

TWO WHEEL DRIVEROAD REPORT

OF THE TRACK FROM THE T-JUNCTION ON THE BEADELL HIGHWAY (between Giles-Mt. Davies) AND AYERS ROCK, VIA PETERMANN RANGES AND MT. OLGA (272 miles) THROUGH THE NORTHERN TERRITORY.

ROAD SURFACE

The first 80 miles the track traverses sandhills, spinifex and mulga country with occasional patches of desert oaks. Then rugged range country is encountered for the next 100 miles, when the road winds through the Petermann and adjoining ranges. The remaining section of about 90 miles the track goes through sandhill country, spinifex and mulga flats with occasional groves of desert oaks. Some wide sandy creek crossings have to be negotiated, but many two wheel drive vehicles have crossed these. The best time of the day is early morning, after possibly corduroying with branches or other suitable material (matting for instance). Tyres can be let down to about 15 lbs/sq. in., but must be pumped up immediately afterwards, to avoid damage to the valves and walls.

The whole section can be covered in a day and a half to two days.

TRAFFIC

Very few people use this track, and the number of parties per annum has been as low as three.

PETROL SUPPLY

Docker River Settlement. Petrol available.

WATER

Mill and tank on Docker! There are many rockholes in the ranges, but they are not reliable. AMPLE WATER MUST THEREFORE BE CARRIED.

SETTLEMENTS
SUPPLIES

GILES METEOROLOGICAL STATION is out of bounds to tourists.

PERMITS.

A permit from the Northern Territory Administration Welfare Branch, Darwin, is required for the section traversing the Northern Territory, that is, from a point about 10 miles east of the T-junction of the Sandy Blight Road and the Ayers Rock - Petermann Track, which is about the border of NT - WA. A permit from the Western Australian Native Welfare Department is required for the WA side.

GAME

Game is less scarce in the ranges than in other parts of the central desert but, depending on seasonal conditions, it can only be appraised as scarce.

CARRY MAPS!!!

SCENERY

Rugged scenery plentiful whilst in the ranges.

MAPS

1:1,000,000 "Petermann Range", ICAO World Aeronautical Series available from the Department of Civil Aviation, Aviation House, St. George's Terrace, Perth. Price 60¢ a sheet.

1:250,000. "Scott", "Rawlinson", "Bloods Range", "Petermann Ranges", and "Ayers Rock", available from Sands & McDougall, Perth. Price 50¢ or 60¢ a sheet.

T-JUNCTION ON BEADELL HIGHWAY (BETWEEN GILES AND MT. DAVIES) TO AYERS
ROCK VIA PETERMANN RANGE AND MT. OLGA.

- 0.0 Turn N. 81-14 cement block at turn off on island, ground level 1999.2
- 4.7 Sandy graded road. 50 mph rough-paned sand dunes.
- 4.8 Rise and soft sand.
- 5.0 81-13, cement block 30' E opposite blazed mulga, ground level 1940.3
- 6.0 Bends in loose sand - rough in places.
- 6.3 Sharp turn W. in loose sand - climb in loose sand till 6.6
- 7.4 (Ridges across road) - rough.
- 7.5 Loose sand climb for 1 mile - 45 mph.
- 8.6 Rough rises - 30 mph.
- 9.2 Sand - 45 mph.
- 9.7 2 humps.
- 9.9 81.2, cement block 60' SW, ground level 1898.8
- 10.0 Sand, then rough till 10.3 - loose descent 35 mph.
- 10.8 Bend to E (mulga - grass) 50 mph.
- 11.9 Between hills, Mt. Fanny,
- 13.6 Dip in road.
- 14.1 Due east are Mt. Daisy Bates and Mt. Gosse,
- 14.4 Dip and then rough - 45 mph.
- 14.9 Bend east - conical hill ahead.
- 15.5 81.11, cement block 25' SW, ground level 1987.3
- 15.7 Bend W and pass hill E.
- 16.7 Sand dunes.
- 17.1 Sharp Bend E - mulga scrub - 50 mph except in soft sand, and for sharper bends.
- 18.0 Sand dunes.
- 18.3 Sharp E.
- 19.0 Turn W. 81-10, cement block 60' NW opposite blazed tree, ground level 1926.5
- 21.6 Soft dunes - glimpse Murray Range W.
- 23.8 81.9, cement block 60' E from blazed mulga, ground level 1943.5
- 29.6 81.8, cement block 30' E opposite blazed oak, ground level 1971.3
- 30.7 Desert oak thickets.
- 33.3 Murray Range to SW - mulga scrub.
- 33.5 81-7, cement block 45' W, ground level 2009.7
- 36.8 Sand dunes. Desert oaks.
- 38.6 81-6, cement block 50' E near mulga bush, ground level 1966.0
- 38.8 Notice W. warning regarding Native Reserve.
- 40.8 Wide spinifex flat between dunes.
- 41.3 Survey peg.
- 43.7 81-5, BM 50' W on desert oak, ground level 2004.4
Gravity station 5' S of stump, 170' Se of BM.
- 45.9 Turn W to cross dunes. Astro BEADELL - 1956 on bend.
- 48.5 81-4, cement block 50' SW opposite end of sandridge, ground level 2033.4
- 50.0 W turn through edge of mulga thicket. Sardine tin on tree to E.
- 50.9 Notice E " 84 Mt. Davies - 34 Giles. Lat. - Long., etc. L. Beadell,
23-6-56 " on bend W. Just over one hours driving from T-junction.

T-JUNCTION ON BEADELL HIGHWAY (BETWEEN GILES AND MT. DAVIES) TO AYERS ROCK VIA PETERMANN RANGE AND MT. OLGA.

- 53.2 81-3, cement block 50' E opposite oak, ground level 2006.9
- 54.2 Rawlinson Range ahead - 50 mph.
- 54.3 Large desert oak, then soft sand dune.
- 54.6 Road turns N.
- 55.5 Rawlinson Range ahead.
- 57.5 Hole dug on W side of road.
- 57.6 Road heads W.
- 58.2 81-2, cement block 50' E, ground level 1981.4
- 58.7 Notice on large dead tree on E. 26 Giles - 92 Mt. Davies, April 56, etc.
- 59.5 Road turns E.
- 61.1 Mulga thicket.
- 62.0 Road heads W. Large ants nest.
- 62.8 Bend to W - sand dunes on W - flat plain E.
- 63.7 Bend E - top of rise - 45 mph.
- 64.0 81-1, cement block 5' behind signpost at intersection, ground level 1971.84
- 64.7 Road junction S.P.: 543 Alice Springs - 234 Sandy Blight Junction.

DISTANCES :	NORTH-WEST	is to GILES (out of bounds)	20 miles	2WD
	" "	" " WARBURTON	236 "	4WD
	SOUTH-WEST	" " MT. DAVIES	100 "	2WD
	" "	" " BLACKSTONE	86 "	2WD
	" "	" " WARBURTON via BLACKSTONE	220 "	2WD
	NORTH-EAST	" " SANDY BLIGHT JUNCTION	234 "	4WD
	" "	" " AYERS ROCK TURNOFF	31 "	2WD
	" "	" " AYERS ROCK	172 "	2WD

Peg 81-1, cement block 5' behind signpost at intersection, ground level 1979.8
 Astro-station by L. Beadell. Lat. : 25° 10' 08"
 Long. : 128° 32' 19" E

This log proceeds NORTH-EAST.

- 65.7 Peg 76-51, cement block 15', N.W. by mulga clump, ground level 1998.1
- 71.2 Peg 76-50, cement block, SE, ground level 2022.6
- 75.1 Cross GILES CREEK.
- 80.1 Cross creek, run-off from KATHLEEN RANGE to the E.
- 81.1 CHANGE MAPS : Change "COOPER" for "RAWLINSON" 1:250,000.
 retain "PETERMANN" 1:1,000,000.
- 82.1 Peg 76-48, cement block, 20' SE, ground level 2022.3
- 87.1 Peg 76-47, cement block, 100', NW by bloodwood, ground level 1958.2
- 87.6 Cross creek.
- 88.1 Cross creek.
- 89.1 Cross creek. Follow creek upstream to GILL'S PINNACLE AND GORDON SPRINGS.
 (Both in SCHWERIN MURAL CRESCENT)
- 90.1 Cross creek.
- 90.4 Peg 76-46, cement block, 30I, SE, by mulga, ground level 1932.2
- 92.1 Cross tributary of REBECCA CREEK.
- 93.1 Cross tributary of REBECCA CREEK.
- 95.1 T-section. NORTH is to SANDY BLIGHT JUNCTION (N.T.) = 200 miles.
 Peg 76-45, cement block, 50' NE by Gum, ground level 1853.1

T-JUNCTION ON BEADELL HIGHWAY (BETWEEN GILES AND MT. DAVIES) TO AYERS ROCK VIA PETERMANN RANGE AND MT. OLGA.

Graded once, not maintained 4-wheel drive only. EAST is to (across REBECCA CREEK) AYERS ROCK (N.T.) 141 miles.

This log proceeds EAST. SOUTH is to GILES-MT. DAVIES ROAD JUNCTION-30.4 miles, graded once, not maintained, 2-wheel drive.

101.4 Peg 76-44, cement block 50' N, ground level 2003.6

106.0 CHANGE MAPS : Change "RAWLINSON" for "BLOODS RANGE" 1:250,000.
retain "PETERMANN" 1:1,000,000.

Cross DOCKER RIVER flows through LIVINGSTONE PASS (SOUTH) Approximately 1/4 mile of deep soft sand - sand mats advisable. To the NORTH is site of proposed Welfare Settlement neat MT. SKENE.

WATER (Bore on Docker, equipped with new well and tank, 2 miles in north of road follow wheel tracks.)

127.0 Cross HULL RIVER. Deep soft sand - sand mats advisable.

130.0 Cross HULL RIVER. " " " " " "

135.0 Cross HULL RIVER. " " " " " "

CHANGE MAPS: Change "Bloods Range" for "Petermann Range" 1:250,000
Retain "Petermann" 1:1,000,000

137.0 Turn east avoiding wheel tracks to Giles via a more southern route.

The pass on the south side of the observer, on both sides of the HULL, is the site of LASSETER'S CAVE marked by white painted cairn. The cave is on the western side, overlooking the pass towards the east. Lasseter's grave is further south and east NOT accessible 2-wheel drive.

154.0 Cross CHIRNSIDE CREEK deep sand which flows through WILLIAMS PASS to the south. SOAK in creek bed near crossing.

160.0 Cross SHAW CREEK - deep sand.

178.0 Cross IRVING CREEK deep sand rockhole near road side.

196.0 Cross ARMSTRONG CREEK.

CHANGE MAPS: Change "PETERMANN" for "AYERS ROCK" 1:250,000
Retain "PETERMANN" for 1:1,000,000.

236.0 Proceed WNW for : WARBURTON RANGES MISSION (W.A.) 394 miles
BLACSTONE ABANDONED MINING CAMP 259 "
DOCKER RIVER BORE 123 "
Proceed East for: AYERS ROCK via Old Road, graded, bypassing the scenic
and well worthwhile Mt. Olga. 25 miles
Proceed South-West for AYERS ROCK via MT. OLGA, new road 36 "

THESE LOGS PROCEED SOUTH-WEST.

242.0 T-junction. Proceed south-west for Mt. Olga. Avoid road south-east which bypasses Mt. Olga and provides a new short-cut to Ayers Rock, saving only 6 miles. This log proceeds south-west to Mt. Olga.

244.0 Forks roads. Right is to AYERS ROCK 28 miles. Left is to Mt. Olga, no through road, about 3 miles. Well worth a visit.

254.0 T-junction with the short-cut to Ayers Rock. Proceed east for Ayers Rock 18 miles.

266.0 T-section with old road coming in from the left. Proceed right (south-east) for Ayers Rock 6 miles.

270.0 T-junction. Bear right for track around south-side of the Rock. Bear left for track around north-side of the Rock. Tracks re-join at the other side, near the Tourist Camp and Ranger's Office.

272.0 Ayers Rock Settlement. Petrol, water and emergency store.
48 miles to Curtin Springs homestead.