

Travel a Rainbow

The Blonde Nomads' **TRACY MORRIS** takes us on a vibrant road trip through the many colours of Australia.

"We're adventurers and we're shipwrecked on an island, and the only way to survive is if we use our spears to catch fish and then cook them on a fire!" These are the words of my five-year-old daughter as she stands on top of a small hill in the Kimberley, just south of Broome in Western Australia.

Surrounded by the most vibrant red pindan dirt, she's happily holding her spear (a simple stick) and an old coconut husk she's found ... her 'toys' for the day.

Metres away is the most amazing blue water lapping at the shoreline with the rising tide. The combination of colours is unreal and something we have never experienced before, and we find ourselves once again in awe of the magic of Mother Nature.

We spend a few hours here for the kids to immerse themselves completely in their 'shipwreck' game, and in the process, their skin starts to glow as they become covered in a fine layer of red earth. Who needs fake tan?

It is in this moment I realise just how vast the environments, colours, textures, smells and even tastes of Australia really are, and how they all come together to form what can be best described as a wonderful, vibrant, memorable, smelly, tasty, rainbow.

A land of many colours

As we road-trip around the country on our Big Lap, we embrace the colour. We stop to run through perfumed fields of purple

lavender in the hills of Tasmania and fall in love with the enchantingly luscious greens of the Daintree Rainforest in north Queensland.

Western Australia is kaleidoscopic! In the desert of Nambung National Park, we happily play hide and seek among the bright yellow sandstone towers dubbed the Pinnacles. The state also offers the opportunity to surf crystal-clear waves in the electric blue waters of Lucky Bay and to visit the vividly pink salt lakes, which the kids pretend is the world's largest strawberry milkshake.

Playing on the white expanse of Shell Beach is another wonderful sensory experience. The beach is made up entirely of – you guessed it – tiny white shells, but with no sand in sight, we soon learn that even as pretty as it looks, shoes are a must for exploring this particular beach.

A colourful lesson

Wherever we are, I take the time to point out the differences in each environment as we explore, asking the kids what they see, feel, hear and smell as we stand in silence and take in the magic around us. This process seems to provide a calming effect on our mini adventurers, if only for a short moment.

We love 'travelling a rainbow' and the most wonderful thing of all is that they say at the end of every rainbow is a pot of gold.

Will we find it? We'll just have to keep exploring to find out. ●

Images from top to bottom: Exploring Umpherston Sinkhole in SA; Dancing on Shell Beach in WA; Lavender fields in Tasmania; Bird's-eye views at Shark Bay in WA; The otherworldly Pinnacles in WA. All images © The Blonde Nomads

