



## ★BertaTracks Beginner Guide ★

### What Should Always Be On Board?

Western Australia is all about freedom and adventure – but a little preparation goes a long way.

These are a few things we never leave home without:

- \* Plenty of drinking water
- \* Sunscreen & insect repellent
- \* A first aid kit
- \* Recovery gear & a shovel
- \* Recovery boards
- \* Tyre compressor
- \* Spare fuel

Especially on longer trips, we always carry at least one full jerry can. Distances in WA can be bigger than expected, and fuel stations aren't always just around the corner.

### Fully Self Contained Camping

One thing that surprised us when we first arrived in Australia was that camping actually comes with a few rules.

At some National Park campgrounds, bush camps and farm stays, you'll often come across the term:

#### **\*\*\* Fully Self Contained \*\*\***

At first, we had no idea what that meant either.

In most cases, it simply means that you need to carry your own toilet and be able to camp independently without relying on facilities provided at the campsite.

A chemical toilet is often required, which is why we added one to our setup early on.

You'll find everything you need at camping stores such as BCF, Anaconda or even Bunnings.



## Fire Bans & Campfires

Australians take fire safety seriously – and for good reason.

During the warmer months, many parts of Western Australia operate under seasonal Fire Bans, meaning campfires are not allowed.

At first this can seem surprisingly strict.

But once you've travelled through areas affected by bushfires, it's easy to understand why these rules exist.

Before every trip, it's worth checking the current fire restrictions for the region you're visiting.

## Phone Reception & Offline Maps

Don't rely too heavily on mobile reception.

Coverage around Perth and larger towns is generally excellent, but it can disappear surprisingly quickly once you head into regional WA.

Offline maps quickly become one of the most important tools for any road trip.

Depending on where you're travelling, UHF radios or satellite communication devices can also provide an extra level of safety when exploring remote areas.

## Distances in WA

If there's one thing almost every traveller underestimates, it's the distances.

Western Australia is enormous.

Even after thousands of kilometres on the road, we still occasionally look at a destination on the map and think:

**"That doesn't seem too far."** And a few hours later we're still driving.

Give yourself plenty of time, avoid packing too much into a single day and remember that road trips in WA are best enjoyed at a slower pace.



## National Park Pass

Once you start exploring Western Australia, you'll quickly realise that many of the state's best places are located inside National Parks.

From spectacular lookouts and hiking trails to remote campgrounds and off-road tracks, National Parks play a big role in almost every WA adventure. Some parks require a pass for entry, while others only charge camping fees.

For us, the annual pass has always been worth it. It gives you access to all National Parks throughout the year and removes the need to organise individual tickets along the way.

## Beach Driving - The Basics

Few experiences feel more Australian than driving along a beach for the first time.

Windows down.

Ocean beside you.

Nothing but sand ahead.

Before heading onto the beach, keep a few simple things in mind:

- \* Lower your tyre pressure
- \* Engage 4WD before entering soft sand
- \* Follow existing tracks at first
- \* Drive at a pace you're comfortable with

There is no need to rush.

The Aussies might make it look easy – but confidence comes with experience.

### **BertaTracks Insight**

A tyre compressor is one of the best investments you'll make for travelling in WA.



## Never Underestimate a Good Sundowner

After a few weeks in Western Australia, you'll probably find yourself doing it too.

You start choosing campsites based on the sunset.

You plan your arrival time around golden hour.

And somehow the evening drink becomes part of the adventure.

Because some of the best moments in WA aren't found at famous attractions.

They're found sitting in a camp chair by the beach, watching the sun disappear over the horizon and simply enjoying where you are.

That's what a Sundowner is really about.

## Final Thoughts

Camping and road trips through Western Australia aren't complicated.

But they do feel different.

The vast distances, remote campgrounds and endless coastline turn even the simplest trip into a small adventure.

And more often than not, the moments you'll remember most aren't the ones you carefully planned weeks in advance. They're the unexpected ones.

The dusty tracks.

The quiet beaches.

The campfires.

★ A Sundowner by the ocean

We hope this guide helps you get started on your own WA adventure.

Take your time, enjoy the detours and don't be afraid to explore beyond the obvious. Some of the best places are the ones you never planned to find.

See you out there.

– **BertaTracks**