



GYPSY ADVENTURE UPDATE

October 2014



* Win a Free 4x4 Tour! * Who Let the Dogs Out? * Holland Track Report * Goodbye Vietnam! * Perth 4WD Show * Tracks of Len Beadell * OMG It's Almost Xmas! * Silk Road Part 2 & more!

GLOBAL GYPSIES PTY. LTD.

HOLLAND TRACK HEROES!

As we gear up for our second Holland Track Expedition of 2014 in November, it's the ideal time to remember the fun we had on the earlier tour we ran back in May!

As loyal readers of this newsletter will recall, several previous attempts to travel this historic track were rained out, but we are delighted to say that we were finally able to complete our mission! Joining us on this magical mini-outback adventure which began in Hyden & ended in Coolgardie was a terrific mix of new & previous gypsies, all from WA & keen to explore their own State. Thanks to intrepid travelers Bernie & Ruth Gee, James Hoy & Linda Jones, Ivan & Joan Hunt, Doug & Stephen Napier, Jenny Rose & Judy Olsen, Louise & Graham Rowles, Ernie & Colleen Turpin, Max Williams & Lynn Fisher & David & Leonie Wilson – it was great to have you all along!

Highlights of this four-day eco-tour included watching a storm roll in from the safety & security of our cozy, dry awning; walking to the top of Mt Holland with its stunning views; the yummy meals whipped up in the bush by our Safari Hostess Extraordinaire, Jo Clews, & conquering the rain-slippery track with its deep muddy potholes – congratulations on your excellent, environmentally-friendly 4WD techniques, everyone! One funny memory is from our last day at Thursday Rock. There's a large sandstone boulder with a deep hole in the centre & playful Gypsies kept climbing inside then popping up like corks with their heads above the rim! We thought we were back in Africa watching a family of meerkats playing hide & seek!



With the November Holland Track trip just weeks away, we're now doing a weather dance to bring us sunny days for our tour – please jig around the room, kick up your heels & do your bit to help us out!

HEY! YOU COULD WIN A FREE 4x4 TOUR!

Like competitions? Love four-wheel-driving? Well, this could be your lucky day! Because our Holland Track Expedition is always so popular & with lots of Aussies planning to holiday at home next year, we're thinking of adding a few more short & sweet, close-to-home 4WD adventures to our touring calendar. And you could win one of them!

That's right, we're giving away an exciting fully-escorted, self-catering, 4x4 adventure for two to.....who knows where? This is where you come in!! To win our fantastic **"4x4 Free Tour Competition"**, just send us a detailed itinerary for a 4-day, 4x4 outing within 4 hours' drive of Perth. You'll need to consider best times to visit, distance from Perth, where to camp, what to do, daily driving times, local attractions & so on. If we choose your itinerary & run a Gypsies' trip there, you & a friend will join us on the tour as our guests absolutely free! Good luck!

GOODBYE VIETNAM!

After months of planning, our wonderful tour to Vietnam finally happened in August! And what a great time we had! Joining us on our 12-day discovery tour were Chris Baum (from South Australia); David & Louise Beckley, Gabor & Daniel Bedo, Kevin Button & Susie Lim, Terry Andrews & Karenne Griffiths, Shane Hoare, Margaret Larke & Elva Letts, Garry & Sue Mason & Jenny Rose (all from WA). Our local Tour Guide, Dat Phan, took us to some fascinating places as we toured the country from north to south.

Starting in bustling Hanoi, we took a side trip to the gorgeous & colourful highlands of SaPa, visited Ha Long Bay, Hue, ancient Hoi An (a favourite!), Nha Trang & chaotic Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) with its crazy traffic!

En route we went on mountain walks, slept on a junk, admired temples & World Heritage listed monuments, ate (& cooked!) delicious local food, drank 'umbrella drinks' on the beach, rode in boats, trains, planes & rickshaws, enjoyed cultural performances of dancing, singing & water puppet shows, strolled through markets, bought custom-made clothes & learned about the history & culture of this fascinating country.

But it wasn't all smiles – visits to the Prison & War Museums were disturbing & emotional experiences that tugged at our heartstrings & made us appreciate even more the friendliness & warm welcome extended to us by the Vietnamese people.

For a tongue-in-cheek overview of our adventures, check out the attached poem *"Good Evening Vietnam"* which we read out on the last night of the tour. Thanks everyone for a fantastic experience & for making the tour such fun!



SOCIAL MEDIA TARTS!

We've always been media tarts, but now we've expanded our horizons to Social Media as well! We've got almost 1400 "likes" on our Facebook page & we're trying for 2000! To add to the tally & to keep up with gypsy news & photos on a regular basis, please jump onto our page at <http://www.facebook.com/globalgypsies> & click 'like'. And to watch some short videos of what we've been up to, why not have a squizz at our youtube page – it's better than most of the shows on TV & the only commercial you'll have to suffer through is the one that you're reading right now! <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVBIU6FQ0viqOn3jirRTbew>

SLIDE SHOW A SELL-OUT - SILK ROAD #2 BECKONS!

Those of you who attended our "Ends of the Earth" audio-visual presentation in May will know it was a sell-out. But what you may not know is that it resulted in filling up both our Antarctic & Silk Road (Part 1) tours in 2015! We're getting excited about them already!

Because there seems to be so much interest in the Silk Road, we're now busy finalizing the details for our *Silk Road (Part 2) Safari* planned for September 2015. No, it's not a repeat of the Part 1 itinerary from Xian to Tashkent - it's the continuation of the original Silk Road trade route from Turkey through to its conclusion in Italy. Centuries ago, spices, fabrics, hand-made goods, livestock, pottery, ceramics & dried fruits from China were transported for thousands of miles over rugged deserts & mountains by wandering merchants using camels, donkeys or horses traveling in convoys, or 'caravans'. These overland journeys could take months with intermittent stops in 'caravanserais' (or local inns) for food, water, accommodation, rest, exchange of goods & socializing. When the precious goods arrived in Mediterranean ports, they were sold to European merchants eager to obtain the exotic wares of the Orient.



Our Silk Road Part 2 itinerary will begin in Van, Turkey, & follow the second half of the ancient trade route to such history-book destinations in the old Ottoman Empire as Mt Ararat, Diyarbakir, Urfa, Kayseri, Cappadocia, Istanbul (formerly Constantinople) & Ankara (the modern-day capital). Then we'll continue our journey westward on

a luxurious week-long cruise of the Aegean Sea visiting several Turkish & Greek islands before exploring Athens & flying on to Rome where our Silk Road adventure will end.

Jan & Jeremy will lead the tour & as usual, transport, most meals, local English-speaking guides & a range of fun activities & cultural experiences will be included. WOW! What a trip! To express your interest or request a flyer for this breath-taking, diverse & historical expedition, contact us today!

LAZY, HAZY SHORT SUMMER SORTIES!

Keen on a Gypsy tour but don't have time for a long trip? Then join one of these great, short summer escapes, come rain AND shine!

Kakadu in the Wet: (Darwin/Darwin). March 1 – 6, 2015. Travel as a passenger to Kakadu in the rainy season for an eco-treat; includes guides, meals, coach transport, activities & accommodation.

Cray-zee Mini-Outback Explorer

(Lancelin & Gin Gin): January 3 – 5, 2015. Self-drive tag-along-tour. 4WD preferable but not mandatory. Caravans & camper trailers welcome. Self-catering but with a delicious crayfish lunch included!

EXTENDED OUTBACK ADVENTURES!

NEW! Tracks of Len Beadell Expedition!

It's not a new trip, just a new addition to next year's calendar! Gypsy clients so loved our inaugural Len Beadell Expedition back in 2011 that we've decided to run it again next July! Numbers will be strictly limited on this escorted & self-catering 14-day 4WD adventure so get in quick! We'll be travelling through the Great Victoria & Gibson Deserts & on the outback tracks created by Len Beadell, Australia's legendary surveyor, visionary & raconteur. Join us as we travel from Kalgoorlie to Wiluna through the heart of Australia on the Anne Beadell, Connie Sue & Gunbarrel Highways. As Len himself might have said, *this one will be a little ripper, mate!*

Science Safari (Voluntour): Help scientists from the WA Dept of Parks & Wildlife with their fascinating fauna research at Lorna Glen Nature Reserve. April/May 2015. Escorted & catered 4WD tour. Robust off-road caravans & camper trailers welcome. Details TBA.

Canning Stock Route Expedition: (Wells 1 – 51; Wiluna/Halls Creek). June 10 – 30, 2015. 4WD tag-along-tour - the mother of all 4WD tracks! Escorted, self-catering adventure. NO trailers please. Places strictly limited & going fast!

WHO LET THE DOGS OUT?



We now have a final itinerary & a brand new price for our first ever **Dog-Along-Tour!** On November 27, we'll em'bark' on a fabulous four-day Fido adventure to WA's beautiful Southwest forests. We'll base ourselves in the quaint timber town of Manjimup & from there explore all the woody dog-friendly places. And you don't even need a 4WD vehicle to participate! 2WD or 4WD vehicles, tents, caravans, camper trailers & motorhomes are all welcome.

There will be bush-walks in State Forests & on scenic riverbanks, swimming (doggie-paddling, of course!), stargazing, an optional 4WD outing to the southern beaches & a doggy treasure hunt. There will also be time for devoted owners to visit other local attractions or have a go at trout-fishing (BYO tackle & license). Both human & puppy participants will have the time of their lives & meet a litter of new friends with similar interests.

This self-catering canine caper will be escorted by Jeremy & Jan & includes a powered site at lovely Fonty's Pool Caravan Park (it's pooch paradise!), complimentary Welcome Dinner, lots of fun activities & a Pre Departure Kit. The tour costs just \$600 + GST for two people, vehicle/van & pooches. So come on & join us, doggone it!

OMG! CHRISTMAS IS COMING!



OH NO! It can't be true! Tell me Christmas isn't just around the corner! That means parties, pigging out & dodgy gifts. So what are you going to buy for that special someone that they'll really appreciate? Never fear, the Gypsies are here!

To ensure that your bush-lovin' buddy, bro' or bedmate stays full of Chrissie cheer over the holidays & beyond, we recommend the following festive surprises at special Merry Christmas prices:

How about a full-day, small group, **recreational 4WD training course** at a venue close to Perth? Usually costing \$275 per vehicle (1 or 2 people), you can buy a Chrissie Gift Voucher for your loved one for just \$250!

And the ideal prezzie for a novice (or rusty!) caravanner is our half-day, one-on-one, customised **towing training course**. We guarantee that the lucky recipient(s) will learn how to tow safely & with confidence – which means peace on earth for you, them & everyone else on the road! Usually costing \$385 per vehicle (1 or 2 people), you can buy a Chrissie Gift Voucher for just \$350! We'll even go to their home if they live close to the CBD! That's almost as good as having Santa rock up with his sleigh & reindeer!

SAY HELLO AT THE 4WD SHOW!

It'll soon be time for the annual Perth 4WD Show – a great opportunity to see all the new gadgets & gizmos for your vehicle & to have a sticky beak at the new caravans & camper trailers that you wish you could afford. Come & visit our **Stand No. 134** (near the 4WD track) for free Minties, great info & a friendly chat with Jeremy, Jan or Peter. Put these details in your diary now: **November 7 – 9** at McCallum Park, South Perth. We hope to see you there!

Until next time, happy travels from –



GLOBAL GYPSIES TOURS & TRAINING
PO Box 123, Scarborough, WA, 6922.

Phone: (08) 9341 6727

Email: admin@globalgypsies.com.au

Web: www.globalgypsies.com.au

<https://www.facebook.com/globalgypsies>

GLOBAL GYPSIES PTY. LTD.