

Inside my suitcase

When it comes to travelling with children, no one is better versed in the art of packing than the duo behind The Blonde Nomads, Tracy and Rob Morris



Tracy and Rob Morris

When your business model relies on documenting your family travels for social media, what do you do when a pandemic strikes? For Tracy and Rob Morris – who, along with their children Marli and Ziggy, make up The Blonde Nomads – it's all about stepping back and reconfiguring.

"We've been focused on two things these past few months: taking microadventures rooted in nature, and kitting out our adventure truck in anticipation of things to come," says Rob of their dual-cab 4WD ute. "It's now got everything from a hot-water system with shower, solar panels on top and a kitchen with a Thermomix and induction cooktop. We plan to have a lot of fun with it – particularly once we can travel freely around the country again." theblondenomads.com.au

1 Thermos drink bottles

We've tried many brands, but this is the best. It keeps our water cold and our coffee hot – essential for early-morning hikes. Rob even uses Thermos cups instead of regular mugs. **Thermos Work Series 1.2L flask, \$74.99, thermos.com.au**

2 Kathmandu 5-in-1 travel rain jacket

We try to be smart about packing and can't go past an item that's multipurpose. You can zip the arms off this puffy jacket so it becomes a vest and zip on a rain shell so you can use it in the snow and so forth. Our kids have the 3-in-1 version. **Benmore women's 5-in-1 jacket, \$649.98, kathmandu.com.au**

3 Canon 60D camera

This has travelled around everywhere with us and we love it because it takes brilliant shots in low light – a must for those twilight family shots. **Canon EOS 6D Mark II camera, \$2399, and EF 24-70mm lens, \$2699, jbhifi.com.au**

4 Swimsuits

We love the Piping Hot range for the kids – they're made out of recycled plastic bottles (and look cool). My Sunseeker

halter one-piece is super-flattering and keeps me active in ways a bikini couldn't.

Basix double ring one-piece swimsuit, \$119.95, sunseekerswim.com.au

5 Ugg boots

When you're constantly on the move, it's nice to have the odd home comfort with you. We wear these after our showers and when we're relaxing in the evenings. I'm not sure why, but they make a difference. **Ugg Premium Mini Classic boots, \$99, theuggstore.com.au**

6 Tiger Tribe Activities Set

This is an all-in-one kit that folds down so small it fits in my handbag. This means you can take it everywhere from cafes and picnics to fun in the backseat of the car. We flew to Japan last year and the packs kept the kids entertained for hours on the plane. **Back to Nature Outdoor Activity Set, \$25, tigertribe.com.au**

7 Wandering Folk picnic rug

This durable cotton canvas rug was an investment, but we've been living off it at the moment. It's hard-wearing, and with its dark colours and exotic motif, it also looks

good for those all-important Instagram pics. **Emerald Forest picnic rug, \$190, wanderingfolk.com**

8 GoPro

We take it everywhere with us to capture our adventures and I love that we never have to stop for a lengthy set-up. It means I've been able to film surprises such as when the turtles began hatching on Heron Island when we least expected it. **GoPro Hero9, \$559.95, gopro.com**

9 Fallen Broken Street and Akubra hats

We're known for our cowboy hats and we swear by them. Straw hats don't travel well, but these not only offer better sun protection, you can crush them up and they pop straight back to what they were.

Bonus point: they also look great when you hang them on the wall. **The Dingo hat in Forest Green, \$99.95, fallenbrokenstreet.com**

10 Leatherman multitool I call Rob "Grandpa" because he's always looking so doggy with this hanging off his belt, but it's one of the most useful things we travel with. It's a 17-in-one tool, which means anything you need – scissors, a knife or a stick for roasting

marshmallows – is on him at all times. **Rebar stainless 17-in-1 Leatherman, \$159.95, leatherman.com.au**

11 Salt Water sandals They're the ultimate summer travel shoe. Not only are they comfortable, but the shiny leather means they go with everything and can be dressed up or down. **Salt Water classic sandal in Rose Gold, \$99.95, saltwatersandals.com.au**



The Sunday Telegraph

FAMILY

Sunday, November 29, 2020 / escape.com.au

ESCAPE

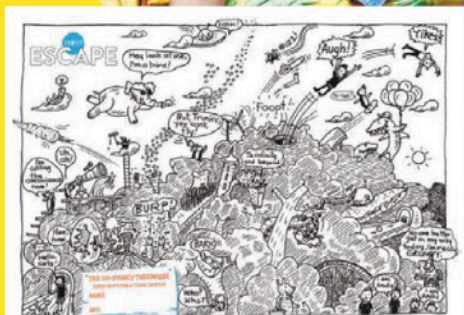
NEW HORIZONS IN TRAVEL

SPECIAL GUESTS

Andy Griffiths
Ryan Fitzgerald
Hamish & Zoe
The Blonde
Nomads

121

FUNTASTIC FAMILY holiday ideas



EXCLUSIVE: Treehouse mega colouring-in poster inside

Ryan Fitzgerald and family at Luna Park, NSW



VIVA HOLIDAYS

TASMANIA

HOLIDAY THIS YEAR

3 NIGHT LAUNCESTON CITY STAY

★★★★☆

HOTEL GRAND CHANCELLOR
BREAKFAST & CATARACT GORGE CRUISE

FROM **\$239*** PER PERSON
TWIN SHARE

1300 TRAVEL | vivaholidays.com.au

*Conditions apply. Valid for bookings until 31 Dec 20; travel until 30 Jun 21 subject to availability and blackout dates. See website for full terms & conditions.