



GYPSY ADVENTURE UPDATE

March 2013



GLOBAL GYPSIES PTY. LTD.



* *Thais that Bind* * *The Lone Ranger* * *Canning Ponderings* * *Words & Pictures* * *Antarctica* *
* *Caravan & Camping Show* * *Whale Song Safari* * *Back to Botswana* * *Inside Vietnam* * & more! *

THE THAIS THAT BIND



Jan & Jeremy enjoyed some terrific R&R in February by zipping off to Thailand for two weeks. They stayed with good friends who live in Chiang Mai then spent a week lazing round the pool sipping on umbrella drinks at Paradise Beach Resort on Koh Samui. Ahh...bliss!

Here's one of the interesting locals we met on the western border with Myanmar – a stunning Padaung (or "Long Neck") woman who fled to Thailand with her family from Myanmar (Burma)

for political refuge. The brass bangles she's wearing round her neck weigh 5kgs. A heavy price to pay for beauty...

THE LONE RANGER

In May, Jeremy will take on another exciting challenge – he'll head out to the remote Aboriginal communities of Parnngurr and Punmu, five hours' drive east of Newman, to conduct a series of 4WD training courses for the Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa Rangers.

The KJ Rangers look after the Martu Native title lands in the Western Desert, including parts of the Great Sandy, Little Sandy and Gibson Deserts. The area is home to a number of threatened or vulnerable species, particularly small to medium sized mammals such as the greater bilby, black flanked rock wallaby, marsupial mole and mulgara. (We'll be working with some of these animals on our next DEC Science Safari at Lorna Glen near Wiluna!)

The Western Desert is relatively pristine because of its remoteness and the harshness of its environment (particularly in summer) which has enabled it to avoid much of the development seen in other areas. The ranger teams are equipped to take trips into Martu country to undertake such activities as aerial and on-ground burning, feral animal control and other remote area initiatives. We feel privileged to be able to assist the rangers with their important work.

CANNING PONDERINGS

While we're talking about the desert, it's interesting that both our expeditions along the Canning Stock Route are fully booked with wait lists this year. We've been hearing a lot lately about how overwhelmingly 'connected' today's society is with mobile phones, i-pads, facebook, twitter, youtube & a multitude of other means of non-stop communication which make us accessible 24/7 & inundates us with a constant barrage of information. No peace, no respite, no escape – unless you turn it all off.

Some researchers believe this constant 'connectivity' is taking its toll on our physical & mental well-being by increasing our stress levels, limiting our concentration spans & reducing our human interactions & understanding of issues to shallow, superficial levels.

We can't help but wonder if information overload is a factor in the popularity of this year's Canning tours. Out in the desert there are no mobile phones, no computer screens, no electronic bleeps or blips, just tranquility, peace & vast open spaces. It's one of the last frontiers, one of the few remaining opportunities to re-connect with nature in its rawest form & spend some quality time with like-minded travellers. So is going on the Canning just a holiday – or is it something more? An attempt to escape our fast-paced electronic lifestyle perhaps? What do you think? We'd love to hear from you!

RECOMMENDED WORDS & PICTURES

The award-winning Travel Editor of West Australian Newspapers, Stephen Scourfield, is also an acclaimed author. He's just released a fascinating new book which takes you on a journey of the incredible Kimberley Region & we encourage you to read it. Called 'As the River Runs', it's being published alongside a previous novel, 'Other Country' set in the same area but 20 years earlier.

Together, the two books represent 15 years of writing and 30 years of travelling in the region & convey Stephen's thoughts & observations about the Kimberley, its people and its landscapes. For more details or to order your copy on-line, visit <http://uwap.uwa.edu.au/books-and-authors/book/as-the-river-runs/>

Meanwhile our friends at the Youngernow Malleefowl Centre in Ongerup are hosting a fabulous art & photography exhibition of birds. 'FLIGHT!' features over 90 pieces of art ranging from drawings by students of the Ongerup Primary School, to contemporary works, to original antique prints by Frederick Polydore Nodder, Robert Austin & John Gould. The show is on until April 30 & entry is by gold coin donation.

HERE'S SOME COOL NEWS!



We want to go to Antarctica! Lots of people we know have gone on this great adventure recently & they've all come back raving! We're thinking about offering a tour there (ex South America) in January/February 2015 but we need to know if there would be enough chilled out gypsies to make it possible.

If you fancy joining us on this cool journey, send us your expression of interest today! Can't wait to see Mumbles and his Happy Feet!

WHALE SONG SAFARI

While we're talking about marine creatures, what are you doing in October? Fancy joining us on our first ever *Whale Song Safari* for caravans & motorhomes? We're still working out the final details but over 12 days we plan to visit the best whale-spotting hotspots as we follow the northern migration of these marvelous creatures along WA's spectacular coastline.

The safari will start in Esperance & end in Dunsborough & in between we'll be including whale-watching cruises, Welcome & Farewell Dinners, potluck suppers, group 4WD outings & lots of other fun activities! If a leisurely road trip in search of whales tickles your blowhole, please give us 'ahoy' today!

VISIT US AT THE CARAVAN & CAMPING SHOW!

Yep, it's on again! We'll be at the Perth Caravan & Camping Show once more this year & we'd love to see you there!

The C&C Show is on at Claremont Showgrounds from March 21 – 25. We'll be raving on about our upcoming tours, towing & 4WD training courses & Jeremy will be giving a public talk each day at 10 a.m. on "Top 10 Towing Tips".

We'll be at Stand 105 in the Silver Jubilee Pavilion each day of the Show. Please come in & say hello!

SILK ROAD BECKONS!

Hard to believe but after all the planning & anticipation, our Silk Road Safari is just around the corner! Because in addition to western China we'll be visiting two of the somewhat inaccessible 'Stan' countries in Eastern Europe, we need to get our visas two months in advance! The tour begins in Xian & ends in the exotic city of Tashkent, Uzbekistan. When deciding where to go for our traditional R&R after the tour, we discovered there was nowhere to fly to from Tashkent that doesn't cost an arm & a leg (other than Beijing which we've been to several times before). So we decided to spend a week in the nearby Chatkal Mountains of Uzbekistan! Apparently there's not much English spoken up there so it should be an interesting time! Borscht, dumplings & blintz anyone?

EXPLORE THE KIMBERLEY WITH US!

We mentioned earlier how much Stephen Scourfield loves the Kimberley. Well, we love it, too, and prove it by taking clients on a fantastic 4WD tag-along-tour through the Kimberley each year. This year our adventure will begin in Derby on June 17 & conclude in Broome on July 3. In between we'll visit such iconic destinations as Bells Gorge, Manning Gorge, Mitchell Falls, Gibb River Road, Home Valley, Kununurra, Lake Argyle, the Bungle Bungle, Geikie Gorge, Windjana Gorge, Tunnel Creek & more.

And we're running our *Kimberley Explorer* tour on a self-catering basis for the first time ever so that everyone can do their own thing at meal times – you'll be independent but not alone. And it's not just about driving from A to B (or D to B in this case!). The tour will be led by one of WA's best Tour Guides & there will be guided bushwalks, star-gazing evenings, rock art viewings, group cookouts, 4WD practice & tuition, wildlife viewing, cruises & lots of fun! There are still a couple of places available but get in quick!



VIETNAM ON THE CHEEP-CHEEP!



We've never been to Vietnam but have heard such great reports about it that we've decided to run a tour there in August 2014. And we're busting our budget to make it as cheep-cheep as possible for our loyal clients!

During our 12-day adventure we plan to visit Hanoi, Ha Long, Hue, Hoi An, China Beach, Nha Trang &

Saigon. There will be train trips, river cruises, road trips, cultural events, a cooking class, markets, museums, walks & lots of interaction with local people. As always, most meals & quality accommodation will be included.

The tour will be escorted by Jeremy & Jan and our local Guide will be the owner/operator of a successful Hanoi-based travel company who our Office Manager, Di Gardiner, knows well. It should be a fabulous & educational experience for us all! Dates & prices are still being finalized but we promise that it will be excellent value for money! And with return air fares going for less than \$500, how can you possibly NOT join us?

SAVE \$100 ON 4WD TRAINING!

Remember that if you book a 4WD course with us when you book your tag-along-tour we'll give you a \$100 discount on your course! Just another way for us to say 'thank you'!

CLASSY-FIEDS

Looking for a new van? How about this little beauty? A 2010 custom-built, go-anywhere, All Terrain "crossover" with only 10,000 kms on the clock. It has everything that opens & shuts, weighs in at 1380kgs, carries a 3.3 metre Porta Bote internally with trailer and outboard, features key start generator, vacuum toilet, solar power, A/C, sat TV, air suspension, disc brakes & more. The total package is worth more than \$100K but the owner will sell the lot including boat, 4hp Mercury outboard and licensed trailer for around \$70,000 or nearest offer. For details phone Nathan on 0414 800 849. Hey! Let's make a deal!

BACK TO BOTSWANA!

It's true! We just can't stay away from Africa! So we're returning for another hit of animals & African magic! This time we're going *Back to Botswana* & we'd love to take you with us!



For 14 marvelous days in March 2014 we'll be visiting the Okavango Delta, Moremi Game Reserve, Chobe National Park & Victoria Falls. We'll be staying in luxury lodges, quality hotels & going on a 'mobile safari' just like the white hunters of years gone by! While we're having a busy day watching lion, elephant, hippo & the rest of God's creatures from our 4WD safari vehicles with our expert guides, an experienced team will travel ahead & set up our Karen Blixen-style tented camp in advance so that when we arrive there will be sundowners, a hot meal & a cluster of safari tents waiting for us in the heart of the African bush! How exciting & romantic is that?

This amazing eco-tour will begin in Maun & end in Vic Falls & will include game-viewing by vehicle, boats & mokoros (canoes). All meals & internal flights will be included & there will be post-tour options to Cape Town & Namibia. Jeremy & Jan will be your Tour Escorts along with professional English-speaking local guides. Dates & prices will be finalized soon but get your name down early for this one! Sounds like one ellie of a trip!

GREETINGS FROM THE EASTER BILBY!

Until next time, happy travels from –

Jan & Jeremy



GLOBAL GYPSIES TOURS & TRAINING

PO Box 123, Scarborough, WA, 6922.

Email: admin@globalgypsies.com.au

Phone: (08) 9341 6727. Fax: (08) 9205 1330

Web: www.globalgypsies.com.au