



## NOW WE'RE TAWKING!

Travelling Australia With Kids  
with **Lucas Hay**

# EXPLORING MAGICAL ESPERANCE WITH KIDS

**Welcome all to the summer issue from the TAWK team, Travelling Australia With Kids! Today we will focus on the top 5 family activities in the magical coastal landscape of Esperance.**

**E**sperance, located along the southern coast of Western Australia, is a hidden gem brimming with natural beauty, rich history, and adventure. This coastal town, with its stunning white sandy beaches, turquoise waters, and abundant wildlife, offers the perfect family-friendly destination. Whether you're seeking a relaxing holiday

or an action-packed itinerary, Esperance has something to offer everyone. For families visiting, here are the top five must-do activities that will ensure an unforgettable trip.

## TANKER JETTY: A STROLL THROUGH HISTORY

A visit to Esperance wouldn't be complete without a stop at the historic Tanker Jetty. Originally built in the 1930s to service ships during the gold rush, this iconic landmark



has served as a vital piece of local history for decades. Though the original structure has since been replaced, its modern counterpart still holds significant historical and cultural value for the town.

For families, walking along the jetty offers a peaceful opportunity to admire the breathtaking coastal views and spot marine wildlife. Fishing off the jetty is a popular pastime, and kids will love the chance to try their hand at catching something from the crystal clear waters below. The sea life around the jetty is rich and diverse, with regular sightings of seals, dolphins, and various species of fish. Don't forget to bring your camera, as you'll want to capture the beautiful sunset views that make the jetty a prime location for evening family walks.

Additionally, the jetty offers an educational aspect for families. With interpretive signs detailing its history, visitors can gain insight into how this structure played an integral role in Esperance's development. Whether you're walking, fishing, or simply soaking in the views, the Tanker Jetty provides a serene yet engaging experience for all ages.

## ESPERANCE MUSEUM: A STEP BACK IN TIME.

For families eager to dive into the local history of Esperance, the Esperance Museum is a must-visit destination. Housed in a former railway goods shed, this museum offers a fascinating look at the region's past, presenting exhibits that range from the town's early days to its unique space age history.

One of the museum's standout features is its collection of debris from Skylab, NASA's first space station, which famously re-entered the Earth's atmosphere and scattered across the Esperance region in 1979. Kids will love hearing the story of how Esperance humorously issued NASA a \$400 littering fine (which was eventually paid!).

It's a story that adds a touch of comedy to the museum's broader display of historical artefacts.

The museum also features a variety of exhibits showcasing early settler life, farming equipment, vintage cars, and relics from the town's maritime and railway history. These exhibits offer a hands-on educational experience, allowing children and adults alike to understand how Esperance transformed from a small settlement into a thriving coastal town. The interactive displays make history engaging for younger visitors, while parents will appreciate the rich context provided about the local community.





## THE GREAT OCEAN DRIVE: A SCENIC ADVENTURE.

If your family enjoys road trips, the Great Ocean Drive is an absolute must. This 40-kilometre scenic loop takes you along Esperance's breathtaking coastline, offering unparalleled views of turquoise waters, dramatic cliffs and pristine beaches. As you make your way along the drive, you'll come across numerous stop-off points where families can swim, picnic, or simply take in the stunning views.

One of the key highlights of the Great Ocean Drive is Twilight Beach. Often cited as one of Australia's best beaches, its calm, shallow

waters and soft, white sand make it an ideal spot for young children to safely swim and play. The striking granite rocks surrounding the beach also offer opportunities for light climbing and exploration, adding an element of adventure to the visit.

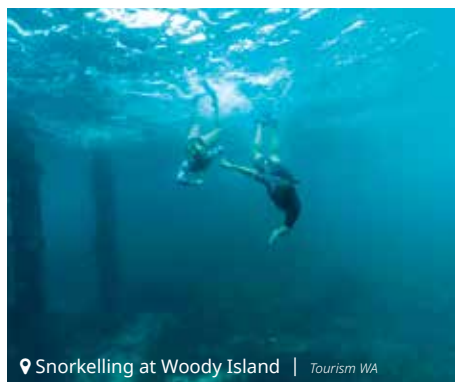
Along the route, you'll also find Observatory Point, a perfect spot for whale watching during the migration season (June to October). Families can use the telescopes provided to spot humpback and southern right whales as they journey along the coast. It's an exhilarating experience, especially for children who may have never seen such majestic creatures up close.

The Great Ocean Drive also includes several smaller, secluded beaches where families can enjoy a quiet picnic away from the crowds. With its endless opportunities for beachcombing, swimming, and wildlife spotting, this scenic drive offers families a perfect blend of relaxation and exploration.

## WOODY ISLAND: THE ISLAND ADVENTURE.

For families seeking a more adventurous outing, a trip to Woody Island should be at the top of your list. Located just 15 kilometres off the coast of Esperance, this eco-friendly island is a part of the Recherche Archipelago and is perfect for a day trip or overnight stay. Accessible by ferry, Woody Island offers a range of family-friendly activities, including hiking, snorkelling and wildlife watching.

The island's walking trails vary in difficulty, making it easy for families with young children to explore. Along the trails, you'll encounter native flora and fauna, including many species of birds, lizards, and even the occasional dolphin swimming along the shoreline. For those interested in birdwatching, Woody Island is a sanctuary for seabirds, and you'll likely spot species like Pacific gulls and wedge-tailed eagles.



The island's protected coves are also ideal for snorkelling. The clear waters allow for excellent visibility, and children will delight in the colourful fish, crabs, and other marine life that call this underwater paradise home. If you're visiting during summer, you can also rent kayaks and paddleboards, giving your family the chance to explore the island's coastline from a new perspective.

For families who wish to extend their stay, Woody Island offers glamping options, providing a comfortable and eco-friendly way to experience nature overnight. Spending a night under the stars on this tranquil island is a magical experience, and waking up to the sounds of the ocean is something your family will remember for years to come.

## PINK LAKE: A NATURAL WONDER.

Last but certainly not least, no trip to Esperance is complete without visiting the Pink Lake. Although this lake has lost much of its famous pink hue in recent years due to environmental changes, it remains a fascinating natural site to explore with your family.

The Pink Lake gets its colour from a unique combination of salt and algae, which, under the right conditions, produces a pink hue. While it's no longer as vibrant as it once was,

the lake still holds significant scientific and environmental interest. Families can learn about the delicate balance of nature that creates such phenomena and discuss the importance of environmental conservation.

To enhance your visit, consider taking a guided tour, where local experts explain the history and significance of the lake's changing colour. Alternatively, you can simply walk along the shore and enjoy the surrounding beauty of the area. The views are particularly spectacular at sunrise and sunset when the light casts a soft glow across the landscape.

Although the lake itself may not be as vividly pink as in years past, the nearby surrounding area remains a picturesque location for a family picnic or leisurely walk. Plus, the lake's proximity to other attractions in Esperance makes it easy to include in a day of exploring the region.

Esperance is a destination where the natural world takes centre stage, offering families a blend of history, adventure, and relaxation. Whether you're wandering along the iconic Tanker Jetty, exploring the fascinating exhibits at the Esperance Museum, cruising along the scenic Great Ocean Drive, embarking on an eco-adventure to Woody Island, or marvelling at the Pink Lake, there is no shortage of memorable experiences to be had.

With its combination of stunning landscapes, engaging activities, and a laid-back atmosphere, Esperance provides the perfect backdrop for creating lifelong family memories. So pack your bags, gather your family, hook up the caravan, and why not stay at Esperance Bay Holiday Park, where TAWK MEMBERS' kids stay two nights free? Get ready to explore one of Western Australia's most enchanting coastal towns.

For more information on the TAWK program please visit [travelingaustraliawithkids.com.au](http://travelingaustraliawithkids.com.au) and follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Until next issue, we hope to see you on the road and safe travels from the TAWK team!