

# Four-wheel driving in Shark Bay



## The right vehicle

Only high clearance four wheel drive vehicles with low range capability can traverse the soft sandy tracks in Shark Bay. A list of suitable vehicles is provided on the next page.

## The wrong vehicle

'All wheel drive' vehicles are not four wheel drive and are not suitable. A list of unsuitable vehicles is provided on the next page.

## Equipment and supplies

Tyre pressure gauge, long-handled shovel, MaxTrax, exhaust jack, satellite phone, tow rope. A compressor is also recommended even though there is a tyre pressure station at the start of the four wheel drive track in Francois Peron National Park.

Take plenty of drinking water for your visit plus extra in case you get stuck and have to wait.

## Reduce tyre pressure

Prepare for driving on sand by deflating your vehicle's tyres. If you are towing, also deflate the tyres on your trailer. Reduce tyre pressure to 20psi (150KPa / 1.5kbar) or less. Lower driving speeds are essential when driving with deflated tyres.

Remember to reinflate tyres when returning to two wheel drive roads.

## Engage 4WD

Make sure 4WD is engaged at all times on sandy tracks. Some vehicles have hubs on the front wheels which need to be locked for 4WD to be engaged. Use H4 and only switch to low range if you get bogged.



If you are not familiar with the vehicle you are driving, check its instructions for engaging 4WD.

## If you get stuck

Check the vehicle is in 4WD. Ensure wheel hubs are locked and the under body is clear of the sand.

Reverse over your tracks. If this doesn't work straight away, deflate your tyres a little bit more. You can deflate tyres to 10psi (70 KPa / 0.7kbar) if necessary without problems in soft sand.

If the vehicle has become stuck deep in the sand, dig a path for each tyre and drive out.

If you cannot get out, contact Shark Bay Towing on 0428 481 141 (service fee applies).

**Never leave your vehicle to get help, especially in hot weather.**

## Driving on sand and clay pans

Most of the four wheel drive tracks in Shark Bay are single-lane, soft sand. Be aware of oncoming traffic, especially when approaching bends and corners.

When you see a vehicle coming towards you slow down and be prepared to pull over to the side. Brake gently and come to a rolling stop - avoid sudden braking.

Clay pans are treacherous when wet. Stay on the main track to avoid getting bogged.

In summer the sand gets extremely hot and softer than normal.

## Normal road traffic rules apply

Drive only on existing vehicle tracks. Driving off designated tracks is illegal.

Unlicensed off-road vehicles are not permitted in national parks.

Seatbelts must be worn and riding in the back of utilities is prohibited.

## Emergency contact

Mobile telephone coverage is limited or non-existent in most 4WD areas. In a life threatening situation call 000. If you can only get enough signal for an SMS, text the SES on 0417 097 330.

**For driving on sand reduce your vehicle and trailer tyre pressures to 20psi (150KPa / 1.5bar) or less**

# Four-wheel driving in Shark Bay



**Only high clearance four wheel drive vehicles can traverse the soft sandy tracks in Shark Bay. Towing a trailer increases difficulty and vehicle power requirements.**

## The right vehicle

The only suitable vehicles for Shark Bay's sandy tracks are high clearance four wheel drive vehicles with low range capability. Suitable vehicles include:

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

## The wrong vehicle

'All wheel drive' vehicles are not four wheel drive vehicles. They lack the clearance and power required for Shark Bay's sandy tracks. Unsuitable vehicles include:

Ford - EcoSport, Kuga, Territory  
Holden - Captiva  
Honda - none suitable  
Kia - none suitable  
Landrover - Freelander  
Mitsubishi - ASX, Outlander  
Nissan - Xtrail, Juke, Murano  
Subaru - none suitable  
Toyota - RAV4, Kluger  
Volkswagon - Amarok

These lists are not comprehensive and experienced four-wheel drivers may be able to take vehicles listed as unsuitable where inexperienced drivers cannot. If you are not sure, or your vehicle is not listed, call (08) 9948 2226 to check.

## If you get bogged

**DO NOT** spin your wheels as this digs your car deeper in the sand.

Shift the 4WD lever to low (L4) and gently reverse in your own wheel tracks before attempting to move forward.

If unsuccessful, reduce tyre pressure further and try again.



## Why deflate your tyres

*It will stop you getting bogged.* Reducing tyre pressure increases the tyre surface area and improves traction.

*It's more comfortable.* The ride is softer and more comfortable for you and your passengers.

*You will save fuel.* Your vehicle has to work hard in soft sand. By reducing tyre pressure you reduce the strain on your vehicle and your fuel consumption.

*It will save the tracks.* Annoying corrugations are often caused by high tyre pressure. By reducing tyre pressure you reduce damage to tracks.

*You will have a better time.* No one wants to spend their holiday digging their vehicle out of hot sand.

