

## CANNING STOCK ROUTE EXPEDITION

### PERTH - BROOME

#### SAMPLE ITINERARY

*This is a sample itinerary and may be subject to change. We may need to alter or amend itineraries, excursions, accommodation, or sightseeing arrangements from those published, with little or no notice. This may be due to road conditions, weather, cultural considerations, safety factors and other operational considerations or government regulations. Final itineraries are sent to passengers approximately 2-3 weeks before travel.*

#### DAY 1 – Perth - Newman

Please check in at Perth Airport for your included QANTAS flight to Newman, unless you have already checked your bags all the way through from your home port. You're booked on flight QF1804 Perth to Newman departing 0700am arriving into Newman at 0845am. Please allow 1 hour for check in.

You will be picked up from Newman Airport by your friendly crew and transferred to the Seasons Hotel where the remainder of the afternoon can be spent at your leisure. This evening meet with other fellow travellers and enjoy a briefing over dinner about the journey ahead. (D).

#### DAY 2 – Newman - Northern Highway - Well 2, Well 1, Wiluna

After an early breakfast, we depart Newman heading south and travel to the town of Wiluna via Well 2, then Well 1 along the way. Once we have refuelled in Wiluna we head out the Gunbarrel Highway and turn off heading towards Glen-Ayle station.

We set up our first camp where your crew will help you become familiarised with the camping equipment and amenities. We will then enjoy a sumptuous meal under the stars (B,L,D).

#### DAY 3 – Glen-Ayle Station - Forrest's Fort - Well 9 through to Well 12

After packing up camp we head through Glen-Ayle Station to Well 9. This is where in 1874 John Forrest, who later became the first Premier of Western Australia, was forced to build a small fort to protect his team from a hostile attack. Here we officially meet the Canning Stock Route.

Later, after skirting Lake Aerodrome, we arrive at the recently restored Well 12 and after refilling our water supply we set up camp for the night. (B,L,D).

#### DAY 4 – Well 13 through to Well 16

Today we get an early start and travel north to Wells 13 and 14 before moving on to Well 15.

We continue north through Well 16 and learn of this area's torturous history before arriving into Durba Springs (Jilikuru), one of the most scenic parts of the entire stock route. Here we will set down for a two night stay in this truly magnificent area. (B,L,D).

#### DAY 5 – Durba Springs (Jilikuru)

Durba Springs was always a popular spot for drovers to rest up for a few days while driving cattle down from the east Kimberley. The area, traditionally called 'Jilikuru' by the Martu people, is also home to a number of distinctive Western Desert Aboriginal rock art sites. This morning we enjoy a series of walks around the Durba Hills, taking in some of these art sites. The afternoon can be spent at your leisure. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 6 – Tropic of Capricorn - Lake Disappointment

This morning we refill our water at Well 18, which was restored in 2016 and the restoration was partially funded by Outback Spirit Tours. Then a detour off to the Onegunyah Rockhole before passing Well 19 and the Savory Creek following the western edge of Lake Disappointment. This section of the lake is likely to have a good cover of water if there has been recent rainfall. Getting across the Savory Creek can be difficult after rain, so we may need to travel further east to make a safe crossing.

This afternoon we set up camp on the banks of Lake Disappointment. An ephemeral salt lake named by Frank Hann in 1897. After following the direction of a number of creek beds, Hann was expecting to find a large fresh water lake. He instead came across a large dry salt lake, hence the name Lake Disappointment. Tonight watch the spectacular panorama come alive as the sun sets. (B,L,D).

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### DAY 7 – Lake Disappointment - Georgia Bore

This morning we head to Georgia Bore for a stop and a look around. Georgia Bore is not one of the traditional wells sunk by Canning, but a bore well which was drilled and equipped by CRA for use by their survey crews in the 1970's.

We continue by the Capricorn Roadhouse Fuel dump. This section of the track is also part of the Talawana Track that, if followed to the east for 450kms, will take you to Newman. Before fuel was available at Kunawarritji, anyone travelling the Canning Stock Route would have to pre-organise a 'fuel drop' through the Capricorn Roadhouse, located in Newman. Fuel would be carted out in 44 gallon drums and dropped off with your name written on top of each drum, a practice some still prefer today.

Later this afternoon, we arrive at Well 25 to set up camp and get ready for another superb sunset. (B,L,D).

### DAY 8 – Wells 26 through to Well 30 - Thring Rock

This morning we proceed to Well 26 (Tiwa) which has been refurbished and provides us with a chance to replenish our water supply. We then proceed via the Slate range, over some large dunes to Thring Rock for lunch.

Thring Rock was named by Larry Wells in 1896 after members of John McDougall Stuart's 1862 expedition across Australia. It is an impressive sandstone outcrop and after a short climb to the lookout, we are provided with exceptional views of the surrounding countryside, before moving onto our camp at Well 30 (Dunda Jinnda) amongst the Bloodwood trees. (B,L,D).

### DAY 9 – Well 31 through to Well 33 - Kunawarritji Community

Today we visit Wells 31 and 32 (Nyarruri) and then having conquered the very rough corrugations, arrive at Kunawarritji Community which is described as one of the most isolated communities in Australia. We visit the community store, refuel the vehicles, then depart for Well 33 where we set up camp. There is a large tank and windmill which provides plenty of water for clothes and hair washing. Meanwhile the crew will meet the resupply plane to refresh the food supply. The windmill at camp is a great prop for a sunset photo! (B,L,D).

### DAY 10 – The Mystery of Well 37, Well 38 through to Well 39 (Wardabunni Rockhole)

Our journey continues north, past wells 34 and 35, to Well 36 (Kikkil) where you'll learn about Eileen and George Lanagan before we reach Well 37 (Lipuru).

The area has a fascinating history which began in 1911 with the first cattle drive down the stock route. The 150 or so bullocks were being driven by George Shoesmith, James Thompson, Fred Terone and an Aboriginal called 'Chinaman'.

After Fred Terone headed back to Halls Creek due to illness, the remaining men pushed on to Well 37 where they were later found dead under mysterious circumstances. Their graves have been preserved and are in close proximity to the well.

We continue up to Wardabunni Rockhole later this afternoon, also the location of Well 38 (Wajaparni). This well was created by members of Canning's party blasting a hole in the rocky creek bed in order to secure a reliable source of water. Water was abundant but it proved difficult to persuade cattle to drink at the site, however the site is home to lovely trees and abundant birdlife so is a very pleasant area to spend some time.

Our camp is just near Well 39, home to a large flock of budgerigars that thrive on the surface water of the Well which is now in ruins. (B,L,D).

### DAY 11 – Tobin Lake - Well 40 - Well 41 (Tiru) - Well 42

After trekking across Tobin Lake we push on to Well 40 which has some fascinating history regarding a fellow called Michael Tobin who was part of the 1906 survey expedition.

Further along, we arrive at Well 41, also called 'Tiru' by traditional owners. The area surrounding 'Tiru' had better than average soil which, in turn, provided very good feed for the mobs of cattle that were driven down the track.

We visit Well 42 after lunch under the coolabah trees, near the Helena Springs turnoff and continue to head northwards until our camp near Gravity Lake, where we



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will enjoy another sensational sunset under the desert stars. (B,L,D).

### **DAY 12 – Wells 43 & 44 - Gravity Lakes - Wells 45 through to Well 49**

We begin this morning by visiting Well 46, with its whip pole full of commemorative plaques. No more dunes from here on! Moving on we arrive at Breaden Pool and Godfrey's Tank. Both areas gained their names from two members of David Carnegie's exploration party in 1896. As Carnegie's party searched the landscapes for water, one of the party members, Joe Breaden, found water in a lower area and it was named 'Breaden Pool'. Another member of the Carnegie party, Godfrey Massie, found a huge natural stone catchment that was full, hence the name 'Godfrey's Tank'.

We continue to an area known as Gravity Lakes through to Well 45 and trek further north to the Great Sandy Desert before arriving at Well 46. We later arrive at Canning's 303 Marker, near to Well 49 for our overnight stay. This well was restored in 2010 and is known as the 'Crystal Well' due to its reliable crystal clear water. The Well 49 area now boasts a Ranger Station and amenity block that were added last year after a fire passed through the area. We can also take the opportunity to refill our water and visit Jack Smith's grave. (B,L,D).

### **DAY 13 – Well 50 & Well 51 - Stretch Lake**

This morning we pass Well 50 then proceed to Well 51 with its magnificent windmill which is still in very good order. Moving on we go through some wetland area, deviate from the Canning and arrive at Stretch Lake, just south of Billiluna. Here we have lunch and marvel at the abundant bird life on show. We camp here tonight after a relaxing afternoon with lots of photo opportunities. (B,L,D)

### **DAY 14 – Billiluna - Halls Creek - Fitzroy Crossing**

Once packed up we head into Billiluna for a fuel top up if needed, and a quick visit to the community store. Then we leave the Canning Stock Route and turn left onto the Tanami Road for about 185 kms before we hit bitumen road again.

A short run brings us into Halls Creek for a lunch break. After a look at the tourist information centre and its great

range of books and souvenirs, we arrive at Fitzroy Crossing Lodge Campground and make our final camp. (B,L,D).

### **DAY 15 – Fitzroy Crossing - Broome**

This morning we cross the Fitzroy River and head off to the big boab tree before arriving early afternoon in Broome where we check into the luxurious Cable Beach Club Resort. The remainder of the afternoon can be spent at your leisure before re-grouping for a special celebratory dinner watching the sunset over the famous Cable Beach. (B,L,D).

### **DAY 16 – Broome**

After breakfast this morning you will be dropped off at the airport or your CBD hotel (B).

*Every effort will be made by your crew to ensure that the above itinerary is followed. However, Outback Spirit reserves the right to alter the itinerary once on tour as required due to weather and track conditions or other operational considerations.*