



GYPSY ADVENTURE UPDATE

September 2013



GLOBAL GYPSIES PTY. LTD.

** Conquering the Canning! * Kimberley Report * Inside Vietnam * New Short Tours with RAC *
* Last Call for Caravan Safari! * Botswana Booked Out! * Recommended Reading & more! **

CONQUERING THE CANNING!

Well it might have taken us two goes this year but we finally did it! We conquered the Canning! Well done travellers on Expedition Number Two – you made it! After a soggy start to the season, sunny skies never looked so good!

Thanks for joining us on our July tour & congratulations to Alex Eades, Suzanne Gallagher & Beverley Holme, Peter & Maxine Miller, Alan & Sandy McGregor, Jeff & Wendy Spencer, William & Reg Spencer; Colin Willis & Bob Pearce, Julie McKenzie and Brian Zucal & Rod Pember all from WA; John & Rosemary Atkinson of New South Wales & Peter McCauley from South Australia. You were all fantastic & we loved having your company!

And a special thanks to our dear friend & former Office Manager, Pam Vassi, for riding 'shotgun', being our Safari Hostess & keeping the Tour Guide well fed! Jeremy loved your cooking & the editor of this newsletter is now being pressured to get all your recipes!

Highlights on this awesome adventure included the lovely people who joined us & the camaraderie that developed amongst our 'travelling family'; the unexpected & incredibly beautiful variety of wildflowers (no doubt due in part to the huge quantities of rain dumped earlier this year on Expedition Number One!); admiring sunrise & sunset in the lovely gorge amongst the gum trees at Durba Springs; seeing the first camel of the trip while looking for rock art; staying in bush camps amongst the rustling desert oaks & listening to the dingos howling at night. It was also interesting meeting up with a South African lady walking the track as well as two cyclists raising money for charity - & here we thought we were doing it tough in our 4WD's!

The intrepid drivers found the 997 (we counted them!) sand dunes challenging at first, but once everyone sorted out their tyre pressures, speed, gears and ratios they all became experts! This meant they could pause at the top to revel in the sights – each peak was a 'dune with a view'!

In spite of the legendary CSR corrugations, 9 out of 10 client vehicles made it through to Halls Creek. There were some mechanical hiccups though! One vehicle inexplicably got water in the fuel tank which delayed the start of the tour, but thanks to group efforts & the mechanic in Wiluna the problem was resolved & the vehicle caught up on Day 2 much to everyone's delight. And we were sorry to farewell one vehicle at Well 33 when their shock absorbers were damaged – even the spares!

But all in all we had a pretty good run over 2000 kms of rough & rugged track. The mechanical casualty list included (sing this if you like!) 3 flat tires, 3 blown 'shockies'; 1 damaged canopy; 1 damaged roof rack; 1 cracked wheel carrier; several loose bolts; 1 fractured fuel tank...and a galah in a prickly pear tree!

SO NICE WE'RE GOING TO DO IT TWICE!

We had such a wonderful time on our two Canning Stock Route Expeditions this year that we'll be running two more great tours in 2014 – a long one and a shorter one!

Both expeditions will be led by Jeremy and Jan. For track sustainability reasons we'll only take a limited number of vehicles in each convoy and no camper trailers will be permitted. As we can't tow our catering trailer over all those sand dunes (unless we wanted to leave it there permanently!) both tours will be self-catering.

Included in the package will be complimentary Welcome and Farewell Dinners; the services of one of the best Tour Guides in WA providing narrative, 4WD expertise and mechanical assistance; permits, lots of fun activities (such as guided walks, star-gazing evenings, bush poetry readings, camp oven cooking and more), plus a comprehensive Pre Departure Workshop and Pre Departure Kit. How can you resist?

The first tour, **The Complete Canning**, will run south to north from Well 1 to 51, beginning in Wiluna on June 4 & ending in Halls Creek on June 24.

The second tour, **The Top of the Canning**, will begin in Halls Creek on June 29 & run north to south from Well 51 to 33. We'll spend 9 terrific days on the Canning, turn off at Kunawarritji, spend two nights at magical Carawine Gorge & finish up in Marble Bar on July 10. This 'mini' tour was originally designed for the folks who joined us on our May expedition but were unable to complete it when we had to turn back at Lake Tobin due to unseasonal rainstorms. Several of these determined gypsies are keen to complete the adventure they started 12 months earlier & will be coming with us at a special rain-cheque price. And hopefully lots of new Gypsies will join us as well! For more details about these great outback adventures, visit <http://www.globalgypsies.com.au/tours/Australian/Canning-stock-route-Expedition/>

RECOMMENDED READING

We confess – we're fans of Wild West American history & one gypsy in particular loves reading about the brave women of that era. So we were delighted to find a little gem called "Oregon Country" by TJ Hanson. It was like reading about a Global Gypsies trip happening 170 years ago!

The book describes the massive migration of people from the eastern states of the USA to Oregon in 1843. About 1000 emigrants at a time in several waves. They travelled in huge convoys of covered wagons 'tag-along' style led by an experienced Wagon Master. Groups of 100 wagons were divided up into smaller convoys of 10 wagons each, rotating the convoy positions each day. The journey could take six months & the travellers faced dangers & hardships along the way that we can only imagine.

Mainly farmers looking for a new life, these courageous pioneers had to take everything they needed with them to set up a new home in a place they'd never seen – food, spare parts, tools, cattle, horses, seedlings, medicine, you name it. They carefully planned their expeditions just like we do & even had similar problems & experiences on the road but on a much larger & scarier scale! Told from the perspective of a young widowed schoolteacher travelling on her own, we found this easy to read story absolutely fascinating - a real case of dejavu!

KICKING UP OUR HEELS IN THE KIMBERLEY

What a hoot! Our *Kimberley Explorer* tour in June was one long party! With three tag-along vehicles & three passengers travelling in the escort vehicle, our small, select group had an absolute ball!

It was our first ever Kimberley tour run on a self-catering basis & the jury's still out on which option we prefer. But it was certainly interesting having our passengers cooking for themselves & for the Tour Guide each night, especially with all the different likes, dislikes & dietary preferences! Mealtimes were a bit like a fire drill in a chicken farm!

There were lots of laughs on this trip & everyone had a ball. Thanks to Pam & Dave Barnett, Kevin & Anne Parker, Lloyd & Pam Webb (from WA), our dear personal friends Andy Phillips & Sue Saunders from Victoria, & to our new friend Merrillyn Tattersall (also from Victoria) for making it such a lot of fun.

Highlights included our first water crossing going into Bells Gorge; spending the day at Mitchell Falls taking walks, swims & helicopter flights; pigging out on Devonshire Teas at Ellenbrae Station (yum!); enjoying sundowners overlooking the Pentecost River at Home Valley Station; watching a crocodile catch & gobble down a fish on our Lake Argyle sunset cruise; hiking in the mystical Bungle Bungles (Purnululu); exploring Jandamarra's hideaway in Tunnel Creek; & watching stockmen on horseback mustering cattle along Windjana Way. We have some wonderful memories, folks, & hope you do, too!

GIVING THE PASSPORTS A POUNDING!

By the time you read this, Jan & Jeremy & 18 very excited clients will be winging our way to China to begin our incredible *Silk Road Safari*. Over 22 days we'll be traveling from Xian westwards to Kyrgyzstan & Uzbekistan on the same trade route used by such legendary figures as Alexander the Great & Genghis Khan. This has been one of the most challenging tours we've ever organized due to the difficulties of communicating with the "Stan" countries while working through an agent based in China. Lots of fun & games!

A huge thank you to Sylvia Grove at Coates Travel (our joint venture partner on all our overseas tours) for her invaluable assistance & limitless patience in planning & preparing for this major odyssey. Now we just can't wait to get there!

More good news is that our *Back to Botswana Safari* is also fully booked & we'll be heading off with 12 fortunate clients next March. As we explore the Okavango Delta & Victoria Falls, we'll be staying in a combination of tented camps, mobile camps & safari lodges. We expect to see more wildlife than you can poke a memory stick at & are really looking forward to getting back to Africa – Jeremy's birthplace & a destination we both love. Look out critters – here we come!

GOOD MORNING VIETNAM!

And while we're talking about international travel, we are pleased to announce that we finally have details of our "*Inside Vietnam*" tour!

This magical Asian experience will begin in Hanoi on August 5 and end in Saigon on August 16, 2014. We'll travel north to south in a combination of cars, coaches, planes, trains, bicycles, motorbikes & rickshaws. We'll go walking, riding, cruising, swimming & sightseeing. We'll visit bays, beaches, boats, families, farms, flowers, temples, towns, tourist attractions, markets, memorials, mud baths & more!

And don't forget the food! Most meals will be included & we'll enjoy a wide variety of delicious, freshly cooked, local cuisine. We'll even have a private cooking class! Accommodation will be in quality hotels, a train & a junk.

The tour is a joint venture with Coates Travel (again!) & Real Travel of Vietnam. It will be personally escorted by Jeremy & Jan & run by Dat, our local English-speaking Tour Guide. Coates will also be arranging some brilliant optional side tours, including one to the colourful mountain villages around Sapa in the north of the country before we start our adventure.

As usual, tour numbers will be strictly limited. We already have several people tentatively booked, but if this fascinating insight into Vietnam makes your spring roll, add your name to our 'interested' list today!

LAST CALL FOR THE CARAVAN SAFARI!

This is it! Your last chance to book on our fabulous **Whale Song Safari** for caravans, camper trailers & motorhomes! From October 14 - 25 we'll visit some of the best whale-watching spots in WA. Personally escorted by Jan & Jeremy, this spectacular self-catering safari will start in Esperance & end in Dunsborough as we follow the migration of these fascinating creatures along our southern coastline.

It will include a complimentary whale-watching cruise, tour of the Albany whaling station, talks by experts, national park & caravan park fees, Welcome & Farewell Dinners, group 4WD outings, pot-luck suppers & lots of other fun activities! Don't miss out on this one!

GET SHORTY!

Our clients have often said to us, "*Why don't you run some short tours?*" So we'll be running two of them over the next few months. And the great news is that they will be in conjunction with RAC(WA) who are keen to get more of their members involved in safe & supervised four-wheel-driving with the help of Global Gypsies!.

The first '*shortie*' will be a 4WD weekend to Gin Gin on November 22 – 24, 2013. It will be fully catered & personally escorted by Jeremy & Jan. Activities include fun & educational 4WD practice on the dunes at Lancelin, a guided tour of Nambung National Park (the Pinnacles) & a fascinating eco-cruise on the Moore River with Captain Phil. Catering, campground fees, park fees, services of a professional Tour Guide/accredited 4WD instructor & lots of fun activities are included. Get yourself in gear & book today!

HO-HO-HO-HOLLAND TRACK!

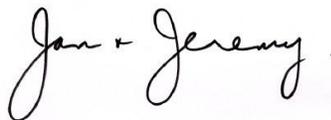
Yikes! Where does the time go? Before you know it will be Christmas! But if you'd like to squeeze in one more outback experience before the silly season rolls around here's your chance! We'll be running our long-time favourite **Holland Track Expedition** from November 14-18. It's the ideal opportunity for experienced 4WD'ers to get back to nature for a few days or for 'city slickers' & novice 4WD'ers to get a taste of the outback & 'test drive' the tag-along concept.

Drive yourself in your own or a hired 4WD and travel in our gypsy convoy, or travel as a passenger in our escort vehicle. Explore this historic track cut through the bush by sandalwooder John Holland over 100 years ago to help prospectors make their way to the goldfields. Beginning in Hyden and ending in Coolgardie, the safari is steeped in nostalgia & is a must for those with a pioneering spirit. Hopefully the wildflowers will be pretty impressive this year as well!

The adventure will be escorted by Jeremy & Jan & will be self-catering. Included in the package will be narrative about the history of the track, 4WD tuition and practice, free bush-skills seminar, star-gazing sessions, bush poetry readings round the campfire and an inspiring visit to the grave of John Holland's wife - the first European woman to travel the track.

What a great Christmas present to give yourself or someone you love!

Until next time, happy travels from –



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