



GYPSY ADVENTURE UPDATE

Bumper Issue November/December 2015

** Silk Road Report * Hooray for Holland Track * Alexander the Great * Exotic Marigold India Tour *
* Creature Comforts * Brilliant Bight * Canning Capers * Loving Len Beadell & more! **



GLOBAL GYPSIES PTY. LTD.

SILK ROAD SUCCESS!

With another wonderful Silk Road Safari under our burqas, we're feeling pretty pleased with ourselves! We had a super group, great weather, fascinating sights, sounds & sensory pleasures, super shopping & some wonderful shared experiences. Thanks to our intrepid 'roadies' Warren & Joy Carslake, Garry & Debra Collins, Harold & Dawn Coppock, Richard & Bernadette Sasse (from WA); Ray Harris (Qld); George & Pam Keil & Peter Mackenzie (SA); David & Jill More (ACT) & Andrew & Anita Sekely (NSW). It was the very first time that everyone on the tour was a brand new Gypsy! Welcome to the family, folks! You were great company!



The highlights were so many & varied there just isn't enough room to detail them all but we'll have a go...the mind-blowing 2000 year-old Terracotta Warriors; the ancient rock art of Jiayuguan depicting daily life; riding camels in a sandstorm; a memorable dinner in the desert (followed by a forgettable train ride to Turpan!); one fantastic night & one 'challenging' night in a yurt in Kyrgyzstan; swimming in Lake Issy Kul; visiting local families; school girls with white pom-poms in their hair; ancient cities; incredible architecture; colourful mosques; millions of mosaic tiles; steps & more steps; Samarkand's spectacular Registan Square by night; a rooftop meal at sunset overlooking the



domes of Khiva; a fashion parade; an injured knee; fantastic local musicians; stunning crafts; our fellas wearing silly hats; our girls wearing head scarves; dodgy breakfast buffets; & a fabulous Farewell Dinner with entertainment provided by the talented "Silk Road Divas". Read this 'silly sonnet' for a bit of a laugh & for more insight into the goings-on of our globe-trotting group! Our sincere thanks to our good friend Dilmurad Sabirov & his team from Miramax Travel in Tashkent who organised everything so well & looked after us so professionally. *Shukraan!* You did a fabulous job & we can't wait to work with you again on our next Silk Road Safari!

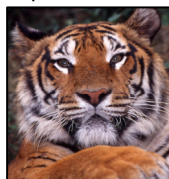
FUN AT THE 4WD SHOW!



The Perth 4WD Show is always a great way for us to meet new clients & catch up with existing ones & this year was no exception. A record number of over 33,000 people passed through the gates & we reckon we spoke to most of them! Thanks to everyone who stopped by our stand! There was lots of interest in our Aussie 4x4 expeditions to the Brilliant Bight, the Kimberley & the Canning Stock Route as well as in our Science Safaris & Dog-along Tours. We had lots of inquiries, too, about our overseas adventures as well as our towing training & 4WD courses. Life is certainly never dull in the gypsy camp - think we need to take a holiday from our holidays!

EXOTIC MARIGOLD INDIA TOUR!

Oh my goodness gracious me! The itinerary is finalised, the hotels are booked, the adventure awaits! Join us as we return to India from February 5 - 28, 2017 on our mind-blowing *Exotic Marigold Tour!* Over 24 wonderful days we'll visit colourful, vibrant Rajasthan, experience the bustle of Delhi, admire wildlife in spectacular tiger & bird sanctuaries, see Agra, the Taj Mahal, Jaipur, Varanasi & Sikandra, explore the waterways of Kerala by houseboat & more.



There will be bazaars, restaurants, & markets to enjoy plus lots of cultural activities & loads of fun. You'll be immersed in the lifestyle, learn about the fascinating history, crafts & architecture & enjoy the cuisine (we'll even cater for 'curry cowards'!).

The tour will be personally escorted by Jeremy & Jan accompanied by local English-speaking guides. We'll travel by coach, train, 4WD, rickshaw, elephant, camel & boat and, of course, we'll visit the film set, too!

We'll stay in quality 4* - 5* accommodation (some hotels are former palaces!) with most meals included. Take advantage of this unique opportunity to visit one of the world's most fascinating countries in safe hands & with a group of like-minded travelers. So mix up a G&T, put on your pith helmet & make like the Raj, dahling! Ask for a tour flyer today!

SLEEP, PEACEFUL SLEEP...

Does anyone else out there have trouble sleeping? Here's a neat trick we heard about that might actually work for you! It's drug-free, non-habit forming & doesn't cost you a cent! It's based on Indian meditation techniques but you don't have to be a swami to do it. Sounds crazy but next time you're lying in bed tossing & turning, give it a try...what have you got to lose but more sleep?

- Press the tip of your tongue against the hard ridge of tissue behind your upper front teeth and keep it there.
- Exhale all of your breath out.
- Inhale, quietly, through your nose for 4 seconds.
- Hold that breath for 7 seconds.
- Exhale completely through your mouth, making a whooshing sound, for 8 seconds.
- Repeat the cycle 4 times. Then...sweet dreams!

WHITE DREAMS

If the sleeping trick works for you, just don't start dreaming of a White Christmas yet! OMG. Can't believe the silly season's here again! Just a reminder though that if you're looking for an outdoorsy-type gift for that special someone then a 4WD or towing course, how-to-tow DVD or Gypsy beanie could be just the thing. Even better, an outback tour! You could even buy it for yourself! Our next fabulous 4WD tag-along is to the Great Australian Bight in February & we'd love to have you along! That would mean you could dream of white sand instead of white snow! Nice one, Santa!

GREECE IS THE WORD!

Put your hands up if you're sick of terrorists disrupting your travel plans! We certainly are because for security & duty of care reasons we've reluctantly decided to take Turkey off the menu (again!) for the time being. However, the great news is that after our Silk Road Safari this year we did a rekkie in Greece & absolutely loved it! Food, wine, scenery, people, atmosphere – everything was pure magic! SO, we've decided to replace, but still complement, our proposed *Silk Road Part 2 Safari* next September with a fantastic big fat Greek cultural & historical experience at the skinniest possible price!

"In the Footsteps of Alexander the Great" will visit all the historical sites associated with this legendary hero – Thessaloniki, Mt. Olympus, Athens, Crete - & then (just for fun!) we'll go island hopping to romantic Santorini, Mykonos, Delos & a couple of other surprise destinations. We can watch the sunset, go exploring, drink ouzo, sample Mediterranean treats, swim, relax, muck about in boats & get into the laid-back lifestyle. Greece is the ideal destination - safe, scenic & downright spekkie! We'll have details of this excellent Aegean adventure soon & hope you decide to share it with us!



CREATURE COMFORTS

Helping little furry critters is always a joy & if you can combine it with the comforts of a forest guesthouse it's even better! This is probably why our Conservation & Research Safari to Perup Sanctuary in WA's Southwest in October was such a winner! The DPaWs team from Manjimup led by Madison Read & Ian Wilson designed a busy & expert schedule for our 10 eager 'voluntourists' who helped trap, release and/or monitor such fascinating creatures as woylies, possums, bandicoots, chuditch, numbats & phascogales. They also conducted flora surveys, went bird-watching, bush-walking, spot-lighting, sightseeing & learned from the experts about WA's numerous research & conservation initiatives. They even rested occasionally!



The week-long 'working holiday' was escorted by Jeremy & catered by Choccie & Greg – we all left with full tummies & full hearts! At the end of the tour we donated \$2000 to Perup to assist with their important research & conservation activities. A huge thank you to the enthusiastic gypsies who gave so generously of their time & energy & were such great company - Gabor Bedo, Anne Gilkes, John & Heather Richardson, Margaret Rogers, Win & Ernie Walker, Gerhardt & Aileen Strumpher & Ross McGillivray. You were all stars! We'll be running another Perup Safari from April 17 – 24, 2016, & can only take 12 'voluntourists'. If you'd like to do your bit for conservation & research in WA & have a really fun & educational week in the SW forests then make like a joey & jump in quick!

UPCOMING GYPSY JOURNEYS IN 2016 + BEYOND! ☺

- **Brilliant Bight Expedition:** Feb 4 – 17, 2016
- **Back to Botswana Safari:** March 20 – April 2, 2016 (only TWO places left!)
- **DPaWs Perup Conservation & Research Safari:** April 17– 24
- **Canning Stock Route Expedition:** July 6 – 27
- **Kimberley Explorer Tour:** August 8 – 24, 2016
- **Footsteps of Alexander the Great :** September 2016 (TBA)
- **Exotic Marigold India Tour:** February 5 – 28, 2017
- **Canada/Alaska:** June 2017 (Work in progress! Stay tuned!)

CANNING CAPERS!

Although conditions, weather & scenery vary from year to year, our Canning Stock Route Expedition is always a classic outback adventure with a terrific bunch of people.



This year we had fabulous weather, few mechanical breakdowns, lots of wild-

wildlife sightings & some wonderful shared experiences with loyal previous gypsies. Thanks to Jim & Lisa Bond, Steve & Cathy Day, Hector & Meeryn Hay, Graeme Thurloe & Ken Beall from WA; Julian & Pat Pollock from the UK & Denise Schaefer from Germany for making it such fun! Also a big thank you to our friend & client Anne Field from NSW for 'riding shotgun' in Gypsy 1, providing yummy meals & great company for Jeremy & acting as Safari Hostess. You did a great job, Anne, & can come with us again anytime you like!



Highlights of this top trip included the camel who poked his head over the sand dunes early one morning to check out our camp site; the walk up the gorge at Durba Springs; reading Alfred Canning's diary round the campfire, visiting the 'sitting giant petroglyph; our group's creative camp-oven & campfire cooking techniques; meeting up with the KJ Rangers (first time ever!) & watching a movie about early Aboriginal life in an impromptu 'theatre under the stars' & spending our last night in the bush at Stretch Lagoon in complete solitude. Superb memories, everyone!

FREE SAND 4x4 COURSE WITH BIGHT TOUR!

Now here's a fantastic offer! Join us on our **Brilliant Bight Expedition** in February & we'll give you a full-day 'Super in Sand 4x4 Training Course' worth \$275 absolutely **FREE!**

On this fabulous expedition along WA's wild southern coast we'll visit Toolina Cove, Mt. Ragged, Israelite Bay, Cape LeGrande, Esperance, Point Anne, Bremer Bay & more. Package includes complimentary welcome & farewell Dinners, guided bush walks, star-gazing evenings, damper cooking demos, Girlspeak 4WD Seminar, bush survival skills presentation, beach-combing expeditions, group meals around the campfire, optional fishing outings, camping fees, park entry fees, pre-planned itinerary, comprehensive Pre-Departure Workshop & Pre-Departure Kit. WOW! And did we mention two weeks of fun with like-minded adventurers travelling in the safe hands of one of the State's best Tour Guides? Read about it here & book your place today! Convo numbers strictly limited.

SIZZLING NEWS HOT OFF THE PRESS!

- Due to a cancellation, **two places** have just become available on our previously fully-booked **Back to Botswana Safari** in March 2016. This means there is still time for two lucky gypsies to join us on this **AMAZING** African experience! Get the tour flyer here <http://www.globalgypsies.com.au/tours/International/Back-to-Botswana/> & if you like what you see, contact us ASAP!!
- We're thinking about offering two new wild & wonderful tours – an **ESCORTED, SELF-DRIVE 4WD safari through Namibia** with vehicles provided & an **escorted motorcycle tour through India on Royal Enfields**. Stay tuned for more info on these evolving thought bubbles! But in the meantime, please let us know if either of these awesome adventures tickles your trip meter!

THE LEGACY OF LEN BEADELL LIVES ON!



Outback legend Len Beadell may no longer be with us, but his legacy lives on through the **Tracks of Len Beadell Expeditions** we run every second year. A talented surveyor, road builder, bushman, artist & author, Beadell is often called "*the last true Australian explorer*". He was responsible for opening up over 2.5 million square kms of the last remaining isolated desert areas of central Australia in the 1940's & 50's & his books are mandatory reading for modern day adventurers.

Born in 1923, Len Beadell, OAM, BEM, FIEMS, learned his bushman, mapping, surveying & artistic skills in the Army Service Corps during WWII where he served in NSW & New Guinea. After the war, he agreed to waive his discharge in order to participate in a scientific surveying expedition in the Darwin-Katherine region. On completing that assignment, he was asked to stay on to assist the British & Australian governments find a suitable site to build a rocket testing range in the outback. He chose Woomera in 1947, then assisted with selecting & surveying launching pad sites, the centre line-of-fire for rockets, the airfield & the town.

After his discharge from the Army, Len continued surveying for the Long Range Weapons Establishment. He selected the site for secret testing of a British atomic bomb & built his first road from Mabel Creek to the test site, Emu Field, in 1953.

Beadell's most famous road is the Gunbarrel Highway - he said he tried to make it 'straight as a gunbarrel'. Beginning at Victory Downs Homestead it stretched 1400 kms to Carnegie Station. While working on that project, he also chose & surveyed the location for the Giles Meteorological Station & airstrip. Len usually worked alone driving through virgin bush in his Land Rover. He used a theodolite to observe the sun or stars for latitude & longitude calculations. Once he'd identified the road line, a bulldozer cleared away the spinifex & mulga scrub & lastly a grader came through.



He built a number of roads by the same method thus opening up the inhospitable country for a variety of purposes. He named most of them after his family - Connie Sue Highway & Jackie Junction for his daughters, Gary Highway & Gary Junction for his son, & Anne Beadell Highway for his beloved wife.

The work involved extreme hardships. In his books and lectures, Len tells of suffering near starvation, mechanical breakdowns, countless punctures & numerous other mishaps in searing desert conditions. However, he took all these misadventures in his stride & with a good sense of humour - a quality he was well known for.

He jokingly referred to many of his roads as "highways". The description has stuck in spite of the fact that many of them remain single-lane unsealed tracks which snake their way through the most remote areas of central Australia.



It is these remote & lonely tracks, many of them more than 60 years old, that we retrace on our biennial tag-along-tours. In July, Jeremy led a convoy of eight vehicles on a memorable 15-day adventure beginning in Kalgoorlie & concluding in Wiluna. Destinations along the way included the Great Victoria Desert, Laverton, Anne Beadell Highway, Neal Junction, Connie Sue Highway, Warburton, Gun Barrel Highway & Carnegie Station.

Don't be fooled by the term 'highway' though! The tracks we travelled on were rough, corrugated & suitable for robust 4WD vehicles & heavy duty off-road camper trailers only!

Our thanks to this year's intrepid Len Beadell participants who all hail from WA - Peter & Kay Aronson, Ian & Jenny Bemrose, John & Joan Carn, Brian Hall, Murray & Erin Hall, Graham & Donna Slessar, Gerhardt & Aileen Strumpher, Carole Baker & Michael Wilson & our friend & former Office Manager, Pam Vassi, who kept Jeremy company in Gypsy 1, cooked him terrific meals & acted as 'Hostie'.

Happy memories include finding our way to Rutter's grave & soak, checking out the various replica plaques in honour of Len Beadell along the way, scoffing Pam's delicious camp oven cake, some stimulating fireside chats & reaching the top of Mt Beadell on the Gunbarrel Highway. Keep your eyes peeled for the dates of the next Len Beadell Expedition!

HOORAY FOR THE HOLLAND TRACK!

Our favourite 'shorty sortie' is our five-day mini-outback expedition along the Holland Track. We've been running this trip for more than a decade & well remember the year that the crew from *Postcards WA* - the excellent travel TV show that is no more - joined us for an extended 9-day tour in order to include it in their program. They generously turned it into a three-part series which aired on prime time television & then showed as repeats for the next five years! Thanks, guys!



Our October H.T adventure may not result in a TV series or a reality show, but we all certainly had a ball! Thanks to Ari & Wendy Antonovsky, Mike & Jenny Jolley,

D'arcy Holman & Belinda Bailey, Klaus Lucke, Janet & Graham Pagan & Penny Bates, our passenger in Gypsy 1 (all from WA). We'd also like to say a big-belly thank you to our camp oven guru/Safari Hostess Jo Clews who provided mouth-watering, 1000-star, meals-on-wheels catering for us all. Well done, once again, Jo!



We enjoyed spectacular arrays of wildflowers, almost perfect weather (in spite of an ominous forecast!), better than expected track conditions, overly-friendly bush flies, great sightings of thorny devils & goannas, numerous lizards scurrying across the granite outcrops & a beautiful python basking in the sun at a gnamma hole. David Attenborough eat your heart out!

A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON TO YOU ALL!

As we look back on another jam-packed year of touring, training, visiting our favourite spots in the outback, discovering new destinations overseas & just generally enjoying life, we'd like to wish our clients, friends, suppliers, industry colleagues, sponsors & fellow travelers a very happy holiday season & a peaceful & prosperous 2016. We look forward to seeing you all again soon!

Until next time, happy travels from -

Jan & Jeremy



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