

OUTBACK ADVENTURE

NOWAK TRAVELOGUE | APRIL, MAY | 2012

Flight Over the Kimberleys

We rose very early, drove to the lake and boarded the float plane with Bruce and Helen who we met the day before. We cheered when pilot Adam lifted the little Cessna's nose out of the water and took to the air.

The trip to the Bungle Bungles over Kununurra, Lake Argyle and the Argyle Diamond Mine lasted 3.5 hours. It was a delight. Adam gave us a detailed commentary as we flew over a very varied landscape.



He explained how the Ord River Scheme has spurred agricultural development and gave an insight into the part that Kununurra plays in this. We were able to appreciate the sheer breadth of Lake Argyle and its impressive statistics. The rocky, and sometimes treed hilltops, jutted out as islands on a watery landscape far below us. It was surreal. It was then on to the amazing Bungle Bungles - strange rock formations only discovered by the masses less than 30 years ago. This Heritage listed area is made of weathered multicolored bands of rock. Some of these banded layers stand out and look like bee hives. Due to its aboriginal cultural significance and difficult 4WD only access, only a very small area of the Bungle Bungles are available for public viewing. The best way to appreciate the park's sheer size is by air.

Then it was on to the Argyle diamond mine. Adam explained its interesting history with its impressive stats and the finer points of diamond mining in this very remote area. Finally, we landed on lake Argyle for a morning tea on a secluded island beach. Looking across the water, we could see other islands but no land on the horizon. The Ord River catchment area is 1.5 the size of the UK. The whole of the Kimberley region is the size of Germany. It really bought home to us how big our country is. After home made cakes, and tea, we took off for Kununurra. We could recommend a trip like this to anyone. The photo opportunities and the whole experience was something we will remember for a long time.



GIBB RIVER ROAD This notorious gravel road is only open during the dry season. We drove only 50km of its 500km length, but found that it had totally rearranged the inside of our van when we arrived at our destination - El Questro Wilderness Park.



TWO WHEEL RIVER CROSSING Who said that only 4WDs with big wheels and a snorkel can cross the Penacost River? I do not possess a snorkel (or goggles for that matter) but my little Brompton bicycle does have 16inch wheels, a low range gear and a high seat to stop my bum getting wet. Go Brompton!!



NO PERKING UP? After Kakadu I was determined NOT to have another bout of travel sickness. Dry toast for breakfast, 3 ginger tablets and constantly scanning the horizon did the trick.



