

MEG LAW TRAVEL WRITER



“nothing beats sharing the hidden gems”



MORE THAN A WRITER

Meg Law is a passionate travel writer, journalist, dreamer, explorer and Instagrammer with a popular travel and adventure blog www.traveltales.com.au

Meg has a passion for writing and photography, and loves to showcase solo, couple and family experiences (adventure, nature/outdoors and luxury travel).

A former newsreader on various Melbourne radio stations, Meg now writes for a variety of travel publications and international brands and is a copywriter for various tourist destinations.

Meg is happiest when she has pen in hand or her feet on the dashboard on a road trip or when paddling in her kayak on the Anglesea river. Meg loves nothing more than exploring new territory, immersing herself in different cultures and travelling the world with her little family.

According to Meg, nothing beats sharing the hidden gems within her own backyard on the Great Ocean Road and uncovering Australia's best kept secrets.

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TINY HOUSE. BIG ADVENTURE!

Meg Law finds a family of four can stay in an eco-friendly tiny house and live to tell the tale

THE ULTIMATE FAMILY GETAWAY: ENJOY ADVENTURE, NATURE, INDEPENDENCE, SIMPLICITY AND QUALITY TIME WITH THE KIDS

RECOVERING FROM A TINY HOUSE

After 10 days, we decided to leave the tiny house and return to our normal lives. But the tiny house experience has left a lasting impression on us all. We've learned that it's not just about the house, it's about the experience. We've learned that it's not just about the house, it's about the experience. We've learned that it's not just about the house, it's about the experience.

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LIVING IN A SMALL SPACE WAS A HOLEY FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

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MEG LAW and her family board the Spirit of Tasmania ferry for a fun-filled road trip along the state's west coast

ROAD TRIPPIN' IN TASSIE

THE ULTIMATE FAMILY GETAWAY: ENJOY ADVENTURE, NATURE, INDEPENDENCE, SIMPLICITY AND QUALITY TIME WITH THE KIDS

As my paddle takes each dip, I feel a wonderful sense of oneness with nature.

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A SNAPSHOT OF PRINT FEATURES

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“a newfound
peacefulness,
an inner
happiness”

WELLBEING MAGAZINE
(PRINT EDITION: MARCH 2023)

TITLE: THE PERFECT WINTER REMEDY

A feeling of escapism comes with flying solo down a black run on skis, zigzagging between trees, competing against yourself and clocking your own velocity and speed – the stillness and peacefulness that comes with standing on your own at the top of a mountain after a morning hike, surrounded by a blanket of thick white snow with nothing but the crisp, icy cold air to keep you company.

Compare this with the stark contrast of the chaos in the main village with children squealing as they fly past on their toboggans, families happily building snowmen, snowball fights, learners colliding with their limbs and ski poles in an awkward tangled web of defeat. Just as no two snowflakes are ever the same, humans have differing ideas on what “floats our boat” and what makes us truly happy. For me, it is the snow.

There is something about a trip to the snow that feeds my soul. The whole notion of a winter escape gives me energy, ignites my sense of adventure and activates my passion for being immersed in nature.

For some, winter is synonymous with staying indoors and rugging up. Heaters cranked up, fires burning, ugg boots on – these cosy

images are enough to keep us from heading outside all winter. But in my mind, nothing compares with rugging up in my red woollen beanie, a scarf and matching mittens and feeling fresh snowflakes land gently on my pink mottled cheeks. I feel young and playful.

I want to run, skip and make snow angels.

Then later, when I hit the slopes and ski down a freshly groomed track I get the same sense of liberation and youthful exhilaration. I giggle with glee as my feet dangle over the chairlift, the cold, harsh wind slaps me awake and my eyes feast upon the spectacular unmatched panoramas of the Victorian Alps.

At the end of a long day of physical exertion, I find myself in a tranquil state of bliss. Whether it be nursing a warm cup of chocolate by a log fire or sipping on a tepid glass of mulled wine recounting tales of the day with friends, I succumb to a newfound peacefulness, an inner happiness; a feeling that is hard to replicate elsewhere.

[READ ON](#)



“the wake-up was worth it today”

N E W S . C O M . A U

TITLE: EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO PULL OFF A US WEST COAST ROAD-TRIP

There is something to be said about the freedom and escapism of a US road trip.

The beauty of the road trip 'zen' where everything is dialled up. Sunsets seem dreamier, foggy mornings more ethereal, days seem longer, colours brighter, and the possibilities seem endless.

Cruising along Highway One in our hire car, we were about to bite off a sizeable chunk from our bucket list and embark on one of the world's most epic road trips – the west coast of the USA. Two weeks, 1200 miles (or 1920 km, to save you from googling it), three states and an epic playlist.

Every turn delivers something new, from dramatic sea cliffs, pristine miniature coves, lighthouses, and towns bustling with live music.

There's also plenty for the foodies: think lobster rolls, buttery clam chowders, fresh oysters, craft breweries, artisan cheese, wine, and Michelin star restaurants.

Oh, and for a wildlife fix, you can take your pick from the quintessential squirrels, cougars, and coyotes you will find on the west coast trail, to the magnificent orca whales and humpbacks of the San Juan Islands.

It's easy to make the case for why this road trip should be on everyone's travel list.

[READ ON](#)

“...perpetual sunshine and carefree road trip vibes.



W E A R E E X P L O R E R S

T I T L E : R O A D T R I P P I N ' T H E G O O D O L D F A S H I O N E D W A Y

The Summer Road Trips of Yesteryear

'Siri, are we there yet?'

When travelling in a '73 Kombi off the grid this is how we roll. Two baffled young faces in the backseat who cannot work out why Siri isn't responding.

Remember the days when travel was slow and simple?

Nothing screams summer quite like a good ol' fashioned Aussie road trip. I owe much of my childhood adventures to that classic rite of passage.

All six of my siblings squashed in like sardines in an old beige coloured troopy, affectionately named 'the kidney rattler', in the sticky heat of summer.

The distinct smell of sweaty skin mixed with sunscreen, the familiar feeling of hot, balmy air whipping my hair against my cheeks and

the loud repetitive hum of the highway against the muffled tunes of U2, Eagles or Eurythmics coming from upfront.

All windows down, kids laughing and shouting to be heard over the engine, large paper maps poking awkwardly out of the centre console, icy pole sticks, and frosty fruit wrappers lining the back seat.

Dad at the wheel decked out in his favourite worn hat and enough sunscreen on to last a year, Mum upfront with her aqua polo top and tanned skin looking noticeably relaxed as she fiddles with a pencil and a tape cassette to rewind their favourite song.

Us in the backseat with pillows on our lap, squashed together on the bench seat with our sweaty limbs colliding as we happily play I spy, car cricket, and the number plate game... on repeat.

[R E A D O N](#)



“Stillness.
Clarity.
Peace.”

HOLIDAYS FOR COUPLES

TITLE: STOP. BREATHE. REPEAT. WHY WELLNESS IS MORE THAN A BUZZWORD AT BILLABONG RETREAT

Did you know that when a person cries and the first drop of tears comes from the right eye, it's happiness? But when the first roll is from the left, it's pain?

I know this because after four days at a rural retreat outside Sydney I have become so in tune with my body, mind and soul that I have managed to restore a missing balance. Mind you, it was no mean feat. It all began when I found myself standing on one leg and waving my phone frantically in the air on top of a hill... madly trying to find just one bar of reception.

I had just arrived at a mindfulness/yoga retreat with my husband. No kids. Just us.

Health retreats were once only for celebrities and hardcore health fanatics. They used to be an all-or-nothing proposition only for the health obsessed and wealthy: people prepared to detox for weeks on end.

But these days, they're more accessible for anyone: about uncovering a passion for health and wellness, connecting to oneself

and taking a holistic approach to healthy mind and body.

The rave reviews had me prepared for something 'transformational' with included daily yoga and meditation classes, nutritious organic vegetarian fare cooked by a resident chef, massages and treetop cabins – my idea of the perfect getaway.

I was a big fan of yoga and well versed in the benefits of meditation, mindfulness and clean eating, had studied the ancient philosophers and beliefs about living a life of purpose and had even completed a positive psychology diploma. So why was I nervous?

This was supposed to be life-changing and inspirational. But what if I didn't want to change my life? What if I was actually happy and fulfilled with the life I was leading? My inner skeptic rose to the surface. Mastering the art of mindfulness was clearly going to take me more than a few hours to achieve.

[READ ON](#)



“...taking
a break.”

WE ARE EXPLORERS

TITLE: EVEN EXPLORERS NEED A BREAK - HOW TO AVOID ADVENTURE BURNOUT

I'm swapping the hiking boots for fluffy slippers, the raincoat for a plush dressing gown, and adventure for mindfulness... all in the name of taking a break.

You see, even the most avid explorers and adventure enthusiasts need to stop for a breather.

Usually I'm most at ease strapping on boots, clicking on a ski, navigating open water with a paddle or traipsing around the globe with some mini explorers in tow. For me, there's nothing more liberating than wandering the unfamiliar, exploring the unknown and pushing myself out of my comfort zone in new environs. The connection. The discovery.

But, there are times when it's not just about testing the limits or reaching new heights, times when your body and your mind crave some down time and want nothing more than to regroup, recalibrate and simply 'be'.

In my case, I was feeling plain dog tired. No fuel left in my tank. Between regular international travels with my mini explorers, writing deadlines and training for a big kayak race, I was pushing my body through the hoops, and rather than wait until I was officially burnt out, I decided to be proactive and swap adventure for Ayurveda. Ommm....

[READ ON](#)

“family-friendly bucket list experience”



OUT AND ABOUT WITH KIDS MAGAZINE

TITLE: BIG RED BASH - THE WORLD'S MOST REMOTE MUSIC FESTIVAL

There are many travelling routes that lead to Birdsville for the world's most remote music festival, and the ridgy-didge road trip is all part of the adventure. For our family, it involved buckling the kids in for more than 3,000 kilometres of at times hardcore 4WDing from Victoria to Outback Queensland. We were welcomed by bright red dust as far as the eye can see, sandy tracks, potholes and corrugated roads that make your head throb from wobbling up and down, with wild emus and cows darting across the tracks and tumbleweed randomly whirling across the road, reminiscent of a Looney Tunes Road Runner cartoon.

Every year, iconic Aussie musicians like Jimmy Barnes, Kasey Chambers and Jon Stevens make the trek to 'Big Red' – the highest sand dune in the Simpson Desert – for the concert event known as the Big Red Bash. They spend three nights under a vast, star-speckled canopy entertaining more than 11,000 revellers from all around Australia and beyond.

Since its launch in 2013, this family-friendly combo of desert camping and live music has grown in popularity to become a 'must-do' bucket-list experience. But it is not one for the faint hearted. There's no WiFi, no phone reception, no showers or mod cons to be seen. Instead, it's communal compost long drop toilets, a sea of tents, green swags, utes, caravans, fly nets, Akubra's, Blundstones and good, old Aussie camaraderie.

The desert is transformed into a temporary mini town with its own network of roads and pathways for the event. The camping area sits on the dried-out bed of an ancient lake, with the giant rusty dune as a backdrop. It forms a natural amphitheatre, making it the perfect setting for an Outback concert. The landscape is coated in red dust that comes from the small pieces of gibber rock present throughout the region. Each year the weather and natural erosion add a little more.

READ ON

“for nature-loving families”

OUT AND ABOUT WITH KIDS MAGAZINE

TITLE: AMAZING PHILLIP ISLAND ADVENTURE: WILDLIFE, BEACHES AND FUN

From the world-famous penguin parade to seeing Australia's largest fur seal colony, MEG LAW and her family discover the best things to do during a stay at NRMA Phillip Island Beachfront Holiday Park

When we think of island life, it conjures up visuals of palm trees swaying, cocktails in a tropical oasis, white sandy beaches, and bright orange sunsets. But as we crossed the San Remo Bridge to Phillip Island, with dark clouds looming above, we knew this island escape was going to be a little different from the norm. Over the bridge and onto the island, we were edging closer to nature and wildlife and our heads were swimming with possibilities.

With its white sandy beaches, spectacular rugged coastline, and world-class surfing beaches, just two hours' drive from Melbourne, this wild, untamed haven everything this nature loving-family could want. Penguins waddle to their burrows, seals dive amongst the rocks, koalas nestle in trees, while surfers carve up beach breaks. It's also home to Australia's largest colony of fur seals, and an incredible array of birdlife. We were especially keen to spot penguins and seals, and even visit the 'hairy coos' on neighbouring Churchill Island.

Pulling into NRMA Phillip Island Beachfront Holiday Park, we drove up to our sea view cabin perched right above the sand dunes. When they said this park was “beachside”, they were not kidding. As my tween daughter testified with glee, “Mum, this is legit ON the beach!”. After settling into our spacious two-bedroom cabin and tossing a coin for the kids to settle who has the ever-popular top bunk (an age-old argument that happens every holiday), it was time to soak up the salty air and enjoy a cheeky G&T on the veranda. We kicked back on the deck and watched the kids fossick for nature's treasures in the rockpools, pelicans on the shore and locals fishing off the jetty as the waves rolled in. Location, location, location! The pet-friendly holiday park has a range of campsites and cabins to choose from. It is walking distance from the town of Cowes and has a wood-fired pizza oven, a seasonal campfire, a recreation room, playground and games such as giant Jenga and snakes and ladders on the lawn. A kids' club is available during the Victorian school holidays. It's the perfect base from which to explore the island.

[READ ON](#)



“dream a little”

O U T A N D A B O U T W I T H K I D S M A G A Z I N E

TITLE: FALLS CREEK: TAKE YOUR KIDS ON AN AMAZING SNOW ADVENTURE

Have you long dreamt of taking the kids on a snow adventure but have placed it in the 'too hard basket' due to a) needing a removalist truck to carry all your snow gear b) have no idea how you or your family will cope in sub-arctic conditions c) it seems like a logistical nightmare or d) it seems too expensive? If you answered yes to any of the above, it's time to close your eyes and dream a little.

There is something to be said about getting up high in the clouds with unmatched panoramas of the Victorian Alps, the crunch of fresh snow underfoot, giant crisp snowflakes landing gently on your cheek and the rugged snow-capped mountains glistening in the afternoon sun. Hot chocolate by the open fire, your kids decked out in their cute cable knit woolen beanies making snow angels... Let the alpine adventure begin!

Falls Creek is Victoria's largest ski resort offering 14 lifts, 92 runs and the perfect mix of beginner, intermediate and advanced terrain. A four-hour drive from Melbourne and you will arrive at this ski in-ski

out village, a picture-perfect winter wonderland for families. Now, let's squash some misconceptions you may have about a family snow trip.

Firstly, you don't have to be an expert skier to enjoy Falls Creek. Sure, there is enough terrain to keep the elite satisfied, but Falls Creek also offers a vast array of beginner and intermediate runs to keep the whole family happy. It also has an excellent Snowclub to introduce children aged three to six to the snow, as well as Junior Workshops for those aged seven to 14 to sharpen their skiing and snowboarding skills. It is true that kids have no fear when it comes to learning new skills, so starting them young is a good idea. In a matter of days, our nine-year-old daughter had mastered the blue runs in stunning bluebird conditions and our five-year-old enjoyed two full days of Snowclub, where he made new friends and learnt how to ski for the first time.

[READ ON](#)



“plenty of belly laughs”

OUT AND ABOUT WITH KIDS MAGAZINE

TITLE: BEAR GRYLLS SURVIVAL ACADEMY: KIDS VS WILD

Did you know about the rule of threes? You can survive three hours in a harsh environment (extreme heat or cold), three days without drinkable water and three weeks without food? Or what about the fact that tree sap can help you light a fire in the wild? Or that mealworms are a high source of protein? Our family of four was about to learn all this and more as we conquered the Bear Grylls Survival Academy – five missions over three days at NRMA Treasure Island Holiday Resort at Biggera Waters on the Gold Coast. The company has partnered with the UK-based Academy to bring an action-packed survival and adventure program to life for kids. And big kids can join in the fun, too! The new experience is available at several NRMA holiday parks in NSW, Victoria and Queensland.

Based on the legendary adventures of Bear Grylls and operated by an elite team of survival experts, the program aims to take kids out of their comfort zone with fun, challenging and interactive activities and obstacles. Whilst the TV star himself isn't there, every mission has been carefully curated and crafted by him to ensure the children benefit from learning fundamental survival skills. Prior to

each mission, there is even a personalised message from Grylls.

The first mission was an hour-long family adventure with plenty of belly laughs. First up, we had to paint our faces with war paint so that we camouflaged into the wild. Imagination is key with these activities and the kids really enjoyed pretending they were commando crawling upside down over swamps rampant with crocodiles, hiding from predators and learning new navigation skills when they were “lost in the jungle”.

Next up, Dad was blindfolded and led by his youngest son along a series of obstacles, while Mum was wearing camo netting and hiding behind trees from her daughter. Hilarity followed as we each had to complete a race carrying precious water to find a key that unlocked a box containing a sound horn to call for a rescue helicopter! Suffice to say, the competitive spirit was alive and kicking in our family!

[READ ON](#)



“a mesmerising
blur of
white sand,
untouched
wilderness,
blue sky...”

OUT AND ABOUT WITH KIDS MAGAZINE

TITLE: FRASER ISLAND (K'GARI) IS THE BEST FAMILY-FRIENDLY DESTINATION

As our 4WD drove off the ferry and along the wooden jetty to Kingfisher Bay on K'gari (Fraser Island), we felt our family holiday adventure had begun. The air had changed, and the mood had shifted. The kids were already eagerly searching for dingoes in the back seat, and the 'island life' vibes were high, with bright warm sunshine filtering through the window and the distinctive smell of fresh sea air mixed with sunscreen.

We were about to explore one of Queensland's most iconic eco-tourism destinations, a haven packed with jaw-dropping scenery, colour, adventure, and beauty. Nervous anticipation quickly followed as we knew we had to navigate some gnarly 4WD tracks and do a few nights of bush camping whilst keeping the kids safe from dingoes.

Next, we were greeted with lush green rainforest and a stunning collection of timber and glass villas blending seamlessly amongst the tree-covered dunes. This was our home for the next few days: Kingfisher Bay Resort, the UNESCO World Heritage-listed island's premier eco-accommodation.

The morning was spent exploring, returning mid-afternoon to lay by the pool, order a cocktail at the Sunset Bar, go on a nature stroll, enjoy fresh seafood and our favourite pastime... watching the dingoes gather along the far end of the beach at sunset.

Each day was a mesmerising blur of white sand, untouched wilderness, blue sky, spectacular sunsets... and pure bliss. We spent our days flying along sandy 4WD tracks, floating down creeks in rubber tyres, hiking, exploring, and swimming in aqua blue lakes, rockpools and lagoons. It was tough.

Every morning the kids would eagerly clamber into the ole khaki 2012 Land Rover Defender, and we would make our way along the 4WD tracks to find new places. Every bump, pothole, lost mudflap, and the challenging tidal conditions brought a new sense of freedom. Using our recovery tracks and winch a few times to rescue other cars stuck in the sand, there was a strong sense of camaraderie and Aussie spirit; everyone had each other's back.

[READ ON](#)



“the waves lapping
in fury as they try
to keep up with the
white gulls
circling above.”

OUT AND ABOUT WITH KIDS MAGAZINE

TITLE: SAILING AND FARMSTAY HOLIDAY ON GIPPSLAND LAKES

“Ship ahoy!” The wind fills our giant white sails as we charge through the water, the waves lapping in fury as they try to keep up with the white gulls circling above. The sunshine warms my feet as I sprawl lazily out on the hot fibreglass deck, the taste of salt on my lips and the wind lashing my damp hair across my cheeks.

I glance behind at my husband busy tacking away, pulling the jib and hoisting the mainsail. He is happily playing skipper for the next few days as we charter our own yacht, his face tanned, a big grin, and floppy blonde hair falling over his eyes – quite possibly the most relaxed version of him that I have seen, since pre-kids at least! The water splashes across the bow of the boat spraying the kids, and they squeal and giggle in unison, both aptly decked out in their bright yellow and red ‘buoyancy’ vests – certainly a fitting word for their current disposition.

Blue sky, sunshine, aqua coloured water and a 32-foot yacht, Catalina 320. Does life get much better?

Learning my sea terms, I quickly test myself. Helm, port, stern, jib, bow. Our Gippsland adventure has begun, sailing our own vessel on the Gippsland Lakes in Victoria – sleeping onboard for the week, navigating the waters on our own and being our very own skippers.

Seeing this immaculate, shiny white vessel with navy blue trimming tied up to the jetty at Metung, suitable for an A-list celebrity and their entourage, I could not believe we were allowed to charter this on our own for a few days. Surely you need a licence to drive something as big as this? But after a comprehensive safety briefing and a few reassuring glances from my husband, all my doubts were squashed ... we have totally got this!

Loading our bags onboard it was clearly apparent that we had yet again overpacked and underestimated the amount of ‘stuff’ we had with us. So, here’s a tip for those of you heading on a private chartered yacht – space means everything!

[READ ON](#)



“soak up the wonder”

OUT AND ABOUT WITH KIDS MAGAZINE

**TITLE: FAMILY MOTORHOME HOLIDAY AT WILSONS
PROMONTORY NATIONAL PARK**

As we drive along the long and winding road hugging the coastline and enter Wilsons Promontory National Park, we are greeted by massive granite peaks and towering sand dunes. The blood orange lichen boulders contrast with the brilliant turquoise waters. My shoulders drop, my soul dances and my eyes widen. It is so good to be back to my natural sanctuary, my happy place.

'The Prom', as it is colloquially known, stops me in my tracks every time I visit. No matter what season it is; whether confronted by fierce winds and heavy showers or sunshine and blue sky, it is always a showstopper. The Park is full of natural wonders – rocky mountains, pristine beaches, wildflowers, migrating seabirds, heathland orchids, towering forests, and a host of animals, including kangaroos, emus, wombats, echidnas, seals and dolphins. With only one road in and out, it's a place where you can really feel like you are away from it all.

'The Prom' was the final leg in our motorhome adventure through coastal Victoria. After spending a few weeks in our 'home on wheels', we were so excited to return to our favourite natural haven and base ourselves here for the week to camp, hike, swim and explore.

It was our first motorhome holiday, and we were completely hooked. We loved the freedom of parking overnight wherever we liked and waking up overlooking new terrain, whether that be beautiful mountains, lakes, rivers or beaches. We loved seeing kangaroos hopping by the side of the road, the kids playing UNO at the table while we drove upfront enjoying the peace, stopping wherever we liked to make a cuppa in the van or pulling up at a spectacular beach to have happy hour at sunset or partake in a spot of fishing.

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“turquoise water and not a soul to be seen”

O U T A N D A B O U T W I T H K I D S M A G A Z I N E

T I T L E : K A N G A R O O I S L A N D , A U S T R A L I A - S U C C E S S F U L F A M I L Y R O A D T R I P

Getting to Kangaroo Island by ferry

"Look! There it is, mum! Kangaroo Island!" Excited shrills came from the bow of the ship as my two young pirates had a pretend sword fight and gallantly sailed the high seas. Onboard the SeaLink ferry, they had not drawn breath during the 45-minute journey, and the excitement was too much for these two intrepid young explorers as they finally caught a glimpse of our destination, Kangaroo Island (KI) in South Australia.

Ready to start our kangaroo island road trip

Driving off the ferry in our 1973 kombi, we were ready for the next leg of our adventure. We had spent three days on a road trip travelling from Victoria to South Australia in our little white van, exploring the vineyards of Coonawarra, the seaside towns of the Limestone Coast including Penola, Robe, Beachport and then, of course, the spectacular beaches of the Fleurieu Peninsula.

As an introduction to the trip, we set the kids the challenge of researching and fact finding everything they could about KI, and this added some hilarity to the trip, with them constantly shouting fun facts from the back of the kombi...

"Dad, did you know KI is Australia's third biggest island?"

"Mum, there's no rabbits on the island and they are banned!"


"Dad, did you know you can slide down sand dunes?"

"Dad, did you know KI is nearly seven times the size of Singapore?"

...and so, it went on...

Is it the wildlife, the landscapes, the local characters, the history or the huge size of the island that makes this place so special? Or was it something to do with the fact you can't access the island unless you sail or fly? We set out to find out....

[R E A D O N](#)



“shh... don’t tell anyone”

OUT AND ABOUT WITH KIDS MAGAZINE

TITLE: ONE OF THE BEST FAMILY FUN ADVENTURES AT THE SUNSHINE COAST

Hastings Street, Noosa – people flock from all over Australia to visit this hub on Queensland’s Sunshine Coast, famous for its luxury hotels, plunge pools, cosmopolitan dining, surf stores, art galleries, day spas and designer fashion boutiques. Known as the heart of Noosa’s cafe society and bordered by Noosa Main Beach, the Noosa River, Noosa National Park and the Noosa Spit parkland, the bustling, thriving, friendly, beachside street has both an international and local flavour that is hard to beat. But there is more to Noosa than this popular drag. We set out as a family to uncover some of the family friendly experiences and hidden secrets that Noosa and surrounds has to offer.

One of Noosa’s greatest attractions is its golden, sun-drenched beaches, which are among the finest in Australia. The three main beaches – Noosa Main Beach, Alexandria Bay and Sunshine Beach – are fringed by many other picturesque bays and coves, and Peregian Beach is one definitely worth exploring. The seaside

village town of Peregian Beach is just 15 minutes’ drive from Hastings Street, and had long been on our list of places to visit, as we had heard a whisper over recent years that it was the quiet achiever. Boy, oh boy, these whispers were worth listening to!

A tiny piece of paradise on Queensland’s Sunshine Coast There is something quite beautiful about the Peregian way of life. Laidback coastal vibes wash over this enclave, friendly locals swarm the streets sipping on good coffee, kicking back having a yarn and chasing the sun. It’s a healthy way of life for all who live here and the main beach can testify to this, with hundreds of locals walking or jogging along the sand each morning at sunrise.

It’s clear that this place is one of the best beachside suburbs on the Sunshine Coast, but it may not be a secret for long (shhh ... don’t tell anyone!).

[READ ON](#)



“...his old,
weathered hat
could tell a
thousand
stories.”

OUT AND ABOUT WITH KIDS MAGAZINE

TITLE: FRESHWATER CREEK COTTAGES IN VICTORIA: THE
BEST FARM STAY

Our first-ever farm experience at Freshwater creek cottage as a family

My husband had been itching to get the family to do a farm stay for years. Finally, here we were, driving through the big wooden gates, the car vibrating as it passed over the cattle grid, competing with the raucous animal noises coming from the surrounding paddocks.


Having grown up on a dairy farm, my husband was well versed in the rituals of milking and feeding cows, collecting eggs, rounding up sheep and tending to the animals before the sun rose each day. He was eager to introduce the kids to this notion of getting back to basics and living off the land, with acres of paddocks to explore, animals to meet and fresh country air to breathe.

Unfortunately, my experience with farm life was not as legitimate (nor sentimental) as my husband's, and was more about fulfilling

a fantasy of being a 'McLeods Daughter', wearing checked shirts, designer jeans, boots and looking good in an Akubra. But there is something to be said about the tourism phenomenon, which has soared worldwide as farmers have sought to supplement their incomes by providing accommodation and hands-on experiences to guests. This desire to trade in the city life for a weekend in the bush is real, and we were about to find out what all the fuss was about.

Arriving at our 'home away from home' for the next five days, Freshwater Creek Cottages, the kids flung open the car doors and raced down the gravel path to get acquainted with their new animal friends. We pulled up at our farm cottage, which shared the same name as our daughter Daisy, and were greeted by a bright, cheerful weatherboard building oozing country charm, with a front porch lined with terracotta pots full of colourful flowers.

[READ ON](#)



“...nature showing no
mercy as shrubs
and grasses held their roots
firm and clung
to life against...”

OUT AND ABOUT WITH KIDS MAGAZINE

**TITLE: A WORLD OF FAMILY ADVENTURES: TASMANIA
WITH THE KIDS**

Enjoying one of Australia's most iconic travel experiences of on board the Spirit of Tasmania

"Ahoy me hearties! Let's sail the high seas!" screeched our excited seven-year-old with her imaginary sword held up against her younger brother in the back seat. We drove up the ramp and boarded the shiny, big red ship, Spirit of Tasmania, ready for our two-week road trip along Tasmania's west coast.

Once parked on the lower deck of the ship, we scrambled out of the car and loaded ourselves up like packhorses with day bags, snacks, pram and nappies. We had been forewarned by friends that when you do the day sailing with kids in tow, it's best to head straight to the indoor playground area on the upper deck and bunker down by the café for the nine hour trip. Sage advice!

Soon after, the horn sounded and we were off. We headed out onto

the outer deck and waved goodbye to Melbourne as we sailed on our first family voyage to Tasmania.

First Stop: Penguin, South Australia
A short drive from the Devonport ferry terminal, we rested our weary heads in the quaint seaside town of Penguin. Sitting on the edge of the mighty Bass Strait, Penguin takes its name from a nearby penguin rookery. This town loves its little feathered friends, and even boasts a large penguin statue. The real thing can be seen each night at Penguin Point from September to March as hundreds of little penguins waddle up along the shoreline to nest.

We begin our driving holiday on the coastal road between Ulverstone and Wynyard – a beautiful scenic drive with sweeping ocean views, great picnics spots and clean beaches for seaside walks and fun.

[READ ON](#)

“ahhh, how’s the serenity?”

OUT AND ABOUT WITH KIDS MAGAZINE

**TITLE: NSW AND VICTORIA TINY HOUSES FOR BIG
ADVENTURE WITH KIDS!**

It was at a dinner party with friends that we realised we were different. When discussion turned to the perfect family holiday, a tropical island with white sand beaches, cocktails and a 24/7 kids club was the outright winner. My husband and I were outvoted. We looked at each other across the table and grinned in silent amusement as we reminisced about the holidays we had taken with our kids, aged three and seven – snow shoeing, skiing, caving, kayaking. For us, the ultimate family getaway entails adventure, nature, wilderness, simplicity and quality time with the kids. The next morning our tiny house adventure was born.

Be ready to enjoy a fun getaway with a tiny carbon footprint with In2TheWild Tiny Holidays

Over ten days, we stayed in three different tiny houses in NSW and Victoria with In2TheWild Tiny Holidays. Our first house was

called Walden, near Bungonia National Park in the NSW Southern Tablelands. The kids raced each other to the farm gates and swung them open in anticipation. “Mum, it’s REALLY tiny!”, my daughter shrieked. This was followed by raucous laughter and high-pitched screams as we took in the cute (and indeed VERY tiny) blue timber-clad cubby house, perched gallantly in the middle of an open field. But what the house lacked in size, it made up for in charm. The native bushland that surrounded it relieved my inner claustrophobic, and I had a sudden urge to run through the bush like Max in Where the Wild Things Are.

[READ ON](#)



“full bellies
and happy
hearts”

OUT AND ABOUT WITH KIDS MAGAZINE

TITLE: BALLARAT'S BEST-KEPT SECRETS: A FUN FAMILY ADVENTURE

Ballarat: New experiences and hidden surprises

As we pulled into the historic city of Ballarat, we were ready for a mini family escape in a place we thought we knew well. In the foothills of the Great Dividing Range, Ballarat is a place we have visited frequently over the years, always squeezing in our favourite family activities – a ride on the vintage tram, a picnic at Lake Wendouree, and of course a day at the Sovereign Hill open-air museum for some gold panning, a horse and carriage ride, and the obligatory visit to the lolly shop.

But on this trip, we discovered there are so many more fun things to do, with exciting new experiences and hidden surprises filling our itinerary. Our long weekend was a wonder of wildlife, nature, food comas, laughter and quality family time all set against the backdrop of this thriving and progressive city with a charming heritage feel.

Ballarat Wildlife Park: An immersive animal experience
Opening the large wooden gates to this wildlife sanctuary was like walking into Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory, but instead of chocolate fountains and giant candy canes, our eyes rested upon adorable meerkats standing to attention and more than 100 kangaroos on the grass. This isn't just another zoo, this place is special. We didn't just view the animals behind glass, we were completely immersed in interactive wildlife encounters.

The kids loved hand feeding and patting the kangaroos as they lazed contentedly on the grass in the sunshine, watching the little feathered penguins tapping their 'happy feet' and splashing around in their giant pool, and seeing the koalas hugging the gum trees and sleeping soundly. What a life!

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“this truly is paradise”

O U T A N D A B O U T W I T H K I D S M A G A Z I N E

TITLE: AGNES WATER: A FAMILY ADVENTURE IN THE TROPICS

Paradise found: Exploring Agnes Water, Queensland's coastal gem “Heck, where else would you rather be?” a fisherman bellows across the sand bar with a hearty laugh as he passes by on a rusty tinny. He isn't wrong. This truly is paradise. We knew it from the moment we arrived in Agnes Water, a relaxed coastal town in Queensland's Gladstone region. Think palm trees swaying, tanned holidaymakers walking the streets barefoot and clad in towels, bikinis or boardies; young surfers riding their bikes with their boards strapped on and noses covered in zinc.

Our stay at NRMA Agnes Water Holiday Park
As we pull into our accommodation at NRMA Agnes Water Holiday Park, we are greeted by the familiar smell of snags on the barbie, the sound of waves crashing against the shore and a sea of happy campers mingling for happy hour.

When it comes to accommodation, ‘beachfront’ can be an overused term, but not this time! Our beachside villa is pure perfection. Perched on stilts with a balcony overlooking the ocean, it has a spacious lounge with a huge dining table, self-contained kitchen and of course the kids’ favourite – bunks, which are always a big

tick when on holidays. Sweeping views of sand and sea provide the perfect backdrop for a summer escape. There's also an on-site café, which is a great place to visit for a post-surf session of fish tacos, breakfast wraps and passionfruit smoothies.

Kayaking Adventure in 1770: Exploring Round Hill Creek
Agnes Water is one of those places where you can choose to pack your days with non-stop adventure or do precious little but soak up the sunshine and bob around in the ocean. We choose a bit of both. To start, we join the effervescent Janina, from 1770 Liquid Adventures, to embark on the two-hour family kayak tour exploring Round Hill Creek, around 10 minutes’ drive north of Agnes Water. The experience begins with a short safety briefing and lesson on correct paddling technique before we take off in our double kayaks, with our five-year-old proud to show off his paddling prowess. We follow Janina along the bay, passing the sand bar (where we encounter the fisherman), sail boats and mangroves. After being given a bird and marine life identification slate to use on the tour, the kids are intent on ticking them all off the list.

[READ ON](#)



“my soul
feels
awakened”

OUT AND ABOUT WITH KIDS MAGAZINE

TITLE: THE BEST OF GRAMPIANS AT NRMA HALLS GAP, VICTORIA

Shrieks of laughter echo through our cabin as the kids come running into our room, and a collision of tiny limbs appear in a tangled web at the foot of our bed. It's our first morning waking up at NRMA Halls Gap Holiday Park, and to say they are excited to be here is an understatement. As I peek through the bedroom window and catch a glimpse of the dramatic sandstone mountain peaks in the distance – whilst smelling the welcome aroma of fresh coffee from the on-site coffee van – my soul feels awakened.

NRMA Halls Gap Holiday Park in Victoria
The town of Halls Gap lies in a valley in the heart of The Grampians National Park, known for its rugged landscapes, giant granite boulders, wildflowers, birdlife and wildlife, including kangaroos, emus, echidnas and wallabies. Walking distance from the main street, NRMA Halls Gap Holiday Park provides the perfect base to explore the area's natural wonders. When we stay, it's packed to the rafters with young families sleeping in a mix of retro caravans, swags, tents and cabins, with some grey nomads along for the

ride in their motorhomes and campervans. This holiday park is an adventurer's playground, with two large pools, a pump track, sauna, games room, camp kitchen, communal firepit and a tennis court. It's also located near four lakes, which are great for canoeing, fishing and swimming.

Hiking to The Pinnacle Lookout
First up, we decide to make the most of the kids' morning energy, don the hiking shoes and take a walk up to The Pinnacle Lookout – a craggy rock formation that is one of the the Grampians' highlights. With two young children in tow, we opt for the easy 4.2-kilometre return climb from the Sundial Car Park via Devil's Gap. It is moderately steep at times and includes some rock-hopping, so sturdy shoes are essential. However, the reward is well worth the climb, as we are greeted with stunning views of Halls Gap and The Grampians' many peaks.

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