



Emily Flannery

The PROUD Wiradjuri woman and *BANGARRA* dancer talks *FAMILY* road trips, her FAVOURITE souvenirs and CONSCIOUS ways to *EXPLORE* the planet.



AS A CHILD, OUR FAMILY HOLIDAYS WERE ALWAYS TO... Sydney. I grew up in Forbes in Central NSW(1) and my parents would regularly drive five hours to Sydney to take my two brothers, two sisters and me to watch a show and then drive home that same night. I loved seeing a Bangarra production of *Terrain* (2) in 2012. It was a full-circle moment for me when I got to perform it with Bangarra in 2021.

MY DREAM DESTINATION IS... Fiji (3). One of my Bangarra friends has ties to community there. I would love to meet his family and hear their stories. For me, travel is about experiencing the community life as well as the scenery. I also do better in the warmth.

WHAT'S ALWAYS IN YOUR CARRY-ON? I love to weave to relax, so I always travel with raffia. My mob dry pandanus leaves to weave with. But I go to a shop called The Raffia Connection in Melbourne (4). I love their raffia because it's hand-dyed. Every bunch is different and has personality. I will always have a book, a bottle of water (5) and earphones with me. And I am always hungry, so I have emergency chocolate and a protein bar.

MY LAST HOLIDAY READ WAS... *The Boy from Boomerang Crescent* by Eddie Betts (6). I have trouble sleeping in hotels when we're on tour. A book is the one thing that helps me settle.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST MEMORABLE CULTURAL PERFORMANCE YOU'VE SEEN? I went to Moa Island in the Torres Strait during my first year at NAISDA [Dance College] where Uncle Dujon Niue taught us some of the local dances and the community got up and joined us. It was a very informal performance, but I loved seeing the way the kids moved. They didn't hold back. If they didn't

know the dance, they would just copy us. It has stuck with me.

THE BEST SOUVENIRS I HAVE BROUGHT HOME ARE... Hand-drawn postcards. I've travelled to a lot of different places with Bangarra such as Fitzroy Crossing in WA and Ceduna [on the Eyre Peninsula, South Australia] (7). I like to buy little postcards from the art shops because they are usually hand-drawn by a local artist. I can't afford a painting, but I can afford a postcard. I have a collection of little postcards from the places we have been to.

MY TRAVEL WARDROBE ALWAYS CONSISTS OF... A jumper. I am always cold on the plane.

MY TIP FOR TRAVELLING MORE CONSCIOUSLY IS... To try and walk whenever you can. Apart from it being a good way to get your bearings and see what's around, it means you often discover some of the smaller, locally owned businesses. I also shop at op shops; they have so many bargains and it's a great way to consume with a conscience.

THE TYPE OF TRAVELLER I ASPIRE TO BE IS... One that supports local and gives back to the community. I always do a bit of research before a trip so that I know where the best local businesses are.

THE PODCAST I LIKE LISTENING TO WHEN I TRAVEL IS... *Just the Gist*. The hosts [Rosie Waterland and Jacob Stanley] give you little bits of information about true crime, history, politics and pop culture. It's not super detailed but it's enough so that you can be part of a conversation at a dinner party. **AT**

Bangarra Dance Theatre, part of the Cultural Attractions of Australia collective, is touring Australia in 2023 and 2024. For dates and tickets visit bangarra.com.au