

THE OPEN ROAD

This couple loves nothing more than touring Australia with their caravan

Peter and Barbara Davidson have taken the term "grey nomads" to a new level.

The Cambridge Gardens couple are itching to get back on the road but are expecting another grandchild so they're Sydney-bound for a while.

Not content with travelling around Australia once with their caravan, they have done the round trip five times.

The repeat journeys are so they can get to their favourite place – Eighty Mile Beach Caravan Park on the beachfront between Broome and Port Hedland on the northwest coast of Western Australia.

"We like to take our time to get there," says Peter, who took a redundancy package from Telstra in the early 2000s.

“ We made the decision to travel because I wasn't sure how long I'd be able to

“There's no rush, we get there when we can, usually driving 400-500km per day and stopping off to see different sites along the way.”

Peter says when they arrive at Eighty Mile Beach, usually via the Katherine to Kununurra route, they switch off and relax, usually staying for three months at a time.

"We unpack, collect some firewood, make a fire and sit around and have a few drinks," he says. "Nothing is better."

Peter says three years ago there was no internet, only a payphone.

"It is nice to have a connection to the outside world, especially when we're away for long periods of time," he says.

Peter says the pair decided to make the most of their time after his redundancy because he suffers from arthritis.

"We made the decision to travel because I wasn't sure how long I'd be able to but it's worked out well," he says. "We love travelling in Australia because we can drive where we want, we pull up where we want and we can spend as much time there as we want."



FIVE OF THE BEST

Peter and Barbara nominate their favourite spots



EIGHTY MILE BEACH

It's not much more than a caravan park on the beach with a small store but it keeps luring the couple back to WA.

KATHERINE

With its ancient rock paintings, the town is the tourism gateway to the Nitmiluk National Park and Katherine Gorge.

COOKTOWN

At the mouth of the Endeavour River on Cape York Peninsula 330km north of Cairns, Captain James Cook beached the Endeavor here for repairs in 1770.

BAROSSA VALLEY

South Australia's premier wine region has plenty to offer visitors.

ADELS GROVE

With its palm trees and lush waterholes, this tiny town northwest of Mount Isa appears as an oasis in the midst of red desert.