

#32

BUSHVELD SERENITY OR FAMILY FUN: YOUR CHOICE

MARCH 2020 | ISSUE 32

go! Drive & Camp

20 Campsites for 2020



**Country roads
to the Addo**

WEEKEND BREAK Dinokeng has a new neighbour | **GEAR** Take your pick of these 26 camping chairs | **FIREWOOD** We test 9 types | **HENNOPS OFF ROAD** Rough and tumble in Gauteng | **4x4 PROF** Decals for the border | **DRIVEN** Everest 2.0 Bi-Turbo

TOW TEST

AMAROK CANYON
Volkswagen's strongman



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CHEESE IS THE NEW BACON! 6 RECIPES FOR THE CAMPFIRE – p110

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TOYOTA

LEAD THE WAY

THE NEW TOUGHER-ER HILUX LEGEND 50



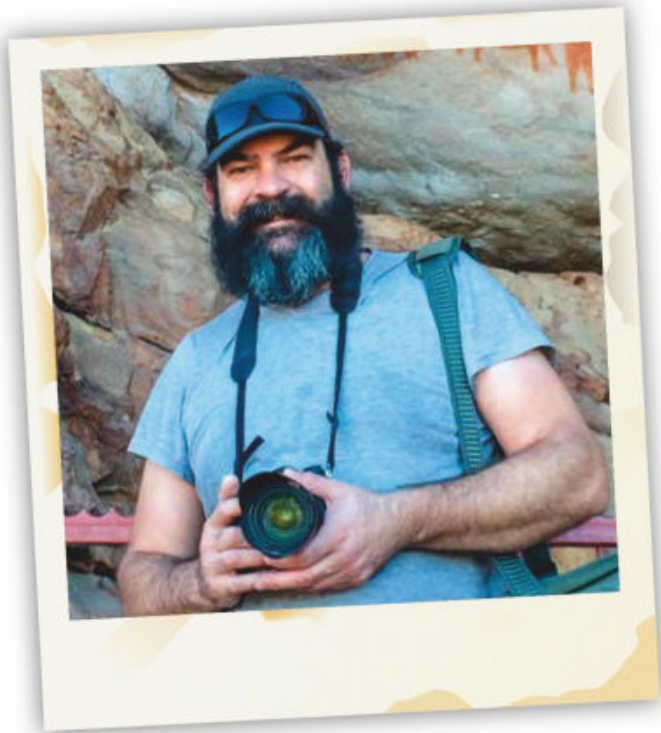
The Hilux Legend 50 is a celebration of 50 years of tougher-er, with both technological and design updates and 13 models to choose from. The exterior boasts a more aggressive grille and front bumper, unique wheel design, black styling bar, roof rails* and a tow bar; while the interior has a larger, integrated multimedia display and smart entry* with push start*. Legend 50 badging inside and out ensures the legendary legacy continues. *Available on selected models.

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HILUX
LEGEND 50

The relentless march



“

I'm seriously chuffed about the *Weg! Ry & Sleep Bakkie Run* we're hosting for the first time this year

”

Just the other day, I heard someone say that when he thinks back to 20 years ago, the 80s come to mind. It was a bit of a shock when he realised that the new millennium had dawned 20 years ago.

You suddenly feel markedly older when you realise the movie *Gladiator* is 20 years old this year. And it's also been two decades since the police in India accused Hansie Cronje of fixing cricket matches. Bill Clinton was the US president and Tony Blair the premier of the UK.

I don't know whether or not this will help you feel better, but Russia still has the same president as 20 years ago. Vladimir Putin is clearly not that easy to vote out of office...

Time seems to speed up, and that's why you have to apply the brakes to slow things down. And where better than around a campfire in your favourite camping chair, with friends, family and other loved ones?

Have a look at page 58 where we reveal our selection of 20 campsites for 2020. We kick off with five for the upcoming Easter weekend, and then pick another five campsites each for the winter holiday, that short little break between the third and fourth school quarters, and of course the December holiday.

We've camped at all of them in the past couple of years and can recommend them with enthusiasm.

BRING YOUR BAKKIE TO THE BUSHVELD

I'm seriously chuffed about the *Weg! Ry & Sleep Bakkie Run* we're hosting for the first time this year. As far as I know, it's the first and only gathering in South Africa that focuses solely on this type of vehicle.

We'd like to see every conceivable bakkie at Alldays in Limpopo the weekend of 24-27 April. Whether you drive a Bantam or a Champ, a Triton or a Ranger, a Hilux or a Dodge Ram – 4x4 or 4x2 – you will be warmly welcomed into the fold.

We've teamed up with the guys at Alldays to arrange an epic weekend of obstacles, rallies, drag races and everything in-between.

My details are below. Send me an email if you and your mates want to join in the fun. I'm stoked.



Schalk

EDITOR

schalk.jonker@media24.com

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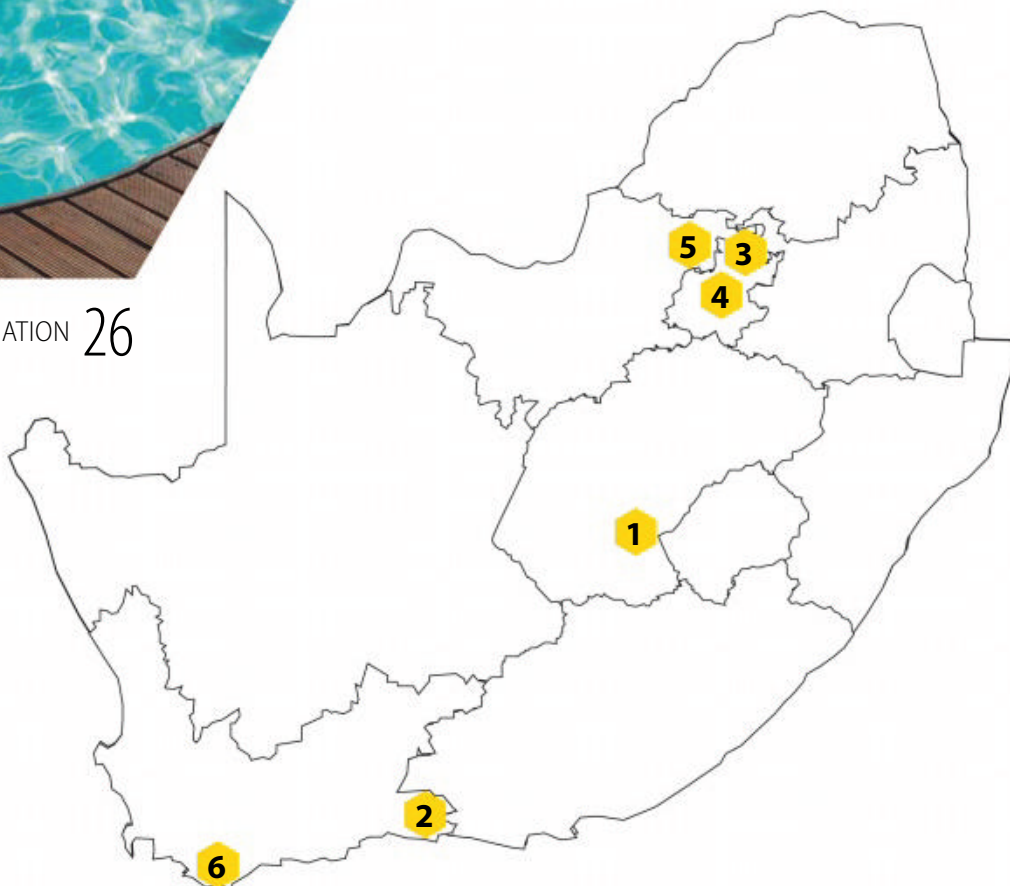


CAMPING DESTINATION 26

6



REEL & WHEEL 74



#32 COVER IMAGE – HELENUS KRUGER

“ We were all chilling around a sociable campfire at Honey Nest, just the other side of Derby. This special moment practically begged to be captured. I waited for proper dusk to fall and took the pic, using a 5 second exposure time. The deep blue sky and the warm orange glow of the fire give this photo loads of atmosphere. ”

Camera settings F4; ISO 2 000; 5 seconds;
14-24 mm lens

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MEDIA24



GRATEFUL DAWN In this issue we feature nearly 30 campsites that you can visit during peak season or out of season. One resort that we didn't mention, however, is the Maselspoort Resort outside Bloemfontein. We camped here in the middle of winter – ours was the only tent in a frosted campsite – and we shivered throughout the night, but at first light we, and ol' man river, began to thaw.

PHOTO **CYRIL KLOPPER**

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We love hearing what's on your mind! Write to us at drivecamp@gomag.co.za and please remember to give your full address and contact details. *Drive & Camp* reserves the right to edit and shorten letters – and publish them in the magazine, on the website and elsewhere.

Camping is king!

Three years ago we decided to bid farewell to holidays in chalets and start camping in tents instead. Today I can say with great confidence that it was the right decision.

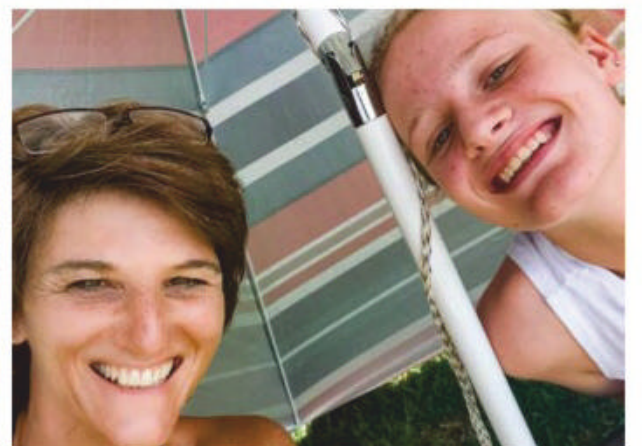
Everybody gets something else out of camping, and the same goes for my family – my wife, Wilna, and our children, Teagan and Aiden.

Communication is one of the major obstacles in marriage. Wilna and I had an ongoing disagreement on how and where the tent should be pitched. One year while we were making camp, our neighbour walked over and gave us his business card. He was a lawyer and probably thought setting up camp was going to break our marriage. Today, though, we pitch the perfect camp with a smile.

But the campsite is full of other good neighbours too. Look at how often you see a neighbour who's willing to help you set up. And what about those who gladly loan you whatever you've forgotten at home? Even strangers who invite you over for a braai on the first night aren't uncommon.

Campers come from all quarters: city slickers, platteland dwellers, pensioners, you name it – and from different social strata as well. But no camper looks down on a neighbour, even if their caravan costs three times more than yours does. Yes, camping is the great equaliser.

Although the children have to give up some of their electronic gadgets, they enjoy it just as much. Sometimes when Wilna and I go for a walk and return to the tent, it looks like a youth gathering as the other camp kids come to play together. It's not at all strange that Teagan says: "Mom, I'm eating



at Kevin's this afternoon – you know, it's the people at stand 493."

Wilna and I also enjoy shopping for ideas. We walk through the campsite like two secret agents and look at fellow campers' creative solutions to make their experience even better.

But best of all: everything is okay in the campsite. It's okay to sit in front of your tent in the morning with your messed-up hair while others walk past on their way to the pool. It's okay to braai at nine in the morning. It is okay to walk around without a shirt, even though you're a contender for

the Mr Belly title. It is okay for women to walk to the bathroom with rollers in their hair in a pink bathrobe. It's also okay to get wet when walking there at 2 am in the rain. It's okay to fry the last three Viennas on the last day before you leave. It's okay to just be yourself in the campsite.

Our pastor regularly warns: "Brother, one day you will have to answer to what you have done with your life."

I can say that I have become a camper.

ULRICH AND WILNA JENSEN
Wilro Park, Roodepoort

WINNING LETTER



Ulrich and Wilna wins a cooler bag worth R220. Whether you're a camper, fisherman, or sports fan next to a cricket pitch; this cooler bag has room for lunch box and a 1,5 l cool drink bottle. The lid also has space for a coffee flask. The interior is lined with PVC, which makes it easy to keep this bag clean and hygienic. The bag has a short strap that reaches over the top and attaches with a Velcro strip, and also a longer shoulder strap if you're going to carry it over longer distances. It's an ideal picnic accessory or a padkos bag for a road trip. winkel.weg.co.za



New friends made on the road

It's the day the Springboks play the World Cup final, and we're on our way to Kgalagadi.

Our group consists of three couples who like spending time together, each with their own caravan: us, Martin Le Roux and Nerina Meyburgh, and Theo de Villiers and Nelia Jansen. We aim to be at Calvinia by 11:00 so that we can support the Springboks at the local hotel. Everything goes smoothly, the Springboks win and we hit the road



to our overnight spot at Oranjerus. About 30 km outside Keimoes, our Jeep starts to stutter heavily. I immediately look at the handbrake, because previously I almost burnt out our Landie having this brake on at 120 km/h. It's not the handbrake, but the Jeep is now not happy at all. We pull over, stop and consult Google: unplug the battery, wait 10 minutes and then drive again.

It goes well, up to 5 km before Oranjerus. It coughs and splutters again, but we make it and pitch camp. We go for a drink in the restaurant. That's where we come across the De Wet family from Upington – Koos, Sonja and their son, Johan. Koos listens to our car-trouble story, and little did we know we would hear from him again.

We head to Twee Rivieren – the southernmost camp in the Kgalagadi – and Koos calls to hear if everything is still okay. With less than 20 km to Twee Rivieren left, we're spluttering again and limp to the camp. We set up camp, but are restless and upset, because we still have a planned four days in Nossob.

Forced to return to Upington the next day, we leave our friends and our Bush Lapa Kewer behind. We hope the repairs won't take longer than a day. The people at Motolek says our petrol pump is finished, and order one. One night turns into four while we wait for the part. Eventually, Koos offers us his Toyota Hilux so we can fetch our Kewer at Twee Rivieren.

We use the Hilux and tow it back to Oranjerus where we are going to wait for our friends. The part arrives and our Jeep gets us back home.

Even though we pretty much only saw the gate of the Kgalagadi – and only heard about the lions, we made lifelong friends.

Thank you to Koos, all the people from Motolek, the Jeep Club of South Africa as well as Jeep's WhatsApp group, 4x4 Lighting Solutions who supplied and shipped the pump, and the Brackenfell Facebook group for all their support.

We will be driving again soon... this time to Addo.

SALMA AND NANTES LE ROUX
Cape Town



Stick to the right side of the law

My husband, Henk, and I have lived in Maputo for many years and have the privilege of sharing a vacation home on the coast near Xai-Xai with a few other families.

All is well and good, but I would like to express my displeasure about some South African citizens who come to holiday here in Mozambique. I'm referring, of course, to the use of 'runners' on the border. Some tourists use them because they don't want to queue. It also sometimes seems that the tourists aren't courteous toward Mozambican citizens.

What's more, it's not strange to hear South African tourists brag about their bribes to traffic officials. In our nearly 15 years of living here, we have never bribed anyone.

Tourists, of course, also have rights and it is better to be familiar with these issues before visiting Mozambique. Take advantage of the opportunity and learn some basic Portuguese words you can use: 'Obrigado' means thank you!

Come and visit, and buy the ever-popular cashews and enjoy the country's beautiful simplicity.

LINDA BRUTTEN
Maputo



For young and old

I just want to share with you how old and young enjoy *Drive & Camp*.

My husband, Johan, and I are pensioners and have been subscribers for the past four years. But Grandpa never gets the chance to read the magazine first when it is delivered. As soon as it lands, one of the grandsons, Johan (pictured) or Christiaan, beats him to it (we share a yard with them). Then Grandpa has to wait his turn.

Thanks for a great magazine!

MARIETJIE KNOESEN
Wolverdiend



Keep it outside

I read your tip on the waterproof matchbox in the January issue and think it could work. But be careful, as this can also be quite dangerous.

As kids, we used a similar method to make a fire bomb. When the heads of those matches rub against the striking surface, the whole thing could explode as it's a closed container. You suggest sticking the striking surface to the inside to keep it dry... rather don't.

BERT SCHOEMAN
Kempton Park



Waterproof matches

What is it?

Everyone loves good old-fashioned matches, and if you store them properly, then you'll be able to do something that's a little trickier with a lighter.

It should be possible for you to fall into water with these and still be able to use them afterward to start the fire you need to dry your clothes and start the evening meal.

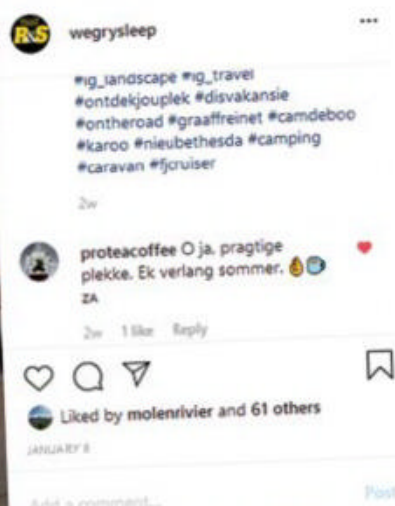
Does it work?

Yes. These small plastic containers come with a screw cap and should be good for a quick dip.

Rather than gluing the lighting strip to the top of the container as the original camping hack recommends, you should rather stick it to the inside of the lid where the red phosphate won't be damaged.



Follow @wegrysleep on Instagram and mark your photos with #wegrysleep, and we might repost them on our stream or feature them here.



COMMENT OF THE MONTH!

Answering a question we posed on Facebook about the one thing you forgot when you went camping, Hans Greyling replied:

"I forgot to close my home's front door. But it wasn't really a problem. My wife packs so much, there was nothing left in the house to steal anyway."





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Round and round

After he and his family had travelled all the way from Mooiooi to the Cape, **Anton Truter** wouldn't let an amazing photo opportunity slip through his fingers.

"In October last year we visited the Zeitz MOCAA museum at the Cape Town Waterfront. My wife, Theona, is an artist and wanted to see the William Kentridge exhibition. This spiral staircase where our son, Kai, posed for a photo, is part of the museum. It's gorgeous!"

Anton's photo takes typical holiday snaps a step further with clever composition and a clear focal point. You notice Kai first and your eyes linger here briefly for two reasons: His face stands out against the darkness around him, and he is also looking directly into the lens, as if he is looking you straight in the eye. Only then do you notice the circular shapes of the spiral staircase. You can almost feel yourself being sucked into the darkness and it feels as if you too are moving down the stairs. But when your eye reaches the bottom, there is nothing much more to see and your eye returns to Kai.

It is at this point you can feel something is not quite right: Kai is not positioned squarely in the middle at the 12 o'clock position, but is angled slightly to the right. This breaks the symmetry, with the result that you return to look at the photo again and again.

The light too is exceptional. Light conditions like this can easily fool a camera's light meter with all the black sections, but Anton's iPhone has done an excellent job, as you can see detail in both the light and dark.

The original photo was taken in landscape mode with Kai more or less in the same place in the image. But Anton cropped the frame around Kai in a clever way, turning it into a winning photo.

Off-kilter

Two of our readers pulled out their phones – not to take a call, but to capture a stunning moment.

By **Leon Botha**

SEND YOUR PICTURES

and we might publish them here. We're not looking for traditional "prize winners", just regular pics that you love. Think of the type of pic you'd use as your Facebook cover photo; or something charming, such as kids warming their hands over a campfire. Whether the pic was taken with an expensive DSLR camera or a run-of-the-mill cellphone, if it's good enough for your family photo album it's good enough for us. **Anton Truter** wins a *Drive & Camp* camera bag worth R520 with his photo – congratulations, Anton!

Send your photos and contact details to leon.botha@media24.com



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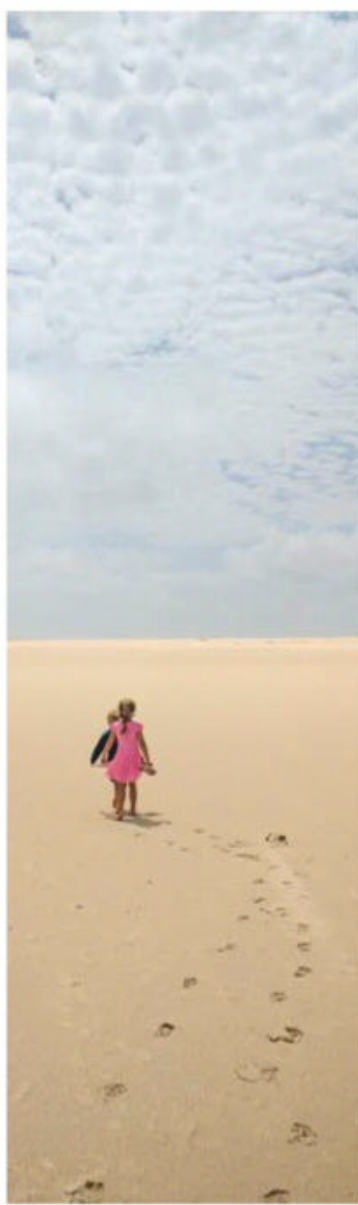
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Lead on

When the weather refused to play ball, Gerhard Thiart from Worcester and his family simply took the road less travelled.

"During the December holidays, bad weather in Struisbaai resulted in my wife, Mascha, our two children, Vera and Erasmus, and I deciding to pay a visit to De Mond. It's on the coast, between Arniston and Struisbaai. One section of it is a flat and open plain of sand and water, and you feel alone in the world. We were among the first to walk there that day, as ours were the only footprints. Vera and Erasmus were walking ahead on the sand bank between the river mouth and the sea. I had my five-year-old cellphone with me and took a quick photo. Only when we got back home did I realise how special the image was. An A2 print now hangs in our home."

You can imagine the print on the wall, because that is where the photo will be seen to its best advantage. The image is obviously also special to Gerhard because it features his children and he will be able to relive that day when he looks at the picture.

What makes the photo special, is how easily one could present the same scene in a different way to produce another type of striking image.

If you're willing to employ photo editing software, you could for example cut off the sides next to the children vertically. You won't lose important detail in creating a narrow "isle" with the children's footsteps starting at the bottom of the frame. Because the photo is now oblong and also upright, it immediately draws the eye. In terms of composition, the clouds are balanced with the sand – as they are in the original image – with the focal point still in the middle.

If you wanted to take things further, you could turn the image into abstract art. With the horizon running through the middle of the picture – and with the children walking almost on the horizontal line – the composition is passive. If you cut off the bottom third and remove the colour, the image changes. Increase the contrast and all the hidden detail in the clouds leap out – so much so that the mood is radically altered. 📷



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Old Landies come together



Owners of Land Rover Series 1, 2 and 3 and others with leaf springs are gearing up for the LR Series festival at Rust de Winter's ATV site in April. Land Rover Series owners will stay in a special Series campsite where like-minded owners can get to know one another, compare vehicles and swap adventure stories around a campfire.

The festival starts on Friday and carries on until Monday morning, and activities include rides in old Land Rovers and all manner of games. There will also be food stalls, a swimming pool and playground for children. An exhibition arena will be open all weekend where visitors can view unique products as well as the range of Landie services on offer.

Land Rover Series owners who wish to participate pay R500 per vehicle and will get a T-shirt and gift bag. Bookings can only be done online at lrclassic.com. The public is also welcome – those who

come from Friday to Monday will pay R750 per campsite for the whole weekend, with a day visitor tariff of R150.

Date April 24-27, 2020.

Where? ATV site, Rust de Winter, Pretoria.

Contact 083 640 3057 (André)

andre@lrclassic.com



Unimog reaches new heights

Mercedes-Benz recently broke a record as the manufacturer that has reached the highest altitude above sea level yet with a motor vehicle. Two Unimog U 5023s reached the crater rim of the Ojos del Salado volcano in Chile – an altitude of 6 694 m above sea level.

The main purpose of the expedition, led by Matthias Jeschke, wasn't to break records, but to bring 10 engineers to the crater's rim where they could set up four radios to enable improved communication between emergency rescue services.

The new record improves upon the previous 6 688 m set by the Chileans Gonzalo Bravo and Eduardo Canales on 21 April 2007 with their modified 1986 Suzuki Samurai, also on the slopes of Ojos Del Salado. This volcano is 800 m higher than Africa's Mount Kilimanjaro (5 895 m).



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A day of 4x4 fun

More than 3 000 people recently headed to the Dirt & Dust off-road track outside Cape Town for the annual Battle of the Beasts 4x4 Fun Day. This year's theme was Mad Max.

With close to 370 drivers and navigators showing their skills to more than 2 000 spectators, it can rightly be considered one of the biggest 4x4 fun days in the country. In addition, 450 track officials and sponsors were also involved.

There was plenty to do for kids, including an amusement park with

a merry-go-round, bumper cars and a kids' train.

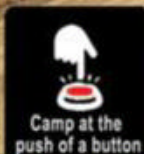
One of the day's big highlights was the drag strip where anyone could enter his or her vehicle. Spectators could also walk freely among the obstacle courses to see the fun up close and personal.

Competitions were held in different classes – from an 'extreme' class and family class to a vintage class and even a two-wheel drive class where you could participate in your gran's Corolla.





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NEW EVENT

WHERE THE BAKKIES ROAR!



The **Weg Ry & Sleep Bakkie Run** is the first and only event celebrating these iconic vehicles. Get your bakkie (any bakkie) and your teammates together and come join us in the Bushveld town Alldays for an epic family-oriented weekend of fun events: 4x4 obstacles, rallying, drag racing and everything in-between.

Bakkies of all shapes and sizes can enter and will compete in different classes. This means you, in your 4x2 Isuzu KB farm bakkie, have the same chance of winning as the guy in the Ranger Raptor. So, pick a theme, dress up and come kick back for a weekend of motoring fun.

WHERE? Alldays, Limpopo

WHEN? 24-27 April 2020

Weg!
Ry & Sleep



For more information visit quicket.co.za
or send an email

francois.malan@media24.com for details.

Storming the Cape

Since 2018, Invader Off Road Campers appointed dealers nationwide to look after sales of its caravans. By the end of last year, Invader held its first award ceremony for the salesperson and trader of the year. Tygerberg Caravans in Cape Town walked away with both prizes while Invader Pretoria was named the runner-up dealer.

From left: Francois de Bruyn (salesperson of the year), Ben Barber (owner of Tygerberg Caravans), Wesley Dempster (sales manager of Tygerberg Caravans) and Dan-Pierre Louw (Invader's owner).



Sorry, our bad

In the February issue, we mistakenly attributed the statement that Jeep may be going to use Peugeot-Citroën technology to Marco Pigozzi, Fiat-Chrysler's European head of marketing. We apologise for the mistake.



Discoverer 4 | Discoverer 6 | Discoverer iD* | Discoverer Deluxe* | Discoverer Xtreme 4x4

* standard with front swivel seats and large island beds

All models available with manual or automatic gearboxes, except the 4x4 Xtreme models



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SALES | DESIGN | ACCESSORIES | SA'S PREMIER MOTORHOME SPECIALIST SINCE 2003



Land Cruiser gets a drive-in theatre

Rear passengers in the Toyota Land Cruiser 200 VX-R will now be able to sit back comfortably while watching their favourite movie. This vehicle has just been fitted with 14 JBL Premium speakers and two 11,6" screens on the back of the driver and front passenger headrests, so kids can watch *Frozen 2* while on the go.

In addition, the centre console for the rear passengers has one HDMI socket, two USB sockets and one 12 V power point. The multimedia system allows users to listen to the radio, play music and videos from a USB memory stick or cellphone, or watch DVDs via the HDMI port.

However, the driver and front passenger have the final say, as they can override the touchscreen upfront, and turn off the entertainment if they think the youngsters should look out the window rather than at yet another episode of *Teen Titans*.

The Land Cruiser 200 4.5D V8 VX-R costs R1 510 100.

Contact 📞 toyota.co.za

Shell turns over new leaf

Oil company Shell admits it already determined in the 1980s that carbon emissions would lead to climate change. In a conversation with *Time* magazine in January this year, Shell's big boss Ben van Beurden acknowledged that oil use is harmful to the environment.

"Yeah, we knew. Everybody knew," says van Beurden. "And somehow we all ignored it."

Due to enormous pressure from environmentalists and Shell's shareholders, the company now wants to radically change its business model. "We have to figure out what are the right bets to take in a world that is completely changing because of society's concerns around climate change," he adds.

According to the S&P 500 stock market index, the share of the energy sector in the US Stock Exchange has shrunk from 28% in the 1980s to only 5% in 2018. Moody's, the financial ratings agency that downgraded South Africa's economy to a negative rating, warned in that same year that equities in oil companies are a poor investment.

What does the paradigm shift Shell wants to make entail? It wants to reduce its pollution by 3% by 2023 and by 50% by 2050. The 113-year-old company now wants to focus, among other things, on plastic manufacturing and electricity generation.

However, the United Nations Climate Change Council says the whole world must halve its pollution by 2025, and that by 2050 there should be no pollution at all. This challenging goal has been set to ward off the worst natural disasters. According to the UN, it is too late to stop climate change – all we can do now is limit the devastation of future natural disasters. We hope this grave news doesn't put a damper on your holiday plans, though.

"It's the time we live in," says van Beurden. "I have to find a way to make the most of that."



The Sungazer Pilgrimage Journey

EASTERN FREE STATE CAMINO EXPERIENCE



Follow the sandstone markers along the winding farm roads of the beautiful Eastern Free State; a region virtually untouched by the stresses and strains of modern life.



The Sungazer Pilgrimage offers a full route, week route, mid-week route and two short routes; all of which begin in the cosy village of Paul Roux.

The 211km circular Sungazer Pilgrimage Route, offers varied and unique views of the spectacular Eastern Free State landscape.

Expect to see breathtaking views, birds, and wildlife in peace and tranquility, while passing farms, game farms with little to no traffic.

Overnight accommodations along the route vary from snug B&Bs to spacious lodges, game farms, and backpackers.



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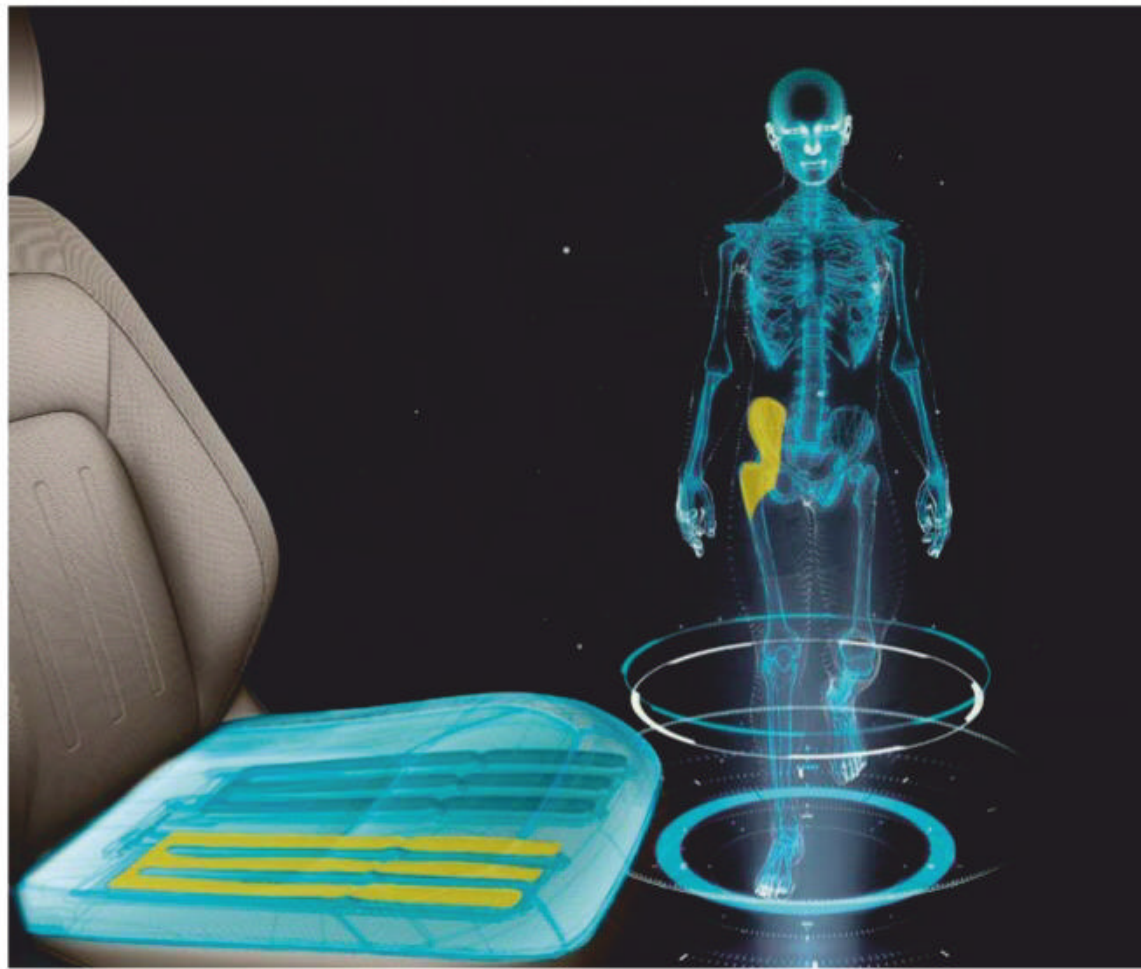
Exercise while driving

Seats that massage your back and derrière are nothing new, but Jaguar Land Rover is developing a shape-shifting seat that adjusts to lift and lower your hips to mimic the movements your body makes when walking.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), more than a quarter of people worldwide don't walk around enough. WHO wants us to get more exercise because the muscles in our legs and hips can shorten if we sit still behind a steering wheel for too long – something that can also lead to back pain.

"The wellbeing of our customers and employees is at the heart of all our technological research projects. We are using our engineering expertise to develop the seat of the future using innovative technologies not seen before in the automotive industry to help tackle an issue that affects people across the globe," says Dr Steve Iley, chief medical officer of Jaguar Land Rover.

It sounds like a nifty idea, but we hope it doesn't feel like two moles are wrestling each other under your bum.



Future wheels

The wheel is one of mankind's most useful inventions and tyre companies are ready to reinvent it all over again. Here are four new types of wheels and tyres. Some will be for sale soon, while others are simply concepts that will probably never see the light of day.



Bridgestone Air Free

Bridgestone's airless tyre is similar to Michelin's Uptis (right). A working version for bicycles exists, but the company is developing one for heavier motor vehicles.



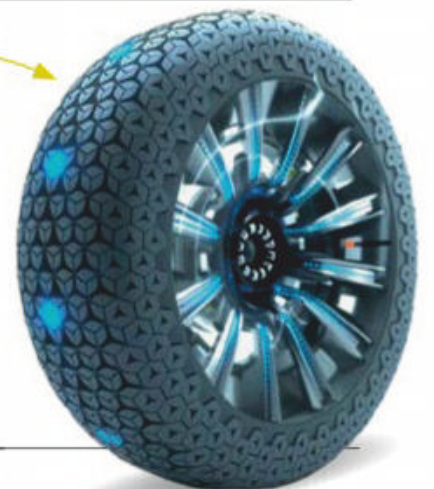
Goodyear Oxygen

This tyre is filled with live moss that takes in water from the road surface and carbon dioxide from the air. The moss not only releases oxygen, but according to Goodyear, the biological process also generates electricity.



Hankook Hexonic

Hankook's wheel contains hundreds of sensors and moving parts that track and adjust road conditions. The tyre can inflate and deflate itself, and also enlarge or reduce its circumference.



Michelin Uptis

Michelin has been working on its airless wheel for decades and it looks as though the final product is nearly ready. The wheel is already available for golf carts and forklifts, but its Achilles heel until now was speed, something that has been rectified.

Lexus Sole of the UX

Lexus and industrial designer Tej Chauhan launched a tyre reminiscent of a pair of Nike sneakers. A limited edition of the Lexus NX will be exclusively shod in them. 📸



Where will you camp next?

ON SALE NOW!

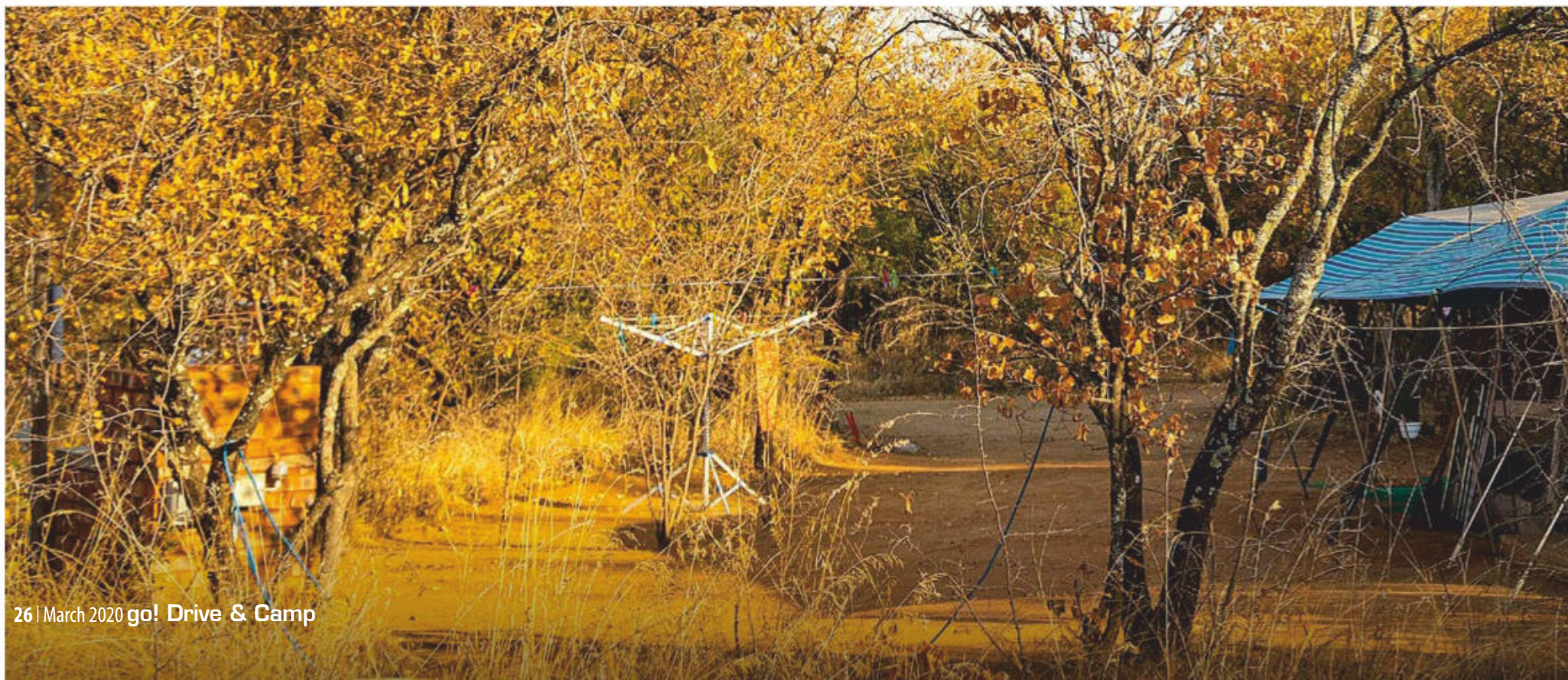


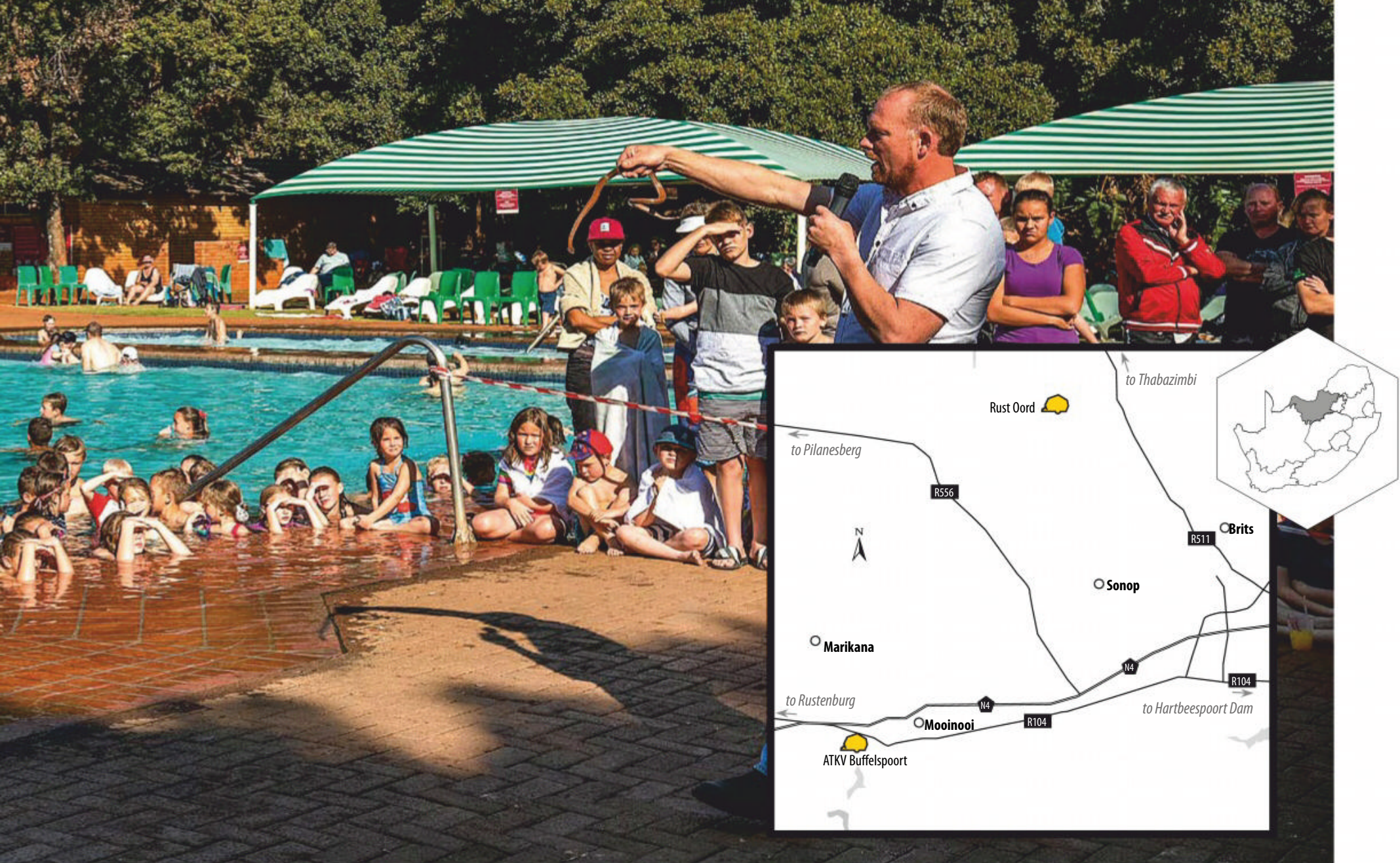
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Drive&Camp

Detailed information on 80 great
campsites in South Africa and Mozambique



Have fun yet relax in the *Bushveld*





The Bushveld boasts a range of popular campsites that offer something for everyone. Whether you're looking to take a break with friends or searching for solitude, peace and tranquillity await.

Words and photos **Leon Botha**

The Magaliesberg runs like a boundary between the Rand and the Bushveld. On the southern side of the range are the gold mines of the Witwatersrand, while on the other side is where you'll find another kind of gold: some of the most popular camping sites in the country.

ATKV Buffelspoort, tucked right up under the Magaliesberg, is one such golden resort. Located just outside Mooi-nooi, the resort features just about every form of family fun you can imagine – from a waterslide and Jacuzzis to large resort-sized indoor and heated swimming pools as well as plenty of stands.

A mere 53 km away, at Rust Oord Bushveld Camp, the pace is a lot more laid back. As the name of this new resort suggests (translated from Dutch as “rest resort” or “tranquil resort”), the owners are committed to relaxation. You will be at home on one of just 18 stands, surrounded by the Bushveld, and this is the perfect spot to take some time out, get back to nature and forget about the stresses of everyday life.



ATKV BUFFELSPOORT

Be part of the action

In the camping world, the abbreviation ATKV is synonymous with decent campsites, well-stocked resort shops, a variety of water features and entertainment, an efficient reception office and pleasant restaurants.

If you want to see how a campsite can keep hordes of campers happy and entertained around the clock, look no further than the ATKV's Buffelspoort resort.

You get an inkling of how enormous the resort is as you drive in. Turning off the Mooinooi road you sign in at the security guard with the 240 m-long paved road in front of you. It feels as if you're entering a modern residential security complex. But instead of being confronted by rows of houses you are instead surrounded by luxuriant vegetation. The office is at the end of the paved road. Remember to pull your car and caravan over to the left so you don't hold up the rest of the traffic while you pop across to reception.

THE SECOND GUARD will be waiting next to the office to let you into the resort. The stands start about 200 m beyond the gate. It may feel as if you're driving upstream as you pass throngs of pedestrians armed with towels and pool noodles making their way back in the direction of reception. Later you'll be following in their footsteps because all the action at the resort can be found on this side of reception.

The stands start after the laundrette to the right of the road. The laundrette has no fewer than 14 washing machines and driers, operated with three R5 coins. Across from the laundrette is a small Campworld shop selling everything from cooler boxes to camping chairs, as well as braai wood if you don't want to walk all the way to the main resort shop.

Next to the laundrette you'll find the first three stands, with the rest of the more than 200 stands divided into four groups.

The A and B camps are to the right and left of the road respectively. The stands are well demarcated and each has a paved section. Only a few stands are grassed and most feature red earth, which will probably leave its mark on your children's clothes... There are lovely shade trees but a few of the stands are in full sun. Each stand has its own refuse bin and a braai on wheels with

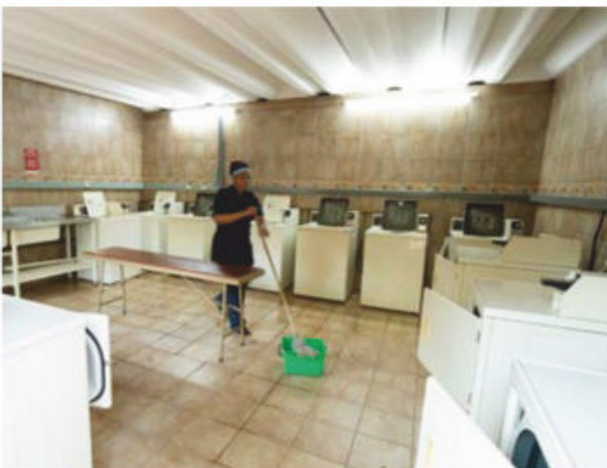
“

Only a few stands are grassed and most feature red earth, which will probably leave its mark on your children's clothes...

”



SQUARED AWAY There are just over 200 stands that are divided into four main blocks. Blocks A and B are nearest to the playgrounds while blocks C and D are farther away. Remember to pack a blue plug adapter because all the electrical outlets use caravan-type sockets. You don't, however, have to bring along a portable braai because each stand has its own. The braai grids of these are even height-adjustable.



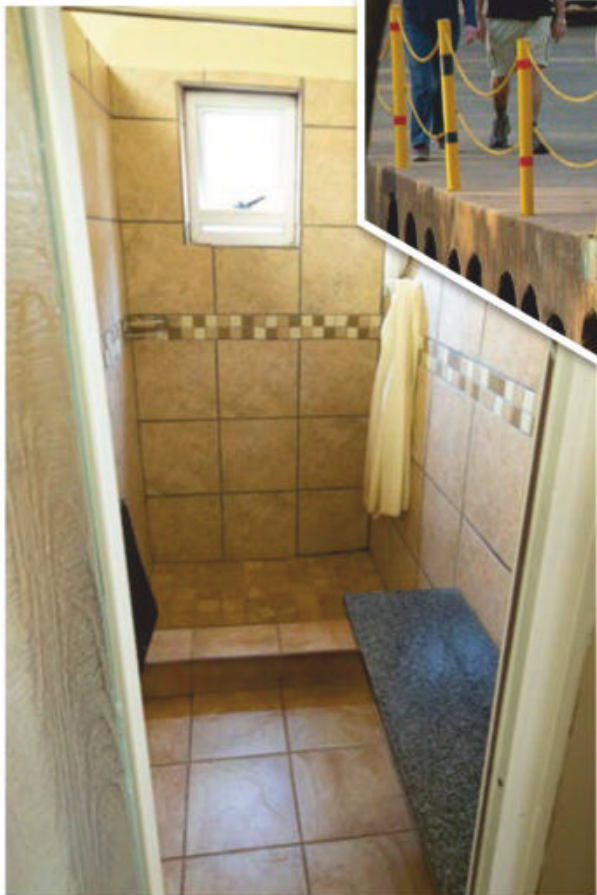
They say

Ken and Marie Suttie from Kliprivier near Meyerton camp with a 1999 Ford Courier Leisure and a 1988 Gypsey Caravette 5.

"We are ATKV members and enjoy camping at Buffelspoort. We prefer the stands with shade nets. Not only do they provide good shade, but they also offer decent protection if there's a hailstorm. We try to camp on the same stand every year; this is our

fourth year on this exact one.

Buffelspoort is also close to home. If anything goes wrong there, we can pop back. We often make a trip back to the house every four days or so. We usually camp for between one and two weeks at a time."



an adjustable grid. If you don't have a tap on your stand, your neighbour will; the same goes for the power points (blue socket).

Camp A has two ablution blocks. As you'd expect to see these days at renovated campsites, the farthest ablution building features marble countertops with the basins recessed into them and a mirror over each basin. Each shower cubicle has a glass door with a shower curtain

to close between the wet and dry sides. Each cubicle also has a marble bench for your possessions.

The washing-up area is between the men's and women's sections.

The other ablution block is identical, and also features a movable set of steps to help small children reach the basins.

Camp B has only one ablution block, with the same finishes as the other two,

but the block has more facilities.

The stands on this side appear to have a bit more grass although they are smaller (56-99 m²) than those in camp A (100-272 m²). Camps C and D are across a small river that runs through the resort. A wide concrete bridge spans the water, with C on the left and D on the right of the road.

The stands in camp C are closer together, but approximately 80% of them have grass



BIGGEST BATHTUB EVER Most of the activities at Buffelspoort revolve around the swimming pools. The supertube feeds into the cold-water pool and the heated pool is under a roof. It's a huge pool and the perfect place to swim during inclement weather. There is also a resort shop where you can buy bottled water and cool drinks. There is an uncovered heated pool outside, but then you are at the mercy of the Bushveld's climate.



around the paving. There are fewer trees and, from the outside, the bathrooms look older. The interiors are more compact but the finishes are the same.

Camp D features shade nets over each paved area, and the nets are high and wide enough to accommodate your caravan – even your rally tent. There is a lot of grass between the stands and shade is provided by a number of mature white stinkwoods.

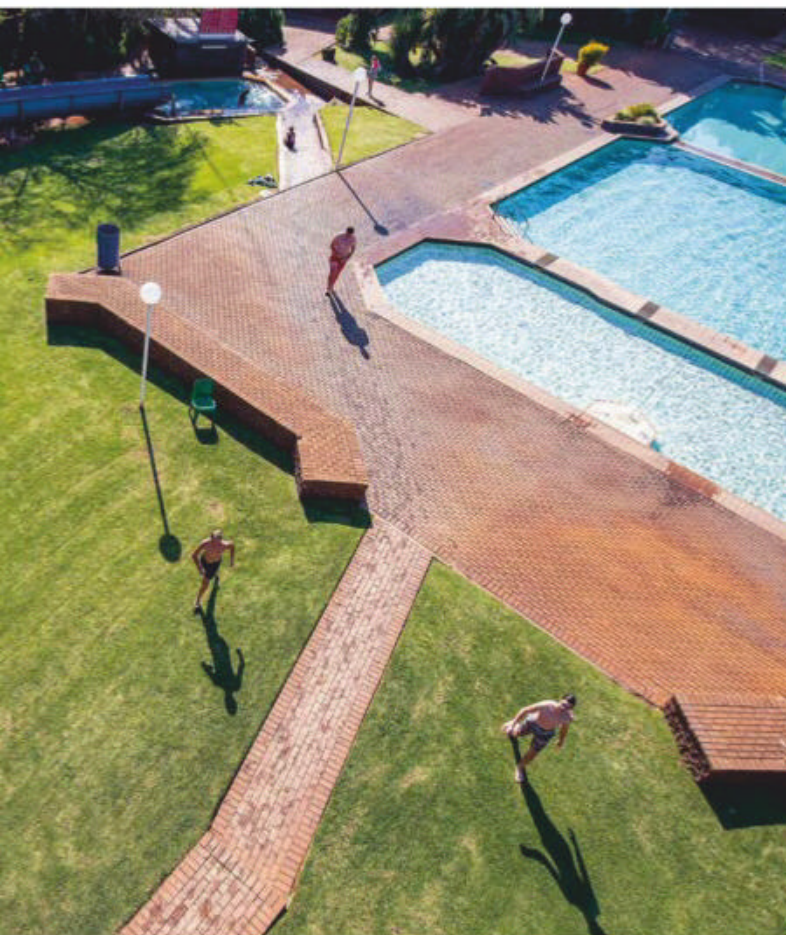
From the outside this block's ablution facilities look the same as those of blocks A and B, but the interiors are less modern.

BE SURE TO PACK your bicycles, because you'll find yourself moving up and down a lot between your stand, the shop and the recreation facilities.

There's a spot near the waterslide where you can stash your bike safely and walk the rest of the way. The lane next to the bike shed takes you to the games room, among others. There are many games available to delight the kids: from foosball to table tennis and a garden chess board. All you need to join in the fun is to pay a R50 deposit.

The shop is between the games room and reception, and stocks most of the necessities and nice-to-haves: from magazines, wood, playing cards, washing-up liquid and sunscreen to alcohol, extension cords, basic groceries and fresh fruit and veg. They don't stock meat, but there is a butcher across the road. The takeaway stand is just next door and further along you'll find the restaurant.

The three cold-water swimming pools – one especially for the little ones – are



Briefly | ATKV Buffelspoort



Campsite 208 numbered stands in 4 different camp blocks; each with paving and a braai.

Ablution facilities 5 well-equipped ablution buildings spread around the resort.

Price Depending on the season and specific stand, R240-R1 140 per stand (R180-R965 for ATKV members).

Arrival and departure 14:00, but from 08:00 if your stand is available; check-out by 11:00. You may use the facilities until 17:00 on the day of your departure.

Contact 014 572 1000

buffelspoort.co.za

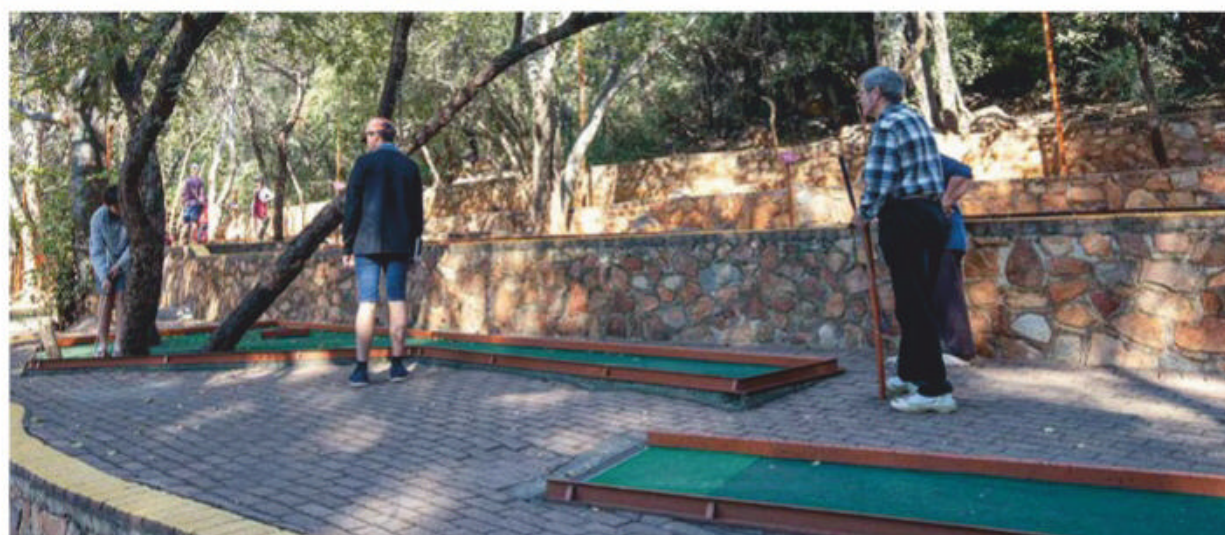
buffelspoort@atkv.org.za

Closest town Mooiooi 7 km.

Road condition Tarred to the resort and then a paved road to your stand.

GPS S25.757754 E27.487807

Drive & Camp says There is free unlimited WiFi throughout most of the resort.



across the way from the games area, with the stair tower for the waterslide on the extreme right. There are six Jacuzzis under a large thatched lapa closer to the entrance. Half an hour in the Jacuzzi will cost you R20.

There are trampolines adjoining this building, with a mini golf course next door. The course is laid out over four terraces and mature trees provide plenty of shade. From here you can walk through a small forested area to the building housing the

indoor heated pool. The pool, which is heated to 38 °C, is huge and even features a device to help those in wheelchairs access the water. The building is well ventilated and doesn't steam up as you might expect on cooler days. And the atmosphere doesn't become unpleasantly muggy. If you're looking for cold refreshment, there is a kiosk selling water and juice. The pool is open from 06:00-22:30.

Immediately to the left of the building is another pool, which is packed. It's

the holiday season, and part of the entertainment is a man standing on the side of the swimming pool with a number of snakes he's brought along...

THE CHILDREN IN THE pool stare, some open-mouthed, at the snakes that a man is delicately removing from a carrier, one after another.

"Does this one eat tomatoes?" he asks while a slender house snake dangles through his fingers. "No, rats and mice," the audience reply.

Next up is a short, thick puffadder. The fact that it's highly venomous doesn't seem to bother the snake handler in the slightest.

"This snake won't bother you, but if you step on it, it'll bite you. It also has one of the fastest strikes in the world... blink and it'll have bitten you twice."

The display comes to an end and the audience has the chance to touch a python. A number of little hands cautiously stroke the cold reptile as it drapes itself languidly around the handler's arm.

RUST OORD BUSHVELD CAMP

Where tranquillity reigns

The Rust Oord Bushveld Camp is virtually the polar opposite of Buffelspoort. At this resort you'll be camping on an unspoilt Bushveld farm 21 km outside Brits, on the way to Thabazimbi.

The resort staff will tell you early not to obey your GPS when driving there, and the day before your arrival you'll receive a detailed WhatsApp message with step-by-step directions to Rust Oord. The last 4 km are on a dirt road and although the road is corrugated, there are no rocks. You can therefore comfortably tow a regular road caravan at 20 km/h without it shaking to pieces. The road is wide and you needn't be concerned about branches scratching your caravan. (By the way, along with the directions you will also receive the weather forecast for the period you are camping.)

The main gate is locked and so you'll have to let Alicia van der Spuy, who owns the resort along with her husband, Frank, know as soon as you arrive. A few minutes later she will turn up on her quad to welcome you – follow her into the bush along the dirt road. The reception, a timber structure, is half a kilometre from the gate and calls to mind a bush pub. There's an open counter and two euphorbias stand guard in front of the building.

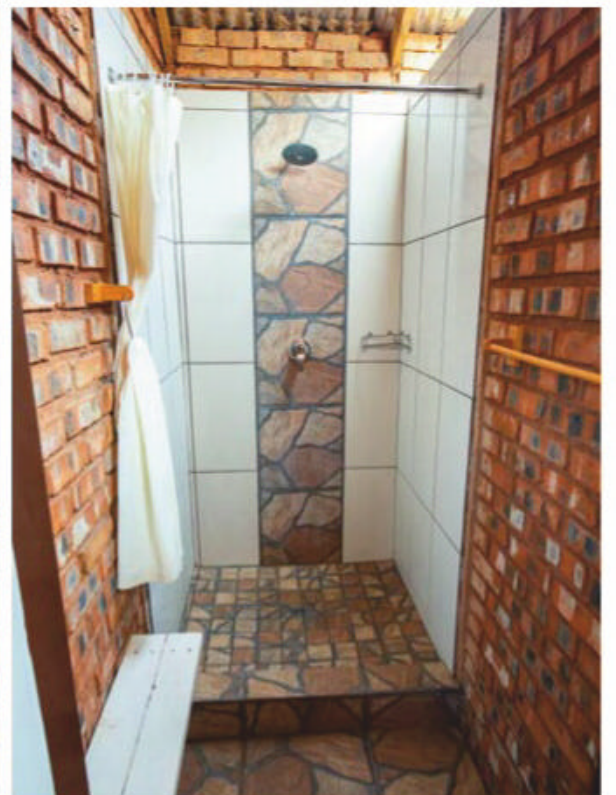
At the office door you'll spot a blackboard on an easel, announcing various takeaway meals. It should look familiar because, along with the directions and weather forecast, Alicia also sent you the menu. If you want to order, you need to do so right away, as the food is freshly prepared. This service, Alicia explains, is particularly for campers who arrive on a Friday. It's usually late afternoon and, once you've set up camp, there's probably not enough time left to light a fire and put some meat on the braai.

THE STANDS START near the office and extend farther into the bush. To reach your stand, follow the trail that winds through the bush – the trees on either side of the trail have been pruned so they won't scratch your car nor your caravan.

There are 16 'standard' stands, some more private than others. It is essentially a clearing in the bush, neat, level and raked. It feels fresh and new. The ground is sandy and it certainly doesn't look like it will turn into a mudbath after a shower



I HAD A FARM... At the Rust Oord Bushveld Camp you can experience the Bushveld as it is meant to be experienced. You camp among bushes with the impression that you're out in the wild, yet have access to all the modern amenities you need for a comfortable stay. These include a braai with a grid, a light, power socket and a tap with running water.



“

When you stand at your braai,
you look out over the Bushveld,
not your neighbour...

”



Briefly | Rust Oord



Campsite 16 cleared spaces in the bush, level and with fair shade, plus 2 separate private stands with their own ablution facilities.

Ablution facilities Clean and new.

Price Stands in the main campsite cost R395 pp for up to 4 persons; R125 pp (R100 for children 2-12 years) thereafter; the private stands cost R700 and R175 pp respectively (R140 for children).

Arrival and departure 14:00 and 10:00.

Contact 082 494 5570 rustoord.co.za

info@rustoord.co.za

Nearest town Brits, 21 km.

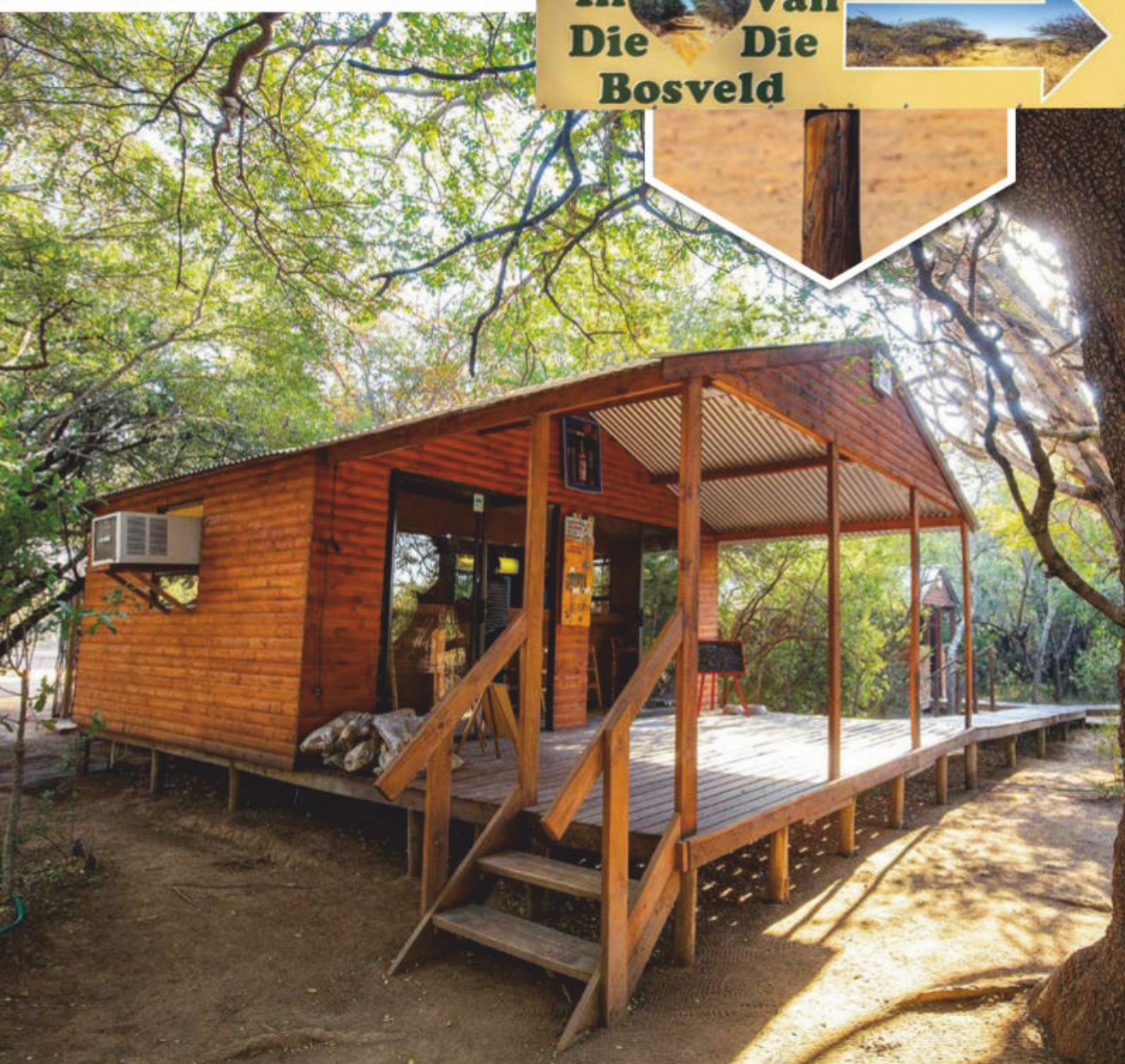
Road condition The last 4 km is a corrugated farm road, but if you tow a road caravan slowly, you should get there in one piece.

GPS S25.524620 E27.646911

Drive & Camp says Take a walk on the dirt road that runs all the way along the fence around the farm – it won't take much more than half an hour. See how many antelope you can spot. Although the farm is home to wildlife, pets are allowed (but not cats).

Kamp Area

In  Van
Die Die
Bosveld



CAMPING DESTINATION

of rain. But bring a tarp or groundsheet anyway so that you walk less sand and dust into your caravan or tent.

Looking at the facilities at each stand, it is clear that they were designed by an experienced camper. Each stand has a built-in brick braai with a grid, a water point and a light you can turn on and off yourself. These lights are nearly two storeys high – a clever idea to keep the bugs away from your braai in the evening. There is also a normal household power point.

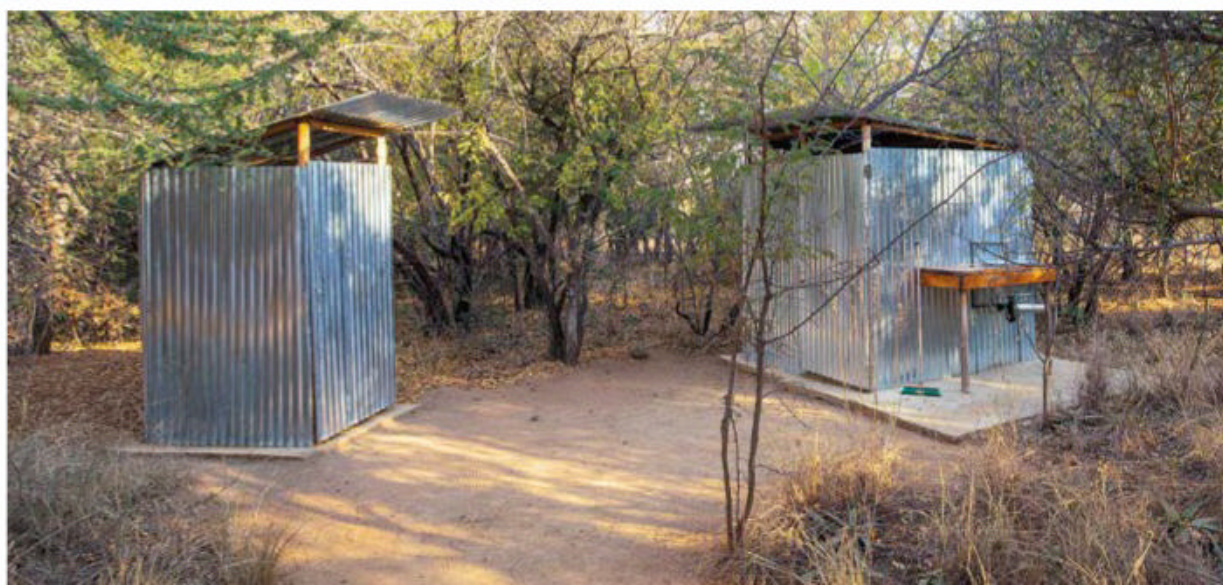
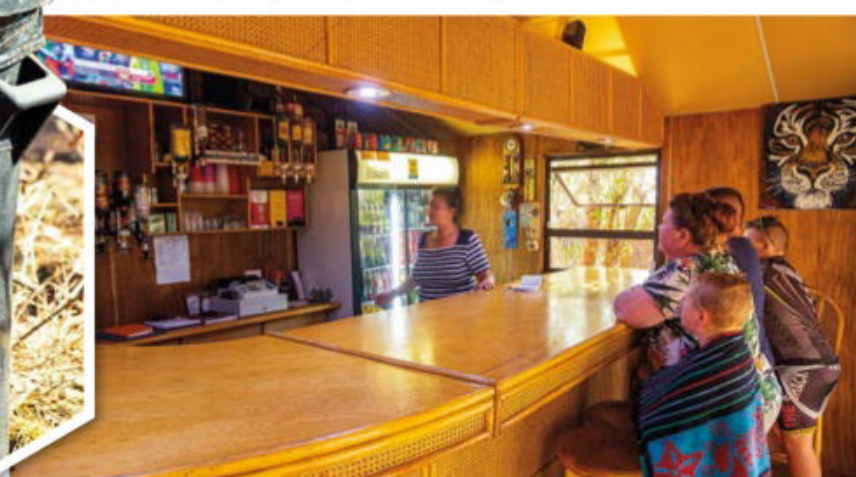
The trees are typical of the Bushveld: not the biggest shade trees ever, but there are plenty of them. There will be some shade on your stand in the course of the day, but you won't be able to park your Exclusive under a tree.

Rust Oord also offers two private campsites farther into the bush. The farthest one from reception, Krimpvark, has a freestanding braai and grill, and its ablution facilities are a simple stall with shade netting enclosed at shoulder height – the roof is the blue sky above you. It's not exactly private because the shade cloth is see-through, but the toilet is off to the side. There is room for two caravans and up to 10 people, and the stand is equipped with a power point but no light.

The other private campsite, Vlakvark, offers better facilities. The braai is still freestanding, but there is also a built-in fire pit. Instead of one power point there are two, and the large stand – also for up to 10 people – is surrounded by trees. The toilet is in a separate corrugated-iron cubicle, and a larger corrugated-iron building houses the shower room with a gas geyser. You don't have an outside light here either, but the interior of the buildings are lit.

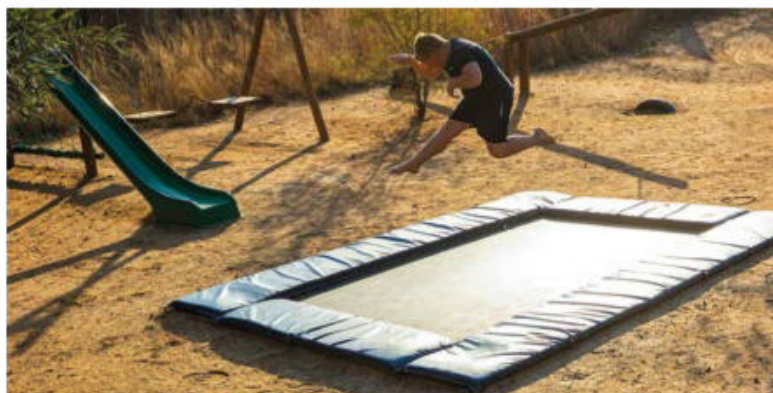
THERE ARE ONLY basic facilities to keep the kids entertained, but when you are camping in the bush you don't expect any more. There is a deck walkway from reception towards the ablution block, and then down to the swimming pool – it looks like one of those basic ones you can erect at home yourself. However, the water offers relief in the heat of the Bushveld and, what's more, is heated to 34 °C in winter.

The trampoline, swings and seesaw are alongside the pool area, with the ablution building after that. There are separate facilities for men and women – on the men's side there are two toilets and two shower cubicles, each with a shelf inside and a shower curtain. Judging by the tiling,





QUIET TIME There are 15 stand each surrounded by bush, but there are also two private stands. These are roomy and far removed from the regular stands. If you don't want to camp by yourself, invite some friends along because the latter stands can accommodate 10 people.



the facilities look brand new. Here too the hot water is provided by gas geysers.

ALICIA AND FRANK have been campers for almost 30 years. Frank is in the electrical business and, before they bought the farm, they decided to look for somewhere they could relax on weekends. The couple subsequently bought the farm with its farmhouse, and brought a few chickens along for the adventure. One weekend Alicia came across Frank sitting next to a tamboti tree, and he told her his watering hole was going to be on that spot. Today it is the bar.

They hauled their Jurgens Safari XT140 over to the site and got to work themselves. After building the swimming pool, they decided they wanted to share the tranquillity of the spot with their fellow campers.

Frank and Alicia know that campers like generously sized stands, and this is clear when you camp here. Even the braai facilities are well positioned on the stands. When you stand at your braai, you look out over the Bushveld, not your neighbour, explains Frank.



They say

Steven and Yolandi Ayres from Krugersdorp and their children, Aiden and Calvin, camp with a 2006 Mercedes-Benz Vito 2.2 CDi 115 and a 1996 Jurgens Palma.

"We heard about Rust Oord from relatives who'd been here – it's our first time. The stands themselves are large and it's easy to get the caravan in and out. The place is well looked after and the owners are very helpful. It's simply been a pleasure. Most people are looking for a campsite where the children can play safely. And you've got access to the whole

farm. Calvin loves to put kilometres on his mountain bike, and he must have done more than 20 km on the trails around here.

We've seen impala – including a black one – and duikers. You get a fright when you hear the lions roar, but they're on the farm next door.

We'll definitely be coming back – the atmosphere is perfect."



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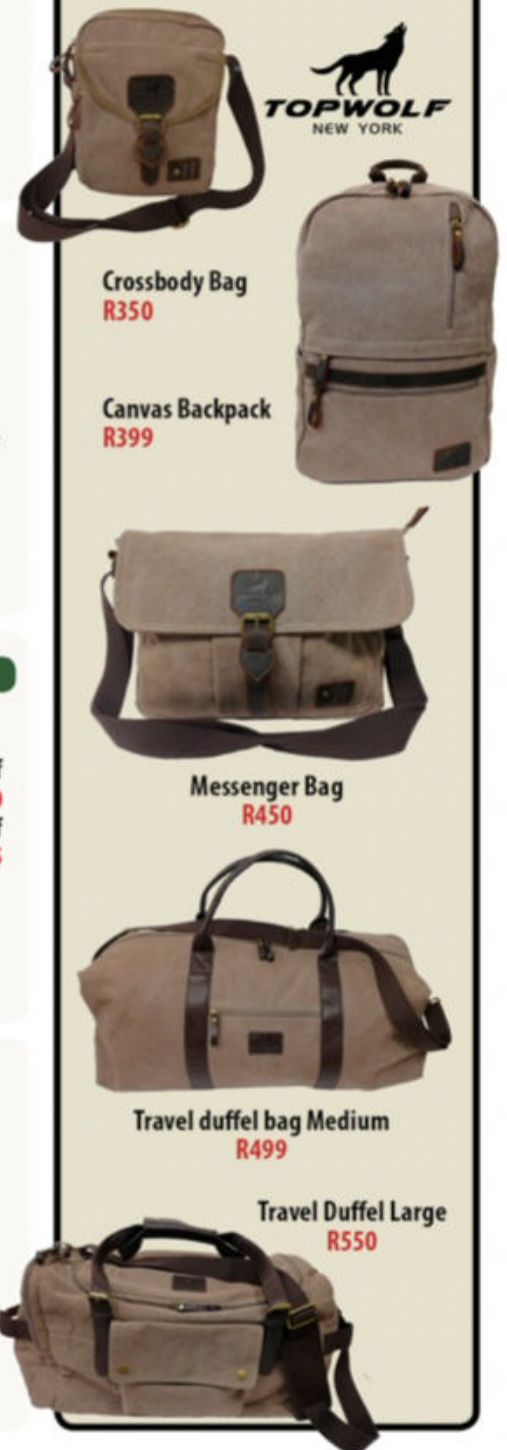
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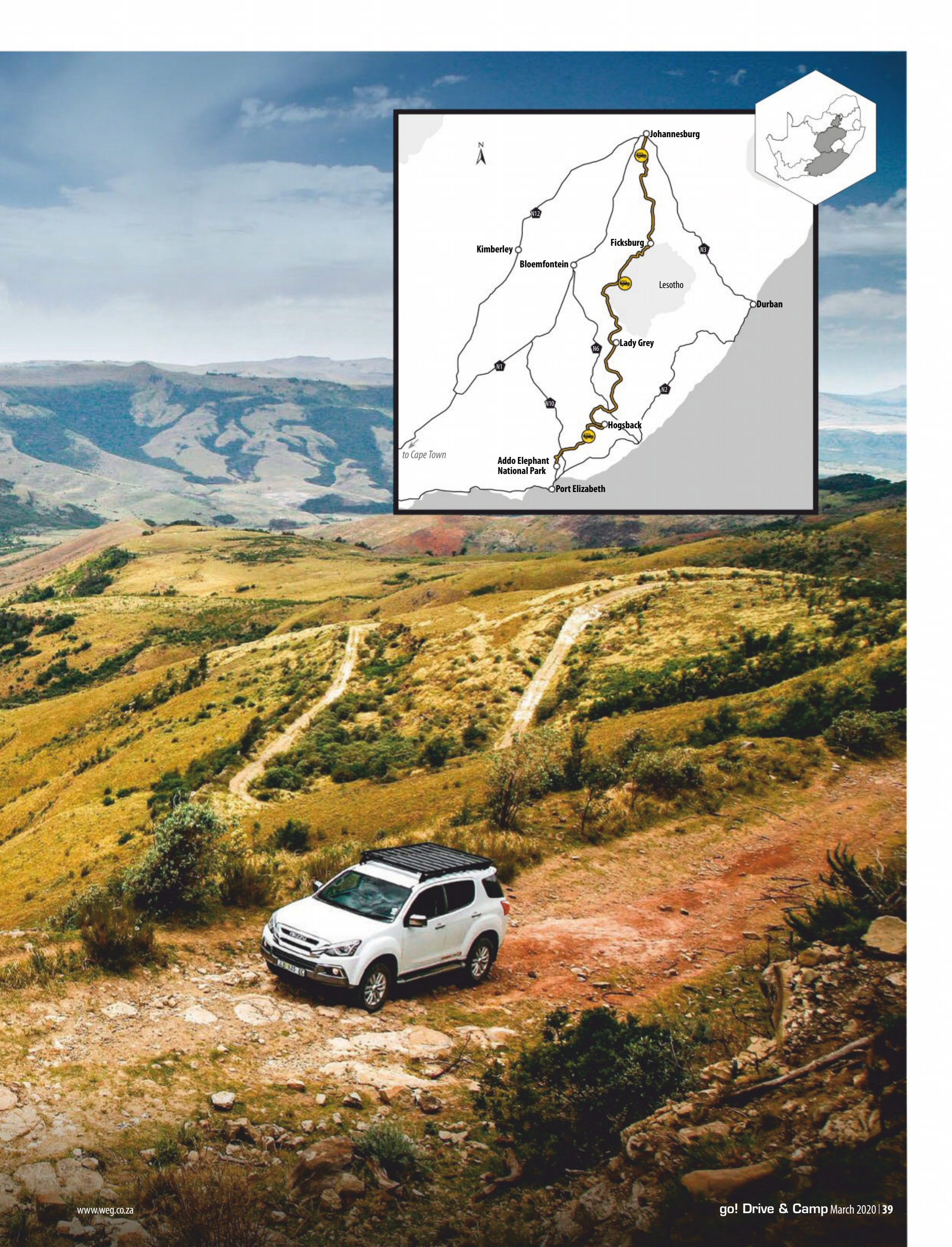
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A road less travelled

Follow a winding back road from the Highveld to the Addo Elephant National Park.

Words and photos **Cyril Kloppe**



Why would you take the soul-destroying N1 and N10 highways from Gauteng to the Addo National Elephant Park when there's a far lovelier back road? Go on, set aside at least four days for this route and pre-programme the coordinates we provide on your GPS (without them, you could easily get lost).

In return for your efforts, you will be rewarded by the opportunity to camp in a gorge, explore a forest, drive a 4x4 trail up a mountain and at the end of your journey you will witness scenes of elephant, zebra, buffalo and warthogs grazing on a vast African plain.

It is possible to tow an off-road trailer on this route, but because many of the gravel road passes along this route have hairpin bends, we strongly advise against bringing a large off-road caravan here. And unfortunately, a regular road caravan just doesn't belong here at all.

So pack your duffel bag, fill your rig up with fuel and head south to where elephants roam.

AVOID SANRAL'S HIGHWAYS by taking the back roads from Gauteng to Deneyville at the top of the Riemland. From here you follow the R57 through Heilbron to Petrus Steyn.

The Riemland got its name when large herds of game were hunted here in the 19th century and the tanned hides were cut into leather strips (*riem* in Afrikaans). Heilbron may seem insignificant, but it was once the proud capital of the Free State Republic (well, for just a week, in May 1900) and on the hills along the road to Petrus Steyn are remains of stone huts built by the ancient Leghoya tribe.

Pass Petrus Steyn and turn left just beyond the town onto the D707 in the direction of Frankfort. After exactly 3,8 km, turn right (S27.65506 E28.17266) onto the S902. There is no road sign here, but if you look around, you'll spot the S902 route marker. About 16 km farther, a gravel road (S27.69518 E28.31702) turns right off the S902 – this is the first gravel road on the route. This turnoff also has no road sign, but if you cross the Liebenbergvlei River

on a bridge, you must turn around and drive back 1 km to the turnoff.

Follow the gravel road through gorgeous fields of canna plants until it ends at the R57. Inhabitants of the Riemland decided long ago to plant different colours of canna. When they flower (December to April), the otherwise monotonous landscape is covered in white, red, pink and orange. Turn left onto the R57 in the direction of Reitz, but after only 180 m turn right again on the S595. This dirt road runs straight up to Bethlehem, a Biblical name that means 'bread house' in Hebrew which is appropriate for the largest commercial town in the region.

After leaving Bethlehem – and the Riemland – follow the R29 regional road to Fouriesburg on the upper edge of the Eastern Free State. Visit the Model Butchery on the corner of De La Harpe and Robertson streets to buy a bag of ice and meat for a braai before heading for the Meiringskloof Nature Park (see *Drive & Camp #31*) in a sandstone gorge on the outskirts of town where you can hammer in your tent pegs for the night.



SPIKED The Riemland is known for its expansive vistas on which vast herds of game used to roam. Nowadays it is better known for its agriculture. Bethlehem (right) is the region's largest town.



YESTERDAY'S CANNA FIELDS now make way for sandstone cliffs and green pastures. Leave Fourieburg in the direction of the Caledonspoor-Lesotho border post. 1 km after crossing the R711, take a dirt road to the right (S28.63868 E28.20791).

This road runs past a beautiful sandstone hill named Hoenderkop – it is the closest road to the Lesotho border and the Caledon River. There used to be a 40 km-long border patrol road, but it is neglected and only certain sections are passable – and then only with the permission of the relevant landowner.

The public road along the Caledon River eventually joins the R26 regional road which takes you across the Kommandonek Pass to the Vailima railway halt. The Sandstone Estate near here operates several narrow-gauge steam locomotives, including some Garratts and a beautiful Lawley 4-4-0 brought here from Mozambique a hundred years ago. The locomotives are taken out of their shed every few months so they can chug across the estate on the 35 km-long private track. Then the public gets invited to ride in the carriages and to view other classic vehicles.

About 30 km west of Vailima, the S306 farm road crosses the R27. Turn left here (S28.89196 E27.72494) in the direction of Lesotho. The farm road runs parallel to the Caledon River until it later joins the N3 highway near Ladybrand. Follow the highway for 10 km until the turnoff to the S616 farm road (S29.29170 E27.43840) to Hobhouse and from there to Wepener.

Wepener was founded on the banks of the Jammerbergspruit in 1869 and was named after Boer commandant Louw Wepener who stormed Thaba Bosiu, the stronghold of Basotho commander Moshesh, with just 400 volunteers. The impatient Wepener was fed up with the doubts among Free State leaders on how to deal with Moshesh. His rashness ended up costing him dearly...

If the farm roads start to bore you – something we hope won't happen – take a shortcut and drive south from Wepener on the R26 regional road, through Zastron to Sterkspruit. But we recommend you stay on the back roads and take the Sephaposhek gravel road (S29.73702 E27.02930) 150 m after the turnoff from the R26 to Wepener. This road meanders through the rolling hills and grasslands of the eastern Free

“

The artist Walter Battis found engravings of dolphins and other marine animals in a cave on just such a farm near here

”



SAND AND STONE The eastern Free State is best known for its sandstone formations like Hoenderkop pictured above. Sheep will sometimes take shelter in abandoned buildings against cold winds.





STAY HERE

Meiringskloof Nature Park, Fouriesburg ☎ 058 223 0067 🌐 meiringskloof.co.za

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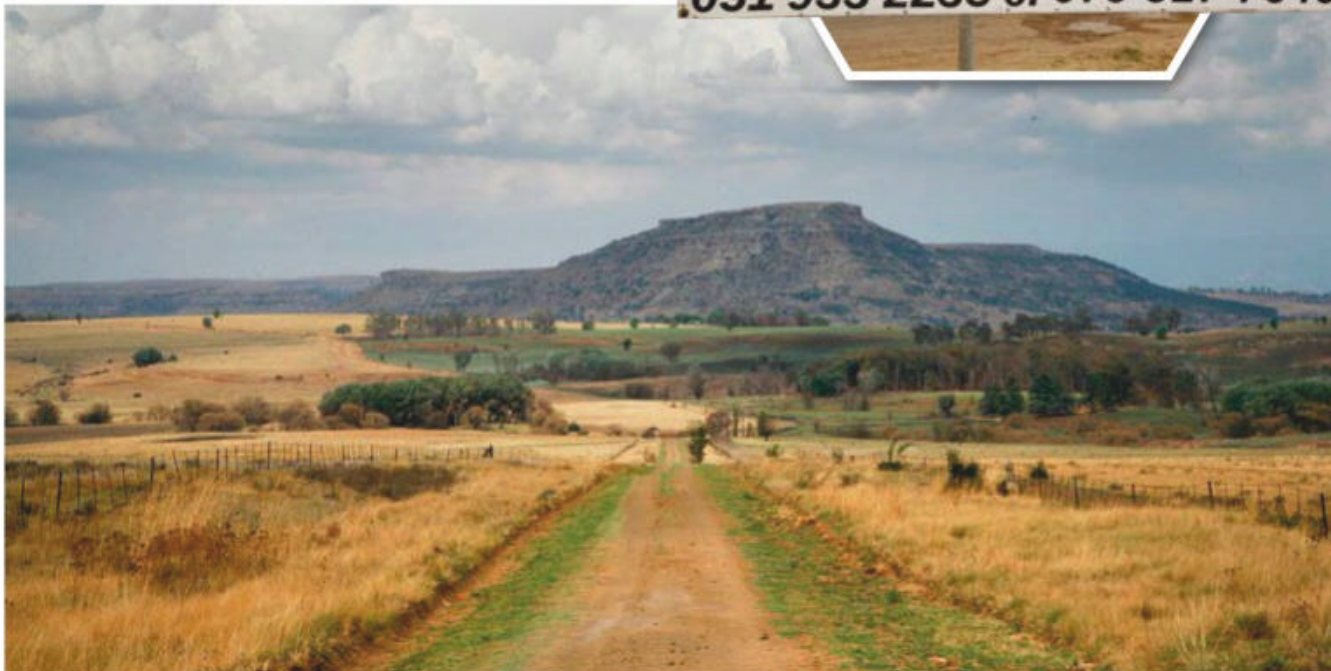
Sandstone Heritage Trust, Ficksburg 🌐 sandstone-estates.com

Karmmelkspruit River Resort, Lady Grey ☎ 084 584 7036 🌐 elizekrr@gmail.com

🌐 facebook.com/Karmmelkspruit

Swallowtail Lodge, Hogsback ☎ 082 800 8731 🌐 swallowtail.co.za 🌐 info@swallowtail.co.za

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State and is far nicer than the R26 regional road. For more than 100 km, the farm road follows the Lesotho border.

In the sandstone bluffs along the way are caves with Bushman rock art. The artist Walter Battis found engravings of dolphins and other marine animals in a cave on just such a farm near here.

If you hit a fork in the road and you're not sure whether to take the left or the right, the right will inevitably take you to the R26, but do try to stay on the S368 farm road – a GPS with a detailed map will help.

Cross the Orange River via the Majaphuthi Bridge (formerly the Zastron Bridge) and you will suddenly be in the southern Drakensberg. Follow the R393 regional road to where it ends on the R58,

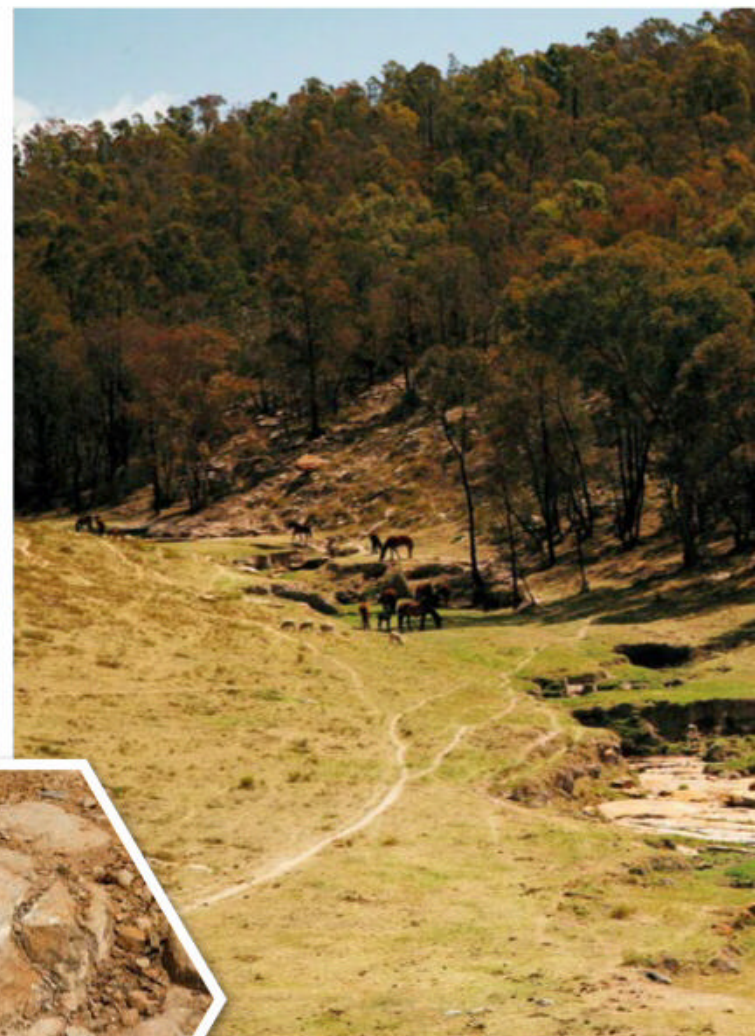
turn left to Lady Grey and follow the R58 over the Benjaminshoogte Pass (S30.80165 E27.23779) to the Karmmelkspruit River Resort (read *Drive & Camp* #11 for more on this campsite) on the banks of the Karmmelkspruit (S30.80534 E27.26768).

It was a long day – 450 km of it – but now you can relax next to a babbling brook. We recommend that you spend an extra day here and explore Benjaminshoogte's 'reverses' where trains once had to reverse up the mountain in a zigzag fashion. You can also check out a vulture colony and walk through a dark disused train tunnel.

Best of all is that the most beautiful part of the route still lies ahead of you. We hope you brought recovery equipment because you might need it.

HIT THE ROAD as early as possible, because today you'll be heading up and over 10 mountain passes, one of which is quite challenging. Follow the tarred R58 regional road over the Grondnek Pass (S30.84257 E27.34686) and Kraai River Pass (S30.94076 E27.45775) to where the R396 gravel road turns off the R58 (S30.96428 E27.51161). Follow this gravel road to two beautiful passes: the Perdenek (S31.09388 E27.42205) and Greylings Pass (S31.11929 E27.29725), which will take you to the hamlet of Rossouw. Then two minor passes follow: the Killians (S31.18349 E27.29382) and Barkers Neck Pass (S31.35618 E27.37329) to the town of Indwe.

Indwe, the Xhosa name for the blue crane, exists thanks to the discovery of low-



grade coal in the area. This coal was vital during the age of steam in the Cape Colony.

From Indwe you follow the R359 over the Indwe Pass (S31.61121 E27.44124) that takes you from the southern Drakensberg to Lady Frere on the upper edge of the Cape Midlands. This region still bears the scars left by all the skirmishes between British settlers and Xhosa tribes, between Boer and British and between Xhosa and Boer.

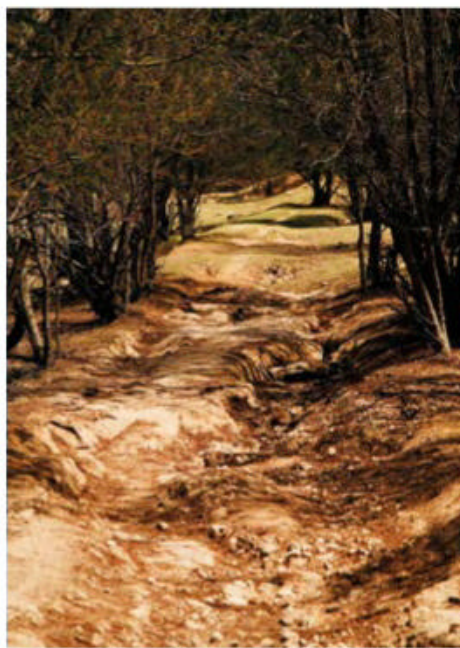
From Lady Frere, drive past Queenstown to Whittlesea in old Ciskei. From Whittlesea (originally Whittlesey, until someone misspelt it on a map) you're aiming for 4x4 country. Head south out of Whittlesea on

the R67, but after about 300 m, turn right onto the MR0680 in the direction of Sada. This gravel road runs past the Oskraald Dam to the Boesmanskrans Dam. The Devils Bellows Pass awaits.

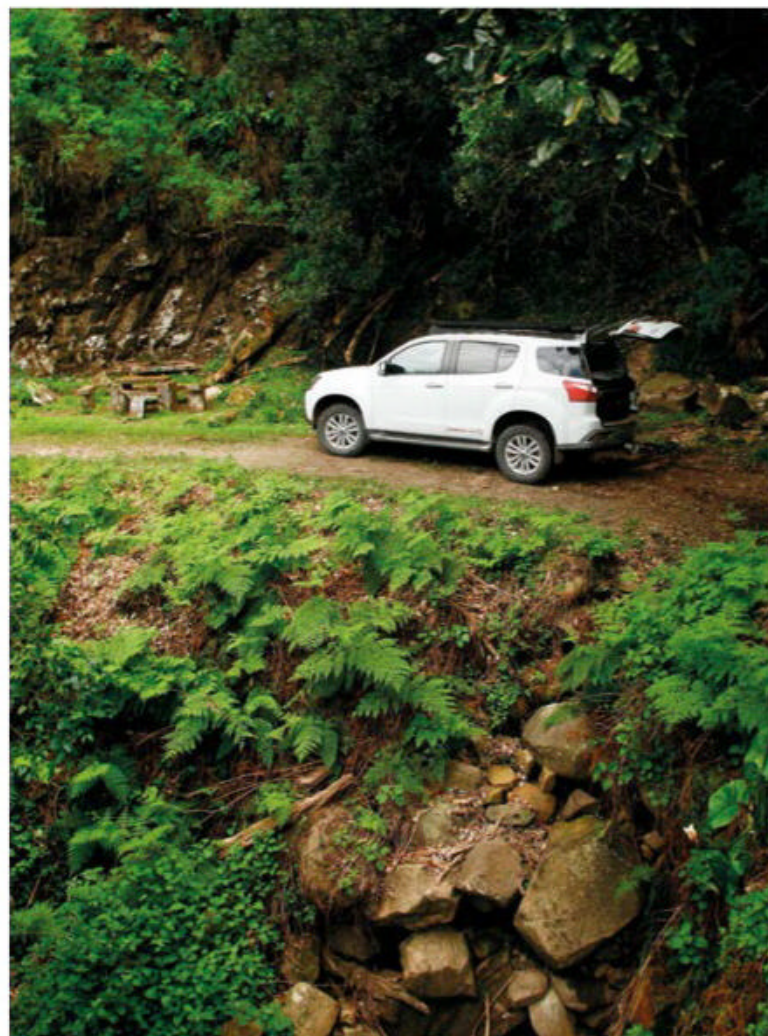
At coordinates S32.34178 E26.67178, a gravel road turns left toward the Mtwakazi settlement, and this road bypasses the toughest part of the Devils Bellows Pass. Don't turn off there, though, because we're going to drive the original pass that was partially destroyed by a storm many years ago. By the way, Devils Bellows gets its name from the intense winds that often howl through here.

Continue to coordinates S32.36982 E26.67265 and keep a sharp lookout for vague signs of a road leading up the mountain. Graders have obscured the turnoff over the years and finding the trail isn't always easy.

The vague twin-track winds through a lush green kloof (S32.37725 E26.67181), and gets really bad under a canopy of black wattles (S32.38956 E26.66997). The axle twisters here will force you to engage four-wheel drive or diff lock. At the coordinates S32.39183 E26.66910, all signs of the road disappear entirely and you will have to recce on foot to plot out a trail. Keep the river on



THE DEVIL YOU DON'T KNOW The mountain passes of the Eastern Cape can be treacherous. Be extremely careful and alert because an accident could happen in an instant. You'll need 4x4 on the Devils Bellows Pass (above and below), but the Katberg Pass (right) is all about the views and shouldn't throw too many curveballs your way. Watch out for lurkers (insert) that can smash a hole in a sump.



your right and make your way up the hill. There is a trail in the riverbed itself that you could take (the entrance is at S32.39366 E26.66742) – but it's pretty challenging for a standard SUV and you might have to break out a trusty axe to lob off some branches if you don't want to have the paintwork scratched. Otherwise, simply follow the vague trail up the hill until you reach an oak plantation on your right. Stop here and take a walk among the rough trunks and strands of Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*) dangling from the branches.

At the top of the plantation, the road becomes clearer and therefore easier to

follow. It is also here where the Mtwakazi detour reappears, the one that bypasses the obstacle you just conquered.

The top of the Devils Bellows provides stunning views of the green valleys of the Cape Midlands, and other than a few tricky rocks that have been bashed and stained by oil from an unknowable number of sumps and diffs over the years, the worst of it is now behind you.

If, however, it's recently been raining, you will have to deal with a muddy slope, and this can be extremely dangerous.

The Devils Bellows Pass merges almost seamlessly with the Katberg Pass. The

latter has no significant challenges, except a boulder that lies in the middle of the road and demands you drive around it. Stop at the pass's picnic spot (S32.47335 E26.67227) and imagine you're in the Knysna forest. Continue down the pass to the Katberg Golf Estate and turn left at a road sign that sends you to Seymour. From Seymour, head over the Michell's Pass (S32.56605 E26.86998) to Hogsback and spend the evening at the campsite of the Swallowtail Country Estate. Hogsback is pretty as a picture and you could easily spend an extra day or two here. Gorge on all-you-can-eat pork ribs at the Hogsback Inn, relax in the



GHOST TOWNS In Hogsback (top) you'll encounter fairytale woods, but at Balfour (above) and Kommadagga (below) you'll be reminded of the harsh reality that the platteland is being forsaken for bright city lights.



“

Gorge on all-you-can-eat pork ribs at the Hogsback Inn, relax in the arboretum, hike in the woods and cool off under the Madonna and Child Waterfalls

”





arboretum, hike in the woods and cool off under the Madonna and Child Waterfalls before returning to the road.

THE LAST DAY of the route takes you south on the R345, over the Hogsback Pass to the Tyume Dam. Turn right (S32.67725 E26.89833) onto a dirt road that takes you back to Seymour. From Seymour, follow the R67 to Balfour and from Balfour you take the Blinkwater road (S32.55337 E26.67026) through the Mpofu Game Reserve. The guard at the gate of the reserve will ask you to fill in a register, but as it is a proclaimed road through the reserve you don't have to pay. Do, however, stay on the main road and don't veer off for a game drive on the reserve's private roads. You sign out again when you exit the reserve.

Drive over the Blinkwater Pass (S32.66426 E26.55118) to Fort Beaufort. Then follow the R67 in the direction of Makhanda (Grahamstown), but after 4 km turn right (S32.80599 E26.61221) onto the DR02461, or the Alphaeton road. The road branches off repeatedly, but follow the rusted road signs for Carlisle Bridge. This bridge takes you across the Great Fish River, and shortly after crossing the river you turn right (S33.09144 E26.23398) and follow the river for 38 km until you reach the ghost town of Kommadagga with its abandoned houses and dilapidated outbuildings near a railway station.

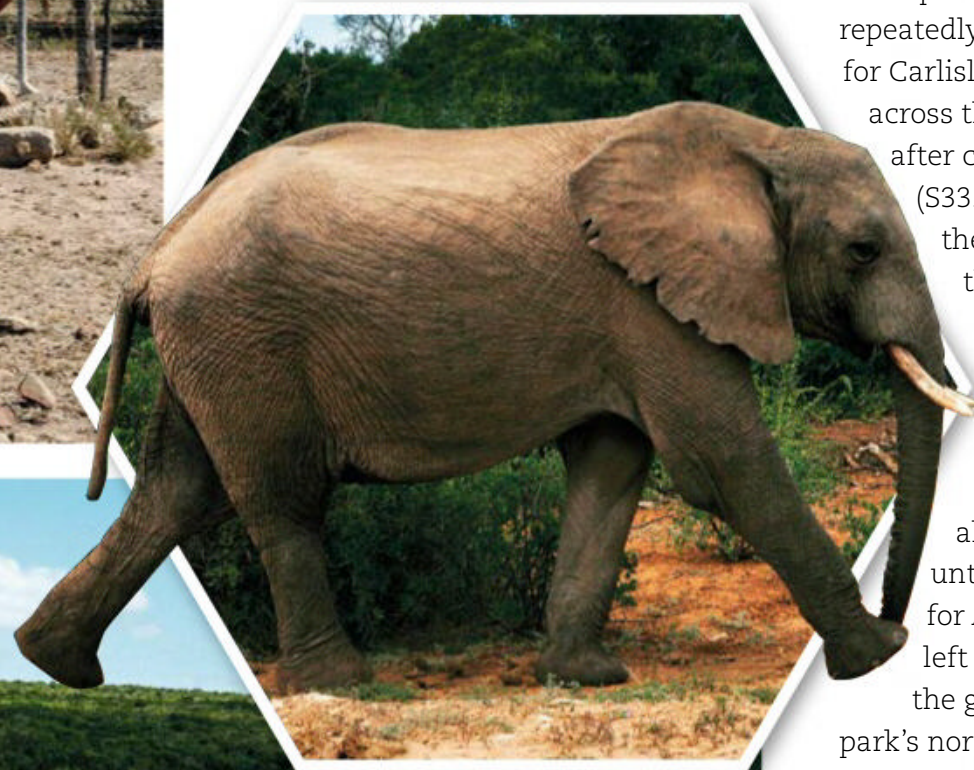
From Kommadagga, follow the R400 west through fields of aloes and clumps of prickly pears until you come across a road sign for Anne's Villa and the Addo. Turn left (S33.15970 E25.81757) and follow the gravel road through the national park's northern section over the Suurberg (S33.29887 E25.70715) and Doringnek Passes (S33.37990 E25.70784) to the Addo Elephant National Park's main gate.

Elephants roam in large herds across the grassy plains, and zebras stand shoulder to shoulder with other wildlife to drink at waterholes. It's a perfect end to four days on back roads, but the thought of tackling 12 hours on a highway back to Gauteng is already nagging.

Perhaps the Devils Bellows' mysterious oak plantation, Hogsback's waterfalls, Karmmelkspruit's brook and the ermine and reddish plains of the Riemland are calling you to return the way you came. 



MOUNTAIN MAD The Doringnek Pass (above) winds through the lesser known northern section of the Addo Elephant National Park, also known as the Zuurburg Reserve. There is no big game here, for that you'll have to enter the main section of the park.



Respite in Ruah Park

Tucked away in a small kloof just north of Pretoria, a campsite awaits where you can sit back and find yourself again – with Mother Nature as your guide.

Words and photos **Helenus Kruger**



Ruah Park lies just north of Pretoria next to the Dinokeng Reserve and is one of the area's newest campsites. This is a quiet getaway where you immerse yourself in nature in a kloof surrounded by two high ridges. The kloof is covered in indigenous forest, and the stream fed by a fountain that flows through the resort culminates in a dam at the bottom of the camp.

With all the indigenous trees and water, the birdlife here is any bird watcher's dream. The red-chested cuckoo and woodland kingfisher welcome you loudly. A frog chorus sings you to sleep at night, and early in the

morning the birds wake you up again, as if to say it's time for coffee. And if you're up early enough, you can watch the nyala bull and his cohorts as they move through the camp, munching all the way.

Ruah is a Hebrew word meaning 'breath of life'. When you check in, owner Madeleine Havenga tells you that there is always a breeze blowing through the kloof. Madeleine and her husband, Phillip, enjoy the tranquility here and that's why they decided on the name Ruah.

After the check-in formalities have been completed, it's time to go and find your spot, armed with a map of the camp.

RUAH PARK HAS two campsites. Blesbok, next to the road you drove in on, welcomed its first campers in December last year. Nyala, which lies just past the reception office on the other side of the stream, is a year older.

There are 38 numbered sites: 16 in Blesbok and 22 in Nyala. The stands are, on average, 12 x 12 steps and lie in a single row on terraces. The terraces help create a sense of space because you're higher than the space in front of you. Each site has its own ablution facilities, with two of them adjacent to each other in-between the buildings, with a few stands at the end



WEEKEND BREAK

of the rows that don't have a neighbour.

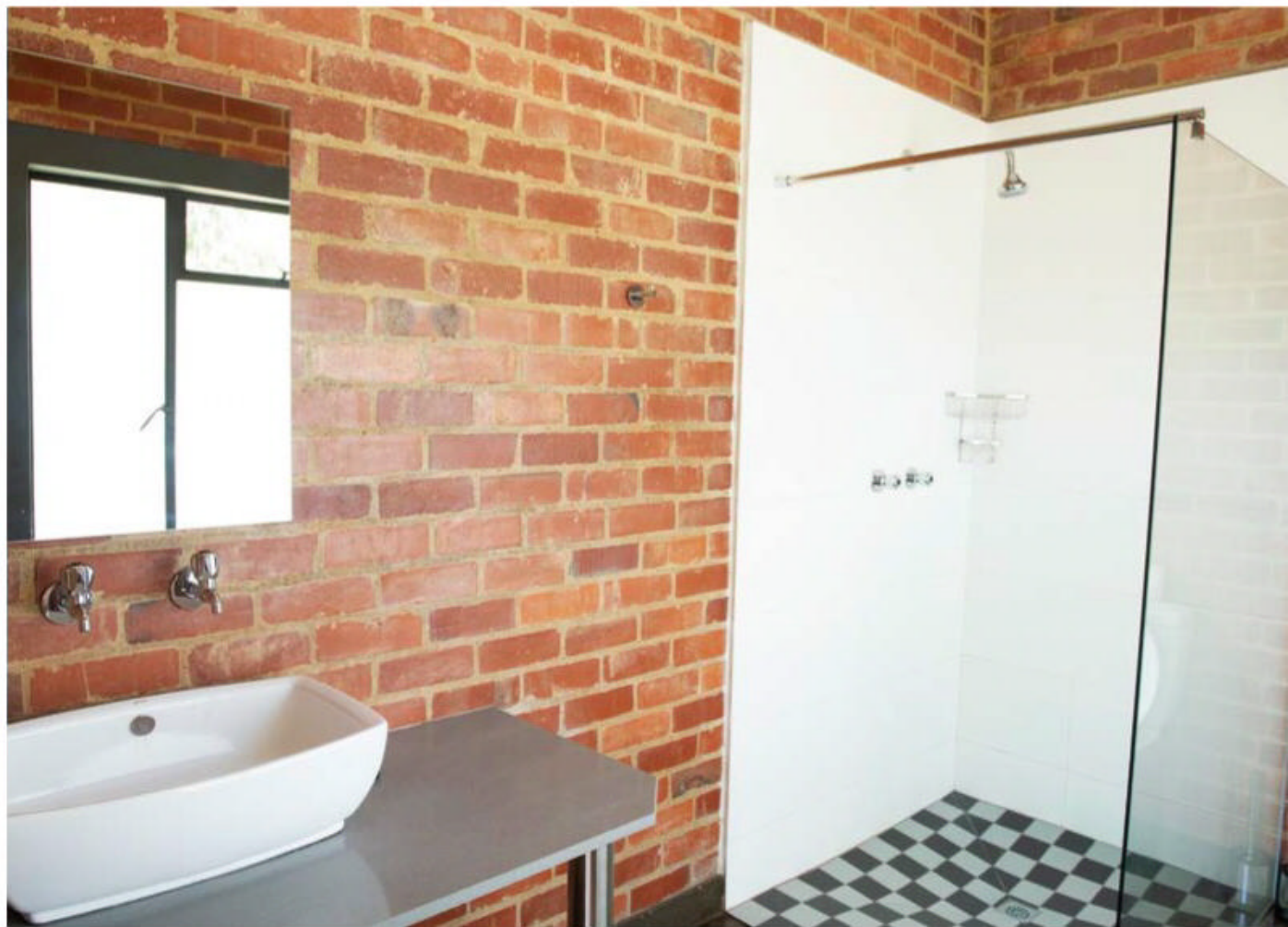
Big trees are rare, which means most stands bask in full sun, but the luxury of lush lawn throughout the camp compensates somewhat. Some stands are on a slight slope, but it's not so steep that you cannot get your caravan level with the corner steadies.

Lights all along the campground allow you to find your way back after watching the rugby final on the big screen at reception.

Each site has a small braai drum with a grid. The drum is deep and has an open end; so the coals fall out easily, especially if you're making a big fire to braai steaks. Rather bring your own braai.

At Blesbok, the six stands in the front row (M1, M2, N1, N2, O1 and O2) are the most sought after. From there, you have a view of a large lawn and the stream where it can get quite busy when the finches are nesting. Pitch O1 at the far end of the row is the most private of the bunch.

There is no shade at Blesbok, unless you

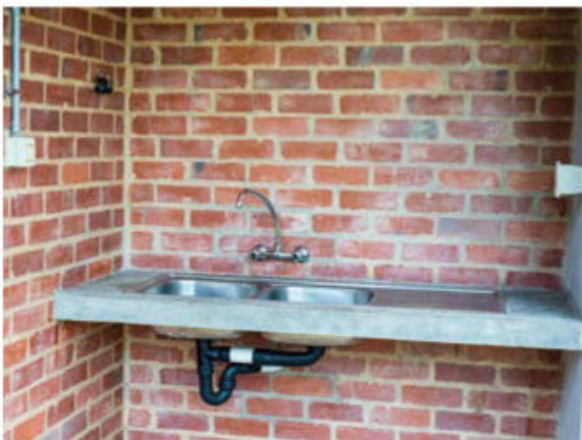


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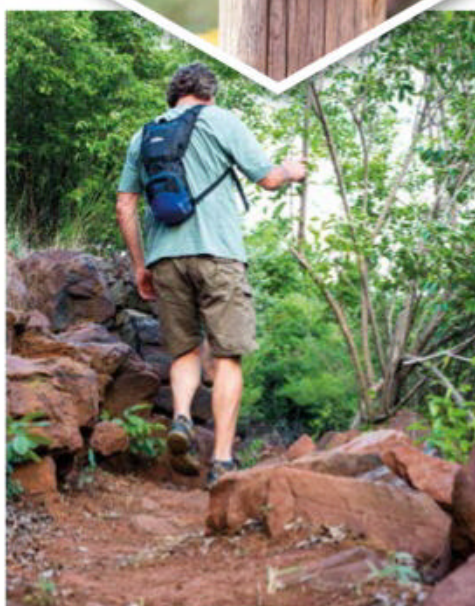
The drum is deep and has an open end; so the coals fall out easily, especially if you're making a big fire to braai steaks. Rather bring your own braai

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STRANGERS BECOME FRIENDS Ruah Park offers many private spots to camp in, but the relaxing atmosphere is conducive to people being courteous to each other and socialising in the communal areas.



are lucky enough to be at stand P2 with its own thatched lapa. As you begin to bake in your tent, the large old pecan and willow trees across the stream provide welcome relief. Take your picnic blanket and relax on the grass with your favourite author or with a pair of binoculars and bird guide book. The trees here, as in the rest of the camp, are full of birds, and with a little bit of patience you may even get to see a woodland kingfisher, red-breasted cuckoo and paradise flycatcher to tick off your list.

Nyala's stands have trees here and there, but it is only stand H2 that has any significant shade. If you're looking for privacy, B1 at the end of the camp (on the side of the dam) is the one for you.

A1 and A2 on the other side of the stream are a good choice if you want to camp somewhat apart from the rest of the crowd. The stands are slightly smaller than the others and more suitable for tents and off-road trailers. A1 has eucalyptus trees that cast shade, but on A2 it's just you and the hot sun.

There is no place to turn around at these stands. So all eyes in the camp will be on you, judging your skills when you have to reverse your off-road trailer – around a bend – onto your allotted stand.

NOT HAVING TO queue for the shower is a welcome relief here as each stand has its own private bathroom. You and the neighbours share an ablution block, but you each have your own entrance. Inside the room with its luxurious and modern finish is a corner shower, basin, mirror, toilet and bin.

The shelf on which the basin rests has room for your vanity bag and there are plenty of hooks for your towel and clothes. The shower is tiled and has a shelf for soap

They say

John and Harriet Joseph and their children, Roslyn, 14, and Luke, 10, are from Pretoria and camp in dome tents.

We only started camping recently and decided from the start to keep it as basic as possible, so we're sleeping in tents rather than a caravan.

Ruah Park is a lovely getaway from the hectic city life. It is quiet here and it's easy to relax in nature. They've got a large variety of birds and the buck walking around in the camp help you

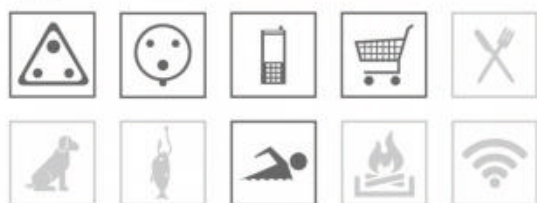
feel close to nature. The bad cellphone signal doesn't bother us at all, not even the kids. Roslyn likes to read and Luke loves fishing – and they keep busy all day.

The stands are pretty big, and although we don't mind using communal ablution facilities, the private bathrooms are a nice bonus. We have also done some of the hiking trails.





Briefly | Ruah Park



Campsite 38 stands with grass in a beautiful kloof, but with little shade.

Ablution facilities Each stand has its own ablution facilities.

Price R400 per site for 4 people. On weekends the rate is R500 and during school holidays and on long weekends R600.

Contact 021 860 0804 (central bookings) or 060 631 8912 (camp office)

ruahpark.co.za info@ruahpark.co.za

Arrival and departure 14:00 and 10:00 unless you make other arrangements.

Road condition Tar, with the last 1 km a narrow dirt track.

GPS S25.526767 E28.497267

Drive & Camp says Remember your binoculars, bird books and hiking boots.

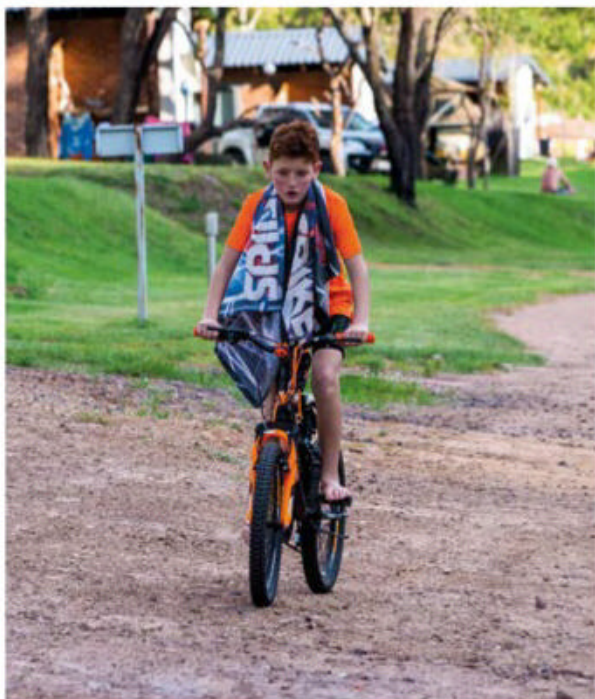


They say

Francois and Sandra Lezar are from Kempton Park and sleep in a rooftop tent on top of a Camp Master Roadster 300 trailer.

"We come to Ruah Park every long weekend and have been here seven times in the past year. It's nice and close to home – barely an hour's drive away. Sandra has only recently started to camp, and her condition is that there must be a private bathroom. The ablutions are neat and we especially like the interior's modern design."

The stands are large and you're not too close to your neighbour. The frog chorus is quite an experience at night. The resort isn't too big, which adds to the tranquil atmosphere. To stay active we like to paddle on the dam and go for a hike. We also enjoy driving to the section of the Dinokeng Reserve, just around the corner, where the wildlife roams free."



and shampoo. There is no shower curtain here, but the shower is large enough (1,2 x 1 m) so the floor doesn’t get wet.

Outside, by the bathroom’s entrance is a veranda with a sink. The space is neat and there is not much room to do anything else. You could pack a few ammo boxes under the sink.

You get two regular power sockets and a blue socket, and a 20 m extension cord will be more than adequate to get power to your caravan. Every building has a light, taps and a garbage bin outside.

WHEN THE CICADAS start to sing, it’s time to cool off in the cold salt-water pool just behind reception. This rectangular pool has a shallow children’s pool on one side, but on the adults’ side it is 1,6 m deep with a bench right there in the water. Sunbathers can relax around the pool on the paving or lush grass. If things get too busy here, there’s another pool next to the guesthouse that campers may also use.

Those who feel more adventurous can go for a swim in the dam – it you like swimming lengths, the 150 m long dam will not disappoint you. The dam is wide enough that the swimmers will not get tangled up in fishing lines. Bring your fishing tackle as there are

blue and ordinary kurper in the pond. Just remember, you have to throw back everything you catch.

There is only one rowing boat at the dam, and in busy times you will either have to wait for your turn or bring your own.

In the ridges on both sides of the kloof there are no less than five short hiking trails that wind through the indigenous forest. The routes are well marked, but take the map you got at reception – you will need it here and there to make sure you are on the right route.

The Likkewaan route, on the banks of the dam, is a short and easy walk that both youngsters and unfit adults will manage. On the Lekkerbreek and the Dikbas routes, you’ll be doing some clambering over rocks but there are steps packed with stones on the steeper sections. The Kameelperd route, which runs to the top of the southern ridge, is the most challenging of the bunch and you need some fitness to make it there and back. Put on some good shoes and take plenty of water.

The tuck shop is open from 09:00 to 13:00 and 14:00 to 17:00. Other than wood (R20) and ice (R10), there are also sweets, soft drinks and ice cream. For anything else, you’ll have to drive about 13 km back to the Spar in the direction of Pretoria.



Rough and tough, right in Gauteng

Tackle this well-known route between Centurion and Harties before embarking on epic adventures farther afield.

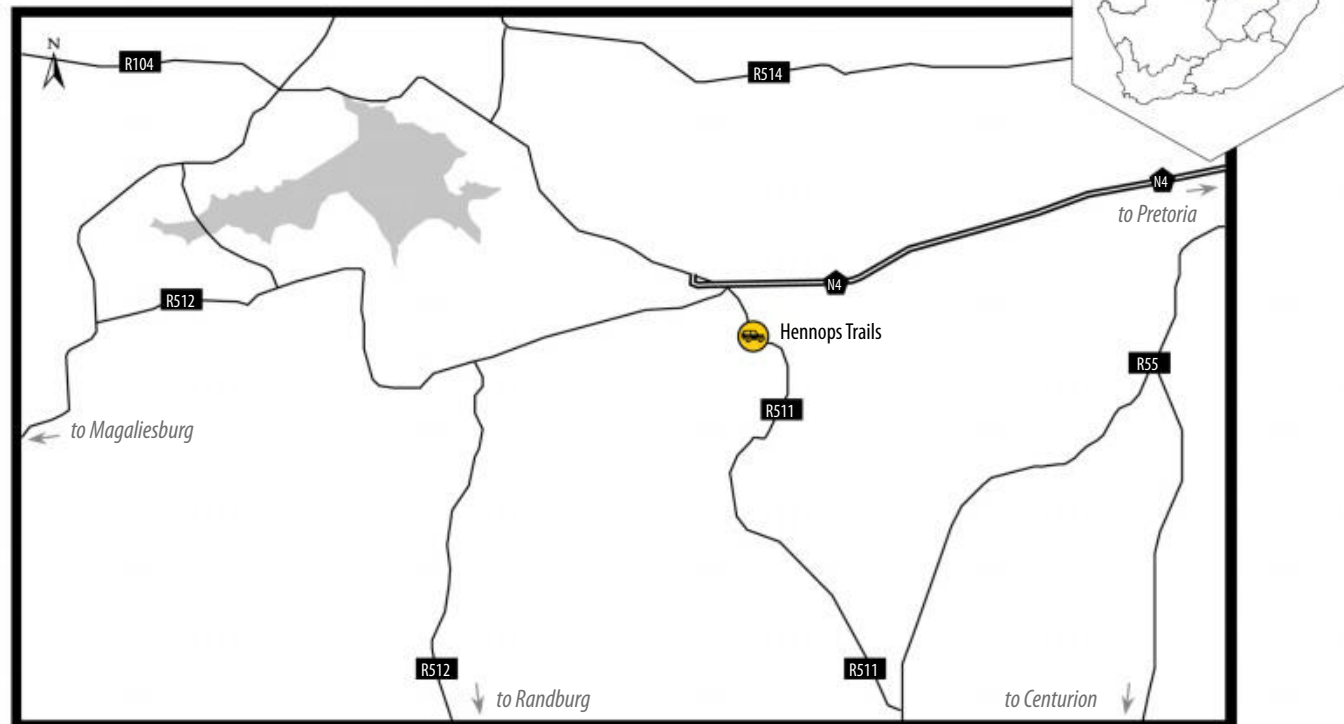
Words and photos **Cyril Kloppe**



The Hennops Off-road Trail lies along the R511 regional road between Centurion and Hartbeespoort, about 4 km south of Flora Park in Gauteng. It is a route that presents challenges for off-road enthusiasts, but they also have easier obstacles for rookies looking to gain experience.

The 4x4 route is open on weekends and holidays, and you must book in advance before heading here. A guard mans the entrance gate and will issue you a registration form to complete. You also have to pay R250 per vehicle.

You get a map of the route, but once you turn right after passing through the gate,



it's easy enough to follow the trail. The first obstacle's name is Axle Twister and it is indicated, like all the other obstacles here, with a sign on two wooden posts. Engage your bakkie's diff lock and you'll easily deal with it. But if you struggle with this one, there's trouble ahead.

The second obstacle is the Hartbees View Pass, a calm winding road with a bit of mud here and a few rocks there, but nothing serious. You actually drive it for the lovely

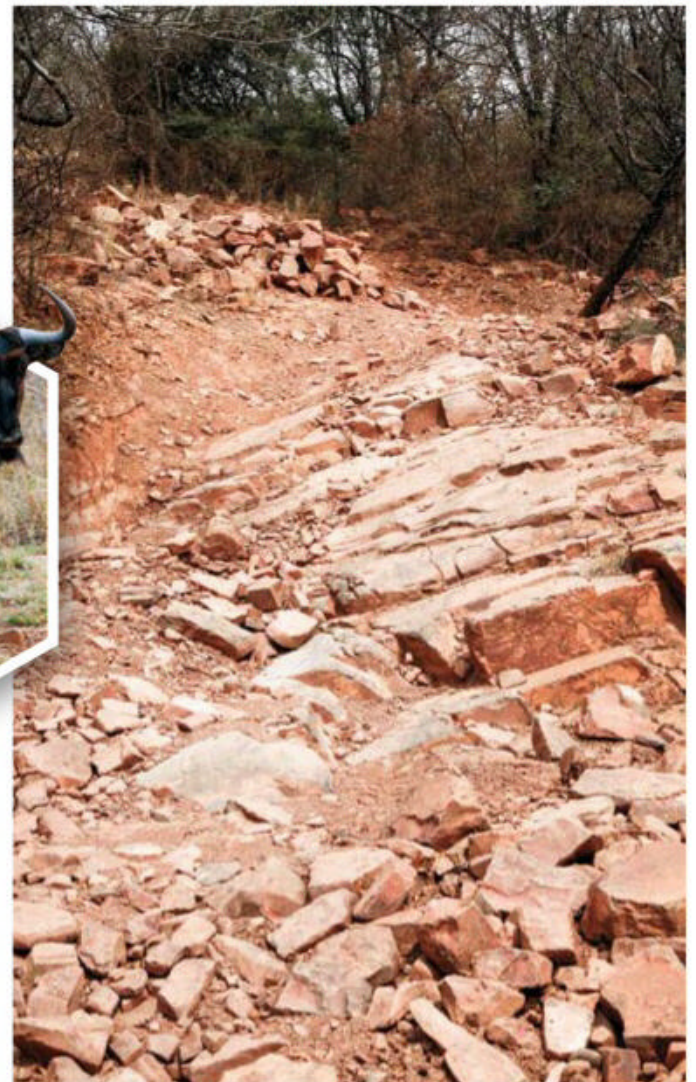
view of Harties down below.

The third obstacle's name is Rock Climb and it'll cure you of any criticisms that the Hennops Off-road Trail is easy. It's a big pile of shale, boulders, bends and a steep climb up a hill. There's no way that a soft-roader can make it up here, and even pukka off-roaders will benefit from a spotter. If you struggle too much, reverse and take the escape route to bypass this obstacle.

There are two arrows at each obstacle:



HOW NOW, BROWN COW? The game at Hennops are tame and if you decide to braai at the lapa you shouldn't be surprised if curious wildebeest pay you an unexpected visit.



CRAWL AND CLIMB The dongas (left) will test your axle articulation while Rock Climb (above) requires good ground clearance and grip.

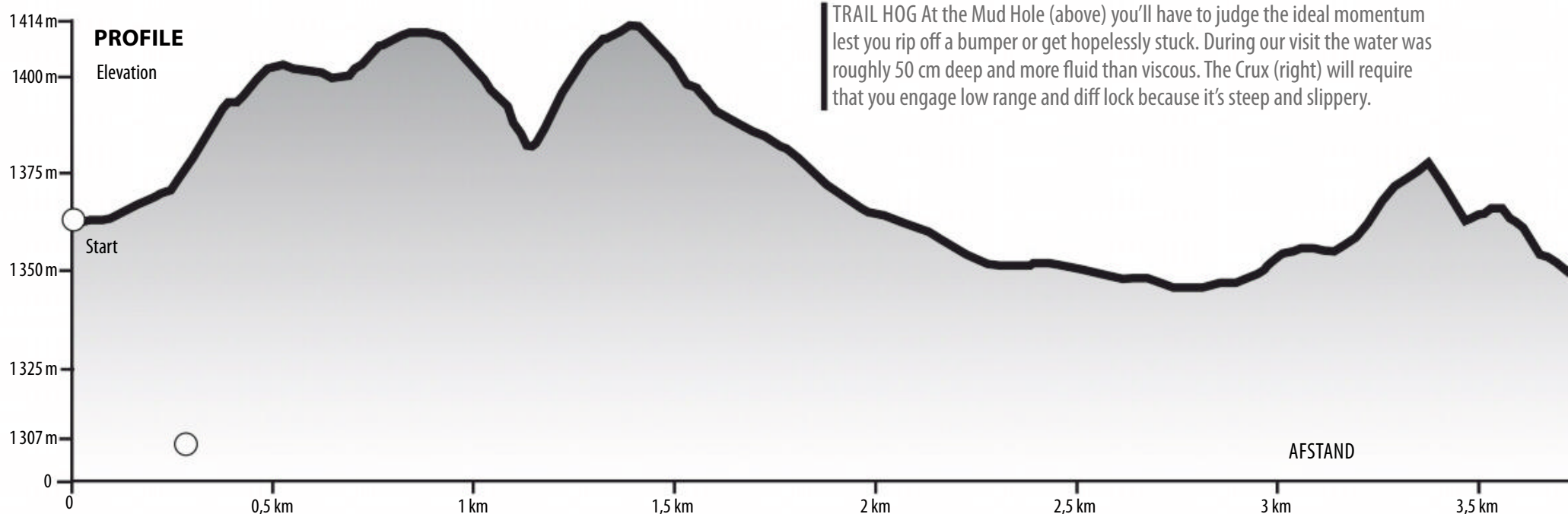
TRAIL GUIDE

a green one and a red one. The red is the more difficult of the two routes. You will also encounter lots of wildlife along the trail, especially zebra and wildebeest. They're tame and won't bolt when they see you. So, keep your speed down or you might hit one.

Hennops has a number of challenges of various degrees of difficulty that we're not going to elaborate on here – among them are Hill 49, Play Pen and the Kudu Route. You'll have to check them out for yourself. But first it's time to pull over at the Donga Lapa and light a fire. There are ablution facilities, a lawn, jungle gyms for the kids and quite a few braai spots.

When everyone's tummies are full, it's time to resume the off-road trail. The dongas after which the lapa is named are a series of holes through which you can drive. Some are easy while others can get rather hairy. Once again, there are escape routes if you would rather chicken out to fight another day.

After the dongas comes the Mud Hole. A warning sign advises you to first probe the water before you bomb through. The bottom is slippery and you have to carry the perfect amount of momentum – enough to get you through without breaking something. Judging by the amount of derelict





What you need to know



Maximum number of vehicles?

Unlimited.

Do I get a map? Yes.

Will I scratch my vehicle? Unlikely.

Should I take a compressor? Not necessary.

Can I braai halfway? Yes, at the lapa.

Can I turn around halfway? No, but there are escape routes.

Is there a cellphone signal? Yes, almost everywhere.

Best time to go? All year round.

Can I take my family along? Yes.

Just for the day or for a weekend? One day is enough.

How long does it take? Minimum 1,5 hours, but don't rush.

Are there ablution facilities? Yes, at the lapa.

Directions From Centurion, follow the R511 to the Hennops River. Follow the river on the R511 and drive up a ridge. At the top, you'll see road signs for the 4x4 trail. You've missed the turn-off when you see the Hartbeespoort Dam.

Price R250 per day per vehicle.

Contact 082 825 9205 [hennops.co.za](mailto:info@hennops.co.za)
info@hennops.co.za

GPS S25.79164 E27.97993



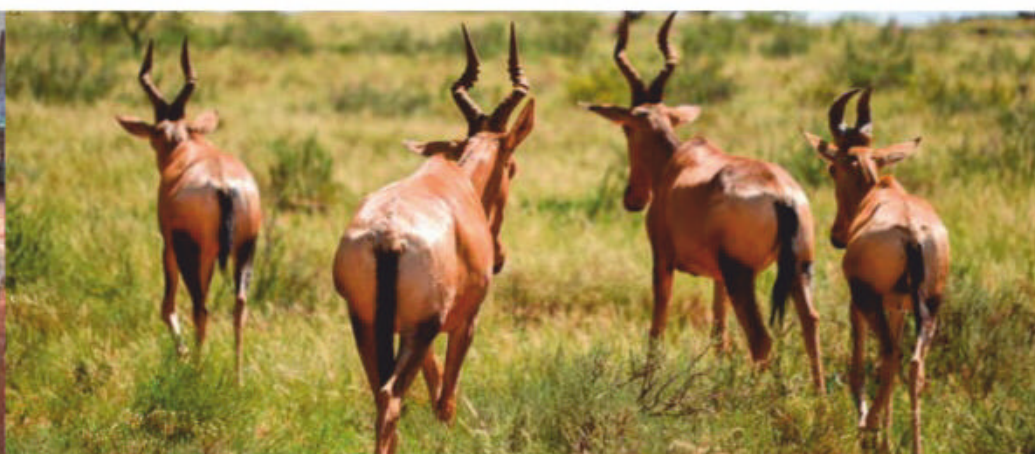
numberplate holders lying about, there have been a couple of overly eager guys. There are also a number of trees to which you can attach a winch cable if there's nobody to recover you should you get stuck.

The last obstacle before returning to the main gate is called The Crux. It's a steep hill with rocky steps that will thoroughly test your vehicle and your off-road skills. If you get through here, you'll never have to worry about destinations like Van Zyl's Pass in Namibia or the Devils Bellows (read more about this on page 38) in the Eastern Cape.

Hennops is a great off-road trail on which to hone your 4x4 skills. And skills are always superior to any off-road accessory money can buy.



A year's worth of campsite choices



Our pick of 20 great campsites where you can relax in 2020.

Here we are in March already, even though it feels as if we've only just wished one another a happy new year. The reality, though, is that the Easter weekend is just around the corner, and then the winter break starts... with the short holiday between the children's third and fourth

quarters following shortly thereafter. And then, believe it or not, the summer holiday will be upon us again.

We should all strive to make the most of the time we have, and for each of these holidays, we've picked out five fantastic spots where you and your loved ones can pitch camp to relax and enjoy.



ALMEGA CARAVAN PARK, HAMMANSKRAAL

Directly across the road from the Dinokeng Reserve, is the caravan park that André Geyser developed on 200 ha of fenced land partly bordering the reserve.

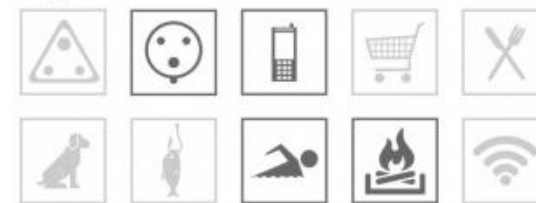
Each of the ablution blocks is a square building with four bathrooms. You camp next to your own private facility on a lovely lawn. Each bathroom has a spacious shower, toilet and basin as well as a surface where Mom can unpack her makeup next to two regular 220 V domestic sockets.

Outside your bathroom is a double sink for the dishes as well as a blue caravan socket. You also get your own braai area, and there are lots of shade trees around.

Kids have plenty to do: there's a jungle gym, swings and a sand pit. The campsite is on a fenced plot of 2 ha, and boasts a unique pool – in the form of a guitar.

The body of the guitar is the deep side and the neck connects to the head, that's shallow for the little ones. The pool is 75 m from the nearest stands.

Briefly | Almega Caravan Park



Campsite 40 stands with electricity and a bin, braai, grass and shade.

Ablution facilities Your own small bathroom and sink that's serviced daily.

Price R350-R600 pd per site for 4 people depending on when you camp. Then R75 pppd (free for under 2s). Maximum 8 people per site.

Arrival and departure 12:00 and 10:00 in busy times.

Contact 082 452 0268 or 082 420 3488

almegakamp.co.za

admin@almegakamp.co.za

Nearest town Hammanskraal, 11 km.

Road condition Tar to the gate and good scraped dirt roads in the resort.

GPS S25.339759 E28.385342

Drive & Camp says If you use air-con in your caravan, you pay R50 pd extra.



DUBE PRIVATE NATURE RESERVE, BRITS

Dube is one of the most popular campsites near Brits, and the owner, Gert Scheepers, has increased the number of stands from 120 to 200.

The new stands, just like the old ones, all have power and water. He is also replacing the regular power sockets with blue caravan ones. There are warm and cold swimming pools, a 6 km hiking trail, a trampoline and a dam where you can pull out carp, kurper

and catfish (catch and release). Here you are in the Bushveld and the trees don't grow that high. Bring a reflective sheet if you come camping in the summer.

There are also more than 200 bird species on the farm, and during the summer months they're at their most active. In the quiet times, zebra, giraffe, blue wildebeest, eland, kudu and impala roam among the reserve's stands.

Briefly | Dube



Campsite 200 stands with trees, electricity and grass.

Ablution facilities 4 ablution blocks – sparkling clean with marble slabs at the sinks and tiled up to the roof.

Price R321-R877 pd for the first 4 people, depending on the season and specific location. Then R120-R160 pppd extra.

Arrival and departure 10:00 for both.

Contact 073 171 8331 or 082 375 6179

dubegame.co.za

info@dubegame.co.za

Nearest town Brits, 20 km.

Road condition The last 2 km is a decent dirt road.

GPS S25.474484 E27.810585

Drive & Camp says There's a mountain bike trail too – bring your bikes.



MABALINGWE, BELA-BELA

Mabalingwe's campsite is in a reserve that's also home to the Big Five. Mabalingwe means 'leopard' after all.

The stands have big old shade trees and you also get a paved slab for your caravan.

Listen out for the woodpeckers working away. Wild animals including warthogs regularly visit the camp.

Keep in mind that these cheeky creatures

may seem tame, but remain alert because they are wild.

The real wild guys are in the game camp next door. This is also where you'll find the pinnacle of all bush pubs. Back then, the "Ja, Boet" Castrol ad was shot right here.

If you want to drive further into the reserve, visit the Wessels Dam where you may encounter buffalo.

Briefly | Mabalingwe



Campsite 67 level stands on paving and 10 stands in the bush camp (with a shop).

Ablution facilities Neat and modern. There are also family bathrooms.

Price R170-R245 pn per site, plus R100-R145 pp (R80-R90 for children under 12) depending on the season.

Arrival and departure 14:00 and 10:00.

Contact 014 736 9000

callcentre1@boschpoort.co.za

mabalingwegamereserve.co.za

Nearest town Bela-Bela, 27 km.

Road condition Tar road to the campsite.

GPS S24.846336 E28.047592

Drive & Camp says This is one of the few resorts that has its own petrol station – it's next to the main gate.



THE BATHS, CITRUSDAL

The 25 stands snake up the stream up the mountain to the office. The stands aren't the same size and range from huge to tiny patches on which only a small tent and a car will fit.

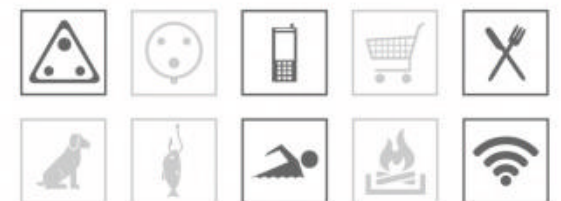
The oversupply of shade is lovely, but it also means there is little to no grass on the stands. The stand number is on the stand's electricity box, and it works with

a regular house socket. Your light is also by the box and you can turn it on and off yourself.

There are lots of loose steel braais around that you can carry to your stand. Just remember your own grid.

The Baths' bathrooms look new and are simple and stylish from the outside but luxurious inside. The pools are next

Briefly | The Baths



Campsite 25 stands of varying size, with little to no grass and heaps of shade.

Ablution facilities New and neat.

Price Depending on the specific day and season R120-R170 pppn.

Contact 022 921 8026/7

reservations4@thebaths.co.za

thebaths.co.za

Arrival and departure 14:00 and 10:00.

Nearest town Citrusdal, 17 km.

Road condition Tar to the gate, and decent dirt road in the resort.

GPS S32.735953 E19.040857

Drive & Camp says For the kids, there's a jungle gym and trampoline.

to the office and quite a walk away if you camp at one of the farthest stands. But the warm water refreshes your body like no other.



KAM'BATI, SWELLENDAM

The stands stretch along the Breede River for a good half a kilometre. Joining them at the water is a wall of eucalyptus trees that cast great shade over the stands.

The power point is either at your stand or close by (your regular house plug fits). A braai drum is also standard – in a repurposed medium-sized gas bottle that fits loosely on a steel frame.

Kam'Bati has three bathroom buildings with clean and tidy amenities.

The recreation area is right across from the office, a building that looks almost like the bridge of a ship. The garden and swimming pools were also properly planned by a landscape architect: there are terraces below the office and the green grass carpet looked artificial; it was that neatly trimmed.

Briefly | Kam'Bati River Resort



Campsite 96 stands on green grass. Most have shade.

Ablution facilities 3 clean bathroom buildings – the farthest you will walk is 230 m.

Price R220 pppn (R160 for pensioners; R110 for children).

Arrival and departure 10am, except on weekends out of season.

Contact 079 200 9098 kambati.co.za
marketing@kambati.co.za

Nearest town Swellendam, 22 km.

Road condition The last 5 km is a decent dirt road.

GPS S34.079968 E20.28453

Drive & Camp says You must throw back any fish you catch. You may bring your own boat, but the engine output may not exceed 10 hp.



ATKV EILAND SPA, LETSITELE

Although the Eiland Spa is one of the older campsites in this area, it is certainly the most popular. The bubbling mineral water has an almost magical appeal and is in itself an excellent reason to come here. There are two outdoor pools with warm water, with a small splash pool for the kids in between.

The hydro is a built-in covered swimming pool where you are virtually the first user of the hot water coming from deep inside the

earth. And next to this pool is a sauna.

The stands are not on green lawn; it's hard gravel with mopane trees all around. Each stand has its own tap and caravan-type power point, and portable steel braais aren't too far away.

The shop across the hydro sells everything from fresh vegetables and meat to tinned food, freshly baked bread, beverages and firewood.

Briefly | ATKV Eiland Spa



Campsite 300 mostly level stands on hard sandy soil and with a fair amount of shade. The stands are allocated in advance.

Ablution facilities 5 sparklingly clean and modern ablution blocks.

Price R340-R760 pd per site, depending on which site and time of year.

Arrival and departure 14:00 and 10:00, but you may use the facilities until 17:00 on the day of your departure.

Contact 015 386 8000

eilandspa.co.za

eilandspa@atkv.co.za

Nearest town Letsitele, 39 km.

Road condition Tar all the way.

GPS S23.655844 E30.670867

Drive & Camp says You get a discount if you're a member of the ATKV.



SCOTTBURGH CARAVAN PARK

If your idea of a winter vacation involves beautiful beaches and rock pools, with good spots for fishing or surfing, and lots of space for just being lazy, you'll rest easy on one of Scottburgh Caravan Park's 267 stands.

From February to early July, you can choose a beachfront location, because then it's not that windy, but from July until the

end of the year, the back ones, that have more trees and bushes to protect you from the wind, are a better choice.

There are many shady stands and the stands are laid out on level ground.

Remember to bring along storm ropes if you camp near the front and pack a decent gazebo as well in case you need to create your own shade.

Briefly | Scottburgh Caravan Park



Campsite 267 stands, all with power.

Ablution facilities 8 ablution blocks with baths and showers, which are very well maintained. There is also a wheelchair-friendly bathroom.

Price R350-R1 510 per site, depending on when you come to camp and how many people in your group.

Arrival and departure 12:00 and 10:00.

Contact 039 976 0291

scottburghcaravanpark.co.za

caravanpark@scottburgh.co.za

Nearest town In Scottburgh.

Road condition Tar all the way.

GPS S30.283309 E30.759412

Drive & Camp says Make sure everyone's packed their cozzies; the sea here is wonderfully warm and the kids will tire themselves out on the supertube.



RICHARDS BAY CARAVAN PARK

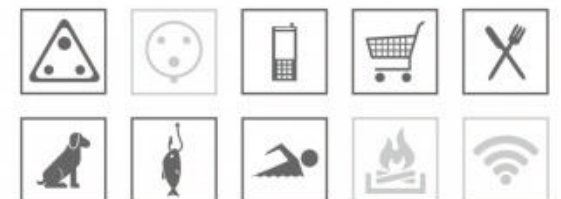
You get to camp at one of 263 spacious stands with power and water right next to the warm waters of the Indian Ocean. The caravan park has direct access to the beach, and Alkantstrand with its Blue Flag status is barely 1 km away.

Some of the stands are private spots in the bush, while others are exposed to the sun on open ground. Nevertheless, you're never far from the lush vegetation.

The Richards Bay caravan park offers you much more too: a kiosk, pool, playground, trampolines, garden chess, table tennis and games room should keep everyone – from tiny tots to moody teens – happy.

In addition, it is a bird-watching paradise, and hiking trails, game reserves as well as golf, tennis, bowls and squash courts are within easy reach.

Briefly | Richards Bay



Campsite 263 stands, most of which are spacious with power and water.

Ablution facilities Neat but old. They're serviced 24 hours a day.

Price R145-R275 pppn (R95-R130 for children), depending on the season.

Arrival and departure 12:00 and 10:00.

Contact 035 753 1971

richardsbaycaravanpark.co.za

info@richardsbaycaravanpark.co.za

Nearest town In Richards Bay.

Road condition Tar to the campsite.

GPS S28.790000 E32.099213

Drive & Camp says If you fancy a day trip, hit the road and go find the Big Five in the Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park. It's only 76 km away.



DOLPHIN HOLIDAY RESORT, BALLITO

You feel at home here from the moment you arrive, it's almost as if you're visiting friends. The stands are spacious and there's enough room for a large caravan, its tent and your car next to it on most of them. Some are on lush grass, others on sparse grass and the rest on bare earth. And with the many trees and shrubs between the stands, you have a fair amount of privacy. You plug your caravan into a blue caravan socket and need nothing more than a standard extension

cord. You share a tap with your neighbours and the cleaners regularly empty your garbage bin. There are no braais at the stands and you have to bring your own.

The resort has four ablution blocks, each with a laundry room with four washing machines and three tumble dryers. The bathrooms are no longer new, but they could hardly be any cleaner.

The beach is barely 200 m from the gate and you walk to it down an alley.

Briefly | Dolphin Holiday Resort



Campsite 99 spacious stands with lots of shade.

Ablution facilities 4 ablution blocks that are kept clean.

Price R335-R1 070 pn per site for the first 2 people depending on the season, and R935-R1 770 for 6 people.

Contact 032 946 2187

dolphinholidayresort.co.za

info@dolphinholidayresort.co.za

Arrival and departure 11am and 10am (unless you make other arrangements).

Nearest town In Ballito.

Road condition Tar to here.

GPS S29.532273 E31.221788

Drive & Camp says Mondays to Saturdays there are complimentary scones and tea served in the hall – and cookies and soft drinks for the little ones.



FOREVER TSHIPISE, MUSINA

There are a few hundred stands and, even in winter, you'll find that about half of them are occupied.

The stands differ according to where they are. Some have lush green grass with shade; some are exposed; and others offer no grass, but plenty of shade.

They're mostly flat and are demarcated with knee-high poles. Your power point (a blue caravan socket) and tap are conveniently close to your stand; if it's not

on your stand, it is right next to it. There are multiple portable steel braais that you can move around as you please.

The bathrooms deserve five stars. On the men's side, there are even fresh flowers on the marble top next to the ceramic sinks.

The tiling is modern and the shower cubicles are practical. The washing-up area for dishes and laundry is behind the ablution block.

Briefly | Forever Tshipise



Campsite 369 stands, some with grass and shade, others with sun and no grass.

Ablution facilities 7 clean bathroom buildings scattered throughout the resort.

Price Depending on the season R170-R280 pn per site and R80-R95 pppn.

Arrival and departure No scheduled time and 11:00.

Contact 015 539 0634

tshipise@foreversa.co.za

forevertshipise.co.za

Nearest town Musina 38 km.

Road condition Tar to here.

GPS S22.605996 E30.173337

Drive & Camp says Take a walk in the reserve early morning or late afternoon.

Just behind reception is a shop, liquor store and butcher that brings the city's convenience to the campsite.



Short holiday

STERLAND, SUTHERLAND

Coming from the Cape Town side, Sterland lies a kilometre before Sutherland on the right-hand side of the road. Jurg Wagener, the owner, used to be a bank manager, and although his real interest lies in planes, he has found his happy place in astronomy.

The seven stands are private and spacious enough for a large caravan with its tent and your vehicle next to it.

At the front of each stand is a built-

in braai (bring your own grid). All the stands are level and flat, but bring your groundsheet for the dusty soil.

A staircase that forms a bridge over the fence in front of the stands takes you up to a lawn on the other side.

Here you'll find a pool in the shape of a doughnut with a small island in the middle and a low canopy over it.

The bathrooms are next to the first

Briefly | Sutherland



Campsite 7 demarcated stands, each with a lane of trees on level ground.

Ablution facilities Always clean. The dishwashing spot is on the women's side.

Price R140 pppn (free for kids under 2).

Arrival and departure 15:00 and 10:00.

Contact 023 571 1481 or 082 556 9589 surterlandinfo.co.za info@sutherlandinfo.co.za

Nearest town Sutherland, 1 km.

Road condition Tar to Sterland and dirt to your stand.

GPS S32.408671 E20.658637

Drive & Camp says Jurg hosts stargazing evenings every night of the year, except for Christmas and New Year's Eve.

stand, also on the left of the road. The bathroom facilities each have two showers and toilets and are kept clean throughout your stay.



CAPE VIDAL, ST LUCIA

Getting to your stand when camping at Cape Vidal, it's as if you're on a game drive for the last bit. The neat tar road that runs 30 km straight from St Lucia to the campsite goes through grassland and indigenous forest, past marshes and some of the world's largest vegetation-covered dunes. Signs warn you to watch out for rhinos, buffalo and leopards.

The stands are on average 10 x 10 m, with some of them slightly larger and

others smaller in size. Some are in rows side by side, but with others you get a fair amount of privacy with only one or two neighbours nearby.

You share a power point and tap with a neighbour and need to bring your own braai. The water here is good for washing, but you also need to bring your own drinking water. Your bin has a heavy iron lid to protect its contents against the blue and Samango monkeys.

Briefly | Cape Vidal



Campsite 50 stands, all with power and most with shade.

Ablution facilities Neat and convenient.

Price R280-R840 pn, depending on how many people you are and when you camp. Permit and conservation fees are excluded.

Contact 035 590 9012

kznwildlife.com/about-cape-vidal

bookings@kznwildlife.com

Arrival and departure 14:00 and 10:00.

Nearest town St Lucia, 30 km.

Road condition Tar road to the camp.

GPS S30.7052 E30.4795

Drive & Camp says Rinse off under an outdoor shower at the ablution facilities when you come back from the beach.

In front, in the middle and at the back of the campsite are three ablution blocks with separate bathrooms for men and women.



UTSHWAYELO, MANGUZI

Utshwayelo at Kosi Bay is the northernmost campsite in KwaZulu-Natal – the turnoff to get there is 13 km beyond Manguzi and barely 1 km before the Mozambican border.

There are 14 spacious stands, most of which are laid out like a kraal with a reed fence– so you have privacy. Each of the stands has a blue power socket, light, tap, garbage bin and a moveable braai. Remember your own grid.

There are three bathroom buildings,

complete with outdoor showers, and each has a sink in the back. The resort also has a swimming pool and honesty bar.

When it comes to water and power, the resort is self-sufficient. The water comes from a borehole and the electricity from a solar system and generator. They also have Eskom power, but your power points are not intended for equipment such as kettles and air-conditioning that draw too much electricity.

Briefly | Utshwayelo



Campsite 14 stands. Shade is plentiful, but not all stands are level.

Ablution facilities Earthy and neat.

Price R220 pppn (half price for kids aged 6-12).

Arrival and departure No scheduled times.

Contact 082 909 3113 info@kosimouth.co.za

Nearest town? Manguzi, 21 km.

Road condition The last 4,5 km is a corrugated gravel road, and in the resort itself are sandy roads, they are navigable with an ordinary sedan.

GPS S26.892218 E32.858621

Drive & Camp says Pets are welcome provided it is out of season, but you must still notify the resort. Just remember, pets are not allowed in the iSimangaliso Wetland Park.



AUGRABIES NATIONAL PARK

This campsite is like the proverbial cousin of the Kruger National Park. It has the same bushveld feel, the campsite is clean, and even the migration pattern of campers is similar: at night the campsite is packed, but by early morning all your neighbours will have mysteriously disappeared, presumably on game drives.

On your stand is a planted steel braai, with a grid that swings over the coals. It's clean when you show up. Check where the power points are if you don't want to use an

extension cord, as they are dotted about the campground. The taps are quite randomly spread out and are marked to show that the water is safe to drink. There are lots of shade trees.

The two bathroom buildings are on either side of the campsite with a kitchen area at the far end of each.

The Orange River with its canyon is 200 m from the camp and the waterfall is another 300 m upstream. You hear the roar of the water all the way at your stand.

Briefly | Augrabies National Park



Campsite 40 level stands on soil. Most have a tree nearby.

Ablution facilities Old and neat, but need attention.

Price R285-R300 pn per site for the first 2 people; thereafter R94 pp (R47 for children). A maximum of 6 people per site is allowed. Also remember the conservation fee of R56 pd (R28 for kids) if you don't have a Wild Card.

Arrival and departure 14:00 and 11:00.

Contact 054 452 9200 sanparks.org

Nearest town Keimoes, 76 km.

Road condition Tar to the office and dirt road in the camp and on the wildlife trails.

GPS S28.593177 E20.337481

Drive & Camp says The viewpoints to which you walk on elevated wooden paths are safe for kids to use unattended.



MOTSWEDI CAMP SITE, MOKALA

The Motswedi camp lies deep inside the Mokala National Park, under thorn trees and next to a waterhole. The campsite has only six stands laid out in a crescent around the water hole.

You and one of your camp neighbours share a building in which each has its own bathroom and kitchen. These three bathroom-and-kitchen buildings are built in the typical SANParks-style and merge

nicely with the surroundings.

The thorn trees are just big enough for you to pull your caravan or off-road trailer into the shade, and if you place your caravan at the braai area, your bathroom and kitchen are about 15 steps away. At your stand you have a skottel braai and a fire pit in the ground around which you can sit and braai under the stars.

There's no electricity here, but your

Briefly | Motswedi



Campsite 6 private bush stands, each with its own bathroom and kitchen. Ablution facilities Clean, luxurious and only yours.

Price R490-R515 per site (6 people) plus a conservation fee of R48 (R24 for children).

Contact 053 204 8000

sanparks.co.za/parks/mokala

Road condition The 21 km gravel road to the Mosu entrance is slightly corrugated.

GPS S29.151800 E24.309620

Drive & Camp says Here you are wonderfully close to nature. On a good morning, you can see many eland grazing in the surrounding veld at dawn.

bathroom and kitchen have lights and a geyser that are charged by the Northern Cape sun during the day.



FOREVER LOSKOP DAM, GROBLERSDAL

Guys love to dip their fishing lines at Loskop Dam, because in its depths there are carp, white stumpnose, catfish and mudfish – or a black bass if lady luck is on your side.

This is a large resort intended for family holidays or a cosy visit with friends, and therefore entertainment is plentiful. For example, there are warm and cold pools, mini golf, volleyball, tennis courts, a children's playground, trampolines and also pool tables.

The campsite lies on a natural slope toward the water and therefore some stands aren't level. You also have to choose between a beautiful view and how close you want to be to the nearest ablution block.

The seven-bathroom buildings are spread throughout the resort and you'll need a blue caravan plug to tap into the power grid.

Even though there are more than 200 stands, it's an extremely popular resort. So book early.

Briefly | Forever Loskopdam



Campsite 252 stands – 226 with power and 26 without.

Ablution facilities 7 neat ablution blocks that are completely adequate for peak traffic.

Price R120 pppn in winter and mid-week; otherwise R150-R280 pppn per site (with or without power) plus R120 pppn.

Arrival and departure 11:00 and 17:00.

Contact 013 262 3075

foreverloskop.co.za

loskopres@foreversa.co.za

Nearest town Groblersdal, 35 km.

Road condition Tar to the resort.

GPS S25.423295 E29.386570

Drive & Camp says Loskop Dam even has its own petrol station.



ATKV HARTENBOS

This resort has more than 500 stands, in one of five separate blocks. A whopping 105 of these stands face the sea.

Hartenbos stands are all more or less 10 x 10 m in size and predominantly on lawns. You and your four neighbours share a power distribution box and between every eight to 10 stands you'll find a tap. Some of the resort's stands have large shade trees, but

on the seafront sites you have to create your own shelter from the sun.

The ablution blocks, with large and spacious bathrooms for men and women, have all the amenities you need in a bathroom. You can bath or shower – the big shower cubicles do not have a dry area, but there is a small tiled bench where you can lay out a fresh change of clothes.

Briefly | ATKV Hartenbos



Campsite More than 500 stands, all with power and grass, and some offer shade.

Ablution facilities Comfortable and clean bathrooms for men and women.

Price R195-R1 075 per site for 6 people, depending on the season and your distance from the sea. ATKV members pay R155-R925 per site.

Arrival and departure 14:00 and 09:00 (off-season 12:00.)

Nearest town In Hartenbos.

Contact 044 601 7200

atkvoorde.co.za

hartenbos@atks.org.za

Road condition Tar all the way.

GPS S34.124972 E22.112382

Drive & Camp says If you don't like the holiday rush and full campsites, visit out of season when it's quieter.



FOREVER BADPLAAS, CAROLINA

At Badplaas, about halfway between Barberton and Carolina, there are almost too many things to mention. There are the swimming pools (cold and heated), a supertube, slides, a foofie slide, a mini golf course, a games arcade, a lazy river where you coast on tubes, a paintball court, a nine-hole golf course, a bowling alley, a museum, game drives and horseback riding – and did we mention the hydro where Gran and Grandpa can go and nurse their arthritis in the 42 °C warm water?

The caravan park is divided into an A and a B camp. Between the two, there are around 300 stands from which to choose. At your stand you will find a blue power point, a braai with a grid and a bin. Every four sites or so share a tap.

There are six large ablution blocks and in each of them there are more than enough shower cubicles, baths, toilets and sinks. There is also a washing-up area, washing machines and tumble dryers and a place to flush your cassette toilet.

Briefly | Forever Badplaas



Campsite 308 stands with electricity.

Ablution facilities 6 large and modern ablution blocks.

Price R140-R200 pn per site (depending on when you camp) and R150-R220 pppn. Maximum 8 people per site.

Arrival and departure 10am and 11am, but you may use the resort's amenities on the day of your departure until 5pm.

Contact 017 844 8000

foreverbadplaas.co.za

badplaas@foreversa.co.za

Nearest town Carolina, 50 km.

Road condition Tar all the way.

GPS S25.956596 E30.562910

Drive & Camp says There isn't really much grass, but every stand has plenty of shade and is numbered.



STORMS RIVER MOUTH, STORMS RIVER

The Storms River Mouth in the Tsitsikamma Nature Reserve is one of the most popular destinations among SANParks visitors, and when you sit here with the sea on your doorstep and the pristine Tsitsikamma Forest behind you, you understand why.

There are more than 80 paved stands and each of them is spacious enough for your caravan and rally tent. Each stand has a power point and braai area, but you need to bring your own grid.

As you might expect, the stands right by the ocean are more expensive than the rest, but if you're going to spend money to spoil yourself, you may as well do it here. There is a special charm to the roaring waves that break on the rocks, with the sea spray so high that it is almost unnecessary to put salt on your braai meat.

The ablution facilities are mostly neat, modern and clean and always close to you, no matter where you camp.

Briefly | Storms River Mouth



Campsite More than 80 paved stands with power and a braai (remember your grid). Not much shade.

Ablution facilities 5 ablution blocks that vary in size. Neat and clean.

Price R360-R515 per site for 2 people. Then R94 pp (R47 for children). You also pay a daily conservation fee of R62 (R31 for children).

Arrival and departure 14:00 and 10:00.

Contact 042 281 1607 sanparks.org
reservations@sanparks.org

Nearest town Storms River, 16 km.

Road condition Tar road to your stand.

GPS S34.022394 E23.896270

Drive & Camp says Stands are not allocated. Get there early if you're picky.



ATKV KLEIN KARIBA, BELA-BELA

Klein Kariba is on a game farm of around 600 ha, with the caravan park lying in a long strip to the right of a stream. The stands are on either side of the road that runs through the resort, with those on the right side of the road being predominantly larger.

There's not much grass, but most stands have shade somewhere throughout the day. There are blue plug power points and you get a portable steel braai with

a grid that you can move to where you want it. You share your tap and bin with your neighbours.

The pool area is the main attraction here and that is also where your children – and you – will spend most of your time. It's a good 500 m walk from the campsite.

There are two modern ablution blocks in the campsite with more or less the same amenities, and are kept clean throughout.

Briefly | ATKV Klein Kariba



Campsite 76 stands, all with a slab of paving, a braai area with a grid, power and a tap nearby.

Ablution facilities 2 neat and modern ablution blocks.

Price R115-R890, depending on the season and location you choose.

Arrival and departure 14:00 and 10:00.

Contact 014 736 9800

atkvoorde.co.za kariba@atkva.org.za

Nearest town Bela-Bela, 8 km.

Road condition Tar all the way.

GPS S24.849544 E28.336160

Drive & Camp says Some of the stands are covered by large shade cloth and there may even be a sewer connection. 🗿



Closer to nature

Nestled in the Kammanassie Valley is a campsite that's perfect for nature lovers who camp with their dogs, says **Marieta Pretorius** of Bredasdorp.

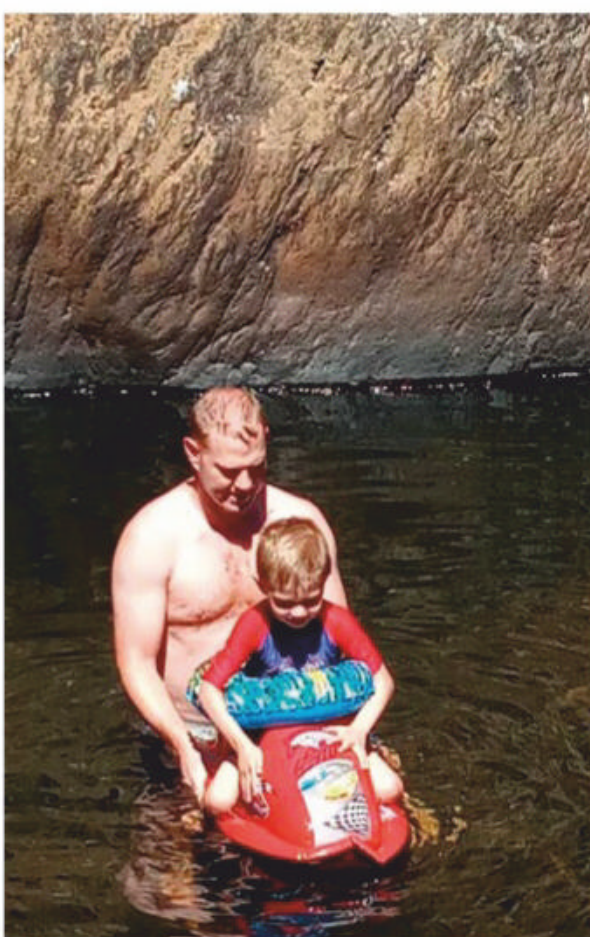
“ We went camping as a family this past December at the pet-friendly Eagle Falls campsite close to Oudtshoorn, George and Uniondale.

Our Sprite Swing caravan kept up with the Bush Lapa Boskriek off-road trailer accompanying us as we turned off the N9 highway onto a good dirt road. The winding road takes you to Eagle Falls, deep in the fertile Kammanassie Valley, where the dry Little Karoo borders the oasis of the Molen River. I must admit the last 3 km of that road was a bit of a challenge, though.

TELL US MORE ABOUT THE CAMPSITE.

All our drinking glasses broke on that last stretch of road, while, weirdly enough, not a single egg cracked. So we didn't expect to see many road caravans. But there were many... including a double-axle caravan.

You camp on lawn and the stands are laid out on terraces. My husband, Danie;



and I, camped in the Swing while my son Pieter and his wife, Marguerite occupied the Boskriek; and we brought a tent for my grandson, Goggie. These filled an entire terrace. Adding to our group were Marguerite's brothers, Gerhard and Oscar with Gerhard's wife Elsie, and Oscar's girlfriend – all four in tents.

It's clear the owner takes pride in his campsite. It is extremely clean and tidy, rows of trees have been planted for shade and braai areas have been built for our convenience. Each stand has a tap and a power point. You don't need to bring a blue plug adapter because the campsite uses regular domestic sockets. Do remember your extension cord, though.

There's also a lapa where we could braai when the weather didn't play along. The lapa even boasts a stage and a round fire pit – perfect for roasting marshmallows after dinner.



WHAT ACTIVITIES DO THEY OFFER?

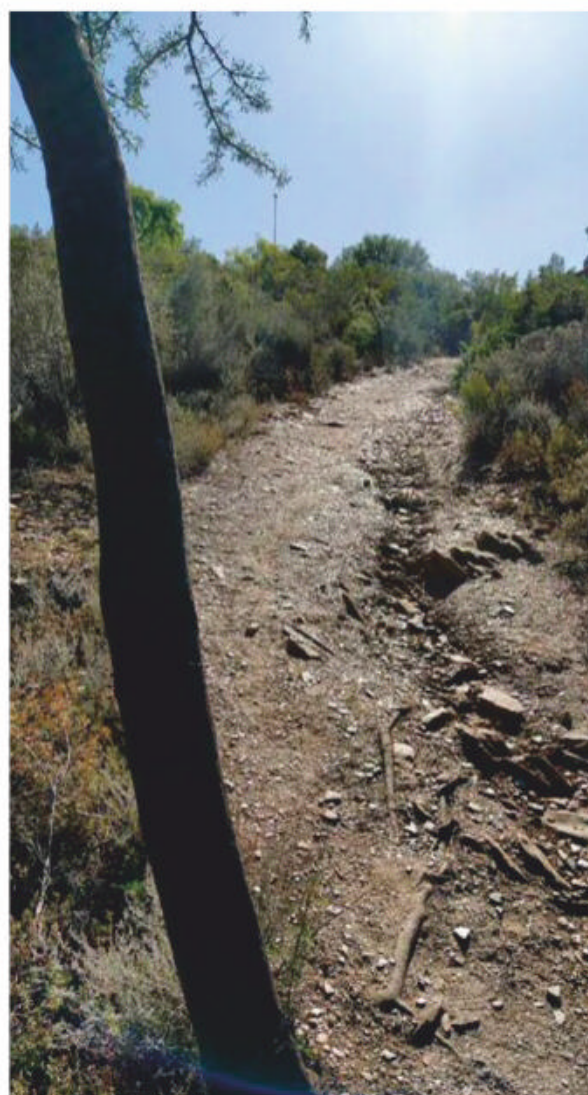
Cool off in the river's natural pools on hot summer days – the river is also a great place for the kids to swim and play. At one swimming hole, there's a foofie slide. It's popular, but getting to it is quite steep and you need to be sure-footed to reach it. Speaking of feet: remember your boots if you enjoy hiking. There are many footpaths just waiting to be explored.

IS THERE A RESTAURANT AND SHOP?

The bar by the reception is cosy. The shop doesn't carry a large variety of items, but you can get the essentials, and wood. There's no cellphone reception, but you can pay to use the WiFi at the office.

WERE YOU HAPPY WITH THE ABLUTION FACILITIES?

The ablution blocks aren't luxurious, but they are clean. There are three ablution blocks with amenities for men and women – one with a separate shower and toilet and the other two with a toilet and two showers. You could probably call



them family bathrooms. We showered at different times of the day and nobody ever had to do so in cold water. Just remember to bring your own toilet paper.

WOULD YOU GO BACK?

Absolutely. Eagle Falls is for nature lovers, people who love peace and tranquility, and who don't want to leave their dogs behind. It's also the perfect spot for anyone who wants to escape from technology. ”



Contact

084 943 1614 (WhatsApp only)

eaglefalls.co.za

GPS S33.719967 E22.816629

WIN

Marieta wins a **Camp Cover** Camera bag worth R818.

Check out the superb range of protective covers on their website:

campcover.co.za

CAMP COVER



V8 makes it great

Stuck with a heavy caravan to tow, a lethargic engine and long gearing, **Jan Ebersohn** from Somerset West came up with a powertrain solution for his Toyota Land Cruiser.

“In 1985 I was getting quite fed up with my **1983 Toyota Land Cruiser 60 Series** station wagon. Apart from the fact that it was an excellent vehicle overall, it was simply not up to the task of towing my **1984 Jurgens Gazelle**, which tipped the scales at **1 850 kg**.

The 2F was a carburetted version of Toyota's 4,2 l six-cylinder engine, and back then it produced only **100 kW** and **270 Nm** of torque – figures not nearly enough considering the combined towing mass. Then there was

the issue around gearing on the four-speed manual gear box. In normal daily driving, this wasn't a big issue, but the ratios, particularly between second and third were so long that you had to say a prayer **to keep your momentum going**.

If you downshifted to second gear too enthusiastically, the revs on the tachometer would hover perilously in the red. You almost had to come to a complete stop in third before you could safely drop a cog.

I then sourced a petrol **5,7 l V8 engine**

from a **Ford Fairmont GT**, which was a tremendous boost from what the Land Cruiser was packing, with **224 kW** and **515 Nm**. I took this donor motor and the stock Toyota transmission to an engineering firm in Pretoria – who had to make a custom plate to fit between the bell housing and Toyota gearbox. But otherwise the motor dropped in easily with **plenty of space to spare**.

I had to get innovative because there was quite a huge gap between the engine's fan and the radiator, but nothing that required too



“

If you downshifted too quickly to second gear, the revs would hang perilously in the red

”

much head scratching, and the cooling system ended up being efficient.

The newfound torque made the laborious process of shifting a non-issue, and I **seldom required downshifting to third from fourth** because of the abundance of torque. I had a **Fairey overdrive** fitted to the drivetrain as well, for **better torque distribution**. For the first time ever I now had sixteen forward ratios – eight for regular driving and eight in low range.

Even the Land Cruiser's fuel consumption

improved despite the Ford motor's larger displacement and higher outputs. The tank-to-tank average dropped from **25 ℓ/100 km to 20 ℓ/100 km**, if memory serves, but to ask an enthusiast about his fuel consumption is like asking how big the fish was that got away – the longer ago that it happened the bigger the fish gets.



Show us your wheels

Send an email to drivecamp@gomag.co.za and tell us about what's in your garage. 📧

Fish at the coast

At Agulhas, where the mighty Atlantic and Indian Oceans meet, you can camp close to the beach and enjoy plenty of fishing nearby.



L'AGULHAS CARAVAN PARK DEEP SOUTH

The L'Agulhas Caravan Park is the southernmost campsite on the continent. It is a rectangular piece of land laid out next to the main street of the village. Lengthwise, it is half the size of a rugby field, with a slight slope on the sea side. And just like a rugby field, there is no shade.

Here you camp among the residents' houses, in a fenced-off campsite with only a knee-high picket fence and a row of houses between you and the sea.

In the camping section you will see two rows of white poles about 18 m apart. The tap for your site is next to one pole and the power supply with its four blue caravan socket is at the opposite pole. The number of your stand is on the power box and the refuse bin is next to it.

The sites are not clearly marked but if you look at the darker lines on the grass, you will get an idea of where your spot is.

The campsite is illuminated by what looks like streetlights. They provide sufficient light without blinding you or being intrusive. The bright beam of the lighthouse also sweeps across the campsite at regular intervals.

On the right-hand side of the campsite, between the chalets, are two ablution



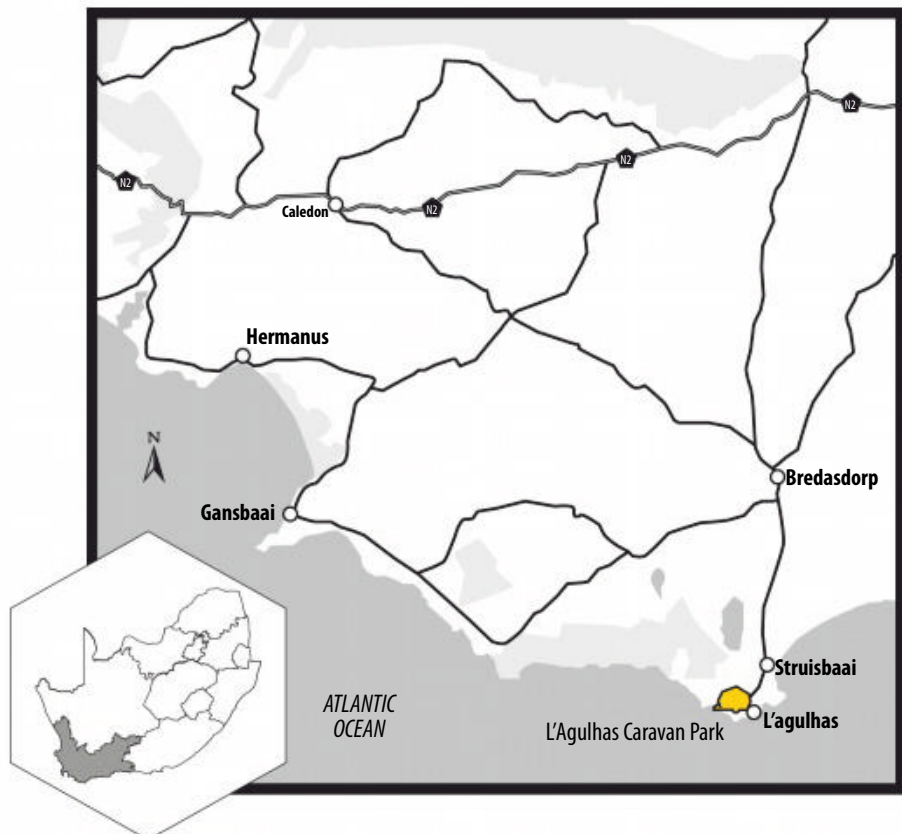
blocks with showers and toilets, but the actual bathrooms are housed in the square building. To the right of that building is the outside sink for cleaning fish, and next to it are deep concrete troughs for washing clothes. In the middle of the building, between the men's and women's bathrooms, you will find a scullery.

The sea is a mere 100 m stroll from the campsite. Turn right out the gate and

walk down Skool Street. There are two tidal pools down at the beach as well as a pleasant lawn where you can spread out your towel.

If you don't mind driving a bit, take the dirt road past the lighthouse. Die Punt is 2,8 km from the campsite and there you might hook white musselcracker, yellowtail, galjoen and copper shark close to shore.





In short | L'Agulhas Caravan Park



Fishing White musselcracker, yellowtail, galjoen and copper shark, among others.

Campsite 40 level stands on lush green grass; no shade.

Ablution facilities Clean but old.

Price R225-R300 per stand for up to 6 people. Prices increase in July.

Arrival and departure 13:00 and 11:00.

Contact 028 435 6015

capeagulhas.org/resorts

lagulhas@capeagulhas.gov.za

Closest town In Agulhas.

Road condition Tarred to the resort.

GPS S34.826146 E20.012741

Drive & Camp says Don't forget your angling permit. The nearest post office is in Struisbaai if yours has expired.



PICKLED FISH

It's worth the wait

Almost all fish tastes good pickled. And it keeps for at least a week in the fridge.

You will need

(serves 6)

- 1 tablespoon Cape Malay curry powder
- 1 kg fish fillets (we used dorado, but yellowtail or hake will also work well)
- 4 tablespoons olive oil

FOR THE PICKLE

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 4 large onions, sliced into rings
- 4 garlic cloves, chopped
- 2 tablespoons mild curry powder
- 1 tablespoon cumin seeds
- 1 tablespoon turmeric
- a pinch of chilli powder
- ½ teaspoon coriander seeds, crushed

- 2 cm ginger root, grated
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 4 bay leaves
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons marmalade
- 3 cups red-wine vinegar
- 1 cup water
- 2-3 lemons
- 2 tablespoons preserved lemon peel, chopped (optional)

To make

1 Sprinkle the curry powder over the fish, heat the oil in a large pan and fry the fillets in batches until just cooked. Remove the fish from the pan and arrange in a shallow dish that will fit in the fridge. (Take off the skin if there are fussy children in the house.)

2 Make the pickle. Heat the oil in a pan and brown the onion, garlic and spices until soft

and fragrant. Add the sugar, marmalade, vinegar and water, then simmer for 20 minutes.

3 Season the pickle with salt and pepper and stir in the grated zest of the lemons plus the juice of one lemon. Taste and add more lemon juice if you prefer.

4 Pour the pickle over the fish. The fish can be served hot, but it really comes into its own after two to three days in the fridge.

Drive & Camp says Most supermarkets stock a dried spice mix for pickled fish that can be used instead of the spices in the pickle recipe – just add curry.

Recipe and styling Aletta Lintvelt Photo Willem Lourens

FISHING GEAR

Eight-in-one line

Fishing line is not just fishing line. Most of us are familiar with the thin, transparent line, but you can also use braided line. Compared with conventional line made from nylon, braided line is woven from various fibrous threads to form the line.

Braided line has a number of unique features that make it popular among anglers. For one, it doesn't stretch. And you'll know as soon as the fish touches your line. It therefore makes sense that braided line ensures a better hook set.

What is more, braided line floats, making it ideal for top water fishing.

For all the pros of this line, what are the cons? Braided line is more expensive per metre than standard fishing line. It is also more visible to fish, and because it is not as elastic as other line, the hook can rip out of soft-mouthed fish like carp more easily.

If you'd like to give braided line a try, why not put Allux Titanium line, imported by Adrenalin, to the test? This braided line has no fewer than eight braided fibres. It is available in reels of 100 m, 275 m and 600 m and has a breaking strain of 10-106 lb.

Price From R150 for 100 m (from R650 for 600 m).

Contact Adrenalin Importers & Distributors (importers) 021 982 1510

catches@4adrenalin.co.za

adrenalinfishing.co.za



Make that a double

The new Ford Everest has the same 2.0 Bi-Turbo engine and 10-speed gearbox as the Ranger Raptor, but does the Everest's bite match its bark?

Words and photos **Cyril Klopper**

FORD EVEREST 2.0 XLT



BLOWER POWER The engine bay resembles a bowl of spaghetti. Hoses, pipes and cables snake throughout the cavity and it's only the plastic engine cover that provides a hint that there's an engine somewhere in there.



The latest Ford Everest not only gets a new engine, but also the same 10-speed gearbox as the Ranger Raptor, a new anti-sway bar to counteract body roll, and more electronic aids to keep you safe.

The bark

It may be difficult to believe, but the new 2.2 Bi-Turbo diesel engine delivers more power and torque than Ford's older 3.2 TDCi engine. It kicks out a whopping 157 kW and 500 Nm compared to the 3.2 engine's 147 kW and 470 Nm, all thanks to twin turbochargers.

The layout consists of a small high-pressure turbo connected in series to a larger low-pressure turbo. Airflow to the two turbochargers is controlled with valves that open and close depending on engine speed. At lower engine speeds, the two turbos work in tandem, which increases torque, but once you accelerate, and the revs increase, the high-pressure turbo is bypassed and the larger low-pressure turbo then works alone to maintain performance.

You'd think a pipe could pop or a manifold crack because of the heat emitted by the turbochargers that almost never stop spinning, but Ford denies it's a risk. According to the company, the material the turbochargers are made of can withstand temperatures of up to 850 °C, their bearings are liquid cooled to ensure reliability, and the turbine belt is permanently immersed in oil to eliminate wear and tear. Ford also proudly claims that the turbos require zero maintenance – and that they will last as long as the engine itself.

Specs can baffle brains, and so we got hold of an older Everest 2.2 XLS to compare the new tech of the Bi-Turbo XLT to the old. Driving them back-to-back on country roads and in city traffic, it was difficult to feel the difference between the two SUVs, despite the fact that the older 2.2 engine has significantly less power and torque. Of course, on highways, the Bi-Turbo diesel engine outperformed the older 2.2 by a country mile, but it was still no rocketship. This came as something of a disappointment to us, because the new WildTrak bakkie with the same Bi-Turbo engine is a veritable beast compared to its own predecessor.

The bite

The 10-speed automatic transmission has apparently been tested in conditions that simulate a distance of six million kilometres. Ford says the 10-speed architecture reduces

the gaps between the gears and therefore delivers faster, smoother changes.

New software and electronics were created to engage the right gear at the right time. The aim was to rapidly perform gear changes to suit the changing road conditions, so that the right gear could be selected to deliver maximum performance and lower fuel consumption.

While they were successful in creating swift gear changes, the downside is that the gearbox sometimes hunts around for the appropriate gear.

To tame the fickle gearbox, you can use Ford's Progressive Range Select (PRS) by pressing a minus button on the gear lever when in Drive mode. All available gears are then displayed on the instrument screen, and when you press the minus button again, the gearbox engages your chosen gear. You

can unlock the gearbox by pressing the plus button. You can also switch to Sport mode and juggle the gears up and down with the gear lever.

The ride

The front suspension of the new Ford Everest has been modified to improve ride quality without impacting the respectable 3 100 kg towing capacity.

The front stabiliser, previously placed in front of the axle, has now been moved to behind the axle. This simple modification makes the Everest's suspension stiffer, allowing a reduction in spring rates. The softer coils, together with the stiffer stabiliser bar provide a comfortable and pliant ride without compromising road-holding ability.

The jounce bumper that softens the blow when the suspension is fully compressed by

potholes, have also been moved from the lower control arm to the damper rod at the top of the suspension.

A further result of all the changes to the suspension system is that you can now lower the tyre pressure to 210 kPa (previously 240 kPa), which makes the ride plusher still.

Conclusion

The new Everest's ride quality is more comfortable than ever before, and for that reason alone it is an improvement on its predecessor. However, we aren't won over by the 2.0 Bi-Turbo diesel. This same engine works brilliantly in the new Ranger bakkie, but in the Everest's heavier body it feels like it's being held back. And despite Ford's assurances, we have our concerns about the reliability of this souped-up engine. We hope we're proven wrong.



BUTTON UP
The interior is functional and sensible but hardly thrilling. When it was first launched, the Everest was inspired by a G-shock watch – that inspiration has since faded.





SPECIFICATIONS

Model	2.0 BiTurbo XLT 4x4
Engine	1 996 cc, four-cylinder bi-turbo diesel
Power	157 kW @ 3 750 rpm
Torque	500 Nm @ 1 500 rpm
Transmission	10-speed automatic
Fuel consumption	7,6 l/100 km
Weight	3 100 kg
Approach and departure angles	29 ° and 25 °
Towing capacity	3 100 kg
Ground clearance	225 mm
Wading depth	800 mm
Warranty	4 years/120 000 km
Service plan	6 years/90 000 km
Safety rating	★★★★★ (ANCAP, 2015)

PRICE..... R701 500



COMPETITORS Bakkie-based SUVs



R671 000 **Isuzu Mu-X 3.0 4x4**
 Legendary reliability, but old-school technology.



R573 200 **Toyota Fortuner 2.4 GD6 4x4**
 Fewer gadgets, equally competent, and more popular.



R639 995 **Mitsubishi Pajero Sport 2.4 D4**
 Excellent off-road capability, and yet no one buys it. 🚗



We have our concerns about the reliability of this souped-up engine. We hope we're proven wrong



All hail the Amarok



VOLKSWAGEN AMAROK CANYON

Volkswagen's Amarok is a leader of the pack among double cab bakkies. The Canyon with its V6 engine is no different.

Words and photos **Leon Botha**



When Volkswagen introduced its 3 ℓ V6 bakkie three years ago, the carmaker had already made a name for itself in the double cab segment with its 2 ℓ bakkies. At the time, the 3 ℓ V6 diesel engine was one of the most powerful in South Africa and produced a whopping 550 Nm.

Back then there were three V6 models to choose from. Now there is a fourth, which is the equivalent of the 2 ℓ series' Dark Label: the Canyon.

What's changed?

The most obvious difference is the colour. Volkswagen calls it "Honey Orange", and the colour is used exclusively for the Canyon. There are a few more

cosmetic differences, such as orange stitching on the seats, steering wheel and even along the edges of the safety belts, but the biggest difference is found underneath the load bin: stand next to the back wheel and you will see that the Canyon doesn't have three leaf springs stacked on one another but five. (Although these heavy duty leaf springs are nothing new, they are an optional extra on the other V6 models that cost an additional R1 211.)

As far as the Canyon goes, the extra springs do affect its standard specifications. The other three models' gross vehicle mass (GVM) is fixed at 2 920 kg but the Canyon's four extra springs mean that its maximum weight is 3 080 kg. The Canyon

EXTROVERTED EXTERIOR With its bright orange hue, and contrasting black finishes to the roll bar, side steps and over-fenders, the Amarok Canyon will get you noticed.



“

Nonetheless, these objections are soon forgotten when considering the powerful engine and its towing ability

”



can therefore carry a weight of 160 kg more than the others. Yet Volkswagen puts all four models' gross combination mass (GCM) at 6 000 kg. That said, the 6 000 kg specified on paper doesn't correspond with the GCM indicated on the specification plate inside the Canyon's door: 5 550 kg. This puts the Canyon's combination mass at 610 kg below that of its brothers.

What's more, Volkswagen states that the other V6 models

can tow 3 500 kg and that the Canyon can handle 3 300 kg – altogether 200 kg less. (This, of course, applies to a caravan with overrun brakes.) All four models have a maximum nose weight of 130 kg.

Even though the suspension affects its total towing weight, it makes no difference to the size of a caravan (with overrun brakes) referring to the GVM.

That's because, in terms of South African legislation, a vehicle's maximum towing

weight is based on its tare weight. Therefore the Canyon may tow a caravan with a GVM of 2 070 kg (1 960 kg according to the licence disc) against the 2 053 kg of the others.

The difference between the two numbers probably can be attributed to the actual weight of the four additional leaf springs: 17 kg. But there are few caravans on our roads with a GVM in excess of 2 000 kg, which means that the Canyon (and the other models) will

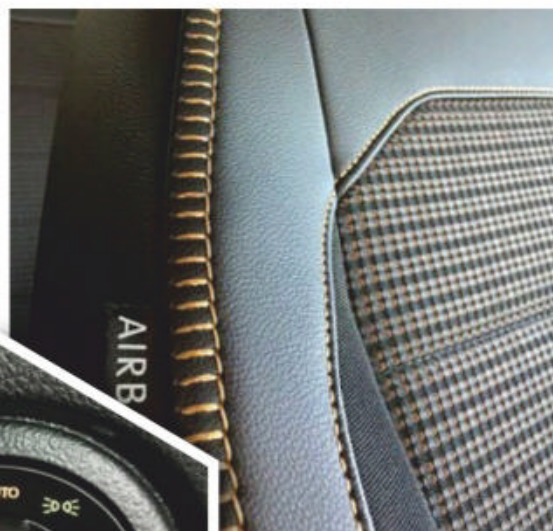
be able to tow most models available in the country.

The towbar is made by Westfalia and has a load index – a D value – of 15,7 kN (1 601 kg) while the vertical weight on the ball is capped at 140 kg.

The Canyon comes standard with front and rear parking sensors as well as a reverse camera. This also applies to the two more expensive models but are optional in the cheapest – the Highline – costing an additional R5 750.



BRACED FOR MORE BALANCE Apart from some cosmetic details, the major mechanical difference between the Canyon and its siblings in the Amarok model range is the use of five leaf springs at each rear wheel, instead of three. The Westfalia towbar can handle a maximum vertical weight of 140 kg.



OLDER, BUT STILL LOVELY The Canyon gets attractive orange detailing on the seats, steering wheels and on the safety belts. The fascia is starting to date when compared with more modern rivals, but the Amarok cabin is nonetheless still comfortable on a long drive.



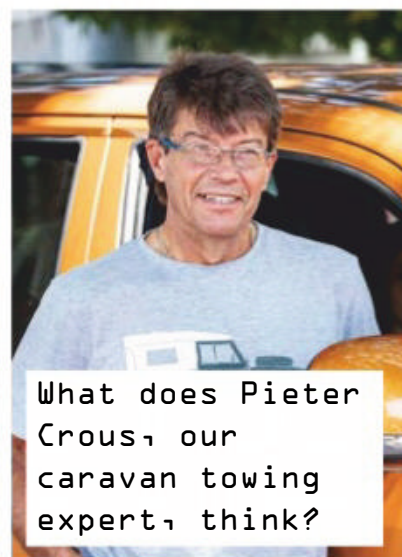
Simple and strong

No one will deny that R800 000 is a hefty price tag for a bakkie but you know that you will get both comfort and more than enough power to tow a caravan. That said, it lacks a few luxuries you'd expect when paying this much, such as a remote control key and electrically adjustable front seats.

And although the rearview screen comes in handy when reversing, it is smaller than

those found in new cars. In fact, the centre console – where it is housed – is pretty much the same as those found in the original V6 models. The same goes for the instrument panel with its analogue displays. Even the buttons on the steering wheel looks the same.

Nonetheless, these objections are soon forgotten when considering the powerful engine and its towing ability. The engine delivers more than the



What does Pieter Crous, our caravan towing expert, think?

“ I agree: at this price you expect more electronics – even the hand brake is old-school. Fortunately I prefer it that way so it didn't bother me.

There is a large, flat shelf in the middle of the dashboard that holds loose items. This is handy and other manufacturers should take note. At the same time, there is little storage space in the doors, especially for a bakkie.

The comfortable seats are upholstered with fabric, which I prefer. You can settle in behind the wheel, sit back and tow for long distances.

The recognisable hum of the V6 under the hood gives a taste of what's to come.

Although the Canyon's suspension is harder, thanks to the extra springs, it isn't an uncomfortable drive. Going around relatively sharp bends at 80 km/h, I couldn't detect any body roll. Having five springs a side definitely makes a difference.

When towing through dips, you can sometimes feel a caravan pivot, which can be disturbing. I did not experience this phenomenon with the Canyon.

Naturally the V6 is powerful enough to tow, but you still feel the 1,3 t caravan behind you. Even so, the Canyon tows effortlessly and you only have to touch the accelerator for an instant reaction.

Lastly, its fuel consumption is better than expected for a turbo-charged 3 l engine. I would have guessed close to 16,7 l/100 km (6 km/l) and was surprised by the 13,3 l/100 km (7,5 km/l).



TOW TEST



promised 550 Nm thanks to its overboost function.

Although this function is deactivated when you tow, it comes in handy when overtaking. Once it kicks in, the torque shoots up to 580 Nm and the power climbs from 165 to 180 kW. The overboost cannot be activated manually; the engine's computer system decides when it is necessary.

Firstly, the accelerator has to be pushed in about three quarters of the way with your speed between 50 and 120 km/h. When the computer has decided that it's time to perform, the boost will last for 10 seconds. It will repeat this power injection, but only five seconds after the first boost has ended.

When we performed a tow

test back in 2017, the V6 went from 80-120 km/h in 11,05 seconds when towing an Armadillo off-road caravan weighing 1 060 kg in Drive mode. In Sport mode, it reached 120 km/h in 8,9 seconds, with the Armadillo in tow.

The Canyon needed a fraction more than 11 seconds in both modes. In its defence, the caravan was a third heavier (1,3 t) and the wind of 23 km/h was about twice as strong.

With the lighter caravan, we used 12,5 l/100 km (8,0 km/l), while the Canyon towing the heavier Xplorer used 13,3 l/100 km (7,5 km/l). This is understandable when considering the weight of the caravan and the wind speed on the day the test was performed.



The caravan

Make Jurgens Safari

Model Xplorer

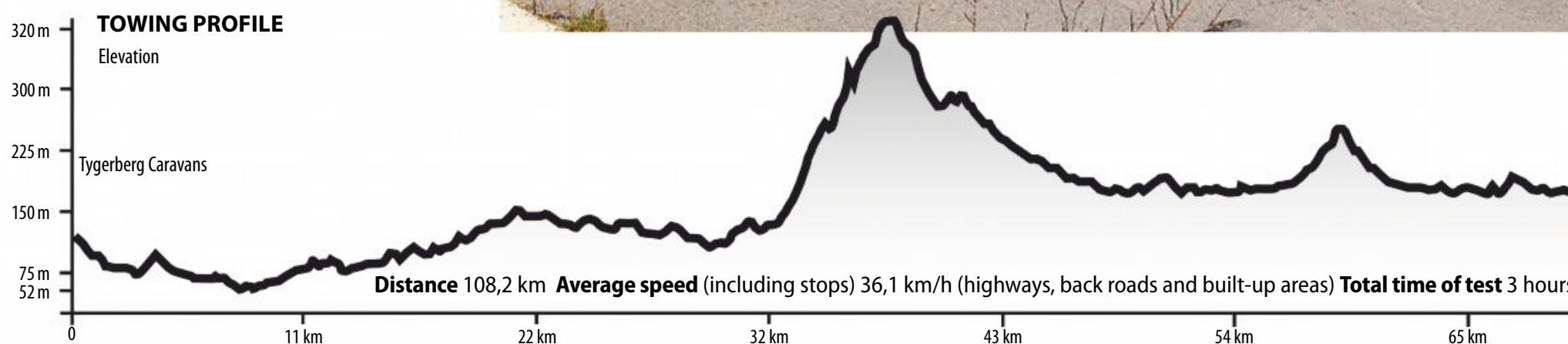
Year 2020

GVM 1 650 kg

Loaded weight on the axle during test
1 300 kg

Drive & Camp borrowed the new Jurgens Xplorer from Tygerberg Caravans. Call Wesley Dempster on 021 982 4670 to view the Xplorer.

tygerbergcaravans.co.za





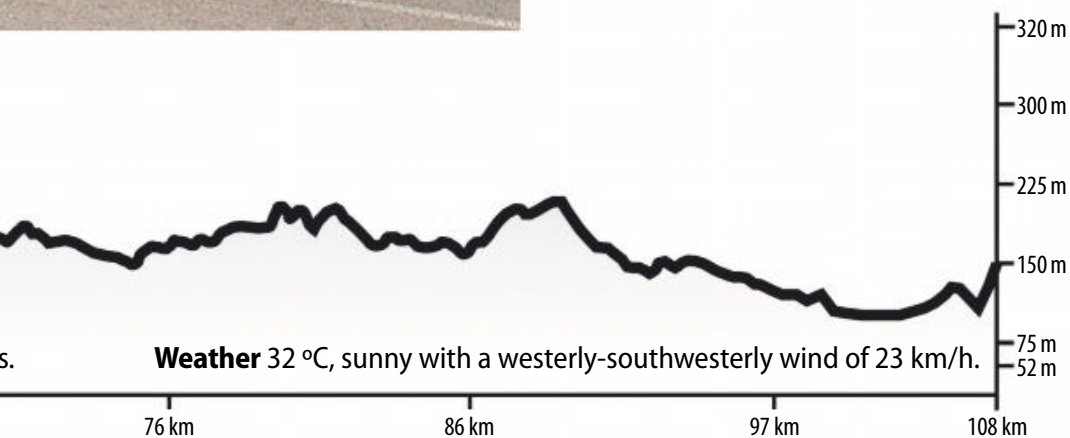
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Drive & Camp says When the Canyon has a caravan attached and the alarm is activated, it will sound up as soon as you unplug the light cable, except when the caravan has LEDs.

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GERMAN BRAUN The turbodiesel V6 engine and clever electronics allow the driver to access an overboost function that frees up an additional 15 kW and 30 Nm – but for a total of 10 seconds only. Unfortunately, this function is deactivated when you're towing.



Competitors (special editions)



R728 800

Toyota Hilux GR-S

450 Nm



R785 000

Isuzu Arctic AT35

380 Nm



R669 800

Nissan Navara Stealth

450 Nm

SPECIFICATIONS

Model	VW Amarok Canyon
Engine	V6 turbodiesel
Power.....	165 kW @ 3 000-4 500 rpm
Torque	550 Nm @ 1 400-2 750 rpm
Gearbox.....	8-speed automatic
Drivetrain	Permanent 4x4 with diff lock
Tank.....	80 l
Fuel consumption with caravan.....	13,3 l/100 km (7,5 km/l)
Reach with caravan.....	600 km
Tare weight.....	1 960 kg*
Weight during test (including nose weight of caravan)	2 480 kg
GVM.....	3 080 kg
GCM	5 550 kg**
Combination weight during test	3 780 kg
Towing capacity	3 300 kg
Towbars's load index (D-value)	15,7 kN (1 601 kg)
Towbars' maximum vertical weight	140 kg
Detachable towbar?	No
Room for a drop plate?	No
PRICE	R799 000 🚗

* According to licence disc and ** specification plate.

Quadruple the pleasure

It is light and spacious, is made mainly from fibreglass and has two large beds. We tested the Invader Quattro.

Words and photos **Leon Botha**



INVADER QUATTRO

Invader's trailers are somewhat unique: they are neither caravan nor off-road trailer. Instead, they're a little of both.

There are two models to choose from: the Duo and the Quattro. As their names indicate, one is for two people and the other for four. At first glance, they look the same but the Duo's roof – that pops up from the body – has a bed that slides out to the front. The Quattro's two beds fold out from the lid and are designed in such a way that you don't have to climb up a ladder to reach them.

Invader uses fibreglass for the body and stainless steel for the hinges. Except for the chassis, which is galvanised, everything else is made from aluminium. As a result, the trailer is impervious to rust and wood rot.

We towed the Quattro during our last holiday and after a 3 000 km trip from the Cape to the Kalahari we didn't want to give it back. Despite a high of 42 °C on some days, a terrible sandstorm and a rather terrifying thunderstorm or two, this trailer proved its mettle.



Two for the price of one

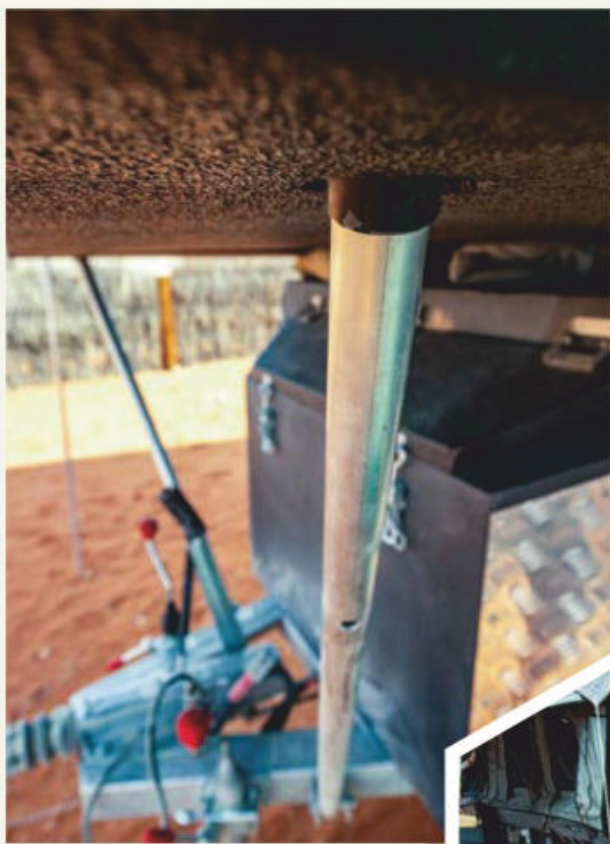
Start by dropping the two rear corner steadies, then walk to the nose. Directly across from the jockey wheel, is a detachable adjustable steady – it resembles a jockey wheel, but instead of a wheel, this has a flat foot.

The Invader opens up like a double shell. The two lids on top of the body flip open toward the front and the rear respectively.

First lift the one that's on the same side as the A-frame, because it fits over a lip on the other lid when closed. This doubles as a security mechanism. Should the lid's clips open while driving, the back lid won't get caught in the wind and fly open.

The lids have two gas struts apiece, which makes them easier





to open, especially when doing it by yourself. Be warned, though. When it's windy, you will battle if you're on your own and it would be best to have a camping buddy lend a hand.

The front lid is about a third longer than the one at the back. When opened, there is a bed in each. The bigger bed is at the front and is almost the size of a double bed (128 x 180 cm) while the smaller one at the back is the equivalent of narrow threequarter bed (98 x 180 cm). Both fit across the width of the Invader. This isn't a problem, although beanpoles would have to lie at a bit of an angle. The one sleeping on the far side of

both beds has to clamber over their sleeping partners if they want to get up at the crack of dawn or go out during the night.

Both beds are supported by two struts, which fold out from the sides of the body.

The tent is attached to the inside frame of the beds and to the body where the lid has folded out. After you've opened everything up, the canvas will be open, ready to be stretched. Climb into the Quattro and push the canvas up and away from you so that you can stand in the middle of the floor. Lift up the U-frame where you are – gas struts will help – to support the roof. By the nearest



corner of each bed is another U-frame that stretches the canvas above you while lying on the bed. A final U-frame at the end of the bed lifts up to form the front and back of the roof.

Fit one of the four length-adjustable poles between each of the U-frame poles and remember to get out before tightening them to stretch the roof. There is an anchor point with a rope on each corner. Once all four corners are secure, tighten the adjustable poles. This creates two forces in tandem that work to stiffen the tent: the anchor ropes and the adjustable poles.

The rally tent is made of canvas and is supported by three poles. The one in the middle can be adjusted to create a ridge.

There is a similar canopy on the opposite side. Although smaller, it is big enough to cast shade – which was much appreciated.



Three-door kitchen

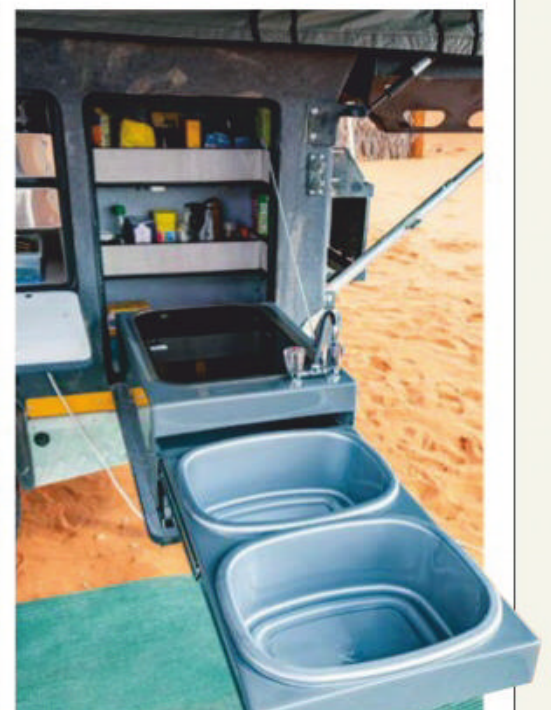
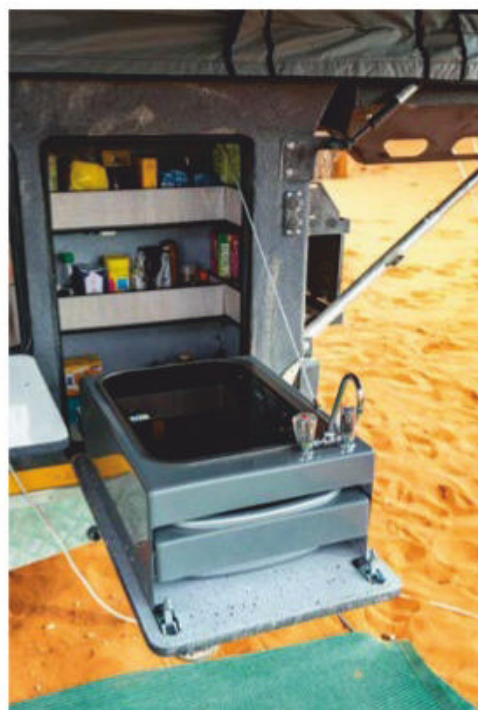
The Invader's kitchen is unique, especially the stove. The Invader has three doors next to the entrance – one in front of the door and two behind it. The door covering the stove is farthest from the entrance (to the far right) and opens towards you like a trapdoor with the stove mounted across the width. The stove is high enough above the trapdoor that a shelf with two plastic wash bowls slides out from below it. A mixer tap between the closest bowl and the stove means you don't have to find water elsewhere to get water to do the dishes.

The stove cupboard has two shelves on the inside of the body as well as a flat grocery shelf at the bottom.

The cupboard above the wheel also opens towards you to create a work surface with a loose cutting board recessed into it as a bonus. It's a clever feature and easy to clean.

The microwave oven is in the cupboard to the left behind the work surface in the body and has a shelf above it. Two drawers on the right are lined with foam cut-outs. All the crockery fits into them so that they won't break during bumpy travels.

Below the drawers there is an open shelf. The freezer slides out on a frame from the door at the front.



The other side

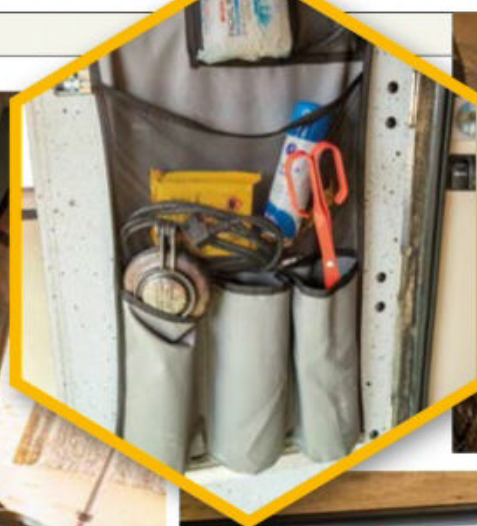
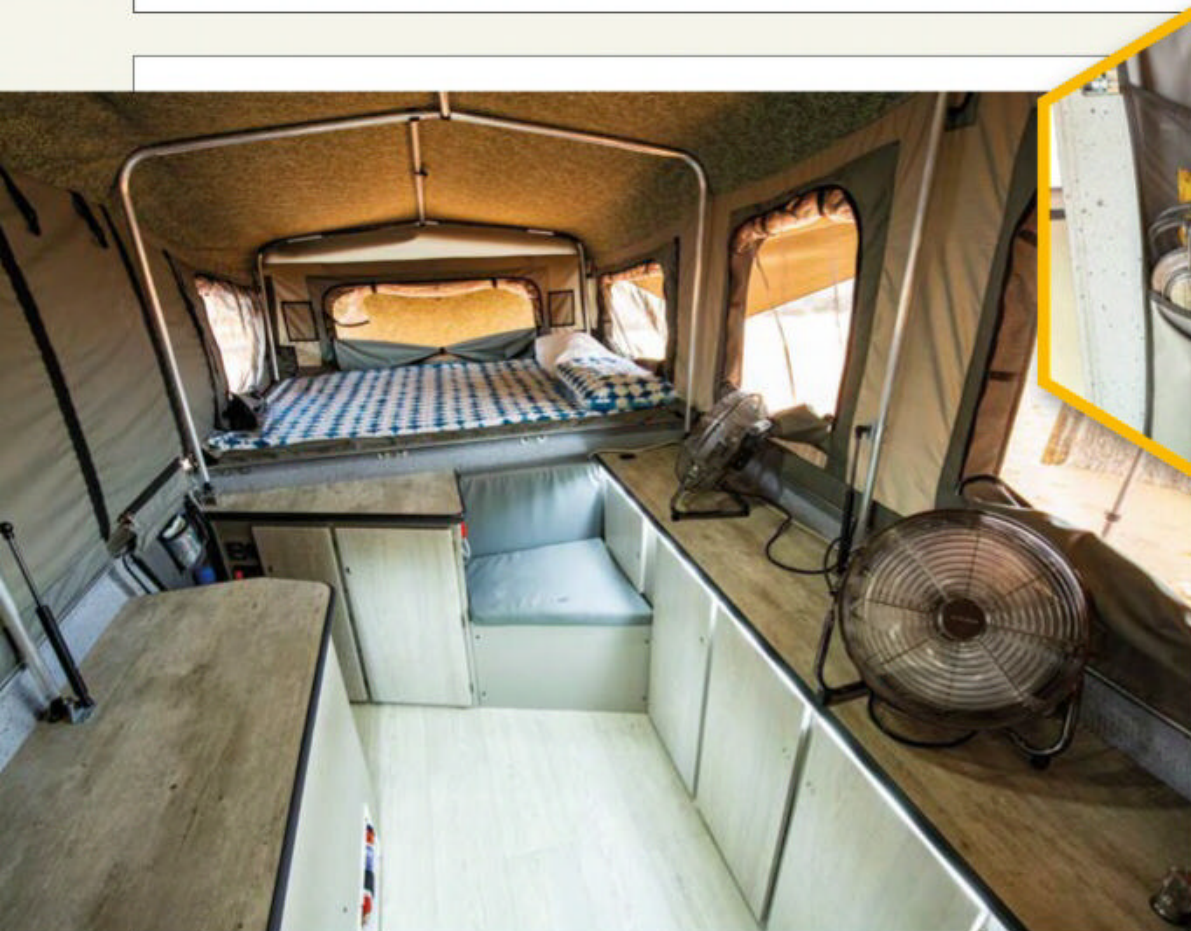
The Invader only has two doors on the right-hand side of the body. The front door opens at the other side of the fridge/freezer and the gas cylinder fits on the left-hand side of the cupboard. There is an open space to the right which can fit items such as a braai grid. Above that is a narrow door for reaching it from the top when the Invader is closed; when it's opened up, this door is blocked by the front bed.

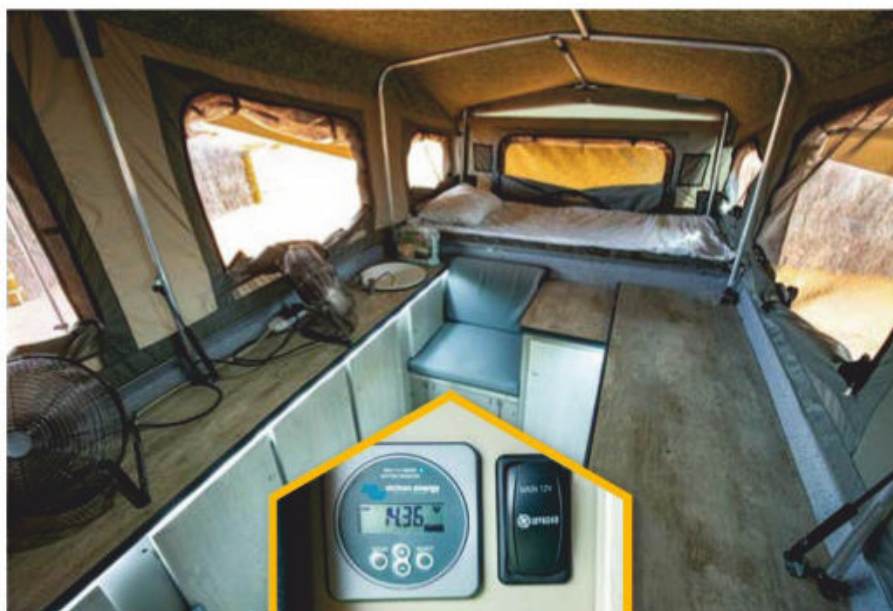
The coupler is graded for 2,7 t and a nose weight of 120 kg.

There is a cupboard next to the wheel and is suited for your toolbox, the groundsheet and tent pegs and ropes. The 105 Ah deep-cycle battery sits at the back of this cupboard. (It has a small door above it that opens from the inside.)

The cap for filling the 100 ℓ water tank, geyser's ventilation flap and showerhead sit close to the back of the trailer. The tank has an extension hose so that you can pitch your own shower tent next to the Invader.

Right at the bottom by the front and rear corners, two small doors swing open to where you store the poles. In the back it's one space, while the front one has a double space. The spare wheel sits at the back with two brackets for jerrycans on either side of it.





The interior

There are a couple of mesh bags hanging on the inside of the door – perfect for your firelighters, jaffle pan and braai tong.

There's a sturdy portable step ladder to help you climb inside (also made of fibreglass).

The screen of the Victron power pack sits to the left where you can, for example, keep an eye on the 12 V power consumption. Or use the Bluetooth connection to keep track with your phone.

Below the screen are the switches for the geyser, the geyser's gas-electricity switch, the water pump and the lights. They're fancy, even boasting the Invader name. Next to them are two cupboards for groceries and a pot or two. (You can easily reach the cabinets from the outside when standing in the door.)

From the door, the double bed is on the left and the threequarter bed on the right. Between the two beds is a spacious open area where three people could comfortably stand. It's also a good storage spot while driving for camping gear that doesn't fit in the tow vehicle – items including camping chairs, an extra dome tent, cooler boxes or a camping table or two.

When you stand at the door, there are also cupboards on the opposite panel, each with shelves. They've got enough

storage for three to four people's clothes. Above

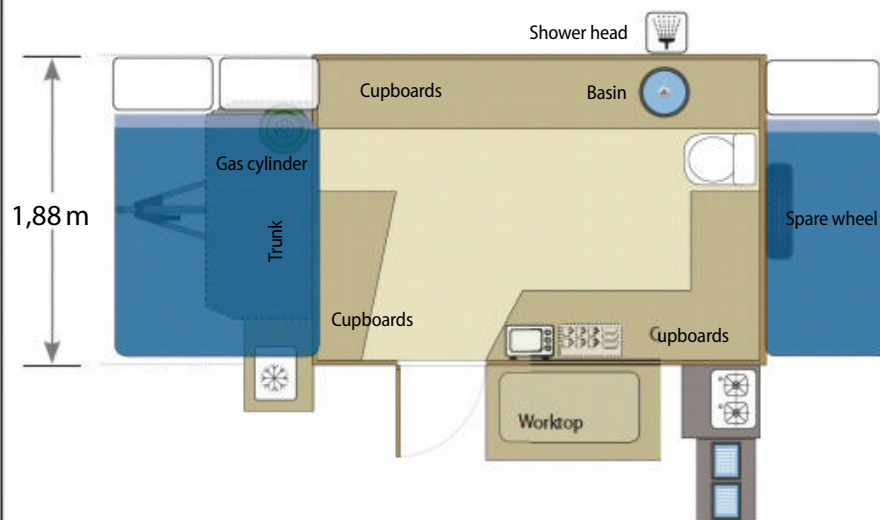
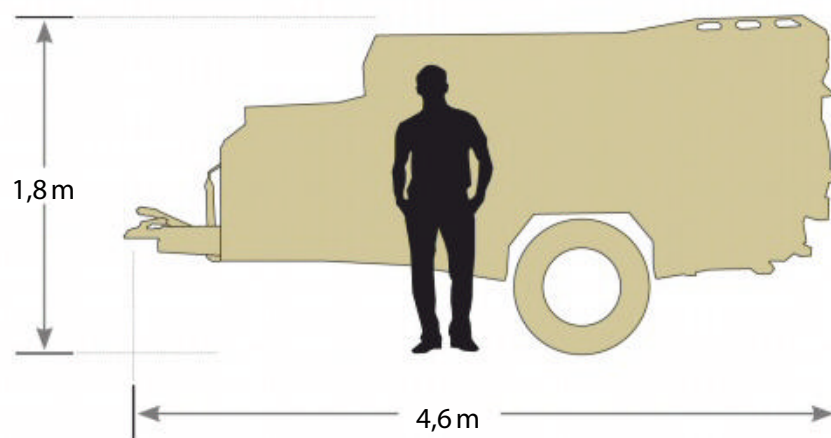
these cupboards runs

a melamine surface, 40 cm wide and at hip-height and another one of 50 cm wide along the panel nearest to you. We placed two fans near each other and there was still plenty of room left over for other items including board games, beach hats and a week's worth of books.

Each bed has a bench next to it. These don't only serve as a step for the bed, but both have another purpose: the one on the left houses the deep-cycle battery, and underneath the other, is the cassette toilet. A vanity basin is sunk into the surface next to the toilet, also with hot and cold water. On the other side of it is a wardrobe.

The tent has windows all around. They have a transparent plastic section that can roll out of the way as well as a canvas flap for when you want privacy. The mesh section is permanent, but it would be even better if that could also zip open fully.

The Invader's LEDs are hidden under the table top and illuminate the floor adequately and they don't shine directly into your eyes. They add to the premium feel. At the top of the middle U-frame is an LED that is quite bright – it works well when you stand inside to raise or lower the canvas.



The technical stuff

Length 4,6 m

Width 1,88 m

Height 1,8 m

Head height inside 2,1 m

Net weight 860 kg

Load capacity 640 kg

GVM 1 500 kg

Wheel size 15"

Axle 1 800 kg

Standard price R297 000



Plus

- The tent section teeming with adjustable poles and anchor ropes works well.
- The removable cutting board is a smart idea.
- There's more interior space than you'd expect.
- The interior mood lighting works beautifully and won't blind you.



Minus

- You sleep crosswise on the bed, which means one sleeper has to climb over the other.
- When the wind blows, it is hard for one person to

deploy the beds.

- The mesh windows can't be zipped open.
- If you're taller than 1,8 m, you won't sleep comfortably unless you're the only one in the bed.

Drive & Camp loaned the Invader Quattro from the manufacturer.

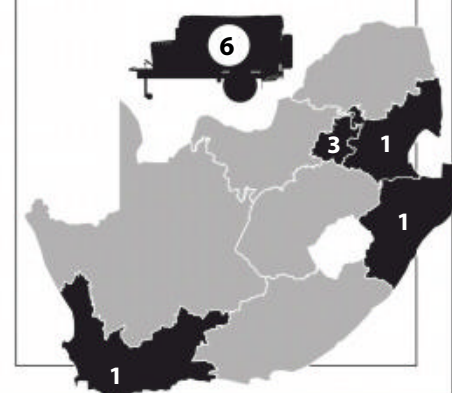
Drive & Camp says For R1 725, you can invest in a travel blanket for when you want to protect the body when towing on gravel roads. 🚗

Dealer network

The head office and factory are in Cape Town; 6 dealers nationwide.

Contact 0861 468 2337

invader.co.za





WHAT WOOD BRAAIS BEST?

We asked readers what their favourite wood is for braais and campfires. These nine got the most votes, so we put them to the test.

Words and photos **Kyle Kock**

Towards the end of 2018 we put some of the most popular bags of briquettes and charcoal to the test. The clincher? How each fared braaiing a steak. But there are wood enthusiasts who'd never go near a bag of the black stuff and so we got our Facebook followers to motivate for their favourite wood

for a new test. We chose the nine most popular varieties, based on likes and comments, and here's what happened.

How we performed the test

Our predecessor title *Drive Out* performed a similar test, so we used that format as a basis for

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We chose nine of the most popular varieties, based on like and comments on Facebook

”

our own. This time, we left the cooking for another time, and took readings of the individual fires with a handheld laser thermometer – at a distance of a metre and a half from the fire.

We used an electronic scale to weigh 5 kg of wood, cutting them more or less to the same size. We also lit them using two 10 x 5 cm pieces of firelighters, and two thin strips of pine kindling.

We formed a tepee shape with each pile and monitored how long it took for every log to burn and how much smoke it produced throughout the test.

The ratings and readings

This may be subjective, but we watched how long it took for every single one of the logs in the pile to burn and considered how long it took for the very last one to burn down to hot coals before we gave it a number from one to 10. Ten being the equivalent of throwing a lit match into petrol and one being more like trying to light ice. The less smoke, the higher our rating.

We also looked at the average heat produced from the time the fire was lit to the time we took the last reading at 90 minutes after coals were formed.



BLACK WATTLE

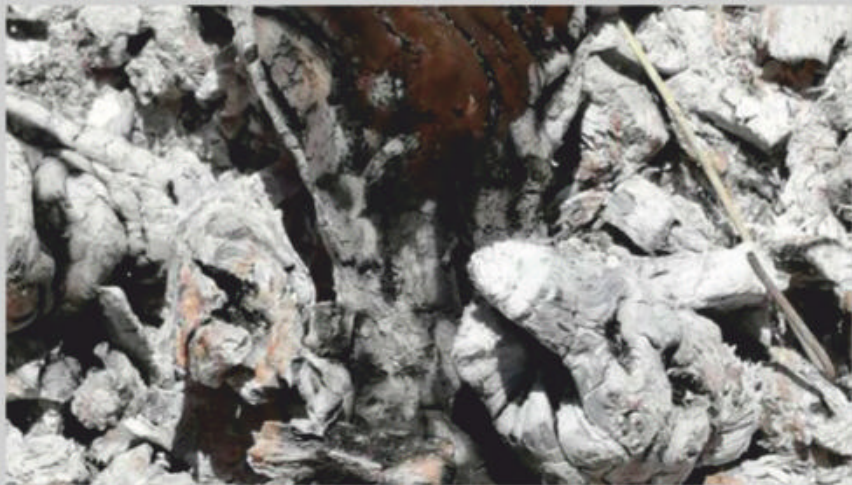
This wood is native to Australasia and considered an invasive species here, so it's commonly available as firewood in southern Africa.

The bark is quite distinctive with pale spots, and the dried wood is light on the inside and

easy to split. It's not the easiest to get going and produces a lot of smoke right up until the last log is reduced to coals.

But it retains heat well and performed at a decent average compared to the other species of wood tested.

Burn rating	5/10
Smoke rating	5/10
Time to coals	62 minutes
Reading 1 (all logs burning).....	670 °C
Reading 2 (coals)	689 °C
Reading 3 (15 minutes after coals).....	665 °C
Reading 4 (30 minutes after coals).....	618 °C
Reading 5 (60 minutes after coals).....	597 °C
Reading 6 (90 minutes after coals).....	562 °C
Average	634 °C.



VINE

These twisty pieces are quite light. So, a 5 kg pile looks like plenty. But you will find that they ignite so easily and burn through so quickly that you'll need a huge pile for a decent fire. Because they light up quickly, the initial temperatures can get quite high, before

dropping off steadily. Our advice would be to be generous with your stack to get the most from it. There's also not too much smoke. Generally, wood that turns to coals in under 30 minutes is considered unsuitable for braaiing, but vine marginally makes the cut.

Burn rating	7/10
Smoke rating	6/10
Time to coals	38 minutes
Reading 1 (all logs burning).....	667 °C
Reading 2 (coals)	784 °C
Reading 3 (15 minutes after coals).....	707 °C
Reading 4 (30 minutes after coals).....	691 °C
Reading 5 (60 minutes after coals).....	647 °C
Reading 6 (90 minutes after coals).....	601 °C
Average	682 °C

PORT JACKSON

This import from Australia wasn't especially liked but got mentioned so much that we threw it in as an underdog.

There's an abundance of this invasive species down in the Cape, so the more braais you can have, the better! If

you're not going to use it for your braai, then perhaps your campfire?

It's not that difficult to ignite, but even the dried wood releases plenty of smoke. A decent average heat retention is offered though.

Burn rating	6/10
Smoke rating	4/10
Time to coals	41 minutes
Reading 1 (all logs burning).....	739 °C
Reading 2 (coals)	735 °C
Reading 3 (15 minutes after coals).....	688 °C
Reading 4 (30 minutes after coals).....	674 °C
Reading 5 (60 minutes after coals).....	633 °C
Reading 6 (90 minutes after coals).....	562 °C
Average	671 °C





ROOIKRANS

Another commonly found invasive species in the Cape, Rooikrans, or red-eyed wattle is (surprise, surprise) also an Aussie – brought in to control the coastal sands, but has since spread out of control. You typically have to let it

dry for a few weeks or even months before you use it.

We could hear that our sample wasn't completely dried, with the tell-tale noise of sap sizzling, but it ran up quite hot and didn't let off too much smoke.

Burn rating	7/10
Smoke rating	6/10
Time to coals	47 minutes
Reading 1 (all logs burning).....	717 °C
Reading 2 (coals)	750 °C
Reading 3 (15 minutes after coals).....	759 °C
Reading 4 (30 minutes after coals).....	676 °C
Reading 5 (60 minutes after coals).....	655 °C
Reading 6 (90 minutes after coals).....	574 °C
Average	688 °C



BLUE GUM

Another foreigner, of Eucalyptus origin. The gum gives off a pleasant aroma and wasn't a bad performer – generally at the upper end of the spectrum looking at

the more commonly used rivals here. It released the least amount of smoke, but we needed to stoke it a little and drop in an additional firelighter to get it burning.

Burn rating	5/10
Smoke rating	7/10
Time to coals	51 minutes
Reading 1 (all logs burning).....	791 °C
Reading 2 (coals)	834 °C
Reading 3 (15 minutes after coals).....	699 °C
Reading 4 (30 minutes after coals).....	640 °C
Reading 5 (60 minutes after coals).....	562 °C
Reading 6 (90 minutes after coals).....	551 °C
Average	679 °C



MOPANE

This was a surprise performer after getting a few favourable mentions on social media. It's not easy to split, and is hardy against pests like termites, so for that reason it's also quite popular as flooring.

Fortunately, our bag was made up of a mix of small and large pieces. It lit easily considering the thickness of some of the pieces, but its major boon was its heat retention throughout our test.

Burn rating	6/10
Smoke rating	6/10
Time to coals	108 minutes
Reading 1 (all logs burning).....	741 °C
Reading 2 (coals)	734 °C
Reading 3 (15 minutes after coals).....	695 °C
Reading 4 (30 minutes after coals).....	681 °C
Reading 5 (60 minutes after coals).....	676 °C
Reading 6 (90 minutes after coals).....	628 °C
Average	692 °C



MYRTLE

The myrtle lights quickly because of its bark that flakes into thin dry strips, but then starts to smoke heavily up until the last log is burned through. The wood is also

quite light, so it tends to burn out rather quickly, so a bigger pile is definitely necessary if you want to cook a lot of food, or if you want a decent campfire.

Burn rating	8/10
Smoke rating	4/10
Time to coals	40 minutes
Reading 1 (all logs burning).....	778 °C
Reading 2 (coals)	709 °C
Reading 3 (15 minutes after coals).....	652 °C
Reading 4 (30 minutes after coals).....	631 °C
Reading 5 (60 minutes after coals).....	588 °C
Reading 6 (90 minutes after coals).....	506 °C
Average	644 °C

SEKELBOS

This wood came as a strong favourite for this test, since it won the shootout that our predecessor performed and was spoken of quite favourably on social media.

It's fairly easy to light, and releases a pleasant smell, but what it really has in its favour

is that it releases little smoke and retains heat the best of this lot.

Small wonder it came out tops before. It's not native this far south on the continent, but it's a great wood, so we benefit from these being cleared in the bush.

Burn rating	6/10
Smoke rating	7/10
Time to coals	42 minutes
Reading 1 (all logs burning).....	787 °C
Reading 2 (coals)	768 °C
Reading 3 (15 minutes after coals).....	722 °C
Reading 4 (30 minutes after coals).....	676 °C
Reading 5 (60 minutes after coals).....	613 °C
Reading 6 (90 minutes after coals).....	607 °C
Average	695 °C



KAMEELDORING

Available widely throughout Southern Africa, kameeldoring is a popular choice.

Our pile required major assistance to get it going, but once lit there's very little you need to do besides throw on a log every now and then to

keep it going. The firewood is generally dry, but if you've got a pile of thicker pieces then it's going to require some extra effort into your swing to chop them down to a size that's more manageable for braaiing.

Burn rating	5/10
Smoke rating	6/10
Time to coals	65 minutes
Reading 1 (all logs burning).....	767 °C
Reading 2 (coals)	709 °C
Reading 3 (15 minutes after coals).....	681 °C
Reading 4 (30 minutes after coals).....	618 °C
Reading 5 (60 minutes after coals).....	602 °C
Reading 6 (90 minutes after coals).....	583 °C
Average	660 °C

Detailed decal directions



ZA stickers, warning triangles and T-signs... Where do you stick which sticker if you want to stick to the rules?

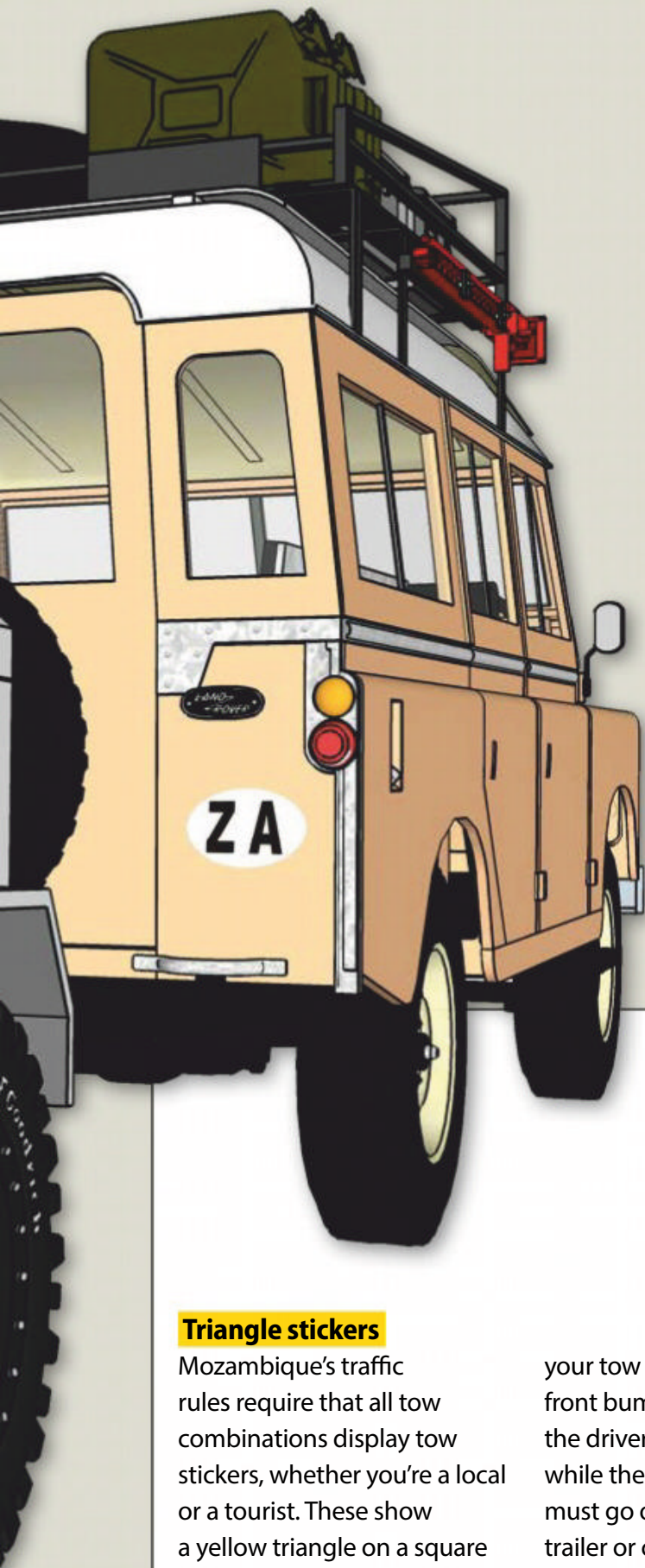
Words and illustrations **Cyril Kloppe**

We regularly hear of motorists being fined in neighbouring countries, such as Mozambique, for not displaying the correct warning stickers on their trailer or for having the stickers applied in the wrong position.

When you buy a set of stickers, there are no instructions on where the stickers should go. And when you look at the queue at a border post, there appears

to be no consensus on sticker placement even though actual rules exist.

We checked with an AA travel shop and also carefully perused the National Motor Vehicle Regulations (MVR) – and focused in particular on Road Traffic Act 29 of 1989 and 93 of 1996 that outlines legislation regarding trailers. Let's take a look at what goes where.



ZA stickers

South African vehicles crossing the border to any neighbouring country must display a ZA sticker. According to an AA travel shop, the sticker must be affixed to the back of your vehicle, next to the license plate. South Africa's vehicle regulations, however, state that no sticker may be applied within 150 mm of the license plate.

There appears to be no set rule on whether the ZA sticker should be fixed to the left or right or top or bottom of your vehicle, but according one Mozambican tourist website, officials prefer it to be pasted on the right-hand rear of your vehicle – the driver's side.

According to Regulation 202 of Road Traffic Act 93, stickers on your vehicle's rear window may not obstruct more than one-



sixteenth of your view. Heaven only knows how they decided on this fraction, but it does mean 93,75% of your rear window should be sticker-free.

One ZA sticker probably won't break this law, but if you already have a stickman family there, you'll have to affix the ZA sticker elsewhere on the vehicle's body.



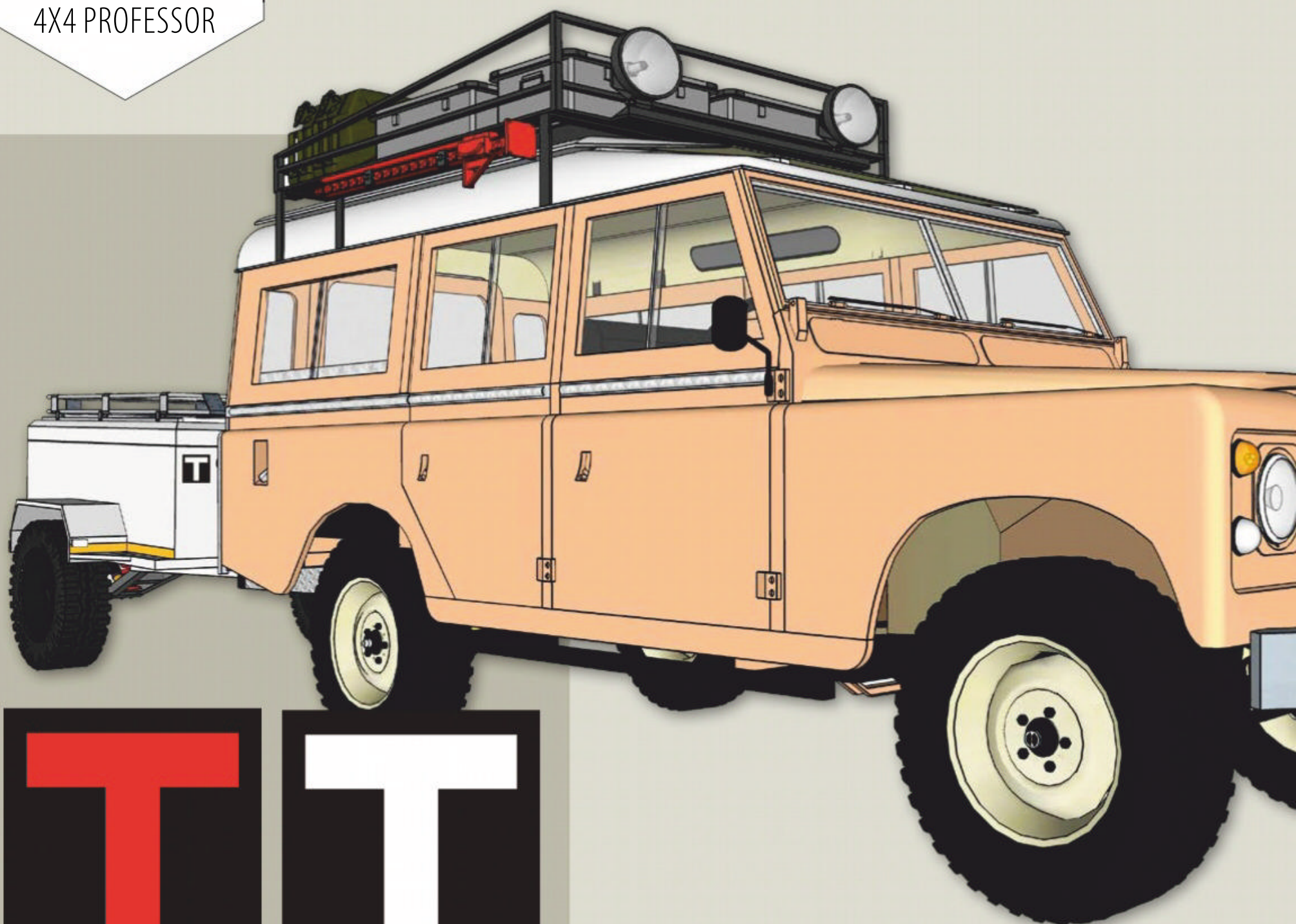
Triangle stickers

Mozambique's traffic rules require that all tow combinations display tow stickers, whether you're a local or a tourist. These show a yellow triangle on a square blue background, there should be no other graphics except the triangle on the sticker, and it is typically sold in a set of two – with one triangle sticker slightly larger than the other. The smaller sticker should be pasted on

your tow vehicle's front bumper on the driver's side, while the larger sticker must go on the back of your trailer or caravan, also on the driver's side.

In other words, when you look at your trailer from behind, the sticker should be to the right, and if you stand in front of your tow vehicle, the sticker should be on the left-hand side.

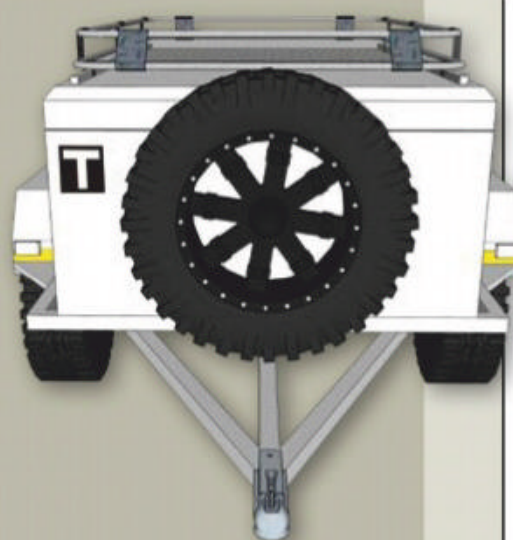




T-signs

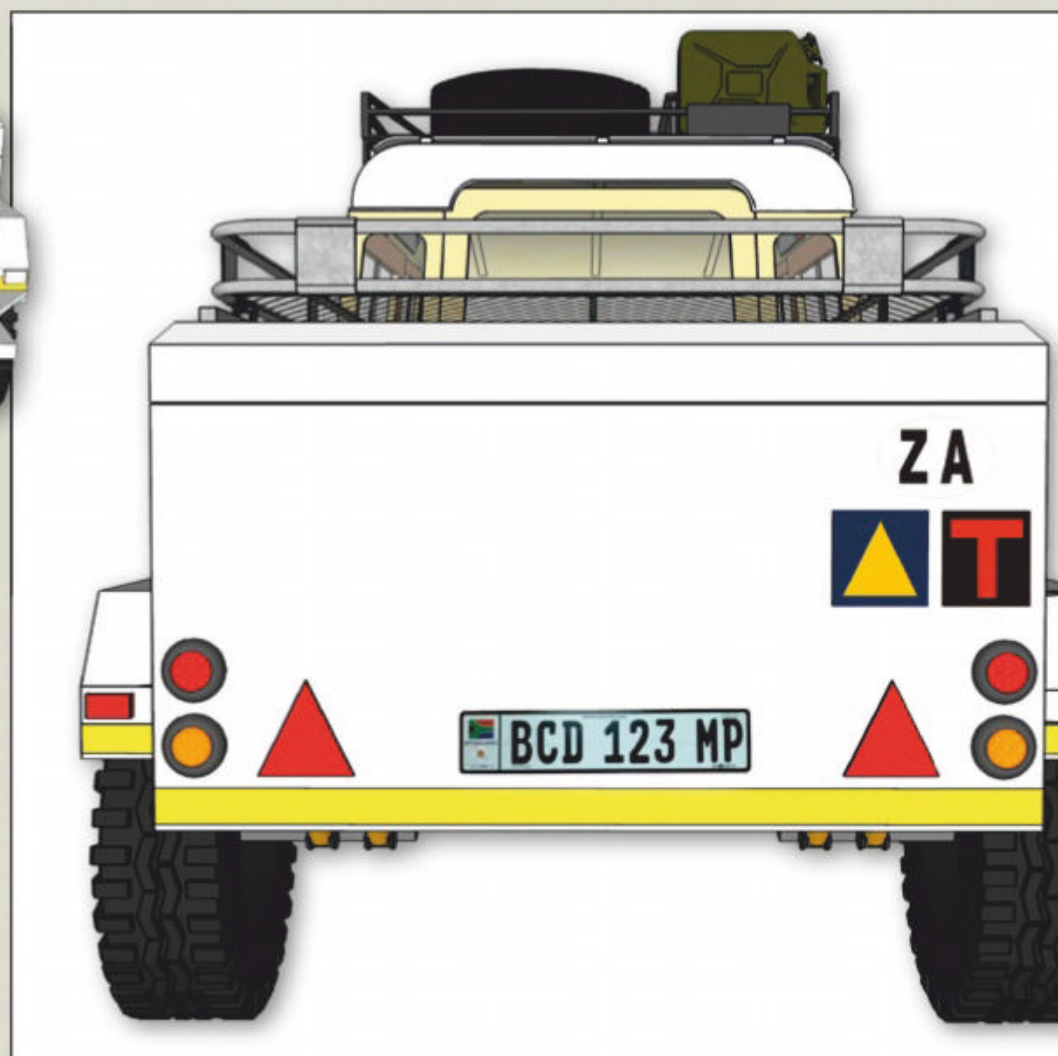
Zimbabwe and Zambia also require all tow combinations to have warning signs, but they require a different set of stickers to Mozambique. The so-called T-signs consist of two stickers each with the letter T printed on a black background. The stickers are more rectangular than square and one of the Ts are red and the other white.

The red T-sticker goes on the back of your trailer or caravan and the wording of Zimbabwe's traffic rules clearly state that the sticker must be applied "on the extreme right" (the driver's side). If you use Zimbabwean (or Zambian) *and* Mozambican tow stickers, Zimbabwe's T-sign should be at the extreme right with



Mozambique's triangle sticker immediately next to it.

The white T-sign goes on the front of your trailer and *not* on your tow vehicle – also on the driver's side. So, when you look at your trailer from behind, the red T-sign should be to the right and the white one on the left when viewed from the front.



Other stickers

According to Road Traffic Act 93 of 1996, the view through your windshield may not be obstructed at all, with the exception of the rear-view mirror and license disc. However, a license disc should be affixed to the left (thus on the passenger side) of your vehicle's

windscreen – and as low as possible so that it does not obstruct your view of the road. The same

legislation makes it illegal to attach a GPS to the windshield with a suction cup. If you do mount a GPS in this way, you must be able to prove to a traffic officer that it is not obstructing your view. Fluffy dice dangling from the rear-view mirror is a no go!

As for travel stickers – the kind you buy at a curio shop as a souvenir – the same law prohibits pasting them on the windshield and allows only for one-sixteenth of the space on the rear window. Feel free to stick a "I heart Durban" sticker on your vehicle's body, provided it doesn't come within 150 mm of the license plate.

“

A sticker on your vehicle's rear window may not obstruct more than one-sixteenth of your view

”

Reflective tape and reflectors

South African legislation requires yellow reflective tape to be applied on both sides and the rear of your caravan or trailer. The tape must run over at least 80% of the caravan's length and 80% of its width.

There's no need for reflective tape on the front. The front of your trailer should have two white reflectors – one each on the extreme outer edges (often on the mudguards).

If your towing combination exceeds 7 m in length, one or more yellow reflectors must be applied on each side of the caravan. They may not be more than 3,6 m apart, and the front-most one must be pasted within 3 m of the towbar, with the rear one within 1 m of the rear end.

The back of your trailer should

have two red reflectors at the extreme edges – usually on the mudguards. All reflectors must be higher than 30 cm from the road surface, but not higher than 150 cm.

Other than the reflective tape and reflectors, there should also be a warning sign – either a yellow-and-black chevron or two red triangular reflectors. The warning signs may not be higher than 1 m off the road surface.

Most Mozambican tourism websites suggest you apply red reflective tape on the back of your caravan, but Mozambican police appear to be satisfied with the red triangles.

Zimbabwean law also require white reflective strips (5 x 6 cm) on the front and red strips on the rear of your tow vehicle.



SD

ANG

RB

ZW

LS

MW

NAM

Z

Oval stickers for Africa

The use of white oval-shaped stickers to indicate your vehicle's country of origin began in 1949 with the Geneva Convention. European politicians decided each country should distinguish itself with a country code next to the vehicle license plates.

So, the Europeans assigned a code to every country on Earth and everyone was encouraged to stick oval stickers on their vehicles. Some countries, including America, paid no any attention to Europe's bossiness.

In Europe, the oval sticker was eventually exchanged by the country code and the EU emblem (12 gold stars on a blue flag) on all European license plates. Here in Africa, however, we're still going with the oval sticker prescribed to us. By the way, the ZA code was assigned to the Union of South Africa (Unie van Zuid-Afrika) before we became a republic. As we've mentioned,

South African vehicles must have a ZA sticker when leaving the country. Of course, our neighbouring countries in Africa have similar country codes and technically they also have to display their own oval sticker when travelling to South Africa or other neighbouring countries, but nobody else really bothers to do this. You often see vehicles with Mozambican number plates in Nelspruit, but how many of them have MOC oval stickers? And have you ever seen a NAM oval sticker on a Namibian car in Botswana?

Our neighbours' country codes are:

Angola.....	ANG
Botswana	RB
Eswatini	SD
Lesotho.....	LS
Malawi.....	MW
Mozambique	MOC
Namibia	NAM
Zambia.....	Z
Zimbabwe	ZW

Pull up a chair

We rested our backsides on some of the best outdoor chairs to tell you which one is most suited to your needs.

Text **Kyle Kock** Photos **James Garrahty**

There are two schools of thought when it comes to purchasing a chair you can drop your derrière on at the campsite. You either buy a cheapie and replace it every year or so...

or you get a decent one that potentially lasts a lifetime.

We're with the latter crowd, and though some of these are at the more affordable end, you can't second-guess their quality.



The usual suspects

PACK IT ALL IN

OZTRAIL REGAL ARMCHAIR

If you want a chair that can do it all then look no further than this one. It's made from high-tensile steel that can carry a lot of weight, with a magazine pocket in the seatback, the largest drinks holder we've ever seen (big enough for two cans) on the right-hand side, an insulated pocket on the left, a mesh pocket on the left side of the seat bottom and storage pockets on the right.

Price R750 from Takealot.

Rated for 200 kg

Drive & Camp says Did we mention the integrated bottle opener as well? When fully stocked you rarely have to get out of this chair.



FEATHERWEIGHT

BUSHTEC ULTRA LIGHT SPIDER CHAIR

Not called ultra-light for nothing, this chair is made of lightweight tubing that is powder-coated for durability. The low mass means that Bushtec could be generous with the padding, and this one is comfortable to sit in too.

Price R1 100 from Loot.

Rated for 150 kg

Drive & Camp says For a full-size chair, it weighs just 3,2 kg.



SIMPLE AND EFFORTLESS

IRONMAN 4X4 DELUXE SOFT ARM CAMP CHAIR

This chair comes in an attractive colour scheme, with a drink holder and storage pockets on the right-hand side and a rectangular zip-up insulated pocket in the left-hand side armrest.

Price R895 from 1st Outdoor & 4x4.

Rated for 150 kg

Drive & Camp says The insulated pocket will come in handy when you're trying to keep a slab of chocolate from melting.



BLUE DUB-A-DEE

NATURAL INSTINCTS ADVENTURE CHAIR

A simple spider chair that's also foam padded and is covered in durable ripstop fabric. This one's party trick is that it has a cellular phone holder in the left-hand side armrest. No more lost phones.

Price R600 from Outdoor Warehouse.

Rated for 120 kg

Drive & Camp says Cheap and cheerful.



Kings of comfort

FAMILY AFFAIR

OZTRAIL GALAXY 3 SEATER



You can't exactly lug a Bradlows sofa to a campsite, but this is a viable alternative if you're used to snuggling up to your loved ones. It's not the lightest, it's essentially three spider chairs stuck together, but it is sturdy, consisting of a powder-coated steel tube frame covered in durable 600D polyester.

Price R1 795 from Camp & Climb.

Rated for 330 kg (110 per seat)

Drive & Camp says There's also a two-seater available for R1 295 so you can recreate your family room around the campfire

SWAY ME MORE

AFRITRIL ROCKING LOUNGE CHAIR



Now grandpa can also be comfortable with a chair that sways as he takes a power nap. The fabric is suspended from the frame with bungee-type cord on both sides – from the seatback all the way down to the leg support.

Price R930 from Takealot.

Rated for 150 kg

Drive & Camp says There's an integrated pillow to support your neck after you fall asleep.

LAZYBOY

OZTRAIL COOLUM 5 POSITION



The Coolum feature slots in both armrests into which pins slide – the further back they are, the more the seatback reclines. That's a good thing because this one with its thick padding is the most like your favourite reclining chair back home.

Price R1 295 from Camp & Climb.

Rated for 150 kg

Drive & Camp says The dual-layer ripstop polyester should be quite resistant to damage.

NOT SO LOW

NATURAL INSTINCTS PADDED SOFA CHAIR



This one has quite a lot of padding, so it's softer than it looks. There's a similar tub chair featured here, but this one allows you to sit a little bit higher if you don't really want to sink in.

Price R1 000 from Outdoor Warehouse.

Rated for 130 kg

Drive & Camp says It's a sort of hybrid between the normal spider chairs and a comfortable tub chair.

FLAT FOLDER

NATURAL INSTINCTS PATIO CHAIR

This is a chair that won't look out of place in your backyard, on the veranda or in the campsite. It's quite sturdy and supports a decent static weight for something so small. It also helps that this one folds up quite flat when you need to pack up and slide it into your caravan.

Price R700 from Outdoor Warehouse.

Rated for 115 kg

Drive & Camp says The Natural Instincts patio chair one is an affordable value proposition.



POOL BOY

NATURAL INSTINCTS RECLINING CHAIR

If you're the type who likes to work on your tan in style, then this is your chair. Not only does the seatback recline close to 45 degrees, but your legs are lifted as well for ultimate comfort.

Price R1 300 from Outdoor Warehouse.

Rated for 120 kg

Drive & Camp says When there's a pool at the resort or campsite but no suitable loungers.



ALL-ROUND COMFORT

OZTRAIL MOON CHAIR JUMBO

When you absolutely want to sink back with a good book in hand, this one's for you. The rounded shape means that it's a bit of an adjustment if you're used to sitting up straight, but the cushioned head and armrests means you get comfortable quickly.

Price R1 495 from Takealot.

Rated for 150 kg

Drive & Camp says The bowl shape is a little odd at first, but you'll fall in love the moment you sit in it.



SINK IN

IRONMAN 4X4 DELUXE LOUNGE CAMP CHAIR

Like the tub chairs from an expensive furniture outlet, this Aussie brand's chair rises up around you to keep your back and side warm during the cold nights around the campfire.

Price R1 095 from 1st Outdoor and 4x4.

Rated for 150 kg

Drive & Camp says Sits a little deeper than the other similar chair on these pages and has an integrated can holder.



Lights, camera, action



NO NONSENSE

CAMPMOR OUTDOOR DIRECTORS CHAIR

This is the simplest looking director's chair, but can handle the heaviest of the Springbok squad, and then some. The side pocket has simple mesh over the front, and even the drinks holder is fixed to the steel frame.

Price R950 from Outdoor Warehouse.

Rated for 250 kg

Drive & Camp says You'll struggle to find anything more robust than this director's chair.



ALL ROUNDER

TENTCO NO BOUNDARIES CHAIR DELUXE

For the price, this chair is packing a lot of value. Not only is it rated for quite a heavyweight but is also affordable. That massive pouch on the left-hand side has many pockets for you to store your afternoon essentials.

Price R640 from Camp & Climb.

Rated for 180 kg

Drive & Camp says Looking at the price, this one makes a lot of cents. (*I'll let it go, but that's your one pun for the year.* – Ed)



TRICK UP THE SLEEVE

CAPE UNION DIRECTOR 2

This chair from Cape Union Mart has a unique selling point in its twist and turn foldaway table with integrated drinks holder. This means that you can angle the table in ways that suit your preference exactly. And when you don't want it next to you or out in front of you, you simply stow it away like you do on a plane.

Price R800 from Cape Union Mart.

Rated for 100 kg

Drive & Camp says It is also available in black and grey two-tone, and a solid blue finish.



RAMBO RATED

AFRITRAIL CAMO DIRECTORS CHAIR

For the hunters among us, this will fit right in with your ghille suit. The foldaway table on the right-hand side has a hard-plastic integrated drink holder with a slide for your handle so your enamel cup won't fall over.

Price R600 from Takealot.

Rated for 130 kg

Drive & Camp says The table spans the entire depth of the chair cushion so you can fit more stuff on it.

FIT FOR A KING

BUSHTEC MEERKAT DIRECTORS CHAIR

This is the boss chair from Bushtec's new Meerkat range, wrapped in 600D polyester finished to look like the curious bushveld creatures. Because it's rated for so much weight, the packed mass of 9 kg is understandable as it's made of thick powder-coated steel

Price R1 200 from Takealot.

Rated for 200 kg

Drive & Camp says The Meerkat range comes with a mammoth five-year warranty, so you have maximum peace of mind.



TECH JUNKIE

NATURAL INSTINCTS DIRECTORS CHAIR

From the house brand of Outdoor Warehouse comes a chair not suited to Luddites. The massive rectangular table has slots into which your smartphone and tablet can slide. There's also a side pocket on the left for storing your portable hard drive and earphones.

Price R700 from Outdoor Warehouse.

Rated for 120 kg

Drive & Camp says This one is for campers who absolutely can't leave their devices behind.



Playtime

KERMIT'S COLOUR

NATURAL INSTINCTS KIDDIES ARMCHAIR

Little ones will love the bright colour (there are three more options available), and fortunately the manufacturer had the sense to fit in quite a large drink holder, so your tot's juice bottle or milk formula is secure.

Price R250 from Outdoor Warehouse.

Rated for 50 kg

Drive & Camp says It looks just like mom and dad's chair.



COZIER THAN A COT

BUSHTEC MEERKAT KIDDIES LOAFA

This is basically a mini version of a tub chair, one that'll hold your kid secure as he falls asleep next to the campfire. It also comes with a two-year warranty.

Price R415 from Takealot.

Rated for 75 Kg

Drive & Camp says This one's darker colours makes it ideal for kids who can't help spilling stuff.



Beach, field or festival



NO COMPLICATIONS

TENTCO BUNDU CHAIR

This proudly South African brand features a simple but tough 19 mm powder-coated steel frame construction and ripstop canvas that can seat a heavy-set adult. The wide and steady base is matched by a wide backrest.

Price R 515 from Camp & Climb.

Rated for 150 kg

Drive & Camp says Because this is from a local tent manufacturer, you can easily get a replacement cover and canvas.



NO FRILLS

NATURAL INSTINCTS COMPACT CHAIR

This one folds nearly completely flat, which is handy when you're short on packing space and want to maximise your storage. With its seat back, it's more comfortable than the stool from the same brand also featured here, even though they're rated for the same static weight.

Price R200 from Outdoor Warehouse.

Rated for 100 kg

Drive & Camp says Its basic construction makes it both lightweight and compact.



BIG PUNCHER

IRONMAN 4X4 MIDSIZE LOW BACK

It looks like something sized for kids, because it sits so low, but it can handle a heavyweight as well. It opens easily, just like the manufacturer claims, and folds up pretty tight too.

Price R550 from 1st Outdoor and 4x4.

Rated for 130 kg

Drive & Camp says The graphic on the seatback is unique and attractive among similar chairs from rivals.



PHOTOGRAPHER'S DELIGHT

NATURAL INSTINCTS TRIPOD STOOL

This is the smallest chair we tested, with three poles that twist around a centre ring that form the legs and support the fabric. Ideal for when you want to sit upright, but not too high and capture the wildlife when you have your camera at the ready.

Price R150 from Outdoor Warehouse.

Rated for 100 kg

Drive & Camp says It's available in red and green as well.

GAME ON BUSHTEC SPORTS CHAIR

This is a multi-purpose chair that can be used for many applications, is lightweight at just over 3 kg, and has a handy carry strap that allows you to carry it like a laptop bag.

Price R410 from Loot.

Rated for 120 kg

Drive & Camp says It comes with a 2-year warranty and folds up quite compact when not in use.



PARTY TIME NATURAL INSTINCTS FESTIVAL CHAIR

Sits low enough to not impede the people trying to watch the stage behind you, but a decent enough perch to be comfortable for a long period of time. The drink holder is large enough to keep you properly hydrated.

Price R500 from Outdoor Warehouse.

Rated for 120 kg

Drive & Camp says This wouldn't be out of place on the beach, either.



IMAGE JIMMY CONOVER



GET THE PRODUCTS HERE

1st Outdoor & 4x4 1stoutdoor4x4.co.za
Camp & Climb campandclimb.co.za

Cape Union Mart capeunionmart.co.za
Loot loot.co.za

Outdoor Warehouse outdoorwarehouse.co.za
Takealot takealot.com

CAMP FOOD

Say *cheese!*

Cheddar, camembert, feta, goat's milk, mozzarella, blue... we have a cheese recipe for every one and everyone.

Recipes and styling **Johané Neilson** Photos **Ed O'Riley**

CAMEMBERT CHEESECAKE WITH BACON RELISH

Tower of delight

A delicious and impressive starter for when you're relaxing by the campfire.

Ingredients

(serves 8)

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 200 g bacon bits
- 2 red onions, finely chopped
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- 1 tablespoon sherry
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 whole chilli
- 2 wheels camembert

Here's how

1 Heat the olive oil in a pan and fry the bacon bits until crisp. Spoon the cooked bacon from the pan, but retain the fragrant oil. Now, slowly fry the onion in the oil until soft and shiny. (If the onions brown too quickly, add ½ cup of water.)

2 Stir in the cooked bacon bits, sugar, vinegar, sherry, honey and chilli and stir until the sugar has melted. Simmer gently until the mixture thickens slightly and gets a shine to it. Remove the chilli and season to taste with salt and pepper.

3 Cut the cheese horizontally in half to make two circles each. Now stack the cheese slices on top of one another with the hot bacon relish between the layers. Serve the tower while the cheese is still warm with crackers or fresh bread.

Drive & Camp says If you like a stronger bite, add a chopped chilli instead of a whole one.

BEETROOT SALAD WITH GOAT'S MILK CHEESE BITES

Hard to beet this one

A bottle of pickled beetroot is a winner in your camp kitchen for assembling a quick and tasty side dish.

Ingredients

(serves 8)

- ½ cup dried cranberries
- ½ cup roasted almonds or pecan nuts
- 1 tablespoon fresh parsley (or use a pinch of dry mixed herbs)
- ½ cup full-cream cottage cheese (or use full-cream cream cheese)
- 1 roll soft goat's milk cheese
- 6 pickled, whole beets
- 1 can (400 g) lentils, drained and rinsed
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 small red onion, chopped
- A handful fresh rocket (optional)

Here's how

1 Chop the cranberries and nuts and mix

with the parsley.

2 Mix the cottage cheese and goat's milk cheese until smooth. Try to keep the mixture as cold as possible – on a hot day, the next step could get tricky.

3 Now spoon small teaspoons of the cheese mixture into the nut mixture and roll into small truffles. They look beautiful and the crunchy outside layer helps keep the balls in shape. Repeat until all ingredients have been used.

4 Cut the beets into smaller wedges and taste – their acidity will determine whether the salad needs a dressing for the right balance or simply use olive oil.

5 Season the lentils with salt, pepper and olive oil (or a dressing of your choice) and add the onion. Spoon the lentil mix onto a salad plate and arrange the leaves, beetroot and cheese balls on top.

Drive & Camp says Arranging a salad rather than mixing it all up is a good idea when using beetroot – the result doesn't have a uniform pink look. If you don't have fresh leaves for the salad, add tomato slices.





MASTERFUL MIELIES Amazing maize

These cheesy veggies could almost be a meal on their own.

Ingredients

(serves 6)

- 6 mielies
- ¼ cup creamy mayonnaise
- ¼ cup sour cream
- a dash of sriracha or a pinch chilli powder
- 1 wheel feta cheese, crumbled
- 2 tablespoons grated parmesan cheese
- lemon or lime wedges, to serve

Here's how

1 Boil the mielies in brine for

5 minutes before draining and setting aside.

2 In a bowl, combine the mayonnaise, sour cream and sriracha and mix the feta and parmesan cheese in a third bowl.

3 Braai the mielies over hot coals so the kernels get scorching marks here and there.

4 Spread the mayonnaise mixture over the hot milies and sprinkle with cheese. Make sure the cheese goes all around and serve with the lime or lemon wedges so everyone can drizzle the juice themselves.

Drive & Camp says Swiftly heat the lime or lemon wedges over the coals to make it easier to squeeze the juice from them.



HAM-AND-CHEESE CHICKEN Piquant poultry

This versatile chicken with its heart of melted cheese is delicious on a sandwich, but also wonderful sliced and served with salad.

Ingredients

(serves 4)

- 4 large, deboned chicken breast fillets
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 8 slices ham (we used gypsy ham)
- 200 g mozzarella cheese, sliced into 4 pieces
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 4 bread rolls
- butter to spread
- 1 large tomato, sliced
- 1 small red onion, sliced into rings

Here's how

1 Using a sharp knife, cut a slit in each chicken breast – try to create a good cavity for the filling without cutting right through.

2 Spread the mustard on 4 slices of ham and roll up with the cheese inside.

3 Stuff each chicken 'purse' with a cheese-and-ham bundle and use the extra ham to ensure the cavity is closed properly so no cheese sticks out. Close it up with a toothpick or two to keep everything together, and season to taste with salt and pepper.

4 Heat the olive oil in a thick-bottomed or griddle pan over the coals and fry the stuffed chicken until nicely browned and cooked. Remember, the chicken surrounding the stuffing is thin and will take no more than a few minutes to cook.

5 Allow to rest on a cutting board for a few minutes, then remove the toothpicks. Butter the bread rolls, add tomato slices and red onion and top each roll with a chicken breast.

Drive & Camp says You can also slice the chicken before placing it on the rolls. The filling then shows off nicely and you could feed more people. Plus, it looks pretty!



ROOSTERKOEK WITH BLUE CHEESE BUTTER AND GREEN FIGS

Buttery gems

Small roosterkoek are easier to braai and cook a lot faster than large ones.

Ingredients

(makes about 24 roosterkoek)

- 3 cups cake flour
- 1 packet (10 g) instant yeast
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 350 ml lukewarm water
- 80 g creamy blue cheese, crumbled
- ½ cup butter at room temperature
- 6 preserved green figs, chopped finely

Here's how

1 In a large bowl, mix together the flour, yeast, salt and sugar. Then gradually stir in the olive oil and water. Knead the dough in the bowl as you go and use your judgement whether you need to add all the water.

2 Knead the dough quickly until smooth and elastic – aim for 10 minutes if your arms can take it! Now shape the dough into a nice ball, cover with a clean dishcloth and allow the dough rise to double its volume. You can also put the dough in a clean mixing bowl smeared with a little oil.

3 Squeeze off golf ball-sized pieces of dough and roll them into balls. Repeat until all the dough is used up and leave the balls to rise again to double their volume – it'll take about 30 minutes.

4 Braai the roosterkoek over lukewarm coals and turn them regularly so they bake slowly. When they sound hollow when you knock on them, they are ready.

5 Mix together the butter and cheese and spread onto the hot rolls, topped with figs.

Drive & Camp says Use a folding braai grid to make turning them over a bit easier.



CHEESE-AND-JAM BISCUITS

Teatime treats

These kisses simply melt in your mouth!

Ingredients

(makes around 30 biscuits)

- 1 cup butter at room temperature
- 1½ cup self-raising flour
- 1 cup mature cheddar, finely grated
- ½ cup cheese-flavoured chips, crumbled
- 3 tablespoons apricot jam

Here's how

1 Use your fingertips to rub

the butter into the flour until the mixture looks like coarse breadcrumbs. Add the cheese and chips and mix well until it forms a stiff cookie dough.

2 Roll the dough into bite-sized balls and place on a baking tray lined with baking paper.

3 Press a shallow hole into each roll using the back tip of a wooden spoon, and spoon a little bit of jam in each.

4 Bake for 10-15 minutes at 180 °C. Allow to cool on a wire rack and store in an airtight container.

Drive & Camp says For a fully savoury biscuit, replace the jam with a smear of Marmite.

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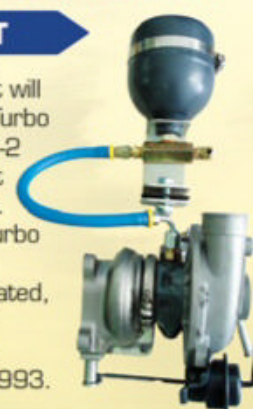


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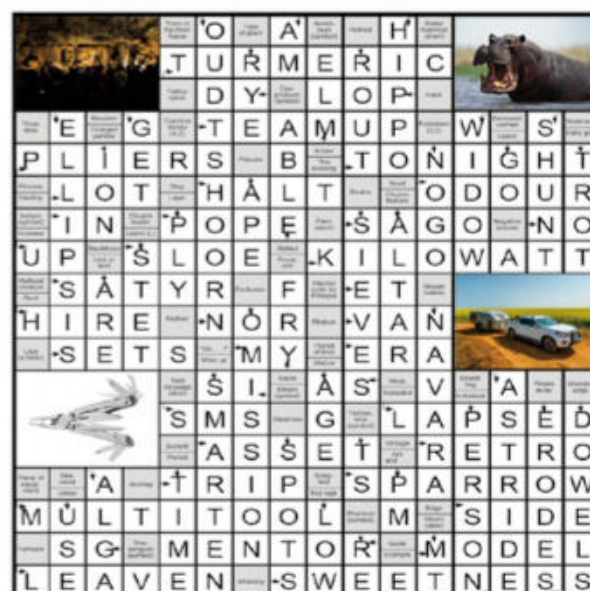
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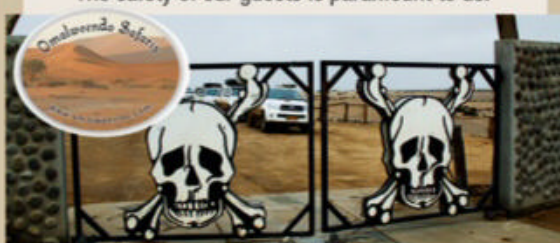
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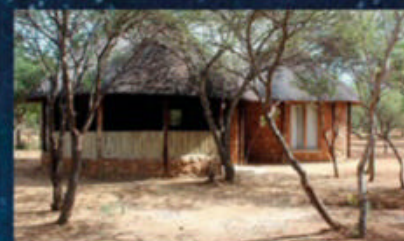
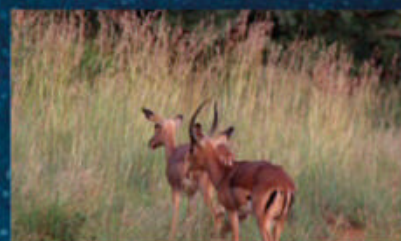
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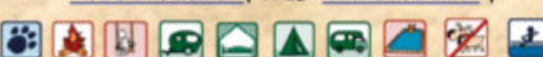


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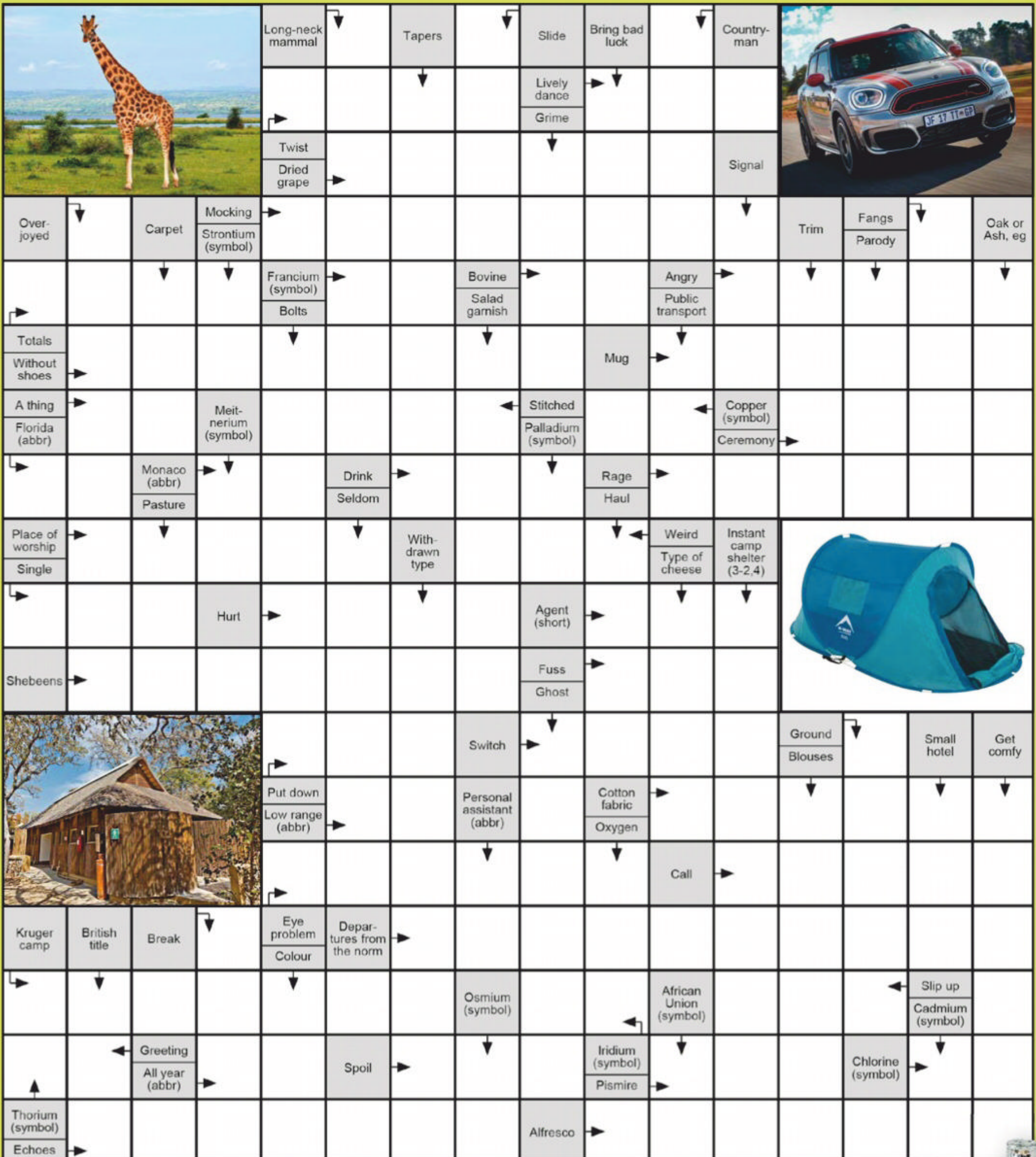
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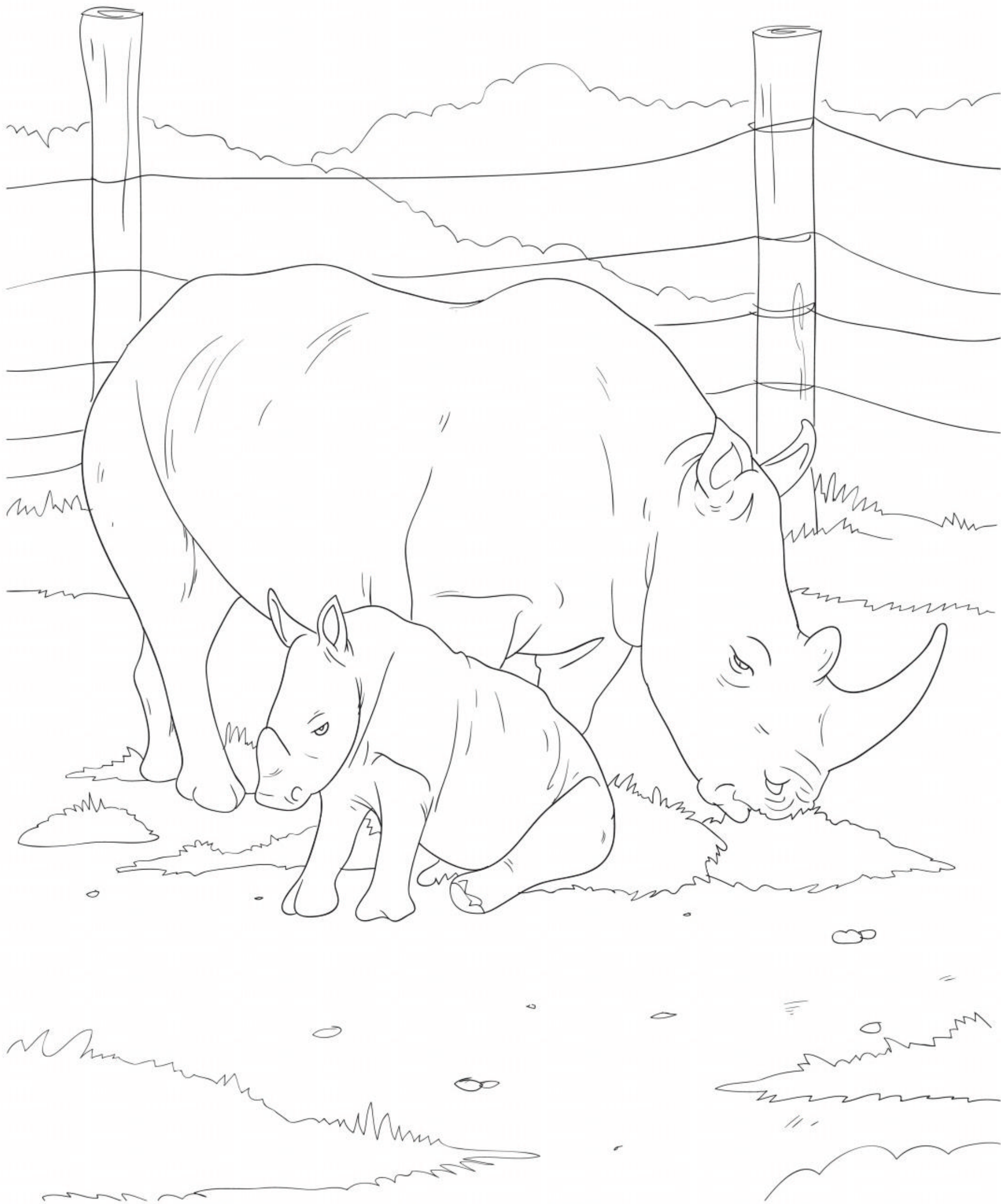
This mouth-watering eco-friendly range was inspired by a tree on the Van Loveren farm. In 1941, Jean Retief ordered a *Rhus lancea* tree from the then Natal province. Her husband Hennie believed that it was the same as the Karee tree that grew along the river and planted a shoot next to it to prove this.

The two trees have since intertwined into one tree, which has come to symbolize their love. And the best part of the range? It has a 60% lower carbon footprint compared to wine in glass bottles.

Try the Tangled Tree Chocolate Cabernet Sauvignon, Butterscotch Chardonnay, Moscato Rosé, Tropical Sauvignon blanc and Spicy Shiraz today. Find out more at tangledtree.com.



Colour in



COLOUR IN

Get your crayons and colouring pencils out and bring life to this line drawing.

WORD SEARCH

Search for the hidden words in the list and tick them off as you find them.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

There are at least 10 differences between the two illustrations. See if you can find them all!

MAZE

Show the maze who's boss. Remember to first do it in pencil, just in case you make a mistake.

Word search

N B O T S W A N A K B Y R A X G F C S X T X
 N I X J T Z S A N S J B V A V U Y Z V F S P
 T Q O P C B Y W E U Z A N U Z A T X S H N A
 Z X Y E P N G H A S I A L F D H T P Z E S E
 R G I G E Y S C G Z H Q W G B W U S T M U G
 E B Z K P T A U O G I J I V P L Y E H O T V
 G Q U C F G V O F S R L F P M P M N O Z G I
 P R Z R A X O S L Y F N A S S P Y E D A E O
 C P T T U M F F K Z D J M N K N H G Q M D Z
 M A P N B N H J H K M B Z O D B L A V B H Q
 A X M Z B V D X R T F A D A R S V L H I V T
 L T P E I X Y I S M Q X W P H O L B L Q S U
 A C H H R T N A L C A L F C P O C L E U C N
 W C P I L O O S J U P U F E X U S C U E F P
 I B U A B C O Q R C G F R Y Q J B L O U I B
 T I I H Y D Y N F P E A A I U P M P R L I U
 I H G R G Q C P C J D N J J T U C A A R T R
 P W O A G P F A U Y W F P U Y I C M X X K K
 Y V I X Y F I K W S R P O F U S U Q L J H I
 I G A H C Z P C G P Q G N E A J K S A Y F N
 S E I G B I E A I O M W J G H G R G X T O A
 Y V P S Q F W T O J L I A D Y N C Y Y J N F
 K F F J M N B G Y S J D J J S R L M Q P O A
 M M U R U P F U C K A W R A C I E O V U S S
 B R H S O L D L C M C H Y U Y M S Z S J H O
 L G A K K P I K F H Q M B H B C O H M G T L
 G J F A Y Z G Z C A H J M M M P T X W Z T Z
 Q C Z M S K W P E M Y R W N F I H Y R F D X
 V Q L C D J K V Y H D D K I W C O A Y U N I
 A B V U N C O Y I S K C B M L L J D Z W W B

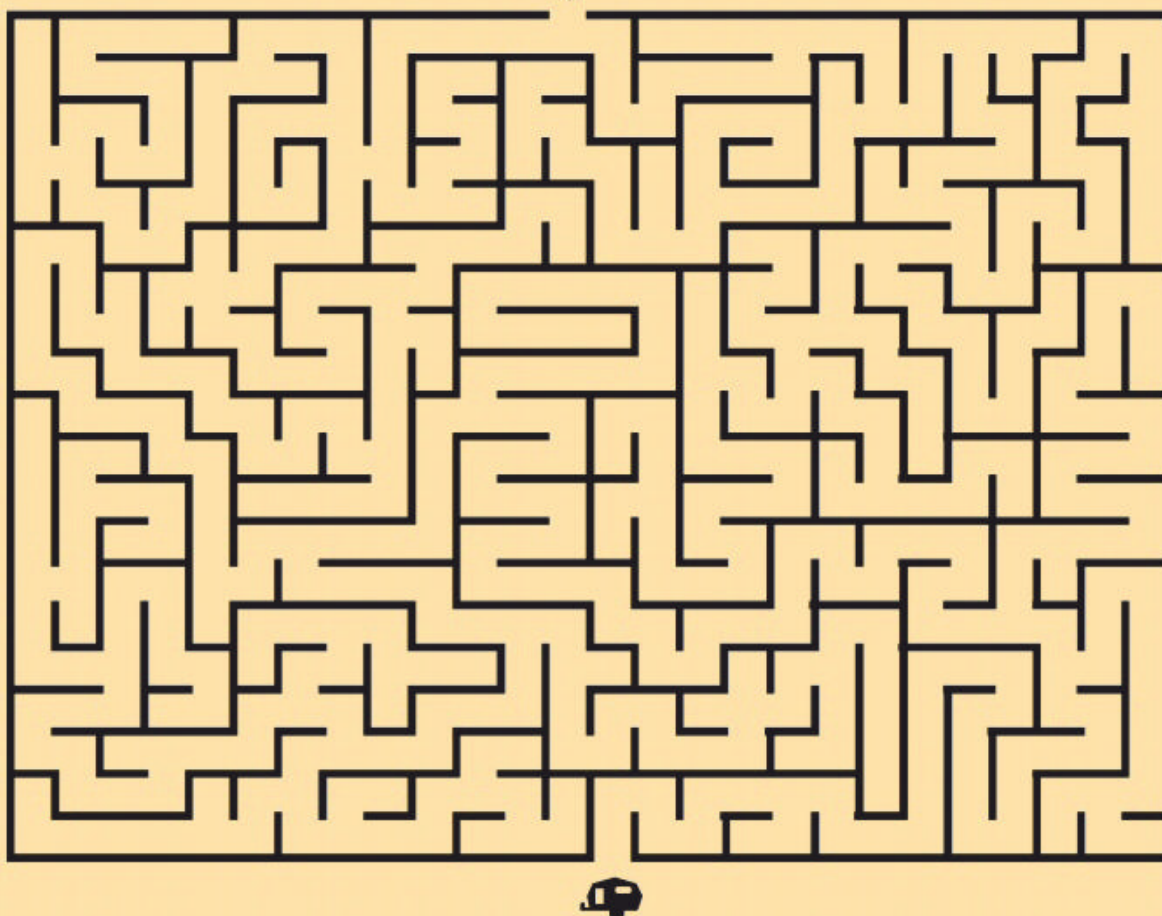
COUNTRIES IN AFRICA

Botswana	Cameroon	Morocco
Burkina Faso	Kenya	Mauritius
Burundi	Lesotho	Mozambique
Egypt	Madagascar	Senegal
Ghana	Malawi	Swaziland
Ivory Coast	Mali	Togo

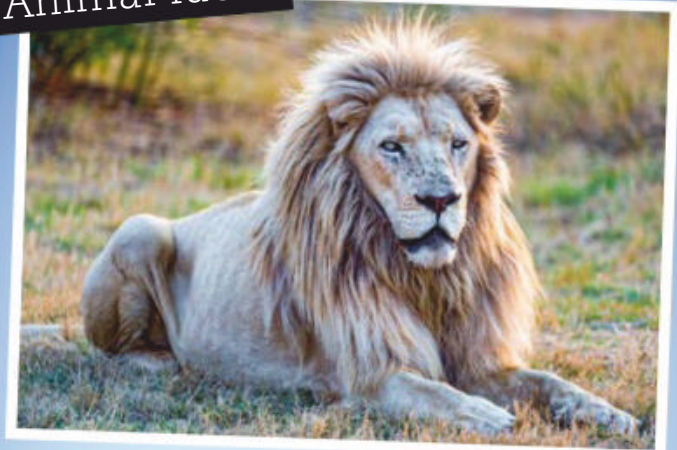
Spot the differences



Maze



Animal facts



THE LION (*PANTHERA LEO*)

- Lions usually live in groups of 10 or 15 animals called prides.
- An adult male's roar can be heard up to 8 km away.
- A female lion needs 5 kg of meat a day. A male needs 7 kg or more a day.
- Lions run at a speed of up to 81 km/h.
- Lions hunt large animals such as zebra and wildebeest.

Sand-driving foibles

With a car that is capable and forgiving, you can easily turn into somewhat of a dune hero despite a relatively low level of true prowess, says **Mic van Zyl**.

Driving on the beaches and dunes in Namibia this past December clearly brought home to me the fact that my fair amount of theoretical knowledge is no match for my serious lack of practical experience and practice.

By far the most dune and beach driving I've done was in my FJ Cruiser, arguably one of the best dune-driving vehicles around. The FJ has many of the required fundamentals to enable it to conquer most beach and dune driving challenges with

more ease than most other unmodified vehicles. I found it to be very capable and very forgiving and this can easily make you somewhat of a dune hero despite a relatively low level of true prowess.

I returned to Namibia full of expectation in my recently acquired Land Cruiser 76 V8 diesel wagon to re-conquer the sand. The LC 76 is a very different vehicle to the FJ. Obvious differences include more weight, especially over the rear axle. The V8 diesel has much more torque but a lot less power. Being a big V8 diesel, it does not enjoy sending the needle far up the rev counter face. You therefore have to have a very different approach to your sand and dune driving in the Cruiser that with the FJ.

THE MOST TELLING difference for me however was the tyres. The FJ was shod with Bridgestone D697 Dueler All Terrains. This has been my tyre of choice for many years. The reason for this is its performance on a wet road in suburbia.

Big heavy 4x4 vehicles don't possess great handling. Fitting them with a plethora of heavy off-road equipment and a raised suspension merely exacerbates the problem. Add rain and slippery tar to the mix and you have a sure recipe for disaster.

The Bridgestone tyres always filled me with a huge amount of confidence in their wet-weather ability with regards to water displacement, handling and braking performance in rainy conditions. I live in the city and spend most of my driving time here. The Bridgestones were never good with puncture resistance. I would however sooner change to the spare in the case of a puncture than risk an accident in the wet.

When I changed to the Cruiser, I was convinced by a tyre-expert

mate to try out the Cooper ST Maxx all terrain tyres. The internet is full of mixed reviews about these tyres but I have over time come to realise that most user-review information on the internet is very opinionated, non-factual and ultimately, unreliable.

I HAVE THEREFORE taken the plunge with the Coopers and I am so far very impressed. They are noisy and rather uncomfortable compared to the Bridgestones. Their wet-weather performance is acceptable to the extent that I don't really have any concerns in the wet in town.

What most impressed me however was their toughness. I did about 1 000 km of Namibian gravel roads. On most of these roads I was convinced that a lesser tyre would give up and let me down.

The Coopers just ate up the rocks, ruts and corrugations with ease. Once home, I cannot see any tell-tale trace on these tyres indicating what they had recently been through.

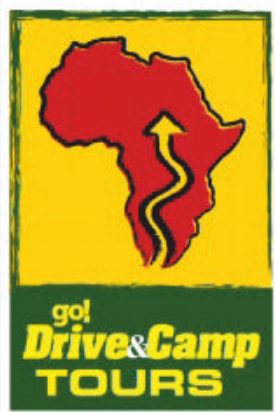
I did however get quite stuck in the dunes, even with my tyres at pressures that I used to use successfully on the FJ. Curiosity led me to investigate some of the science behind sand and dune driving, so next month, we'll look at why sand driving is about more than just tyre pressures. 🚗

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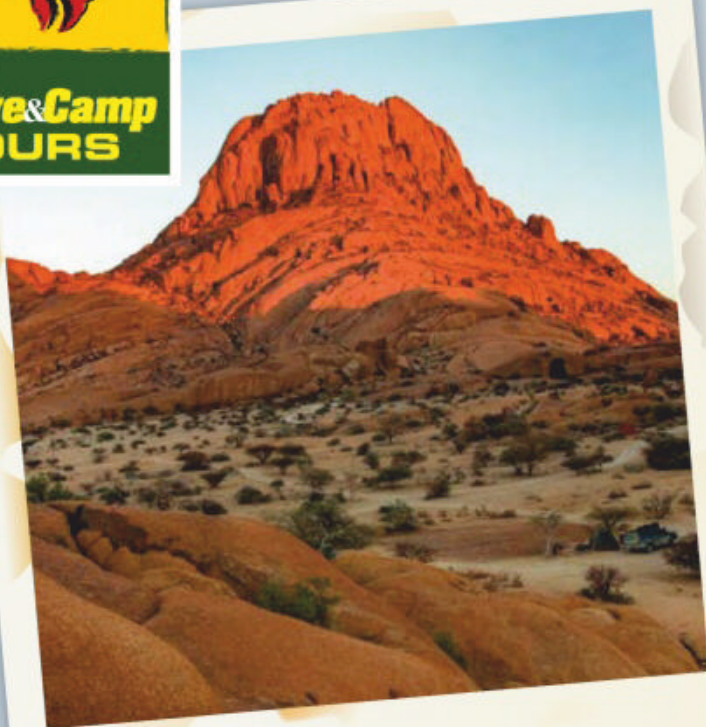
Bridgestone D697 Dueler All Terrain tyres were my choice for many years for their wet weather performance

”





Namibian Adventures



Classic Namibia Tour 2020

10 night /11-day adventure (tented accommodation)

Our adventure starts off on an exciting note in the magical Namib Desert in southern Namibia. Sossusvlei is one of the highlights of any visit to Namibia.

We get to see the sunrise over the Namib Desert from the famous Dune 45, visit well known Sesriem Canyon and take a walk through the dunes to Deadvlei, all in the first two days of our tour!

DATES 14-24 June 2020, 27 June - 7 July 2020, 19-29 September 2020

COST R 15 950 per person
(children under 10 pay 50%)

CONTACT US FOR A FULL ITINERARY



Namib Kaokoland Desert Rivers

10 night /11-day adventure (tented accommodation)

The Desert Rivers of Kaokoland are a unique part of the northwest of Namibia. On first impression, this land looks deserted, uninviting and devoid of any life. But Kaokoland is full of surprises, filled with rich treasures of discovery for those fascinated by its unique beauty and wildlife.

With the Bhejane 4x4 Adventure team, you will experience the wonders of Kaokoland and its Desert Rivers.

DATES 3-13 May 2020, 3-13 August 2020, 16-26 August 2020

COST: R 15 750 per person
(children under 10 pay 50%)

CONTACT US FOR A FULL ITINERARY

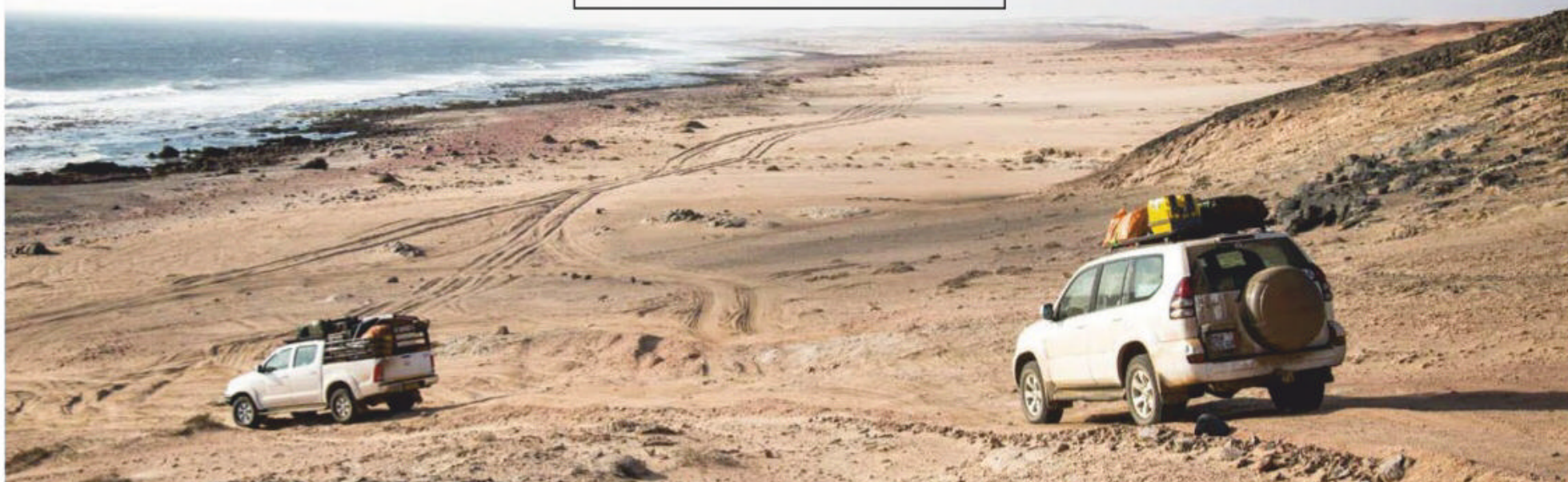
Yes, I want to go!

To book ☎ 044 535 9033 or email

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Find out more at

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What exactly is a 'nice' campsite?

Technology has irrevocably changed the nature of camping because man's interaction with the environment has also changed, says **Neels van Heerden**.

Once upon a time, a campsite was simply a space where you could pitch your tent, build a fire, cook and then experience nature with a glass of something in your hand.

Technological advances, however, have eased camping life considerably. Of course, there are still Luddites who believe that a real camper makes a fire by rubbing together some sticks and then blowing on the sparks until the twigs burst into

flame. These purists also believe cellphones and TV are taboo when camping.

But then again you'll find people who will only camp if there is WiFi and they can watch the news and share the day's pics with friends and family. They usually won't camp without air-conditioning either.

Most of us are somewhere in-between these polar opposites. After all, it is in our nature to be innovative and to brighten our lives by using modern inventions. Think about it: modern campers can produce delicious meals in a flash; firelighters turn damp sekelbos into bushveld TV in a jiffy; and you can download field guides on your smartphone that can identify a tree or a bird with no trouble at all.

TECHNOLOGY HAS IRREVOCABLY changed the nature of camping because man's interaction with the environment has irrevocably changed. Innovative camping equipment and experiences create new and emerging market segments, and using innovative products builds a bridge between rookies and experienced campers. It is also in our nature to acquire unnecessary gadgets, but that is a story for another day.

What is important, however, is that technology should never replace common sense or cross the lines of camp etiquette. Some examples of smart technology that will soon hit our market are devices that can harness the heat of a wood-burning fireplace to recharge smart devices; and the application of green technology to design products made of recycled materials.

We already have tent material that's treated with waterproofing without harmful chemicals, such as polyurethane. Not only is the material more waterproof, but the treatment also helps to better reflect the sun's

rays and thereby keeps the tent cooler than it would otherwise be.

With the arrival of dome tents, the centre pole was eliminated and water no longer dams up on the tent. Nowadays we seem to have a need for camping experiences that make it all lovely and 'nice'.

THE THING IS, we still don't know what exactly constitutes a 'nice' camping experience. On social media, there are daily requests from people looking for a 'nice' campsite. The opinions are diverse and you struggle to know what is meant by 'nice' or even 'of note'.

What I do understand about these posts compels me to describe such a place broadly as somewhere that has activities for kids (this includes WiFi access); that doesn't cost the earth (the large increase in the price of electricity, accelerated operating costs and sharply rising labour costs have seriously hampered the budgets of campsites); that has stands with shade and grass: and where help is available to pitch tents.

A more comprehensive description of what a 'nice' campsite entails still has to be recorded. Campsites that manage to entrench their position as a 'nice' place in the future and where campers can use technology have a better chance of surviving in the long term.

“

What is important, however, is that technology should never replace common sense or cross the lines of camp etiquette

”





MINE BEATS YOURS

Ever wondered how the weight of a road caravan compares to an off-road trailer, or a motorhome? Pit these camping rigs against each other with our new **Towing Trumps** cards. The deck of 52 playing cards feature vehicles launched between 2008-2013 for players to compare technical specifications.

Towing Trumps

43%

AVN Compact 2010

This caravan boasts some unexpected luxuries for its size. According to André van Niekerk, owner of AVN, the Compact was 30% cheaper than its rivals in the market. The caravan is made of fibreglass and aluminium, and aimed at couples.

Length	5,2 m
Width	2,3 m
Height	2,2 m
Tare	1 000 kg
Loading capacity	230 kg
GVM	1 230 kg
Price	R99 900

42%

2012

the big gist of Echo4x4's trailers, but it takes the kitchen drawers behind the front left signed and buyers then had a choice between the newer version.

Length	6,2 m
Width	2,3 m
Height	2,3 m
Tare	1 300 kg
GVM	1 800 kg
Price	R109 900

52%

Roadster 450 2012

the Roadster models, but perhaps the Conqueror's designers worked on the and showering inside, and eating and

Length	3,86 m
Width	1,86 m
Height	1,6 m
Tare	500 kg
GVM	910 kg
Price	150 000

39%

2011

slack storage space but this version has a where you could easily store four bags or has some cool technology. In fact, it's can go and get lost for a month!

Length	3,86 m
Width	1,86 m
Height	1,6 m
Tare	500 kg
GVM	910 kg
Price	150 000

Towing Trumps



The game is based on the popular Trump playing card series and will provide hours of fun on the back seat of a car while travelling to the coast. Hey, perhaps your own model caravan is featured in this game!

go!
Drive&Camp

On sale now

A traffic jam in Etosha

You learn much about your fellow humans when you encounter a pride of lions in the wild, says **Schalk Jonker**.

I'm not one for traffic jams. In this I'm not alone, I realise that, but I lose my temper all too easy when I'm driving in the city – and I don't even have to spend much time in traffic. We live relatively close to both my work and my child's school, which is why we seldom spend more than half an hour on the daily commute.

But during those 30 minutes, several incidents will make my blood boil (and teach my daughter words that bring her grandparents to their knees). It's usually a confluence of events that lead to the eventual outburst.

It will start when I allow someone in who doesn't show thanks. Then there will be a few cars right in the middle of an intersection and when the light turns green for me, they're in the way. It's that guiltless shrug of the driver's shoulders as he points to the stationary cars ahead of him that gets me going. I also thankfully have few encounters with minibus taxis, but when we do cross paths, it's usually as they pass me on the hard shoulder and push in up ahead somewhere. "Daddy! Grandpa says that's a dirty word..."

For much of the year that's more or less how each morning and afternoon goes. But for about four weeks a year I get to escape from it all. During my last holiday, we headed to Namibia. With a population density of a little more than three people per square kilometre, our neighbouring country is the perfect place to go for peace. A place where you're not at the mercy of a multitude of people, their vehicles or their bad driving habits.

So, had you told me before we left

that my fellow road users would make me see red while I'm gazing at a pride of lions near Etosha's Nebrowni waterhole, I wouldn't have believed you.

MY BROTHER-IN-LAW and I occupy the front seats of the Hilux. The two of us have identical beards for some reason and we are strongly reminiscent of a young ZZ-Top when we stop at Okaukuejo with our wives in the back.

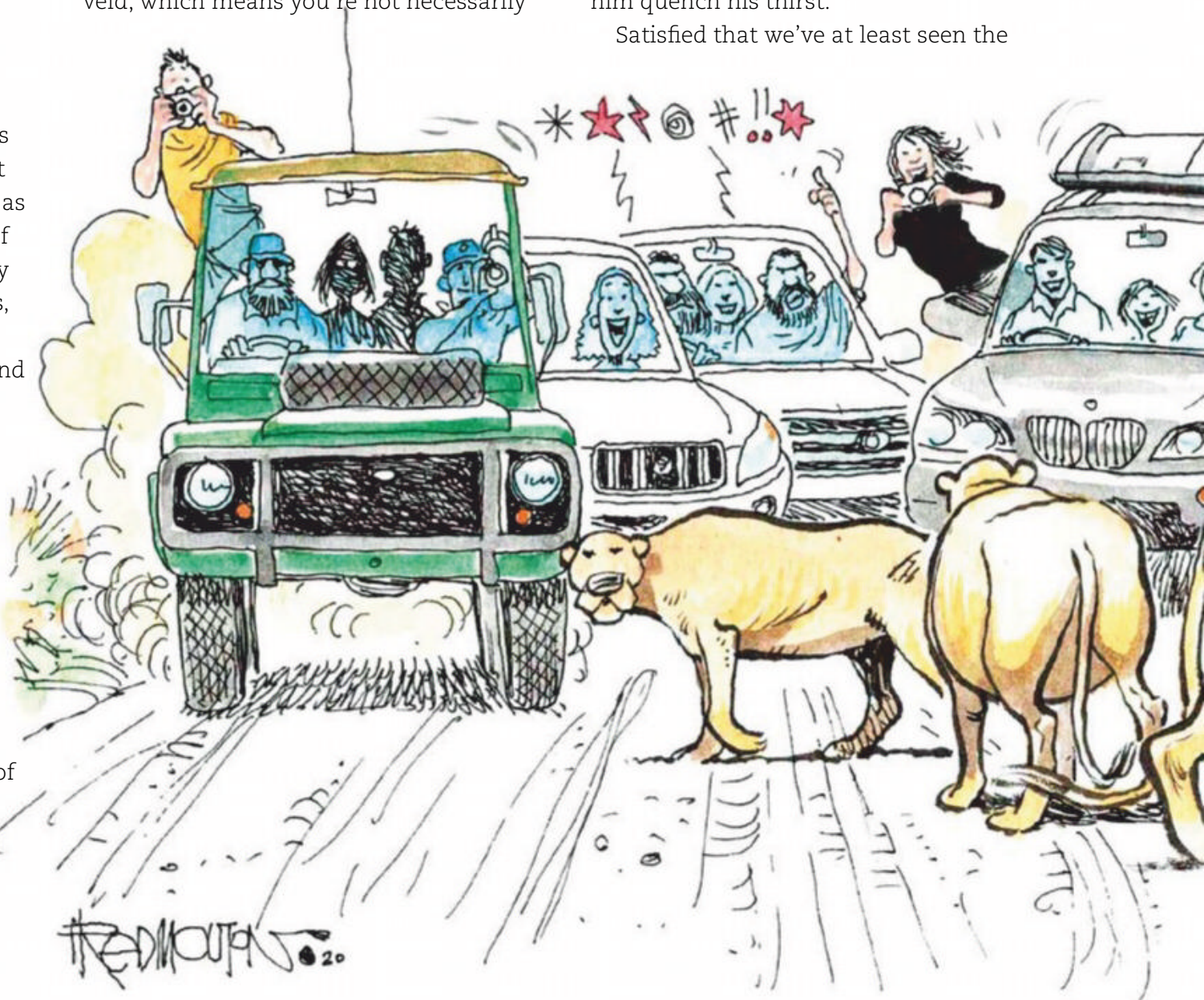
I am ready for a relaxed day with little expectation as we are here in the rainy season. There's water everywhere in the veld, which means you're not necessarily

going to see much at the waterholes.

We mosey along, past hundreds of springbok and zebra, but the animals we'd like to see remain hidden. Later, we encounter wildebeest and giraffe, but by noon there's still no sign of the Big Five.

We drive in Nebrowni's direction... and then we see him on the right-hand side of the road, probably 50 metres away. A young male lion walks purposefully toward the waterhole as his mane ripples in the wind. We're the only people on this stretch of road who see him, and after watching for a while, we stop at the waterhole to watch him quench his thirst.

Satisfied that we've at least seen the



king of the jungle, we decide to drive to the picnic area to have lunch.

WE'VE BEEN DRIVING for only a few minutes when we see three cars in a row on the left-hand side of the road. "Birdwatchers, for sure," I remark, reminding everyone that, in my opinion, it should be mandatory for birdwatchers to have an identifying sticker on their vehicles. This would prevent you from stopping unnecessarily and looking around before realising that they're gazing at a lilac-breasted roller or some other feathered delight.

But these guys aren't looking at birds. "There they are! Under that tree, over there," calls out my sister-in-law who spots them first. I grab the binoculars and count no less than nine lions, roughly 200 m from us. A male, some females and quite a few cubs and they seem to be getting up.

We turn off the engine and watch them. I've never seen so many lions together. And yes, they are walking toward us... they're probably going the waterhole which is now to our right. Meanwhile, several cars come to a stop. There is room between us and the car in front. Not big enough for another car to squeeze in, but maybe just the gap the lions will choose when they cross the road.

The closer the lions get, the more excited I get, because they seem to be aiming

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The closer the lions get, the more excited I get, because they seem to be aiming straight for the space in front of our bakkie

straight for the space in front of our bakkie. The animals walk along the road to right in front of us and then come to a stop to look around. Probably to make sure it's safe to walk through here.

We sit motionless in our car, concerned that if we move the moment will be ruined. They'll start walking any minute now... right here in front of us!

SUDDENLY THE SILENCE is broken as the car parked behind us starts up. A guy in a Prado pulls out, makes a wide turn and parks with his nose in the gap right here in front of us. The driver has a camera with a long lens that he rests on his steering wheel. For a moment I forget about the lions and stare in disbelief at the guy. Clearly, the lions aren't too happy either, and decide to keep walking and find another place to cross the road instead.

I'm still speechless, but when I finally get something out, it's one of those words not meant for small ears. Fortunately, no one in the car rebukes me, because with that four-letter word I had summed up everyone's feelings.

We're now watching the lions from the cheap seats. They walk forward a little, then turn around again and walk back, past us and toward the rear car. And, as they walk, Mr Long Lens drives next to them in his Prado, trying to push in everywhere.

The farther they move in that direction, the more the front cars turn around and drive

on the other side to get the best vantage point. There's nothing wrong with that, but it's the inconsideration that gets me. We are on a large open plain and the lions are here next to us. If we all stay in a row on the left-hand side of the road, we will all be able to have more or less the same view of them.

The road, however, turns into a traffic jam the likes of which not even Cape Town on a rainy afternoon has seen. And it seems the people around us couldn't care less about their fellow man. Mr Long Lens is still right up front, but a challenger for the title of the biggest idiot in Etosha soon enters the stage.

An X5 with a GP number plate approaches and the driver actually hoots at us to make room so he can edge closer. His wife (or maybe his side chick... you never know with BMW drivers) hangs halfway out of the passenger window and whistles and calls to the lions. You'd swear they're watchdogs at a security complex in Centurion.

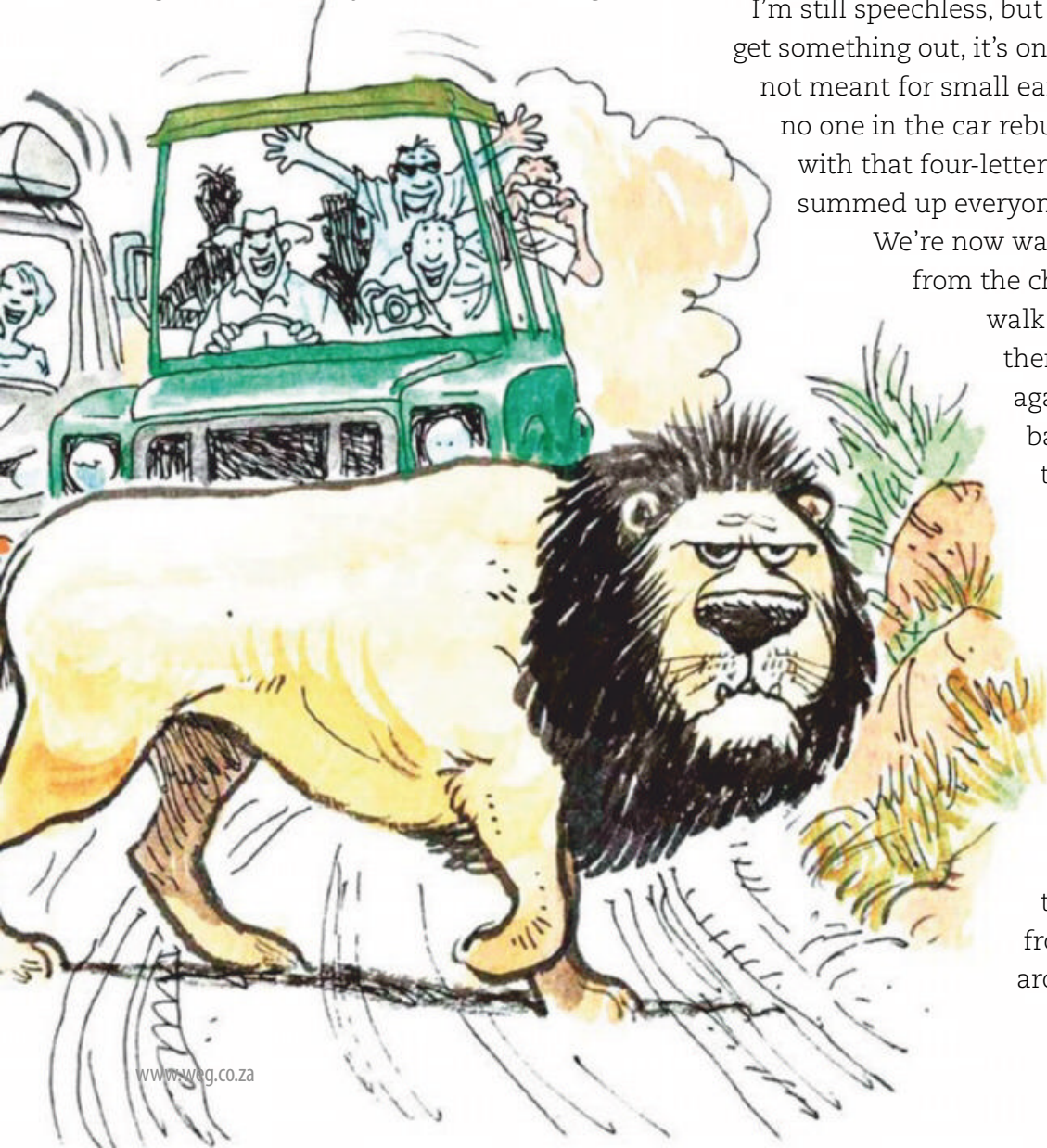
The lions (or the little we can see of them) are growing increasingly flustered next to the road, but the worst has yet to happen to them... and to us. Two game-viewing vehicles with foreign tourists kick up dust as they burst onto the scene. They've clearly been notified about the sighting on their two-way radios.

By the time they get to us, every possible rule of the road and any unspoken law of decency have long been abandoned. The game viewers shoot past us and pull up crosswise on the road so their Euro-paying passengers get the best view.

"Let's drive off, please," I say. Okay, I didn't use the words "drive" or "please". "I agree," concurs my brother-in-law, "but we can't. We're stuck in the thick of things, and until those lions move, these cars blocking the road aren't going anywhere."

WE DON'T GET another glimpse of the lions, and I can't tell you whether or not they crossed the road. As we wait, we talk about game-viewing etiquette. We finally come up with a long list... mostly the offences our neighbours in front of and behind us have committed. We even do introspection to determine if we were guilty of these offences too.

I'm not going to repeat the etiquette we decided on, because they're self-evident and can be summed up in one simple rule: don't be an ass.



... AND FINALLY

Big wheeler

The bigger the obstacle, the bigger the wheel – or something like that if you believe in the philosophy of Russian ATV firm, Sherp.

One of the first modifications that serious off-roaders consider is a proper set of all-terrain tyres to fit their standard rims or an aftermarket set of wheels.

It's no longer a surprise to see your neighbour's bakkie sporting fat new 33" takkies. Then you might also want to lift the suspension and fit off-road bumpers – all of which serve to increase approach, breakover and departure angles.

The Russian all-terrain vehicle manufacturer Sherp ATV, has been making vehicles that can traverse tough terrain for more than 20 years – and their namesake vehicle is a no-nonsense single-minded approach to off-road superiority. It's the brainchild of company founder Alexei Garagashyan, a Saint Petersburg native with an interest in unconventional vehicles.

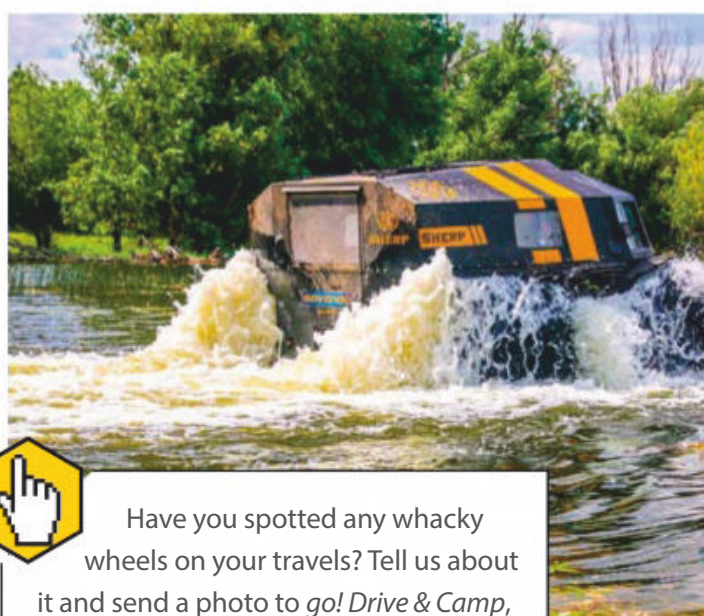
It's basically a pod not much bigger than a small sports car, and the angular design will make you think of Tesla's upcoming cybertruck, but the Sherp's one defining feature is its massive custom tyres, measuring 1,6 m high. The self-inflating tubeless 63" low-pressure tyres have flaps for tread, much like the types seasoned off-roaders and those who operate earth-moving equipment use to get through mud.

This allows for the Sherp's incredible ability to 'swim' – at a speed of 6 km/h, and then climb up onto ice out of the water if need be. The cabin itself is buoyant and completely submersible.

On land, the Sherp's four-cylinder turbodiesel motor allows it to get up to 40 km/h, and over obstacles up to 70 cm

high, and up a 35-degree gradient. The Sherp's wheels aren't articulated – the vehicle relies instead on differential steering by slowing down the left or right side depending on which direction you want to turn. You could even snap it around using the skid-steering function, provided there's 2,5 m of space on either side. Obviously approach, departure and breakover angles are a non-issue.

There's only space for a single passenger and the driver, who steers the Sherp using levers. But the company also makes a Sherp called The Ark, which adds a powered trailer in the same design as the vehicle, and is capable of being driven through the toughest terrain. These trailers are customised to carry personnel or hazardous materials across terrain where other vehicles just can't go.



Have you spotted any whacky wheels on your travels? Tell us about it and send a photo to *go! Drive & Camp*, PO Box 740, Cape Town 8000 or drivecamp@gomag.co.za



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