

The 4WD Guy's 2008 Summer Trips

Experience the Wilderness - Braidwood & Beyond

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Basic Off Road Course *Dates and Details*

Our Basic Driver Off Road course covers the skills needed by a driver to safely and confidently prepare for an off-road adventure along forest roads and maintained fire trails typically found in the Australian bush.



Ideally, you would attend for two consecutive days and join the group for an overnight camp in the bush.

The first day is a structured and more formal approach to be held in the National Theatre in Braidwood - the oldest operating picture theatre in Australia. Following lectures and tutorial exercises, you may enjoy a well earned lunch in the heritage listed town before setting off to put theory into practice - on the trails themselves.

This will reinforce topics such as:

- getting to know your vehicle (daily maintenance)
- basic trip preparation exercises
- general radio and convoy procedures, navigation
- 4WD driving techniques in a range of terrains
- wheel placement, identification of track conditions and approaches to obstacles, simple water crossings
- basic recovery scenarios
- gear selection, speed selection, descent control
- respect for the environment

Around the campfire (firebans permitted) we will review the day's topics and cover extended trip preparation and basic survival techniques. In the morning, a short bushwalk to a natural wonder then breaking camp and going on an easy-medium graded trip along fire trails to the SW of Braidwood. During this trip, participants will have a chance to enhance their confidence. Some steeper climbs and descents and water crossing are expected.

The course would be suitable for full 4WD vehicles as well as high clearance AWD Soft-roaders with good tyres. No previous off-road driving experience is required but most of the driving will be on dirt / rocky fire trails with water erosion control humps.

Refer to the [FAQ] page of the website for further details of the expected driving conditions.

December 13-14 2008:

Meet at the National Theatre in the main street of Braidwood at 8.30 am for a 9am start.

Watch the website for other dates in February 2009.

Course Fee:

- \$340 for a single driver doing the course
- \$50 extra per extra person (not participating)
- \$60 extra per extra driver in the same vehicle.
- \$240 per person as a passenger in the lead vehicle.

Prices include morning & afternoon teas, light lunches on Saturday & Sunday. BBQ tea on Saturday night. National Park camping and usage fees are included.

What to Bring:

- Suitable vehicle that has adequate fuel for 250km. Good tread on tyres, vehicle owners manual.
- Suitable clothing (long slacks/trousers) solid shoes/ walking boots, socks, long sleeve shirt, hat, waterproof jacket, gardening gloves.
- Personal items (insect repellent, medications, drinking water, sun protection, personal first aid kit).
- Camping gear (tents, bedding, plates, mugs, toilet stuff, towel, torch, lights, change of clothes etc). There will be a nearby pit toilet.
- Optional stuff - GPS, camera.
- Sense of adventure and willingness to follow directions and assist other participants make this an enjoyable experience.

Summer Short Trips

Legend:

[4WD] Suitable for a full 4WD (low range gears).

[4WD+] A full 4WD equipped with recovery points, basic recovery equipment, off road tyres, radio.

[AWD] Suitable for a "softroader" with power to all 4 wheels, high clearances with short overhangs, good tyre tread, preferably with front and rear "recovery" points. Examples: X-Trail, Kluger, Volvo XC70 etc.

(NDE) No off road driver experience ("novice")

(IDE) Intermediate driver experience - for example has completed the basic driver training course.

(ADE) Advanced driver experience.

{TOK} Off road trailers okay. This will require (IDE) or (ADE)

{TX} Not suitable for off road trailers.

[MaxXP] A maximum of X passengers permitted in the lead vehicle (each under 16 child to have a responsible adult).

[MinXP/ZT] A minimum of X passengers or Z tagalong vehicles is required.

[MaxXT] A maximum of X tagalong vehicles can book for the trip. Each driver accepts responsibility for all occupants of their vehicle.

HD Half day trip (does not include lunch)

FD Full day trip (sandwich lunch, morning/ afternoon teas provided)

XD Extended trip of X Days duration

Note: Trip costs reflect the degree of difficulty.

Half Day Passenger / Tagalong Trips:

Designed for people who just want a taste of the bush, a variety of short trips either to the east or west of Braidwood.

Easy Grade Trips: HD(NDE)[4WD][AWD][Max4P]
Morning trips: [Min2P/2T]

Monga Teaser:

A quick trip to some popular spots in the Monga to give a taste of driving on dirt roads through forests and small regions of lush rain forest.

Costs: \$50 pp pass, \$70 per vehicle.

Dates: Nov 15, Nov 22, Dec 6 (**Revisit soon for Jan / Feb**)
Meet at Ryrie Park at 8.00am Return approx 12 noon

Easy Grade Trips: HD(NDE)[4WD][AWD][Max4P]
Afternoon trips: [Min2P/2T]

Tallaganda Travels:

A quick trip to some forest areas to the west of Braidwood. Travel along historic trails used by the miners en route to the Kiandra fields and having exciting names such as "Jinglemoney". We stop at a great picnic area with steam engine relics and a working waterwheel. We will also see a working forest.

Costs: \$50 pp pass, \$70 per vehicle.

Dates: Nov 15, Nov 22, Dec 6 (**Revisit soon for Jan / Feb**)
Meet at Ryrie Park at 1.00pm Return approx 17.00

Full Day Passenger / Tagalong Trips:

Designed for people who want a full day visiting more locations in the bush, and demanding a medium degree of driver challenge.

Medium Grade Trips: FD(IDE)[4WD][Max4P]
Full Day trips: [Min2P/2T]

Monga Wild Places:

A trip to some wilder places in the Monga National Park to give a taste of more challenging driving on dirt roads through forests and small regions of lush rain forest. Some steep hills to climb and descend. Distant views, some walking into lush fern gullies.

Costs: \$120 pp pass, \$140 per vehicle.

Dates: Nov 16, Nov 23, Dec 7 (**Revisit soon for Jan / Feb**)
Meet at Ryrie Park at 8.30am Return approx 17.00

Medium Grade Trips: FD(IDE)[4WD][AWD][Max4P]
Full Day trips: [Min2P/2T]

The High Road South:

A trip along the top of the ridges travelling amongst tall trees and snow gums. An excellent trip along the Gourcock range to gain confidence in your driving skills. Soft roaders okay.

Costs: \$100 pp pass, \$130 per vehicle.

Dates: Nov 17, Nov 24, Dec 8 (**Revisit soon for Jan / Feb**)
Meet at Ryrie Park at 8.30am Return approx 17.00

Full Day Passenger / Tagalong Trips:

Designed for people who want a full day visiting more locations in the bush, and demanding a medium degree of driver challenge.

Medium Grade Trips: FD (I D E) [4 W D] [M a x 4 P]
Full Day trips: [Min2P/2T]

Bendethera Sortie:

A day trip to perhaps the most favoured 4WD destination in the region. Bendethera is a unique open and extensive campsite on the site of a pioneering family who settled into this remote valley on the Deua River nearly 150 years ago. This day return trip is bound to make you plan a more extended visit. It is also a chance for drivers with full 4WD vehicles to gain skills in steep hill climbs and descents.

A lunch stop on the Deua River itself will be a highlight.

Costs: \$120 pp pass, \$140 per vehicle.

Dates: Nov 18, Nov 25, Dec 9 (Revisit soon for Jan / Feb)
Meet at Ryrie Park at 8.30am Return approx 17.00

Designed for people who want a full day visiting more locations in the bush, and demanding a high degree of driver challenge. Extensive previous experience required. Full 4WD with recovery points, off road tyres, recovery gear, radios etc.

Hard Grade Trips: FD (A D E) [4 W D +] [M a x 4 P]
Full Day trips: [Min2P/2T]

Bucking Wilderness Ride:

A day trip along some very steep fire trails on the east side of the main escarpment with fantastic 4WD driving predominantly in low range. Extensive views over both wilderness areas and the Araluen Valley are a highlight.

Several tight hairpin bends and small creek crossings add to the interest.

Costs: \$140 pp pass, \$150 per vehicle.

Dates: Nov 30 (Revisit soon for Jan / Feb)
Meet at Ryrie Park at 8.30am Return approx 17.00

Full Day or Extended Specialty Trips:

Designed for a group of people who want a full day visiting trails and locations of specific interest - perhaps at a different time to scheduled trips. Examples might be to explore the local villages, visit gold mining sites, historical homesteads, bushranger locations, or to spend more time bushwalking, camping or photography.

The preference for these trips is mid week outside of the Christmas - New Year or Easter peak periods. Minimum numbers would be required and advanced notice.

In any event, you are encouraged to register the type of trip that would appeal so that it might be considered in the coming months.

Future Extended Trips:

Destinations include the Victorian High Country, Tasmania's Wild West Coast and Central Australia via the Simpson Desert.

The "Braidwood & Beyond" trips of medium to hard standard would be excellent preparation for all these extended future trips.