

## Four great family adventures

August 2012 PAGE 4 OF 4



BABY ON BOARD: A CAMPER VAN ROAD TRIP  
Courtesy of Rowena Carr-Allinson

SHARE  
THIS ARTICLE



*We time the driving to match with Lennox's siestas*

### DRIVING LITTLE BABY

Rowena Carr-Allinson tours California in a giant camper van with her six-month-old son

#### Day one: LA to Visalia

To have enough floor space for a cot, we've booked the largest camper van available (a 35 footer) but we aren't quite prepared for the monster we pick up. Its sheer length and height make it tricky to drive, but that, my husband tells me, is part of the fun. We head off into the sunset on Sunset, northbound on the Interstate 5 towards Sequoia National Park for a week's adventure. Our first night is spent at the KOA campsite near Visalia. It's nice, with a pool, wooden 'chalet' cottages and lots of bougainvillea. We get our bearings, unpack and 'play' with the expanding walls that make the living space and bedroom twice the size at the touch of a button. Lennox giggles as he watches the room expand.

#### Day two: Visalia to Groveland

The May heat is a knockout — thankfully we are fully air-conditioned. Our plan was to drive into Sequoia Park (a couple of hours away) but the direct road is closed so we head to Yosemite instead. It is a day's drive away so we stop off in



BABY ON BOARD: A CAMPER VAN ROAD TRIP  
Courtesy of Rowena Carr-Allinson

SHARE  
THIS ARTICLE



*We time the driving to match with Lennox's siestas*

### DRIVING LITTLE BABY

Rowena Carr-Allinson tours California in a giant camper van with her six-month-old son

#### Day one: LA to Visalia

To have enough floor space for a cot, we've booked the largest camper van available (a 35 footer) but we aren't quite prepared for the monster we pick up. Its sheer length and height make it tricky to drive, but that, my husband tells me, is part of the fun. We head off into the sunset on Sunset, northbound on the Interstate 5 towards Sequoia National Park for a week's adventure. Our first night is spent at the KOA campsite near Visalia. It's nice, with a pool, wooden 'chalet' cottages and lots of bougainvillea. We get our bearings, unpack and 'play' with the expanding walls that make the living space and bedroom twice the size at the touch of a button. Lennox giggles as he watches the room expand.

#### Day two: Visalia to Groveland

The May heat is a knockout — thankfully we are fully air-conditioned. Our plan was to drive into Sequoia Park (a couple of hours away) but the direct road is closed so we head to Yosemite instead. It is a day's drive away so we stop off in giant mall car parks where we can easily manoeuvre, stop for supplies and feed Lennox. He seems quite happy taking very long naps, rocked by the RV's rumbling and enjoying the scenery. We settle just outside Groveland, Yosemite's closest village, in a campsite with all the trimmings: laundry, pool, hot water. The spots in the park itself are booked until 2013.

#### Day three: Yosemite Park

After breakfast, we tackle the terrifyingly twisty roads into the park. The sheer drops are even more impressive from the elevated passenger seat. Yosemite is stunning. We spend the day hiking: Mirror Lake, the incredible Bride's Veil waterfall, the valleys and giant sequoias — jaws dropping at every vista. Lennox is in his baby carrier, snuggled into his dad's chest. Thankfully we don't run into any bears, just a squirrel, which we can handle. Back at camp, we socialise with neighbours, barbecue sausages and sample local red wine. Lennox is out like a light, so we watch TV and make the most of our 'living room'.

#### Day four: Groveland

It's Sunday, so we set off into Groveland in search of brunch. A tiny, quaint western-style town, it has a handful of souvenir shops, a cute tea parlour, a 'saloon,' and a café where we treat ourselves to rhubarb and strawberry pie to take 'home'. We come across an Aladdin's cave of battered secondhand books run by very cheerful baby-loving grannies. Cue lots of cooing and gummy grins in return. Back at the campsite it's time for the necessary evils of laundry, but Lennox squeals with delight when he discovers the tumble dryer and his clothes dancing around.

### BOOK ONLINE



Great value with British Airways  
Find great value flights, hotels and car hire or check-in online and manage your booking at ba.com

[Book now at ba.com](#)

### JOIN IN



British Airways on Twitter  
[Follow us](#)



Subscribe to News Feed  
The latest travel news from bahighlife.com.  
[Subscribe](#)

### OTHER FAMILY BLOG STORIES



#### CORNWALL AND KIDS' STUFF

Fantastic food delivered to your door in Cornwall, and travel kits to keep the kids quiet while travelling

#### THREE FAMILY DAYS OUT NEAR WASHINGTON DC

Three family-friendly breaks within a few hours' drive of the city

[All Family Blog stories](#)



Subscribe to News Feed  
The latest travel news from bahighlife.com.  
[Subscribe](#)

### OTHER FAMILY BLOG STORIES



#### CORNWALL AND KIDS' STUFF

Fantastic food delivered to your door in Cornwall, and travel kits to keep the kids quiet while travelling

#### THREE FAMILY DAYS OUT NEAR WASHINGTON DC

Three family-friendly breaks within a few hours' drive of the city

[All Family Blog stories](#)