

# Sand Driving Tips

## General

- Keep the vehicle in sound mechanical condition.
- Carry appropriate spare parts, tools and recovery gear.
- Prepare the vehicle against salt corrosion, allow at least 2 weeks, preferably 4 weeks to cure.
- Prepare the brain for off-road travel.
- Be considerate of other beach users.
- Distribute your load evenly and ensure it is secure.
- The main hazards are soft sand, washouts, salt water and other drivers (non-flowing water can be assumed to be salt water).
- Road rules usually apply to beach travel, i.e. Keep left, indicate intentions, and give way to pedestrians.
- Lower tyre pressures will aid flotation over the sand. (22psi, is a good starting point). Keep the speed low to prevent tyres overheating (Check vehicles Specifications).
- Monitor tyre sidewall temperature by hand. Increase pressure if tyres are too hot.
- Avoid travelling at high tide. It is hard on both the beach and your vehicle. An outgoing tide is best. A general guide is 2 hours either side of low tide.

.....

## Driving

- When taking off, select 2nd gear Low Range & release the clutch slowly
- 50-60Km/hr is safest, drive within speed limits.
- Maintaining momentum is the key.
- Usually high range 4WD is the best combination.
- Gear changes need to be quick and positive.
- Keep both hands on the wheel.
- Avoid sharp turns at speed.
- Watch the tracks & vehicles in front for clues to the condition of the beach.
- Generally, those tracks will leave the sand more compacted and are the best choice. However, in deep soft or chopped sand, progress may be better by making new tracks.
- Your wheels will generally travel in old tracks. If the ruts are deep, it may be difficult to steer the vehicle out of the ruts when required. Use extreme care in case they suddenly bite and pull the vehicle to one side.
- Be vigilant for washouts. They are hard to see and can be several feet deep. People have died from hitting them at speed!
- Cross-creeks as close as possible to the sea (The water is usually shallower there), and travel down stream.
- Don't stop in flowing creeks or wet sand or risk being bogged.
- Don't stop in the main traffic flow. Move up the beach towards the high-water mark.

## **Sand Driving Tips**

- Indicators can be used to show on which side you intend to pass an oncoming vehicle.
- Inland tracks can be narrow. Use caution when turning blind corners. Only pass where there is a clear area. Don't make new tracks through the vegetation. Use lights, 25-30 km/hr.
- Don't drive on sand dunes.
- Watch for sunbathers, fishermen and children. They won't hear you approaching.
- Don't spin your wheels if you get stuck. Select reverse immediately and try to drive out, release the clutch slowly. Use your shovel to clear away any build-up of sand that is hindering movement, beware not to dig under the tyres.
- Keep an eye on your gauges (particularly the temperature gauge)
- When driving aim for Maximum Torque (1500rpm to 3000rpm). You will develop a feeling for how hard the engine is working to move the vehicle. The best part of the beach to travel on is usually found by trial and error.

***Remember, Enjoy,  
Don't Destroy!***

© © Copyright Kev Williams - Australian 4WD & Advanced Driver Education  
For further information

[enquiry@australian4wd.com.au](mailto:enquiry@australian4wd.com.au)

[www.australian4wd.com.au](http://www.australian4wd.com.au)