



A Trip to the Tip – Cape York and Australian Outback Checklist

These suggestions do not claim to be complete! They are to be adjusted for the selected area/route at your own judgement. How, this depends on whether many other off-road travelers can be expected on your trip during the season you're traveling as well. Or whether you are completely dependent on yourself there.

Absolutely necessary

- Powerful 4x4 off-road car. With a low gear ratio, high ground clearance, differential lock and as little electrical equipment as possible
- Snorkel for deep river crossings. In many rivers, the water flows over the engine hood and floods the engine compartment
- Water bra or simple plastic sheet, which is attached in front of the bullbar with a rope or duck tape, so that the engine compartment is not flooded during deep water crossings. This minimizes the risk of damage to the engine compartment (especially a crushed fan). Check beforehand whether the fan is already protected by a plastic box as standard
- Higher suspension (at least 2 inch / 50 mm suspension lift, better 3-5 inch)
- Proper tires. We had Dick Cepek at our vehicle. BFGoodrich, Cooper or Mickey Thompson are also recommended
- Front protection bar (bullbar), which protects the engine compartment and radiator in the event of collision with animals. On the other hand it serves as a holder for other equipment (such as extra headlights, UHF radio or fishing rods)
- Compressor (with clamps for connection to a secondary battery). And tire pressure measuring device, because the tire pressure has to be adapted constantly to the circumstances of the road
- Winch when driving alone. Other recovery equipment such as elastic towing ropes (snatch straps) and MAXTRAX/sand plates) to free yourself
- One, better two 2 spare tires. Breakdowns are not uncommon in these road conditions. And finding a suitable tire outside of civilization is difficult. A bracket for 2 spare tires at the rear is recommended to save space

- Standard tools and toolbox to fix minor defects yourself
- Standard spare parts such as air-, oil- and diesel filters. Fuses for vehicle electrics
- Offroad car jack
- Sufficiently sized fire extinguishers. When driving in Spinifex areas, it is also recommended to take a pressure sprayer (weed sprayer) with you. It can be refilled with water while a fire extinguisher is empty after one use

Other, useful equipment

- Long-distance fuel tank with the highest possible volume (170-190l). In many cases, this saves you having to carry annoying reserve canisters on the roof rack. Reserve canister **N E V E R !!!!!** to carry inside the car. Risk of poisoning from leaking canisters
- Reserve fuel for 300 - 500 km
- Reserve oil, especially if the car has a high oil consumption
- Reserve water for the car radiator and to extinguish fire
- Possibly sealant for tyres and radiator
- Roll/pitch display if the max values of your vehicle are known (even with a fully loaded roof rack)
- UHF radio using Australian frequency bands. Either to contact other travellers (channel 40), to inform road trains before overtaking or to ask for help in emergency situations
- Extra headlights or LED light bar, switchable when driving with high beam. They make driving at night much more relaxed thanks to the greater visibility
- Installation of a second vehicle battery (dual battery system). For power supply of additional equipment such as refrigerator, lights, etc.
- Flashlights and batteries, better still solar lamps and -panels
- Gas lighter/lighter/matches for Campfire and BBQ
- Fridge / freezer combination to take fresh supplies like meat, fish or dairy products with you. This must then be connected to the second battery via a 12-volt socket near the electrical part
- Roof rack. If possible, over the full length of the roof (roof tray). For more storage space
- Drawer system to make the inside of the car much clearer. This saves you annoying searching. Further interior design as desired (cupboards and bed)

- Swags or a roof tent are the most comfortable options for sleeping
- Awning. Protects from the sun and you can build up the swags underneath
- Garbage bag made of soft plastic. It should be attached outside the vehicle (e.g. on the spare tyre)
- Standard camping und BBQ equipment
- Drinking water, 5-7 liters per person and day. Preferably 10 liters, if possible
- Mosquito spray to protect against 'mossies'. But to buy only local. This is usually adapted to local requirements. European products brought along are usually of little use
- Solid outback boots. With which you can also walk through water. And which protect against snake bites

Travel preparation

- Obtain information on current bush fires
- Obtain information on the passability of the further route from the local police station
- For lonely stretches, leave the planned route and estimated time of arrival at the destination at the local police station before departure. Likewise, the make, color and registration number of your car
- For outback route planning check the offers of Hema-Maps (online and print)
- To search for campsites, download the WikiCamps app to your smartphone
- Some campsites (including bush campsites) must be pre-booked and pre-paid online in advance. Check before the trip which ones that are and where they have to be booked. If necessary, book and pay before departure, print the tag for the car and take it with you. This is usually only possible if you know on which day you will arrive a campsite

In the event of a breakdown in the outback: N E V E R move away from your car. Vehicles are easier to find from air than individuals. Immediately after the breakdown, make sure that the doors / windows cannot lock themselves. Take your car key with you when you get out. Therefore, preferably no electronic door and window locking in outback vehicles.

Have fun on your outback or off-road tour 😊