



GYPSY ADVENTURE UPDATE

April 2015

* *Antarctica Report* * *Outback Jack Course* * *New Science Tour* * *Caravan Wildflower Safari* *
* *Exotic Marigold India Tour* * *Silk Road Part 2* * *Dogalongs* * *Botswana Safari* * *Beadell & more!* *



GLOBAL GYPSIES PTY. LTD.

IT'S ALL GO, GO, GO-PHER IN THE GYPSY CAMP!

It's possible we've been busier, but we can't remember when! With so many Aussies choosing to travel at home this year, our phones have been running hot & our emails have been bursting out of their little in-boxes! And thanks to RAC Travel (who are promoting our outback tours as they encourage folks to explore their own backyard) even more people are hearing about our expeditions! Jeremy, Jan & Peter are loving all the attention & it's inspired us to think up a whole lot of exciting new adventures to keep our loyal clients happy!

Our unique **Dogalong Tours** have taken off like greyhounds at the starting gate, so we're going to make them a regular feature of our calendar with one four-day trip to Manjimup & another to the Goldfields each year. The next one will happen in November! That should give you paws for thought!

Our **"City Slicker to Outback Jack"** course in February was another success story so we're going to run a second session on **May 29 – 31**. If you're keen to learn basic bush mechanics, bush survival skills, planning an extended remote area journey, plus basic 4WD & towing skills, book your place ASAP as spots are limited!

Love working with furry critters? By the time you read this our **"Voluntour" Science Safari** to Lorna Glen Nature Reserve, or "Matuwa" (near Wiluna) with scientists & researchers from the Department of Parks & Wildlife (DPAW) working with bandicoots, mulgaras, birds & other wonderful creatures will be ready to roll.

But don't despair! Another scientific conservation & research **"Voluntour"** to the SW forests is planned for **Oct 18 – 25!** This catered, escorted, week-long, hands-on eco-adventure with DPAW will be based at wild & wonderful **Perup Sanctuary** (not far from Manjimup & a bushwalker's dream!). We'll be accommodated at the atmospheric Perup Guesthouse in the forest (or BYO caravan or camper trailer if you prefer). We'll be working with woylies, possums & lots of other wonderful Aussie wildlife & will be treated to guest lectures by experts. And you don't need a 4WD to participate! It costs \$1750 per person all inclusive & partial tour proceeds will be donated to the Sanctuary. Book now as we can take only 10 'voluntourists'!

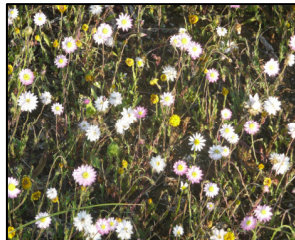


Gee, we hope you agree that we're just brimming over with good ideas! And here's a corker we dreamed up for April Fool's Day! **Gopher Tagalong Tours** for our more mature clients! Do you think it'll catch on? (Painting courtesy of a talented but anonymous gypsy client!).

MASSIVE PERTH CARAVAN & CAMPING SHOW

It's official! Next to the Royal Show, the Perth Caravan & Camping Show is WA's largest public expo! This year's event at Claremont Showgrounds attracted almost 50,000 visitors & it felt like we spoke to most of them! We were well represented with Jeremy, Jan, Peter & our pal & former Office Manager, Pam Vassi, all doing their bit over five, full-on days. Thanks so much to all our loyal clients who popped in to say hello & to all the new gypsies who signed up for tours, training courses or our e-newsletter. Our personalised half-day towing training courses & towing DVD were the hottest topics for discussion followed closely by the **Caravan Wildflower Safari** we have planned for October. Read on for more details!

CARAVAN WILDFLOWER SAFARI



Our close working relationship with RAC Travel just keeps getting better! In addition to our joint 4WD mini-safaris to the **Holland Track** (we're running two this year - one in May & one in November) we've also just finalised plans for a fabulous **"Caravan Wildflower Safari"!**

From October 2 – 12, we'll be visiting such iconic wildflower hotspots as Eneabba, Coalseam, Kalbarri, Mullewa, Mt Magnet, Payne's Find, Kirkalocka, Dalwallinu & more! En-route we'll go exploring, bush-walking, star-gazing, practice our towing skills, enjoy optional 4WD outings and, of course, admire & identify the wildflowers!

This fun and flowery eco-adventure will be escorted by WA's top towing trainer and 'caravan guru' Jeremy Perks accompanied by his partner, Jan, & assisted by travelling wildflower expert, the aptly named Jenny Rose. We'll stay 'on-road' most of the time so this safari is ideal for either 4WD or 2WD vehicles, caravans, camper-trailers or motorhomes. We'll be staying at caravan parks with powered sites most nights & there will also be a couple of "bush camps" to really get us back to nature!

The package includes services of a professional Tour Guide & resident wildflower expert, well planned itinerary, caravan park & national park entry fees, complimentary Welcome & Farewell Dinners, "Potluck" suppers, "Open House" inspections, free WA Wildflower book & lots of fun activities. RAC will also be providing each participant with a complimentary copy of Global Gypsies' 90-minute towing training DVD & Towing Checklists booklet! The tour costs \$1850 per van/vehicle (1-2 people) & RAC members pay just \$1750 per van/vehicle. What a blooming good holiday!

'SILK ROAD PART 2' POSTPONED TILL 2016!

When we heard that there was some possible trouble brewing south of the Turkish border, we decided to postpone our fantastic Silk Road Part 2 Safari for a year to let things settle. In Silk Road Part 1 we retrace the ancient trade route from western China through Kyrgyzstan to Uzbekistan. In Part 2 we'll travel from Van, in eastern Turkey, westward to Athens via such legendary places as Mt Ararat, Cappadocia, Ankara & Istanbul (previously Constantinople). We'll stop at several magical Greek islands (Santorini, Mykonos & others) before our safari ends in Athens (as did much of the original Silk Road traffic) where we'll go touring & enjoy a plate-smashing Farewell Dinner! To ensure our clients' safety, we're going over to check everything out ourselves later this year. Based on first-hand info from our local operators, we're feeling pretty optimistic & plan to run Silk Road 2 in August/September 2016. Once again Jeremy & Jan will be your escorts with local English-speaking guides; also included will be quality transport, yummy meals & accommodation. Places will be limited on this historic & cultural expedition. Those gypsies who had previously booked will have first priority, but there are still some places available so get in quick if you want to grease a turkey!

EXOTIC MARIGOLD INDIA TOUR!

We've talked about wildflowers, now let's discuss marigolds – in particular, our **Exotic Marigold India Tour!** With all the hype about the movie & with everybody from Judi Dench to Richard Gere falling in love with this vibrant, colourful country, we thought it was time to run a tour there! So get your pashminas & topees ready for India in 2017!



We'll be visiting Delhi, Agra, the Taj Mahal, Rajasthan, Jaipur, Ranthambore National Park (to search for tigers in the wild!) & Kerala to cruise on a houseboat. We'll even go to a Bollywood movie & a henna hand painter!

Oh my goodness gracious me! What an adventure! We did a 'rekki' a couple of years ago & can't wait to get back! You'll be fully escorted by Jeremy & Jan & professional English-speaking local guides. We'll travel in quality transport, stay in 4-star (sometimes magnificent!) accommodation; learn about the intriguing history & culture; visit museums, markets, temples & ancient forts; ride on elephants, rickshaws, trains & boats & thoroughly immerse ourselves in the wonders of this mystical land. Most meals will be included & we'll cater for special dietary requirements. If you've always been a bit hesitant to visit India on your own, don't miss this fantastic opportunity to travel there in our safe & capable hands. Dates & prices available soon. Express your interest now or you'll be sari!

(P.S. Alaska's also still in the planning stages for 2017! There's just too much choice!)

LEN BEADELL LIVES ON!

Outback legend Len Beadell may have moved on to that bush camp in the sky, but his legacy lives on! We'll be running another escorted, self-catering **"Tracks of Len Beadell Expedition"** in July & there are still three places available (robust 4WD's & optional off-road camper trailers only please). Join us as we retrace the tyre-treads of this great engineer, surveyor, raconteur & bushman!

WE HEAR JUNGLE DRUMS! AFRICA CALLS!



Oh-oh! We hear jungle drums! Must be time for an animal fix! Every couple of years we return to our beloved Africa to immerse ourselves in its raw beauty & admire the amazing wildlife. In March 2016 we'll be running a **"Desert & Delta Safari"** visiting both Botswana AND Namibia as well as Victoria Falls. This will enable our small & lucky

group to experience three completely different eco-systems & dozens of diverse game viewing opportunities. Jan & Jeremy & local English-speaking guides will escort you; most meals will be included & we'll be staying in quality safari lodges & luxurious bush camps. We'll visit Windhoek, Maun, the Kalahari Desert, Etosha, Okavango Delta, plus Savute & Chobe National Parks. San Bushmen, lions, ellies, buffalo, cheetah, leopard, meerkats, hippos, crocs, antelope, monkeys, birds, & dozens of magical adventures are there waiting for you! Get your name down early for this one! Details available soon.

CLEVER CAMPING TIPS!

We may spend a lot of time overseas, but our hearts are always in the Aussie bush. So when we hear good camping tips we like to pass them on - here are some that may come in handy:

- If you run out of kindling for your campfire or it's damp, try using Doritos! (Apparently they burn better than they taste!)
- When travelling on Canning Stock Route-style corrugations, protect cans from rubbing together, leaking or bursting by sticky-taping a thin strip of bubble-wrap around each one.
- Veggies will stay fresh for ages without refrigeration if you rap them up in newspaper & replace it regularly.
- Aluminium foil has a multitude of uses – don't leave home without it!
- Before your trip, download relevant apps on your mobile phone to help you find caravan parks and/or camping sites : <http://www.brighthouse.com.au/find-a-park-australia>; <https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/campee-find-campsites-caravan/id582543282?mt=8>; <http://www.wikicamps.com.au/>. Also visit the WA Department of Parks & Wildlife Services website at <http://parkstay.dpaw.wa.gov.au> . Now go & enjoy the Great Outdoors!

ANTARCTICA: THE COOLEST TRIP EVER!

Antarctica is a one-off for most travellers. It's so far away, so costly, so extreme. Once you've been there you'll never forget it. Our tour in January was like that, too, & we'd like to share some of the highlights with you.

Our intrepid & delightful polar explorers (Graeme & Connie Edgar, John & Heather Richardson, Niall & Elspeth Weatherstone & Ross & Irene Hogben) met up with us in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where we spent a few days seeing



the sights, enjoying a tango performance & visiting museums, art galleries, Eva Peron's grave & the colourful ethnic neighbourhood of La Boca. Then we flew down to Ushuaia at the southernmost tip of South America - the gateway to the Antarctic which doubles as a skiing destination & the world's most expensive shipping port! From there we boarded our Russian scientific research vessel, the 117m *Sergey Vavilov*, which accommodates 92 passengers & 63 crew/staff. In the capable hands of One Ocean Expeditions, we then spent two mind-blowing weeks cruising to the Antarctic Peninsula & reaching a point just south of the Antarctic Circle.



As we made our way to the Antarctic Peninsula, Drake's Passage lived up to its shocking reputation with 15m waves breaking over the bow & lots of green faces. But once we got

close to the "White Continent" the wild sea flattened out & the rest of our cruise was phenomenal! We visited historical research stations, absorbed educational lectures by experts, went on daily zodiac excursions, walked on the ice, did yoga in the snow ('snowga!'), climbed peaks & visited rookeries. We experienced all kinds of conditions – bright sunshine, eerie silver grey cloud, snow, rain, hail, flat calm, but through it all there were several constants: chilly temperatures, penguins, a comfy boat, penguins, great company, penguins & our personal favourite – the magnificent 'ice castles' & sculptures that nature has carved into the glaciers which are so impossibly beautiful that they take your breath away. Then there was the wildlife - minke whales, southern rights, humpbacks, orcas with babies; weddell, leopard & elephant seals; albatross, Arctic terns, cormorants, skuas, snow petrels & did we mention penguins - adellie, chinstrap & macaroni with mum & dad tenderly looking after fluffy chicks who tirelessly chased them around demanding 24/7 feeding!



It was a truly remarkable adventure & we'd like to say a big thank you to our 'cool companions' who made the trip so special. After having such a good time, we'll be working with

One Ocean Expeditions (who we highly recommend) on an on-going basis to offer gypsy clients special polar packages, so if Antarctica is on your bucket list, SOS us today!

Until next time, happy travels from –



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