

Rex Ellis' SOS Safari

~ Special Outback Selection ~

After fifty years as an outback guide operating my own safari business, I am nearing retirement. This itinerary highlights my home state of South Australia (the Desert State) and offers a great variety of outback experiences. It is designed and priced for six people (private charter** or individuals) using two four-wheel drive vehicles, with a window seat for all. Driving hours are kept as low as possible. As in all of my itineraries, wildlife is a priority, as well as meeting outback people, including Aboriginals, in their own environment. This is a general interest journey, but like all of my trips, wildlife is a major focus.

Accommodation varies from an underground motel, luxury safari camp, station accommodation (from huts to homesteads), bush pubs, to my own Flinders Ranges 'mountain hideaway'. There are three flights (optional) included with bush pilots and boat trips on desert rivers. Catering, both accommodated and lunches, is of the highest standard possible, with good South Australian wines in the evenings. For six person private charters the itinerary offers a fair degree of flexibility at the requests of the group.

* The second night in the Great Victoria Desert is 'under the stars' (or tent if requested), because there is no 'accommodation' in the area. However cosy swags, mounted on stretchers are supplied, with hot shower and camp toilet available. It will probably be your most memorable night (for the right reasons!) Should 'private charter' groups require an 'all accommodated' trip, itinerary can be altered to achieve this.

** Private Charter (6 persons) booking have priority.

DAY PRIOR TO CHARTER

Clients with own transport can drive (or fly to nearby airstrip) to Rex and Patti Ellis' *Old Murray River Camel Farm*, located between Morgan and Waikerie in South Australia's Riverland, arriving by 1:30pm. Those without their own transport can travel to Port Augusta from Adelaide by air, coach or rail. We can give advice on transport and o/n accommodation.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Ex Port Augusta, via Iron Knob, Wuddina to Kangaluna safari camp.

(ref info@gawlerangessafaris.com) Afternoon and o/n. Hairy nosed wombats and other wildlife

Day 2 Via 'organ pipes' Hiltaba and Lake Everard stations. O/N Great Victoria Desert. Drive through the scenic granite 'domes' of the Gawler Ranges. View Yellow Footed Rock Wallaby. Through the 'dog fence' (dingo proof fence, arguably the world's longest man-made structure) to camp at granite rockholes (a *desert oasis* in the outback context) in Australia's largest most geologically/botanically varied desert.

Day 3 Via Mt Finke (highest feature in the Great Victoria Desert), Tarcoola (ghost town) and station track to Coober Pedy. Colourful sand dunes, varied bush, old goldmining town, passing trains, inspect opal mining operation. o/n underground motel. Alternative available.

Day 4 East via Anna Creek (world's largest cattle station) to William creek. Remote semi desert. Lunch, Lake Cadibarrawirracanna. Visit Anna Creek Station. Flight over Lake Eyre (2 hours incl *painted*

ITINERARY Cont...

Day 7 Visit Coongie Lakes, the largest permanent body of fresh water in Central Australia, 'located in the driest state in the driest continent on Earth'. o/n Innamincka Hotel.

Day 8 Visit the Burke & Wills 'dig tree' (QLD) to Tibooburra (NSW). o/n Family Hotel. Burke & Wills bridge, dig tree, Sturt Stony Desert (a spectacular red gibber/sand dune desert), dog fence, Tibooburra.

Day 9 Via the 'Silver City Highway' (dirt/sealed) to Palace Hotel in Broken Hill. A fascinating semi desert drive through a variety of country, arriving with plenty of time to experience famous Broken Hill. Palace Hotel is special.

Day 10 Via Cockburn (SA/NSW border), Olary, Bimbowrie Conservation Park, to Curnamona Station. Great 'vistas' saltbush plains, Olary Ranges, Aboriginal/Cobb & Co history, etc. Guests of Curnamona Station. o/n shearers quarters.

Day 11 Via Frome Downs Station to Arkaroola/Mt Painter Sanctuary o/n Arkaroola Motel. A great drive in 'wide open spaces', lunch on Lake Frome (Australia's 'whitest' large salt lake) Flinders Ranges to famous Arkaroola. Flight over the Gammon Ranges, with Arkaroola owner, Doug Sprigg.

Day 12 See Yellow Footed Rock Wallabies, meet local Aboriginal people, visiting rock painting gallery, Aroona Dam to Rex Ellis' 'Warragundi'. o/n Accommodation. This route crosses the Flinders' widest point (Balcanoona to Copley) and last 30 kilometres travels from sea level to 2000 foot above sea level - one of the most spectacular, late afternoon drives in Australia.

Day 13 Warragundi 'highlights'. Blinman (South Australia's highest town) township, guided tour of Blinman underground copper mine (optional), camel farm, flight with bush pilot. See the Flinders 'chocolate box' country of Brachina Gorge, Aroona Valley and Bunyeroo Gorge to homestead accommodation at Willow Springs Station or motel accommodation at Merna Mora Station.

Day 14 To Hawker, Geoff Morgan famous panorama gallery, via Orroroo to Burra (view the old spectacular open cut Burra copper mine (full of water), Mt Mary plains, Morgan to old Murray River Camel Farm. Boat trip on Murray River. Delivered to (those without transport) Waikerie Motel.

IN GENERAL:

- Participants need to be of reasonable health and fitness. The operator (Rex Ellis' Bush Safari) needs to be aware of any outstanding medical conditions.
- The operator (Rex Ellis' Bush Safari) reserves the right to alter the itinerary prior to or during the trip for whatever reasons. Refunds (full or partial) may apply under some conditions and at the discretion of the operator.
- A deposit of \$500 per person payable on booking. Balance due in the week prior to departure when weather conditions, etc. are assessed.
- An extra day (for private charters) to include Birdsville can be added. Price on application

Desert Boats - if navigable water is available later in 2017 or 2018, our usual desert boat safari to