



## 10 Day Simpson Desert Hay River Tour Itinerary

### 9 – 18 June 2011

**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.

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## HAY RIVER INFORMATION PACK

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This information pack will provide the general information about travelling with us and the planned itinerary for this trip. For details of the cost of the tour, please refer to the website ([www.djolsen.com](http://www.djolsen.com)).

It also contains the Trip Sheet, which, if you decide to book this tour, should be filled out and returned to us.

### **Booking Terms**

There are two ways to book your tour - online, through the 'book now' link on the website ([www.djolsen.com](http://www.djolsen.com)) and offline, through speaking to us or emailing us. Offline bookings allow you the flexibility of paying a non-refundable deposit to secure your position on the tour.

Offline bookings are those made directly with us and require a payment of a non-refundable deposit of \$200. This is to secure your place on the tour. You can pay the deposit by cheque or you can direct debit into our account. The details are:

Name: David and Justine Olsen's 4WD TagAlong Tours and Training

BSB: 124055

Account: 20407712

Reference: Your surname + tour name (as many letters as fits)

An Online booking requires you to pay the full amount with your credit card. Please note, children and extra passengers are **not** included in the ticket price, so please contact us for details before making your payment. Included in the ticket price for all participants is an online booking fee of 15%. This fee is not refundable.

Please note our **Cancellation Policy** – it can be found on page 7 of this info pack.

Once you have decided which way to book your tour, complete the Trip Sheet and return it to us by email, fax (0747893298) or post it to 36 Octagonal Cres, Kelso, Qld, 4815. Attach the cheque or proof of direct debit transaction for your deposit; or the online receipt.

Once the deposit and trip sheet are received, you will receive another booklet of information (a booking pack) which will give you more detailed and specific information about the tour. Together, these two packs make up all of the information you should need to plan for the tour. Of course you can email us anytime at [admin@djolsen.com](mailto:admin@djolsen.com).

**Final payment** of tour is required in full 30 days prior to the tour start date (9 May 2011).

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## About David and Justine



David and Justine Olsen are passionate about the Australian outback. For years they have been guiding small groups of people to the places they love. David and Justine Olsen's 4WD Tag Along Tours operates out of Townsville in North Queensland.

David has been guiding others around his favorite places for 27 years. He has led many expeditions to some of the most exciting places in the outback. David and Justine prefer to keep their traveling groups small, so that they can concentrate on giving you the best experience possible.

David Olsen is not only an experienced off-road driver but a writer and photographer as well. He was born in Queensland Australia and took up an interest in photography at 14 years of age. Beginning as a freelancer for his local newspaper, he travelled to Nicaragua in 1985 and Mexico in 1986 working on social documentary. Upon returning to Australia he took up an interest in off-road cycling which eventually led to a marriage of the two skills and freelance work with several cycling magazines, covering World Cup and World Championship events in Mountain Biking in particular.

His interest in driving off-road began with go-carts, then rally cars and later 4WD vehicles. With a real passion for the Australian Outback he and wife Justine decided some time ago to begin introducing others to the stark beauty, people and wonders of this remote land.

David and Justine are experienced travelers, campers and four-wheel drivers. David has been Trip Co-ordinator and a major trip leader for the Townsville and District 4WD Club. He is a certified 4WD and Towing instructor. He has a Senior First Aid certificate and has years of training experience in various fields. He is also a Level II flying instructor (gliding) with the North Queensland Soaring Centre.

When you choose to travel with one of their guided tours, you will experience the outback as they do, by full immersion. David loves to tell a story, and his knowledge of the outback will ensure you experience it in all of its glory, reliving some of the amazing history as you travel.

Above all safe travel is the key. Outback travel alone is costly and can be dangerous. Tag along tours provide greater safety and the advice of an experienced guide may well save you thousands of dollars in vehicle repairs, tyres and equipment.

## Why Travel with Us?

We are passionate about the Australian outback, the people, the places and the culture. It is precisely this passion that opens doors for us and for you.

We lead our own tours, we don't contract the tours out to others. When you take a tour with us you are not in the hands of an employee who may just be waiting for his next paycheck.

We know the outback. We love to travel in outback Australia, and have been doing so for a long time.

We love to tell a story, and the outback is full of them. We love to provide our guests with all of the interesting history, both European and aboriginal, in all of the places we visit. We are passionate about learning as much as we can about every region person and culture, and passing that information on so that you can fully appreciate the wonders of this amazing land.

We know our stuff. David has been a trainer and instructor in many fields throughout the years. His knowledge of off-road driving and survival ensures a safe trip for you.

We undertake new training programs as guides and trainers every year, to ensure we are aware of all of the latest advances and requirements.

Our policies and procedures are rigorously examined on a regular basis to ensure we deliver the best and safest tours we can.

Having lived in North Queensland for almost our entire lives, we have access to and, we can take you to places others don't even know exist

But don't take our word for it. Here are just some customer comments.

**"I am so glad I chose to travel with you" - JC Sydney**

**"Thanks for a great trip - up to and beyond expectations." Judy and Roger (Victoria)**

**"... a wonderful trip ... all felt we had seen, experienced and learnt even more than we had hoped for. We all came away with a great sense of achievement." LG Group Sydney.**

## Taking a tag along tour means that your holiday remains a holiday-

1. You have plenty of time to indulge in individual travel and tourism interests along the trek routes
2. All permits and access arrangements are made for you
3. Checking & monitoring outback road conditions for your upcoming 4 wheel drive experience is safely handled by your 4wd tour guides
4. You don't have to research exactly where to go, we have the trips all mapped out for you
5. No training courses; you are given hands on 4wd trek training as you enjoy your adventure travel
6. No need to restrict your travel plans to match those of your travel companions. It is always necessary to have a second vehicle out there with you.
7. Meet new people experiencing and sharing in a common travel adventure full of fun and excitement.
8. Your 4wd tour guides have been there before and will take you to unique places that are little known and cannot be found on the standard Australian tourist 4wd trek routes
9. Communication equipment required for safe travel is expensive. Leave that up to us.
10. Third party recover costs in places like the Simpson Desert can run close to \$5000 (\$68 per km AND \$68 per hour). We do our best to recover you without using third parties, but if you are travelling alone or with inexperienced people you may well have to pay huge sums of money. Unfortunately there are very few people who would volunteer to tow you over 1100 sand dunes.

We will advise you on what spares you need to carry, how to best prepare your camping gear, Importantly what to leave at home as well as what to take.

We supply

Hot Shower (where water is available)

Toilet

BBQ cooking facilities and camp ovens and tuition on how to use them

HF Radio contact

First Aid

Interpretation- cultural, flora and fauna

4WD tuition

Recovery equipment

Convoy management

Fuel management

And much more

Our post booking package will provide you lots more information.

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# HAY RIVER TOUR

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Congratulations on selecting this amazing 4WD trip. The Simpson Desert Hay River trek is unique, as the only trek currently available in the Simpson Desert that travels parallel to the dune system and the only trek that takes you into the little explored northern region of the Simpson Desert.

We know you will really enjoy this trip, as it presents unique vistas and opportunities. It is however one of the remotest trips that can be done, so we need to ensure the highest level of safety possible for all participants.

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## Information for Tour Participants.

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- **Please make sure you register for a trip** by completing the attached trip sheet. Full payment must be received 30 days prior to the trip. Our payment and cancellation policy is included in this info pack.
- **Complete and sign the trip sheet** and return to us with your deposit/payment to hold your place on the tour.
- **Maintain vehicle in a roadworthy condition.** Due to poor vehicle preparation in the past, by some participants, your vehicle will need to have been inspected by us or by a reputable 4WD specialist, prior to the trip, (hire vehicles are exempt) so that if there are any problems, they can be fixed prior to departure. If you use a 4WD specialist then, you will need to present proof that your vehicle was inspected. Please contact us as soon as you can to arrange an inspection.
- Tyres must have suitable tread for the conditions anticipated. 70% tread is recommended, at least all-terrain tyres (A/T), If you have light truck (LT) tyres fitted, all the better, as these handle rough terrain better than passenger tyres. Good tyres are critical on this tour as the Gibb River road is notoriously hard on tyres.
- Ensure that the vehicle has **front and rear recovery points** fitted and rated to at least 4000kg. In addition, you are to **carry your own snatch strap**. If you have “Bow” shackles rated for 3.25 tonne, then please bring them along. If you don't have such shackles don't worry, we carry sufficient.
- It is recommended that you also carry a suitable fire extinguisher or a large squeeze bottle filled with water. Spinifex under vehicles can cause fires.
- Provide adequate personal supplies of fuel, food and water for the trip, relevant vehicle equipment and spares or as advised by us.
- While on the trip, follow the directions of the Trip Leader at all times.
- Leaving or departing from the trip and/or convoy is only with Trip Leader's knowledge and agreement. Due to the expense of organising remote area trips, there will be no refunds should you pull out mid-trip.
- Where warranted, any incidents are to be reported to the Trip Leader who will provide details in the incident report form.
- Should your vehicle break down, we will do all that we can without jeopardising other participants, to ensure we recover your vehicle. In certain rare situations, this may require the use of third parties. We cannot be responsible for any costs incurred for third parties to recover your vehicle, if we are unable to do so ourselves. We will do everything we can to avoid having to use third parties.
- In an emergency situation the trip leader needs to know if there are any resources he can utilise. If you have any of the following experience or qualifications, please make it known to the trip leader
  - Off road 4WD experience
  - First Aid Certificate or medical qualifications
  - Bush Mechanic skills (basic fault finding)
  - HF Radio experience

**All participants are reminded that:**

- we endeavour to ensure a high level of safety for all participants
- there are many factors and unforeseen circumstances that we have no control over, such as weather conditions.
- you are responsible for your vehicle and the persons in that vehicle and you are expected to demonstrate a duty of care to all road users, members of the public, and trip participants.
- convoy procedures, codes of ethics are provided for the safety and enjoyment of everyone on a trip/event
- participation on trip is conditional upon participants accepting the convoy procedures, codes of ethics and by-laws thus accepting liability for own actions at all times.
- Travel on the OTL requires traversing deep water. Depending on your vehicle, the depth of the water, weather and other factors, we can give no guarantee that we can travel the OTL. The tour leader reserves the right to change the route if necessary to protect participants and vehicles.

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**David and Justine Olsen's Tag-Along Tours  
Code of Ethics**

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1. Enjoy your recreation and respect the rights of others.
2. Obey the laws and regulations for recreational vehicles that apply to public lands.
3. Respect the cultural, heritage and environmental values of public/private land by obeying restrictions that may apply.
4. Respect our flora and fauna. Stop and look, but never disturb.
5. Keep to assigned vehicle tracks.
6. Keep the environment clean. Carry our own, and any other rubbish out.
7. Keep your vehicle mechanically sound and clean to reduce the environmental impact.
8. Adopt minimal environmental impact and driving practices.
9. Seek permission before driving on private land. Do not disturb livestock or watering points, leave gates as found.
10. Take adequate water, food, fuel, basic spares as recommended by us.
11. Lodge trip details with a responsible person, and ensure that person's details are recorded on the trip sheet.

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**David and Justine Olsen's Tag-Along Tours  
Cancellation Policy**

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The cancellation policy for each of the booking systems (online and offline) is outlined below:

**Online booking cancellation policy**

Online booking is made through the 'book now' link on the website. Full payment required. Included in the ticket price for all participants is an online booking fee of 15%. This fee is not refundable.

Participants canceling not less than 30 days prior will have all but this fee refunded.

Participants canceling 29 days to not less than 21 days prior will have 75% of the ticket price, less the booking fee, refunded.

Participants canceling 20 days to not less than 15 days prior will have 50% of the ticket price, less the booking fee, refunded.

Participants canceling less than 14 days prior will forfeit all monies paid

**Offline booking cancellation policy**

Offline bookings are those made directly with us. Offline bookings require a payment of a non-refundable deposit of \$200, with the full tour costs payable 30 days prior to the tour start date.

Participants canceling more than 30 days prior will have all but the deposit refunded.

Participants canceling 29 days to not less than 21 days prior will have 75% of the ticket price, less the deposit, refunded.

Participants canceling 20 days to not less than 15 days prior will have 50% of the ticket price, less the deposit, refunded.

Participants canceling less than 14 days prior will forfeit all monies paid

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# David and Justine Olsen's 4WD Tag-Along Tours

## CONVOY PROCEDURES AND RULES

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1. Observe the road rules at all times.
2. Each vehicle is **responsible for the vehicle behind**.
3. A vehicle must **wait at each intersection** until the vehicle behind can observe the next direction of the route.
4. The convoy will only travel at the speed of the slowest vehicle in the convoy.
5. Should a vehicle become separated from the convoy, that vehicle will stop and wait for someone to return.
6. No vehicle shall pass the trip leader unless instructed to do so.
7. Each driver shall keep a **safe distance behind the vehicle in front** at all times especially in hilly country or after water crossings when brakes are wet or when dust prevents good vision.
8. **Allow the vehicle in front to get up or down steep slopes** or obstacles before following.
9. Whilst travelling in convoy, **on the highway or in heavy dust, headlights shall be switched on**.
10. In the event of an incident on a trip all non-essential vehicles and personnel will clear the immediate area, to allow easier access for appropriate action to be taken.
11. With larger convoys, each tour participant may be asked to act as "tail-end Charlie" on a rotating basis. The role of tail-end Charlie is to communicate to the trip leader the status of the convoy. The **vehicle behind the trip leader will open gates**, pull over to the side of the road to allow the rest of the convoy through, shut the gate as found, then rejoin the convoy at the rear in front of tail-end Charlie. With small convoys the trip leader may open and close all gates.
12. All **drivers are responsible for their passengers** at all times.
13. No firearms will be permitted on trips.
14. National Parks do not allow domestic animals. Domestic animals are not allowed on trips.
15. The **use of UHF radios is primarily for communication** between the trip leader and participants.
16. All participants shall abide by the directions and instructions given by the trip leader, especially in regard to:
  - a) Safety of others
  - b) Route to be taken
  - c) Fire precautions and restrictions
  - d) Care and respect of private property
  - e) Use of potentially dangerous items eg. axes winches and snatch straps
  - f) Any other instructions issued for a particular activity
17. In winching or recovery situations, instructions will be given by the leader or a designated participant.
18. Intoxicating liquor will not be consumed by the driver and/or passenger of any vehicle during the driving portion of any trip.

**RADIO FREQUENCY: Channel 10 UHF**

## David and Justine Olsen's 4WD Tag-Along Tours

36 Octagonal Cres KELS0 QLD 4815

07 4789 3289

[www.djolsen.com](http://www.djolsen.com)

# TRIP SHEET

## TRIP INFORMATION

DATE	From: 9 JUNE 2011	To: 18 JUNE 2011
TOUR	10 DAY HAY RIVER/SIMPSON DESERT	
TRIP LEADER	David Olsen	

## PARTICIPANT INFORMATION (please use BLOCK letters) Add another page if there are more drivers.

<b>DRIVER 1</b>	Name:					Title:
Date of Birth:						Driver License no.:
Address:						
Phone:						Mobile:
Email:						
<b>DRIVER 2</b>	Name:					Title:
Date of Birth:						Driver License no.:
Address (as above if it applies):						
Phone:						Mobile:
Email:						
Passenger name:		Age:		Gender:		
Passenger name:		Age:		Gender:		
Passenger name:		Age:		Gender:		

## 4WD EXPERIENCE

Driver 1:	<input type="checkbox"/> Nil	<input type="checkbox"/> Limited	<input type="checkbox"/> Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Experienced
Driver 2:	<input type="checkbox"/> Nil	<input type="checkbox"/> Limited	<input type="checkbox"/> Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Experienced

## EMERGENCY CONTACT

Contact Name:	Relationship:		
Address:			
Phone number:	Mobile:	Other:	

## MEDICAL INFORMATION

Provide any medical information to the trip leader that you would consider to be relevant. The attached form "Special Medical Requirements" is required if any participant has an **existing medical condition**. Please ensure that you carry sufficient medication. Medical information and all private information will be handled with the greatest discretion. In an emergency please be aware that any relevant medical information may need to be communicated by public broadcast over HF radio to assigned base stations such as RFDS or VKS737 network.

**OTHER INFORMATION** List any certified skills/competencies that you currently have that may be relevant to the trip leader (eg. *First Aid, HF Radio, Survival etc*).

Name:	Skill/s:
Name:	Skill/s:

## VEHICLE INFORMATION

MAKE		MODEL	
COLOUR		REG. NO	

### Vehicle Accessory Details (For hire vehicles these details can be filled in at a later date)

My vehicle uses  Petrol  Diesel  LPG

Total vehicle fuel capacity \_\_\_\_\_ litres of fuel or \_\_\_\_\_ kg gas

Accessories fitted

- Cargo barrier (mandatory for our trips)
- 12V or 3 way fridge (required, hire units available)
- Auxiliary battery system
- UHF Radio
- HF Radio
- Electric winch
- Hand winch
- Roof Rack
- Water Tank or water bladder
- Diff lock/s

### Vehicle Insurance Details

INSURANCE COMPANY	
TYPE OF COVER:	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Property <input type="checkbox"/> Comprehensive
POLICY NUMBER:	

### PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT:

I/we, the undersigned, acknowledge and agree that:

- a. participation in the event organised by the David and Justine Olsen's 4WD Tag Along Tours is voluntary.
- b. David and Justine Olsen's 4WD Tag-Along Tours by way of the trip leader, have endeavoured to ensure a high level of safety for all participants.
- c. road conditions are beyond the control of the trip leader and are dependent on prevailing weather conditions.
- d. in the event of a vehicle recovery, it is my/our responsibility to approve recovery attachment points, and where safe, to perform the attachment
- e. I/we have read, understood and will abide by the convey procedures and rules, and the code of ethics
- f. any persons in the vehicle identified above will demonstrate a duty of care to all road users, members of the public, and event participants.
- g. the vehicle is suitable to participate in this event and is currently registered and insured. \*\*
- h. my/our driving will reflect my/our driving capabilities. Should I/we reach a point where the objective is beyond my/our abilities, experience or comfort, I/we will immediately communicate this with the trip leader
- i. I/we understand that any advice or information provided by the trip leader is given in good faith.
- j. I/we agree that in the case of an emergency to any relevant medical information be communicated by public broadcast over HF radio to assigned base stations such as RFDS or VKS737 network
- k. the information that I/we have provided on this form is accurate.

\*\* IN SIGNING THIS TRIP SHEET, ALL PARTICIPANTS VERIFY THE CURRENCY OF VEHICLE REGISTRATION AND INSURANCE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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**SPECIAL MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS**

Complete this form ONLY if you have an **already existing illness and/or take medication**. These details are important in the event of an incident or personal injury. Please complete the form and return with the trip sheet.

<b>Surname</b>	
<b>Given names</b>	
<b>DOB</b>	/ /
<b>Address</b>	
	<b>Postcode</b>
<b>Phone no:</b>	<b>Mobile:</b>
<b>Licence no.:</b>	
<b>Doctor name:</b>	
<b>Address/surgery:</b>	<b>Phone:</b>
<b>Medicare Number:</b>	
<b>Ambulance Number:</b>	
<b>Blood Type:</b>	
<b>Medication:</b>	
<b>Location of medication while on trip:</b>	
<b>Do you carry medication on your person? Y / N</b>	
<b>If yes, where?</b>	
<b>In the case of an emergency, what is the dosage to administer?</b>	
<b>Known allergies:</b>	
<b>Certificate enclosed? Y / N</b>	
<b>Other information:</b>	
<b>Health Insurer:</b>	<b>Member no.:</b>
<b>Specific instructions in an emergency:</b>	

I understand that this special medical requirements information is treated with the strictest confidentiality and is for the purpose of my and other tour participants' safety.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_