

82: outback safety

answers

1) If you are planning an outback trip, it is essential that your vehicle is checked & SERVICED before you go.
2) You must carry RELIABLE maps, first aid, fuel, water, food, & bedding, as well as all necessary tools, recovery equipment & spare parts (like hoses, fan belt, etc.).
3) What you need to carry will vary according to the trip. For example, crossing the Simpson Desert is more SERIOUS than crossing the Nullabor.
4) Investigate distances, terrain, temperatures & possible hazards. Make sure you check LOCAL road & weather conditions with local people.
5) When travelling into a remote area, let someone know before you go ¾ someone like the local police. It is safer to travel in CONVOY .
6) You should have the means to COMMUNICATE by radio or phone, both with other vehicles in your convoy & the outside world.
7) If you break down, “boil the billy” & take time to calmly REVIEW your situation.
8) Remember to stay with your vehicle unless you are certain you are within very easy walking distance of ASSISTANCE .
9) Avoid driving 2 wheel drives off track if there is any chance that solid-looking ground may in fact be UNSTABLE .
10) OBSERVE “road closed” signs or else you may face hefty fines & unacceptable risks.
11) WADE through creek crossings & other pools of water before driving through in case the water is deeper or faster than it looks.*
12) Take extra care driving in the twilight & at night due to NOCTURNAL animals.
13) Move over to allow faster vehicles to OVERTAKE .
14) Slow down or stop when on-coming vehicles approach on NARROW roads.
15) Do not swim, fish, or clean fish in rivers, billabongs or dams — or camp within 50 metres of rivers or dams — if there is even a remote chance they are occupied by saltwater CROCODILES .
16) “Salties” are sometimes found a long way INLAND , so always check with locals to be sure.
17) Australia is reputed to have 8 of the world’s 10 most VENOMOUS snakes.
18) Watch out for snakes & do not attempt to HARM them.
19) Use a torch at night & wear boots & long trousers for the best PROTECTION against snakebite.
20) Protect yourself against disease-carrying mosquitoes. Cover up. Wear light-coloured clothing. Use repellent, fly veils & mosquito nets. Do not use PERFUMED deodorants, etc.
21) Do not lay out your bedding before you go to bed unless you want to share it with CREEPY-CRAWLIES .
22) Find out about CREATURES that bite or sting (such as green tree ants & bush ticks).
23) Do not swim in tropical waters during the wet season due to deadly STINGERS .
24) Always observe PROPER fire safety.
25) The Outback Code requires that you always seek PERMISSION to travel through or camp on private property, pastoral leasehold or native title land.
26) LEAVE gates as you find them.
27) Slow right down when STOCK are on or beside the road.
28) Take care not to harm or DISTURB stock.
29) Take care not to CONTAMINATE water troughs, dams or creeks with soap or other pollutants.
30) Offer assistance to anyone in TROUBLE (unless there’s a chance you could be endangered).

* except in saltwater croc country!

gallery

overlooking Hodgson Downs



Edith Falls, Katherine



ghostly geckoes



pindan



first rain of the wet season



creating a bow wave



Maguk Waterhole, Kakadu

