

SAFE FOUR WHEEL DRIVING

Some of the best places to explore in Shark Bay can only be accessed via four-wheel driving, such as Francois Peron National Park, Edel Land National Park (Steep Point) and Dirk Hartog Island. These tracks are predominately soft sand and require caution when driving.

When another vehicle is approaching, brake gently and prepare to pull over to the side. When wet the clay pans can be treacherous, and in summer the sand gets extremely hot and softer than normal. Take extra precautions during these times.

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

Recommended equipment to reduce your risk of getting stuck includes a tyre pressure gauge, long-handled shovel, MaxTrax, exhaust jack, satellite phone and tow rope.

A compressor is also recommended but not required for Francois Peron National Park as there are compressors at the start of the four-wheel drive track.

IMPORTANT: Take plenty of drinking water for your visit, plus more in case you get stuck and have to wait for a long time.



THE RIGHT VEHICLE

Only high clearance four-wheel drive with low range capability can traverse the soft sandy tracks in Shark Bay. Suitable vehicles for 4WD tracks include:

Ford: Ranger, Explorer	Mazda: BT50
Holden: Colorado	Mitsubishi: Pajero, Triton, Challenger
Hyundai: Teracan	Nissan: Patrol, Navara, Pathfinder
Isuzu: MU-X, D-Max	Toyota: Landcruiser, Hilux, Prado
Jeep: Wrangler, Cherokee	Volkswagon: Amarok
Landrover: Defender, Discovery, Range Rover	

THE WRONG VEHICLE

"All wheel drive" vehicles are not four-wheel drive vehicles, lacking the clearance and traction for sandy tracks. Unsuitable vehicles for sandy 4WD tracks include:

Ford: EcoSport, Kuga, Territory	Mitsubishi: ASX, Outlander
Holden: Captiva	Nissan: X-Trail, Juke, Murano
Honda: None suitable	Subaru: None suitable
Kia: None suitable	Toyota: RAV4, Kluger
Landrover: Freelander	

SHARK BAY

SINK YOUR TEETH IN

A guide to safe 4WD exploring in Shark Bay



GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Funded by
ROAD SAFETY COMMISSION

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

PREPARING TO DRIVE

Before driving on four-wheel drive tracks, do the following:

- 1 CHECK YOUR VEHICLE IS SUITABLE**
Only high clearance four-wheel drive cars with low range capability can traverse the soft sand tracks in Shark Bay. A list of suitable vehicles is provided in this brochure.
- 2 CHECK YOUR SUPPLIES**
Check that you have enough drinking water, fuel, and a first aid kit on hand.
- 3 REDUCE TYRE PRESSURE**
Use a compressor or deflator to deflate your tyres to 20psi (150KPa / 1.5kbar) or less. If you are towing, also deflate the tyres on your trailer or caravan. Remember to reinflate tyres when returning to two-wheel drive roads.
- 4 LOCK YOUR HUBS (IF REQUIRED)** Some vehicles require you to lock hubs on the front wheels for 4WD to be engaged.
- 5 ENGAGE 4WD**
Make sure 4WD is engaged at all times on sandy tracks. Use H4 and only switch to low range (L4) if you get bogged. If you are not familiar with the vehicle you are driving, check it's instructions for engaging 4WD, including traction control settings.

IMPORTANT: when your tyres are deflated, lower driving speeds are imperative.

WHY DEFLATE YOUR TYRES

There are several reasons why it is important to deflate your vehicle tyres before driving on sandy 4WD tracks. Most importantly, reducing the tyre pressure increases the tyre surface area and improves tyre grip in loose sand, reducing the risk of getting bogged.

Steering capabilities also improve, which makes for a smoother ride. As your vehicle has to work harder to drive in soft sand, deflating the tyres reduces the strain on your vehicle, which in turn reduces your fuel consumption, and your fuel costs.

Deflating your tyres also reduces your impact on the 4WD tracks. Corrugations are mostly caused by people driving with high tyre pressure. Lower

Lower tyre pressures mean less damage to the tracks, and a smoother ride for everyone.

IMPORTANT

WHEN DRIVING ON SAND REDUCE YOUR VEHICLE AND TRAILER TYRE PRESSURE TO 20PSI (150KPa/1.5bar) OR LESS



IF YOU GET BOGGED

If you get bogged while four-wheel driving, stay calm and try the following:

- 1 DO NOT SPIN YOUR WHEELS**
DO NOT spin your wheels, as this digs your car deeper into the sand.
- 2 CHECK YOUR VEHICLE**
Check that your vehicle is in 4WD, the wheel hubs are locked, and the underbody is clear of the sand.
- 3 GENTLY REVERSE**
Shift into low range (L4) and gently reverse in your own wheel tracks before attempting to move forward.
- 4 REDUCE TYRE PRESSURE**
If unsuccessful, reduce your tyre pressure further and try again. Note, you can deflate your tyres to 10psi (70KPa / 0.7kbar) if needed without problems in soft sand. Drive slowly and reinflate at the first available opportunity.
- 5 STAY WITH YOUR VEHICLE**
NEVER leave your vehicle and walk away to get help, especially in hot weather.
- 6 IF YOU STILL ARE STILL STUCK**
Contact Shark Bay Towing (RAC agent) on 9948 1141 (service fees apply). Or Shark Bay Recovery on 0447 346 069. In the case of an emergency, call 000. Please note, mobile coverage is limited in most 4WD areas.