



Australian Bush Hospitality Pty Ltd. trading as:

diamantina touring company

since 1988 abn 14 051 678 212

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Remote Area Programs Information for participants joining **Pitjantjatjara Lands Expedition 2014**

Preliminary Information for All Participants.

Our remote area programs will have some participants traveling in our desert equipped Landcruisers and Patrols while others will be traveling in their own vehicles. These programs provide expedition travel to some of the most remote and isolated parts of inland Australia. To safely complete the program a lot of consideration and planning goes into vehicle preparation and ensuring that we have adequate fuel, water, food and protection for a safe and enjoyable experience. To this end we need to carry only essential items and possibly forego many of the daily trappings of our normal daily life. If you are used to having a daily shower and washing in many liters of water this will not be possible for most of the program – although you should be able to shower at least once every three days. If you like many cans of drink per day or lots of fine bottled wine, this is not possible. And finally if you like a complete change of clothing each day this may not be possible either! Sounds terrible - but if you are looking forward to real adventure travel there are many alternatives to these comforts and the rewards in this part of Australia are certainly worth a few deprivations. As you know the program involves a high proportion of travel in desert that is typically dry. Although there are several known points where we can fill up with water these can be unreliable and quality cannot be guaranteed. Outback travel presents challenges beyond the norm. Sometimes we have to divert our itinerary due to flooding, track closures, Aboriginal business, mechanical or safety issues—or to witness incredible events like wildflower shows or wildlife events. You need to have a flexible attitude. The outback is a big place and you can expect some very rough travel on tracks that have no maintenance. This program is NOT suitable for people with lower back problems or people unable to withstand long periods sitting in a vehicle. You also need to be aware that there are places where prompt medical evacuation is not possible.

The expedition staff:

Your Expedition staff collectively has over 40 years of experience traveling through remote parts of Australia and has the mechanical knowledge necessary in the case of emergency. They also have remote area first aid training. They have extensive experience in leading groups in inland Australia and have a broad knowledge of landscape features so will be able to assist participants to interpret these. We carry a number of reference books and maps for inland Australia and will be responsible for participant welfare and the “learning for fun” part of the program. During travel time we maintain commentary both in the Diamantina vehicles and by radio for self drive participants. On a daily basis you will find yourself coping with a limited amount of washing water and wisely using a cloth washer – you will find that a five litre ice cream container makes an ideal wash dish. ‘Wet-ones’ have proved to be a good substitute for a quick wipe down before meals. We recommend that you bring clothing which can be washed when we do have a plentiful supply of water – we carry the buckets, you bring the soap and the line. There will occasionally be time for you to wash and dry clothes, however pack sensibly to minimise the need to. Showers can be purchased at towns and settlements along the way.





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The success of any expedition relies on the group dynamic. You are likely to be travelling with people from other countries, different socio-economic backgrounds and different takes on life, politics etc. That is one of the wonderful things about humanity. If you are intolerant of other people you may need to reconsider participating, as you will be in close quarters with other people for the duration of the expedition.

What to Pack

Below is a recommended list of items to pack, it is not prescriptive. When thinking about clothing, remember there are significant climate variations. —You will experience all kinds of weather.

Two sets long pants/2 short
Light shirts with collars,
a warm roll neck or woollen for evenings
is good,
a t-shirt or two.
Jumper or Polar-fleece
Wide brimmed hat and beanie
Boots or walking shoes, and
sandals or thongs or the like
Socks –
Undies – whatever you think is a fair thing.
Waterproof jacket/windcheater
Pyjamas (optional). Thermal
underwear is a good alternative
Swimming costume (optional
but good when having a bush
shower)
Sandals or thongs
Toilet bag (soap, comb, brush,
toothbrush, toothpaste,
deodorant, shampoo)
Washing soap, 10 m line and pegs
Spare glasses
Medicines (tablets, potions, lotions,

Towel—micro fiber are good
Sun screen cream
Insect repellent
Washer
Small bowl for washing (eg 5 liter plastic
ice
cream container or equivalent)
Wet ones/baby wipes
Water bottle for drinking
Camera ,spare film and batteries
Torch and spare batteries – we
recommend
the led miners lamps
Spare plastic bags
Needle and thread
Small backpack to carry your day to day
items
Pen, diary
Money and credit cards
Tickets
Fly net
Pair of gardening gloves –
handy for collecting wood etc.





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A great Souvenir!!

Since fossils and Aboriginal artifacts are off limits by law, and the usual assortment of tea towels and spoons are as tacky as always, you may like to bring along a packet of zip lock glad sandwich bags. Fill them with different coloured sands en route, and when you get home, layer them into a spaghetti jar.

Communication with the Outside World

Whilst some come to get away from friends and family, others like to stay in touch. To this end, public phones are available in all the towns we stop at. If there is an emergency at home while you are away and you need to be contacted we have a satellite phone for emergencies only.

Toilet and personal hygiene

By nature deserts are dry places, and as we are traveling to the more remote desert areas, water is at a premium. Showers will be available to purchase at towns we travel through. Toilet is usually a shovel and a toilet roll (which we provide- with a box of matches). A tub of water and antiseptic soap is for hand washing, and the vehicles all have antiseptic hand cream pump packs in the door pockets. A good way to wash when we are in remote areas is to bring a flannel and a small container (something the size of a margarine Container) and some "soap on tap". You may also want to bring along some antiseptic cream – dry hand wash. You'd be surprised how creative you can be. We traveled with a hairdresser once who washed and conditioned her hair with one cup of water!!!!

Meals

Provisioning for a remote area desert expedition requires careful menu planning. Once we are on the road there are limited opportunities for re-provisioning. We serve modern contemporary cuisine from all over the world including Greek, Italian, Thai etc. Do not expect just meat and three vegetables. You can expect to eat very well. If you have any food allergies or dislikes you must advise us at least three weeks prior to travel. We are unable to amend the menu or make special dietary considerations once we are on the road.

Drinks

Our drinking water in camp is rainwater or potable bore water. We also provide cordial with lunch , and tea and coffee in camp. We have an icebox to store soft drinks. You can stock up on soft drinks at towns en route. Alcoholic beverages can only be consumed on Day 1 & 2 as alcohol is prohibited on APY Lands. Make sure any beverages you are bringing with you are stored in glass or plastic. Modern cans don't stand up to the vibration caused by corrugated roads and tend to break. For drinkers there is Coopers Birrell available at major supermarkets, a zero alcohol beer which is quite palatable.

Accidents can happen

We are traveling into some of the most remote country in the world, and have to be well prepared. Your tour guides are trained in advanced and remote area first aid and we carry extensive first aid equipment, however we are not a mobile dispensary, nor do we carry pain killers for everyday use. We are not permitted to provide you with any medication so we recommend you bring the following. Adequate personal medication you may need Band-Aids or Elastoplasts Paracetamol or Aspirin Stingose, adequate supplies of any personal medication.





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Camp Duties

As a member of the expedition you will be expected to assist in camp duties including washing dishes, food preparation, collecting firewood and assisting in packing and unpacking of vehicles. This is part of being a team member and will contribute to both the success of the expedition and your enjoyment.

Electronic devices

We supply limited facilities to recharge electronic devices. We do not use generators, however we have 12 volt to 240 volt invertors to charge devices with a standard Australian 240 volt power lead. We also have cigarette lighter plugs in all vehicles. Be sure to bring plenty of batteries and spare SD cards for your cameras as these are not available en route.

