

SHARED ACTIVITIES

This is a shared rental and not a tour so be prepared to share activities and responsibilities:

Before the trip

- Read the guidebook, and research extra activities you want to do.
- Pay the deposit

First day

- Sign the shared rental agreement
- Check out where all the equipment is in the trailer, and what there is. Check the condition of the items. Make note of anything damaged, as we will check again at the end of the trip
- Check everyone's dietary requirements and make a list of suitable meals
- Choose a person responsible to hold the money, and people to do the shopping (better to do as a group of 2-3 people to avoid chaos)
- Put in some cash to a group fund for meals.

During the trip

- Plan your days together (do the night before, or a few days in advance so everyone is on the same page). The better you plan the less time you waste on the trip.
- Set up and pack away your own tent and sites (share with 2)
- Learn a lot about camping!
- Cook and plan meals together
- Work hard, play hard and have fun!
- Become an awesome team

After the trip

- Clean the van, trailer and equipment at the end of the trip
- Check you have all the equipment on the equipment list, and check the condition of the items
- Notify the group coordinator what is missing or broken. Please note that if something expensive (more than 30\$) is missing or broken (not due to regular wear and tear) the amount can be deducted from your deposits
- Complete a feedback survey to help us grow and improve!

ORGANIZING A ROAD TRIP FOR A GROUP

Daily program

It's likely that you will wake up early because the sun will light up the tents, the temperature will rise, and the birds will start to sing. It's great though, as you can make the most of the day. Ideally, you will be able to eat breakfast, pack up and organise the trailer in about an hour and a half.

If the weather is hot, it'll be better do activities and hikes early, while it is still cool. Remember to put sunscreen on every day even if it's cloudy as the sun is very strong in Australia. If you need to move locations or do a long drive, it's better do so after lunch, during the peak hours of the sun.

Make sure you're at the next campsite before sunset as you are not allowed to drive during dusk or night. It's very dangerous as lots of wild animals start to come out on the road during that time.

Itinerary, activities and where to sleep

It's best to make sure everyone is on the same page and happy with the itinerary, activities and accommodation. We have prepared a recommended itinerary but you have the flexibility to do what you want. At times it can be difficult to make decisions together, so some compromise is great. We recommend organizing the shopping list and itinerary in the evening or while you're driving to avoid to wasting time.

Some accommodation is already booked and paid for so please organize around those dates or call the accommodation to see if you can move the date of arrival. Check the weather forecast to avoid a night camping under the rain and sometimes you can treat yourself by going in a hostel to sleep in a bed and have a warm shower.

Shopping

During the first day it's best to talk about everyone's preferences and dietary requirements. We recommend nominating someone to manage the group's cash and 2-3 people to do the shopping (to avoid chaos!) Everyone can buy any extra food that the group doesn't decide on themselves. To help with tracking money we have prepared group cash chart/table, a general shopping list and advice on what to cook. Although sometimes you should definitely treat yourselves with a good BBQ or a dinner out.

HOW TO SET UP A CAMP

There can be up to 12 people on each trip. To avoid chaos its best to give everyone a regular role and divide the jobs between yourselves. Based on the previous road trips we realised the main jobs are:

1. Set up the tents (4 people in two teams)
2. Inflate mattresses, and put in tents with the camping mats (2 people)
3. Set up the table, benches, kitchen, generator etc (2 people)
4. Cook the meal (2-3 people)
5. Do the dishes (2 people)
6. Find firewood and start a fire (only sometimes, when allowed/available)

Set up tents

It's best to have two people setting up a tent at a time. Remember to put the tent bag under the tent so it doesn't blow away or go missing in the night. Remember to zip the tents up to stop insects going inside

Inflate the mattresses

We have two inflators (check the glove box). One plugs into the cigarette lighter of the car, and another has a regular plug you can use with the inverter. Switch on the car for this to provide energy and not flatten the battery.

Don't inflate the mattresses on the ground (to stop punctures), but you can use two benches and two plastic boxes to hold them off the ground while you inflate them.

Put two yoga mats in each tent, and put the mattress on top of them (to protect them from punctures). Remember to zip the tent afterwards to stop bugs getting in.

Set up the table, benches, kitchen, generator

The table to use as a cooktop has to be next to the gas bottle, which is located between the van and the trailer. Attach the hose to the gas bottle. Make sure it is attached tightly before turning on the gas to avoid wastage, but more importantly for safety.

The tables and benches are simple trestle tables.

Cook the meal

There is a gas cooker and a grill to put over a fire.

When cooking dinner, it is a good idea to also cook something for lunch the next day and store it in a pan. For example, if you are boiling water for pasta, you can use the same water to cook rice or something else the next day.

An idea is to use the big burner to cook a meal at night, and use the small portable one for coffee in the morning as it is easier to use but slower.

Make sure you properly close the gas after making dinner. Turn off the gas from the gas bottle, before turning off the gas burner. This is to make sure all the gas in the hose is used and is better for safety.

Doing the dishes

If you cook pasta, you can keep the boiling water in a bucket to do the dishes.

To rinse the dishes you can use the shower pump, it's easy to use and avoids consuming excessive water.

Make sure that the cooking equipment is also cleaned (i.e. burner)

Finding firewood and starting a fire

If a campfire is allowed (and its not fireban season), someone can start looking for firewood. We have a saw you can use to cut big pieces, and we also have fire starters.

Packing up

It's probably best everyone packs up their own tents.

If it has rained during the night or the tent covers are wet due to moisture, move them under the direct light of the sun so they will dry. This will stop mold forming.

When the tent is empty and the cover is off you can turn the tent upside down and shake out the dust.

Close all the zips, remove the tent poles.

Lay the tent on the ground (without the cover) and pull each corner tight so the tent is a in a big square. Then lay the cover on top and fold in the sides so it fits within the square of the tent.

Fold the tent in quarters, then in half. Then put the tent poles at one end and roll them up as you roll up the tent. One person can roll and the other can step on top of the tent to push out the air as they do this.

If the tent bag is missing you can secure the tent with two elastic bands.

MENU IDEAS AND SHOPPING LIST

Breakfast

Bread and spreads, jam or Honey
Milk and coffee with biscuit, cereal
Coffee made with moka
Fruits and nuts

Quick lunch

You could organise the lunch the night before or prepare something quick and easy during the day

Salad with meat/tuna/eggs, beans, green beans or other canned vegetables, lettuce, cherry tomato, cheese, mayonnaise
Wraps or sandwiches
Cold rice with mix of veggies, beans or leftover meat from the night before
Cold pesto pasta
Fruits

Dinner

At the end of the day you have more time to spend to relax and cook so you can prepare more elaborate dishes and also prepare something for the next day. Boiling the water takes a lot of time so if you can use the same water to cook twice (i.e. lunch) it's more efficient. You can even use the fire to cook delicious meals using a grill.

With the gas burner:

Pasta with pesto or other sauce
Mushroom risotto
Fry eggs and bacon
Cook meat
Mix salad
Steam veggies

With the fire:

The best way to cook in the fire is not use the direct flame but the fire coals. Make a fire and once you have burnt enough wood move the fire coals to the side and use them to cook your meals.

Wrap food in alfoil:

- Cut the potatoes (or zucchini, onion, meat etc). Add herbs/spices, wrap with and put in the fire coals

BBQ with the fire plate

Marshmallows on a stick -- a camping classic