beware of large branches which could drop & injure you or damage your vehicle, camper or tent.
- Obtain relevant approvals in advance if you plan to visit or traverse farms, stations or Aboriginal Reserves.
- Don't take alcohol in or near Aboriginal communities.
- Don't take photos of indigenous people without their permission.
- Leave gates as you found them – if they are open, leave them that way.
- Move aside for road trains.
- In tropical areas, avoid driving in the wet season – roads can become impassable within hours and you could be stuck there for days!
- Don't enter roads or attempt water crossings that have been closed by officials.
- Keep calm if things go wrong
- And finally, if you do get stranded or have a breakdown or other emergency, call for help and stay with your vehicle until assistance arrives. **Do not leave your vehicle!**