

# TRAVEL WEST

## 4WD TAG ALONG TO BIRDSVILLE, INNAMINCKA AND AROUND THE CORNER COUNTRY

**7 NIGHT FULLY ESCORTED & MOTEL ACCOMMODATED**

**Birdsville-Simpson Desert-Innamincka-Corner Country**

**24 May, 29 June, 19 July & 19 August 2012**

Test your driving skills in the Simpson Desert, learn about the history of the region, the river systems and relax as Graham & Deb take care of everything you will need on your fully motel accommodated 4WD self drive around the outback, taking in Queensland, South Australia & New South Wales. You will be required to bring your own late model 4WD with reasonable ground clearance and a high/low transfer case. Our escort vehicle is fitted with a first-aid kit, satellite phone and extra recovery gear. As with all other Travel West tours, this tour is for Non-Smokers Only. This tour does not cater for pets or children.

### **Day 1 (lunch & dinner)**

8.30am – Meet with Graham & Deb at **Charleville Bush Caravan Park** for a briefing before we begin our adventure west. Depart Charleville and travel west to Quilpie for lunch at “Fresh on Broilga”. Whilst in Quilpie we will stop by the Information Centre to see the latest exhibition, wander through their museum and see some magnificent displays of opal, including the famous opal altar. This afternoon we will continue onto the tiny town of Windorah, crossing over the mighty Cooper Creek, a short side trip along the nature trail and into town.

**Accommodation: Western Star Motel/Cooper Cabins x 1 night**

### **Day 2 (breakfast, morning tea, lunch & dinner)**

After a leisurely start, we'll depart Windorah and travel west to Birdsville on the Diamantina Developmental Road and see ruins and listen to researched history. We will have a side trip to Haddon Corner, our first challenge at some sand hills! Enjoy the panoramic view from Deon's Lookout of some of this great country whilst we enjoy lunch and arrive in Birdsville this afternoon, famous for its annual outback horse race meeting and the Birdsville Hotel. We will visit the famous race track on the way into town. After check in we will head out to Big Red the biggest of the 1,100 sand hills that make up the Simpson Desert. Test your driving skills getting up and down Big Red before returning to the pub for dinner.

**Accommodation: Birdsville Hotel/Motel x 2 nights**

### **Day 3 (breakfast, lunch & dinner)**

Up early this morning for breakfast and then head to Big Red and commence our adventure into the Simpson Desert. Traverse a number of sand hills into the Desert along the QAA Line to Eyre Creek. The Simpson is a wonderful place, take the time to enjoy it. Returning to Birdsville enjoy an ‘award winning’ pie for lunch at the Birdsville Bakery before some free time to visit the Warrarri Information Centre. This afternoon, you might like to drop into the Blue Poles Gallery where you will see a collection of local artist Wolfgang's stunning watercolours of the Simpson Desert and channel country or perhaps chat to a local over a cold drink in the Birdsville Hotel! Dinner this evening will be in the Birdsville Hotel.

#### **Day 4 (breakfast, morning tea, lunch & dinner)**

Following breakfast it's off to Innamincka via scenic Cordillo Downs. See historic ruins, vast gibber plains and magnificent red sand hills as today's adventure unfolds and arrive late this afternoon at Innamincka, South Australia. Innamincka is one of the most remote tourist facilities in the world and is rich with history of early Australian explorers, most notably Burke & Wills and also the heart of the oil & gas resources rich Cooper Basin.

**Accommodation: Innamincka Hotel/Motel x 2 nights**

#### **Day 5 (breakfast, morning tea, lunch & dinner)**

Highlights of your visit to Innamincka will include Burke's Grave, Kings Marker and a visit to Wills Site where you will hear the Burke and Wills Story, the Australian Inland Mission Building, Innamincka Trading Post, and Australia's most famous coolibah tree - the Burke and Wills Dig Tree. This Coolibah tree is believed to be over 200 years old and still has the three blazes on the trunk put there over 150 years ago by the base camp party that Burke and Wills missed by 6 hours. Also see Cooper Creek, which has an incredible amount of birdlife and natural beauty while we enjoy sunset drinks (byo) and nibbles.

#### **Day 6 (breakfast, morning tea, lunch & dinner)**

Depart Innamincka and travel south to the Old Strzelecki Track stopping to see the Geodynamics Hot Fractured Rock Project. Travel past a number of gas and oil installations and Merty Merty Station before arriving at Cameron Corner – which is the junction of New South Wales, South Australia and Queensland and was surveyed in 1880 by James Cameron. We'll have some lunch at "the Corner" before we travel into NSW and the unique little town of Tibooburra. Dinner will be at the Family Hotel where some time ago a few artists, fascinated by the desert, came to the town to paint. Any flat surface was fair game and there are still original works by Clifton Pugh, Russell Drysdale and Rick Amor on the hotel's walls.

**Accommodation: Family Hotel/Motel x 2 nights**

#### **Day 7 (breakfast, morning tea, lunch & dinner)**

Breakfast will be at the Corner Country Store before we head south to the historic village of Milparinka, which today is being reinvented with a number of historic buildings waiting to be explored. Enjoy a look around and morning tea at Depot Glen before returning to Tibooburra for lunch and a free afternoon to explore this unique little town. Enjoy dinner this evening at the Family Hotel.

#### **Day 8 (breakfast)**

After breakfast at the Corner Country Store, you are free to depart and continue your travels. Head south to Broken Hill, east to Bourke & Lightning Ridge or north via Noccundra to Thargomindah, Eulo, Cunnamulla and back to Charleville.

#### **What's Included:**

Motel accommodation  
All meals and smokos  
Desert Park Pass  
Map & route notes along the way  
The services and assistance of professional guides Graham & Deb whilst on tour.

#### **What's not included:**

UHF radio  
Fuel (must have fuel for 600km)  
Repairs and recovery of your vehicle  
Drinks and personal items/souvenirs.

**Cost of Trip:** \$2470.00 per person (twin share)

**Booking conditions apply**