

The Cruise Notes Request Link

Most (if not all) car and phone-based navigation systems are designed to take you from point A to point B the shortest or most time efficient way possible. This is of course the complete opposite to what we Fiver's need when we go on a cruise from a meeting point to a destination; we typically take the a longer, twisty route that is neither short nor efficient (apart from maximising the smiles per mile).

For most events members can request a PDF of the cruise notes and a trip-specific Google map file containing the route defined by way points by email. Once the route is loaded into Google Maps on your phone (or into a dedicated GPS navigator), these way points will step you through our typical circuitous routes to the cruise destination, just like the printed cruise notes we hand out at the start.

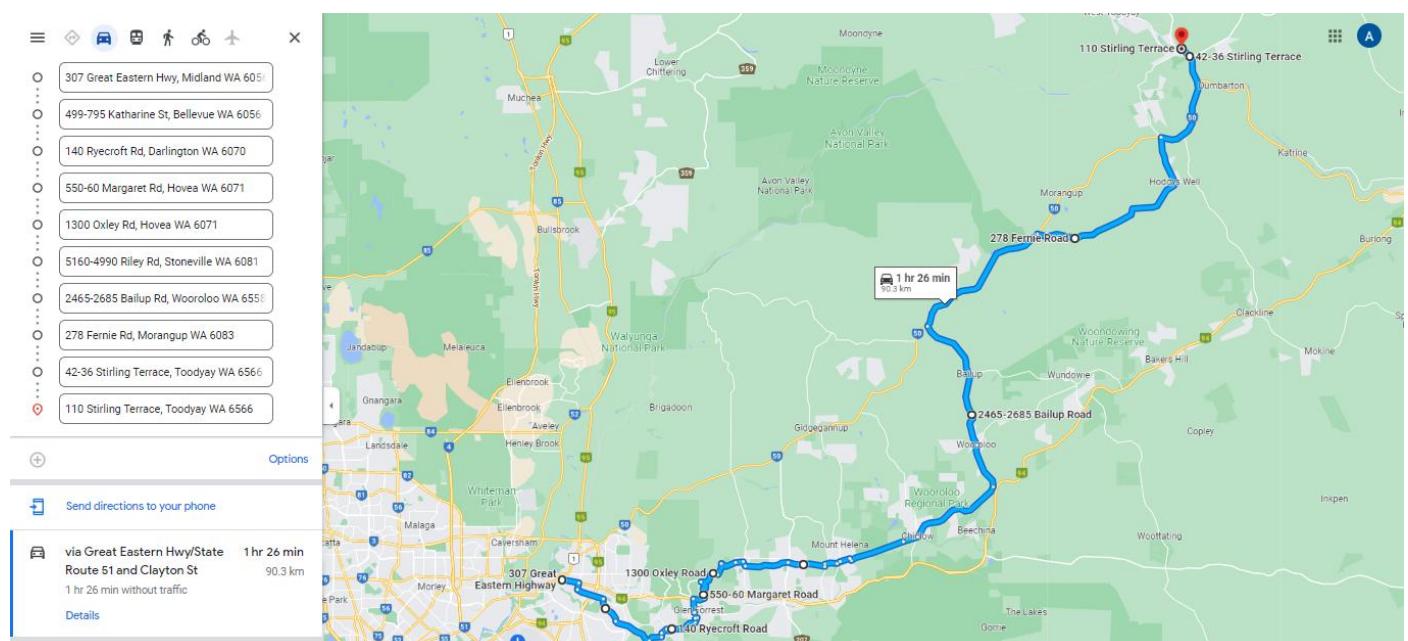
The following step-by-step instructions explain how to do this. While they may seem daunting at first, this might be just what you need, especially if driving solo.

So how does it work?

If you click the Cruise Notes Request Link on the website event page and send the pre-populated email to the club we send you a PDF of the cruise notes and a link to the Google Map(s) of the cruise. If there are regroup points on the cruise you would get a separate map for each segment. The link(s) can be used to navigate using Google Maps to give you turn-by-turn instructions.

So what do you need to do?

1. Install the Google Maps App by downloading it from the Google Play Store / Apple App Store. Complete the installation by downloading off-line maps for the area where we are going (so it doesn't rely on cell reception and uses less battery power). To download offline Google Maps:
 - ◆ Open the Google Maps App (make sure you're online and signed into your Google account). Tap your profile picture in the top right of the screen and tap Offline maps, next tap Select your own map.
 - ◆ Adjust the download box by zooming in or out (the bigger the box, the more memory it uses) and tap download. If you have enough memory on your phone you can download all of South Western WA so you don't need to do this for every trip.
2. Before you leave home open the email on your phone and tap on the map link this opens the cruise as a route on your phone. Using a cruise to Toodyay as example <https://goo.gl/maps/jDR3vmGjbgxDMagR8>, it has a start, 8 intermediate stops and a finish:



3. The intermediate stops are used as way points to "force" our route rather than going straight from start to finish;
4. The next step differs on your phone type:
 - ◆ Android - tap on the 3 dots at top right hand side of your display and select "add route to home screen", tap "add".
 - ◆ iPhone - As you're looking at the overview of the route tap on the 3 dots at top right hand side of your display and select Share directions, select reminders.

You can now open the route any time even if you have no cell coverage.

5. Mount your phone hands free in your car, if you have one of the newer ND's you can use Android Auto / Apple CarPlay to link it to MZD Connect Infotainment display;
6. At the cruise start retrieve the route, the next step differs on your type of phone:
 - ◆ Android - Tap the map icon on your phone's home screen and tap start at the bottom left.
 - ◆ iPhone - Open Reminder on your phone, tap the route you want and tap start.

You will now get corner by corner instructions on when to turn.

Note: you can only tap "Start" when you are physically near the start point, if you are not near the start point you get the "Preview" option instead.

7. All is well UNTIL you reach the first intermediate stop when Google first announces "in 500m you will reach your destination", followed by "you have arrived" and then the screen freezes and it stops navigating!!! After a second or two it will ask you if you want to continue to the next stop and, as you select yes, normal service resumes and you're on your way to the next stop! Note that the intermediate stops are at points where you do not need to change direction so there is no need to stop whilst you get your navigation back and running again.

At present you cannot use way points in Google Maps on a mobile device, so we are stuck with using the intermediate destinations if we use Google Maps.

Whilst Google Maps is the granddaddy of GPS phone navigation options there are now more than 20 GPS navigation App's available to download on your smart phone. But I'm not aware of any that tick all the boxes of working offline, giving accurate turn-by-turn directions, don't have subscription fees or pop-up ads, have unlimited regularly updated maps and use way points rather than intermediate stops. If you do please let me know!

Problems...

On rare occasions what worked one day does not work on another; something that changes the traffic conditions such as roadworks can cause Google Maps to navigate a different route between two intermediate stops or way points. Note that you will still get to your destination!

Using a dedicated GPS navigator

Alternatively you can use a dedicated GPS navigator instead of your phone. Open the map on your PC, and transfer the addresses of the start, stops and finish manually into your Garmin / Navman / TomTom GPS Navigator as a route (making sure the intermediate stops are marked as way points) and now it will work without the annoying step 7 above.

For those finding that too tedious there is software that can convert the Google Map link to a GPX file, a GPS data file saved in the GPS Exchange format. That file can be uploaded via BaseCamp to your Garmin or using MyDrive to TomTom. Note that free file converters are typically limited to 3 way points, in most of our cases we need more and you will be looking at some form of subscription costs.

Aart ter Kuile

Events Coordinator
MX-5 Club of WA Inc.

Version 7 Dated 16 March 2023