



GLOBAL GYPSIES PTY. LTD.

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GET LOST IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

Are you over cruises? Tired of airport hassles? Keen to have some exciting adventures in your own backyard but not sure how to go about it?

Why not do something really different and join a 4WD self-drive, escorted and catered tag-along-tour to Australia's least visited national park!

Pristine scenery, quality dining under the stars, wide open spaces, peace and tranquility...from a 4WD touring perspective, remote and rugged Rudall River National Park in northeast WA has it all, yet it's one of the country's best kept secrets.

On this unusual journey led by Global Gypsies, last year's winners of a gold medal at the WA tourism awards, you'll get to explore the outback – independent but not alone – rediscover nature and learn some new four-wheel-driving skills. Now that's a really unusual holiday!

Situated about 800 kms inland from Ningaloo Reef, Rudall River National Park is a 250 tough kms away from the mining town of Newman. Bordered by the Great Sandy and Little Sandy Deserts, the park straddles 1.2 million hectares of pristine landscape and boasts ancient hills, rainbow-hued rocks, crystal clear skies and the occasional oasis. There's spinifex grass country, salt lakes, sand dunes, rocky outcrops, and more than 90 species of birds and 37 native mammal species. And most people don't even know it exists.

Originally named Karlamilyi after a local Aboriginal tribe then renamed after British-born explorer William Frederick Rudall, the park is one of Australia's largest, second only to Kakadu.

Its history is as harsh as its terrain. William Rudall was employed as a surveyor by the WA Government in the late 1800's. In 1897, he was leading a search party looking for two men from the Calvert Scientific Expedition who had been missing for almost a year. Their disappearance had created great excitement in the colonies - nine separate attempts were made to try and find them. Although Rudall didn't locate the explorers, he successfully mapped an area of 23,000 square miles of previously unexplored country during the six months of his search. (Later that year, the leader of the original Calvert Expedition, Larry Wells, found the bodies of the two men, one of whom was his cousin, less than a quarter of a mile off the track.)

During Rudall's search, his party unexpectedly bumped into eccentric explorer Frank Hann who was on a similar mission. Hann was almost dead from thirst, so the meeting was a welcome one for him. Hann and Rudall admired each other's achievements and spent two days together in the bush. Hann later named the river that winds through the park after his friend, William Rudall. Eighty years later, Rudall River was proclaimed a national park.

Someone who does know about the park and visits it as often as he can is Global Gypsies Director and former Tour Guide of the Year, Jeremy Perks. "Rudall is one of our favourite wilderness destinations," he says. "Today, we try to recreate those early experiences but in far more comfort and style on our escorted and catered self-drive safaris. Each year's visit is different, but always magnificent."

One morning the gypsy convoy might be rolling across corrugated roads of red dust lined by spinifex and bare plains. That afternoon they'll be navigating a deeply rutted sand track with kangaroos leaping in front of the vehicles. There will be drinks around a blazing campfire, and the evening's campsite might have a view of huge gums lining a lazy riverbank with ancient cliffs towering above rocky outcrops.

On a subsequent expedition the same giant gums may be lying prone on the ground, ripped out at the roots by powerful cyclonic floods, and the formerly large and shady natural campsite might be unrecognisable or have been swallowed up by the unforgiving outback.

A qualified mechanic, experienced bushman and skilled four-wheel driver, Jeremy has a remote area first aid certificate and carries a wide range of safety, recovery and communications equipment in his specially equipped escort vehicle. And in a place like Rudall River, you need all the help and the company you can get - 13 lone travelers have perished in the region in the past decade.

The next escorted and catered Global Gypsies expedition to Rudall River National Park begins in Newman on August 15 and ends in Carnarvon 14 days later. Highlights include picturesque Carrawine Gorge with its rock pools and swimming holes, Marble Bar – the hottest town in WA, the Kennedy Ranges, Mt. Augustus – WA's answer to Ayers Rock - and of course, fascinating and challenging Rudall River National Park.

Bring your own 4WD vehicle, two-way radio and camping gear or the gypsies can hire them for you. Tour price of \$2550 per person includes services of a professional Tour Guide and Safari Hostess; narrative and commentary; pre-planned itinerary; three quality meals a day plus morning tea (BYOG); special Farewell Dinner with white linen and candles; campground fees; national park entry fees; 4WD practice; free bushskills seminar; camp cooking demonstrations; bushwalks; stargazing evenings; Pre-Departure Kit and more.

For more details contact Global Gypsies on (08) 9341 6727
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