



ADVENTURE UPDATE

2013 Super Christmas Issue

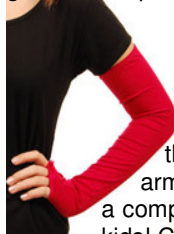


GLOBAL GYPSIES PTY. LTD.

*Great Christmas Gift Ideas * Kakadu in the Wet * Antarctica * Silk Road Summary * Volunteering Opportunities * Show & Tell *
* Botswana & Vietnam * Science Safari to Rudall River * Upcoming Outback Adventures * Hello/Goodbye & more!*

GREAT OUTDOORS CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS!

Here are some suggestions for a unique & personal Christmas gift for that special outdoor-loving someone!



Slinky Sleeves help protect your arms through the long, hot summer. They're not just practical, they're fashionable & downright gorgeous - & you won't find them in shops!

Created by our clever Gypsy friend Chris Silbert, they are ideal for ladies who want to protect their arms from the sun, cover blemishes or need to wear a compression sleeve. There are even cute designs for kids! Check out <http://www.slinkysleeves.com.au>

Camp Oven Cookbook - by Jo Clews

Well known outdoor caterer & Gypsy mate, Jo Clews, brings many years of camp cooking experience to this top new recipe book. Featuring over 130 tempting and easy recipes as well as advice on choosing and caring for equipment, it's the perfect 'how-to' book to take on your next camping trip. Get your copy at <https://www.gbd.com.au/product/9781921874901-AustralianCampOvenCookingbyJoClews.htm>

Work Completed, Canning - by Phil Bianchi

WA researcher & author Phil Bianchi has knocked the socks off the Canning Stock Route in this great new reference book - it's a must for any Canning tragic. It combines original historical documents with oral history in a narrative that covers the origins of the CSR, surveying, well construction, restoration, droving, deaths, murders, mysteries, exploration, prospecting, personalities, old photos, maps, tourism guides & more. Contact Hesperian Press on 08 9362 5955 or email books@hesperianpress.com

At the Very Heart by renowned author & Gypsy colleague Story Walton tells the story of the Australian Inland Mission as it celebrates its centenary. In words & images, this well researched coffee-table edition traces the achievements of AIM & the people who work with them around Australia to provide vital services to those living in remote areas. For more info visit <http://www.wakefieldpress.com.au/product.php?productid=978>

When you buy a **Bush Heritage Wild Gift** you are making a real difference to conservation in Australia. With each gift you'll receive a card describing the thoughtful contribution you've made & explaining the positive impact the gift will have on preserving the Aussie bush. All gifts are tax-deductible. Go shopping at www.wildgifts.org.au.

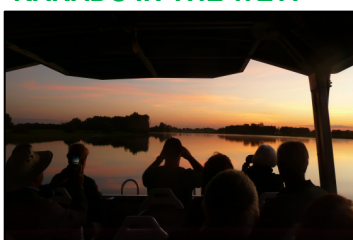
ExploreOz at <http://www.exploroz.com/> has a huge range of great outback-type merchandise to choose from! Or how about stuffing a year's membership in that Christmas stocking?

And if you're Grey Nomad travelling or working your way around Australia, check out the **No Boundaries** website at <http://www.noboundaries.com.au/>. It has lots of handy tips & an on-line store.

Know someone who just loves **4WD'ing**? Why not give them a full-day recreational 4WD training course with the Gypsies? Or a brand new book by Robert Pepper about four-wheel driving that's perfect for the glove box? Appropriately called **4WD Glovebox Guide**, it's aligned with the national competencies for those who take their hobby seriously. You can get a copy from <http://www.l2sfbc.com/4WDGloveboxGuide/about>

And if someone on your Chrissie list has just bought a new caravan or camper trailer, do yourself a favour (as Molly Meldrum would say!), but more importantly, do *them* a favour! Buy them one of our towing training DVD's or a gift voucher for a private half-day towing training course with one of our expert instructors! Other cool Gypsy stuff includes our cute monogrammed black beanies, snuggly sleeveless fleeces & cozy long-sleeved jackets - perfect for cuddling up round the campfire in the chilly months. Ho-ho-ho to you all!

KAKADU IN THE WET!



Sometimes we come up with zany ideas for our tours just to keep life interesting. And also to make sure that our clients visit fabulous & unusual destinations!! So for the first time ever we're going to run a "Kakadu in the Wet" safari!

It will be for just 10 lucky participants & will happen in February. Yep! Steamy, sultry Kakadu in all its natural glory during the rainy season when native birds & animals abound while the park is in flood.

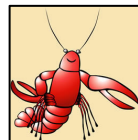
There will be cruises, a joy flight over the wetlands, a visit to Arnhem Land, bushwalks, cultural activities & (conditions permitting) a thrilling trip in an air boat!

This isn't a self-drive tag-along-tour, instead clients will travel as passengers in Land Cruisers driven by a local Driver/Guide. Accommodation will be in air-conditioned lodges and most meals will be included.



The tour begins & ends in Darwin & will be personally escorted by Jan & Jeremy. It will be educational, unpredictable & lots of FUN! Click onto <http://www.globalgypsies.com.au/tours/Australian/Kakadu-in-the-Wet/> for details. But be like a crocodile & make it snappy!

CRAY-ZEE MINI-OUTBACK SAFARI



Continuing in the zany theme, we're celebrating summer with a "Cray-Zee" mini-outback safari in January! Designed for city dwellers wanting to get back to nature, this special three-day tag-along-tour has the lot! There will be a 4WD

seminar, supervised four-wheel driving on the sand dunes at Lancelin, a guided tour of the Pinnacles Desert, two nights under the stars in a bush-style caravan park, a guided eco-cruise on the Moore River, a tour of WA's leading lobster factory **AND a delicious crayfish lunch!** What a great way to spend a weekend just two hours from Perth!

To participate you just need your own or a hired 4WD vehicle, a two-way radio and a tent, camper trailer or caravan. No previous 4WD experience is necessary & families are welcome. Numbers are strictly limited. You'd be CRAY-zee to miss out! Visit our website for more details.

BOW-WOW! IT'S A DOG-ALONG-TOUR!!

That's right! Here's an idea that's downright nutty! Or should we say 'mutty'? Or even barking mad! We're thinking of running a *DOG-ALONG-TOUR!* So many of our clients tell us they like to travel with dogs, we thought we'd design a tour just for you & your best friend! We're thinking of maybe spending 4 or 5 days in the Southwest in summer? We'd have to avoid national parks but there are plenty of other pretty, pooch-friendly places we could pop into. Muzzles would be mandatory (for the dogs, not the owners). Please let us know if you're interested!

BOUQUETS TO BLACK WOLF

And while we're talking about all things canine, we'd like to give *Black Wolf Tents* a virtual bunch of flowers for good customer service. We let them know that on our May Canning Stock Route Expedition two Black Wolf tents owned by clients had sprung leaks resulting in a soggy safari for four of our valued customers. After looking into the situation, the company kindly replaced both tents (which were several years old) with beautiful brand new ones with new improved waterproof designs! Happy days for our clients & well done Black Wolf!

BACK TO THE CANNING!

Did I hear the word 'Canning'? Hah! It's the perfect opportunity to talk about the TWO great Canning Stock Route Expeditions we've got happening in 2014. There's a long one from Wiluna to Halls Creek covering Wells 1 – 51 (*The Complete Canning*) & a shorter one that we're calling *Top of the Canning* from Halls Creek to Kunawarritji (Wells 51 - 33).

There are only a few available places left on each so if you want to join us, get your name down ASAP. Check out our website for details. And if you'd like to learn more about this fascinating 4WD track, then download the new CSR 'app' on your smart phone – it's excellent & costs just \$1.99.

WE'RE OFF TO ANTARCTICA!!

Whoopie! How cool is this!! In January 2015 we're off to Antarctica! We're just working out the details now in conjunction with Coates Travel & One Ocean Expeditions & will be sending a tour flyer to those folks on our 'interested' list in the next few weeks. To add your name to the list, get in touch ASAP! And to get in the mood for this icy adventure, try standing in front of an open fridge watching *Happy Feet* on DVD!! It's enough to give you goose bumps!

HELLO & GOODBYE



It's a sad day in sunny Scarborough. Our fabulous Office Manager, workmate & wonder-woman, Di Gardiner, is leaving us at the end of the year. But we mustn't be too upset - she's going on an awesome round-the-world tour with hubby Dean! We

hope they have an absolute ball, but oh, how we'll miss her!! Taking her place as our new admin guru & Office Manager will be Peter Sommer. Originally from Switzerland, Peter has



lived in Australia for over 30 years, has a finance background & just LOVES four-wheel-driving & the outback! He's a keen traveller & has already been on a Gypsy familiarisation tour, attended one of our

4WD training courses & helped out on our stand at the Perth 4WD Show. So by the time he officially dons the mandatory khakis in January he should be the full bottle! Please give Peter a big welcome as he joins the Gypsy family & send Di your warmest Bon Voyage wishes!

CRITTERS REJOICE WITH A LOUD VOICE!



How exciting! We're combining our Rudall River Expedition with a Science Safari! You can hear the critters cheering from here! Thanks to our researcher 'buds' at the Department of Parks & Wildlife Services (formerly DEC), our clients can participate in a rewarding 'voluntourism' project in the Pilbara in May 2014.

They'll be working with scientists on important fauna research & monitoring projects while enjoying a catered & escorted 4WD tag-along tour in spectacular Rudall River (Karlamilyi) National Park. We'll try to track down some of the elusive endangered species that visitors rarely get to see in places the researchers have never visited before. Using traps and motion-sensitive cameras, we'll try to film and monitor the secret lives of such local native animals as Northern Quolls and Mulgara; we'll also look for bilbies and the infamous night parrot. And remember that part of your tour fee goes back to DEC/PaWS to help with their research! Want more information? Click here. But hurry, there are only TWO places left! <http://www.globalgypsies.com.au/tours/Australian/Rudall-River-Expedition/>

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Keen to volunteer your time for a worthy cause? The Queensland Government is looking for Camp Hosts at some of their State's lovely parks. If you'd like to help out, phone Pip on (07) 4222 5348 or email pip.schroor@npsr.qld.gov.au.

Kimberley Ark is looking for volunteers to assist scientists minimise the damage being done in the area by cane toads. They are collecting DNA from endangered species & freezing it for future protection of the animals. For details of the project & other related activities see <http://projectkimberley.org>.

NEWS ON VIETNAM & BOTSWANA

The good news is that there are still a few places available on our fascinating *Inside Vietnam* tour in August. Personally escorted by Jan & Jeremy & local English-speaking guides, this insightful tour will explore the mysteries of our intriguing Asian neighbour from Saigon to Hanoi in 12 magical days.



The focus will be on authentic experiences & local cuisine. Transport will be in a combination of buses, planes, trains, boats, rickshaws, even motorbikes! We'll stay in quality accommodation & spend nights on a junk & a train, enjoy a range of cultural activities, take a cooking class & more. There will also be an optional tour to the mountainous Sapa district with its incredible scenery, colourful hill tribes & local markets. We can only take a small group so get in quick. As a famous (?) poet once said, "The price is right, the airfares are low, you can't take it with you, so hey! let's go!"

The bad news is that our **Back to Botswana Safari** in March is fully booked. But don't despair, we'll always return to Africa – we keep leaving our hearts there & have to keep going back to retrieve them!

HOLLAND TRACK TRAUMAS!

HELP! We're suffering post-traumatic-stress! For the third time in a row our Holland Track Expedition was interrupted by Mother Nature! Can you believe it? On our scheduled departure dates in 2011 and '12, torrential rains turned the track into a muddy quagmire & the local Shire closed it. One year we went ahead with a "Plan B" itinerary & once we cancelled the tour altogether. Being clever little bunnies, this time we scheduled the tour much later in the year to avoid the rain. And guess what? There was a raging bushfire instead! So the Shire (quite rightly) closed the track again! Talk about Murphy's Law! Once again we implemented "Plan B" & took the group southwards, well away from the fires. We headed for gorgeous Fitzgerald River National Park, did some 4WD'ing & sightseeing & ended up in the Stirling Ranges, where some of us did a mini-climb of Bluff Knoll. We had a great time, good weather & lots of fun. We also gave Mother Nature a big serve for her unpredictability & she's promised to do better next time! (Read on to find out when this will be.)



Thanks to everyone for being such good sports – you were a joy to be with & we hope you enjoyed it!

Our intrepid travellers

were Helen Beatty & Rebecca Stevenson, Glen & Peter Daniel, Lynn Fisher & Max Williams, Karen & Terry Hill, Berenice Ritchie & Dorothy Hunter, Jenny Rose, passengers Maggie van Putten & Maureen Hughes (all from WA) & our new gypsy crew member, Peter.

If you're a Holland Track Tragic who's been traumatised cos you haven't been able to complete the tour with us for the past three years due to bad weather, bushfires, earthquakes, political uprisings, pestilence or other calamities, Hallelujah Brother! A cure is at hand! Join us on our 2014 tour! Our next Holland Track Expedition will be from May 22 – 26 & we'll be running it in conjunction with RAC Travel. It will be escorted by Jeremy & expertly catered by Camp Oven Goddess, Jo Clews. We're already saying our weather prayers & have several confirmed bookings so get in quick!

SILK ROAD SUMMARY

This tour was one of the most amazing, intriguing, educational, unusual & memorable adventures we've ever run. Following in the footsteps of Genghis Khan, Alexander the Great & Marco Polo, we spent 22 days traversing the *Silk Road*. We covered almost 5000 kms from Xian in western China (home of the Terracotta Warriors) to exotic Kyrgyzstan & Uzbekistan.

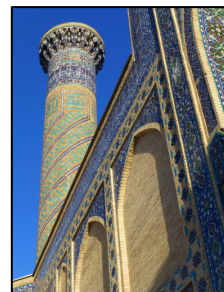
We travelled in a combination of planes, coaches, mini-buses & trains, tried local cuisine, visited remote outposts and learned SO much about places of which we knew almost nothing. In fact, it was embarrassing to realise how little we knew about the history, culture & sophistication of the 'Stan' countries other than that they were formerly part of the Soviet Union. Politics & religion aside, it seems the Muslim world invented as many scientific marvels as the Greeks or Romans but, certainly in my history books, were never given credit for their achievements.

We noted the massive growth of the Chinese middle class & the marked divide between rich & poor in all the places we visited & could (almost) feel guilty for staying in our 4-star accommodation. There were some exceptions & these were great fun – an overnight train across the Gobi Desert (some nameless ladies got locked in their compartment!) & a night in a nomadic yurt (a round tent-like structure made of yak-wool stretched over a wooden frame). As we drifted off to sleep in the rugged mountains of Kyrgyzstan, the silence was broken only by the bubbling of a nearby spring, the occasional cry of a wolf & the shuffling of yaks & horses in their pens. It was a very special place & we all wished we could have stayed longer.



We learned about Emir Timur, or Tamerlane, an all-powerful Persian ruler in the 1300's who conquered West, South & Central Asia (he made Napoleon look like an amateur!), founded the infamous Timurid dynasty & was a great patron of art & architecture. On the downside, his military campaigns were responsible for the deaths of an estimated 17 million people – then about 5% of the world's population!

We visited such exotic places as Dunhuang, Turpan, Kashgar, Tash Rabat, Bishkek, Samarkand, Bukara & Tashkent. We rode on camels, visited a tiny village where we chatted with the locals; spent time with students at a local school, ate delicious local food & saw more mosques, minarets, markets & madrasas than you could poke a pashmina at. To read a humorous poem about our experiences, just ask us for a copy, or visit the Silk Road page on our website.



Thanks to our friends at Coates Travel for helping to make it happen & a huge thank you to the wonderful, happy, patient, enthusiastic & all-round fabulous folks who joined us on this once-in-a-lifetime adventure. From WA were Martin Jones & Mary Barton; Liz Harrison; Anne Henderson; Ross & Irene Hogben; Judy Kuit; Jenny Rose; Jan & Seb Mairata; Ruth & Adrian Phelps; from NSW were Connie & Grahame Edgar; & joining us from NZ were Peter & Robin Baxter & Cedric & Anne Witter. Salaams to you all!

We had such an awesome time that we're going to run another **Silk Road Safari** in September 2015! We're even considering running a back-to-back **Silk Road Part Two** which would complete the original route from Uzbekistan on to Turkey, Greece & Venice. Express your interest in both these tours now! And if you live in WA, stay tuned! We'll be doing a "Show & Tell" about the Silk Road in words & pictures at Murdoch University early next year - details available soon!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

We hope you have a joyous festive season & that 2014 is the best year ever for you & yours. We wish you peace, prosperity & safe, enjoyable & inspiring journeys. Best wishes & happy travels from –



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Jan & Jeremy

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