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4WD ~ Camels ~ Boats

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.

* When camped out, cosy swags, mounted on stretchers are supplied, with hot shower and camp toilet available. These will be your most memorable nights (for the right reasons!) Should 'private charter' groups require an 'all accommodated' trip, there is a separate itinerary on our website.

** 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, to Nonning Station. Mt Ive Station, in the spectacular Gawler Ranges. Visit Lake Gairdner (SA's most scenic) and other features including the 'organ pipes'. Afternoon and o/n.

Day 2 Via Hiltaba and Lake Everard stations. O/N Great Victoria Desert. Drive through the scenic granite 'domes' of the Gawler Ranges. Private Station trackse, then 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.

ITINERARY Cont...

Day 4 East via Anna Creek (world's largest cattle station) to the tiny outback town of William creek. Remote semi desert. Lunch, Lake Cadibarrawirracanna. Visit Anna Creek Station. Flight over Lake Eyre (2 hours incl *painted desert*). Dinner at William Creek Hotel (one of the outback 'special bush pubs'). o/n camped out in Tirari Desert.

Day 5 Via Marree to Mungerannie Hotel. Oodnadatta Track, Tirari Desert, Artesian mound springs, Lake Eyre South, Desert 'sculptures', Birdsville Track. Mungerannie Pub. Visit the spectacular o/n camp on top of 'breakaway' in Sturt Stoney Desert.

Day 6 Via Strzelecki Desert (private track) to Innamincka (two nights). A 'desert day', Moomba gas fields, Cooper Creek boat trip, Burke & Wills locations. o/n the famous Innamincka Hotel. Upmarket motel accommodation.

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 camped out in Sturt Stoney Desert.

Day 8 Visit the Burke & Wills 'dig tree' (QLD) to Tibooburra (NSW). o/n camped out near Sturt's 'Depot Glen'. 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 o/n Palace Hotel in Broken Hill. A fascinating semi desert drive through a variety of country, history, Sturt's Depot Glen, etc. 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 of the day travels from sea level to over 2000 feet 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. 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

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