

# Broome to Darwin via the Gibb River Road



Jamie & his family had the opportunity to accompany a film crew filming a documentary in the Kimberley region. The trip started at Broome travelling for 3 weeks to Darwin with many side tracks along the way. At the same time Jamie took the opportunity test many new products in hot and dusty conditions.

The first evening we stayed in Broome and the next morning we visited the legendary Malcolm Douglas's Wilderness Wildlife Park. Definitely a place to visit if you have an interest in reptiles and native animals and you can hear a good story or too. Malcolm himself was away on a documentary trip filming bilbys.

We also checked out Broome's town centre and then began our journey to Derby.



The group travelled approx 220km to Derby which is located on the tidal mud flats on the edge of King Sound which has the highest tidal range of any port in Australia. The Boab Tree is a major feature of Derby. It has been used as a street tree and many of the larger growing natural specimens have been preserved. The famous Boab Prison Tree is located 7 km from the township. From there we headed along the legendary Gibb River Road which is a 660km dirt track right through the wild heart of the Kimberley.

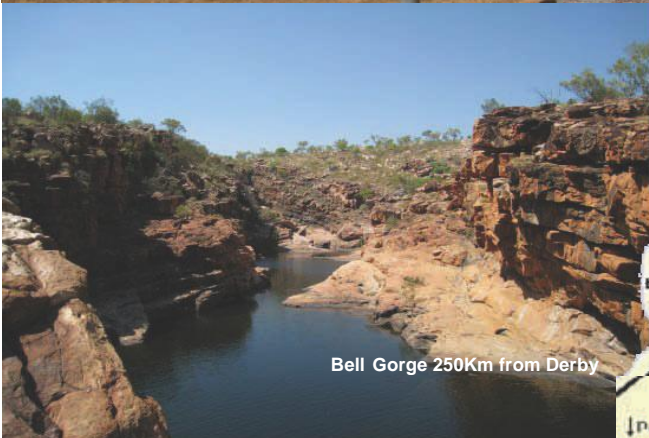
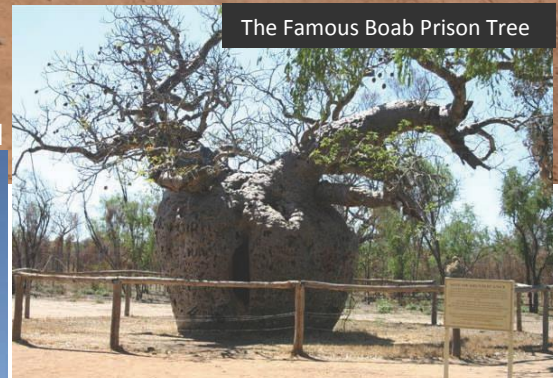
On the first day of driving we stopped at Windjana Gorge where we were hoping for a dip, but unfortunately there were too many freshwater crocodiles, with around 30 of them watching us and was an eye opener to see them in their wild habitat. The scenery of the gorge was magnificent.

From there we followed along the rough road which seemed to go on forever and so did the heat. There is nothing better than to look out and see the red dirt, scrub and nature. Samantha is part of the filming crew and is the presenter in the documentary on Bush Tucker and is from Windom, a local Aboriginal community situated in the Kimberley Region. In our travels with Samantha we were able to visit many remote Aboriginal sites and communities and felt very privileged to be involved.

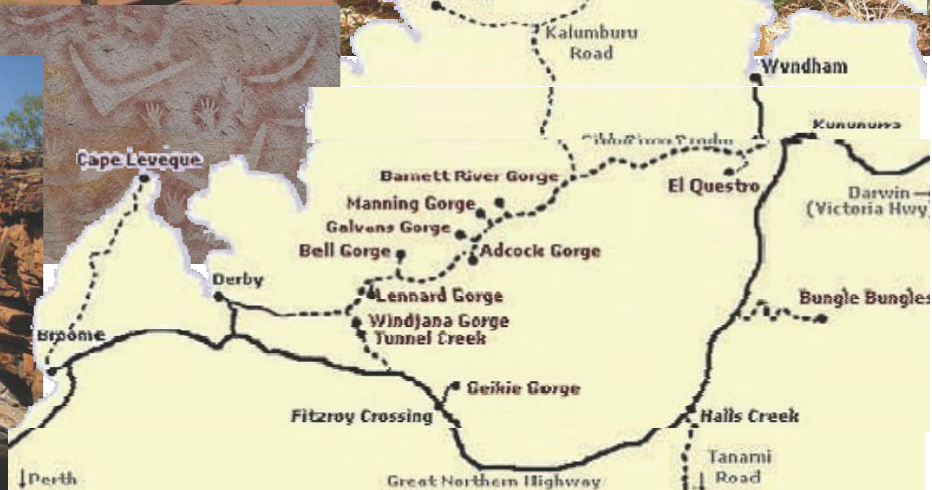


We visited many more divine waterholes and waterfalls like Bell Gorge, Galvan's Gorge, Manning Gorge and then, set up camp at Mt Barnett River Gorge. We stayed there for 3 days while the documentary crew were teaching multimedia to the children at the local school. This allowed us to some time to spend with the people in the local community.

We then pressed on and set up camp at the King Edward River, which I would highly recommend to anyone to stop there as it is a wonderful spot to camp. Then heading to Mitchell Plateau where they pre-warn you of the road conditions as they are very rough and suggest that you may want to leave your camper trailer at the King Edward River campsite before travelling on as the road is only maintained a few times a year.



Bell Gorge 250km from Derby



We set up camp at Mitchell Plateau camping ground and went for the 1.5km walk down to the plateau to the falls checking out a many of the aboriginal art along the way, “a fantastic site to see”. We flew back by Helicopter viewing the majestic scenery from above, which was amazing.

The next day we headed off for Kalumburu where we stayed a couple of days and had a look at some of the plane wrecks. You need some time to explore the pristine yet rugged landscape, enjoy the sheer remoteness and see the amazing starlit night skies.

Travelled to Honeymoon Bay where we camped the night. The drive is very rough when travelling to and from Kalumburu. The harsh conditions continually damage the road and is difficult to maintain due to the remoteness.

Off to El Questro, I highly recommend this place as it is very scenic, it has many gorges, hot thermal springs, four wheel drive tracks and magnificent views.

After our stay at El Questro we headed to Wyndham and met some of Samantha's family and friends. We also saw another one of the famous boab prison trees.

Visited an early settler's homestead, Home Valley Station, where some of the movie “Australia” with Nicole Kidman & Hugh Jackman was filmed. There are some big barramundi out there and it's a very hot and dry place but still another great place to visit.

We then continued onto Kununurra spending a couple of days, then set off toward our final destination Darwin. We stopped at the Litchfield National Park featuring the huge termite nests and the magnificent waterfalls. We decided to camp a few days reaping in the majestic landscape.

Then off to Darwin we went.

Overall it was an amazing 3.5 week journey that started at Broome and finished in Darwin. We met many amazing people and learnt so much about the different cultures.

As for the testing of the equipment, we had fantastic usage, including solar panels, regulators and dual battery system. It was astounding considering the hot climate and rugged conditions we had faced out there.

We recommend that every one gives the Gibb River Road ago it's full of amazing things.

