



Australian Bush Hospitality Pty Ltd. trading as:

diamantina touring company

since 1988 abn 14 051 678 212

74 jamieson licola Road
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Remote Area Programs Information for participants joining **Burke and Wills Expedition 2011**

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. The number to call is 0418561890. Messages to this phone are passed on daily. For inter vehicular communications we use UHF radio sets. You will need a 5 watt vehicle mounted set. If you do not own a set we can hire one to you. Contact our office.

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 , tea and coffee in camp and a glass of table wine with dinner. If you wish to bring something else to drink please feel free. We have an icebox to store beer and soft drinks and room to store spirits. You can stock up on soft drinks at towns en route. Alcoholic beverages should be brought with you. You can also restock at pubs along the way. We find that people tend to drink more than they think they will, so err on the side of indulgence rather than temperance. Whilst this is in no way intended to suggest we encourage the consumption of alcohol, the desert climate, combined with balmy evenings under the stars is certainly conducive to a moderate tittle if you are that way inclined. Make sure the 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 wines, ensure your boxes have large cardboard separators. Even better if you have your own 12 volt car fridge – if you do we would be grateful if we can use space in it to store items that require cold storage





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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.

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.

Information for Self-drive, Tag-along Drivers and their Passengers

Self drive participants travel in our convoy/. On a regular day of travel the Expedition Leader travels in the lead vehicle with the main convoy behind spaced apart at safe distances. The order of travel is at the discretion of the tour leader, and will change during the trip. The rear vehicle is always a tour company vehicle for safety. In addition to the inclusions mentioned elsewhere for all participants, self-drive, tagalong participants are assured of satellite phone support for emergency situations, mechanical assistance and back up, knowledge of the area and practical advice for the unskilled four wheel driver. We do NOT provide vehicle recovery if we cannot get the vehicle moving. Recovery is YOUR responsibility in the event that we cannot repair the vehicle. It is a requirement that all self drive participants follow directions of the tour leader as to safe traveling speeds and general convoy etiquette. As a team member you will need to operate your vehicle as a member of the convoy as a whole. On arrival in camp you will be directed where to park your vehicle.

Vehicle Preparation

Do not overload your vehicle. Be prudent when packing. Store everything in sturdy containers. Keep liquids in plastic, and pack everything tightly in your vehicle so nothing moves around. Anything that can spill will as the terrain is very rough. An overloaded vehicle will just put more pressure on your running gear and make it harder for you. We provide tables, lighting in camp and all catering equipment. Feel free to bring a comfy fold out chair.

Vehicle Service and Spares

Ensure that your vehicle has had a complete service prior to traveling and is in top shape. Bring along any spares

Tyres

Our program route covers the most demanding types of terrain including sand, stones, gibber, mud and bitumen. Therefore tyres should be in top condition, 3/4 tread or more. Tubeless tyres are preferable however split rims are OK. In sand you will need to deflate your tyres to 16-20psi. You will need to bring a tyre gauge and a 12 volt pump. Bring at least one spare tyre in top condition as well as plugs and patches. We provide bead breakers.





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Roof Rack

It is recommended that roof racks should be steel and of an approved type. Do not overload your roof rack. Keep your centre of gravity as low as possible. Heavy tool boxes are better stored low in your vehicle.

Bull Bars Bull bars are recommended. You should also ensure you have a front and rear anchor point in case we need to recover your vehicle with our winches or straps.

Fuel Range

Fuel is available regularly along the route, long range tanks are recommended but not essential.

Communications

The lead vehicle will carry a satellite phone along with a UHF CB radio. It is essential for all vehicles to be fitted with a UHF CB radio to keep in contact with the Expedition Leader's vehicle. Any good brand of UHF CB will be appropriate; however a hand held unit is not suitable as they are difficult to hear whilst traveling. Ensure you have a sturdy antenna, one that will tolerate long periods of intense vibration due to corrugates. You may wish to bring a spare antenna.

240 Volt Generators

We do not permit the use of 12 volt generators therefore allowing all to enjoy the peace and quiet of the outback and wilderness. We use battery lighting for the main camp area. We suggest you carry 12 volt fluorescent tube lighting and/or a good torch. By all means play plenty of music in your vehicle during the day, however please do not have music playing in camp at night. Many people come to the outback for solitude and quiet, and musical tastes can be highly subjective.

Recommended Spares

Since this program covers difficult and remote areas, please think carefully before omitting any of the items listed below:

- radiator hoses
- fan belts
- heater hose
- 1 liter gear oil
- 5 liters engine oil
- oil filter
- brake fluid
- fuel filter
- points
- insulation tape
- distributor cap
- rotor button
- jumper leads
- spark plugs
- condenser
- coil

- spare globes and fuses
- wire
- 5-minute araldite
- fuel tank sealer
- radiator sealer
- puncture repair kit
- can CRC or similar
- universal joint
- tyre pump
- pressure gauge
- spare wheel complete
- spare tubes or wheel complete
- spare ignition key
- fire extinguisher
- shade mesh to tie up under your vehicle and over radiator to protect from spinifex seed

What to take (Per vehicle basic list)





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tent or swag
bucket
12 volt fluorescent light or torch
first aid kit and other items as listed for all participants
containers for water for personal use and an emergency supply
also 2 X 20 liter plastic water containers for use in the communal kitchen
spare well sealed fuel containers
snatch strap (good quality heavy duty)
D shackles
jack and board to place jack on (in sand),
shovel (long handled is better).
basic tool kit including appropriate tools for tyre changing.
tubeless plug tyre repair kit is handy for tubeless tyres.

Tag-along vehicles will be required to carry up to three boxes of food materials in their vehicle for group use. Please reserve this space during vehicle preparation. Your tour staff will allocate and distribute these items in Melbourne.

Water availability and conservation

This program involves a high proportion of travel in desert, which is typically dry. Although there are known points where we can fill up with water these can be unreliable and quality cannot be guaranteed. Safe travel requires that water from different sources is not mixed, that water is used sparingly and that, except in cases of emergency, reserves are always kept. See the note above re carrying water for common use in addition to personal needs.

Vehicle inspections

Each vehicle will be required to be inspected at least three weeks prior to departure to check mechanical condition and suitability for the terrain which will include a lot of dune crossings, gravel roads, creek crossings and possibly muddy conditions. Inspection can be performed with an approved vehicle. Please bring with you written proof of vehicle condition. This is a necessary requirement due to the remote and isolated areas we cover. If your vehicle is from 4X4 hire this is not necessary, however, if you do hire a vehicle, carefully inspect spare wheels, jacks, hoses, and have a good look over your vehicle prior to travel. Check for oil leaks. Do not trust the hirer to be providing you with a first rate vehicle!

REMEMBER THE SECRET OF A SUCCESSFUL AND ENJOYABLE EXPEDITION IS GOOD VEHICLE PREPARATION.

