

**> Extreme 4WD**

Passing through Arnhem Land's Aboriginal territories is one of the great 4WD tracks of Australia. Impassable during wet season, only 15 vehicles are allowed to make the journey per day along a dusty, corrugated road featuring treacherous tidal water crossings. This is not for novices. Not many know about the route, but if visiting Kakadu, you can exit on the east side beginning at Injalak Hill. Visit rock art sites, travel through the Oenpelli-Gunbalanya Aboriginal settlement then turn north to Garig Gunak National Park, ending at Cobourg Peninsula, famous for its barra fishing and Black Point Aboriginal Culture centre. \$232.10 covers camping for up to five passengers in one vehicle for up to seven nights. nlc.org.au

> Bush college

Go tramping with Desert Tracks on its five-day Angatja Bush College, learning survival skills and eating bush food including "maku" (witchetty grubs) and "Tjala" (honey ants). Travelling across remote Pitjantjatjara Lands around Uluru, you'll follow the Songline (creation story) of Ngintaka, the Perentie Lizard Ancestor, learn the Tjukurpa (creation law) and camp in the desert with your Anangu hosts. One day tours start at \$237 up to \$1,950 for the five day Angatja Bush College. Permits included. Book through Discovery Eco-Tours. Tel (08) 8956 2563 deserttracks.com.au

> Bush culture

Owned and operated by a local Aboriginal family, Kakadu Culture Camp is based at Djarradjin Billabong (Muirella Park Campground) in the heart of World Heritage Kakadu National Park in barramundi and croc country. Spend a night in safari tents, cook in the camp kitchen with outdoor bush dining, go on bush tucker walks, and or tuck in to a three-course campfire dinner including barramundi and buffalo cooked on the coals. After dinner go night spotting on a boat for hungry crocs. Tel: 0889 792048 or mobile 0428 792 048 kakaduculturecamp.com

> Rock and roll

Karijini National Park is for people whose love days of rock climbing in the desert sun, scrambling up and down cliff faces and swimming in crystal waters of remote gorges. The Indigenous-owned Karijini Eco Retreat has, in addition to more luxe offerings, campsites with modern, clean facilities including showers, bathrooms and BBQ bush kitchens. The retreat is owned by the local Gumala Aboriginal Corporation and rangers advise on best walks. The Retreat also accesses local tour operators including Remtrek, who collect guests from the Retreat for various adventure tours. Tel: 08 9425 5591 karijiniecoretreat.com.au and remtrek.com.au

> Bush biking

Nothing beats kicking up desert dust on a quadbike. Morapoi Station is popular with young travellers and backpackers looking for a rush with their Indigenous experience. Traditional owners Greg Stubbs and wife Carol welcome you to their Country 200km north of Kalgoorlie with a fleet of quad bikes, motorbikes and 4WDs. Their tours introduce traditional Wangkatha country and last from one to six days encompassing a deep desert safari or return trip as far as Uluru. Tel: 08 9031 3380 morapoi.com.au

> Mungo moonscapes

Trekking and touring through the devastatingly beautiful and eerie landscapes of dry lakes including Lake Mungo National Park is the nearest you'll get to walking on the moon. With the earliest Australian remains of man found amongst the sands, these trails plunge you into the geology, history and cultural significance of the landscapes in the company of traditional owners. In the Willandra Lakes World Heritage area, traditional Mutthi Mutthi owner Gary Papin takes five-day tours. Call Gary on 0401 919275 mycountryenterprises.com

> Trek Iga Watha to Coorong

Serious trekkers can experience both desert-like mountains and lush wetlands in their search for Indigenous adventure beginning at Iga Warta (Flinders Ranges). Diverse Travel organises a lift there (or you can self-drive six hours north or charter a flight) and hands you over to your Adnyamathanha hosts. Journeys last up to seven days following a "creation path". Travelling down to the Coorong wetlands you squeeze in traditional kayaking, learn bush medicine and explore sand dunes. Contact Diverse Travel Australia Tel: 08 8303 3418 diversetravel.com.au and aboriginaltravel.com

> Indigenous snow shoe

Discover Australia's unique alpine wilderness and wildlife under the stars with Perisher's Indigenous Snow Shoe Tours. Keen adventurers will experience the wonder of the snowfields at night under a full moon and learn about mountain fauna, flora and local indigenous culture. Tours are open for all levels of fitness, no experience necessary. Tours operate from 5.30pm-8pm with nibbles provided. \$30per Adult (\$20 per Child 14 years and under). Subject to weather conditions. Upcoming dates include 4/8 August, 1/5 September. Tel: 1300 655 822 perisher.com.au

> Rawhide ride

Ever fancied yourself as a cowboy? Owned by the Indigenous Land Corporation, Home Valley Station is a working 700,000 acre estate which attracts intrepid visitors hankering to try their hand at horse rustlin' and cattle musterin'. Sleep outside in a swag, under canvas at the river camp or in the plush Grass Castles along Bindoola Creek (\$420 per room per night). You can also paddle, fish or bird watch on the property. You'll need a 4WD to get there or you can land a plane on their private outback airstrip. Tel: 08 9161 4322 homevalley.com.au

> Good fishin', good eatin'

Located 400km north east of Darwin, Arnhemland Barramundi Nature Lodge invites you to spend the day in mangroves spearfishing barramundi, learning traditional hunting and bush survival techniques and visiting the isolated First and Second Islands where you'll eat oysters fresh from the rocks and cook barramundi over coals on the beach. Tours clare estates with the Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation and visit ancient rock art sites. Packages including return airfares Darwin-Maningrida, permits and meals from \$1,670 (three days) up to \$6,990 (seven days). Tel: 08 8983 1544 barralodge.com.au



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INDIGENOUS ADVENTURES

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Pentecost River Crossing - looking back at Cockburn Range, Home Valley Station