

TREMANE BAXTER-EDWARDS

STUDENT AND CASUAL TOUR GUIDE,
EL QUESTRO WILDERNESS PARK

“I want to inspire young people to join the sector,
as it’s an amazing experience with a lot to offer.”



TREMANE IS A 16-YEAR-OLD AQUINAS COLLEGE STUDENT WITH BIG DREAMS. THE PROUD KIMBERLEY TEENAGER SPENDS HIS SCHOOL HOLIDAYS SHARING HIS CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE AT EL QUESTRO (ELQ) WILDERNESS PARK. HE PLANS TO STAY IN TOURISM UNTIL HE MOVES INTO POLITICS – HIS EYES ON THE TOP JOB.

WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO STUDY TOURISM?

I never thought I would find myself in the tourism sector, especially not at Tourism WA doing work experience. The CEO of the G'day Group (which owns El Questro resort) spent a week up at El Questro in July 2021. He saw that I had potential with the wealth of knowledge I have of my culture. He asked me to do work experience at the tourism hotspot and to this day I head home for school holidays and (in the dry season) work at ELQ.

I fell in love with tourism and I thought why not get a qualification so that when I finish school I'm all set and ready to go. I'm studying a Cert III in Tourism at TAFE and I do my Cert II in Workplace Learning at Tourism WA through INSTEP West. I've gained so much insight into the sector.

WHAT HAVE BEEN THE BEST EXPERIENCES SO FAR?

The best thing about guiding back home during the school holidays is that I meet so many different people and get to learn about what they do. I'm also working on Country, becoming spiritually connected to my land, which puts a smile on my face, especially when I hear guests say “you've made my trip worthwhile”.

The perks of tourism are that it's everywhere! You can work in any part of the world and Australia and take that qualification with you.

WHAT'S YOUR ADVICE FOR ANYONE CONSIDERING A CAREER IN TOURISM OR HOSPITALITY?

Do it! Life is short, have fun. Tourism is a skill you master over time, and you always progress. One day you'll find yourself sitting at the front desk, then in a blink of an eye you're the general manager. As long as you have a strong will to work, a smile on your face and the knowledge, you'll flourish. Always give it your best and remember people have paid for your service, so show that you care and you'll reap the benefits in the long run.

After school I'm going to continue working in tourism and showing my beautiful country, ELQ, and maybe become general manager. After that I'm considering working for the council and the government, potentially running for State Parliament as well. My biggest dream is to be the first Indigenous Prime Minister of Australia.

STEPPING STONES

1.
Started at
ELQ as a
cultural guide



2.
Doing Cert III
& Cert II in Perth
at TAFE and
work experience
placement at
Tourism WA



3.
Plans to return
to Kimberley to
keep working
in tourism



4.
Next stop: become
the general
manager of ELQ



5.
Then on to council
and government
(and maybe PM?)