

Tick as you pack. Built from what we took and what hundreds of TAWK families told us they couldn't do without. It all depends how you like to travel — back to basics means less than this, comfortable means more. Items marked **TAWKER TIP** were suggested by families who'd already been out there.

● SLEEPING

- ☐ **Sleeping bags** — you'll want them in the cold areas
- ☐ **Sheets** — because sometimes sleeping bags are too hot
- ☐ **Pillows** — double up for long car trips
- ☐ **Lamps and nightlights**
- ☐ **Teddies and comforters**
- ☐ **Nightclothes**
- ☐ **Air beds and a pump**
- ☐ **Fans, big and small** — handy for bunk beds when you don't want the air con running all night

● PERSONAL AND CLOTHING

- ☐ **Clothes for all seasons** — you'll go through more than one
- ☐ **Shoes** — hiking boots, thongs, runners
- ☐ **Bathers**
- ☐ **A good first aid kit** and antiseptic creams — spend the extra on a comprehensive one
- ☐ **Medication**, adult and children's
- ☐ **Extra band aids** — there are never enough
- ☐ **Good insect repellent**
- ☐ **Sunscreen**
- ☐ **Feminine items**
- ☐ **Hats**
- ☐ **Baby essentials** — nappies and all things baby
- ☐ **Hot water bottle** — handy for stomach cramps
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- ☐ **Fly nets** — the ones that go around your hat. Some places have so many flies they're the difference between coping and not **TAWKER TIP**
- ☐ **Wart-Off freeze spray** — a wart freezing kit using cryoliquid is a recommended way to remove ticks, and avoids the blood poisoning risk of other methods
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● SHOWERING

- ☐ **Cloth shopping bags** — one each as a wash bag, doubles as a shopping bag
- ☐ **Several small plastic bottles** — fill from the big shampoo and conditioner bottles so everyone has their own and nobody's waiting
- ☐ **Soap containers**
- ☐ **Tissues**

- ☐ **Large shampoo and conditioner** to refill the small ones
- ☐ **Wash cloths**
- ☐ **Coloured towels** — so you know whose is whose
- ☐ **Thongs** — for the showers
- ☐ **General toiletries**

● KITCHEN

- ☐ **Cutlery, utensils, cups, wine glasses, plates, bowls, pots and pans** — melamine sets are light and sturdy, and guests do visit
- ☐ **Scissors and a bottle opener**
- ☐ **Can opener** — one TAWKer went to make a tuna sandwich and discovered the big cans don't have a pull tab
- ☐ **Foil, baking paper, cling wrap, zip lock bags** — baking paper is brilliant on a public BBQ, far less cleaning
- ☐ **Dish cloths and tea towels**
- ☐ **Washing up liquid**
- ☐ **Pantry items** — jams, spices and the rest
- ☐ **Garbage bags**
- ☐ **Broom, dustpan and brush** — essential. This is your fight back against the sand
- ☐ **Spare sink plugs** — definitely needed
- ☐ **Chopping board** — so you don't wreck benches, eskys or whatever else you've pressed into service
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- ☐ **Coffee machine or percolator** — essential if you love your coffee
- ☐ **Thermos flask** — every time you boil the kettle, top up the thermos. Saves boiling it again and again, and you've got hot water for a mid-afternoon cuppa or the washing up **TAWKER TIP**
- ☐ **SodaStream** **TAWKER TIP**
- ☐ **Plastic containers** — a big one for storage if you're in a camper or tent, smaller ones to keep food sealed from insects

● MISCELLANEOUS

- ☐ **Chargers** for everything
- ☐ **Camera or video**
- ☐ **Torches and batteries** — LED ones use fewer batteries
- ☐ **Duct tape** — fixes everything

- ☐ **Blu Tack** — so handy
- ☐ **The most recent Camps book** — the bible for campers
- ☐ **Schooling materials**
- ☐ **Toys, games and cards**
- ☐ **Electronics and radio**
- ☐ **Maps** — though you'll pick plenty up at visitor centres as you go
- ☐ **A map of Australia to mark your trip on** — laminate it and use a permanent marker. We had ours on the van wall; others use one as a table mat
- ☐ **Portable two-plate burner** — an electric one means you can use the park's power instead of your gas
- ☐ **Internet connectivity**
- ☐ **Heater** — it gets properly cold at night
- ☐ **Clothes horse** — stores easily, endlessly useful for drying towels
- ☐ **Porta loo and chemicals** — if your van hasn't got one, this is a godsend with kids at night
- ☐ **Washing basket**
- ☐ **Slow cooker** — if you can fit it, coming back from sightseeing to a cooked meal is a joy
- ☐ **Esky** — if your fridge isn't big enough, or as a freezer
- ☐ **Sewing kit**
- ☐ **Plastic curtain for the caravan or annex door** — keeps the bugs out when the door can't be closed
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- ☐ **Lanyard for the caravan key** — one for each adult and child. As the TAWKer who suggested it put it, it's no fun being locked out, or realising hubby walked off with the only key **TAWKER TIP**

● OUTDOORS

- ☐ **Shade cloth** — for shade, or pegged to the ground outside the tent or van. Helps with the sand too
- ☐ **Portable BBQ and tools** — though in parks you'll usually use theirs and save your gas
- ☐ **Non-stick reusable BBQ sheets** **TAWKER TIP**
- ☐ **Gas bottle and refill**
- ☐ **Ant powder** — put it around anything touching the ground. There are a lot of nests out there
- ☐ **Mallet and spare tent pegs** — a mallet beats a hammer
- ☐ **Tools** — can you ever take enough?
- ☐ **Rope, tow ropes, straps**
- ☐ **12v compressor** — for pumping tyres back up after you've let them down for 4WDing
- ☐ **Camp oven and billy**
- ☐ **Walkie talkie or UHF radio** — long range is good for tuning in to those around you when remote, and for talking to road trains
- ☐ **Generator**

- ☐ **Extension cords** — so you can put the generator further from camp **TAWKER TIP**
- ☐ **Solar blanket or panel** — as one TAWKer said, better and a lot quieter than a generator **TAWKER TIP**
- ☐ **Fuel and water containers**
- ☐ **Shovel** — you never know where you'll get caught short
- ☐ **Mosquito coils** — one family found them essential in Darwin, lighting them either side of the caravan door late afternoon **TAWKER TIP**
- ☐ **Solar lights** — put them near your tent ropes so nobody gets coat-hangered in the dark **TAWKER TIP**
- ☐ **EPIRB** — suggested by a TAWKer who works for an emergency service: "seen too many people rescued who should have had one" **TAWKER TIP**
- ☐ **Pool noodle** — handy at water holes, and for plenty else besides
- ☐ **Plastic bucket** — for washing feet
- ☐ **Foldable trestle table** — food prep, eating, and gathering around **TAWKER TIP**
- ☐ **Glow sticks** — keep the kids occupied and visible after dark, and put them on guy ropes so nobody trips
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