

Getting out

Ultimate guide to the outdoors on the Coast



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Top 10 Things to Take When Driving on the Beach



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Top Sunshine Coast 4WD Tracks

The Sunshine Coast features a huge range of 4WD tracks for every skill level from the novice to the extreme off-roader. We've put together our top picks to check out on your next off-road adventure.

Before we get into the list here are a few general tips for anyone heading off the beaten track:

- Travel in a group where possible
- Always bring recovery gear (including air compressor for beach/sand tracks)
- Don't attempt tracks out of your skill level or beyond the limits of your vehicle

Glasshouse Mountains

The tracks at the Glasshouse Mountains are a favourite among local 4WD enthusiasts and it's easy to see why. Featuring rainforests, gorges, steep inclines, creeks and plenty of red dirt, you'll feel a world away from the nearby highways and townships.

There is a heap of 4WD tracks to explore, from the 4WD novice all the way up to the extreme off-roaders. It is a hugely popular spot with locals so there will usually be other 4WDers there to suggest which tracks are the best for your skill level.

The toughest and most spectacular of the Glasshouse 4WD tracks would have to be the infamous Big Red Track. Big Red is a 4WD track for the very experienced with a very well set up 4WD (a roll cage is suggested for the toughest sections). Most experts say to be prepared to break something on this track, so it is definitely only for the highly experienced off-roaders.

Landcruiser Mountain Park

Much to the delight of local enthusiasts, this 4WD heaven

reopened back in September 2016. With over 200kms of 4WD tracks designed for all skill levels, you'll easily find a track or two to keep you entertained for the day. There are tracks ranging from easy to difficult with hill climbs, gullies and creek crossings galore on this privately-owned property.

If one day isn't enough time to explore, the park also offers camping areas with hot showers & toilets. So why not get your mates together and make a weekend of it!

Great Sandy National Park (Cooloola Recreation Area)

For those who love beach driving, this is the track for you. The track starts with a barge trip across the Noosa River and continues on in spectacular fashion. With 30kms of endless ocean on one side and massive sand dunes, spectacular coloured sand cliffs and coastal forests on the other, the views alone make this trip worthwhile.

Depending on your preference, you can then head inland along the Freshwater Road for impressive coastal rainforests or keep travelling north up the beach to the popular Double Island Point. There is plenty to see on either route with a range of camping, fishing and swimming spots along the way.

It is important to note that a vehicle access permit is required for the Cooloola Recreation Area.

Conondale National Park

A good starting track for any novice 4WDers is Conondale National Park. The main track travels through the mountainous Conondale Range, with thick rainforest and tall eucalyptus dominating the track. The track also features a few shallow

creek crossings, with some interesting climbs and descents also in the mix.

While the drive itself is relatively short there is plenty of other activities on offer in the national park. The park features a wide range of bush walks, lookout spots, creeks and spectacular waterfalls for anyone keen for a swim.

Fraser Island

Another beach lovers paradise is Fraser Island. You can drive right onto the island off the ferry, with the Manta Ray at Inskip Point getting you over there the fastest (trip takes about ten minutes). With almost endless 4WDing options, including the famous 75 Mile Beach Highway, as well as plenty of inland bush & beach 4WD tracks. The island is a world heritage site that is famous for its wildlife, great fishing, impressive sand dunes and fresh water lakes. Permits may be required and sand driving experience is recommended.

Bribie Island

With easy access via a bridge joined to the mainland, Bribie Island is the perfect spot for a 4WD day trip. The island itself is quite developed but still boasts a few hidden gems if you are willing to head off the beaten track. The beach drives on Bribie feature pristine white sand, freshwater lagoons and even some old WWII bunkers.

The northern beaches feature some great surfing spots and spectacular scenery, and the inland 4WD tracks are a great for exploring the coastal bushland. Permits are required for beach driving and camping, they can be purchased from the National Parks website.

- Briohny De Vere

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