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# ***PATHFINDERS 4X4***

## ***Driving Tips***

### ***12 Driving Tips When Renting a Jeep***

1. **Drive the high ground** – Avoid sharp rocks and drop offs. Put your tires on the highest parts of the trail and straddle the ruts. This builds good habits for max clearance.
2. **Pick your line** – Use your eyes to constantly scan far to near and back again. Choose early where to put your tires to avoid hazards and get max traction. Pilots fly ahead of their plane.
3. **Steer to set up your REAR axle** – Actively steer and allow for your rear wheels to cheat to the inside of a turn. The front end needs to go wide and turn late to get your rear end where you want it to go.
4. **Use Lo range for gearing** – 4WD Lo is not usually necessary for traction but instead to get the slow speed match of the low range gears. At slow speeds the torque multiplication maximizes the engine's output.
5. **Use compression braking instead of riding the brakes** – Shift into 2<sup>nd</sup> or 1<sup>st</sup> to match the hill being descended so that the engine does the braking. This gives greater control and keeps the brakes from overheating and failing.
6. **Learn precisely where each wheel touches the ground** – Knowing exactly where your wheels are helps you execute the line you've picked.
7. **Cross ruts or obstacles one wheel at a time** – Try to drive at an angle that allows just one wheel to articulate at a time. This helps performance and limits damage.
8. **Level the hood** – A good rule of thumb is to maintain or quickly return to a sight picture that has the hood level whenever possible. Choose your line with this in mind.
9. **Think inertia and momentum** – Smoothly feed power in as needed to proceed without hopping. Brake early and efficiently to overcome rolling inertia.
10. **Air down for maximum performance** – Letting air out of your tires can triple the contact patch. This greatly increases traction, helps with flotation in sand/snow/mud, and improves the ride. Air down only if you have a means of reinflating when you return to pavement.
11. **Shift into 4WD BEFORE You Need It** – Slow the vehicle to a strolling walking pace, shift into Neutral, then shift the transfer case into 4Lo. Do this in anticipation of needing the traction. Also turn on your wipers BEFORE crossing a stream or river.
12. **Look at the Road While Driving & Look at the Scenery When Stopped** – Getting this wrong has caused many needless accidents. If you want to look around, stop the Jeep and get out. There's no rush, so enjoy the many stops along the way.