

**PERTH BACKPACARS**  
Mechanical repairs  
Services  
Checks  
Equipments



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**Just arrived in beautiful  
Australia ?**

**You need to look for a car  
but you don't know how  
to proceed ?**

**You don't know what will  
be the best vehicle for your  
adventure ?**

**You have no idea how  
to communicate with  
the seller ?**

**Don't worry !  
Our mission is to help  
backpackers.  
We were backpackers too, we  
know how difficult is the process  
between finding the right car  
and hitting the road.**



**Perth Backpacars**  
**CHECK IT - FIX IT - DRIVE IT**

**YOUR  
CAR  
GUIDE**

**HOW TO  
BUY**

**HOW TO  
PREPARE**

**HOW TO  
MAINTAIN**



## HOW TO BUY

### First you have to determine what vehicle best suits you : 4x4/van/city car/wagon ?

In Perth, there are 3 main areas where you will find many car dealers : **Wangara, Rockingham, Victoria park** .

Through internet, there are three main ways:

- **facebook marketplace**
- **facebook groups** ("cars under \$5k - buy & sell - perth", "perth backpackers", etc... )
- **Gumtree** ([www.gumtree.com.au](http://www.gumtree.com.au))

Try to avoid to buy a car from another state that you are in because it is often hard to re-register the car in your state (mandatory inspection) and expensive paperwork. There are three simple rules that will give you the best chances to find the gem :

1. General condition of the vehicle (body aspect, interior state, dirt...)
2. Service history (have the services been done every time they should?), timing belt if equipped.
3. The seller. What kind of person it is ? don't forget !! NO trust, NO deal.

Once you have your deal ensure you have the car checked by a qualified mechanic on a proper garage where the car can be lifted up on a hoist and properly inspected before purchased if possible. When there are repairs that need to be performed, you can eventually negotiate with the seller on a fair deal for both of you.

### The 4x4 :

#### Pros :

- will bring you where other vehicles will not
- will offer interesting interior space and the ability to easily install a rooftop tent
- will be a safe vehicle on the roads because of its height, road handling, tyres and protections ( bullbar ect ...)
- you can load them up with heavy equipment such as roof racks, roof tents

#### Cons :

- very often the 4x4 have a bigger fuel consumption compared to other vehicles because of their weight, engine size, shape ect ...
- they have more mechanical parts and are used harder than other cars so there are more risk to break something, 4x4 are more expensive to fix and service compared to other vehicles

### The van :

#### Pros :

- very spacious, you could build a kitchenette, a comfortable bed and store everything you need on it so it is secured

- are relatively good on fuel consumption
- are pretty cheap to service and fix compared to other vehicles because of their simple construction

#### Cons :

- will not bring you offroad
- have small engines that tend to be slow because of the weight
- limited amount of seats

### The city car :

#### Pros :

- very economic
- easy to park in the city
- pretty cheap to maintain and service

#### Cons :

- not very suited for road trips as they are not really made to travel long distances
- not spacious

### The station wagon :

#### Pros :

- you can fit a bed in it
- they are good for long distance travel thanks to their engines
- they are quite comfortable

#### Cons :

- not suited for offroad
- will not be able to carry a lot of equipment
- limited to 2 seats if there is a bed on the back

## HOW TO PREPARE

Make a list of essential things that you will need during your adventure. Think about the kind of road trip that you are planning to do and what will make it easier. Ask yourself how will you cook, shower, sleep, travel thousands of kilometers with comfort .

Make sure you have everything you need for your to make your adventure as easy as possible.

The best option to figure out if you're ready is to go camping over 2-3 days so that you will find out what do you need to make your travel easier and you will be able to make a list of things that you forgot.

Here is a list of essentials and things you would like to have while travelling :

- a gas cooker will allow you to cook wherever you are, it is cheap, easy to operate and very portable.
- a working sound system cause music isn't something you can do without while travelling
- water cans ! It is always very important to have water reserves while travelling, no need to say, Australia is crazy hot ! And without water, you could be in danger very fast. You will also find them useful to cook, wash your hands ect...

- petrol cans could save you from an empty fuel tank, Australia is a very vast country with sometimes hundreds of kilometers between fuel stations, so if you don't want to be stuck, fill them up !

- solar shower, cause it's always enjoyable to have a shower after a big day out. Solar showers will allow you to refresh yourself with hot water if the sun is out and are powered by gravity so you'll always be able to use it, even in the middle of nowhere .

- a small tool set to fix small things and make sure to have the original wheel replacing tool kit, how frustrating would it be to be by yourself with a spare tire but nothing to replace it ?
- if you own a 4x4 then it is very recommended to take some recovery gear with you in case you ever get stuck (shovel, recovery tracks, snatch strap ect ...)

## HOW TO MAINTAIN

**Maintaining an old car can be a difficult task for some, in order to bring all the odds in your favor, you will have to know how to do simple engine checks, don't forget that we are fully available at our mechanical workshop to help you knowing everything you need to know on your vehicle.**

### Insurance :

In our state (Western Australia) the car has a renewable registration that must be paid to drive legally, with this registration comes a "minimal insurance" covering physical injuries you can cause but it doesn't cover any material damages (your car, other cars, urban facilities, etc). Here is why we advise you to think about insuring your car during your stay in Australia.

### Road assistance :

When you are in the middle of nowhere you can quickly be in trouble by not having any road assistance that could come to help you. There are many road assistance offers available on the market but from our experience and customers feedback it appears that RAC is nowadays the best value/service for backpackers.

### Servicing:

Servicing hold a big part in having a safe and enjoyable trip, making sure everything works and is in good condition is very important for the car's future but also for your wallet's future. A car that is not serviced regularly as recommended by the manufacturer is more likely to have problems that are going to be very expensive to fix or not fixable at all so don't risk it ! You will find the manufacturer recommendations in the owner manual and/or service book that is supposed to be with the car.

Don't forget to have your vehicle checked every now and then to make sure it is in good working conditions !