

Happy Kids

ON ROAD TRIPS



KEEPING PEACE & SANITY INTACT

The Ultimate Guide to Keeping Happy Kids on Road Trips & Travels

Calling this the 'Ultimate Guide' is over the top. I do not believe there is an ultimate guide to anything really. What this is though, is an attempt to put together some fabulous, fun activities and games kids can play on long road trips, flights, travels... anywhere. Even just at home.

Thanks for downloading...

We love road trips. The kids have always been good travellers and can sit in a car for hours on end and entertain themselves. I guess we are lucky like that.

The longest family drive was from Melbourne to the centre of Australia – Uluru/Ayers Rock! Lots of nothingness, yet lots of awesomeness!

Sometimes it is too easy perhaps to over think a long trip and worry about keeping kids happy. It depends so much on the route and the kids of course, but a little planning goes a long way.

There is nothing wrong with some electronic screen time to give them a chance to zone out, not at all, but it's nice to also have them engaged too.

Travel is about building family memories that children will grow up to treasure....

Drop by and visit our Aussie Family Blog if you'd like to have a 'virtual' visit to Australia or to find a little inspiration if you are coming to visit or live here ... www.wickedwalkabout.com

In the car or plane and out...

Some of the ideas in this e-book fit well for playing in a vehicle or out. Some are clearly for out of a vehicle, these are the ideas that are ideal for playing in parks etc...

Games, Games, Games...

So many activities that kids, or adults, play can generally be modified for travel. Twister is an example – roll the mat up in the most tiniest way possible, make some flash cards or implement other ideas for deciding on which colour/hand/foot to move. Just an idea. Get the picture? Yeah.

Not including anything electronic...

Many families may want to steer clear of everything electronic when on road trips and travels. Fair enough, though a bit of screen time can also mean the difference between wanting to be put in a straight jacket and be locked up or enjoying yourselves. Moderation is the answer, in my opinion. If possible. Sometimes there can be an epic fail in that department, but one does try.

A number of Apps are ideal for playing solo or between kids, '4 Pics One Word', 'Pic to Word' or 100 Pics are a good starting point.



Opp Shops! (a.k.a. Charity Shops)

'Opp Shops', short for 'Opportunity Shops' in Australian lingo, are one of my favourite places to go when we are on the road. The kids can be given a budget, it does not need to be much. You will be amazed at how much they can buy for a few dollars that will keep them chuffed to bits while on the road.

When they are no longer so thrilled with their purchases, donate them to the next opp shop on route and re-purchase.

Washable markers that can be used on glass

Our kids love to draw on the windows of the car with washable markers. This may not be everybody's notion of a great activity, however, for older kidlets it can be great. We have a pack of 'Silky Twistaz' Glass and bath tub pens. It stays on the glass a while, but is easy to wash off. Kids can draw the names of road signs or things they see as they travel along...

Where are we?

Create some flash cards for the names of places you will be visiting or driving by, leave space on the cards for the kids to write the place names you pass through in number order... create your own rules.

Fortunately... or unfortunately...

This is a simple little game we play in the car. First person says 'fortunately....' and makes up a fortunate situation to complete the sentence. The next person continues along the same theme of the first person, but has to create an 'unfortunately' sentence... and so on...

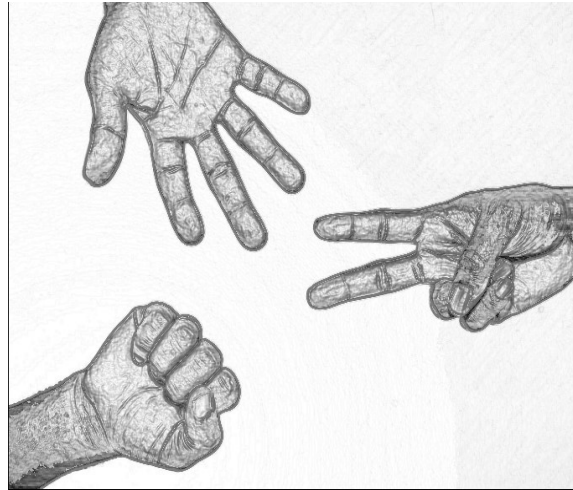
A-Z of Names

Select a topic such as names, fruit, vegetables, animals... The first person has to start from A and work their way through the alphabet. Eg: Alligator, Bear, Crocodile...

It is the next persons turn to continue when the previous person gets stuck on a letter for more than 5 seconds or so. (may need to appoint a timing judge).

Rock, Paper, Scissors...

Not too much needs to be said on this old classic! Even the modern day kids seem to know the rules! Paper covers rock, scissors cut paper, rock can destroy scissors...



Travel Journals & Sketch Pad with pens.

Every kid who can write should have a basic journal to use. Ask them to write the names of towns along the way... Buy or draw a map before heading off of the route with approximate times and distances on it so kids know what to expect along the way, they can add details in their journals of places you have stopped.

A good sketch pad and tub of pencils and texta pens will generally always be used by kids of varying ages! I know it is an obvious in car activity, but decided to add it anyway as it might just be too obvious!

Talking Books & Songs for the Road.

Talking books can easily be downloaded onto ipods etc. or CD's bought before hand. They are a great way to quieten down kids, as long as you can select books that are good all round.

A great play list of sing-a-long favourites, put together beforehand, can make for some merry times learning lyrics and blasting out tunes such as Willie Nelson's... 'On The Road Again'! I know, 'so last century'.

Find a...

Print off our template below and use the check boxes beside each row for kids to tick off places and things they see along the way. Add the names of things you want them to look out for, maybe leave a few blanks for them to spot things that interest them too... A clipboard each with pen attached would be useful. Eg: Town names, river names, iconic places and buildings. Can they spot certain animals or road names, the first fuel station – what company is it? etc. etc...

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Joke Book!

There is something just awesome about hearing a ridiculous joke and having a belly laugh together. The dafter the better, find a few joke books from a book store, opp shop or online or maybe even compile your own book.

I asked our kids to make a list of daft jokes to get you started... here 'tis...

Can a kangaroo jump higher than a house? Of course, a house doesn't jump at all.

My dog used to chase people on a bike a lot. It got so bad, finally I had to take his bike away

Me and my wife decided that we don't want to have children any more.
So anybody who wants one can leave us their phone number and address and we will bring you one.

Why did the shark keep swimming in circles?
It had a nosebleed

What can you hold without ever touching it?
Conversation. (or your breath)

Why do cows wear bells?
Their horns don't work.

What would you call a very funny mountain?
Hill Arious

What goes up and down but never moves?
The stairs

Three guys are stranded in a desert. By a stroke of luck, they find a magic genie lamp. The genie grants each them one wish. The first guy wishes to be back home. Wish granted. The second guy wishes the same. Wish granted. The third guy says, "It feels very lonely here now, I wish my friends were with me..." Wish granted.

What is blue and smells like red paint?
Blue paint.

What do you get if you cross breed a sheep and a kangaroo?

A woolly jumper

What happens when you cross a snowman and a vampire?

You get a frostbite.

What do you call it when a chicken sees a salad?

Chicken Caesar salad.

Why was the sand wet?

Because the sea 'weed'

What trees do fortune tellers prefer?

Palm trees!

What is bigger when it is upside down?

The number 6

How can you double your money?

Look at it in the mirror.

What can't walk but can run?

A river.

What part of fish weighs the most?

The scales!

Why don't bananas get lonely?

Because they hang around in bunches!

If everyone owned a pink car, what would we have?

A pink car-nation!

What did Santa's wife say during a thunderstorm?

Come and look at the rain, dear!

What has eyes but cannot see?

A potato.

What is at the end of the world?

The letter 'D'.

Which room has no door, no windows, no floor and no roof?

A mushroom!

What did the egg say to the whisk?

I know when I'm beaten.

Three men were in a boat when it capsized but only two got their hair wet. Why?

Because one was bald.

What do you see if you throw butter out a window?

Butterfly!

What can you hold without touching?

Your breath.

Skipping Rope, Frisbee, Pocket Kites...

Stop the car! Remember to stop as often as possible, even if it is just for 5 minutes. Taking along a good long skipping rope that the kids can all use together and invite other kids to play provides an easy, cheap activity.

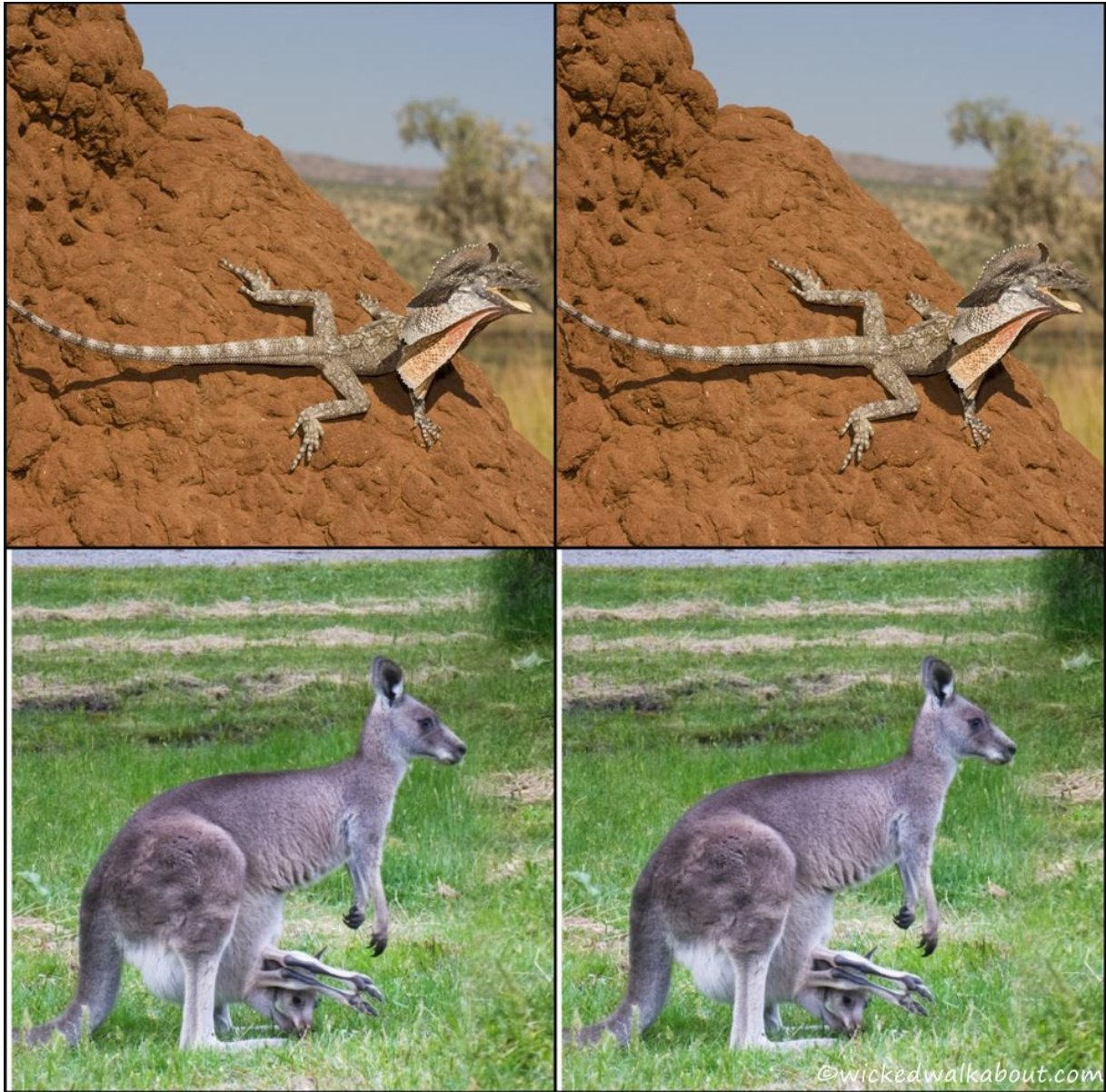
Matching Pairs / Memory Game

The final game, matching pairs, added last of all as it is spread over a number of pages. *This is by no means a newly invented game.* We have created lay outs (using the PicsArt App) and added some Aussie images. You might like to create your own and add family faces etc.

- Print out each page
- Cut out the pictures & Laminate each one perhaps
- **To play:** Place all pictures face down.
- Turn one over at random, let everyone see what it is then turn it back over.
- Each player takes turns to flip one picture over and if they know where the matching picture is, they can collect the pair.
- If they do not know where it is, the picture is turned face down again and the next player has a turn... and so on.
- The winner is, of course, the person with the most pairs.

They can also be used as a simple game of snap too.

[Print out the images below, or make your own...](#)



Frill Necked Lizard & Eastern Grey Kangaroo with a Joey in the pouch.



Paper bark tree & walk in the Dandenong Ranges, Victoria





Great Ocean Road, Victoria. 12 Apostles and view from Gibson's Beach.



Dove Lake, Cradle Mountain, Tasmania & old home in Walhalla, Victoria.



Possum & Wilson's Promontory, Victoria.



Ettamogah Pub, Victoria/New South Wales Border & Wild Flowers.



Artillery Rocks, Great Ocean Road, Victoria & Lyrebird, Dandenong Ranges, Victoria



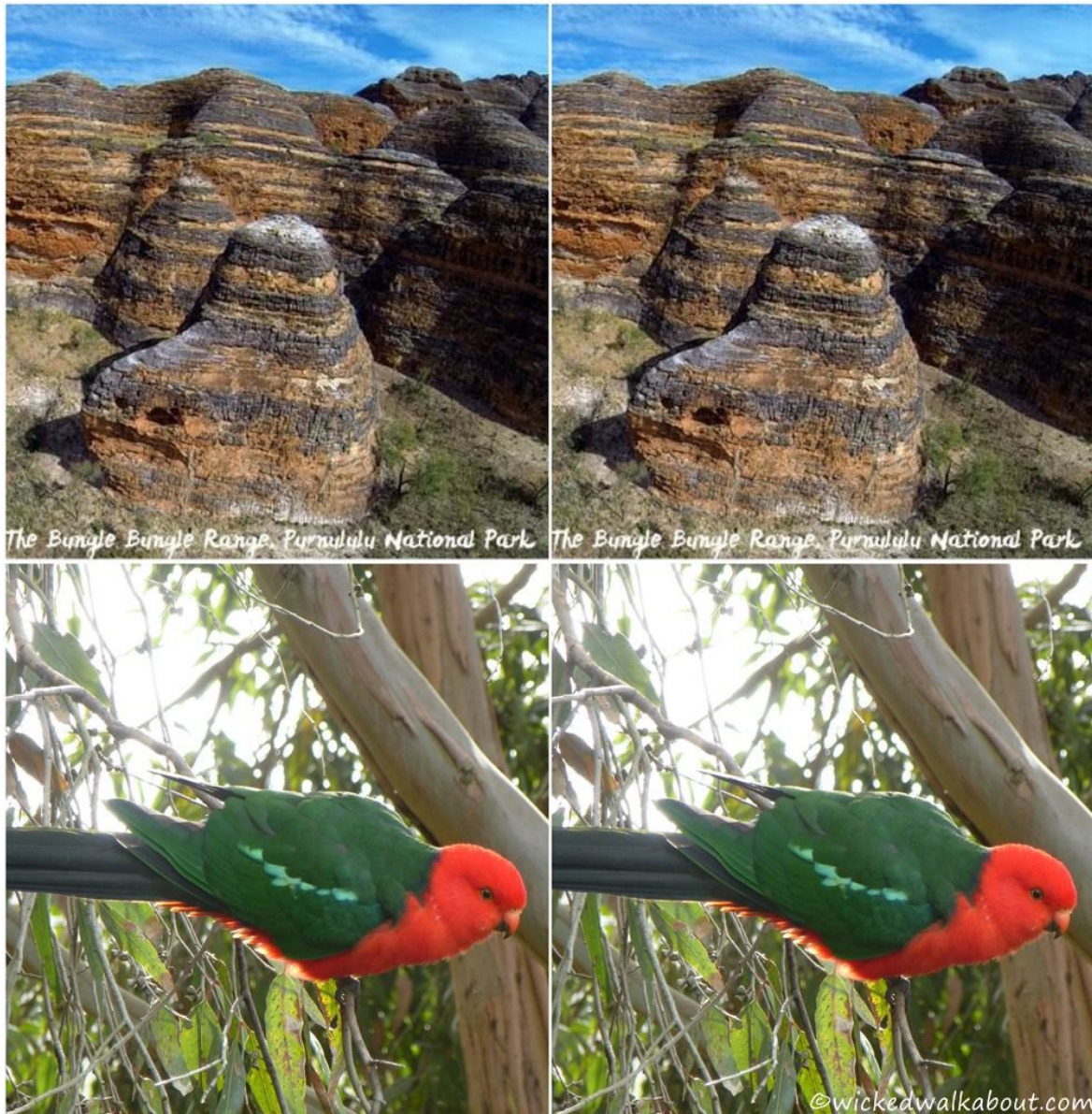
Puffing Billy Steam Train & forest walk in the Dandenong Ranges, Victoria.



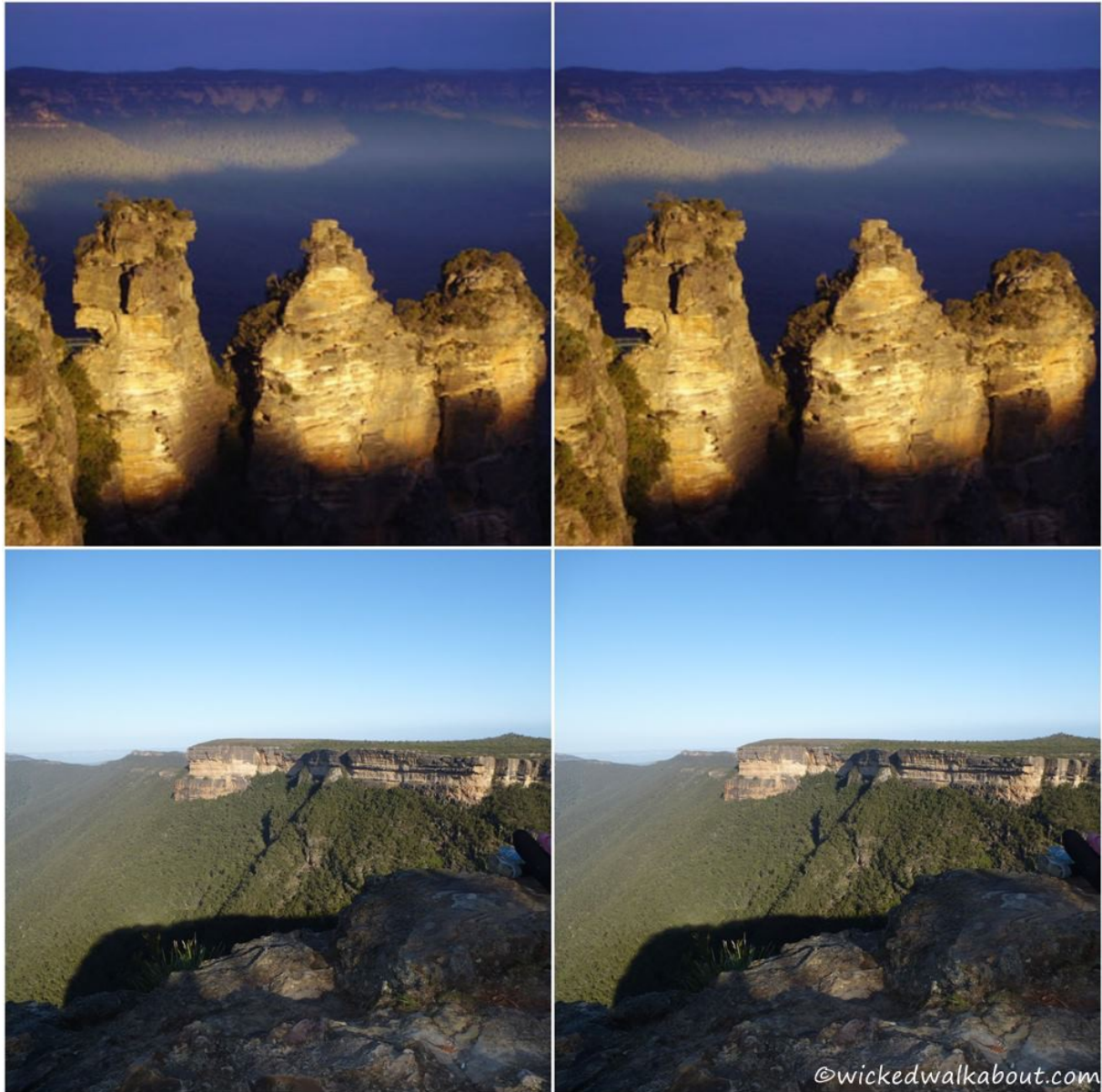
Black Spur Drive, Great Dividing Range near Yarra Valley, Victoria



Giant Trees Walk, Western Australia and Uluru/Ayers Rock, Northern Territory.



Bungle Bungles/Purnululu National Park, Western Australia & King Parrot, Victoria.



Blue Mountains National Park, New South Wales.



Kings Canyon, & Standley Chasm, Northern Territory.



London Bridge rock formation & Beauchamp Falls, Great Ocean Road.