

101 and more Campervan Travel Tips





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A campervan holiday is a fantastic way to see the many wonderful sights that Australia has to offer. Planning ahead before you commence travel in a campervan is a great way to ensure your holiday runs smoothly and without any unexpected surprises.

This ultimate guide to campervan travel will give you the lowdown on everything you need to know or what you may not have thought of, before you head off.

These ***101 and more Campervan Travel Tips*** will take the hassle out of planning and preparing for your campervan holiday.

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Pre Departure Information..... Tip 1 to 13

Things to do prior to leaving your house

- ✚ Have your mail held at the Post Office or ask a friendly neighbour to collect it.
- ✚ Organise to board your pets in a kennel.
- ✚ Arrange to have your plants watered.
- ✚ Empty the refrigerator and dump your garbage.
- ✚ Turn off pump to water tanks.
- ✚ Close and lock all doors and windows.
- ✚ Turn off electrical appliances at the wall and unplug PC cables.
- ✚ Give your emergency contact details to a neighbour or family member.
- ✚ Prepay your ongoing bills.
- ✚ Contact your bank to advise you are travelling overseas (some banks will lock your cards for international transactions to help alleviate fraud).
- ✚ Transfer money into your dedicated travel or credit card account/s.
- ✚ Visit your doctor to fill a prescription to cover the period you are away. When travelling with ongoing medication ensure you bring a letter from your Doctor and the prescription advising what the medication is for.
- ✚ If going on an extended trip for 4 weeks or more contact your Insurance Company to advise that your house will be unoccupied.

Documentation..... Tip 14 to 24

The following documentation may be useful during your holiday

- ✚ Drivers Licence
- ✚ International Drivers Permit (if required)
- ✚ Passport (if you are from overseas)
- ✚ [Travel Visa \(if required\)](#)
- ✚ Confirmation Vouchers
- ✚ [Free Stays Guide](#)
- ✚ Detailed Road Maps
- ✚ Credit Cards / Debit Cards
- ✚ Local Currency
- ✚ Emergency Information (Embassy Contacts, Travel Insurance Cards)
- ✚ Health Documents i.e. Prescriptions





Driver Fatigue and Planning Ahead..... Tip 25 to 30

Driver Fatigue contributes to approximately 20% of Australia's annual road toll.

- ✚ Drive up to 2 hours at a time and take a short break. Map out your stops and calculate suitable [driving distances](#).
- ✚ Share the Driving.
- ✚ Plan stays of 2 nights or more to ensure that you are not driving every day.
- ✚ Plan your upcoming adventure by using some suggested [itineraries](#) relevant to your location to give you some ideas on things to do and see in each area to break up your journey.
- ✚ Purchase a Park Membership for discounts on campsites.
- ✚ Pre-book or pre-plan your [overnight stays](#) even outside school holidays as local events or shows may interrupt your plans and availability of campsites. Utilise the [Free Stays Guide](#) which is exclusive to clients who book with [Discovery Campervans](#).

Night Driving Tip No 31

Australian wildlife is more active at dusk and dawn when it is cooler. Australia also has many nocturnal animals, which means they are only active during the night.

- ✚ Save our wildlife by limiting your driving to daylight hours.

Native Flora & Fauna Tip 32 to 35

Whilst travelling you will see our native plants and encounter up close and personal visits by our wildlife. Our animals may look cute and friendly but they must be treated as wild animals at all times.

- ✚ Human food is not a healthy diet for native animals. Do Not Feed our native animals (as tempting as it is) as this encourages them to come closer to the campgrounds. This can not only be dangerous, but also a nuisance where garbage is concerned.
- ✚ Keep your campervan doors and windows closed to avoid unwanted visitors. The smaller windows have screens and can remain open for ventilation.
- ✚ To protect our native flora, please do not disturb it or take it with you. Always abide by the guidelines set by National Parks signage and employees.
- ✚ Keep to the walking paths. They are there for your own safety and to minimise the impact on our environment.



Weather Warnings & Tide Times..... Tip 36 to 39

Weather and Tide Warnings are issued by each State and are constantly changing. Be Aware!

- ✚ Know what the current weather and warnings issued to the area you are in or travelling to and be prepared.
- ✚ Tide times can affect when you can drive a 4WD vehicle on the beach.
- ✚ The best time for fishing is generally at the turn of the tide. Some states require you to obtain a fishing licence before fishing, and sizing and quantity laws may apply.
- ✚ Be aware of local Fire Restrictions and/or warnings.

Swimming..... Tip 40 to 42

Swimming is a favourite past time in Australia and it's nice to take a dip when it's warm. However:

- ✚ Always swim on patrolled beaches between the Red and Yellow Flags in patrol hours. Follow the instructions of the local lifeguards and abide by signage erected on our beaches. Please be aware that beaches **are not** patrolled 24 hours a day.
- ✚ Avoid swimming in creeks, mangroves, estuaries and the ocean in north Queensland and Northern Territory as these are areas that crocodiles frequent. Many of these areas will be signed.
- ✚ Avoid swimming in the ocean from November through to May/June in north Queensland. This period is known as 'Stinger Season', with many various species of jellyfish frequenting the waters. A sting can be very painful and in some cases, even fatal.

Campgrounds..... Tip 43 to 46

There are various campgrounds throughout Australia that provide different facilities and standards of camping. Here are some things to remember:

- ✚ Bring a positive attitude and a friendly sense of humour to caravan parks. This will ensure a happy experience for everyone. It can be a great opportunity to meet new people and share your travel stories and suggested must see sights.
- ✚ On a powered site remember to park beside a slab, so you can put your outdoor table and chairs on the slab.
- ✚ Park facing south to enjoy shade in the afternoon. Alternatively, park facing north so in the morning there will still be shade when having breakfast.
- ✚ Remember to draw the campervan curtains at night for privacy and to keep out the early morning light so you can have a holiday sleep in!





Campfires Tip 47 to 53

Fire Restrictions are declared by the local Fire Service and can change on a daily basis. The restrictions are set when fires are likely to spread rapidly and could be difficult to control. Fire Restrictions may apply to BBQ's as well as Campfires.

- ✚ Please abide by the fire restrictions for the region you are travelling to or in.
- ✚ Carry a bag of fire wood or heat beads or fire starters just in case the campground or park does not supply it.
- ✚ Take a shovel to stoke the fire and to cover with sand/dirt if you leave the fire unattended or when you wish to extinguish it.
- ✚ Always remember to put out your fire when going to bed at night.
- ✚ Don't forget to take a recipe for your favourite damper and for your camp oven.
- ✚ You are not permitted to collect wood, branches or sticks from within National Parks.
- ✚ Ensure you have a container with at least 10 litres of water on hand in case of emergency.

Whilst Driving the Van Tip 54 to 62

You are responsible for the maintenance on your vehicle while it is in your possession.

- ✚ Check the water, coolant levels and tyre pressure every 500 kilometres travelled.
- ✚ Check the battery terminals if travelling in rough terrain.
- ✚ In dusty conditions clean the air filter daily.
- ✚ Keep an eye on the vehicles gauges when travelling long distances.
- ✚ Use the 24 hour roadside assistance number if necessary.
- ✚ Wear sunglasses while driving to protect your eyes from the glare of the sun.
- ✚ Drive at slower speeds than normal in areas of high wind resistance.
- ✚ Do not tailgate. Ensure there is plenty of room between you and the vehicles in front of you.
- ✚ Be aware of the height of your vehicle to ensure you have enough clearance from trees, branches, bridges and underground car parking areas.



Bushwalking..... Tip 63 to 72

There are many bushwalking tracks within our National Parks, Reserves and State Forests. Each walk is graded from easy to difficult and indicates how long it will take to complete.

- ✚ Always wear comfortable and sturdy enclosed shoes.
- ✚ Take plenty of drinking water (recommended 1 litre per person per hour).
- ✚ Roll a warm jumper up in a day pack.
- ✚ Ensure you are aware of the distance and time indicated to complete a walk.
- ✚ Always tell someone where you are walking and what time to expect you back.
- ✚ Bring a set of binoculars for bird watching, sightseeing and star gazing.
- ✚ Wear sunglasses to protect your eyes from the sun and surrounding scrub. Ensure you are wearing suitable headwear and sunscreen to prevent sunburn.
- ✚ Keep to the designated walking paths. They are there for your own safety and to minimise the impact on our environment.
- ✚ Take simple, high energy snacks eg, Trail Mix or Fruit. Don't forget to take your rubbish with you.
- ✚ Remember to carry extra sunscreen, insect repellent, fly nets and a first aid kit in your backpack.



101 Useful Items Tip 73 to 173

Stationery

- Travel Diary
- Pen and Notebook
- Books / Magazines
- Crosswords / Puzzle Books
- Local Maps

Cleaning

- Travel Clothes Line and Clothes Pegs
- Laundry Powder
- Broom / Dust Pan and Brush
- Garbage Bags
- Fly Swat

Cooking / Kitchen

- Matches or Lighter
- BBQ Utensils
- Disposable Foil Trays for BBQ Meat
- Paper Plates for Picnics at the Beach
- Plastic Knives and Forks
- Paper Towels
- Spray Oil for Cooking
- Sandwich Press
- Bottle Opener
- Can Opener
- Tablecloth
- Esky
- Non Perishable Food Supplies
- Water Container 15 Litres or more
- Wine Cooler / Travel Mugs
- Coffee Plunger

Outdoor

- Sunscreen
- Insect Repellent Coils
- Camp Lanterns or Candles
- Water Bottles
- Outdoor Table
- Camping Chairs
- Compass / Binoculars / Telescope
- Tarpaulin
- Cricket Set / Football / Frisbee
- Umbrella / Shade Tent for Beach
- Picnic Rug
- Fishing Rods and equipment
- Boogie Board / Surfboards
- Day Pack / Backpack
- Snorkel / Flippers

Indoor

- Board Games / Playing Cards

Electrical & Equipment

- GPS
- Satellite Phone for Remote Areas
- Torch
- Mobile Phone
- Portable DVD Player / DVDs
- MP3 Player / CD Player
- Lap Top
- Batteries / Chargers
- USB Cables / USB Drive
- Hairdryer
- 240v Plug in Mosquito Control
- 3 Phase Power Plug
- Lap Top
- Double Adaptor
- Portable Fan / Heater
- Camera with Spare Memory Card

Clothing & Linen

- Rashee or Lycra Shirt
- Beach Towels
- Thongs / Sturdy Walking Shoes
- Swim Suits / Bathers
- Hat / Fly Nets
- Wet Weather Jacket / Wind Breaker
- Pillows

Personal

- Insect Repellent
- First Aid Kit
- Toilet Paper
- Soap / Shower Gel
- Toiletries
- Hairdryer
- Warm Clothes
- Travel Sickness Medication
- Mini Sewing Kit
- Small Padlocks
- Luggage ID Tags
- Prescriptions / Letter from Doctor