

Timeline Planner

Getting Set Up for a Road Trip Around Australia

Is your head swimming with ALL THE THINGS that you have to get sorted!

Don't know where to start?

Use this Timeline Planner as a guide of the things that you need to get sorted, and when.

Note: I've given a two year timeline but that's not to say you can't get all this organised in a shorter time period. Heck, from the time we first discussed even doing this trip to the time we left, was a mere 3 months!

2+ years

1. **Start dreaming** - This is the best part! It's a bit cliché at the moment, with all the talk of setting goals, and 'you need to believe it to achieve it' etc. But this is really where it all starts.
You've obviously already thought about it, but start fleshing out more of what this means to you and all the things that you want to do. It's this dreaming that will give you the drive to keep going when things get a little bit tough. It's not only a fun process to dream, but in my opinion, it's the most important step.
2. **Work out a *rough* budget for your trip:**
 - You're looking at an estimate for the big ticket items like a car, caravan or motorhome.
 - How much will you need per week? Is it just the two of you, or will the kids be coming too? Is it important for you to live lavishly on this trip or are you just keen to get out there? As a starting point you could just use your current weekly living expenses as a guide.
 - You're looking for an approximate figure (like, do you need \$30k or \$150k) so that you can start saving up.
3. **Set up a savings plan** - The rough budget above is there to help you determine the aggressiveness of your savings plan.
This takes your dreams and starts turning them into reality by answering questions like: Have you left enough time to save up? Do you need to adjust your expectations? Are you going to need to give up some things now in order to achieve your savings goals?
4. **Set up your side hustles** - If you set these things up before you go, the income from them can certainly help bolster up your savings. And if you want to keep doing them while you're travelling it may mean the difference between continuing to travel or having to stop in one place to work for a few months.

1 year

5. Determine what your set-up will look like and start researching what's available and what you can afford.
 - I would start doing by doing online research - it's free, can be done whenever you have time, and there's no salesman dazzling you with more things than you can afford!
 - Once you have a better idea of what would be suitable for you and your family, knock yourself out attending caravan and camping shows and checking out local dealerships.
6. Think about work options - Will you take long service leave / Quit / Work remotely (and/or part-time) / Continue with your side hustles
7. Think about school options - home-schooling, distance learning

6 months

8. Downsize
 - Sell stuff (including the house if necessary)
 - Donate any good quality items that still have life left in them
 - Take this opportunity to have a *really* good clean out. This life is not suited to the hoarder, so be ruthless and throw out old, useless stuff.
 - Downsizing is a process so give yourself plenty of time to go through your items and decide what you're going to do with them. I recommend starting this process sooner, rather than later, so that you have the time and mental space to succeed.
 - Keep in mind that some things may be surplus to your house now, but are perfect for the caravan/motorhome/camper trailer. (For example, the smaller version of kitchen appliances may have been relegated to the garage when you upgraded to a newer, bigger version, but the old small one may now be perfectly sized for the caravan.)
9. Draw up a rough itinerary of where you want to go. Include the whole family in this process so that everyone feels involved and heard. List out all the places you want to visit and a general idea of how long you'll stay in the area. Keep in mind the weather, and if you need to be in certain places by a certain date.
You don't want to plan it down to every night, but at least determine if you're going to turn left or right out of your driveway!
10. Upskill
 - Are you towing a caravan, have you done a course in towing safely?
 - Have you all done a first aid course?
 - You may consider a basic car maintenance course or even just upskilling yourself using youtube.

3 months

11. If you're going to keep your house and get tenants then you should start this process no later than 3 months prior to departure. You'll need to engage a property manager, since you won't be in the area to deal with anything yourself.

1 month

12. Shakedown trip - You should have your set-up pretty much ready to go now. Do a practice run with everyone, just to see how it works for you all. Go for a couple of nights, but don't go too far from home.
13. Set up recurring payments for things like:
 - Mortgage payments
 - Loan or credit card payments
 - Insurance - car, health, property
 - Roadside assistance
14. Set up the right kind of phone/internet plan for while you're on the road
15. Service your vehicle
16. Kit out your set-up:
 - First, ensure that you have all the emergency equipment like a first aid kit and fire extinguishers
 - Then look at making sure you've got all the stuff like pots, pans, blankets, pillows, containers etc
17. Set up mail forwarding or change your address on everything
18. Start packing in earnest
19. Clear out all but the 'must-have' items in the house. Put everything else into storage

2 weeks

20. Finish up work
21. Farewell party

Day of Departure

22. Throw it all to the wind - No need to stress about stuff now. If you haven't got it, you haven't got it! Don't forget, you can always pick up stuff along the way (and you will!)