

# **Simpson Desert, Hay River, MacDonnell Ranges, Ayres Rock, Olgas and more – A tour through central Australia**

We are planning a trip through central Australia which will involve some 4wding and some touring. The trip lends itself to having some people join or depart part way through at Alice Springs but dates are a little flexible due to travel times that could vary, particularly in the first half of the trip.

We will be departing Howlong on Sat 11 April and heading generally north taking in Cameron's Corner, Haddon Corner, Birdsville, Poeppel's Corner then the Hay River Tk, Goyder's Pillar and then on to Alice Springs. After Alice Springs we want to see a fair bit of the MacDonnell Ranges so will be stopping in to see and camp at lots of places such as Standley Chasm, Serpentine Gorge, Ormiston Gorge, Redbank Gorge, Finke Gorge, Kings Canyon then on to Ayers Rock and the Olgas for a couple of nights each. From there we will probably head home via the highway through Cober Pedy, Woomera, etc. or if we have time which I doubt we will have, we may head west to Surveyor General's Corner, south to the Anne Beadell Hwy and then on to Cober Pedy and home.

There will be a number of permits required to do that entire trip. It is a big trip with us needing to be home by 10 May. Initial planning allowing for 5 days on the Hay River Tk (probably an excessive amount of time) and heading home without including the Anne Beadell Hwy has us home on Fri 8 May after travelling around 6,800Km.

Although this is a big trip, we don't believe in driving all day, every day. We will start with a rather big day but after that try and keep driving requirements low so that we have time to stop and explore, take pics and enjoy the trip.

I have a spreadsheet available which I use for planning such trips showing estimated Km per day, proposed stops, types of driving (H2, H4 and L4). Fuel calcs at an average of 17 litres / 100Km indicate we will use 1,153 litres however I always calculate on the high side to leave about a 30% buffer for us but with an idea of the type of driving you should be able to work out your own fuel requirements. The biggest stretch without fuel will be Birdsville to Jervois which is around 675Km and mostly low range or low speed H4 so you need to be able to carry enough fuel for that segment of the trip.

See the **planning spreadsheet** and a **map image of the proposed route** below.

Once we turn onto the Hay River Tk, until we get to Cober Pedy, it is all new to us as we have not travelled there before. We are doing as much research as we can to ensure that what we are planning is feasible in terms of distances to travel, places to stay, etc but we may need to be a bit flexible when the time comes...

Equipment to bring: Everything you need for a 4 week trip. No caravans, camper trailers not recommended. Permits will be required for both the QAA Line (a camping permit which costs \$5.75 per adult and has restrictions such as tent camping only, no open fires and no generators allowed) and for the Hay River Tk (permit to drive the track is \$180 per vehicle plus camping fees for one of the

nights). A Desert Parks Pass is not required as we will not be travelling through SA. Other permits may be required in the NT but have not had info back as yet. There will be opportunities to replenish supplies along the way but you must have all your own spare parts, safety gear, recovery gear, enough fuel storage to account for worst case scenarios, etc. It is best to bring enough of any required medications with you as chemists can be hard to find and not well stocked where we are going. Your vehicle will need to be in good condition and fitted with good LT tyres with at least 80% tread. Preferably service your vehicle prior to departure and let the servicing person know the trip you have coming up. We HIGHLY RECOMMEND full "Premium Care" cover with NRMA or equivalent.

We have this trip open to members of the Albury Wodonga 4wd club also and some people we met on the Nissan Patrol 50 trip have also expressed interest so this isn't a 4wd club trip for either Wangaratta or Albury Wodonga club but we are inviting anyone who wishes to tag along with us to do so.

If you have any questions please email: [4wd@dcabs.com.au](mailto:4wd@dcabs.com.au)  
or mobile: 0400 936 113.

Cheers  
Dave and Fiona VanZanten

# Trip plan

From	To	Distance	Road type	time to travel	Drive Type	Notes	Day No	Km / Day	Dates
Howlong	Deniliquin	172	Hwy	2	H2				
Deniliquin	Hay	121	Hwy	1.5	H2				
Hay	Ivanhoe	210	Hwy	2.5	H2				
Ivanhoe	Wilcannia	473	Hwy	5.5	H2	camp somewhere along the road	1	776	Saturday, 11 April 2015
Wilcannia	White Cliffs	93	Hwy	1	H2				
White Cliffs	Tibooburra	249	road	4	H2	camp	2	542	Sunday, 12 April 2015
Tibooburra	Cameron Corner	140	road / track	2.5	H4				
Cameron Corner	Innamincka	465	track	8	H4	camp	3	605	Monday, 13 April 2015
Innamincka	Haddon Corner	250	track	6	H4	camp	4		Tuesday, 14 April 2015
Haddon Corner	Birdsville	165	track	6	H4	camp at Big Red? Or C/park?	5	415	Wednesday, 15 April 2015
Birdsville	Poeppel Corner	175	track	6	Low	camp near the corner	6	175	Thursday, 16 April 2015
Poeppel Corner	Hay River Rd	100	track	6	Low	camp along the track	7	100	Friday, 17 April 2015
		100	track	6	Low	camp along the track	8	100	Saturday, 18 April 2015
		100	track	6	Low	camp along the track	9	100	Sunday, 19 April 2015
		100	track	6	Low	camp along the track	10	100	Monday, 20 April 2015
Hay River Rd	Jervois		track	6	Low			100	
Jervois	Alice Springs	339	Hwy	4	H2	caravan park?	11	400	Tuesday, 21 April 2015
Alice Springs	Standley Chasm	43	Hwy	0.5	H2				
Standley Chasm	Ellery Ck Big Hole	50	Hwy	0.65	H2	camp	12	93	Wednesday, 22 April 2015
Ellery Ck Big Hole	Serpentine Gorge	50	Hwy	0.65	H2	camp	13	50	Thursday, 23 April 2015
Serpentine Gorge	Ormiston Gorge	36	Hwy	0.5	H2	camp	14	36	Friday, 24 April 2015
Ormiston Gorge	Redbank Gorge	27	Hwy	0.5	H2	camp	15	27	Saturday, 25 April 2015
Redbank Gorge	Finke Gorge	118	Hwy	2	H2	camp	16	118	Sunday, 26 April 2015
Finke Gorge	Kings Canyon	221	Hwy	4	H2	camp	17	221	Monday, 27 April 2015
Kings Canyon	Kings Canyon					camp	18		Tuesday, 28 April 2015
Kings Canyon	Kings Canyon					camp	19		Wednesday, 29 April 2015
Kings Canyon	Ayers Rock	297	Hwy	5	H2	caravan park?	20	297	Thursday, 30 April 2015
Ayers Rock	Ayers Rock		Hwy			caravan park?	21		Friday, 1 May 2015
Ayers Rock	Olgas	43	Hwy	2	H2	camp?	22	86	Saturday, 2 May 2015
Olgas	Olgas					camp?	23		Sunday, 3 May 2015
Olgas	Mt Conner	179	Hwy	2	H2				
Mt Conner	Mulga Park	67	track	0.75	H4				
Mulga Park	Amata	61	track	0.75	H4	camp	24	307	Monday, 4 May 2015
Amata	Indulkana	268	track	4	H4				
Indulkana	Marla	44	Hwy	0.75	H2				
Marla	Cooper Pedy	239	Hwy	3.5	H2	camp	25	551	Tuesday, 5 May 2015
Cooper Pedy	Woomera	375	road	4	H2				
Woomera	Port Augusta	181	Hwy	2	H2				
Port Augusta	Port Pirie	93	Hwy	1	H2	camp	26	649	Wednesday, 6 May 2015
Port Pirie	Burra	120	track	1.5	H2				
Burra	Renmark	197	Hwy	2.25	H2				
Renmark	Mildura	139	Hwy	1.5	H2	camp	27	456	Thursday, 7 May 2015
Mildura	Howlong	584	Hwy	6	H2	home	28	584	Friday, 8 May 2015
Total Km Travelled		<b>6784</b>	Total Hours Driving		<b>124.8</b>				

<b>fuel at average 17 litres / 100Km</b>	<b>1153.28</b>	<b>litres</b>
Birdsville to Jervois	675	Total Km
fuel at 20 litres / 100Km	135	litres
Avg Km per day	242.3	
Avg hours driving per day	4.5	

4693 Km	H2
1416 Km	H4
575 Km	Low

## General Notes

5 days allowed for Hay River, plenty of people do it in 3. I suspect it will probably be 4 days inc Goyders Pillar but have allowed extra as it is a little unpredictable.

Camping options may be limited at some of the gorges if permitted at all.

Unsure as yet about permit requirements to travel south from Mt Connor. If we can't it is similar distance to stay on main roads.

Vic School holidays 28 Mar - 12 April

NSW School holidays 13 - 24 April

Easter 2015 - 3 - 6 April



Timor Sea

Northern Territory

Queensland

Western Australia

Australia

South Australia

New South Wales

Great Australian Bight

Victoria

Australian Capital Territory