

Past Adventures: Eco-Challenge Australia

1



Mountain-biking...



Photo G.W. Marriott

Rafting...



Packing...



Kayaking...

Discovery Channel Eco-Challenge Queensland, Australia 1997

The annual Eco-Challenge expedition-competition is made up of co-ed teams of four who race over 300 miles of extreme terrain in the world's most difficult adventure race using various skills including rafting, horseback riding, mountaineering, kayaking, trekking and mountain-biking.

The exact course is revealed to competitors just prior to the start of each leg, which could last from 8 hours to 3 days. At each transition area, the competitors are told the discipline and given appropriate maps and course details for the next leg.

Each team member is allowed 1 gear container and one bike box. When the team completes a leg of the race, the gear containers are transported to each transition area. Teams then switch out supplies, gear, food and clothing as necessary for the next leg of the race.

The race continues non-stop for up to eleven days and the first complete team of four to cross the finish line wins.



Abseiling...

The disciplines...

Trekking - the trekking segments encompassed everything from dry desert to rain forest trails.

Whitewater Rafting - the spectacular river threaded through a tropical rain forest included technical grade IV rapids.

Horse-Riding - The team was given four horses from local cattle stations (with saddle and tack) for this section.

Fixed Ropes Work - including rappelling on waterfalls, tyrolean traversing, and ascending technically demanding, wet waterfalls using jumars.

Canyoneering - this section involved travel through water and significant swimming with a pack as well as fixed ropes work.

Caving - competitors travelled through some of the world's oldest and longest lava tubes.

Canoeing - several sections of two-person inflatable canoeing amongst freshwater crocodiles along the outback rivers required long portages

Mountain-Biking - several sections through both thick rainforest and tropical crop areas. River crossings and muddy conditions were frequent.

Ocean Kayaking - this took place in the Coral Sea and involved checkpoints on off-shore islands. Technical and ocean navigational skills were a must.



River crossing...



Horse Riding...



Planting trees before the race...



Relaxing afterwards...

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2



Kayaking...



Trekking...



Canyoneering...



Training finished...



Victory...



One small step...



Mountain-biking...



Beer training...



Rafting...



Climbing...



Running...

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FUN

Photos by Chris Charlton

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3

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