



NOW WE'RE TAWKING!

TRAVELLING AUSTRALIA WITH KIDS
WITH TARA HENRY

ROUTINE ON THE ROAD

How Travelling Families Keep the Wheels Turning (and the Kids Mostly Civilised)

There comes a magical moment on every big family trip around Australia. The sun is setting over a postcard-perfect horizon, the campfire is crackling, and kangaroos are politely grazing in the background. You look at your children and think, “We are living the dream.”

Then someone screams about a sibling touching their foot, another child is eating condensed milk straight from the tube, and nobody has showered in three days.

Welcome to family travel without routine—also known as *Lord of the Flies: Caravan Edition*.

At TAWK, we’ve seen thousands of families hit the road full of optimism, only to discover that children do not stabilise themselves automatically. The good news? You don’t need military precision. You just need a flexible routine that travels with you.

Children thrive on predictability. Routine provides security, better sleep, fewer meltdowns, and a sense of responsibility. Without structure, kids become tiny feral backpackers with unlimited snack demands.

Routine doesn’t mean rigid schedules—it means anchor points in the day that happen consistently, wherever you are.

MORNINGS SET THE TONE

Most travelling families follow a simple rule: nothing fun happens until the basics are done. That usually means getting dressed, brushing teeth, eating breakfast, tidying sleeping areas and helping reset the campsite. Yes, it takes longer. Yes, they complain. But over time, they become capable and cooperative.

CHORES STILL EXIST ON THE ROAD

Parents are cooking, cleaning, navigating, budgeting, emptying toilet cassettes and locating laundromats. Kids should contribute as part of the team. Younger children can collect sticks, wipe tables, or carry items. Primary-age kids can help with dishes and setup. Teens can cook, navigate, manage laundry, and supervise younger siblings.





ROADSCHOOLING WITHOUT THE STRESS

Education worries many travelling families, but roadschooling doesn't need to replicate a traditional classroom. Most families find one to three hours per day is plenty—especially in the morning. Learning happens everywhere—calculating fuel costs, reading maps, visiting museums and exploring nature. Consistency matters more than intensity.

Screens can derail schooling quickly, so many families adopt the rule: school first, chores second, free time third. It's simple and effective.

BEDTIME MATTERS

Tired kids turn into chaos gremlins, especially after exciting days. While exact times may shift, keeping a consistent bedtime routine—shower, pyjamas, teeth, quiet time, lights out—helps everyone sleep better.

Campfires complicate bedtime because nobody wants to leave. Families often use strategies like campfire curfews, rotating late-night passes or quiet movie time inside bunks. Flexibility is essential. Some days will fall apart completely due to weather, long drives, or unexpected adventures. Consistency over time matters more than perfection each day.



SIMPLE TOOLS THAT HELP

Visual charts, checklists, timers, reward systems, and family meetings can make a big difference. Travel builds independence. Kids learn adaptability, problem-solving, social skills, and resilience. By the end of long trips, many children can pack, cook, organise, and navigate confidently.

Routine on the road is not about control—it's about creating a portable sense of home.

You didn't set off to recreate your house on wheels. You set off for freedom, connection, and memories. The goal isn't perfectly behaved children; it's happy, capable kids who can explore Australia without turning every campsite into a crisis zone.

And if all else fails, hand them a broom, a sandwich, and send them outside to look for kangaroos.

Works every time.

TAWK — Travelling Australia with Kids
Helping families swap chaos for confidence, one campsite at a time.