

## Wedge Island Beach Run

This is a beautiful piece of WA coastline. The trip is varied through heathland and along white sandy beaches. This is where you'll find the "Pinnacles" in the Nambung National Park.

This trek passes through the Dept. of Defence Army/Navy "live firing" range and at times is closed. Contact (08) 9311 2772 to check access. Also check beach driving conditions as occasionally the beach is impassable just south of Wedge Island.

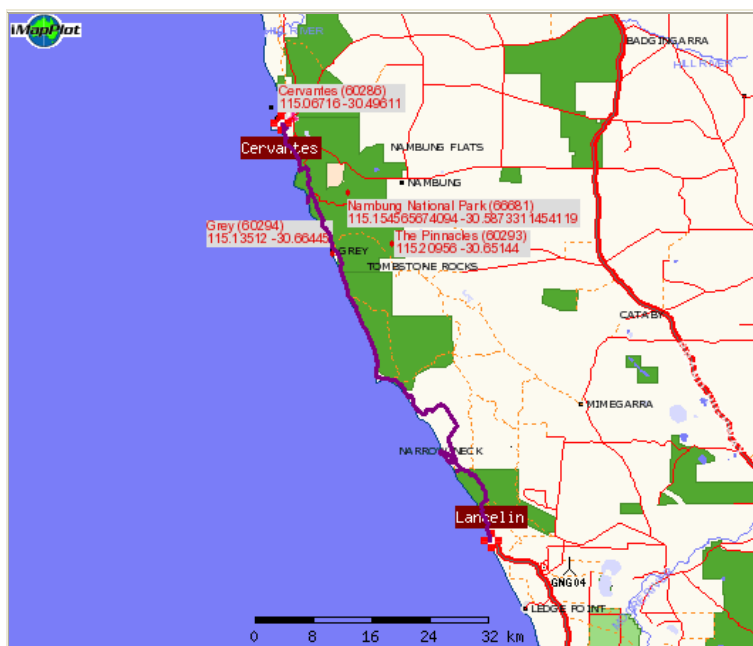
Although only 74km in length this trip will take a full day of driving but there's lots to do (sand surfing, fishing, snorkelling, hiking, and wildflowers) so why not make a few days of the trip. If you intend to camp at Narrow Neck then please ensure you take your rubbish with you.

You will need to be prepared for a variety of terrains from hard capstone to soft sand, so an air compressor is mandatory. You'll need to use sand driving tyre pressures and be prepared to use 4WD in sections. Ensure that you have checked the beach conditions just south of the Wedge Island where a tricky section of the beach is often impassable, especially in Spring and Summer, when the wind and wave action steeply erodes the beach line. Many have unfortunately tried and failed. Check out the "wall of fame" at the Lancelin Roadhouse and take a tide chart for this area and avoid high tides. We also advise that you should affix a dune flag to your vehicle as this trip has become quite popular in both directions and head-on collisions have occurred, especially on long-weekends.

Hopefully, you'll be taking it easy and will see the wonderful wildlife - emus, kangaroos, wallabies and you could even sample the local quandongs (both the fruit and the nuts are edible) growing along the edge of the track.

Undoubtedly, the trickiest part of this trip is navigation. There are a maze of tracks around the beach headlands and through dunes and if the beach between Wedge Island to Grey is closed then you'll need to pick up the inland track. You can try your luck with any track you see as they'll all lead either north or south eventually, however if you want the most direct route without getting stuck (and there are lots of places to get stuck) you can use these trek notes.

Our trek notes starts at the entrance to the dune area at Lancelin, which you reach by continuing through town, around the caravan park before entering the dune area on the right. The first section of the route skirts the massive sand dune system before picking up the tracks that wind through the heathland and heavy limestone outcrops through the bombing range.



<b>Distance from start</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>0</b>	From the centre of Lancelin, drive along Gingin Road until you reach the Hotel and then turn left at the T-junction. At the Desert Road intersection the limestone track on the right will take you to the dunes. Set your odometer to zero at this point. Engage 4WD and lower tyre pressures for sand driving. Turn left and follow marker posts up past the navigation beacon on the left. Keep close to vegetation on left and go over a small rise to where track divides. You may need 4WD to get up this first section of sand dunes. The track to the left goes to the beach but is known to be extremely hazardous year-round with steep wash-outs
<b>2.2 (2.2)</b>	Pick up dual-tracks
<b>4.2 (2.0)</b>	Track divides - keep left on main track which is slow and corrugated
<b>8.4 (4.2)</b>	Turn left. You'll see 3 tracks going over the sand ridge. The furthest left track will avoid the worst section of capstone and corrugations through to Wedge Island. The track runs through open heathland until another track branches off left to Dide Bay.
<b>10.5 (2.1)</b>	Another track branches off left to Dide Bay. Keep straight ahead (or you could camp, fish, swim at Dide Bay)
<b>10.7 (0.2)</b>	Pass through gate marking the southern border of the bombing range
<b>11.8 (1.1)</b>	Veer left at fork
<b>12.3 (0.5)</b>	Veer right (left track goes to a very soft section of beach)
<b>14.3 (2.0)</b>	Y-junction. The left fork takes you to the start of the Narrow Neck beach run, while the right is the Narrow Neck inland diversion track that you will have to double back to if the beach is impassable.
<b>14.8 (0.5)</b>	Narrow Neck. Check out the campsites up behind the first row of dunes.
<b>14.9 (0.1)</b>	Entrance to beach. Turn right and head north up the beach (about 15km). Sometimes you'll find a good beach break here for surfing and the fishing in the sandy gutters for whiting, tailer, herring and occasionally mullet is consistent. Just be careful of the tide and eroded sections.
<b>26.0 (11.1)</b>	Turn right off beach at rocky headland. Follow main track through sand hills
<b>27.7 (1.7)</b>	Track widens.
<b>28.5 (0.8)</b>	Shacks on left.
<b>28.9 (0.4)</b>	Wedge Island settlement.
<b>29.4 (0.5)</b>	Turn left to access beach (Camping is not allowed north of Wedge Island in either the Nambung NP or Wanagarren Nature Reserve).
<b>29.7 (0.3)</b>	Turn right and continue north up the beach or take the Wedge Island alternative inland track to avoid this tricky section of beach
<b>37.6 (7.9)</b>	Turn right off the beach near a small headland through a cutting and onto the main Wedge - Cervantes track again
<b>40.4 (2.8)</b>	This section of track is rocky and slow although there are some good spots that are worth a short diversion for some great views and fishing.
<b>40.6 (0.2)</b>	Stay right (left goes to beach)
<b>40.8 (0.2)</b>	Turn hard left (although the right track meets back up)
<b>41.2 (0.4)</b>	Beach lookout for 4WD tour buses. Take care on the many blind corners between here and the Grey settlement.
<b>42.2 (1.0)</b>	Turn left to beach
<b>42.7 (0.5)</b>	Numerous tracks to and from beach. Bear left.
<b>44.0 (1.3)</b>	Stay with coast on left
<b>47.5 (3.5)</b>	Signs: Nambung National Park on right, Wangarren Nature Reserve on left. Keep veering left past the signs until you come out amongst the shacks of the Grey settlement (Green Island).
<b>50.0 (2.5)</b>	Stay with main track through Grey
<b>50.2 (0.2)</b>	Bear left to beach then right
<b>51.4 (1.2)</b>	Bear left on main track (track skirting settlement comes in from right)
<b>52.3 (0.9)</b>	Sign on right "Pinnacles Desert 14km, Cervantes 19km" Next 9km is very slow. Average about 20km/hr.

<b>60.1 (7.8)</b>	Turn right (left to Hangover Bay)
<b>60.2 (0.1)</b>	Intersection with formed dirt track. Right turn to Pinnacles (6km), left to Cervantes (11km)
<b>74.0 (13.8)</b>	Cervantes Shell Service Station

### **Narrow Neck Alternative Inland Track**

Follow main track north for 1.7km where you turn right along a fence line. Stay with fence line for 6.8km which comes out near a red and white observation post. Turn left and in 7.1km you pass Naval houses. Stick with main track for a further 2.5km until it merges into an area of low sand ridges. The beach track from Narrow Neck joins here too. It is just 1.7km into Wedge from here. It's fairly rough and corrugated but its the only option if the beach is impassable.

This track is 5.3km longer than the beach track but will take about an hour longer.

### **Wedge Island Alternative Inland Track**

Backtrack 1.2km to the Wedge Island sign and turn left. The track skirts a dune before meeting the main track another 2km further on. Turn left. At fork turn right. 8km a track goes left but continue straight ahead for 10.4km until it joins the main coastal track

Taking both these inland alternative tracks will add about 0.6km to the overall track length but will add about another 2hours of driving time!