

Driving Guidelines

Driving on Hills

Hills present some of the greatest challenges and hazards, especially if you are carrying cargo or pulling a trailer. If you are new to off-road driving, start with gentle inclines, take time to learn how your vehicle handles on slopes, and read the information that follows.

Even if you have previous off-road driving experience, the guidelines below should serve as important reminders.

Approaching a Hill

When you approach a hill, you need to decide whether it is one that you, your passenger, your cargo and your vehicle can handle. For example, ask yourself:

- Is the hill too steep? Is the incline constant, or are there places where it gets suddenly steeper? If you run out of power, you may not be able to continue forward.
- Is there enough traction for you to make it to the top without spinning the wheels or sliding backwards?
- Are there obstacles, such as rocks or ruts, that could upset your vehicle and make it roll over?
- If there is no safe predetermined path, can you drive straight up the hill without turning?
- Do you know what is on the other side of the hill?

If you do not know the answers to these questions before beginning an ascent, you should stop and walk up the hill to find out.