

AUSTRALIA'S MOST ICONIC

SUSPENSION TESTS

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TJM
4X4 EQUIPPED

Australia is a land of epic landscapes and epic terrain that is guaranteed to amaze you and test you in equal measure. Whether it's a corrugated desert track, a steep mountain scramble or a monsoonal plain carved by seasonal weather cycles, your four-wheel drive's suspension is there through it all, carrying you to glory with every wheel rotation. The best suspension systems are designed and tested to thrive in these conditions, giving you added ground clearance to overcome obstacles, superior ride and handling, a higher degree of safety and improved load-carrying capability.

Every TJM suspension system has been crafted to do just that, so we've put together our list of the best journeys to test out your 4x4's suspension. So, let's get this list started!



Australia is an amazing place, and we are privileged to be able to travel through so much of it. TJM would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.



Written by: James Jackson

Top Suspension Requirements

Different tracks test your suspension in different ways, so we've made it easy to discover the top suspension requirements of every track on our list.



Wheel Travel

Good wheel travel allows you to maintain traction on uneven terrain by maintaining tyre contact with the ground.



Vehicle Stability

A stable vehicle makes it easier to maintain balance and control in a range of driving situations.



Ground Clearance

Added ground clearance increases a vehicle's approach, departure and ramp over angles, giving you the ability to overcome larger obstacles.



Strong Load-carrying

Higher load-carrying capacity allows you to travel further and take more cargo with you.



Shock Durability

A purpose-built shock absorber can perform at its highest level over rough terrain and for extended periods of time.



Occupant Comfort

A well-tuned suspension system effectively limits the impact of changing track conditions on vehicle occupants.



Written by: James Jackson

1 · CANNING STOCK ROUTE.



 Photo credits: Peter WH

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Region

Outback Western Australia

Top Suspension Requirement



Occupant
Comfort



Shock
Durability



Strong
Load-carrying

Time to allow

2-3 weeks

Cutting through unforgiving country over unforgiving terrain, the Canning will rattle unprepared travellers to their very core.

The world's longest historical stock route at over 1800km long, the CSR is a desert slog through some of Australia's most remote country. While not overly technical, the Canning Stock Route's insistent corrugations can lead travellers to agitation and shock absorbers to cavitation without breaking a sweat. Well-equipped vehicles and well-supplied travellers can breathe a little easier and enjoy the journey, which is largely a guided tour through stunning dune country across four deserts: the Tanami, north and south Gibson and Little Sandy deserts.

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2 · GLASS HOUSE MOUNTAINS.



 Photo credits: James Jackson

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Region

South East Queensland

Top Suspension Requirement



Ground
Clearance



Vehicle
Stability

Time to allow

Half-day

The Glass House Mountains are a true proving ground for local off-rovers and their 4WDs in South East Queensland.

The forest around Beerburrum is a literal maze of tracks that – just as all roads lead to Rome – all seem to guide you to grovel at the feet of Big Red. Tough when it's dry and devilish when it's wet, Big Red is always eagerly waiting to play with its prey, and it's more than willing to put rigs on their side (or on their back) or lazily bend, scrape, crack or dent vehicle components thanks to its epic washouts, ruts and rock steps. Nearby Little Red is more forgiving, while there are plenty of flat forestry tracks within the forest's rows of hoop pines to mix up this journey through the Sunshine Coast Hinterland.

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3 · MONKEY GUM.



 Photo credits: Grahamec

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Region

Yalwal, South Coast New South Wales

Top Suspension Requirement



Ground
Clearance



Vehicle
Stability



Wheel
Travel

Time to allow

Half-day

A technical drive that rewards its conquerors with some mind-blowing views at the top, Monkey Gum Fire Trail is a proper 4WD track.

The drive along Monkey Gum is an undulating mix of dirt, sharp rocks, large boulders and plunging ruts that comes to a climax at a lookout above the Yalwal region. Its level of difficulty is dependent on two things: recent weather conditions and the lines you choose to take. Some of its obstacles are simply unavoidable, but in many cases you can make like a kidnapped snitch and choose the easy way, or the hard way. For those that enjoy a challenge, the drive is an unforgettable one.

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4 · MOUNT MEHARRY.



 Photo credits: Iktoh

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Region

Pilbara

Top Suspension Requirement



Occupant
Comfort



Strong
Load-carrying



Ground
Clearance



Wheel
Travel

Time to allow

Half-day

A drive to the top of Western Australia's tallest mountain gives you a panoramic view of the surrounding Pilbara region.

Western Australia is not known for its mountain peaks, so to get some altitude you need to find its tallest one: Mount Meharry. The drive is not long (only 21km) but in sections it has large rocks to tiptoe over, as well as other sections where large washouts will test your wheel travel and angles. Once you've scurried up the side of the mountain, you're rewarded with sights out across the Hamersley Range and unique Karijini National Park. With that in mind, a drive to Mount Meharry is best done as a side trip to Karijini and the Pilbara at large.

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5 · GUNBARREL HIGHWAY.



ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Region

Outback Western Australia, Northern Territory & South Australia

Top Suspension Requirement



Occupant
Comfort



Shock
Durability



Strong
Load-carrying

Time to allow

4-6 days

Tracks don't get much straighter than the Gunbarrel, but the drive itself can be far from it.

Cutting through the core of Western Australia before scything into South Australia and the Northern Territory, the Gunbarrel was constructed by legend Len Beadell and his Gunbarrel Road Construction Party. Highway feels like a misleading name though, since the drive is riddled with washaways, heavy corrugations and open plains that range from rough to jarring, depending on the season. With almost 500km between supply points along the way, the Gunbarrel is made for experienced travellers with some spare parts and mechanical know-how in their kit.

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6 · ELLIS TRACK.



 Photo credits: Sandeepparekh9

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Region

Yarra Ranges, Victoria

Top Suspension Requirement



Ground
Clearance



Vehicle
Stability



Wheel
Travel

Time to allow

Half-day

Rising above the heights of Victoria's High Country, at least in terms of toughness, is this slow-motion rollercoaster in the Yarra Ranges.

Believe it or not, the Ellis Track is only 2km long, but it's certainly memorable enough to earn its spot on the list. Without a well-prepared rig that's got plenty of flex, ground clearance and aggressive tyres, get ready for some scrapes and bangs as you negotiate endless boulders, ruts and potentially slipping sections. The drive has humbled many a driver in years gone by, so don't plan on tackling it unless you have a few friends, plenty of recovery gear and even more driving experience.

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7 · STAPLES LINE.



Photo credits: James Jackson

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Region

South West Western Australia

Top Suspension Requirement



Time to allow

Half-day

Rutted and relentlessly steep in sections, the tracks around Harvey deliver doses of mad fun and nervous collar-tugging in equal measure.

Powerline tracks across Australia have a habit of turning a day out on the tracks into shameless wheel-lifting capers, and the drives around Harvey – particularly Staples Line – take no issue in following this trend. In some sections, the ruts are more like trenches, and their clay base makes them stony when it's dry and comedically slippery in the wet. The terrain is consistently testing as you climb and descend the region's hills, meaning it's best to go with mates and some well-equipped 4x4s.

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8 · THE OLD TELEGRAPH TRACK.



ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Region

Cape York

Top Suspension Requirement



Occupant
Comfort



Shock
Durability



Strong
Load-carrying



Ground
Clearance



Wheel
Travel

Time to allow

3-4 days

Some top-tier 4WD tracks are slowly being softened as they become victims of their own success – not the Old Telegraph Track.

Make no mistake, its bypass tracks might be getting sealed and graded to high heaven for greater accessibility, but Cape York's rough diamond has resisted this moderation for the masses. From the steep drops of Palm and Gunshot creeks to the rattling corrugations along certain sections north of Canal Creek, the trip from Bramwell Roadhouse to the Jardine River Ferry mixes up its off-road tests in ways that few trips can match. Better yet, the drive features some stunning stops at places like Fruitbat and Twin falls, as well as fistfuls of enjoyable water crossings to colour the journey.

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9 · MOUNT CORAMBA.



 Photo credits: James Jackson

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Region

Coffs Harbour Hinterland

Top Suspension Requirement



Ground
Clearance



Vehicle
Stability



Wheel
Travel

Time to allow

1-2 days

Away from its glittering coastline and green mountain ranges, the Coffs Coast looks more like a street brawler than a runway model.

Mount Coramba and the tracks that arc across it range from Sunday drives to nail-biting crawls, all of which make for a great off-road adventure. With names like Commando and Morbid, it should come as no surprise that steep rises, rock steps, deep ruts and washouts are plentiful along these trails. Better yet, once you're done tiptoeing through dank rainforests and over countless obstacles, it's easy to jet off and explore some stunning scenic highlights around the region: the rushing Nymboida River, the vistas of the New England High Country or the sandy sanctuary of Pebble Beach.

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10 · MUNJA TRACK.



Photo credits: Philipist

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Region

Kimberley

Top Suspension Requirement



Occupant
Comfort



Shock
Durability



Strong
Load-carrying



Ground
Clearance

Time to allow

3-4 days

The Munja Track shows that the Kimberley still has some truly wild frontiers.

The Gibb River Road is quickly becoming a gateway to tougher, more remote trips like this one to Walcott Inlet from Mt Elizabeth. It has plenty of jump-ups and steep rocky sections to push vehicles to their limit and bring sweat to any driver's palms, plus the threat of bottoming out is a consistent concern. The graft and driving through people-less terrain comes to an end at Walcott Inlet, which is an idyllic place to setup camp for a few days and enjoy some quiet Kimberley coastline. Better yet, it's a truly spectacular fishing spot for those who love to drop a line and are on the hunt for epic barramundi.

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11 · ANNE BEADELL HIGHWAY.



 Photo credits: Marian Deschain

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Region

Outback Western Australia

Top Suspension Requirement



Occupant
Comfort



Shock
Durability



Strong
Load-carrying

Time to allow

1 week

Rough around the edges but soft at its heart, the Anne Beadell Highway is an epic tour of Australia's many Outback landscapes.

Named after Outback icon Len Beadell's wife, the Anne Beadell Highway stretches from Laverton to Coober Pedy across almost 1,400km of desert terrain. The highlight of the drive is the rich red dune country within the Great Victoria Desert, which blooms with desert wildflowers in spring. The drive can be heavily corrugated for long stretches, which means a well-equipped rig is essential, while it can also become overgrown in patches too. Bucking the perceived trend of desert drives being boring, the Anne Beadell mixes it up well thanks to its variety of mesas, plateaus, wooded areas and salt lakes along the way.

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12 · BARKLY RIVER JEEP TRACK.



ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Region

High Country Victoria

Top Suspension Requirement



Ground Clearance



Vehicle Stability



Wheel Travel

Time to allow

Half-day

Some tracks demand respect, but the Barkly River Jeep Track is so feared that it doesn't need to demand anything.

The Barkly River Jeep Track feels like a trail that's only spoken of in shadowy corners of saloons by spur-clinking bushmen who love spinning tall tales – except this track is very real indeed. The track's most dominant features – its steep ascents, jutting rock steps and deep washaways – mean that ground clearance, good off-road tyres and diff locks (not to mention recovery gear) are non-negotiable. Further to this, if you don't pick the right line or go when it's wet, panel damage or a rollover are lurking possibilities. Short, sharp and sweet, the Barkly River Track is a technical heart-pumper that's not for the weak-willed.

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13 · OLD COACH ROAD.



ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Region

Cape York

Top Suspension Requirement



Occupant
Comfort



Ground
Clearance



Vehicle
Stability



Wheel
Travel

Time to allow

Full day

A frenetic rise and fall over the Great Dividing Range is not what most expect from Cape York, but the Old Coach Road delivers exactly that.

On names alone, a drive from Maytown to Laura might sound like a quiet country cruise, but this trip over the range will have you wondering where it's safe to put your wheels along almost every step of the way. The track arcs past plenty of gold rush sites (and rusting machinery) from the 19th century, which adds an historical flavour to the trip – not that you'll have too much time to think about it. The Old Coach Road is dusty, rutted and washed out like few other tracks in Australia, which makes this drive a highly technical one that will test your 4x4's flex and clearance, as well as your own driving skills.

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14 · FISHERIES ROAD.



 Photo credits: Sean Scott

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Region

South West Western Australia

Top Suspension Requirement



Occupant
Comfort



Shock
Durability



Ground
Clearance

Time to allow

Half-day

Fisheries Road serves up a tasty cocktail of rough tracks and scenic spots as it cuts through the area around Esperance.

In a place known for its blinding white beaches and glittering water, Fisheries Road is truly a horse of a different colour. Most four-wheel drivers use Fisheries Road to reach the serene coastline of Israelite Bay, but the drive to get there is more than an added bonus. Depending on recent weather conditions, the track can be incredibly corrugated and rutted, which will force you to slow down and enjoy the landscape as it gradually changes. There's also a salt lake to cross – make sure you stick to the main track, or else you may end up bogged and waiting for a mate.

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15 · FARRELL'S 3.



Photo credits: Llyndan

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Region

Hunter Valley

Top Suspension Requirement



Ground
Clearance



Vehicle
Stability



Wheel
Travel

Time to allow

Half-day

When a track stands out in a place known as a 4WD playground, you know you're in for an interesting ride.

Watagans National Park is renowned for its maze of tracks that range from cruisy Sunday drives to technical battle royales of epic proportions, and Farrell's 3 just might sit at the top of the pile. With dense green forest pressing in on you from all sides, the drive is bookended with some jaw-dropping rock steps that have scraped the bellies of many a 4WD. Once through the first set, you're faced with a climb up a heavily rutted section of track before coming face-to-face with the final test – another set of angled rock steps that threaten to tip you into the waiting trees on the side of the track.

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16 · CONNIE SUE HIGHWAY.



 Photo credits: Summerdrought

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Region

Outback Western Australia

Top Suspension Requirement



Occupant
Comfort



Shock
Durability



Strong
Load-carrying

Time to allow

3-5 days

It seems all the trails blazed by Len Beadell are winners for off-road touring, and the Connie Sue is far from being the exception.

The Connie Sue intersects with the Anne Beadell at a place called Neale Junction – perhaps the most remote four-way intersection in the world – so it makes sense the two have similar characteristics. The Connie Sue Highway has red dunes, endless spinifex and little chance of crossing paths with other travellers along the way. It also has some heavy corrugations, eye-popping washouts and tight sections of track that can make your paint squeal, not to mention there are no supply points anywhere along the journey; all in all, it's the makings of an unforgettable Outback adventure.

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17 · COBBERAS TRAIL.



 Photo credits: Steven Bennet

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Region

High Country Victoria

Top Suspension Requirement



Ground
Clearance



Vehicle
Stability



Wheel
Travel

Time to allow

Half-day

The Cobberas Trail takes High Country Victoria's love of steep slopes and dials it up a notch.

The Snowy River region has a history deeper than its chilliest crossing, and the Cobberas Trail has earned its place among this much-loved area's highlight reel. Connecting to the tough Ingeegoodbee Track, the Cobberas is a scramble over loose rock, deep ruts and massive boulders embedded into the track. The drive is not always difficult, but when it is, it's hair-raising. Aside from the drive, the journey also delivers some electric mountain vistas at the top, some picturesque river crossings of the Ingeegoodbee and Berrima rivers, and the chance to spy roaming brumbies.

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18 · MERRICUMBENE FIRE TRAIL.



 Photo credits: Dnatheist2

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Region

Deua National Park

Top Suspension Requirement



Ground
Clearance



Vehicle
Stability



Wheel
Travel

Time to allow

Overnight

The hills that loom over the Bendethera Valley are home to some exciting drives the end at idyllic campsites.

Deua National Park has a wealth of 4WD tracks to enjoy, and the Merricumbene Fire Trail is one of the region's prize fighters. An inevitability in Deua are steep climbs, and the Merricumbene Fire Trail partners these heights with loose rocks, clay and tight spots for underbodies and panels alike. The best place to end the drive is in the Bendethera Valley, which is a true camper's paradise thanks to its green fields, flat ground and spacious surrounds that are framed by the surrounding ranges.

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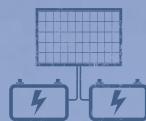
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GET EQUIPPED FOR ANYTHING.



4X4 FITOUTS

Every TJM distributor is equipped with a fully functional workshop and experienced fitment staff that can help get your 4x4 ready for whatever lies ahead.



DUAL BATTERY SYSTEM SETUPS

If you want to have instant access to power from your vehicle – whether it's to power camping lights, a fridge or various 12v appliances – an auxiliary power system is essential. Talk to your local TJM distributor to find the right system and to get our expert team to install it, giving you peace of mind and the power to go further.



SUSPENSION & GVM

Suspension & GVM Upgrades As suspension experts, TJM can tailor a suspension or GVM upgrade solution to suit you, your vehicle and the loads you need to carry.



STORAGE SOLUTIONS

You can store more and do more with your 4x4 thanks to TJM's range of exceptional storage solutions. Ranging from customised drawer systems to ute canopies that seamlessly integrate with your vehicle, TJM has the perfect storage solution to help you carry more gear, access it faster and protect it better.



PRE-TRIP INSPECTIONS

Guard yourself and your vehicle from some potential surprises by getting our expert staff to have a look at the state of your 4x4 before you hit the road.



COMMUNICATIONS INSTALLATIONS

Tools like antennas and UHF radios combine to give you the ability to communicate with other travellers and get help in emergency situations when in remote areas. Find out which setup is right for you and get it installed in your vehicle quickly and professionally visiting a TJM distributor and consulting with our experienced team members.

FIND YOUR PERFECT SUSPENSION SYSTEM TODAY AT WWW.TJM.COM.AU



Cover photo by: James Jackson

Photo credits: Sean Scott

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