

CAMEL TREKS AUSTRALIA

THE CAMELEER EXPERIENCE



THE CAMEL SANCTUARY TRADING AS
CAMEL TREKS AUSTRALIA PTY LTD



FIND INSPIRATION IN OUTBACK AUSTRALIA

CAMEL TREKS AUSTRALIA



ECO
TOURISM



The Cameleer Experience

This offering provides a unique, immersive experience for guests seeking hands-on involvement. Good fitness is required, as well as a willingness to get to know the camels and cameleers closely.

You'll sleep alongside the camels, participate in grooming, saddling, shepherding, and learn the intricacies of a camel and cameleer's life. Whilst other trekkers set up their camp or record wildlife, you'll be unsaddling and preparing the camels for their dinner time, armed with UHF and cameleers for company. In the mornings, the camels come first too!

This special is specifically for a hands-on, immersive, once-in-a-lifetime experience; otherwise, standard bushwalking fees apply. Good fitness is imperative, as well as the ability to share lifting saddlery and leading camels over varying terrains. Additionally, individuals must possess the listening skills to accept instructions from senior cameleers and a willingness to follow these instructions to the best of their ability, seeking assistance at any time they need support.

Consider what shoes and socks you will be wearing, as well as whether you will arrive with a backpack containing a water bladder and tube. Many cameleers place their backpack on the lead camel and drape the tube for easy access and free arms whilst leading camels.

Discover the extraordinary and embark on an adventure like no other with Camel Treks Australia. Book by simply clicking on any listed Bushwalking trek via our Trek Calendar page and enter the code CAMELEER at the time of booking to obtain your 50% OFF discount.

Prepare for an active getaway which will leave you sleeping like a baby!

The option to switch to the standard bushwalking trek is available both prior to your arrival and during the trek itself. If at any point during your immersive experience with the camels and cameleers you decide the life of a cameleer is simply too much hard yakka, let us know and we'll facilitate switching your booking based on the days remaining.



What to Expect

The Cameleers who are your guides -

- Enjoy meeting people from around the world
- Look forward to meeting and sharing with you
- Like a challenge in the outdoors
- Have previous experience with either camels or horses & cows
- Like and or adore camels
- Cooperate well as part of a team

We aim to impart the knowledge we've gained over the years about camels and the powerful connection that can be developed with them.

During a trek, we wake up just before sunrise to pack up our swags and personal baggage. Watching the sunrise in the desert is both energising and inspiring. Once your personal kit is packed, it's either left in a designated spot for the camp crew to collect or returned to the base camp at breakfast time.

We rise early to allow the camels time to eat, and then we commence grooming, saddling, and preparing any required pack bags with supplies. Once the camels are saddled, we load guest backpacks and any riding guests onto the camels and begin our walk to the next camp, which can range from 10km to 18km.

During the walk, you might be responsible for checking the comfort of the camels, adjusting saddle positions, or leading a non-riding camel string. We supervise the camels during the lunch break, and upon arrival at camp, we unsaddle them and allow them time to wander and eat. This means we are shepherding. Before this activity, grab some snacks from the table and a UHF, as camels like to wander even though they've been walking all day.

If you've ever wanted to get in super shape, this is your chance! Jokes aside, watching the camels browse their favourite food is meditative and surprisingly satisfying. We eventually tether the camels at these favourite bushes before sunset, and then the experienced cameleers will guide you back to camp for dinner. Please don't set up your swag in camp, as you'll be sleeping overnight with the cameleers and the camels. They never sleep alone.



Choosing this Option

It's important to be upfront that this option isn't for the faint-hearted. It will entail what might feel like strenuous effort for many folk, and without respite from cameleer duties. Others will undoubtedly thrive.

Given the significant discount, we are unable to accommodate requests for breaks or leisure time, as this would be unfair to other participants who paid in full and are enjoying the full benefits of their payment.

However as mentioned in earlier text, you can switch to the standard bushwalking trek both prior to your arrival and during the trek itself. If at any point during your immersive experience with the camels and cameleers you decide the life of a cameleer is simply too much hard yakka, let us know and we'll facilitate switching your booking based on the days remaining.

Standard Bushwalking guests still have the option to participate in learning activities, but they can relax at each day's campsite in the mornings, late afternoons and upon arrival into new campsites. Meanwhile, the Cameleer experience participants would remain with the cameleers and camels, sometimes setting up their personal camp in the dark. The camp base with snacks and meals can often be located anywhere up to 500 metres - 1 kilometre away from the camels' overnight resting spots as they require bushes to eat overnight. The Cameleer experience guests and Cameleers walk in and out for breakfast and dinner. Meals would be scheduled in rotation with other participants and cameleers, (so that someone remains a watchful eye on the camels wandering to eat or being tethered) rather than on-demand for and with riding and bushwalking guests trekkers.

Some other aspects of this truly authentic 'cameleers experience' include checking the camels, likely at least once during the night in the same fashion as our original pioneering Australian Afghan Cameleers. We are not exaggerating when we say it's an intense experience for some participants. Our cameleers are a resilient group, accustomed to rigorous conditions. Should you choose to accept this offer, it may feel like there isn't a moment's rest. It is unlike a typical guest experience. Many will embrace and thrive, while others may struggle.

Please take your time to consider this information, we're not aiming to deter, rather we wish to be clear and upfront offering the best pre-picture of this incredible experience.



What to Bring

- Long pants for walking - comfortable outdoor clothing
- Outdoor appropriate footwear and gaiters - comfortable walking boots / shoes (please do not arrive with new shoes)
- Bring blister protection if shoes are not well worn
- Long and short sleeve shirts / t- shirts, preferably cotton or a breathable fabric, such as dedicated outdoor clothing
- Layered clothing is recommended and consideration of the month trekking - warm jacket, socks and beanie
- Water-proof jacket / pants (it does rain and get cold)
- Broad brimmed sun hat/ fly net/sunglasses/sunblock cream/lip balm
- Basic toiletries/hand or face baby wipes/antibacterial gel or cream
- Fly net / insect repellent if desired
- Camera / spare batteries / memory cards
- Back-pack for carrying daily trekking needs - lunch and 3 x 1 litre drink water bottles or camelbak style water bladder
- Head torch / hand torch with ample spare batteries
- Pocket knife when working with camels (rope cutting)
- Outdoor gloves when working with camels (protection from prickles)
- A smaller day backpack is essential for carrying your lunch and water bottles or water bladder
- A second larger bag to hold all other personal belongings which can be accessed each morning and evening of the camp
- We welcome you to bring a walkie talkie handset
- Any medications need to be labelled and accompanied with written instructions in the event of an emergency.
- Anyone with an anaphylaxis management plan must carry an epipen at all times.
- We recommend bringing old, comfortable clothes and well worn footwear so as to avoid blisters - now ideally is not the time to break-in new boots.



Cameleer Books

Books can inspire the camel journey and evening campfire yarns.

- The Fighting Cameliers - An account of the exploits of the Imperial Camel Corps in the desert and Palestine campaign of the First World War by Frank Reid. ISBN: 1-84677-035-1 (hardcover) ISBN: 1-84677-025-4 (softcover) <https://www.bookdepository.com/Fighting-Cameliers-Exploits-Imperial-Camel-Corps-Desert-Palestine-Campaign-Great-War-Frank-Reid/9781846770258?ref=grid-view&qid=1615083174276&sr=1-1>
- The Cameliers - A classic account of the Australians of the Imperial Camel Corps during the First World War in the Middle East by Oliver Hogue. ISBN: 978-1-84677-524-6 (hardcover) ISBN: 978-1-84677-523-9 (softcover) <https://www.bookdepository.com/Cameliers-Oliver-Hogue/9781846775239?ref=grid-view&qid=1615083214145&sr=1-1>
- Trenches & Camels : Australian Recollections of Gallipoli and the Imperial Camel Corps During the First World War-Trooper Bluegum at the D by Oliver Hogue. ISBN10 1782823824 (hardcover) ISBN13 9781782823827 (softcover) <https://www.bookdepository.com/Trenches-Camels-Oliver-Bluegum-Hogue/9781782823827?ref=grid-view&qid=1615085522440&sr=1-9>
- Tracks: by Robyn Davidson - Now a major motion picture starring Mia Wasikowska and Adam Driver. 'I experienced that sinking feeling you get when you know you have conned yourself into doing something difficult and there's no going back.' So begins Robyn Davidson's perilous journey across 1,700 miles of hostile Australian desert to the sea with only four camels and a dog for company. ISBN10: 1408834863 ISBN13: 9781408834862 <https://www.bookdepository.com/Tracks-Robyn-Davidson/9781408834862?ref=grid-view&qid=1615088523940&sr=1-26>

Recommended Texts

CAMELS AND THE OUTBACK



H.M. BARKER

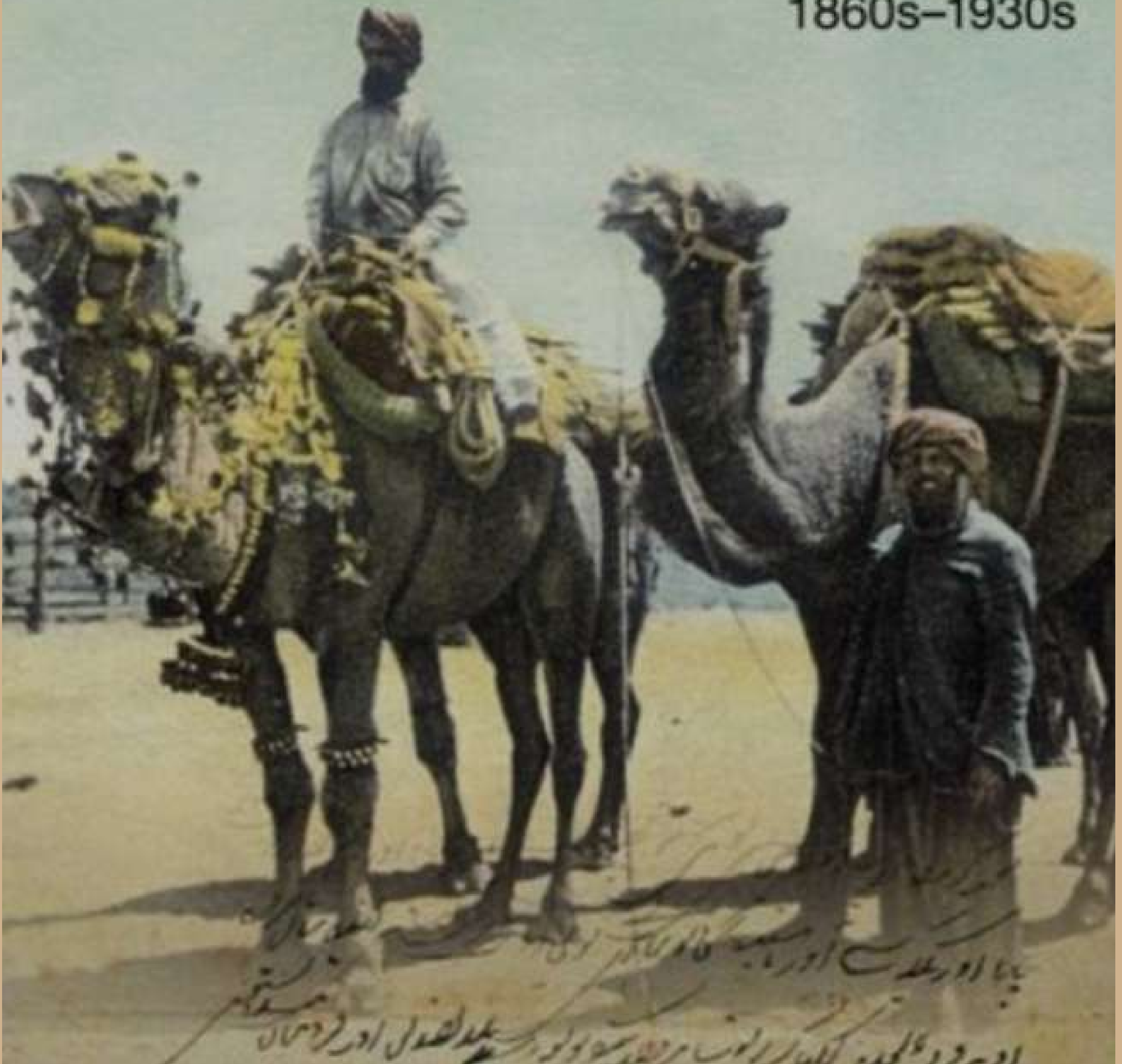
Field Guide - Recommended Text

Australia's Muslim



Camelers

Pioneers of the Inland
1860s–1930s



Philip Jones and Anna Kenny

South Australian Museum

Revised Edition



Cameleer Knots

- There are many knot books, and some really fabulous apps available. We personally use The Ashley Book of Knots, however there are many less expensive books available should you wish to purchase some resources for training purposes. Alternatively we also use the Animated Knots by Grog - Version 9.0 app on our trekking mobiles.
- The definitive book on knots , --including approximately 3,900 different kinds of knots, this book and a piece of rope will open a new and challenging world of practical adventure to readers of all ages. The Ashley Book of Knots includes almost everything there is to know about knots, each precisely named and classified (with some new knots officially listed for the first time in the original 1944 publication). Mr. Ashley describes when each knot initially appeared, something about their history, and what each knot is best used for. Including an easy-to-use index of knots, Mr. Ashley gives explicit directions on how to tie each knot. Devoting eleven years to writing his masterpiece, he describes each step simply and clearly and penned some 7,000 illustrative drawings alongside the text. This classic resource is based on forty years of looking for, trying out, and thinking up new knots. Mr. Ashley's drawings abound in humor and the text is full of colorful anecdotes. The Ashley Book of Knots will make a unique and permanent addition to any library. ISBN: 0385040253 (hardcover) ISBN: 9780385040259 (softcover)
<https://www.bookdepository.com/Ashley-Book-Knots-Clifford-Warren-Ashley/9780385040259>
- The Trucker's Hitch is an important knot for students to learn (also known as - Power Cinch Knot, Lorry Knot, Haymaker's Hitch, Harvester's Hitch) has the distinctive feature of providing a mechanical advantage when being tightened. The variety of names for this hitch is a tribute to its widespread use. Here is a link to a video tutorial for this particular knot which also introduces you to a very helpful website and associated app. - <https://www.animatedknots.com/truckers-hitch-knot>

The Main Cameleer Knots

The Camel Hitch Knot



The Bowline Knot



Cameleers Knots

The Truckers Hitch



The Bowline Knot





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