

Family Rescued from the Australian Outback

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. Rescue /'rɛskju/ (Verb) to get a person or animal out of a dangerous situation
Example: The dog rescued its master from drowning.
2. Outback /'aʊt,bak/ (sometimes cap.) remote, rural areas, esp. in Australia and New Zealand
Example: They joined a week tour in the outback.
3. Missing /'mɪsiːŋ/ (Adjective) not present, included, or able to be found
Example: The child had been missing for days.
4. Stuck /stʌk/ (Adjective) unable to leave a place or situation
Example: I got stuck in traffic today.
5. Reception /rɪ'sepʃn/ (Noun) the quality or strength of radio, television, or other signals
Example: The cable had a very bad reception after the storm.



A family has been rescued from the Australian outback after Google Maps allegedly gave them the incorrect directions. Darian Aspinall, aged 27, was traveling from Queensland to Adelaide with her two children, aged 2 and 4, as well as the children's 50-year-old grandmother. New South Wales police said the family was reported missing on Monday, August 8, 2022. They hadn't arrived in the town of Packsaddle, in the far northwest of New South Wales, where they had been expected to stay before continuing to Adelaide, an eight-hour drive away. The family had last been seen on August 7, reported 7News. They had only a liter of water and some candy with them.

According to police, Google Maps had taken the family off the correct route and onto a dirt road where their car got stuck. With no phone reception, they weren't able to call anyone for help. They tried walking for four hours, but decided to return to the car. They stayed there for two nights, using the car seat covers to try to keep warm because it got cold at night in Australia's winter. When their water was all gone, they drank dirty water with insects in it that Aspinall found on the ground. Aspinall told 7News, "I honestly thought we were going to die."

The family was rescued after being seen from a helicopter that was looking for them. They were taken to the hospital, after which they were able to continue their journey to Adelaide the next day.

DISCUSSION

1. Do you know anyone with a terrible sense of direction?
2. Would you say that you have a good sense of direction?
3. Has Google maps ever misled you? What happened?
4. When you go on a trip with your family, who is usually in charge of directions? HOW about with your friends?
5. Have you ever got your car stuck somewhere? How did you get it out?