



**ARK**  
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# Not Just Mechanical

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## Some Road Trip Ideas:

**Road tripping with kids might be your idea of a nightmare or it might bring you memories of your childhood.**

As a kid we would do the annual pilgrimage to QLD to spend the summer holidays with my parental grandparents. Road-tripping with my family was always fun- exhausting but fun. As a kid I can remember the road that never seemed to end and eating lots of junk food.

Recently, I thought I would try it out with my kids. We are not brave enough to go to QLD the first go! We will go to the Hunter Valley for a quick break from Sydney and here are my top tips;

1. Make sure you have PLENTY of food. We pack each kid a lunchbox with pre-cut sandwiches, some cut-up fruit and a treat. We also bring snacks and drinks for us.

2. Make sure you have bathroom breaks planned. Even though we only will only be 2 hours down the road we will still need a bathroom break as soon as we get off the freeway.

3. Have some games/ a playlist planned. We play i-spy (little kids version), numberplate games and once we are off the freeway we count animals.

Finally, I always remind myself that it is not the destination that is important but the memories my kids and I will share. Besides what's a pit-stop between friends?



From unsplash, Aleksandra Pancewicz

## TIP of the Month:

Given the uncertainty at the moment I would ensure I bring a mask and plenty of hand sanitizer.

You never know when the mask mandate rules will change!

## ARK Christmas Opening Hours

Thank you for your business this year. It has been a difficult and eventful year for all of us. We are ARK Automotive need to recharge and refresh with our families.

We will be open until the 23rd of December (Thursday) and will reopen on the 10th of January 2022.

However, for anything urgent please call or email us. We will periodically check these and will do our best to help if we can.

From all of us at ARK, we wish you a safe and happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

See you all next year!



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Customers often ask do we know any of good day trips from Sydney.

So in the spirit of the season, I have a couple of suggestions.

**Hunter Valley Region.** Go north on the M1 and take the Cessnock exit at Freemans Waterhole. Continue following the Cessnock signs until you get there.

- Venues of interest are the Hunter Valley Gardens with well over a million lights in the evening and still quite amazing in the daytime. Bookings may be required as some times.
- Hunter Valley Private Zoo where you can really get close to many animals, great for hands on experience.
- Choose a vineyard or 2 for visiting, but don't drink too much. Ivanhoe Wines have a great Chambourcin and Tyrrels have always been an excellent host.
- From the Northern Beaches the drive up is only 1 hour 50 minutes depending on traffic and best to avoid leaving the Valley between 3pm and 5.30 pm as the afternoon traffic can be heavy.
- Fuel Stops at Freemans Waterhole and Cessnock are good. Cessnock has many places to eat, either a home grown picnic or restaurants and cafes.

**Stockton Beach.** A huge beach from just over the Hunter River from Newcastle runs for miles. For 4x4 vehicles easy access and the beach drive can go up to Anna Bay where you can wash your 4x4 after a day on the beach.

- About 2 hours each way. Follow the M1 north of Sydney and go to Newcastle via the Hexham Bridge. Do not go over the bridge but drive towards Newcastle and follow the signs to Stockton.
- Newcastle also has a great walk to The Lighthouse on the Newcastle side of the River.

**Sydney – Raymond Terrace – Stroud - Dungog- Sydney.** A long drive best for adults mainly with lots of nice scenery and places to stop. If you can luck an overnight accommodation it is even nicer.

Happy travels!



From unsplash, pixdeluxe

**Happy Christmas and New Year**