

What you need  
**for a family  
caravan trip**







# The ultimate family caravan trip checklist

Some of the best places in the world to explore are in our very own backyard. It's no wonder Australians love packing up their gear, hitching the caravan to the four-wheel drive, and hitting the open road for an adventurous family holiday.

But not so fast – you don't want to be hundreds of kilometres from home when you realise you've forgotten something.

So use our handy downloadable checklist to [check off some essentials](#) before your next family caravan trip.



## 1 / Vehicle requirements

- ☑ **Battery** – Check your car battery is in good condition and go for a test drive with the caravan hitched. If it's been a while since you last drove it, you'll be glad to have a bit of practice time on the road before hitting the highways.
- ☑ **Tyres** – For your car but particularly for your caravan, make sure all the tyres are pumped up, aren't worn down and that you've got a few spares stored away in case of a sudden flat mid-journey. And don't forget the gear for changing a tyre (a jack and wheel brace).
- ☑ **Gas bottles** – There's nothing quite like a caravan cook-up in the middle of nature. So check that your gas bottles are full and, if not, replace them at your local service station before leaving. Also check that they are properly strapped down and affixed to the back of your van before driving off.
- ☑ **Fire safety equipment** – Ensure your caravan is fitted with a working smoke alarm and keep spare batteries stored somewhere handy. Also check that your fire extinguisher is still in date, and keep the fire blanket safely stored in an area that is easy to access.
- ☑ **Insurance** – You can't always predict what you'll run into on the road, especially if you're exploring new places. So before you head off on your next caravan trip, double-check that your [car insurance](#) and caravan insurance is up to date and covers everything you need it for.



## 2 / Essentials to pack

- ☑ **Toiletries** – Toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, shampoo, moisturiser, brush, hair dryer, razor, deodorant, and most importantly, plenty of sunscreen – there's so much that can slip your mind when packing, but you don't want to be caught in the middle of the outback without your essentials!
- ☑ **Kitchen tools** – Box up enough crockery, cutlery, cups and cooking equipment you'll need for the trip. And don't forget the dish soap as you'll want to be able to reuse everything night after night.
- ☑ **Extension cords** – Pack away a few long extension cords for power at caravan parks along the way, and also for outdoor lighting and electronic bug zappers.
- ☑ **Camping chairs** – For relaxing times spent between driving, you wouldn't want to be without your comfy camping chair.
- ☑ **Cards and board games** – On days where you just feel like sticking around the caravan, cards and board games can bring the whole family together with some old-fashioned fun. Pavement chalk and totem tennis are easy to pack away and don't take up much space. And there's nothing like a good book (or Kindle, if you're short on free space) to make those afternoon hours fly by.
- ☑ **Stuff that's often forgotten** – We all know the feeling – you're 100km from home and you realise you've forgotten *that* important item. Do a thorough check of your car and caravan before leaving, and make sure you remember easily-forgotten items like a first-aid kit.





### 3 / Trip planning

- ☺ **What to do before you leave** – Life doesn't stop just because you're on holiday. Organise for a friend or neighbour to pick up your mail and take out your bins while you're gone. Book the car and caravan in for a service before you start your trip. And if you plan on bringing your bikes, make sure they are either serviced or given a thorough check-up (tyre pressure, greased chain, spare parts, etc.) as well.
- ☺ **A few days before you leave** – Almost time to hit the road! Don't leave everything until the last minute! Get on top of things a few days out by vacuum packing all the meat you want to bring, boxing up all your non-perishables, giving the caravan a spring clean, making the beds and – most importantly – giving a friend or neighbour a spare key to your home in case of emergency.
- ☺ **Decide the route** – Where in the world (or at least Australia) do you want to go? Make sure there's a caravan park or free caravanning rest area along the way, and mark out any particular sights you want to explore during the trip.
- ☺ **Check road maps** – Whether you map out your route on your phone or GPS, or you go old-school with a paper map, you should never begin a road trip without a map. Keep a close eye on alternate routes in case of roadworks, accidents or poor weather conditions like flooding. It's also wise to download the route on your phone before you leave, in case of poor reception along the way.







Exploring the great outdoors on a family caravan trip is one of the best ways to make memories with your loved ones. Hopefully, this checklist reminds you about those often-forgotten items, and you can enjoy your trip without any worries about what's missing!

Don't forget to protect your trip with car insurance such as Real Car Insurance. [Find out more.](#)



