



GYPSY ADVENTURE UPDATE

September 2012



GLOBAL GYPSIES PTY. LTD.



* Another 'Voluntour' Safari! * Kakadu Dreaming * Adios Amigos! * Kimberley Capers *
* Hitting The Silk Road * Rudall River Report * Holland Track & more! *

HOLIDAYS WITH A HEART!



The *Science Safari* we ran with the WA Department of Environment & Conservation back in May was so much fun that we've organised a second 'voluntour' for holidaymakers with a heart – this time to the **Yongernow**

Malleefowl Centre! And it will be happening in November during what is expected to be one of the best wildflower seasons ever!



On this short 'back to nature' escape, we'll be heading down to Ongerup in Southwest WA for four days of fun & 'fowl play' while we help out at the Malleefowl Centre & do some volunteer work with Bush Heritage Australia. We'll also be making a generous donation to these two organisations to support their fabulous conservation and rehabilitation efforts of WA's bushland and wildlife. We'll be staying at one base camp & tents, swags, caravans, motorhomes & camper trailers are all welcome.

You don't need a 4WD to participate & the tour is self-catering (except for a complimentary Welcome Dinner). Your Tour Leaders will be Jan & Jeremy & the package includes expert guest lectures, organised activities, donation, camping/caravan fees & fun times with the group.

To put a feather in your environmental cap, click here for more details:

<http://www.globalgypsies.com.au/tours/Australian/Malleefowl-Voluntour-Science-Safari/>

ADIOS AMIGOS!



Caramba! By the time you read this we'll be in South America! Jeremy & Jan are leaving early to explore Quito & the Galapagos Islands in Ecuador, then we'll meet up with our happy bunch of 16 amigos to visit Lima, the Amazon Jungle, Cusco, the Sacred Valley & Machu Picchu. What a thrill!

And if you want to make like Marco Polo, we're already planning next year's incredible overseas adventure to **The Silk Road!** The name comes from the lucrative Chinese silk trade which has followed the same route for over 2000 years & was a significant factor in the development of the civilizations of China, India, Persia, Europe and Arabia. Details & prices are still being finalised, but the plan is for the 4000 km, 20-day tour to start in Xian (home of the Terracotta Warriors). We'll then travel through western China, Kyrgyzstan & Uzbekistan in a mix of planes, buses & trains stopping at such exotic outposts as Kashgar, Tash Rabat, Bishket & Samarkand & like the wandering merchants of yesteryear, end up in Tashkent. WOW! It will be our third visit to China and once again we'll be working with Star Tours in Beijing and Coates Travel here in WA. Sign up early for this one, folks!

HOORAY FOR THE HOLLAND TRACK!

Our last 4WD tag-along-tour for 2012 is happening from November 1–5. Our annual Holland Track Expedition is a short, fully-catered, outback adventure to southeastern WA during wildflower season. It's one of our favourite trips & is a great way to test-drive the tag-along concept. What a great excuse for a fun break!

KAKADU DREAMING

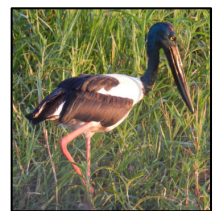


Our first ever caravan/motorhome safari to Kakadu was just brilliant! Great scenery, fabulous wildlife, wonderful cruises, fascinating Aboriginal rock art, & heaps of fun with a terrific group – what more could you possibly want?

Joining us from Western Australia were Eric & Clare Blight, Harry Butt & Mary Ellen O'Hagan, Norman & Lynn Dann, Mal & Jill Kent, Barry & Liz Lehman, Bill & Marion O'Neil; Donna & Graham Slessar; from NSW were Eric & Margaret Beehag, David & Sadie Chalmers, Rod & Jenny Griffith; David & Helen Wallings; from Victoria Jeanne & John Browne; from Queensland Lloyd & Liz Hillman; & all the way from Washington State USA were Ron & Tanya Van Boening.

We met up in Katherine & traveled in convoy to Litchfield National Park, Darwin, Kakadu & numerous points in between. There were so many highlights there's no room to tell you about them all but they included a welcome dinner in Katherine under the stars; a sunset cruise with delicious food & drinks in stunning Nitmiluk Gorge; & in Darwin a city bus tour with a great guide, a sunset cruise & a visit to Mindil Beach markets. Once we got to Kakadu there were the scenic bush walks ('The Three Amigos' courageously conquered the trek to Jim Jim Falls!), ancient indigenous rock art, superb Pot Luck suppers, firecracker jokes & two spectacular "Yellow Water" cruises - one in a misty dawn & the other during a golden sunset. Not only did we see the obligatory crocodiles (big buggers, too!), but also water buffalo, wild pigs, brumbies & dozens of birds including herons, sea eagles, jabirus, kingfishers, egrets, lorikeets & more. Sheer paradise!

Apart from some mechanical trouble with one of the vans (thanks to Lloyd & his amazing mobile garage!) & some dodgy navigating by Jan when Jeremy stayed behind to help with repairs, the safari was smoother than a Winnebago salesman! Thanks everyone, we loved it all!



HAVE PAINT GUN, WILL TRAVEL!

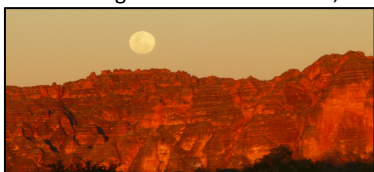
How annoying is it when you get small dings or scratches on the paintwork of your vehicle from bumper bingles, parking perils, supermarket side-swipes or kiddie catastrophes - not bad enough to warrant an insurance claim but irritating enough to drive you crazy! Well, we've discovered a great new service - a professional and mobile Mr Fix It who does small paint jobs on your vehicle right in your own driveway. It's professional, affordable & convenient. Plus, when the job's finished, your car looks like new! If you live in Perth, call Luke, The Bumper Man, on 0409 296 025.

KIMBERLEY CAPERS

Our annual Kimberley Explorer Tour is always magnificent but this year's was especially good - we actually made it up to Mitchell Falls! Buckets of unseasonally late rain had kept the road closed for the past two years & we'd had to revert to "Plan B" - nipping up to Cape Leveque then taking flights over the falls from Drysdale Station. But this year the weather did the right thing & we got through! Yay!

We had also decided to meet up in Derby instead of Broome for the first time & make our last night in Windjana Gorge instead of Fitzroy Crossing. We also stayed at the new Bungles caravan park (at the main Great Northern Highway turn-off) for the first time which is highly recommended. The itinerary changes worked out well & in future years we'll probably do the same.

Next year we'll be offering a self-catered Kimberley tour for the first time while our Safari Hostess, Rebina, takes a well-earned holiday, but this year, everyone got to gorge themselves on her wonderful 1000-star cooking. The Farewell Dinner, as always, was a night to remember!



Other highlights included swimming at Bells Gorge; a bush walk to Manning Gorge; admiring the historic rock art; scones, jam & cream at Ellenbrae Station; sundowners

on the banks of the Pentecost River with the Cockburn Ranges in the background & Henry - the resident crocodile - cruising lazily past; a sunset cruise on Lake Argyle; & the stunning sun setting/full moon rising show that Mother Nature turned on for us at the Bungles while we enjoyed drinks & nibblies. What a tough life!

From a 4WD perspective it was also 10 out of 10 with very few flat tyres, a trouble-free trip to the Bungles, & everyone crossing the King Edward River & several other water crossings like true professionals!

Thanks to our happy band of gypsies Peter & Robin Baxter (New Zealand); Max & Elsa Grebneff (South Australia); Sies & Mieke Rotgans (Netherlands); & Anne Gray & Cath Hartley, Christine Douch, Colin Willis & our passenger, Sally Ramsey from WA. Great trip, everyone!



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A WHALE OF A TIME!

While Jeremy & Rebina were leading our Kimberley Explorer Tour, Jan was enjoying some 'girlfriend' time down in Augusta, a quaint little seaside town 320 kms south of Perth. But the girls didn't go just for the scenery, they went to see whales! And boy, did they get their money's worth! They joined a half-day tour with Legend Charters who really lived up to their name! They saw heaps of whales & had Southern Rights breaching & spy-hopping really close to the boat which apparently is quite unusual! Now that's what you call an Orca-winning performance! To see a video clip of their magical time, visit <http://www.facebook.com/globalgypsies> (please click the "Like" button while you're there!) or check out you-tube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcKrouQUHt4&feature=em-share_video_user.

RUDALL RIVER REPORT

WAITING FOR RUDALL PIX!!!

Our annual Rudall River Expedition is a challenging 4WD outing into a remote area where you often don't see another soul - which is why we love it so much! And so did the intrepid travelers on our recent tour - Shane Hoare, Alex Eades & Suzanne Walden (WA); John & Diana Rawson, John & Rosemary Atkinson (NSW); Henri Janssens & Jozef Van Trier (Belgium); Alan Blundell (UK) and Jan Cook, our passenger, from New Zealand.

There were lots of memorable 'mechanical moments' including a record number of punctures (everyone thought they could become racing professionals after all the tyre-changing practice they had!); altering the route to avoid a bush fire on the road out of Marble Bar; snatch strap & split rim demos; & Alex towing Henri & Jozef from a dry river bed - we couldn't use a snatch strap cos they had hired a Britz vehicle which only has towing points, not rated recovery hooks. The unusually large number of hired vehicles also meant we had only limited space to carry extra fuel, food & firewood, so thanks to honorary gypsy Shane for helping us out & sharing the load!

Fun-wise there were lots of highlights including the walks at Mt Augustus (well done to those who made it to the top!); the specky scenery at Carrawine Gorge & Desert Queen Baths; surprise birthday parties for Shane & Alex; a lovely visit with Lyle Mills at Warrawagine Station; & the Farewell Dinner in the gorgeous Kennedy Ranges. It was a great trip everyone & thanks so much for joining us!

Until next time, happy travels from -

Jan & Jeremy