



10 Day Simpson Desert Hay River Tour Itinerary

Day one: On leaving Birdsville, we head for Big Red, along the QAA line to Eyre Creek, setting up camp around 5.00pm. Vehicles will be heavily laden so the pace is not so great. Need to carry 662km worth of fuel and 6 days water plus.....Join the circle around the "Fire of Gidgee Coal" for a tale or two.

Day two: We see ourselves at Poeppel Corner before lunch, names in the book, then heading north, firstly past Poeppel Oil Well, camping in the area near the Beachcomber Oil Well. We use some of the tracks made by the oil explorers, making travelling easy, well relatively so. Camp in the Gidgee country.

Day three: On leaving camp it's onto a shot line for a while, heading ENE then turn north. Where a track will be barely visible. Here we rely on GPS and a keen eye to follow the track. We are heading for the bottom of the Hay River, land marks like the Claypan, Black Stump, Eagle Nest, are what we are looking for. On to the Blazed tree at Camp 16, left by C.T. Madigan on his 1939 crossing of the Simpson. A visitor's book is there to sign. Camp adjacent to the tree.

Day Four: As the Hay River becomes larger the track gets a little rougher with the Spinifex. In these conditions it's a must to carry a hook for getting out any grass that is caught under the car. This can cause fire, so a couple of fire extinguishers and a 2 litre pump spray are a must. We meander our way up the old river channels, looking for the best path. The River is in many channels now, picking the best one can be a challenge.

Day Five: We head for Lake Caroline today as we meander our way northward following the river. We reflect on the diary of Charles Winnecke and wonder in amazement at how he travelled this area on camels in 1883. This area has never had much visitation, tracks can be hard to find and if you look at the 'Simpson Desert North' 1:250,000 map there is no man made objects on it. There was a little activity in the oil exploration days but other than that, nothing. We leave the track and cross the river to Lake Caroline and hopefully camp near it. Bush Camp.

Day Six: Heading for Batton Hill camp, back across the River and onto a more distinct track now used on our Bush Tucker Trip. A chance for the fit to climb Mt Winnecke adjacent to the road. When we arrive at camp, a hot shower awaits and we will meet traditional owner, Lindsay Bookie. Take a visit to Goyder's Pillar, named by Charles Winnecke on his 1882 expedition. Sunset is a spectacular site on this Pillar. Showers, Toilets, Bush Kitchen.

Day Seven: Bush Tucker Tour with Lindsay Bookie. visit some of the surrounding features, Mt Teitkins, Mt Winnecke and Goyders Pillar. Most of this will be cross country so you need to be prepared. Bush tucker, what's in season can be collected on the way. Lindsay will show how and what to look for.

Day Eight: From here it's in High Range heading to Jervois, ice creams are a treat here, refuel before heading for Boulia. At Boulia we overnight at the campgrounds on the Burke river. Fresh yabbies caught from the river are a treat.

Day Nine: Boulia to Old Cork. From Boulia we take some more gravel roads to a fantastic camp site on the Diamantina river.

Day Ten: Monday. From Boulia we take some more gravel roads to the remarkable site of the largest known record of dinosaur tracks. This 19 million year old record of an aggressors attack on small dinosaurs on the edge of a lake will have you spellbound. This is truly a world class site. We visit the Matilda Centre, and local attractions. The local hotel provides the venue for a celebratory dinner before our farewells.

Don't Dream It, Do It!



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