

Planning The Great North Oz Adventure



Introducing a very special new series from the F&B team of writers and photographers ... sharing their considerable experience of living, working and fishing the northern most waters of the continent. Spanning the two big states - WA and QLD - plus spectacular Northern Territory,



and all the rugged coast in between, the series will tackle everything the southern based angler needs to know to enjoy one of the greatest adventures left in Australia - to fish, to explore, and to appreciate the Top End of this great country. Many

writers and specialists are involved; John and Sam Yates continue with Part 3 ..

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Part Three/5

Doing It Nice & Easy . .

John & Sam Yates

Planning the Big Trip is one of the most pleasurable aspects of a top end program, but the research needs to be done very carefully and in plenty of time.



First up let me say this. If you are planning your first fishing trip up north and you really want the best chance of it being successful then book a respected fishing tour operator.

Even if it is only for a day. Without a doubt, going with a guide should be the least troublesome way of getting onto fish, and fully catered tours make magnificent holidays where even your beers can be opened for you. For the novice however, the most important thing is that you should, if requested, be provided with the right gear, be put in the right place and even tutored if that is what it takes for you to be successful.

You see the formula of a fishing guide is simple; **Clients + fish = money** which is squared by the client being happy enough to return book. Guides really do want you to catch fish and the bigger the better. That way, the photos you take will tempt your mates into booking their services as well. Naturally all this tender loving care comes at a cost

and you are probably going to have to hand over lots of your hard earned fun tickets for the privilege. Still the knowledge you can gain in a short period of time often represents a sound investment. If you have the money, go for it.

Nevertheless, what one person can spend on a week's fishing with a guide, a couple of mates or a small family not opposed to camping, can finance a self-run fishing holiday up north for two to four weeks. It depends a bit on how much you want to rough it, and what equipment you have at your disposal to start with. It is for those fishermen and boat owners who seek their own adventure, that these articles are written.

What Do You Really Need?

Much has been written on what rod or reel is suitable for catching barra or sportfishing in general in northern Australia. Less time or magazine space is devoted to the little tools and tricks required to make it all work, or

Above Preparing for a major trip north can take months of meticulous planning - here, John and Sam are figuring out their mid-winter run from Streaky Bay in South Australia right up into the tip of the Northern Territory. Top Right Set: We all know packing up the 4WD and a trailer is something bordering on an art form - and here, John & Sam show how the experts do it. One of the best tips is to begin the packing process with a really good list of what is where.

to keep it in one piece. It's a given that you can spend a small fortune on a variety of graphite rods and super slick reels for all of the various applications one can encounter in the tropics. If northern sportfishing is to be your main hobby, or the principal passion in your life, or a very frequent event, why not?

What though, if you just want to try it and taste Top End fishing for yourself just once or maybe twice - or if the reality of the matter is that