

#70

CAMP CUISINE ELEVATE YOUR FESTIVE MEAL

go!

DECEMBER 2025-JANUARY 2026 | ISSUE 70

# Drive & Camp

## To Hartenbos!

Pitch your tent and explore the Garden Route



### MOZAMBIQUE

You are cordially invited to the Maputo National Park

### CARAVAN TEST

### MOBI LODGE QUATTRO

Double the luxury in the bundu

**WEEKEND BREAK** Get comfy next to the Breede River | **KYKNET BUIITE EXPO** New caravans for Christmas | **VEHICLE REVIEWS** Burly Nissan Navara Warrior, budget Ford Ranger XL & brand-new Jetour T2 | **BORDER TALK** Botswana is Khwai in the summer | **CAMP BOFFIN** Is your caravan's bed big enough? | **4X4 PROFESSOR** A year in review

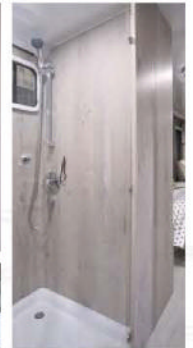
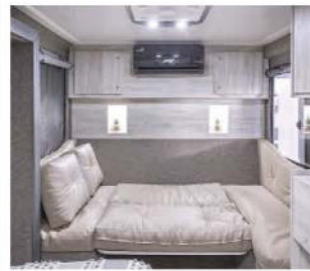
**GEAR**

## HERE IS OUR WISH LIST, FATHER CHRISTMAS



R140,00 (including VAT)  
Namibia N\$145,00





**MOBI LODGE CONTINENTAL**



**MOBI LODGE XL**



Scan to view the rest of the Mobi Lodge models!

# THE NEW MOBI LODGE QUATTRO

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- ✓ 4-Sleeper with King-Size Island & Double Bed
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- ✓ 5 Metre Electric Awning

Beyond Comparison!  
★★★★★







# Slow down and savour the beauty

As the year draws to a close, I'm always struck by how life seems to accelerate at a terrifying pace. There's so much to do, so many people to see, school terms to survive – all before you can take a breath and flip that "Out of Office" switch.

But once it finally happens – once you can pause for a moment – a glorious stretch of holiday awaits. A time to focus on what truly matters: your family, your friends and the things you cherish.

The December break has always meant a great deal to me. Growing up, it was precious family time – with grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins everywhere. Summer days were hot and long, and I still smile thinking about how we kids would swim long after sunset while the grown-ups relaxed around the braai.

A holiday like this reminds us how important it is to step out of our everyday routines. Especially in South Africa, where we are spoiled with stunning choices: beaches, mountains, bushveld and game reserves. Show me a better backdrop to refresh both body and soul...

I don't need to convince you of the simple joy of a camping holiday or slow travel with your loved ones; if you're reading this, you're part of the *Drive & Camp* community, which means you already get it. You understand the value of this lifestyle, and you're likely living it right now.

It's in moments like these that we rediscover our greatest wealth: a sense of freedom, contentment and calm – and the realisation of just how important time with loved ones truly is.

I believe everyone deserves the gift of a break. Fortunately, it's in our own hands. With the right priorities and a little planning, it is possible. For me, returning to simple living is the best way to escape work, the city and all the noise of life.

I hope that's true for you too. Slow down these holidays. Enjoy every moment and remind yourself of the simplicity of happiness. The best adventures aren't always in the things we chase, but in what's right in front of us.

From all of us at *Drive & Camp*, we wish you a festive season full of joy, great times and wonderful memories. Enjoy it all – and please travel safely. We'll chat again soon.

*Schalk*

EDITOR

 schalk.jonker@media24.com



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# MEDIA24



DESTINATION 48



ACROSS THE BORDER 64

## #70 COVER SHOT – CYRIL KLOPPER

“Miri and I used the school holidays for some quality father-daughter time during a work trip. Her favourite lookout point is the roofrack of my Jimny, no matter where we travel. This photo was taken in Dana Bay near Hartenbos.”

**Camera & settings** Canon EOS R10, f8,  
 1/320 sec, 24 mm, ISO 100





### SAVANNAH 3 BOW TENT



2.1m x 2.1m x 1.5m  
**R3 790<sup>00</sup>**

### SAVANNAH 4 BOW TENT



2.5m x 2.5m x 1.9m  
**R4 900<sup>00</sup>**

### SAVANNAH 5 BOW TENT



3.0m x 3.0m x 2.2m  
**R5 790<sup>00</sup>**

### SENIOR SAFARI DELUXE BOW TENT

- > 320GSM SAFARI RIPSTOP CANVAS
- > 540GSM HEAVY DUTY PVC GROUND SHEET
- > 8.5MM ELECTROPLATED HIGH TENSILE SPRING-STEEL FRAME
- > INSIDE & OUTSIDE WINDOW CLOSURES
- > HEAT VENT WITH INSIDE CLOSURE



**3 WINDOWS**  
WITH INSIDE & OUTSIDE CLOSURES

SENIOR  
3.0m x 3.0m x 2.2m  
**R8 150<sup>00</sup>**

### RANGER SAFARI BOW TENT



2.1m x 2.1m x 1.8m  
**R4 510<sup>00</sup>**

### JUNIOR WANDERER BOW TENT



2.5m x 2.5m x 1.9m  
**R5 200<sup>00</sup>**

### SENIOR WANDERER BOW TENT



3.0m x 3.0m x 2.2m  
**R6 000<sup>00</sup>**

### JUNIOR SAFARI DELUXE BOW TENT



2.5m x 2.5m x 1.9m  
**R6 510<sup>00</sup>**

### JUNIOR SAHARA



4.5m x 2.9m x 2.65m  
**R12 510<sup>00</sup>**

### SAHARA DELUXE



6.0m x 2.9m x 2.65m  
**R17 340<sup>00</sup>**

### SAHARA LODGE



8.0m x 2.9m x 2.65m  
**R23 300<sup>00</sup>**

### SAHARA GRAND



8.0m x 2.9m x 2.5m  
**R24 620<sup>00</sup>**

### SENIOR GAZEBO



3.0m x 2.8m x 2.3m  
**R3 410<sup>00</sup>**

- > 260GSM SAFARI RIPSTOP CANVAS
- > YELLOW PASSIVATED ELECTROPLATED STEEL FRAME
- > NYLON CORNERS

#### SNR GAZEBO END WALL SOLID

**R720<sup>00</sup>**



#### SNR GAZEBO END WALL WITH DOOR

**R830<sup>00</sup>**



#### SNR GAZEBO SIDE WALL SOLID

**R800<sup>00</sup>**



#### SNR GAZEBO SIDE WALL, 2 WINDOWS

**R1 150<sup>00</sup>**



#### SNR GAZEBO SIDE WALL, DOOR & WINDOW

**R1 220<sup>00</sup>**



#### GAZEBO & JNR BOW CONNECTOR

To fit all Tentco's 2.5m x 2.5m bow tents

**R1 330<sup>00</sup>**



#### GAZEBO & SNR BOW CONNECTOR

To fit all Tentco's 3.0m x 3.0m bow tents

**R1 500<sup>00</sup>**



#### SNR GAZEBO SHADE NET INNER

**R3 620<sup>00</sup>**



Gazebo and Bow Tent not included

### JUMBO GAZEBO

4.0m x 2.9m x 2.5m

**SPACIOUS**

#### SPECIFICATIONS:

- > 260GSM SAFARI RIPSTOP CANVAS
- > YELLOW PASSIVATED ELECTROPLATED STEEL FRAME 22MM
- > HEAVY DUTY REINFORCED NYLON CORNERS

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- > Fixed handle

**R485<sup>00</sup>**

**BUSHBUCK BRAAI GRID**

- > 430mm x 340mm x 20mm
- > Fixed handle

**R330<sup>00</sup>**

**WATERBUCK BRAAI GRID**

- > 430mm x 340mm x adjustable top grid
- > Fixed handle

**R360<sup>00</sup>**

**DUKER BRAAI GRID**

**NEW**

**IMPALA BRAAI GRID**

- > 430mm x 340mm x 20mm
- > Sliding handle

**R355<sup>00</sup>**

**SPRINGBOK BRAAI GRID**

- > 430mm x 340mm x 20mm
- > Sliding handle

**R220<sup>00</sup>**

**STEENBOK BRAAI GRID**

- > 27.8cm x 13cm
- > Fixed handle

**R150<sup>00</sup>**

**TAKES 4 SANDWICHES**

- > Fixed handle
- > 27.8cm x 26.2cm

**R250<sup>00</sup>**

**3-SHELF DELUXE CUPBOARD**



**R1 150<sup>00</sup>**

**4-SHELF DELUXE CUPBOARD**

CONVERTS INTO HANGING SPACE



**R1 700<sup>00</sup>**

\*Contents not included

**KITCHEN CABINET DELUXE**



**R1 450<sup>00</sup>**

**EXTREME ICE BOX 20L**

58cm x 35cm x 36cm



**R1999<sup>00</sup>**

**EXTREME ICE BOX 40L**

61cm x 43cm x 43cm



**R2 999<sup>00</sup>**

**EXTREME ICE BOX 60L**

80cm x 43cm x 43cm



**R3 999<sup>00</sup>**

**EXTREME ICE BOX 90L**

89cm x 49cm x 49cm



**R5 500<sup>00</sup>**

**EXTREME ICE BOX 120L**

101cm x 53cm x 48cm



**R6 200<sup>00</sup>**

**EXTREME ICE BOX 140L**

90cm x 58cm x 57cm



**R6 999<sup>00</sup>**

**DIRECTORS DELUXE**



Max carry weight: 180kg  
**R950<sup>00</sup>**

**DIRECTORS DELUXE**



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**R1 599<sup>00</sup>**

**CLASSIC**



Max carry weight: 120kg  
**R1 499<sup>00</sup>**

**LOUNGER**



Max carry weight: 120kg  
**R1 250<sup>00</sup>**

**COOLER BAG 12L**



**R450<sup>00</sup>**

**COOLER BAG 28L**



**R499<sup>00</sup>**

**COOLER BAG 55L**



**R650<sup>00</sup>**

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# Drive until you make friends

**A**fter 10 years of camping in an off-road camper, my husband Nantes and I decided to go back to a rooftop tent. We're both over 60, so we chose the BunduTop from BunduTec, which opens electrically.

We made a wish list of places we still wanted to see and experience, and planning began. Within weeks, the tent was ready and we had booked our spot on a guided tour. Over the next three weeks, 7 100 km lay ahead... Zimbabwe, here we come!

We packed the Fortuner, fitted

with a fridge and drawer system. The backpacks we last used in Greece in 2010 fit perfectly on the back seat. After the convenience of a camper, it's quite the adjustment to pack all your gear into a car again.

In the first few days, I looked at the off-road caravans in our tour group with a bit of sadness. Their rigs were kitted from top to bottom – and here come the Le Roux's with "PAD AF - WP" (ROAD OFF Western Province) on our Fortuner!

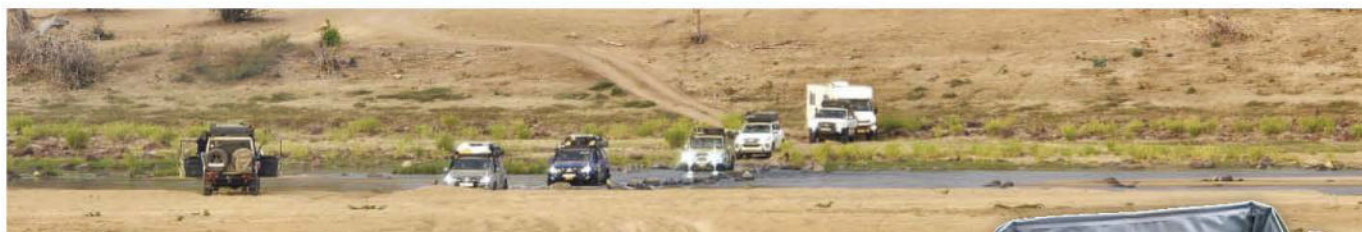
In for a penny, in for a pound, and we visited several national parks: Hwange was a highlight, and the pool

at Robins Camp was a blessing after hours of driving – highly recommended.

Matusadona stole my heart with spectacular sunsets and elephants strolling through camp while hippos grumbled in the background.

We hadn't been to the Mana Pools since 2012, and seeing them again was incredible – this time completely dry with no sign of rain. At night, the hippos serenaded us; by day, elephants came visiting – not to mention the mischievous baboons!

How do you describe Gonarezhou? Untamed. Quite the experience.



WINNING  
LETTER

**Salma** 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 a lunch box and a 1,5 l cooldrink bottle. The lid also has space for a coffee flask. The interior is lined with PVC, which makes it easy to keep the bag clean and hygienic. The bag has a short strap that reaches over the top and attaches with a Velcro strip, as well as 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](http://winkel.weg.co.za)







\*New OKTO caravans. Afrispor, Metalian, Nayela and Freeline Maverick Off-road caravans. Edgeout and Vagabond Rogue Teardrop trailers. Metalian gravel road camping trailers.

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**F**  
FREELINE CAMPERS

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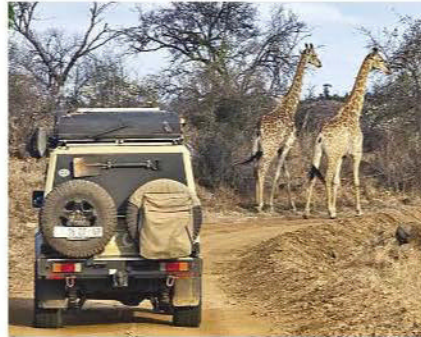
The Chipinda Pools and Chilojo Cliffs are breathtaking.

Every cold shower and long-drop added to the adventure – no luxuries here. So spending a few nights on a houseboat on Lake Kariba felt heavenly; I showered four times in 72 hours under wonderfully hot water, and you could almost hug the porcelain toilet! The broad, mirror-calm water surrounds you as far as the eye can see. At sunset, we cruised past more hippos and elephants – pure bucket-list magic.

The Great Zimbabwe Ruins take your breath away – just as impressive as any European cathedral. The extra dollar for a guide is worth every cent.

Speaking of dollars: take some with you, although you can use your credit card in most places. You'll even find Pick n Pay stores in larger towns.

We prefer a guided group like Kwando Adventures over travelling



alone. Dries Fourie was our tour leader and his knowledge is phenomenal. Everything is planned down to the smallest detail.

Everyone helps each other; no one is on an island here. If someone gets a flat tyre, or Dr Werner Botha's air-con pipe bursts, someone jumps in to help. Dana Bekker's fridge started acting up – quickly fixed. People with the same mindset travel well together – and you make friends for life.

Meanwhile, PAD AF is now being properly equipped with a better packing and shower system – because we're almost on the road again. Mabuasehube is next in February, followed by Malawi, Zambia, Damaraland and Kaokoland.

Before life gets you down, get the road under your wheels – and drive!

**SALMA LE ROUX**  
Durbanville 🇿🇦



Uys and Anneke de Vos from Swakopmund enjoy the sunset in Matusadona National Park.

Follow @wegrysleep on Instagram and tag your photos with #wegrysleep – we might feature them on our profile or in the magazine.



BAINES BAOBABS, BOTSWANA  
Photo @cruiser\_chronicles\_overlanding



@HEUNINGBERG 4x4 NEAR PORTERVILLE,  
WESTERN CAPE Photo @frikadl



BAVIAANSKLOOF CALLING...  
Photo @noel\_cloete



THE CALL OF THE ROAD  
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[www.stealthcaravans.co.za](http://www.stealthcaravans.co.za)





# New campsite in the Waterberg

Campsites around Bela-Bela are in high demand, especially in the Waterberg region north of town. Modubu Lodge has now joined the list of destinations in this sought-after area.

It's less than a 10-minute drive from town, with a tar road right to the gate, and located in the same cul-de-sac as the ATKV retirement village Klein-Kariba Negester. With no through-traffic, peace and quiet are pretty much guaranteed.

Leon and Maria Prinsloo, together with friends Tom and Marietjie Brown, bought the 23 ha slice of Bushveld in 2024, when there were only three self-catering chalets on site. From the start, they planned to add camping facilities, and phase one of three is now complete, featuring 12 stands tucked between indigenous trees. Each stand is named after a well-known Waterberg tree species, such as the kiereklapper, koedoebessie and apiesdoring. The lodge name also has botanical roots: Modubu is the Tswana word for the river bushwillow, symbolising life-giving water.

As you enter the property, it stretches out lengthways in front of you. A little farther along, you'll spot the enclosed swimming pool on the left, followed by the chalets and finally, the camping area.

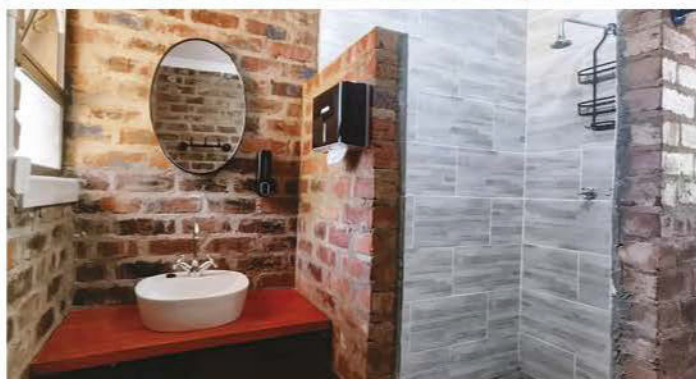
The stands are arranged in a half-moon around the ablution block. Campsites offer shade on cleared ground, along with a household power point and a water tap. Each site also comes with a portable oil-barrel braai on wheels.

The ablutions include four family bathrooms (with shower, basin and toilet), one family bathroom with a bath instead of a shower, plus two separate toilets, a laundry and a wash-up area.

Facilities include two swimming pools (one heated), a jungle gym for the kids and walking trails where you can explore the koppie, kloof and rocky outcrops. Expect to spot impala, kudu and nyala, and around 100 bird species have been recorded on the property.

**Price** R300-R650 p.n. per stand for up to four people (season dependent), then R100 p.p.n. (maximum six per stand).

**Contact** 📞 079 510 7553 📞 076 505 3721 or 082 377 9707 📧 modubu@omnileisure.co.za 🌐 modubu.co.za



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# New campsite opens outside Paarl

**W**olwehok is a new campsite on the 150 ha Mineral Springs wine farm outside Paarl, where owners Pieter and Helene Beyers farm with citrus and olives.

The campsite sits along the banks of the Wildeperdejag River, which rises in the nearby Limietberg Nature Reserve before joining the Berg River close to town.

Of the 10 stands, eight are placed alongside one another, with the remaining two set opposite them near the ablution block. Buffalo grass has been planted on each stand and low wooden markers indicate the boundaries. Freestanding drum braais are provided – just remember to bring your own grid.

The ablution block is positioned closest to the central stands and comprises three spacious family bathrooms, each with an open shower, basin, mirror and toilet. A gas geyser supplies hot water. Lighting is solar-powered, but note that there are no 220 V power points in the campsite. A wash-up area is attached to the bathrooms, and there's an outdoor cold-water shower too. If you prefer, you can cool off in the mountain stream.

Pets are welcome, and wood and ice are available for purchase on-site. Mobile reception is patchy.

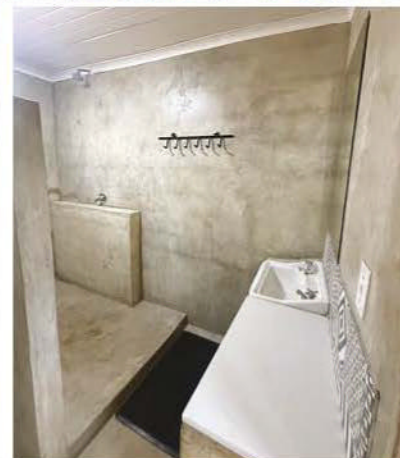
Access requires roughly 2,5 km of gravel from the tar road, suitable for any vehicle.

Helene explains that the campsite is named after old “wolf traps” – stone-and-mud enclosures on the farm once used, apparently more than a century ago, to catch hyenas. One of these structures remains visible beside the campsite; the other has become overgrown.

Pieter is the fifth generation of Beyers on the farm, with the sixth (35 years old) and seventh (9 months), both his namesakes, also living here.

**Price** R180 p.p.n. (R100 for children under 12).

**Contact** 083 679 4676 • [helene@mineralsprings.co.za](mailto:helene@mineralsprings.co.za)  
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\*Main image features the  
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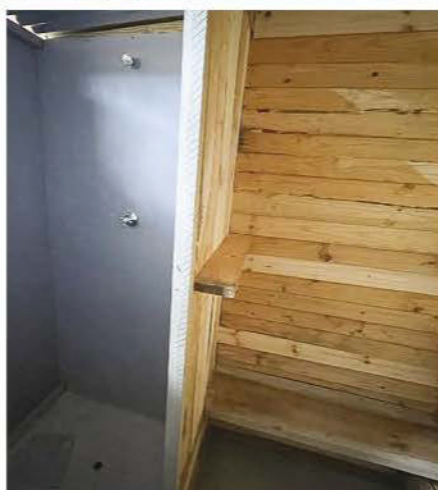
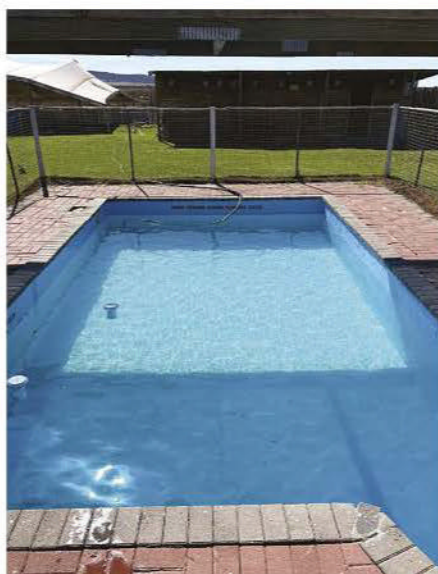
**S**aggies op 80 is a new “private” campsite on a farm positioned centrally between Vredenburg, Velddrif, Hopefield, Langebaan and Saldanha. It can accommodate up to 30 people, but only one booking is accepted at a time. That means the whole campsite is yours, whether you arrive with a two-man tent or bring all your camping buddies along.

The 64 ha farm lies about 5 km outside Vredenburg and belongs to Dewald and Jandra Kraftt. The name, Jandra explains, has nothing to do with age: “It’s an old saying – if a group of people were listening to music on the wireless and someone wanted to speak, someone would say: ‘Put the music softly on 80.’”

“We’re social folk,” she laughs. “We originally set up the place for ourselves and our friends. First came the lapa, but the sand annoyed us. So next came the lawn. Then, we added the swimming pool. We also put up a few Wendy houses, and then our friends wanted to stay longer. That’s what led to the campsite, which opened in late 2023.”

One Wendy house is fully equipped as overnight accommodation, while the other three provide beds only – handy for family or friends who want to join you but don’t own camping gear.

The swimming pool sits at the centre of the campsite, surrounded by grass. The lapa (which has power) is positioned



in one corner. There are no power points at the stands themselves, but there is an inverter at the lapa for small appliances.

You can pitch anywhere you like. The ablution block is to the left of the lawn and offers three shower cubicles with dressing areas, plus three separate toilets.

There’s a boma with a braai area near the entrance, and free-standing braais with grids are also provided.

Small dogs are welcome, provided they’re calm around the chickens, geese, ducks and rabbits on the farm.

The last 4 km is on a smooth gravel road.

**Price** R120 p.p.p.n. (R60 for children under 12; free for under-3s). Rates for the Wendy houses are R150 p.p.p.n. and R750 for four (equipped).

**Contact** 083 566 4513 • jkraftt@mweb.co.za • Saggies op 80





The logo for FVELDT, featuring a stylized white triangle to the left of the brand name in a bold, sans-serif font.A family of four (mother, father, and two children) are camping on a rocky shore. They are gathered around a small table with food and drinks. The mother is holding a mug, the father is holding a thermos, and the children are eating. A small tent is visible in the foreground.

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# Concept cars from Japan

The Tokyo Mobility Show took place in the last week of October, showcasing a number of intriguing machines. Here are three concept vehicles that will likely never reach production, but they do offer a glimpse of what the future may hold.

## THE FUTURE

The Lexus LS is a bus-like concept that looks straight out of a sci-fi film. Its most striking exterior feature? Four smaller wheels at the back and two larger ones up front. Why? Because Lexus can.

The “LS” stands for Luxury Space – and the cabin lives up to the name. You’ll find traditional Japanese bamboo used throughout, and the four seats look supremely comfortable. The steering wheel and instrument cluster can shift from left to right, allowing the LS to be driven in any country, although the long-term goal is to eliminate the driver altogether and hand full control to artificial intelligence.



## MOVING UP

The Mitsubishi Elevance is an all-electric SUV still in the concept phase. Whether Mitsubishi will ever put it into production is anyone's guess; the brand has spent the past few decades struggling to find direction. Still, it's encouraging to see Mitsubishi innovating rather than stagnating.

A large portion of the doors is made of glass, allowing you to practically see straight through the vehicle – and the roof is almost entirely glass too. Mitsubishi says the Elevance will be a proper 4x4, and its premium appearance won't compromise off-road ability. It features artificial intelligence that learns your habits, though the plan isn't to replace the driver.

## SPACE TAXI

Toyota envisions future HiAce buses appealing to both tradespeople and campers, though it could, of course, still serve as a minibus taxi. In fact, the HiAce concept shown at the motor show features digital exterior displays that alert pedestrians and other road users when the vehicle is about to pull away, stop or turn – a feature that might one day help protect us from reckless taxi drivers here in South Africa.



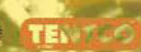




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# Production cars on the way

It wasn't only concept vehicles on display at the Tokyo Mobility Show. Here are three new models already approved for production, though it may still be a few years before you see them on the road.

## Honda 0 SUV

### SLIPPERY SMOOTH

Honda's latest electric models fall under the new 0-Series banner, and the crossover shown here is the Honda Series 0 α, or 0 Alpha.

The vehicle revealed at the show is still a prototype, and some cosmetic tweaks are expected before production begins in 2027. The 0 α will initially be sold only in Japan and India (where it will be built), but it's likely destined for other markets too. Honda aims to sell only electric vehicles by 2040 – the rest of the world will need to catch up or be left behind.



### QUITE GRAND

The Nissan Elgrand will go on sale from mid-2026 in Asia, Australia and Europe. This large people-carrier pairs a 1.5 l petrol engine with an electric motor driving all four wheels. Inside, a single wide digital display forms the instrument panel, while the centre console and steering wheel retain traditional physical buttons.

As with many new models, the Elgrand features driver-assist tech powered by artificial intelligence – in this case called ProPilot – to support the driver without taking full control.



### BABY CRUISER

We're particularly excited about the upcoming Toyota Land Cruiser FJ. Toyota has clearly noticed the runaway sales success of the new Suzuki Jimny, and they want in on the action. The Land Cruiser FJ is a brand-new model that looks like a downsized Prado (about 50 cm longer and 20 cm taller than a Jimny).

It's powered by a 2.7 l petrol engine and features electronic switching between 2H, 4H and 4L. It's still unclear whether it will come to South Africa, but Toyota SA is reportedly in discussions with Japan. If those talks go well, we could see it here as early as late 2026.







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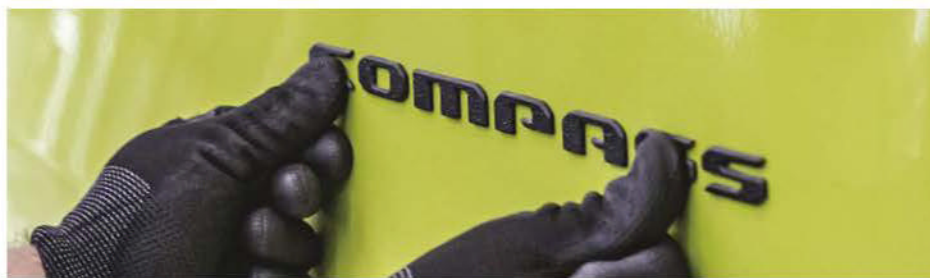
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# Compass points



Global automotive giant Stellantis announced in October that production of the latest Jeep Compass has begun. It's being built in Melfi, Italy, and will be sold in 60 countries, including South Africa.

The Compass remains a top seller for Stellantis, with more than 2.5 million units sold worldwide. The United States will still build its own version of the new Compass (to avoid the Trump administration's import tariffs), while the rest of the world gets the Italian-made model.

President Donald Trump publicly opposes green energy, favouring coal-powered generation over renewables – which makes it rather ironic that a Jeep, one of America's most iconic vehicles, is now being manufactured in a plant powered by solar, wind and biogas.

Three versions will be offered globally: fully electric, mild-hybrid and plug-in hybrid drivetrains. Local pricing has not yet been confirmed.

## Willie wheels away a tool trolley!

We hear from so many readers who are thrilled when an Adendorff brochure is included with our magazine. There's just something satisfying about paging through it and daydreaming about the perfect workshop setup, right?

Well, **Willie Barnard** from Ermelo is now one step closer to making that dream a reality. He's the lucky winner of the competition featured in the October/November 2025 issue of *Drive & Camp*. Willie is now the proud owner of a MAC AFRIC CRV tool trolley – fully kitted with 207 pieces in seven drawers – worth R12 950 from Adendorff. With this upgrade, his projects are sure to go faster, look neater and be tackled smarter than ever before!

This is a game-changing addition to any workspace, fitted with durable 120 mm rubber castors that glide wherever the job takes you. It comes stocked with top-quality tools – from spanners to screwdrivers – all neatly organised for quick access. The trolley's smart worktop layout is designed with efficiency in mind.

It's a must-have for any workshop.

Keep an eye on future issues of *Drive & Camp*... you never know – Adendorff might just have another giveaway up their sleeves soon.

Congratulations, Willie – enjoy your prize!





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# Christmas in Hartenbos

A whole range of new caravans made their debut at the recent kykNET Buite Expo outside Mossel Bay.

Words and photos **Leon Botha**

## IMAGINE

Imagine has expanded its range with two new caravans: an additional ComfortVan variant and the new GravaVan, developed from the existing CruiserVan models.

The ComfortVan 2.0 features a fixed bed instead of the fold-out version found in other models in the line-up. To accommodate this, the body has been extended by 50 cm. Although the prototype bed is mounted crossways, the production version will be fitted lengthways with bedside cupboards on either side.

The previous canvas-sided fold-out section as second bed or wardrobe has been replaced by a 48 cm slide-out module in the 2.0.

Thanks to the longer body, the front storage box has doubled in size: 100 cm deep, 110 cm wide and 70 cm high.

Otherwise, the ComfortVan retains its well-known layout, including the external kitchen and bathroom.

The GravaVan is 80 cm shorter than the CruiserVan, keeping the same signature shape with a full-length pop-up roof. The bathroom, usually on the right as you step inside, now shifts across the door.

It's also 250 kg lighter than the two current models with a GVM of 1 750 kg, and it rides on 15-inch wheels with a 2,5 t axle.

**Price** ComfortVan 2.0 R472 000; GravaVan R370 000

**Contact** 082 411 1266

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IMAGINE COMFORTVAN



IMAGINE GRAVAVAN





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## CASCADE LEISURE

Cascade has updated the Bordeaux model's external kitchen, and in the process, the caravan has gained an extra window.

The outdoor kitchen's cabinet and work surface are positioned to the left of the door, above the wheel. The cabinet still offers multiple shelves and space for a microwave, but it now sits lower to make room for the new window. Inside, there's a cabinet with a countertop beneath the window.

The new models now ride on 16-inch wheels instead of 15-inch.

Standard features include a queen-size bed, 220 V fridge/freezer, microwave, air conditioner, full bathroom, 110 l water tank, outdoor kitchen with crockery and cutlery for six, 100 Ah deep-cycle battery and a Victron power system.

Buyers can choose between an electric or gas geyser, an induction plate or gas stove, and two interior colour schemes: grey and silver or brown and black.

Tare remains 1 450 kg with a GVM of 1 800 kg.

**Price** R585 000

**Contact** 082 926 0377 info@

cascadeleisure.co.za cascadeleisure.co.za



CASCADE BORDEAUX



## ELXV

ELXV (Elite Luxury Off-road Vehicles), known for its premium off-road caravans, has upgraded its Ghari range.

On the Ghari 3.7, the queen-size bed now runs across the width of the caravan to free up interior space, while the wet room has been enlarged and repositioned opposite the entrance.

The exterior kitchen still features two slide-out drawers at the nose, but the assembly is now 50 cm longer. The lower drawer, housing a recessed basin, gains a larger work surface and a side-sliding drawer for added storage. The upper drawer has also grown, offering more packing space.

Standard equipment on the show model includes 8 900 BTU air conditioner (12 V), 12 V interior and exterior fridges (150 l Vitrifrigo inside, 95 l outside), 200 Ah lithium battery, 30 A Victron charger and electric roof lift, Hansen 14 l gas-electric geyser, two-plate gas stove, 12-piece melamine dining set and 150 l water tank.

**Price** R799 900

**Contact** 082 444 2850 info@elxv.co.za

elxv.co.za



ELXV GHARI 3.7







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Main image featuring the LX27 rooftop tent



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## BUSHWAKKA

Show visitors were treated to an Australian-built off-road caravan in the form of Bushwakka's Drover 15.

Bushwakka Africa is based in Worcester, with its parent company, Bushwakka Australia, in Brisbane. The two share product development, and the Drover is a showcase of the Aussies' craftsmanship.

Models imported to South Africa – the Fakawi Tribe 2, Wego and Drover 13 and 15 – are built almost entirely in Australia, while certain elements are completed locally to comply with South

African regulations. One example is the electric brakes, which are replaced here with overrun brakes.

Australia and South Africa share similar tastes in off-road caravans, and the layout reflects that: an external kitchen on the left-hand side with a fridge/freezer on a slide-out rail and storage above the wheel arch, plus a patio awning and indoor dinette next to the bed.

Standard equipment is generous: a three-burner gas stove (induction hob optional), interior bathroom with separate shower and electric cassette toilet, air

conditioner and smart TV, 200 Ah lithium battery, solar and 2 000 W inverter, gas-electric geyser, two 120 ℓ water tanks plus 85 ℓ grey-water tank and a diesel heater for the living area, which is a feature rarely seen in local caravans.

Construction consists of an aluminium composite body on independent suspension with a high-tensile galvanised steel chassis. Tare is 200 kg with a GVM of 2 500 kg.

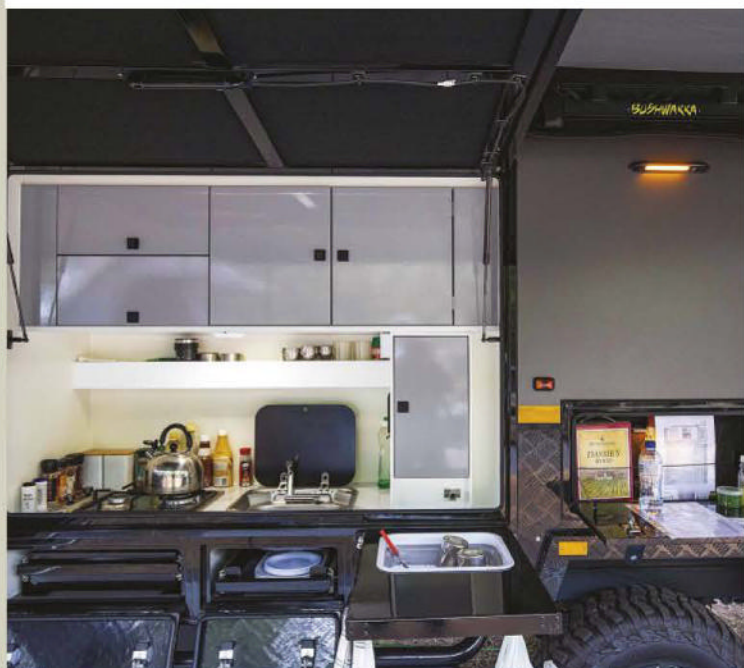
**Price** R950 000

**Contact** 087 250 2766 • info@

bushwakka.africa • bushwakka.africa



BUSHWAKKA DROVER 15



BUSHWAKKA



## TUFF CATS

Tuff Cats has added a new model to its line-up and refreshed its flagship, the Dindingwe.

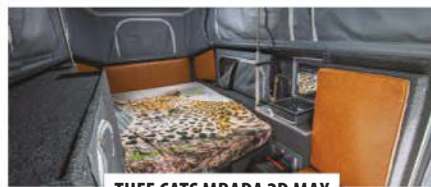
The new Mbada 2D Max builds on the Nova 2D with several refinements. The bed now runs lengthways at the front of the caravan, and the transverse support beam above the head end has been removed. The roof is extended to meet the headboard, providing noticeably more headroom above the bed. (The roof still lifts electrically.)

The small transverse door at the head end is replaced with a fixed headboard finished in light-brown upholstery. Opposite the main entrance, on the right-hand sidewall, there is a door opening into the shower tent. The indoor basin beside it has shifted closer to the foot end of the bed, creating space for an extra bench between the basin and the entrance.

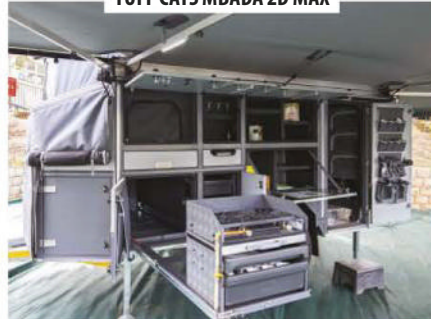
Like the Nova 2D, the newcomer sleeps two and comes standard with a 120 ℓ water tank with pump, two-burner gas stove, 5 ℓ gas geyser, 105 Ah deep-cycle battery with Victron power system (12 V 30 A charger, BMV-712 monitor and 100/30 solar controller), electric pop-top roof, shower tent with shower and basin, indoor basin and patio awning. Options include a 20 ℓ microwave, sliders and air con.



TUFF CATS DINDINGWE



TUFF CATS MBADA 2D MAX



The Dindingwe has been updated inside and out.

The solid bench to the right of the entrance is now at least 20 cm wider and no longer a single unit. This allows for two opposing single benches that convert into a single bed when folded flat, or you can add a bunk bed above.

The bed still slides out of the right-hand panel but is positioned closer to the nose, as the basin beside it has moved into the bathroom. This creates around 40 cm of extra space at the foot end, making it more of a semi-island bed.

The bed now has a solid headboard instead of a window and gains two side windows. The upholstery here matches the material used in the Mbada 2D Max.

In the exterior kitchen, the fridge no longer slides out sideways. The Dindingwe features a stand-up 12 V fridge/freezer – available either as a single unit or two 65 ℓ units.

Tuff Cats has also replaced loose support poles throughout its range of patio awnings, and moved the ridge supports forward.

**Price** Mbada 2D Max R525 000; Dindingwe R729 000

**Contact** 082 301 2393 • [sales@tuffcats.co.za](mailto:sales@tuffcats.co.za)  
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DESTINATION INSPIRATION



## DESTINATION

Destination's newest caravan, the Inspiration, slots neatly between the Nature and Magic models.

According to owner André van Helsdingen, most of their caravans feature a transverse bed, but the newcomer adopts a queen-size island bed positioned lengthways, similar to the Destiny entry-level model.

Features usually reserved for the larger models now form part of the Inspiration package, including the seating benches opposite the entrance.

The full bathroom is at the rear on the

right. The entire unit is separated from the living space, and the shower cubicle is enclosed apart from the toilet and hand basin. Smart tweaks have created more room: the mirror above the basin is recessed, and the cabinet beneath is wider.

A wide range of comfort and convenience equipment is standard and ranges from a full bathroom, air conditioner, upright fridge/freezer and microwave, to the 120 ℓ fibreglass water tank with pump and 30 ℓ gas-electric geyser.

The outdoor kitchen includes drawers, basins, an induction hob and crockery and cutlery for six.

Power comes from a 100 Ah deep-cycle battery and Victron charger, with an optional 3 kVA solar upgrade for R79 000. This includes four 100 Ah lithium batteries combined with three 590 W solar panels, delivering a total of 5,12 kWh.

The main tent is standard. Optional extras include a roll-out awning, caravan movers, reversing camera, gas geyser and safety grab rail.

Tare is 1 650 kg with a GVM of 2 000 kg.

**Price** R695 000

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*Prices shown were valid for the duration of the show and may differ from dealer pricing.*





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| Engine .....           | 1 998 cc four-cylinder turbodiesel   |
| Power .....            | 180 kW @ 5 500 r/min                 |
| Torque .....           | 375 Nm @ 1 750 r/min                 |
| Transmission .....     | Seven-speed DCT                      |
| Top speed .....        | 180 km/h                             |
| Fuel consumption ..... | 6,8 l/100 km (claimed)               |
| Tank .....             | 70 l                                 |
| Weight .....           | 1 934 kg                             |
| Wheelbase .....        | 2 800 mm                             |
| Dimensions .....       | 4 785 (l) x 2 006 (w) x 1 880 mm (h) |
| Ground clearance ..... | 220 mm                               |
| Safety rating .....    | Unrated                              |
| Warranty .....         | 10 year/1 000 000 km                 |
| Service plan .....     | 5 year/60 000 km                     |
| PRICE .....            | R679 900                             |

The Jetour T2 SUV was launched in Cape Town this October. Jetour, a subsidiary of Chinese motoring giant Chery, entered the South African market early in 2024, and the T2 is its fourth model on local soil.

There are three versions in the line-up: the front-wheel-drive Aspire (R569 900), and two all-wheel-drive models (without low-range) called the Xplora and Odyssey, priced at R639 900 and R679 900 respectively.

The Aspire features a 1.5 l turbodiesel producing 125 kW and 270 Nm, while the Xplora and Odyssey upgrade to a 2.0 l turbodiesel with 180 kW and 375 Nm.

Jetour was rather tight-lipped with specifications at the launch – and the media releases don't reveal much either – but some digging unearthed that the F4J20 engine used in the Xplora and Odyssey was named one of China's top 10 engines in 2021.

This engine runs on the Miller cycle (as opposed to the more common Otto or Atkinson cycles), known for improved fuel efficiency and lower emissions, although typically with higher wear and a dependance on forced induction.

All three models are available in black, white, green or silver body colours. Standard kit includes parking cameras and sensors, a tyre-pressure monitoring system and LED lighting.

The two higher-spec models have a full-size spare, while the base Aspire makes do with a space-saver. All T2s seat five, although Jetour launched a longer seven-seat version in China in 2024, which could make its way here if there's enough demand. 🗨️







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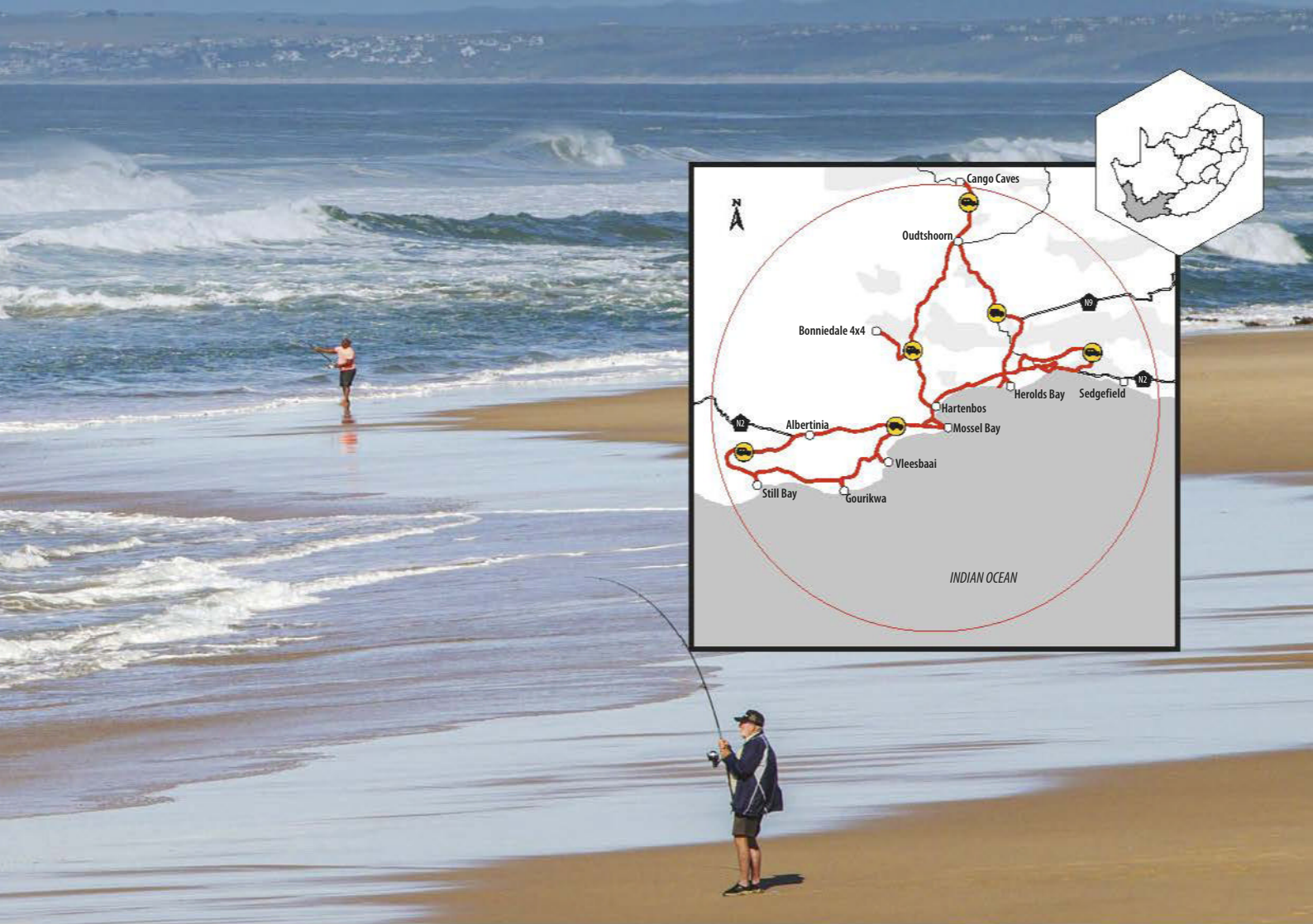
# Hartenbos, where my heart lies

It's the summer break and we're rolling out the camping gear at Hartenbos. Sure, some campers are happy to laze for weeks on end... but others soon get itchy feet and start hunting for adventure.

Words and photos **Cyril Kloppe**







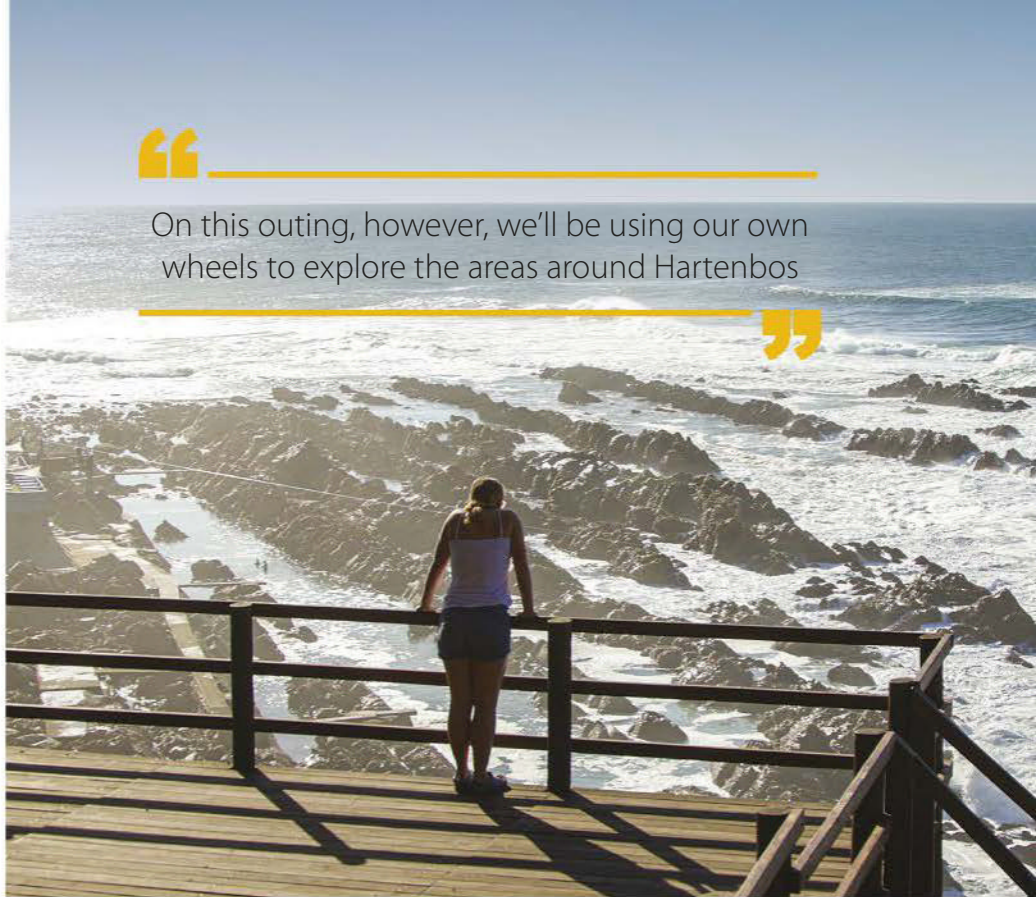




“

On this outing, however, we'll be using our own wheels to explore the areas around Hartenbos

”



**LIFE'S A BEACH.** The Cape St Blaize Cave at The Point (above) has attracted archaeologists since 1888, when George Leith found Stone Age arrowheads here. The dunes at Vleesbaai (left and opposite top) are a great place to test the offroad capabilities of your rig. Kids will probably not want to drive around all day long and will much rather spend time at the pool and its water slides (opposite right).



**H**artenbos was established in 1933 by the South African Railways and Harbours (today Transnet) as a holiday resort for its lower-rank employees. The Afrikaans Language and Culture Association (ATKV) has managed the resort from the beginning – and although access was originally limited to Afrikaners, Hartenbos now welcomes everyone.

Apart from relaxing under your awning and greeting fellow campers on their way to the ablution block, you can go fishing

or take a dip in the ocean. Hartenbos is one of South Africa's 44 Blue Flag beaches, which means clean water, a safe and well-maintained shoreline, and unrestricted access.

Other must-do holiday rituals include grabbing an ice cream from Milky Lane on your way to the pool and its slippery slides. Hartenbos is a place where you can unwind while the kids run wild, but every now and then, you might get itchy feet. That's when you want to explore a little more of the area without driving too far. With that in mind, we set ourselves

a simple rule: limit our outings to within an 80 km radius of Hartenbos. And since we're technically on holiday to relax, we only allow three days of adventuring while camping here.

Hop in and let's go explore the Hartenbos surrounds.

**Leave your caravan** at the ATKV resort and follow the Mossel Bay Road (also known as Louis Fourie Street or the R102) west through Mossel Bay's industrial area. The town has grown so much in recent years that it could easily be





declared a city. It's well equipped for travellers – you can get your vehicle or your camp gear repaired here if needed.

Mossel Bay is geared for tourism too, with plenty of activities on offer: boat trips (R350-R3 550 p.p. from 📍 [aquachartercats.com](https://www.aquachartercats.com)), deep-sea fishing charters (R1 300 p.p. from 📍 [saltlife](https://www.saltlife.co.za)), fishing) and helicopter flips (R965 p.p. from 📍 [mosselbayhelicopters.co.za](https://www.mosselbayhelicopters.co.za)).

On this outing, however, we'll be using our own wheels to explore the areas around Hartenbos. In Mossel Bay, attractions you can easily reach in your

bakkie include the Bartolomeu Dias Museum in Graves Street (R30 p.p.), where you can view a replica of the explorer's ship, and the Cape St Blaize Lighthouse at The Point (R100 p.p.), where you can climb right up into the lantern room. The town also has two golf courses and no shortage of seaside restaurants.

Leaving Mossel Bay, continue south on the R102 and take the turn-off to Dana Bay. This coastal village has the essentials – a pharmacy, small supermarket and bottle store – but

otherwise remains quiet, just the way the locals like it. There's a viewpoint at the far end of Cynaroides Street, where you can spot whales between June and December. The GPS coordinates for the viewpoint are S34.20438 E22.05108.

After a quick stop in Dana Bay, we set our sights on Vleesbaai for the first activity of the day. Head back to the N2, drive towards Cape Town, and after 9 km, turn left onto the Vleesbaai Road.

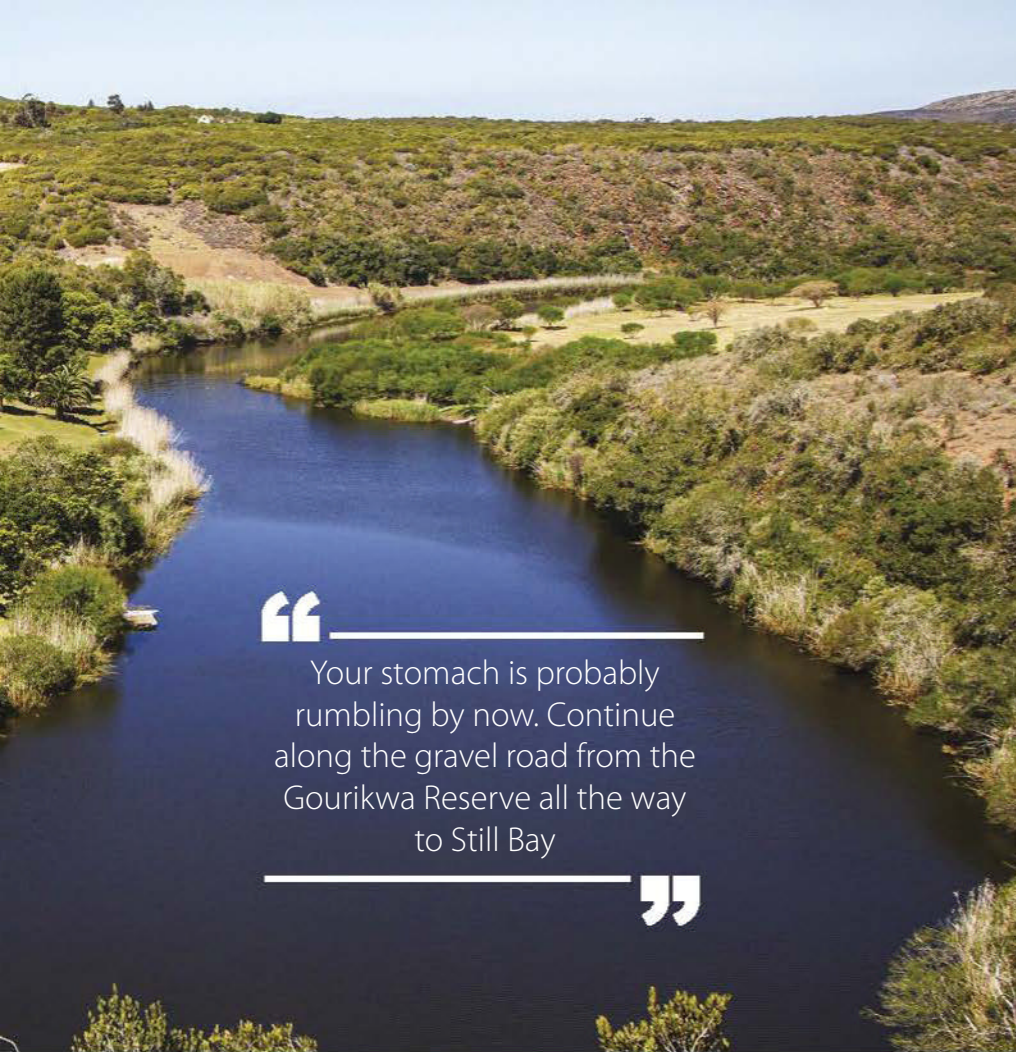
We pass Boggomsbaai – a charming coastal village worth a visit if you're thinking of retiring by the sea – and





MAN-MADE. The giant aloe of Albertinia (top left) was sculpted by Dirk van Wyk and Francois de Wet. The couple pictured on the left presumably just got engaged since the sign next to their picnic table reads: "Place your hand in mine..."





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Your stomach is probably rumbling by now. Continue along the gravel road from the Gourikwa Reserve all the way to Still Bay

”



eventually arrive in Vleesbaai. We're looking for the farm Misgunst, home to the Vleesbaai Dunes 4x4 Route. There are signs pointing the way, but the GPS coordinates for the reception building are S34.29702 E21.91313.

You'll be welcomed by Riekie van Rensburg, who will ask whether you've driven here before. If you're already familiar with the route, you're free to head into the dunes on your own. But if it's your first time, you'll need to wait for the rest of the newcomers so you can follow behind Riekie through the dunes. Either way, booking ahead is essential – phone Riekie on 082 784 8238 or email vleesbaai4x4@misgunstfarm.co.za. You'll receive a printed route map, and entry costs R400 per vehicle.

The route is roughly 12 km long and takes you through a coastal dune field right beside the sea. Some dunes are fairly challenging, and you'll definitely need to deflate your tyres to 0.8 bar or lower. We even came across a standard BMW X3 on the trail, and it handled the obstacles surprisingly well – which gives you an idea of the route's difficulty.

After a few hours of 4x4 fun, it's time for lunch. Leave Vleesbaai the same way you entered, but at S34.27906 E21.83430, turn left onto the Gouritsmond Road. The tar road crosses the Gourits River, and 12 km after the turn, it becomes gravel. This is where we pull over for a quick detour into the Gourikwa Private Nature Reserve. Entry is R100 per vehicle, and our reason for stopping is to visit the Ystervarkpunt Lighthouse.

The lighthouse sits at S34.39191 E21.72799 and makes a stunning backdrop for photos. If you'd like to climb inside the tower, be sure to contact reserve management ahead of time so they can unlock it for you.

Your stomach is probably rumbling by now. Continue along the gravel road from the Gourikwa Reserve all the way to Still Bay. This seaside holiday town has plenty of places to eat; we stopped in at On The Rocks on the main road as you enter town. The menu has everything from burgers to steak, but honestly... how do you say no to fresh kabeljou (R195)?

Our first day exploring the Hartenbos surrounds is nearly done, and it's time to head back to camp. Instead of taking the R305 tar road out of town, we cross



a small bridge over the Goukou River and turn right into Waterblomweg. It's a beautiful gravel road that follows the Goukou all the way to Riversdale.

From there, we hop onto the N2 towards Albertinia and pull over for a look at the world's largest aloe – a 9 m tall man-made giant – and to pick up some aloe goodies at the Alcare factory shop. Sunscreen costs R65 for a 50 ml tube and body lotion R114 for a 300 ml bottle.

It's been a great outing – tomorrow you can relax again... at least until those itchy feet start acting up!

**On another day,** we explore the coastline east of Hartenbos. Follow the R102 towards Great Brak River and turn off 7 km later to Little Brak River. Here, you'll find wide, Blue Flag-standard beaches perfect for swimming.

Time your visit so that after a dip in the sea you can settle in for seafood at the beachfront restaurant De Vette Mossel. You must book ahead – you can't simply arrive and request a table. Meals cost R370 p.p., and you can help yourself to seafood like mussels, snoek, calamari, prawns and a hearty potjie, but items such as crayfish cost extra (R390 for 330 g).

During peak holiday periods, the restaurant opens twice a day – 12:00 and 18:30 – but in the quieter season they operate only every second day with one lunchtime sitting at 12:00. Call or WhatsApp ☎ 079 339 0170 or email ✉ [grootbrak@devettemossel.co.za](mailto:grootbrak@devettemossel.co.za) to book your seat.

If you can't secure a table at De Vette Mossel, there are plenty of other restaurants between Little and

Great Brak River. Return to the N2 and continue towards George. At the turnoff for the airport (S34.01322 E22.37835), take the Herolds Bay Road (R404) towards the sea.

Exactly 5 km after leaving the N2, there's an unmarked right turn (S34.04972 E22.37018). This is Voëlklip Road, intentionally unmarked due to its somewhat notorious reputation. The gravel track follows a high cliff and ends at a viewpoint with an unbeatable look over the ocean and the coastal village of Herolds Bay. Be extra careful here: vehicles have been known to plunge off the cliff into the waves below. In fact, in 2021, there were so many incidents – whether accidental or intentional – that George Municipality considered closing the popular road. The most recent fatal accident was on 31 March this year,

“

...paragliders ride the coastal thermals high above the shoreline

”







VIEW FROM THE TOP. The Voëlklip viewpoint (top) offers a great view of Herolds Bay, where teenagers buy ice cream (above left). Paragliders (opposite and left) launch from near the Map of Africa and glide lazily above the coastline near Wilderness.



“

... follow Waterside Road past the Touw River lagoon and cross the river at the Ebb-and-Flow campsite

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when a woman in a Toyota Fortuner died here, just 11 days after a 59-year-old man suffered the same fate. The Voëlklip viewpoint is at S34.05899 E22.38443, but whatever you do, keep your wheels firmly on the road.

Herolds Bay itself is absolutely worth a visit. Owning a holiday home here is the dream – empty plots go for around R2 million, and houses range between R7 million and R14 million.

We continue past George on the N2 and turn off just outside town to see what's happening at Victoria Bay. There's a campsite and self-catering cottages here, but the main attraction is the surf school teaching visitors how to conquer the waves.

Our next stop is Wilderness, where we climb the mountain above the village via Heights Road Pass. At the top, you'll find two great viewpoints, the first being the Map of Africa (S33.99314 E22.56048). The Kaaimans River makes a sharp bend in the valley below, and its course closely resembles the outline of the African continent. The second attraction is a grassy launch site near the Map of Africa where paragliders ride the coastal

**WATER.** The Touw River (above) flows past the Ebb-and-Flow campsite, and the Kaaiman River (below) forms a ravine that somewhat resembles the outline of the African continent.





## I ALSO WANT TO GO!

**Can I drive the route on my own?** Yes. All the roads in this article are public routes or pay-to-enter tracks.

**How long does it take?** This itinerary covers roughly 700 km over three days.

**What type of vehicle do I need?** Most public roads are tarred or good gravel. However, if you want to include the pay-to-enter off-road routes, you'll need a 4x4 vehicle.

**What about fuel?** Fuel stops are frequent – usually no more than 50 km apart.

**Can I bring my dog?** Unfortunately not. Dogs are prohibited in the nature reserves, zoo, botanical garden, caves and most holiday resorts mentioned.

**Any special emergency gear required?** No, the gravel roads are in good condition and tyre cuts are unlikely.

**What about motorcycles?** Absolutely! The area is popular with adventure motorcyclists, and none of the places featured here prohibit bikes.

thermals high above the shoreline. Tandem flights cost around R1 300 – visit [paraglidafrica.com](http://paraglidafrica.com) if you're keen to give it a go.

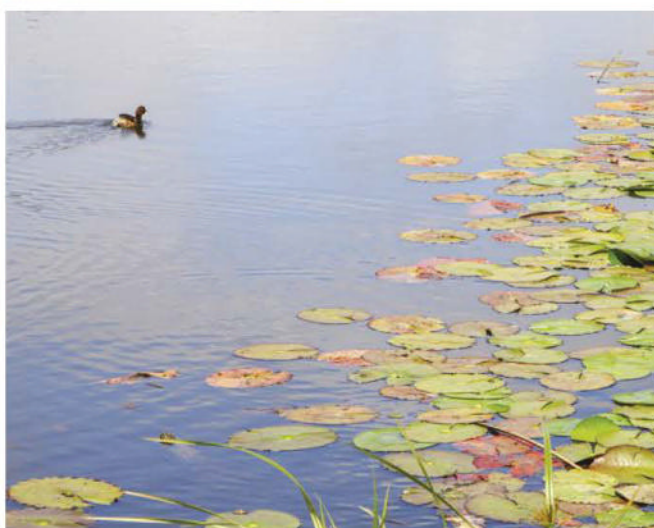
Head back towards Wilderness, but instead of rejoining the N2, follow Waterside Road past the Touw River lagoon and cross the river at the Ebb-and-Flow campsite. From here, the Hoekwil Road takes us deeper into the Outeniqua Mountains.

Hoekwil Road is a steep tarred mountain pass, and at the top, you'll see a reassuring signpost pointing "George via Forest Road" (S33.94775 E22.62109). This marks the start of four beautiful mountain passes, all part of the famous Seven Passes Road. First up is Duiwelskop Pass with its gravel surface, followed by the tarred Silver River, Kaaimansgat and Swarttrivierhoogte passes.

If time allows, our final stop of the day is the Garden Route Botanical Garden at the top of Caledon Street in George (S33.94801 E22.46374). It's a lovely space filled with fynbos, water lilies and brightly coloured birds. Entry is R25 p.p. (R10 for scholars) – the perfect spot to unwind after a busy day.



**GARDEN ROUTE.** The indigenous forest through which the Duiwelskop Pass winds (top) is mysterious yet beautiful. The botanical garden in George is a good place to unwind after a busy day visiting all the sights and sounds along the Garden Route.





## WHERE WE STAYED

### ATKV Hartenbos

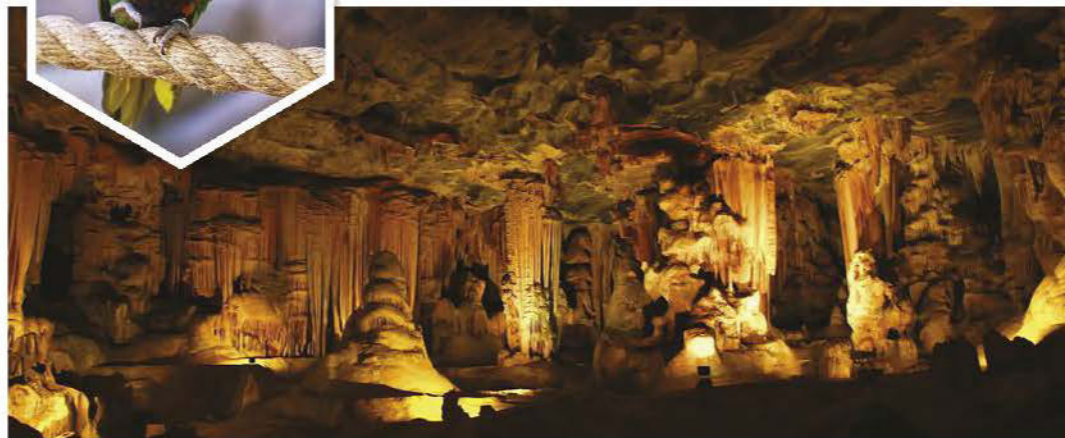
Hartenbos was literally founded as a holiday resort, and today it consists of four sections: C, D, E and F. The first three offer sea views, while F-block has more shade and is slightly more sheltered from the wind. We stayed on E10, a paved site between the ocean and the access road. The ablutions are serviced regularly and toilet paper is supplied. Wifi is reasonably fast, even though E-block was 90% booked during our stay. If the sounds of children giggling until 10 pm might bother you, F-block is the better bet – that's where the old guard prefers to camp.

**Prices** From R275-R1 405 p.n. per site for up to six people, depending on the season and proximity to the sea. ATKV members receive a discount.

**Contact** 044 601 7200

✉ [hartenbos@atkv.org.za](mailto:hartenbos@atkv.org.za)

🌐 [hartenbos.co.za](http://hartenbos.co.za)

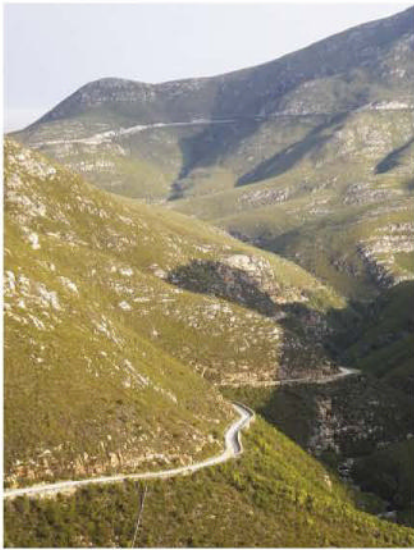


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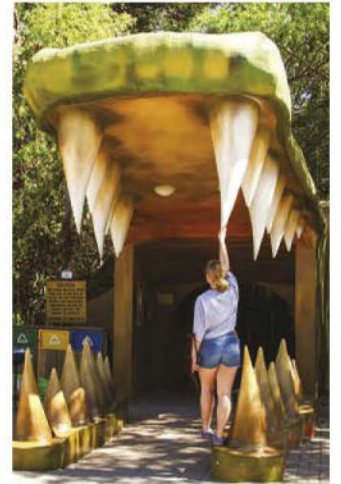
Once your vehicle wears a respectable layer of dust, head back to the R328 and continue towards Oudtshoorn

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**ANCIENT.** The old Ox-wagon Route (opposite top) offers a couple of challenging obstacles, while the Cango Caves and Wildlife Ranch (below) are two very different experiences. Other notable attractions are the Montagu Pass (left) and the Robinson Pass (opposite bottom).



**Our third outing** from Hartenbos takes us inland. Leave the holiday town, cross the N2 via the bridge, and follow the R328 towards Oudtshoorn. Exactly 26 km outside Hartenbos, you'll spot a sign for Haelkraal; turn left onto a gravel road (S33.94458 E22.03576).

Continue for 8 km to the turn-off for Bonniedale Holiday Farm, today's 4x4 playground. We last featured this pay-to-play route back in April 2021 (*Drive & Camp #42*), but in short: you'll get to drive a section of the old Ox-wagon Route.

Between 1689 and 1869, this route linked the towns of Heidelberg, Cape Town and Oudtshoorn, serving as a key artery for trekboers and transport riders. The Hesterman couple will welcome you at their farmhouse and hand over a printed map of the Bonniedale 4x4 tracks. It's a beautiful trail, though you'll encounter technical sections where a misplaced line may leave your sidestep or bumper with a new "souvenir".

Once your vehicle wears a respectable layer of dust, head back to the R328 and continue towards Oudtshoorn. The large

town is named after a VOC governor who died at sea in 1771 while en route to the Cape Colony.

Our plan includes two must-see attractions near Oudtshoorn: the Cango Wildlife Ranch and the Cango Caves. The wildlife ranch is located on the southern edge of town, right off the same R328 that brought you here.

Entry is R250 per adult (R150 for children under 13) and includes an informative guided tour; though, you're welcome to wander on your own afterwards.

The ranch is divided into five zones: one for cheetahs, lions, leopards and one exotic Bengal tiger, while other enclosures recreate jungle habitats with vibrant birds and reptiles.

From here, we drive 25 km north to the world-famous Cango Caves, rediscovered in 1780 by farmer Jacobus van Zyl while out hunting. In earlier years, you could simply arrive at the caves, buy a ticket and explore at leisure. Unfortunately, vandalism forced major changes – today, you must book ahead. Walk-ins

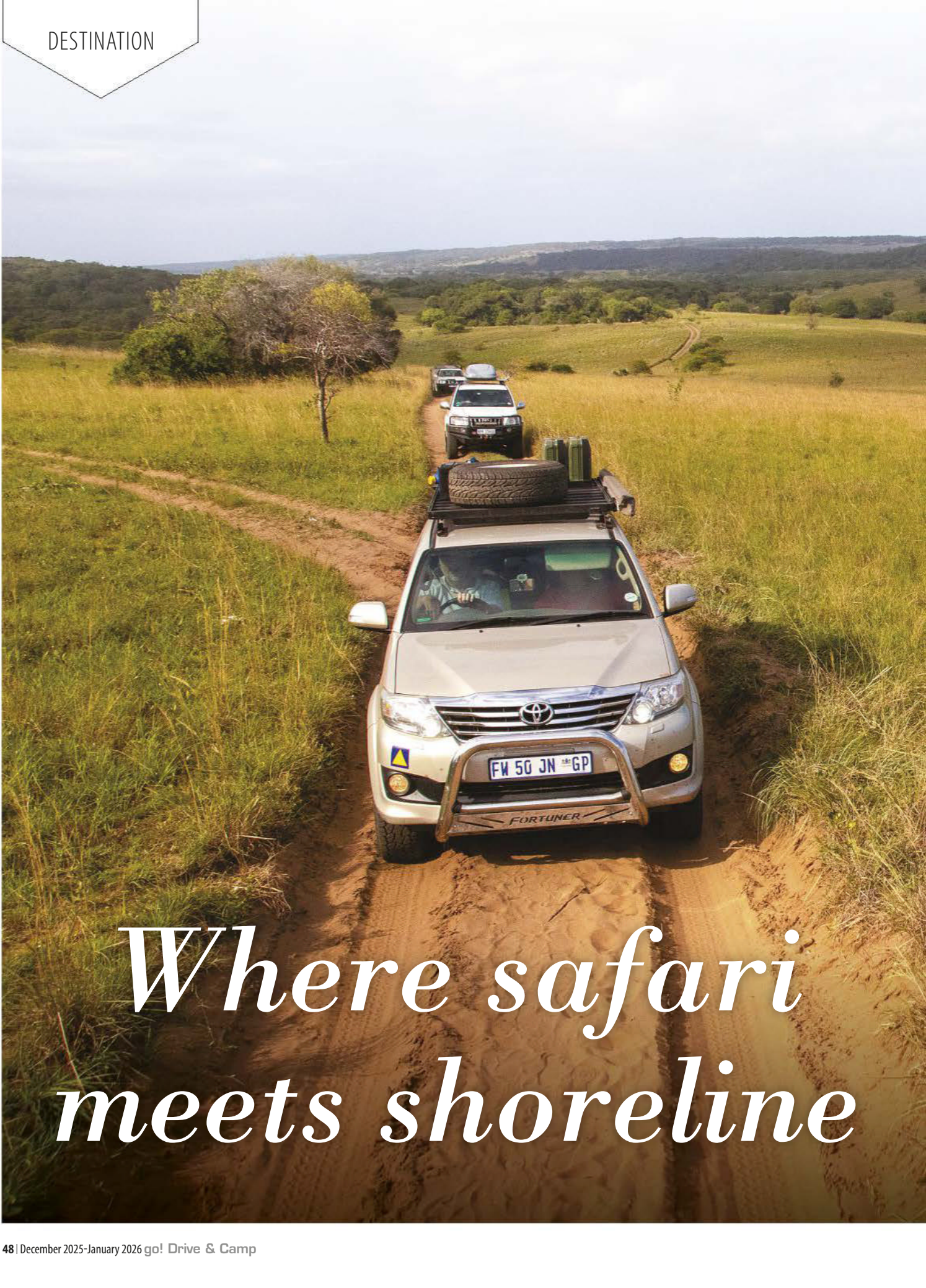
are only accommodated if there's a last-minute gap in a tour group.

There are two guided options: the Heritage Tour (R150 p.p.), which lasts around an hour and involves fairly easy walking, though it isn't suitable for wheelchairs or strollers; and the more daring Adventure Tour (R200 p.p.), which takes about 90 minutes and involves crawling through tight tunnels and narrow passages. Only slim visitors are permitted on this one – and don't take it personally if the guide suggests you rather join the other group; overly confident guests get stuck more often than you'd think!

All that's left now is to head back to Hartenbos via the beautiful Montagu Pass, if it's open (it was closed during our visit due to storm damage), or take the equally scenic but tarred Outeniqua Pass.

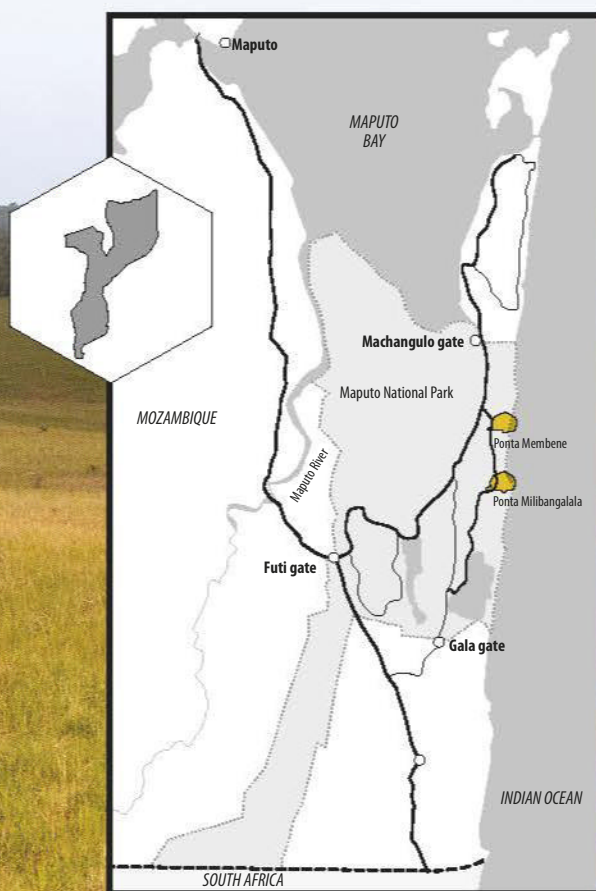
We hope these routes keep you happily occupied for a few days. Above all, though, remember to relax back at camp. Exploring is great fun, but holidays should also include a little doing-nothing, right?



A silver Toyota Fortuner is driving on a dirt road in a savanna landscape. The car is equipped with a roof rack carrying a spare tire and other gear. In the background, another vehicle is visible on the road. The landscape is characterized by tall grass and scattered trees under a cloudy sky.

# *Where safari meets shoreline*





Pitch your tent just across the Mozambican border and explore the Maputo National Park's lush grasslands, ink-blue lakes and dazzling white beaches in search of elephants, spoonbills... and sea turtles.

Words and photos **Evan Naudé**





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The park's remarkable mix of species is thanks to its unique position

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**F**ew protected areas can boast a wildlife list that spans land giants like elephants, buffalo and giraffe, as well as extraordinary marine life including mantas, whale sharks and sea turtles. And that's before we even get to the birds... have you ticked a collared pratincole off your list yet? You'll find all this and more in Maputo National Park, just a stone's throw beyond the Kosi Bay border post.

The park's remarkable mix of species is thanks to its unique position. The southern boundary lies only 40 km from the South African border, while the northern edge reaches right up against Maputo Bay. To the west, the park follows the Futi River, and to the east, it meets the Indian Ocean.

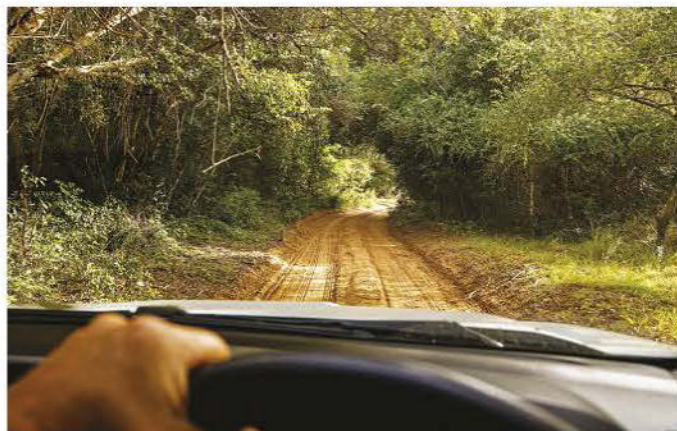
Across its 1 728 km<sup>2</sup>, the landscape shifts from rivers, lakes and floodplains to wetlands, swamp forest, grassy savannah and sweeping white beaches – a tapestry of habitats alive with movement and migration.

The reserve even extends 5 km out to sea to protect its coral reefs and marine life. With a bit of luck you might spot an elephant in the bush, a spoonbill on the lakeshore and a sea turtle on the beach, all in one day.

In recent years, the park has become far more accessible to visitors, and







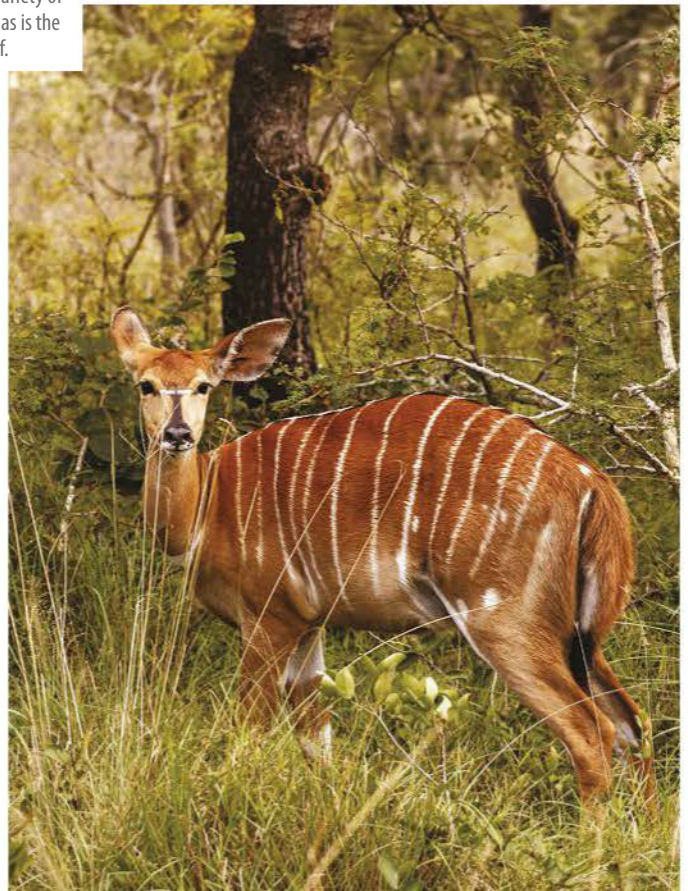
**SAND HO!** You'll hit sand as soon as you enter (below left), so remember to lower tyre pressure at the gate. Ahead lies grassy plains, wildlife and beaches to explore.







**DIVERSITY.** The coast is home to a wide variety of species, as is the sea itself.







**CAMP LIKE ROYALTY**, Each stand has its own private ablution facility with two basins, a shower and flushing toilet inside, as well as a dishwashing station and power supply (USB) on the outside. The stands themselves are large with space for up to four tents arranged around a fire pit.



the accommodation has been smartly upgraded. There are now luxury lodges, self-catering stays and both formal and wild camping options. Even so, the park has held onto its raw, untamed atmosphere, and there is not a tar road in sight.

So, pack the family into the car and point your compass to Maputo National Park – an unforgettable camping adventure awaits.

**Sand driving is unavoidable here.** From the Kosi Bay border post, it's less than a half-hour on tar to the park's main gate, Futi. Before you even reach it, road signs featuring an elephant toppling a vehicle warn that things are about to get wild. At the gate, another sign repeats the message, this time adding a crocodile and a hippo to the mix.

Pay your park fees here, collect a map and deflate your tyres to at least 1.8 bar – the staff will check before letting you





## DESTINATION

through. And if they need to come tow you out, it will cost you MZN2 500 (around R735)!

Unfold your map and take a look at the park's routes. The main road winds northeast towards the Machangulo Gate (used only for access to and from the Machangulo Peninsula outside the park). At every fork, T-junction or crossroads you'll find a numbered marker that corresponds with the numbers on your map. Distances between markers are also shown, but remember: progress in the sand is much slower than usual. The 40 km from the main gate to the lodge and campsite at Ponta Membene, for example, takes around four hours; even longer if you stop for wildlife sightings along the way.

Several loop roads branch off the main route and lead past two large lakes – Xinguti and Piti in the south – plus two smaller ones, Munde and Zuali, nearer the coast in the northeast. Wildlife viewing is best in the southern part of the park. Elephants, giraffes, zebras and wildebeest are particularly fond of the area around Lake Xinguti. Keep an eye out for hippos

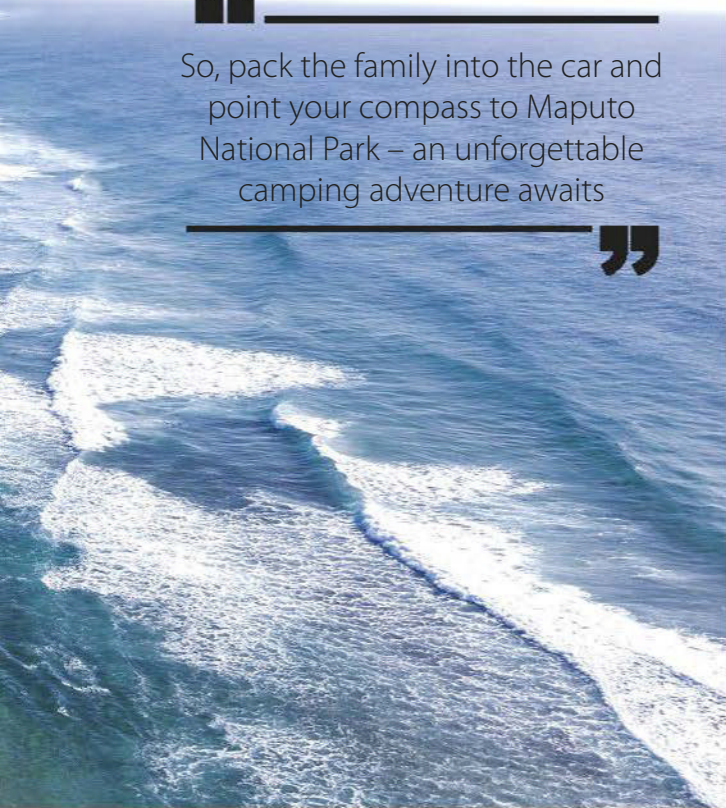




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So, pack the family into the car and point your compass to Maputo National Park – an unforgettable camping adventure awaits

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ON THE BEACH. Ponta Membene's location and reasonable prices for South Africans makes it an attractive holiday destination. Booking is essential!



## LAGOA XINGUTI FOREST CAMPSITE

### Where the wild things are

On the northern shore of Lake Xinguti, follow track number 36 beneath a leafy canopy to the campsite. Here, you'll find a clearing in the forest with six terraced stands, laid out so the vegetation screens you from your neighbours.

The trees provide deep shade and cool relief throughout the day, and in places you catch glimpses of the lake through the bush. At night, you'll hear hippos grunting in the water, and in the early morning, little grebes visit the camp.

Rooftop-tent rigs and off-road trailers fit comfortably, but on some stands you may need to manoeuvre carefully between the trees. Large caravans and vehicles bigger than a standard 4x4 will struggle to turn in and tuck under the branches – your Unimog will have to park on the nearby open grass instead.

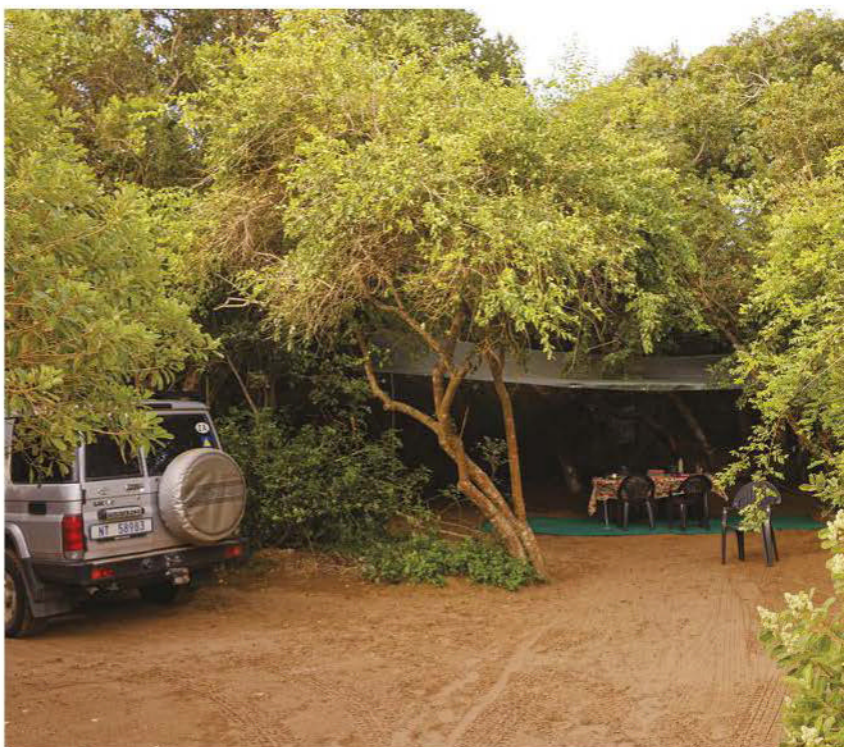
Each stand has a level sand surface (a groundsheet is handy) plus a braai area, tap and private ablutions. The braai setup is like a mini-boma: a knee-high circle of wooden poles around a concrete platform where you do the cooking. Remember to bring your own grid and stand.

The ablutions are practically glamping standard. The chic timber-and-corrugated structure – raised on decking with slanted roofs and exposed beams – looks almost Scandinavian. Inside, you have a toilet, shower and two basins, and outside (still undercover), there's a separate washing-up sink. A gas geyser provides hot water, and there is a 220V plug (available from 06:00 to 22:00) as well as two 2.1A USB ports.

Each stand accommodates up to three vehicles and a maximum of six people. Bring your own drinking water, wood, braai grid and stand.

**Price** From MZN600 p.n. per stand (excluding park fees).

**Contact** 00 258 85 600 0900 [reservas@parquemaputo.gov.mz](mailto:reservas@parquemaputo.gov.mz)





## MORE ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

### Wild, or white linen?

The park has five rustic 4x4 campsites (up to six vehicles and 12 people each), known as the 4x4 Trails Rustic Camps. Elefantes Camp is closest to the main gate (6 km), while Futi North lies along the Futi River and Miradouro sits in the northwestern corner of the park. Nela Camp is beside the lake of the same name in the heart of the reserve, and Futi South – about 24 km south of the main gate – is the only place to stay in the Futi Corridor.

These wilderness camps offer a braai pit and composting toilets, but no water or electricity. So, bring everything you'll need.

The park also has three lodges. At **Ponta Membene** there are neat self-catering units set on the dunes and in the coastal forest. Northwards, also on the beach at **Ponta Chemucane**, is **Anvil Bay Lodge**, and to the south, you'll find **Malibangalila Lodge**, both luxury accommodation options.

**Price Ponta Membene** From

MZN4 800 p.p. sharing;

**Anvil Bay** From USD450 p.p.n.;

**Malibangalila** From R2 530 p.p. sharing.

Excluding park fees.

**Contact** ● membene.co.mz

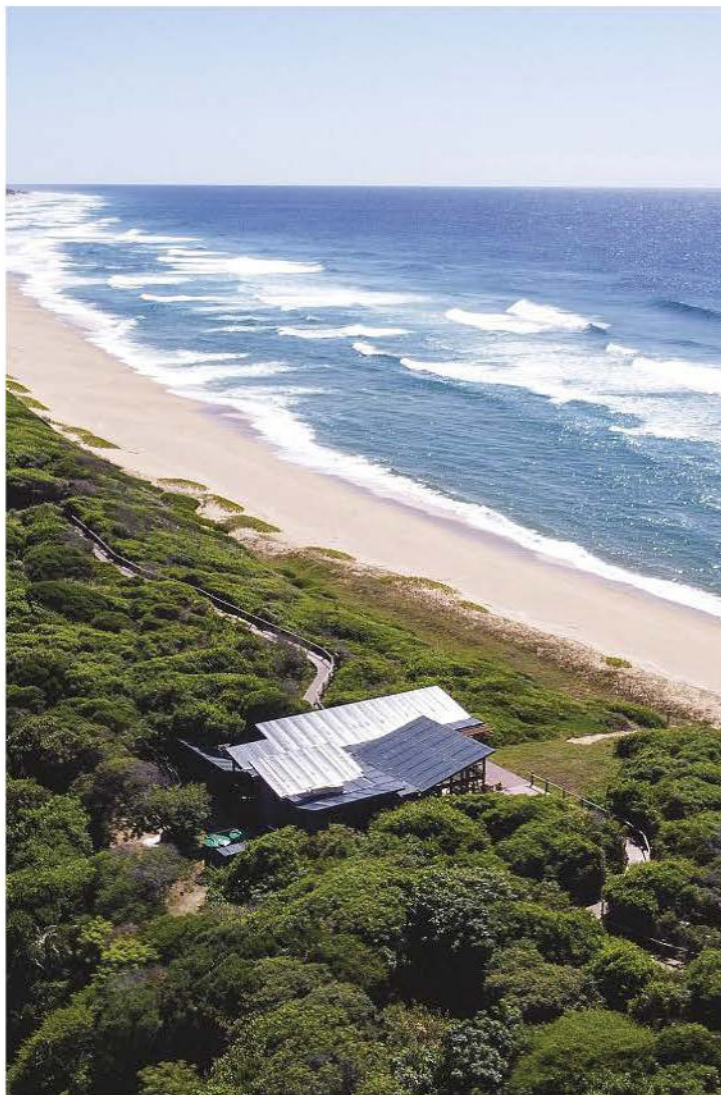
● anvilbay.com ● montebelohotels.com



LUXURY. If you want to take a break from camping, consider the posh cabins at Ponta Membene for a bit of pampering.







## PONTA MEMBENE CAMPSITE

### By the sea

The campsite at Ponta Membene lies just north of the lodge. When you reach the beach, follow the signs to the camp tucked against a dune covered in coastal forest. On the other side of the dune stretches a seemingly endless white beach.

The camp follows the same design as Xinguti, but the stands are larger and more widely spaced. There are seven individual stands and one group site (number eight), arranged in a line from south to north. The tent or trailer clearings are sandy and shaded by a dense leaf canopy that keeps things pleasantly cool. Each stand can take up to four tents and has its own ablutions, braai area and tap. The group camp includes a large kitchen with crockery, a fridge, three gas burners and a dining table on a deck.

As at Xinguti, you'll need to aim carefully with a rooftop tent or tall off-road trailer – not all the branches are high enough. When booking, keep the following in mind: trailers with rooftop tents will fit on stands 1A, 1B, 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8. Rooftop-tent rigs are suitable for 1A, 1B, 2, 4 and 7, and off-road trailers for A and 1B. Stand 2 and 6 accommodate only ground tents.

All stands have access to a footpath that winds behind the camp. Follow it for two minutes and you'll reach a wooden deck on top of the dune with a view over the sea. From here, a staircase leads down to the beach, and another boardwalk along the ridge takes you to the lodge. Yes, campers may use the lodge's swimming pool, bar and restaurant!

Bring your own drinking water, wood, braai grid and stand, although you can buy ice and charcoal at the lodge.

**Price** From MZN1 880 p.p.n. for two, excluding park fees.

**Contact** ☎ 000 258 85 036 2730 📠 000 258 87 016 2730

🌐 [membene.co.mz](http://membene.co.mz)





## Where the giants roam free

Before Mozambique's civil war, which raged from the 1970s to the 1990s, large herds of elephants moved freely across the border, from Tembe Elephant Park in KwaZulu-Natal to the floodplains of Maputo Bay. But during the war, a border fence was erected and their migration was cut off. Tragically, 90% of Mozambique's elephant population was wiped out during those years.

In 2011, the Futi Corridor – a protected strip along the Futi River – was established to reconnect Tembe Elephant Park with Maputo National Park (then still known as Maputo Special Reserve). By 2014, the border fences had finally been removed and the elephants' ancestral routes restored.

Restoration of the national park has been ongoing since 2010. To date, more than 5 000 animals have been reintroduced, including species that were completely wiped out during the war. A 2023 census by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife counted 13 800 animals in the park and showed healthy population growth.



“

Beneath the surface lies a world of coral reefs, colourful fish, starfish and other curious sea creatures...

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## NEED TO KNOW

**How do I get there?** The Kosi Bay border post (open 08:00-17:00) is 630 km from Johannesburg and 430 km from Durban. From the border, it's 40 km of good tar road to the park's main entrance, Futi Gate. From Maputo, it's about 100 km on the Katembe tar road (EN1) to Futi Gate.

**What should I drive?** A proper 4x4 with low range and good ground clearance is essential, as all roads in the park are sandy. Vehicles that are not capable will be turned away by staff.

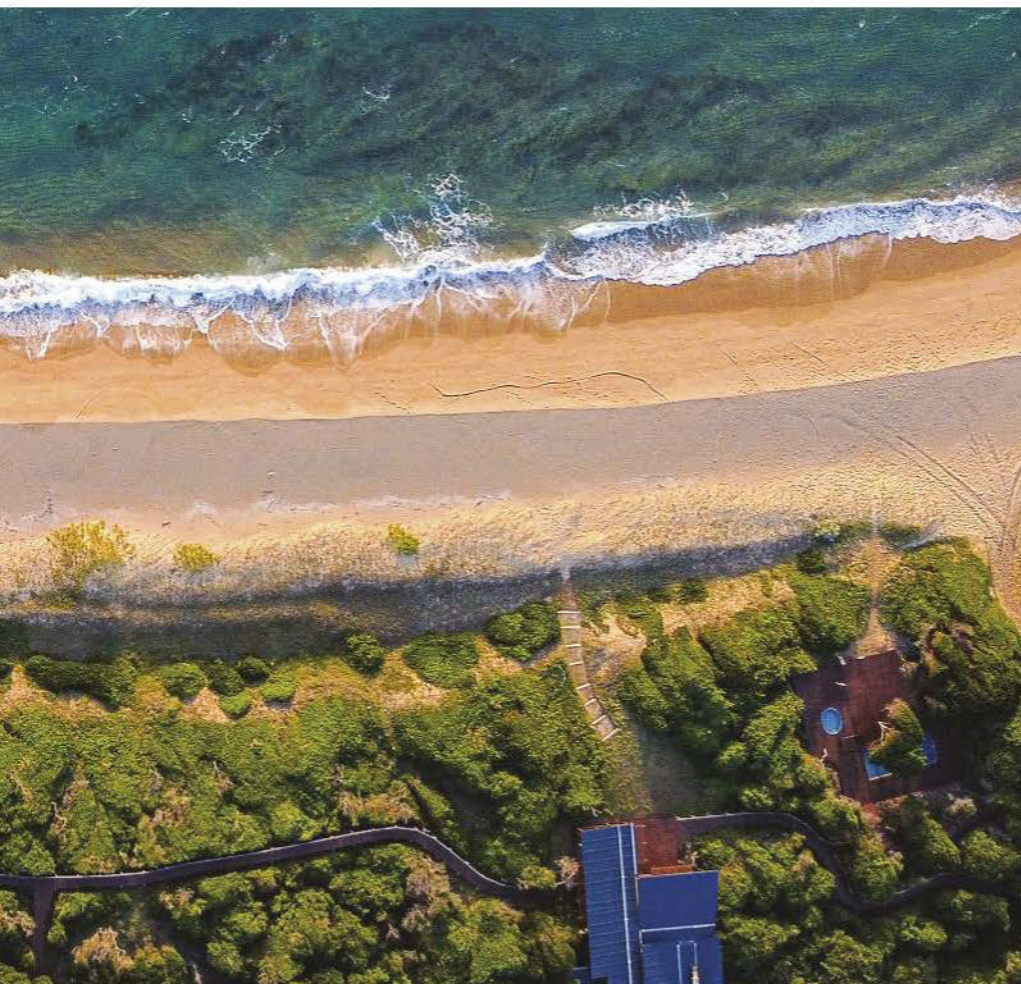
**Can I tow?** Yes, but only an off-road trailer will cope here, and you must have experience towing in deep sand.

**What does it cost?** Daily conservation fee for SADC citizens is MZN600. You also pay MZN900 each for your vehicle and trailer. Additional fees apply for boats and jet skis.

**What else should I know?** Bring a compressor, tyre gauge and a set of tyre plugs in case of a puncture. You may fish and bring your own boat, but arrange permits beforehand with the park for fishing and boat launch. From October to March, you can see leatherback and loggerhead turtles on the beaches. Book a park or lodge tour if you want to watch hatchlings; nests are protected and night tours are required.

**Gate times** 08:00-18:00 (October to March) and 07:00-16:00 (April to September).

**Contact** ☎ 00 25 885 509 6721 or 00 25 886 668 6317 🌐 [parquemaputo.gov.mz](http://parquemaputo.gov.mz)



and crocodiles in the water, and watch the shores for spoonbills, woolly-necked storks and yellow-billed storks. There are currently few predators in the park, but with luck, you may spot a hyena, leopard or side-striped jackal.

**Study the map closely.** See the white dotted lines? Those are the 4x4 routes, and there are nearly 200 km to explore. They are the only way to reach the Futi River's banks south of the main gate and the wide grasslands and floodplains in the park's northwest. Travel in a convoy of two or more vehicles in case you get stuck – these roads see very little traffic.

In fact, on the map, some sections of the 4x4 routes are marked in green; these stretches are often impassable in the summer rainy season. Always check conditions with staff before setting off.

There are two public access points to the beach: Ponta Membene and Ponta Dobela. Here, you can swim, snorkel and unwind on the sand. From June to October, you'll often spot humpback whales offshore, and in the summer months, bottlenose dolphins play in the breakers. Beneath the surface lies a world of coral reefs, colourful fish, starfish and other curious sea creatures waiting to be explored with a snorkel.



# Nestle down at Falcon

Next time you find yourself in the Swellendam area, settle in at a brand-new campsite on the banks of the Breede River.

Words and photos **Leon Botha**



**T**he Falcon River Reserve lies halfway between Cape Town and Mossel Bay, about a two-hour drive from either side – close enough for Western Cape campers to slip away for a peaceful weekend in this scenic part of the country.

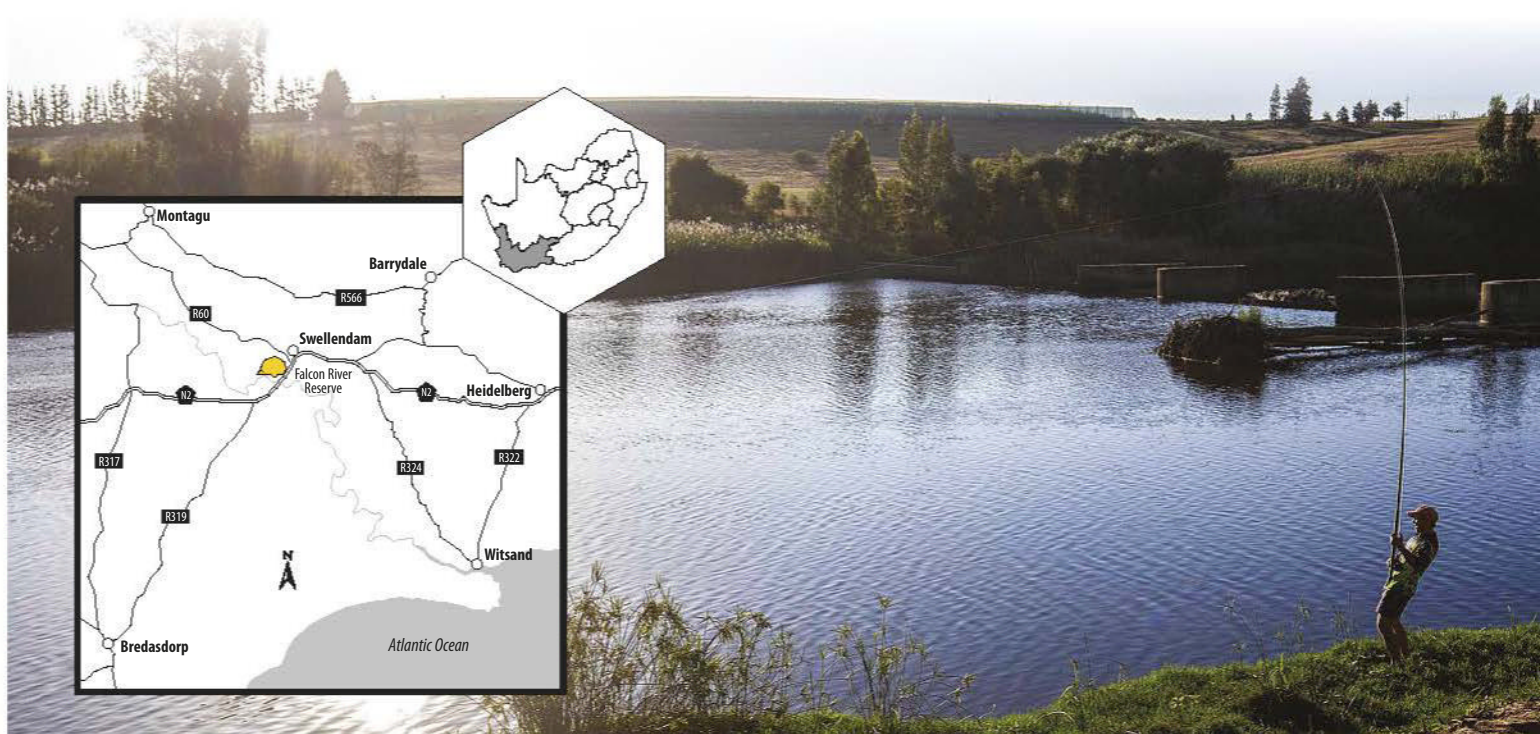
If you're travelling from farther afield and your Cape holiday includes both the Mother City and the Garden Route, this is an ideal stopover for a night or three. The reserve's entrance is conveniently right off the N2.

About 300 m before you cross the Breede River from the Cape Town side, turn left at Falcon's gate. The 25 ha property belongs to Izak and Ilse-Belle Louw, with 900 m of river frontage.

Ilse-Belle handles bookings and sends an information WhatsApp message ahead of your stay, including how to let yourself in through the electric gate. From there, it's a short 500 m drive to the campsite, which consists of two neat rows of stands.







**RIVER RUN.** The lower terrace is prone to flooding, but only on rare occasions and you'll have plenty of warning. It is for this reason that all the electrical points are located above the floodline.



“ The upper terrace is open to the sun, while the riverside sites are lined with leafy trees ”

### A work in progress

The campsite stretches along the riverbank, with the reception area and bathrooms on the upper terrace, 10 stands on the middle level and another 10 right beside the water.

When we visited in October, there were four family bathrooms housed in a long, rectangular building. Construction was still underway on the communal facilities, but Ilse-Belle said that once those are complete (targeted for mid-November), the existing family bathrooms will become private ablution blocks allocated to specific stands.

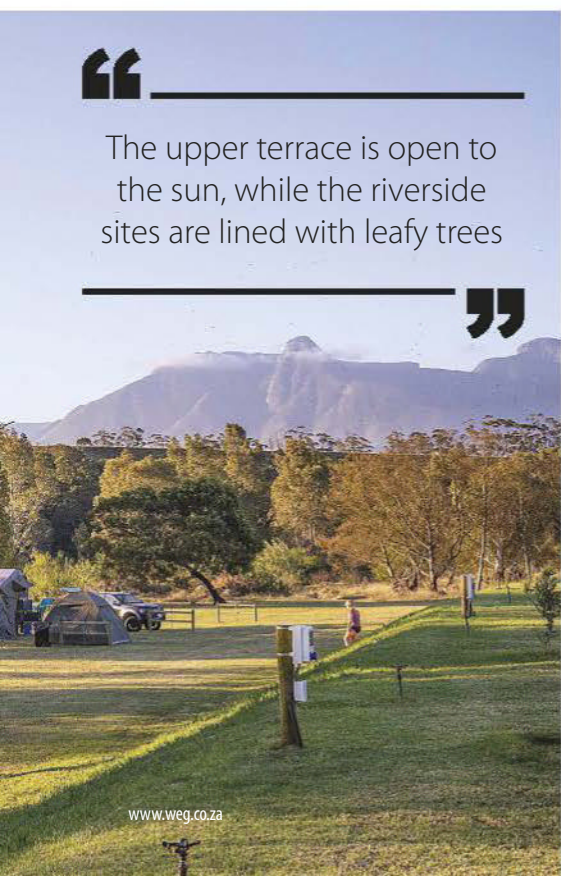
**When you arrive,** keep left on the middle terrace. The reception office is about 60 m farther on your left, where you can pick up essentials like firewood, ice, cooldrink and water. The latter is worth noting – tap water is pumped from the river, so it's best to bring your own drinking water or buy some when you get there.

Remember to pack an extension cord too. All the power points are on the middle terrace above the floodline, so you'll need to run a lead down if you want 220V electricity at your riverside stand. The outlets cater for both Fredlin and standard household plugs.

The main difference between the two rows of stands is shade. The upper terrace is open to the sun, while the riverside sites are lined with leafy trees. The grass is lush wherever you set up.

**The view from both terraces** is completely unobstructed, and once you settle into your camp chair and gaze out over the water, it's easy to see how the river got its name. It stretches about 75 m across, with a long weir a little way downstream that dams up the water. The result is a series of gentle cascades, their soft rumble a constant soundtrack, almost like distant waves when you're camping by the sea.

A patch of sand near the river called Ben's Beach (named after the Louws'





young son) makes a perfect spot to cast a line and see what bites. During our stay, our camping neighbour reeled in fish one after another, weighing and photographing each before releasing them gently back into the water.

Swimming is not allowed at Ben's Beach, but a little further upstream – opposite the farthest stands – there's a designated swimming area and a lapa. Here, you can hire kayaks, stand-up paddleboards and life jackets for R100-R150 per day.

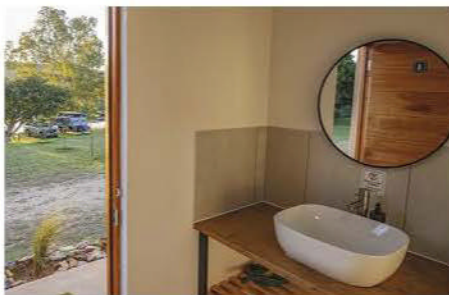
The bathrooms are up on the terraces and deserve special mention; they set a fine example for other campsites. The facilities are neat, spacious and well finished, with plenty of packing space, and the building is softly lit at night. The washing-up area sits at the end, next to the office.

A gas geyser provides reliably hot water (you can even adjust the temperature slightly), and the water pressure is impressively strong.

**If you feel like stretching** your legs, take on the short hiking trail to the viewpoint. From there, you can look down the length of the river as it winds past the campsite. The trail starts at the lapa and is clearly marked with red arrows. It follows a gentle ridge, takes barely 20 minutes to the top and is a 1,6 km return walk.

While you're in the area, it's well worth making a quick stop at Bontebok National Park. The park entrance is just 3.3 km away, and day visitors pay only the standard conservation fee.

**A century ago**, the bontebok was on the brink of extinction, with numbers believed to have dropped to fewer than 20 living animals.



## Briefly | Falcon



**Campsite** 20 grassy stands on two terraces. Half are along the riverbank with shade; power points are on the upper terrace above the floodline.

**Ablutions** Four private family bathrooms plus a washing-up area. Communal facilities were still under construction at the time of our visit.

**Price** R435 p.n. per stand for two people, then R130 p.p.p.n. (R110 for children aged 6-17; free for under-sixes). Maximum of five people (three adults) per stand. During the December holidays, a minimum stay of five nights applies.

**Arrival and departure** 14:00-18:00 and 11:00.

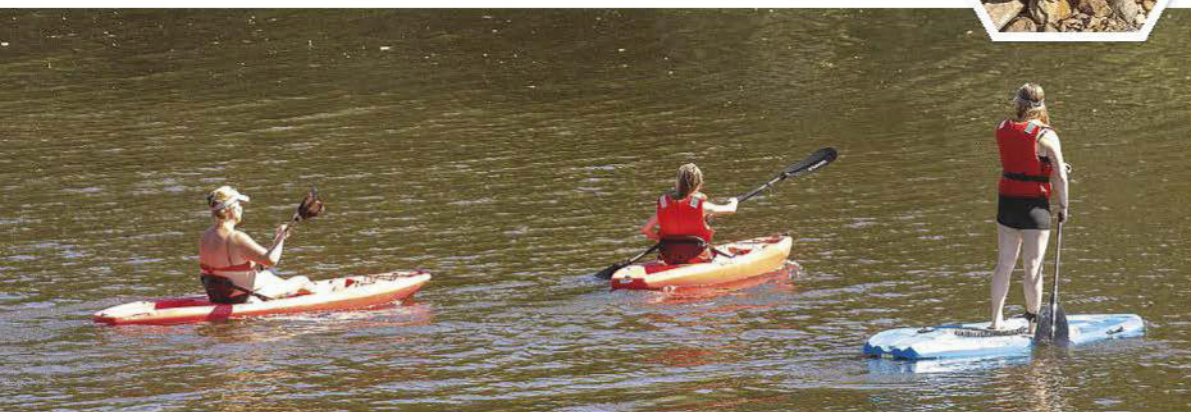
**Contact** ☎ 064 957 4233 📧 bookings@falconriver.co.za 🌐 falconriver.co.za

**Nearest town** Swellendam, 6 km.

**Road condition** The last half-kilometre or so is a stony gravel road.

**GPS** S34.067910 E20.405483

**Drive & Camp says** There are freestanding braais, but bring your own grid.



**ROW YOUR BOAT.** You can bring your own kayak or rent one from the reserve (left) at a reasonable rate. Remember to visit the nearby Bontebok National Park.





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Photo: Dani Martin

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# *Khwai for Krismis*

Photo Kobus Smit



While many South Africans flood to the coastlines over their December break, some opt for the bush. But have you considered Botswana?

Photo Kobus Smit



Photo Fiona Smit



A popular halfway stop between the Okavango Delta and Chobe, Khwai draws travellers to stay at least three nights, thanks to exceptional wildlife and pristine wilderness campsites. As Peter Rau recently shared: “Khwai has always been our special place. Next time, we’ll stay there for 14 days and skip Moremi altogether.”

## **What’s the game viewing like during summer months?**

Wildlife concentrations are more

dispersed in summer because of the abundance of water in the surrounding veld. Yet, as client and fellow overlanding enthusiast Heinrich Richter notes: “It makes every sighting all the more rewarding.”

## **That sounds like a festive feast of the senses...**

The vibrance of the green season is ever-present, with even the birds displaying the dazzling plumage of their breeding season. Contrasts of thunderous sky and luminescent

landscape make for epic photo opportunities; even the simplest campsite looks dramatic and wild beneath the big African clouds. The distinctive call of the painted reed frog echoes across the night, just as characteristic as the barking gecko in the sandy Kalahari. Loyal Ultimate Routes client and nature enthusiast Coenraad Berrange shares: “I didn’t mind fewer animals around – the birding was really good in Khwai. I managed to tick off quite a few lifers on the trip.”





Photo Gaeleen Tompkins



Photo Fiona Smit



Photo Nicola Beykirch

**WHERE THERE'S WATER.** Khwai has a feeling of exclusiveness when you visit during the summer months. The rainy seasons keeps tourists away and you get the entire place for yourself. Just keep your wits about you as you travel along the flooded roads.



Photo Heinrich Richter



Photo Heinrich Richter

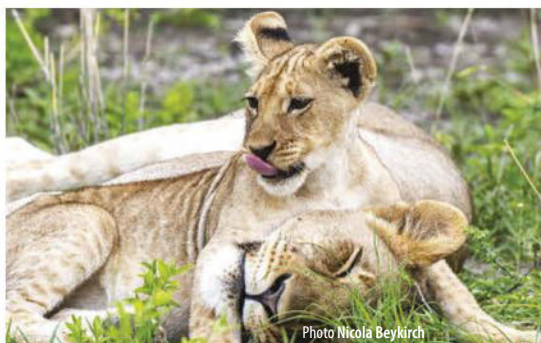


Photo Nicola Beykirch



Photo Fiona Smit



Photo Tish le Grange

### What makes the experience different in the wet season?

The weather changes daily. Heinrich describes it perfectly: "The atmosphere is striking in the afternoons – thunderstorms build dramatically on the horizon, with clouds and light painting ever-changing scenes like a living artwork." A welcome relief from the heat of the day, rainstorms bring a unique character to this part of the world.

**Pro tip** Always prepare for rain and wind, even in short spurts. Invest in

a secure awning, groundsheet and waterproof tent. Ask locals about road conditions, and be ready to adjust your plans if needed.

### How challenging is driving there?

Wetter weather brings more difficult terrain – but it also creates

a wonderfully peaceful atmosphere, with far fewer tourists around. Roads that are usually dry in winter transform into muddy or flooded tracks in summer. Before you know it, your trip becomes an exclusive expedition, and you're an adventurer alone in nature.

**Top tip** Bring a proper 4x4 with recovery gear like a spade, sand tracks, compressor and winch. If it's safe, walk routes first before driving – and never risk it if the water is too deep or fast-flowing.

### CONTACT

071 471 4900

ultimateroutes.co.za

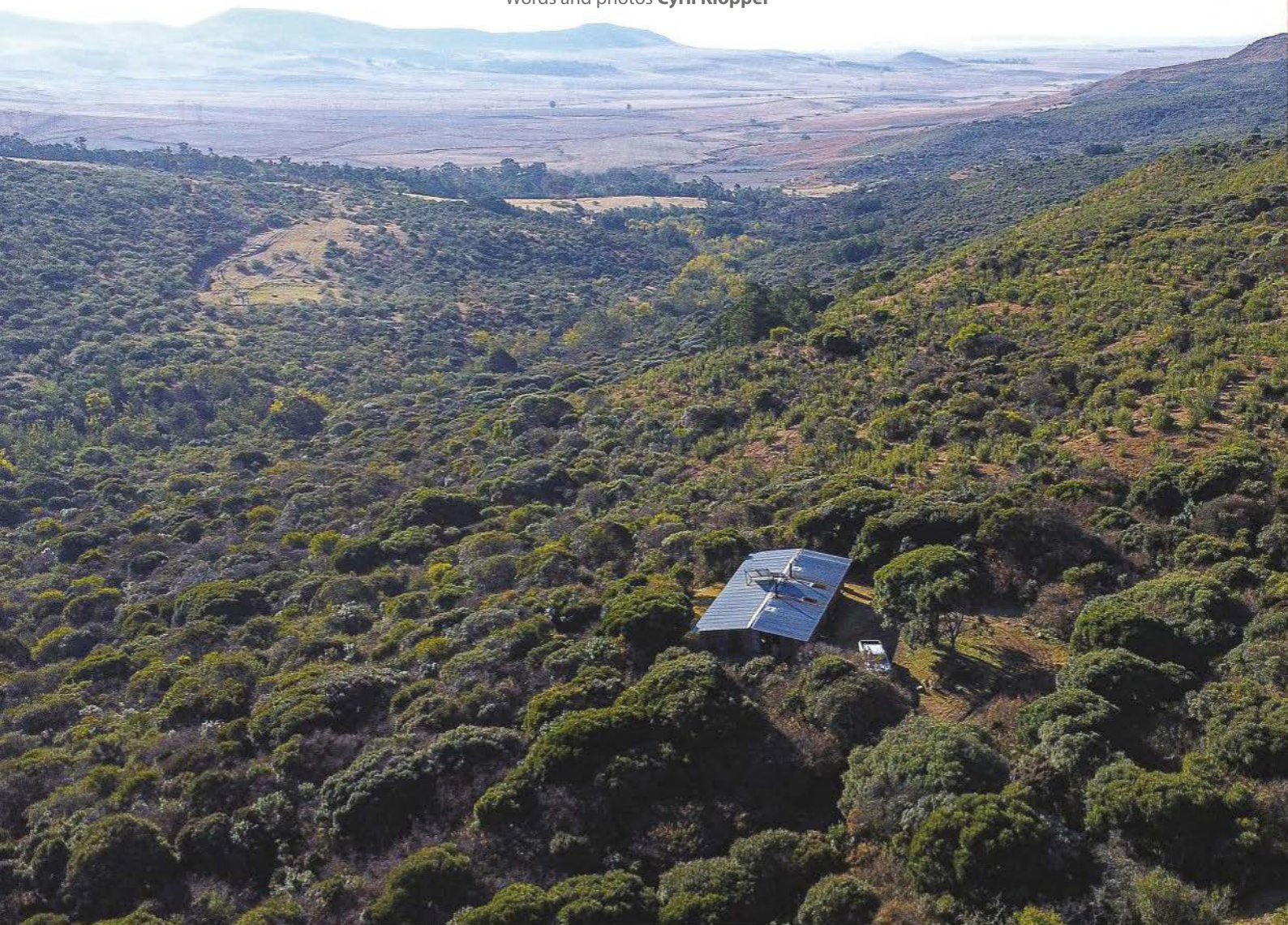
hello@ultimateroutes.co.za



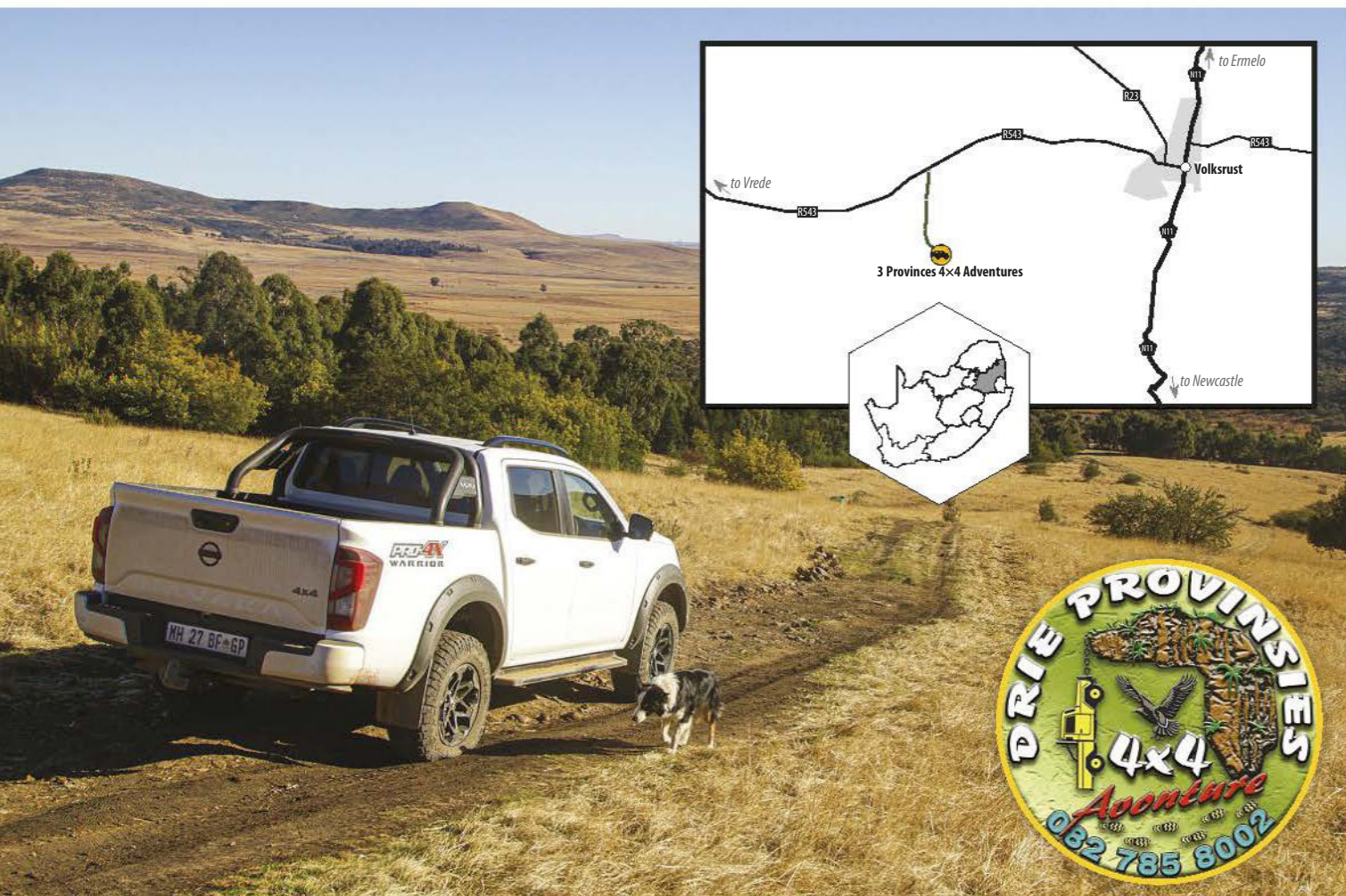
# Provincial colours

Where KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and the Free State meet, you'll find a well-known trail with a fitting name: 3 Provinces 4x4 Adventures.

Words and photos **Cyril Kloppe**







It becomes clear early on that Ronel Geldenhuys, who runs 3 Provinces 4x4 Adventures, knows exactly what she's doing. She replies to your enquiry right away with a set of PDF documents outlining the rules, regulations, terms and conditions, and other important notes. She'll even keep you updated on the weather and temperatures in Volksrust, where the farm is located.

The pay-to-play trail is less than three hours' drive from Johannesburg. The trail explores Langkrans, 2 253 m above sea level, on the farm Waterval. The turn-off to Waterval is located on the R534 regional road at S27.36795 E29.74512 – a roadside sign reads, "Waterval Hiking Trail & 3 Provinces 4x4".

From there, a 5 km gravel road leads you past fields and kraals to the Geldenhuys homestead (S27.40856 E29.75270), and the road itself can be a challenge if there's been heavy rain recently.

Ronel and her husband Herman were on holiday during our visit, but their son PF welcomed us and talked us through the routes. You're also given a neat hard-card map printed with colour photos of the obstacles and activities.

**3 Provinces 4x4 offers** a total of six routes on Waterval, but the Geldenhuys family also operates trails near Tshipise in Limpopo – and they run historical battlefield tours around their holiday property.

The main 3 Provinces route is the longest at 34 km, and earns a 4 out of 5 on our difficulty scale. It takes 5-7 hours to complete, although PF advised us to skip it due to deep mud – and because we didn't have a support vehicle. Helshoogte in particular, a steep grade-5 climb with loose rocks and a stream running down the track, would have been too risky without backup.

Then there's the Bobbejaanskrans and Tierkloof 4x4 routes, measuring

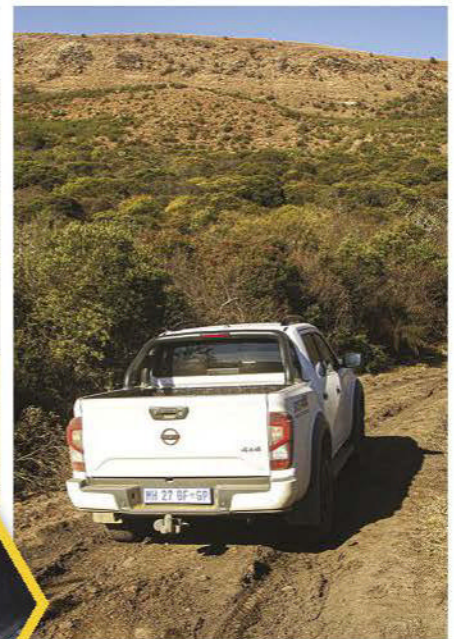
5 km and 8 km respectively, each taking around two hours. PF notes that the timings printed on the map are only rough estimates; in tough conditions it can take twice as long if a trail is badly damaged.

At the time of our visit, roughly half the 3 Provinces routes were closed due to heavy rains. The lower-lying tracks like the Tierkloof 4x4 route were flooded and impassable. Tierkloof Extreme – the more technical section of the Tierkloof trail – was also understandably closed after the recent rains.

The remaining routes include Walletjiesstraat, a short 1 km loop without an official grading that takes only about 30 minutes, as well as the Malgas route, which is more of a scenic nature drive than a true 4x4 challenge (provided it hasn't washed away).

**It'll take you a full day** to explore the gentler scenic routes at 3 Provinces 4x4 Adventures, and if you're planning to





tackle tougher obstacles like Helshoogte, you'll want to set aside additional days.

Ronel will even tailor a tour plan for you. She suggests taking on the main 3 Provinces trail and Pannetjies Pass on day 1. On day 2, you can drive the Tierkloof routes – provided they're open – along with Bobbejaanskrans. Walletjiesstraat and the battlefield tour are best saved for day 3.

Because a visit here easily spans more than a day, Waterval offers a variety of overnight options. There are two open-plan stone cottages that each sleep six. Kitchens are equipped with pots, pans, crockery, cutlery, a kettle, gas stove and 12 V fridge. The fridge and lighting run on solar power, and there are no wall sockets, so don't count on charging your phone.

There are also two wooden huts that each sleep four, with similar kitchen setups. Hot water comes from a wood-fired donkey boiler that you'll need to stoke yourself. Ronel recommends the



stone cottages, as they stay warmer during cold nights.

A guest apartment near the main farmhouse offers two bedrooms and 220 V electricity, though it doesn't offer the same privacy or remoteness as the mountain cottages.

If you'd rather camp, you can choose between the Rooibektiptol Camp and the bush camp. You'll need a 4x4 to reach them (and the mountain cottages), and although you can reach Rooibektiptol with an off-road trailer in tow, the track to Boskamp is considered too technical for towing.

Each route and accommodation option has its own pricing. For example, the main 3 Provinces 4x4 trail costs R390 per vehicle, and the mountain cottage rate is R790 p.n. for two people. Help is available to pitch your tent or wash dishes, but you must arrange this in advance (charged hourly and listed in one of the PDFs Ronel sends you).

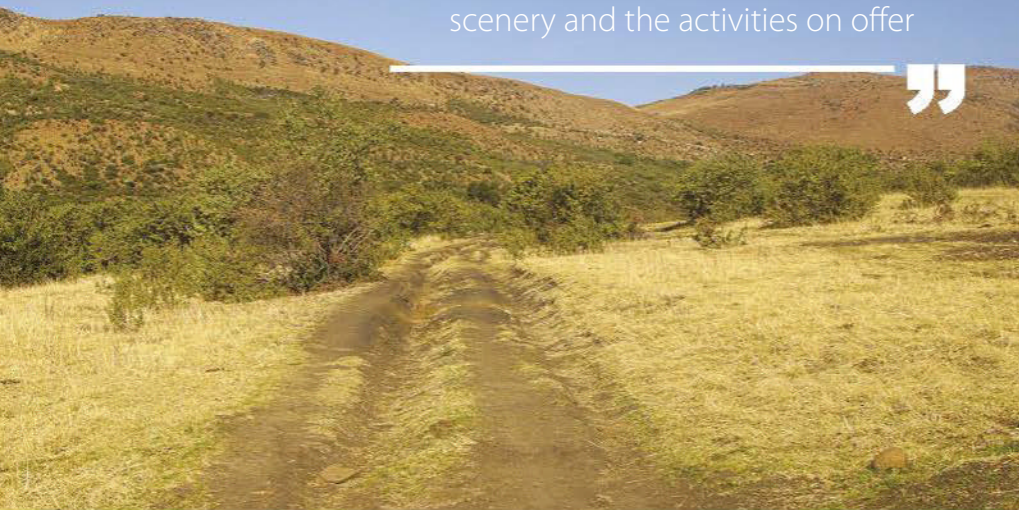




“

...we were more than satisfied with the scenery and the activities on offer

”

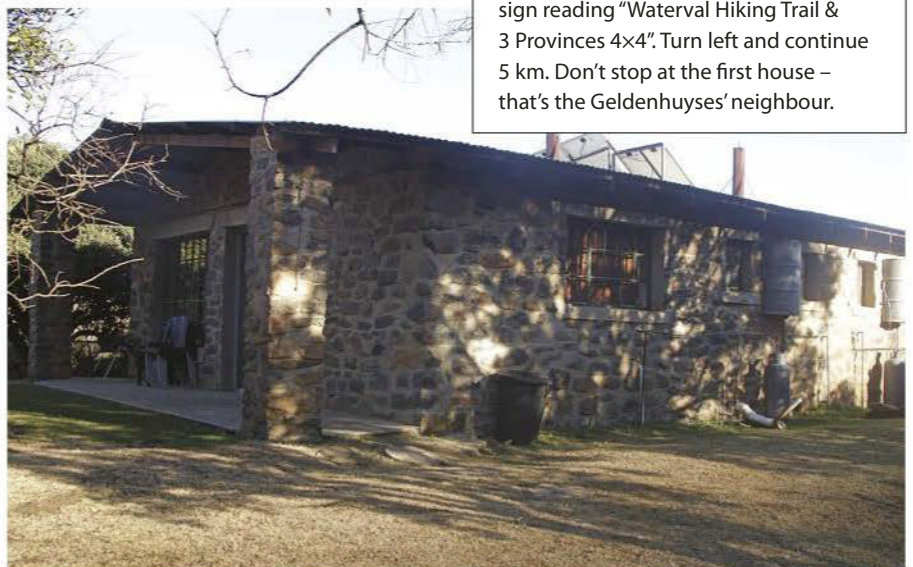


We paid R1 180 for a stone cottage plus one trail that was drivable during our visit. On the way to the cottage, Ronel and Herman's sheepdog, Tankie, trotted ahead and guided us straight to our front door.

Tankie is reportedly exceptionally smart – and on the trail we drove, she pointed out the perfect line through obstacles. She's not supposed to accompany guests into the mountains, though, as she's a notorious beggar whenever there's a braai going. She'll even scratch at the glass sliding door, pleading to sleep on the bed if you shut her out. Ronel kindly asks that you don't reward her naughty behaviour.

Despite the rain putting a slight damper on our weekend, we were more than satisfied with the scenery and the activities on offer. If provincial colours were awarded for 4x4 trails, 3 Provinces 4x4 Adventures would probably be selected for three teams.

**CLOSED.** We were unable to explore the entire farm, but the little that was available to us did nevertheless impress. Tankie the dog (opposite page) is adorable and creepily clever, but she's also a bit naughty and will beg for scraps. Don't indulge her.



## Need to know



### Maximum number of vehicles?

3 Provinces 4x4 Adventures often hosts large 4x4 clubs and group gatherings. Vehicle numbers are determined by how many people Ronel can realistically accommodate overnight.

**Do I get a map?** Yes, a neat, durable one with all the key route info. You'll also receive a sticker to prove you've tackled the trails.

**Will my vehicle get scratched?** It's definitely possible.

**Should I bring a compressor?** Yes. There is a pump at the farmhouse, but who wants to queue for that?

**Can I braai along the way?** Only at the huts and campsites.

**Is there cellphone signal?** Yes, but coverage can be patchy.

**Best time of year?** All year, though heavy rains can affect access and enjoyment.

**Can I take my family?** Absolutely.

**Day trip or weekend?** A weekend is far better – there's too much to fit into a single day.

**How long does it take?** Depends how many routes you want to try and how much nearby exploring you plan to do.

**Are there ablutions?** Yes, at the overnight stops.

**Directions** From Volksrust, follow the Vrede Road (R543) for 13,6 km to a farm sign reading "Waterval Hiking Trail & 3 Provinces 4x4". Turn left and continue 5 km. Don't stop at the first house – that's the Geldenhuysen's neighbour.



# Dust devils!

Once a year, the seatbelts click tight, the throttles go flat and the adrenaline hits the red when the *Drive & Camp* Bull Run takes over Vanwyksvlei in the Northern Cape.

Photos **Piet van Wyk**

**T**his year's Bull Run once again proved why this gathering has no equal in South Africa. Over the final weekend of the short school holiday, Vanwyksvlei was bursting at the seams as more than 600 participants, spectators and marshals rolled in with their old rides to show off, have some fun and celebrate – the Bull Run way.

As always, the teams delivered: bright themes, bold costumes and unstoppable spirit. And just when you think you've seen it all... the next crew rolls in and ups the game again.

Thursday's arrival day saw every vehicle inspected to ensure it met the rules: older than 1985 and valued at no more than R50 000. Then it was

time for old friends and new rivals to gather for the weekend's big social.

On Friday, things really kicked into gear as about 160 cars set off seconds apart for a timed rally on the surrounding gravel roads. At various checkpoints participants had to complete quirky challenges – cue plenty of laughs and fierce competition. The Mynkonyne (Sats Oosthuizen, Louis de Bruin and Pieter Basson) came out on top.

Saturday's action moved to the massive dust pan outside town, where the petrolheads put on a proper show in a series of events full of bravado and pure fun. When the dust eventually settled, Lodewyk van Rensburg's Brandpatrolie 3 claimed the honours for day two.

But, there can be only one overall winner... and this year it was Die Mynkonyne, who walked away with bragging rights and a stack of prizes from our sponsors. They're also the first team ever to take the Bull Run title twice – they last lifted the trophy in 2018. One for the books, and a victory celebrated into the wee hours of the night.

Once again, the Bull Run delivered an unforgettable weekend, full of dust, laughter, spirit and great company. A huge thanks to everyone who made the long journey to the Northern Cape, to the people of Vanwyksvlei for their warm hospitality and, of course, to our main sponsor Stanley, as well as Leatherman and WeBuyCars for their continued support.



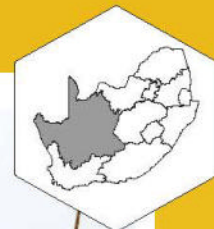




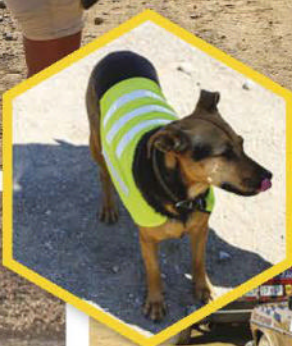








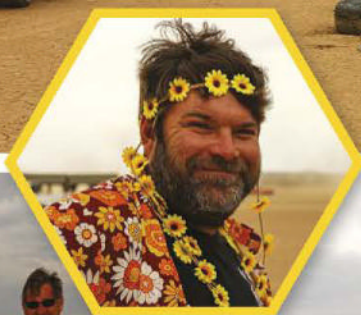
**WELCOME TO THUNDERDOME.** Upon arrival, the car of each team participating in the Bull Run is checked for compliance with safety regulations and the spirit of the event. On Friday morning, the various teams embark on a timed trial along the gravel roads in the surrounding area.



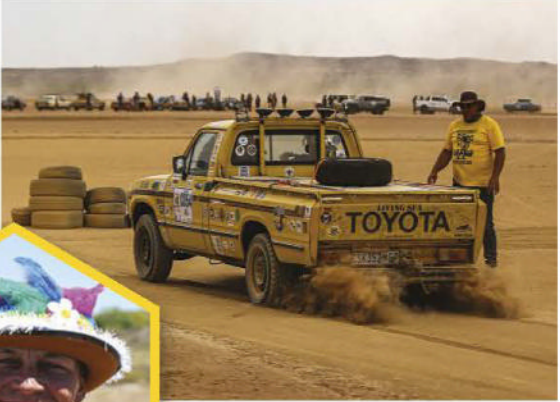
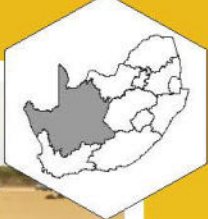




**BATTLE ROYALE.** Saturday is pan day at the Bull Run, arguably the dustiest day of the event. Over 150 teams are divided into smaller groups to duke it out for the championship. Our sincerest thanks to event organiser, Gerrie van Eeden (top left), his team and the marshals who volunteered to keep the chaos under control, as well as the medics and the residents of Vanwyksvlei.



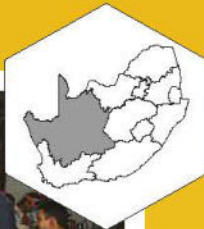












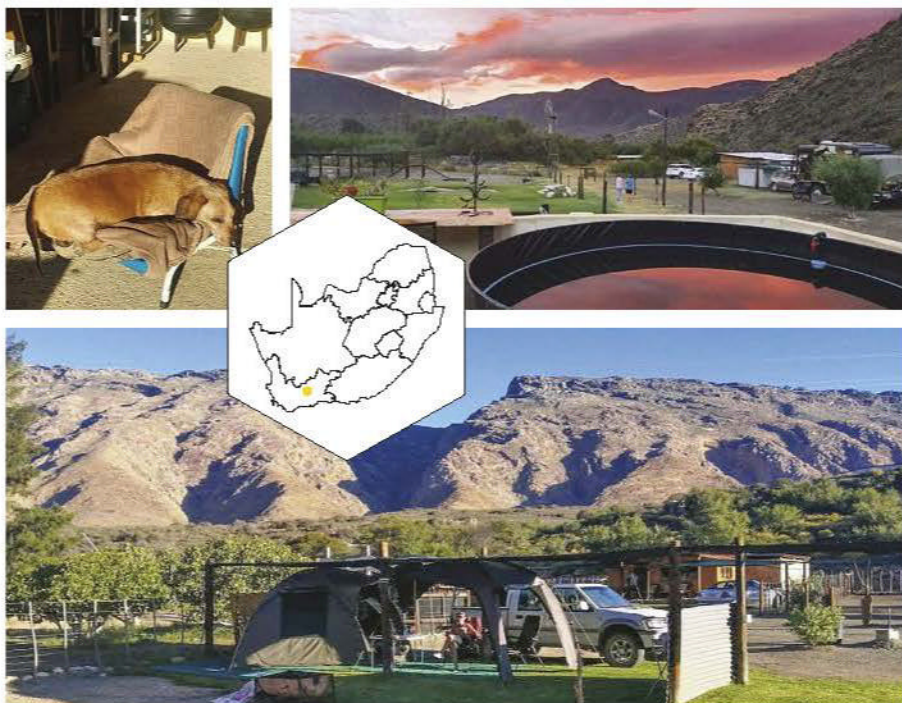
**WINNERS NEVER QUIT!** The Mynkonyne (right) won the trophy for the second time with Sputnik, their 1980 model Toyota Corolla 1.8 GLS – their previous victory was back in 2018. From left to right are Pieter Basson, Sats Oosthuizen and Louis de Bruin. Congrats, manne!





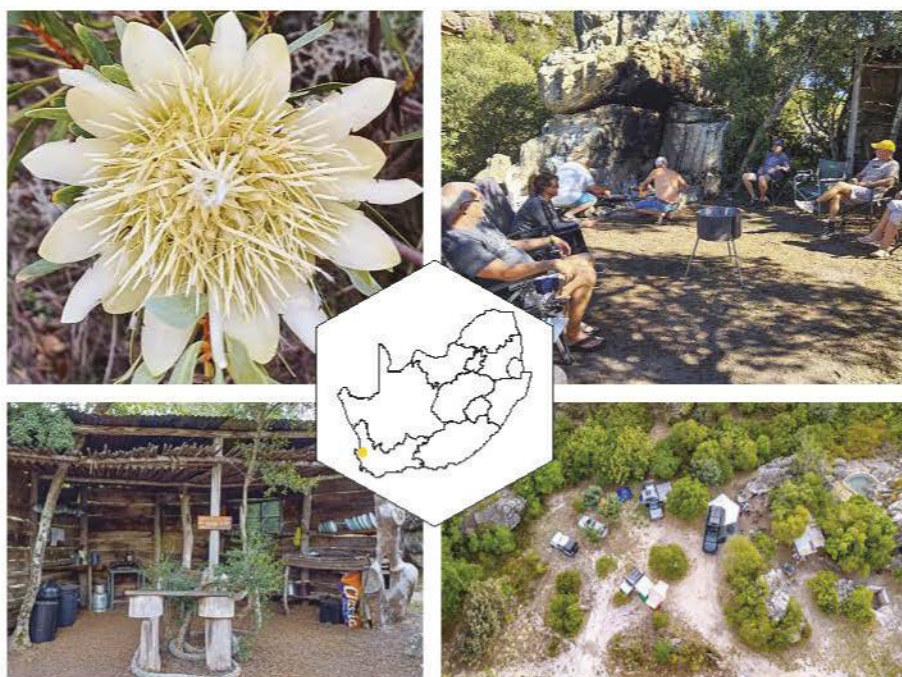
Compiled by **Leon Botha**

## ONS KAROO PLAAS



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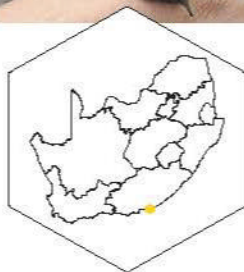
## KRUISTEMENTVLEI



**GPS** S32.801974 E18.663629



# WILD WOODY CAPE



**Pet terms** All pets are welcome, as long as they're socialised.

**Have we visited before?** No.

**Campsite** Unmarked grassy stands with 10 power points and braai areas. The site can accommodate up to 80 people, and four to five stands offer more privacy. There's wifi at the main building, and you can buy your fishing permit there.

**Ablutions** Shared bathrooms for general use, including a washing-up area. The kitchen is fully equipped with a gas stove, microwave, fridge, and cutlery and crockery for 100 people.

**Arrival and departure** You may arrive at any time but must depart by 14:00.

**Contact** 076 929 7184

 [bookings@wildwoodvcape.com](mailto:bookings@wildwoodvcape.com)

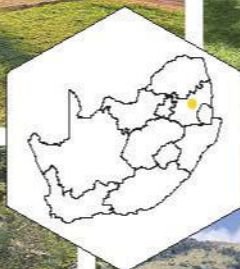
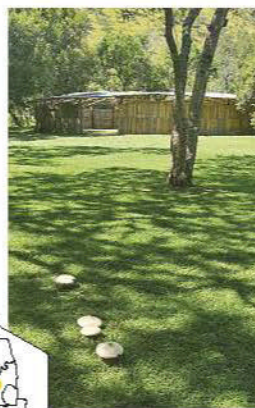
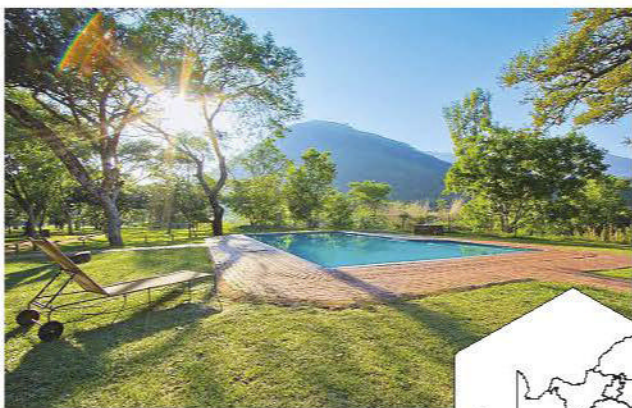
 [wildwoodycape.com](http://wildwoodycape.com)

**Nearest town** Alexandria and Boknes, both 16 km.

**Road condition** Gravel to the campsite. The Boknes road is in good condition.

**GPS** S33.755566 E26.388781

# ELANGENI



**Pet terms** Dogs, cats and even birds are welcome, but must remain under your control at all times.

**Have we visited before?** Yes, November 2010 (*WegSleep* #28).

**Campsite** Fifty numbered grassy stands, most with shade. Braais are freestanding, and power points use standard household plugs. There's also a communal boma.

**Abutions** Two bathroom blocks with washing-up areas. One is larger than the other, and both have separate facilities for men and women. A wheelchair-friendly bathroom is the newest addition.

**Arrival and departure** No fixed times.

**Contact** ☎ 083 793 3163 or 083 797 7505

📧 [elangresort@mweb.co.za](mailto:elangresort@mweb.co.za)

 [elangeni-resort.co.za](http://elangeni-resort.co.za)

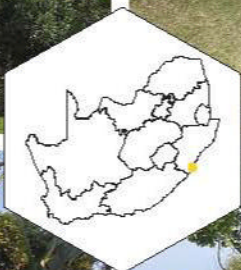
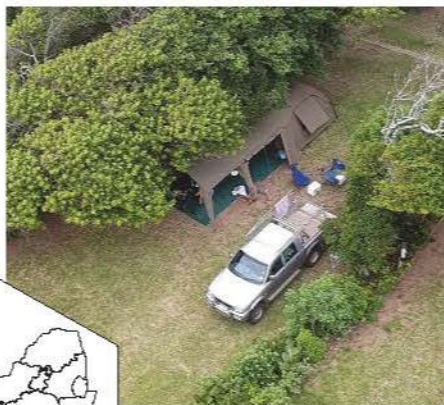
**Nearest town** Emgwenya (formerly Waterval-Boven), 20 km.

**Road condition** 300 m of neat gravel road.

**GPS** S25.594178 E30.446885



## CHARACTERS GARDEN PARK



**Pet terms** Small dogs are welcome but must remain on your stand and an additional fee applies. During peak periods, the number of pets is limited.

**Have we visited before?** Yes, August 2010 (*WegSleep #25*). At the time, it was known as Corian's Pennington.

**Campsite** Fifty grassy stands with plenty of shade and shelter from the wind. Each site has a blue plug power point and shares a tap with neighbouring stands. There's a communal braai area, and wifi is available at the hall and swimming pool.

**Ablutions** Three bathroom blocks. Two have coin-operated washing machines, and all three include dishwashing facilities.

**Arrival and departure** 14:00 and 10:00, but this is not enforced during quieter periods.

**Contact** 073 297 5876

admin@charactersgardenpark.co.za

charactersgardenpark.co.za

**Nearest town** In Pennington.

**Road condition** Tar all the way to the gate.

**GPS** S30.381487 E30.699116

## ROOIDAM



**Pet terms** The stands are not fenced, so it's your responsibility to keep your dog under control at all times.

**Have we visited before?** No.

**Campsite** Three shaded stands on compacted ground beneath a large tree. Depending on your site, you'll have either a freestanding or built braai (with a grid). Braai packs and firewood are available to buy. The owner says they're developing five wilderness stands where you'll be able to camp under a shade tree.

**Ablutions** Your own private bathroom on your stand, with a 3 x 3 m paved area in front of the building. There's a small kitchen with a sink and gas stove, plus a separate shower and toilet.

**Arrival and departure** No fixed times.

**Contact** 084 491 0142

ajraath@fastmail.fm

rooidamcottages.co.za

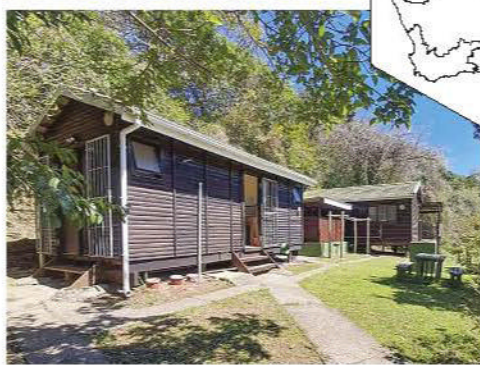
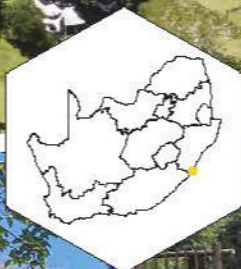
**Nearest town** Britstown, 10 km.

**Road condition** 1 km of good gravel road.

**GPS** S30.674154 E23.449275



# RIVERBEND



**Pet terms** Pets must be socialised and obedient, as there are horses and a donkey on the property.

**Have we visited before?** Yes, April 2015 (Drive & Camp #76).

**Campsite** Eleven grassy stands along the Umtentweni River with plenty of shade and power. Portable braais are available, and some stands have wifi.

**Ablutions** One building with separate facilities for the sexes (shower, bath, basin, toilet) and shared facilities (shower and toilet), plus a washing-up area. A laundry service is available.

**Arrival and departure** 12:00 and 11:00, but flexible.

**Contact** ☎ 083 666 3941

✉ info@riverbendchalets.co.za

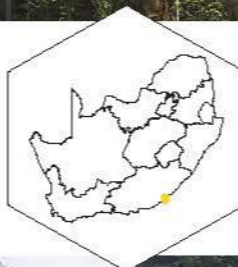
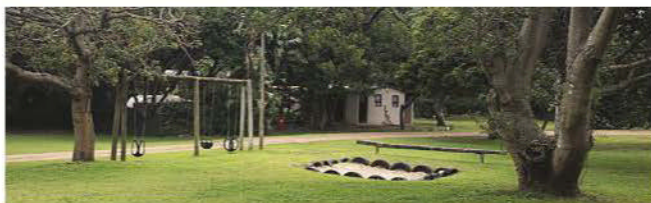
🌐 riverbendchalets.co.za

**Nearest town** Port Shepstone, 5 km.

**Road condition** Tar to the resort with a 500 m steep descent down to the stands. Towing your caravan back up can be tricky.

**GPS** S30.705733 E30.474464

# RENDEZVOUS



**Pet terms** Dogs are allowed at an additional cost and remain your responsibility for the duration of your stay.

**Have we visited before?** No.

**Campsite** Twenty-nine grassy stands with freestanding braais, a power point and shade. Many long-term campers stay here. The campsite has a swimming pool and a small park for children.

**Ablutions** Private facilities form one of four rooms in a block, each with a shower, basin and toilet. Every block has an outdoor washing-up area, and there's also a laundry room.

**Arrival and departure** 14:00 and 10:00.

**Contact** ☎ 078 700 3089

✉ office@rendezvouscaravan.com

📍 Rendezvous Caravan Park

**Nearest town** East London, 36 km.

**Road condition** 50 m of good gravel road.

**GPS** S32.841327 E28.114075





NISSAN NAVARA WARRIOR

# Fighting fit





Nissan has reworked the Navara with chunkier rubber and upgraded suspension so it can take on those 4x4 obstacles with confidence.

Words and photos **Cyril Kloppe**

**T**he Warrior package for the Nissan Navara debuted in Australia four years ago but only reached South Africa in March 2025. Is it merely a cosmetic update, or does it genuinely improve the standard Navara?

### What have we got here?

The Warrior package is the brainchild of Australian vehicle modifier Premcar, which has been in business since 1996. Nissan approached Premcar in 2019 to create a special version of the Navara, and what you see here is broadly the result.

We say “broadly” because the Warrior sold locally differs somewhat from the one the Aussies enjoy. The Australian Warrior is based on the Thai-built Navara with a 2.3 l twin-turbo diesel engine, while South Africa gets the Rosslyn-built model powered by the older 2.5 l turbodiesel. There are visual differences too, especially up front: the Australian version wears a steel bumper that’s winch-compatible and features a serious bash plate under the engine. Ours retains the standard plastic bumper instead.

On both sides of the Indian Ocean, Navara Warriors share the same key upgrades: 17-inch alloy wheels fitted with Maxxis RAZR all-terrain tyres, uprated coil springs that add 40 mm of ground clearance, wider wheel-





arch protection and a sports bar on the loadbin as standard.

Premcar currently builds two versions for the Australian market. The flagship model is based on the Navara Pro-4X, but gains enhanced off-road ability thanks to wheel, tyre and suspension upgrades, extra underbody protection, a stronger towbar and a 100 kg GVM increase.

There is also a lower spec Navara SL Warrior with fewer modifications. Premcar SA offers just one version of the Warrior – the one shown here – but you do get to pick either grey, black or white in body paint.

### Interior

Inside, the Warrior's cabin is almost identical to the standard Navara Pro-4X. The only noticeable difference is the Warrior badging embroidered on the front headrests.

It carries over the same 8-inch touchscreen and adaptive and cruise control systems. There's honestly not a lot more to say about the interior that we haven't already discussed in previous issues.

### How does it drive?

We collected the Nissan Navara Pro-4X Warrior in Johannesburg and headed into KwaZulu-Natal for a bit of real-world testing. As you probably know, some Mpumalanga tar roads are riddled with potholes, so we were thankful for the chunky 275/65R17 tyres that soaked up the hits.

Ride comfort is also noticeably improved thanks to the firmer coil springs and recalibrated shocks working with the rear five-link suspension – a step up from the standard leaf springs. The trade-off is payload: while the regular Navara Pro-4X can carry 1 003 kg, the Warrior is rated for 892 kg – a difference of 111 kg. In other words... one Francois Steyn less.

In terms of handling, we couldn't detect much difference between the Warrior and the standard Pro-4X, despite the Warrior's taller stance. That's likely thanks to its wheel track being 30 mm wider than usual.

However, when it comes to acceleration, the gap between the Warrior and the regular Navara Pro-4X does become more

noticeable. Nissan and Premcar happily boast about the bigger tyres and upgraded suspension, but remain very quiet about the gearbox. Probably because you can clearly feel it working harder to get those larger wheels turning. Acceleration is by no means poor, but the Warrior definitely feels less a tad less sprightly than the standard Pro-4X.

Once you're up to speed though, everything feels the same, and as we've mentioned, you'll be extremely grateful for the bigger tyres on rough roads. It's also worth pointing out that the tyres are relatively quiet on the highway; our favourite podcast was never once drowned out by road noise.

### The competition

The Nissan Navara Pro-4X Warrior goes up against the bonkers Ford Ranger Raptor, Isuzu's impressive Arctic Trucks D-Max AT35 and the badass Toyota Hilux GR-S III.

The Raptor may be only two years newer than the Navara, but it feels significantly



“ You're getting a lot of bakkie for under a million rand ”



## SPECIFICATIONS

|                                        |                                      |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Model</b> .....                     | Navara Pro-4X Warrior                |
| <b>Engine</b> .....                    | 2 488 cc four-cylinder turbodiesel   |
| <b>Power</b> .....                     | 140 kW @ 3 600 r/min                 |
| <b>Torque</b> .....                    | 450 Nm @ 2 000 r/min                 |
| <b>Transmission</b> .....              | Seven-speed automatic                |
| <b>Drivetrain</b> .....                | Part-time 4x4                        |
| <b>Ground clearance</b> .....          | 232 mm                               |
| <b>Approach/Departure angles</b> ..... | 35° and 27°                          |
| <b>Tank</b> .....                      | 80 ℓ                                 |
| <b>Fuel consumption</b> .....          | 10,1 ℓ/100 km (tested)               |
| <b>Tyre size</b> .....                 | 275/65R17                            |
| <b>Weight</b> .....                    | 2 223 kg                             |
| <b>Payload</b> .....                   | 892 kg                               |
| <b>Dimensions</b> .....                | 5 260 (l) x 1 920 (w) x 1 875 mm (h) |
| <b>Towing capacity</b> .....           | 3 500 kg (braked)                    |
| <b>Safety rating</b> .....             | ★★★★★ (ANCAP)                        |
| <b>Warranty</b> .....                  | 6 year/150 000 km                    |
| <b>Service plan</b> .....              | 6 year/90 000 km                     |
| <b>PRICE</b> .....                     | R924 000                             |



**ADAPTATION.** The larger tyres certainly impact the acceleration and fuel consumption. We also cross-checked the speedo accuracy with our handheld GPS and it was off by a little bit. This implies that the odometer could also be under-recording the actual kilometers you drive.

more modern. It also comes with a 3.0 ℓ twin-turbo V6 that would eat the Navara Pro-4X for breakfast. However, the Raptor's payload is a meagre 667 kg – and it costs R350 000 more than the Warrior.

If your priority is big tyres, look no further than the Isuzu Arctic Trucks D-Max AT35 and its massive 35-inch 316/70R17 all-terrain rubber. Isuzu hasn't simply slapped on bigger tyres; like Premcar, they've upgraded the suspension and underbody protection too. Unfortunately, at R1 182 100, the AT35 is almost a quarter-million rand pricier than the Navara Warrior.

Lastly, there's the Toyota Hilux 2.8 GR-S III. Priced at R999 000, it's slightly up on the Warrior, and its 300 mm ground clearance is 15 mm higher than a standard 4x4 Hilux – and 68 mm more than the Warrior! However, its payload is only 790 kg versus the Warrior's 892 kg, and its 265/65R17 tyres are also smaller, albeit not by much.

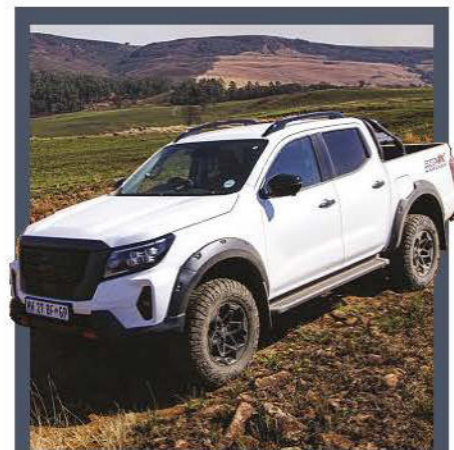
## Conclusion

One of the informal yardsticks we use when evaluating a vehicle is the reaction it gets from petrol attendants and other road users. The Nissan Navara Pro-4X Warrior certainly turned heads at fuel stops, and motorists weren't shy about staring.

To be fair, the reaction would likely be the same if we were driving a Ranger Raptor, an Arctic Truck or a Hilux GR-S III, but it's been a long time since a Navara attracted this much attention.

As for whether you should buy one? The standout factor is the price. You're getting a lot of bakkie for under a million rand. The slightly slower acceleration we mentioned isn't a real concern, and the benefits of the larger tyres more than make up for it.

Bottom line: We found nothing to complain about. In the end, the decision comes down to whether you're a Nissan fan – or loyal to a rival badge.



## FROM THE COMPETITORS Big tyre bakkies



R1 270 000

### Ford Ranger Raptor

A bakkie that can jump... seriously, it can jump.



R1 182 100

### Isuzu Arctic Trucks D-Max AT35

Heading for the South Pole? Isuzu has just the thing.



R999 000

### Toyota Hilux GR-S III

If it's good enough for Giniel de Villiers, it's good enough for you.



# Simply good enough

FORD RANGER XL (4X4, MANUAL)



How well does Ford's most affordable 4x4 Ranger double-cab tow when you attach a caravan to it?

Words and photos **Leon Botha**

**A**t around R700 000, the XL is the most affordable 4x4 model in Ford's Ranger lineup. We climbed into this modest workhorse – the only 4x4 in the family with a manual gearbox and single turbo – to see how it performs with a caravan in tow.

With 405 Nm of torque, this entry-level model has enough muscle for towing duty. Its 2 220 kg tare weight also means that, on paper, it's rated to tow some of the heaviest caravans in the country. So that's exactly

what we did: we hitched up Infanta's latest model, the Enkulu 4, with a gross vehicle mass of 2 100 kg.

#### Built for it

Every Ranger double-cab model is rated to tow 3 500 kg, and a tow bar is standard. On the XL, however, the hitch is excluded.

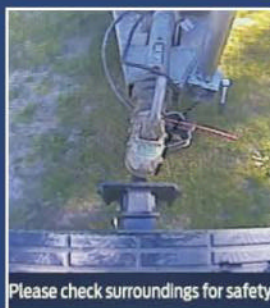
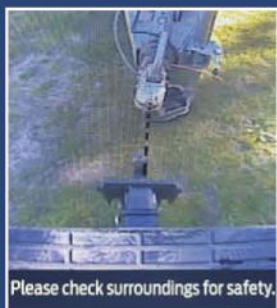
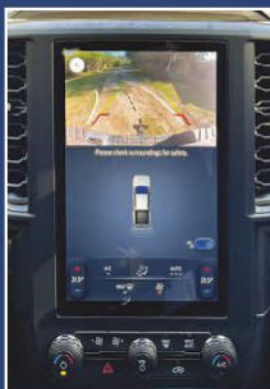
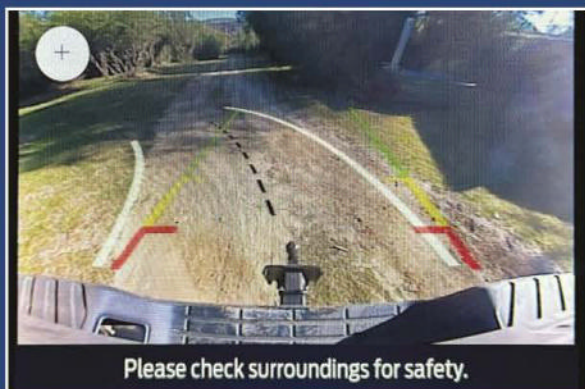
The bar is manufactured by Brink and has a load rating – or D-value – of 17.2 kN (equivalent to 1 754 kg). The vertical load on the towball may not exceed 225 kg, although

this is largely academic because legislation limits that weight to 100 kg.

Climb into the XL and the screen behind the steering wheel reminds you to depress the clutch before starting. To your left is a proper old-school mechanical handbrake, but ahead of that is a digital display that offers almost a full towing academy's worth of information.

This is where the reversing-camera feed appears. You might expect something basic in an entry-level model, but that's not the





**PLEASE CHECK.** The touch screen displays various safety features and reverse aids that make life easier. The software engineers seem to understand what is required when hitching a trailer or caravan.

case here. The towbar is clearly visible at the bottom of the screen, complete with dynamic guide lines. As you turn the wheel, the lines curve to show the exact path you'll follow when reversing.

There's also a dynamic dotted line projected from the towball itself. Simply steer until that line points directly at the trailer's coupler. With one smooth manoeuvre – and no spotter required – you can line up perfectly, even if you're not square to the caravan.

The reverse camera has a close-up "zoom" function that gives you a top view as if you're standing right at the coupler. Reverse until you're almost against the coupler, switch to the top view, and you can nudge the towball neatly underneath the coupler. It's a feature that every reverse camera should have – the best way to avoid pushing off-centre and punching a dent into your rear bumper.

Vehicle settings such as audio, trip data and fuel consumption are all checked on the driver's display. There's also a dedicated Towing menu. Select it with the trailer unplugged and the system reports that no trailer is detected; plug in the electrical harness and two options appear: Trailer Light Status and Towing Status – aligned with the features on the main touchscreen.

On the home screen ahead of the gear lever there's also a trailer icon labelled "Towing". Tap it and three further options appear: Profiles, Checklist, and Trailer Sway Control, the latter of which can be switched off if needed.

If it's your first time towing a specific caravan, you can add it under Profiles in the vehicle's system. You can even type in the trailer's name and set it as your default trailer. We first encountered this feature two years ago when we tested the Ford Everest Platinum, and it continues here in the XL. The system guides you step by step through all the key checks before you set off – from ensuring the electrical plug is connected properly to confirming that the jockey wheel is raised and the bakkie's side mirrors are adjusted.

Once hitched up, you can use the steering-wheel controls to run through the trailer light checks, including park lights, indicators and brake lights.

### On the tow bar

Hill Launch Assist works brilliantly when towing, particularly when you're stopped on an incline and need to pull away again. It's almost as if the brakes briefly take over the role of the handbrake: while you move



## TOW TEST



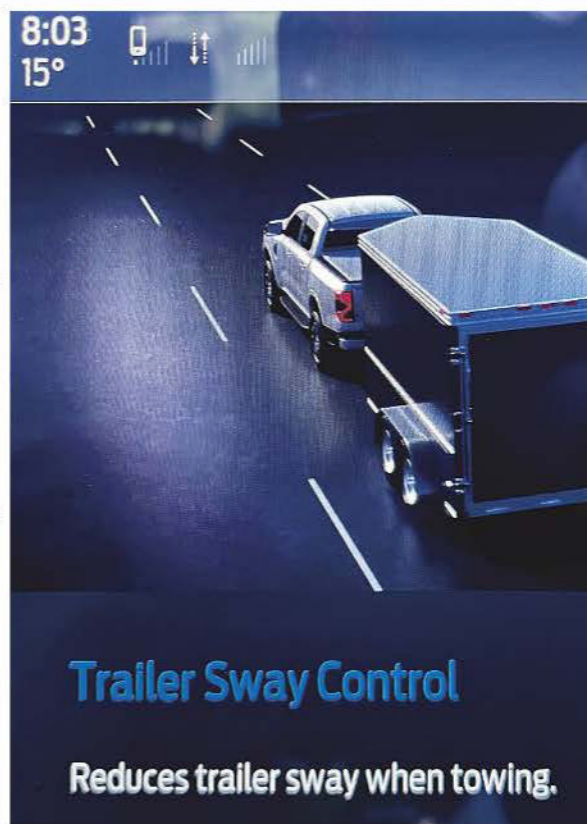
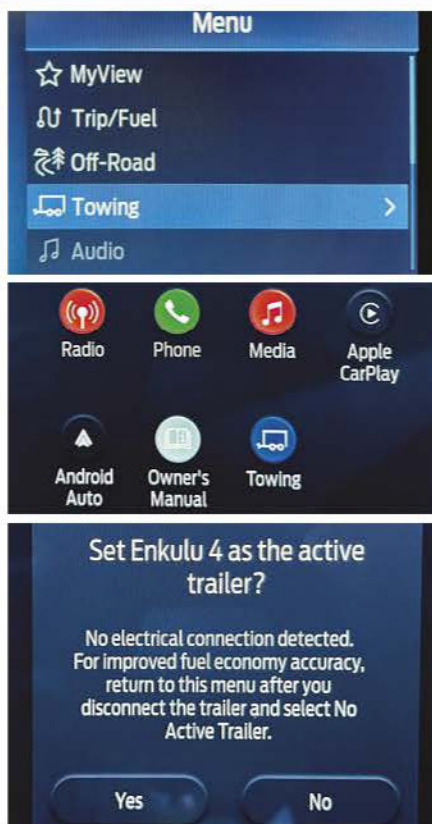
your foot from the brake to the clutch, the Ranger holds firm and releases smoothly as soon as you give it throttle. Note, though, the assistance is active only for a moment, and if you hesitate, the combination will roll back.

The 2.0 l engine has no trouble getting moving with a heavy caravan hitched up, and comfortably maintains a cruising speed of 100 km/h on the highway in fifth gear. Moderate hills are shrugged off, with the revs sitting between 2 000-3 000 r/min. Shift into sixth, however, and the revs drop below 2 000 r/min; here, the engine feels a little flat. Ford says the peak torque is available from 1 750-2 500 r/min, but with a heavy trailer in tow, fifth is definitely the sweet spot for steady cruising.

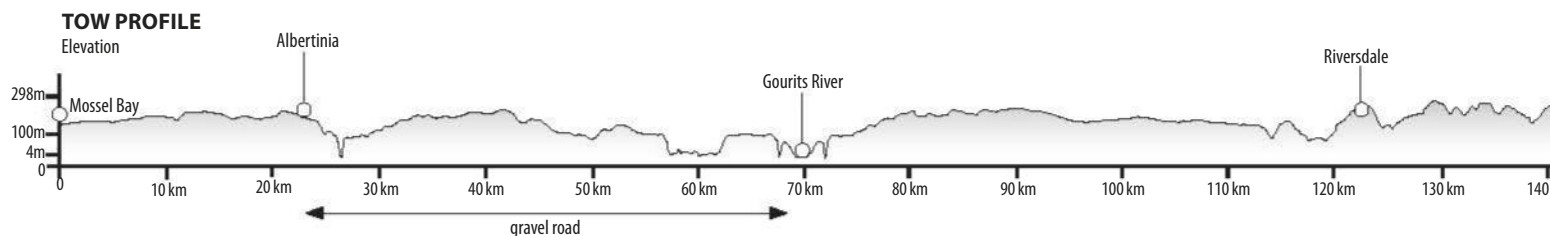
On its own, the Ranger returned a respectable 6.9 l/100 km on our run from Cape Town to Mossel Bay – just shy of 500 km – giving a theoretical range of around 1 160 km. Ford's official combined figure is 7.1 l/100 km.

Add a caravan, and things look very different: 13.2 l/100 km with the Enkulu 4 behind it — a caravan that happens to be one of the heaviest on the market. Still, with a range of just over 600 km, you won't be pulling into every town to refuel.

**Drive & Camp says** The hitch and accessories cost R3 105 extra.



**Total distance** 713,7 km **Without trailer** 483 km **With trailer** 230,7 km **Roads** Highways, back roads, built-up areas and gravel







## SPECIFICATIONS

|                                        |                                             |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <b>Model</b> .....                     | XL 2.0 SiT 4x4                              |
| <b>Engine</b> .....                    | Four-cylinder turbodiesel                   |
| <b>Power</b> .....                     | 125 kW @ 3 500 r/min                        |
| <b>Torque</b> .....                    | 405 Nm @ 1 750-2 500 r/min                  |
| <b>Transmission</b> .....              | Six-speed manual                            |
| <b>Drivetrain</b> .....                | Rear-wheel drive or 4x4 with rear diff lock |
| <b>Tank</b> .....                      | 80 l                                        |
| <b>Fuel consumption (solo)</b> .....   | 6,9 l/100 km (14,5 km/l)                    |
| <b>Fuel consumption (towing)</b> ..... | 13,2 l/100 km (7,6 km/l)                    |
| <b>Combined consumption</b> .....      | 11,05 l/100 km (9 km/l)                     |
| <b>Range while towing</b> .....        | 608 km                                      |
| <b>Tare</b> .....                      | 2 220 kg                                    |
| <b>GVM</b> .....                       | 3 190 kg                                    |
| <b>GKM</b> .....                       | 6 150 kg                                    |
| <b>Towing capacity</b> .....           | 3 500 kg                                    |
| <b>Tow-bar D-value</b> .....           | 1 754 kg (17,2 kN)                          |
| <b>Max vertical load</b> .....         | 225 kg                                      |
| <b>Removable tow bar?</b> .....        | No, only the arm and ball can be removed.   |
| <b>PRICE</b> .....                     | R703 000                                    |

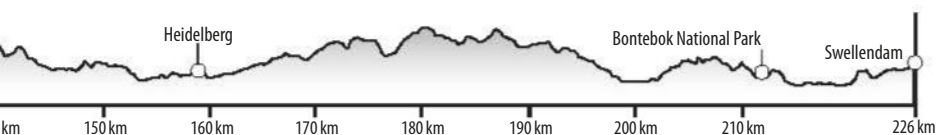


## The caravan

**Make** Infanta  
**Model** Enkulu 4  
**Year** 2025  
**GVM** 2 100 kg

*Drive & Camp* tested the Enkulu 4 courtesy of the manufacturer.

☎ 028 512 3663 ✉ info@infanta4x4.co.za  
 🌐 infanta4x4.co.za



**From the competitors**  
 (double-cab, 4x4, diesel, manual)



**R670 800**

**Isuzu 1.9 DDI L**

**350 Nm**

Towing capacity of 2 100 kg and a six-speed gearbox.



**R678 000**

**Nissan Nivara 2.5 DDTi SE Plus**

**403 Nm**

Towing capacity of 3 500 kg and a six-speed gearbox.



**R684 800**

**Toyota Hilux GD-6 Raider**

**400 Nm**

Towing capacity of 3 500 kg and a six-speed gearbox.



# Think inside the box

Mobi Lodge takes a giant leap forward with its new flagship, the Quattro, offering double the sleeping space of the standard Mobi Lodge and an interior that's luxurious like few others.

Words and photos **Leon Botha**

**B**uilding on the success of its Continental model, the Quattro introduces a dual-axle setup, a king-size bed that slides out from the body, an additional double bed that converts from the lounge

area, and a larger, more stylish bathroom with a separate shower cubicle.

The chassis features a double-frame design, while the body is constructed from homogeneous fibreglass with

25 mm honeycomb insulation panels within the walls.

You'll need a seriously capable tow vehicle for the Quattro; its gross vehicle mass tips the scale at 2 250 kg. (That puts it in line with other twin-

axle off-road caravans like the Conqueror UEV-25 (2 200 kg), the BorderX Expedition (2 000-2 200 kg) and the Nayela Sahara (2 230 kg).)

Let's step inside and take a closer look.

## MOBI LODGE QUATTRO



### Bathroom bound

Mobi Lodge's caravans are successful for two key reasons: they're rugged enough for the roughest tracks, and once you set up camp, the interior turns into something close to a hotel suite.

Mobi models are versatile off-road caravans that break slightly from convention. Instead of

the typical chest fridge/freezer that slides out on a rail from the left-hand panel, the Quattro spoils you with a massive 240 l upright fridge/freezer running on 220 V, positioned right inside the doorway. That means more than double the usual cooling capacity – and it's equally accessible from inside and out.

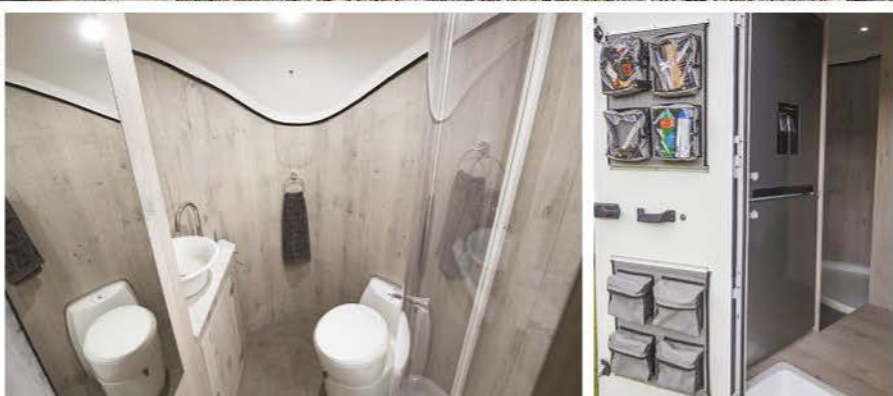
The entrance door itself is also taller (184 cm) and wider (62 cm) than on a typical off-road caravan, so you step in upright – something you can't do in most caravans.

Inside, the power control panel now sits to the right at head height, housing all the switches, breakers, battery monitor and

water-level gauge. Opposite that, above the fridge, is a slim cabinet with two doors for wine bottles and four wine glasses.

The bathroom is to the left. The unit we tested did not have a separating door between the bathroom and the rest of the Quattro, but production models do. The bathroom floor





sits 9 cm lower than the main living area. The hand basin and swivel tap are mounted on the cabinet to the left, with an upright mirror in front of you. The shower cubicle is on the right, with the cassette toilet just beyond it. The shower height from tray to ceiling is 199 cm, which means only those taller than 6½ feet will struggle to stand fully upright. The shower head is height-adjustable and can also be handheld.



## Bedtime

From here, a short passage (77 cm wide) leads you to the bedroom at the rear. The ceiling is 190 cm high with a glossy white finish. Two dual-direction fans are mounted overhead, each flanked by two lights.

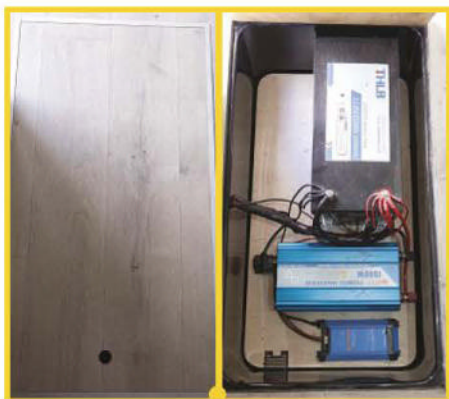
Just past the doorway, a floor-level cabinet (115 l) houses the 210 Ah lithium battery, charger and a 1 500 W inverter.

The bed is on the left and partly extends out of the right-hand panel. The bed module slides out like a giant drawer (future versions will be electrically operated). This "drawer" is 248 cm wide and 111 cm deep, with a floor-to-ceiling height of 166 cm, and extends 93 cm beyond the shell. The interior space expands instantly when deployed. For this type of slide-out bed, it's impressively roomy – and with 37 cm of clearance on either side, you can move around the bed with ease. The mattress measures 184 x 170 cm – slightly narrower and around 4 cm shorter than a standard king-size.

The capsule's interior is finished with the same carpeting as Mobi Lodge's Continental models, and there's a bedside shelf with USB ports on each side of the bed.

At the headboard is an extra-large sliding window (163 x 81 cm), with a further 73 x 73 cm window on each side. All are fitted with mesh and roll-down flaps for privacy.

To the left of the bed is a hanging cupboard measuring







129 cm tall and 45 cm wide, with a double power outlet below.

At the foot of the bed, against the rear wall of the exterior kitchen, is a bank of cupboards. The lower portion has an open shelf the width of the mattress – useful for storing shoes. (When the slide-out bed is retracted, the mattress extends partly into this space.)

Above the shelf is a small countertop (38 x 93 cm) on the left with a power outlet, and to the right and above are additional cabinets providing ample storage for groceries.

The Quattro also features a rear seating area that converts into a double bed. Shaped as U-benches around a removable table (103 x 60 cm) on two legs, the space transforms into a bed measuring 189 x 117 cm – somewhere between three-quarter and double size.







### Outside the door

The outdoor kitchen's countertop measures 187 x 52 cm, and it becomes accessible as soon as you open the cabinet door above the wheel arch. The counter height sits at 110 cm above ground, with the two-burner gas stove mounted in the centre. This is slightly unusual – it's normally positioned to one side – but in practice it works well, as you can stand and prep from either end.

The storage behind the counter includes shelves of various sizes, with space for pots, pans, a kettle and sealed food containers, along with dedicated hanging spots for cutlery and moulded holders for cups and glasses. There's also a power outlet here should you wish to plug in a toaster, electric kettle or induction plate while cooking outdoors.

To the right of the kitchen, the basin and drying rack slide out neatly on a runner.

The awning measures 5 x 2,3 m, and its housing is recessed slightly into the roof. Opening is fully electric.

**Drive & Camp says** The Quattro's reverse camera works brilliantly; nothing sneaks up on you from behind without you knowing about it.







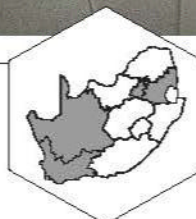
### What comes standard?

The Quattro arrives fully equipped with 32 standard features, including the bathroom, the bed that slides out electrically, the seating area that converts into an extra bed, an indoor kitchen, induction plate, a 240 ℓ upright fridge/freezer, two roof fans, a 220 V 12 000 BTU air conditioner, a gas stove and 20 ℓ microwave (both part of the outdoor kitchen), a 220 V gas geyser, 210 Ah lithium battery with 15 A Victron charging system, interior and exterior lighting, USB and 220 V outlets, electric 5 m awning and reverse camera, plus four camping chairs, a stainless-steel braai, spade, two jerrycans and the spare wheel.



### SPECIFICATIONS

|                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Manufacturer</b> ..... | Mobi Lodge Manufacturing |
| <b>Model</b> .....        | Quattro                  |
| <b>Sleeps</b> .....       | Four                     |
| <b>Dimensions</b> .....   | 7,3 x 2,1 x 2,56 m       |
| <b>Tare</b> .....         | 1 920 kg                 |
| <b>Payload</b> .....      | 330 kg                   |
| <b>GVM</b> .....          | 2 250 kg                 |
| <b>Axles</b> .....        | 2 x 2,5 t                |
| <b>Wheel size</b> .....   | 16 inch                  |
| <b>Chassis</b> .....      | Galvanised               |
| <b>Body</b> .....         | Honeycomb fibreglass     |
| <b>Price</b> .....        | R1 058 000               |



**Dealer network** Head office in Middelburg (Mpumalanga) with branches in Mpumalanga, Gauteng and the Western Cape, plus a service centre in the Northern Cape.

**Contact** ☎ 013 246 1080 📧 marius@mobilodge.com 🌐 mobilodge.com



R1 058 000 **MOBI LODGE QUATTRO** GVM 2 250 kg

**FROM THE COMPETITORS\***  
Other dual-axle off-road contenders  
in this price bracket



R890 000 **ELXV NG'OMBE 5.2** GVM 2 600 kg

7 m long, rides on 17-inch wheels, and features an XPS-foam body with fibreglass skins.



R917 447 **CONQUEROR UEV-25** GVM 2 200 kg

7,29 m long, has 16-inch wheels, and a body constructed from aluminium and synthetic composite materials.



R1 084 110 **OVERLANDER 590 CUSTOM** GVM 3 000

7,3 m long, also with 16-inch wheels, and its shell is made of glass-reinforced plastic.

*\* As listed in the 2025 Buyers' Guide. Prices serve as a guide for a standard-spec caravan – actual equipment varies from one manufacturer to the next.*

*Drive & Camp tested the Mobi Lodge Quattro, a prototype, courtesy of the manufacturer.*



# Under the covers

Is a caravan double bed the same size as the one at home?

Words **Leon Botha**



Afrispoor Wild Cat 4 Sleeper



Berg CX3



Bundu X



Bush Lapa Ratel 2i

**T**he most common bed fitted to caravans is the double bed, and in some cases, it's replaced by two singles. But is a double in one caravan the same size as the double in another brand's model? In theory, yes... but manufacturers don't all follow a single rulebook. They shape bed sizes to suit the layout of each model.

We compared a selection of caravan beds to see how they stack up.

## More or less the same

Where do mattress sizes even come from? The Americans were the first to standardise bed sizes; although, a US double bed isn't necessarily the same size as one in Europe or in South Africa.

Converted to centimetres (they use inches), a US double measures 190.5 x 137 cm, while the European version is 190 x 135 cm. In South Africa, the standard size is 188 x 137 cm. (Other



Cascade Bordeaux XL





Destination Destiny



EL-XV Ghari 3.2



Gecko Xtreme



Obiqua Drifter 2



Nayela Mahem



Mobi Lodge Quattro



Tuff Cats Mbada 4 Sleeper

standard lengths locally are 188 x 91 cm for a single, 188 x 107 cm for a three-quarter, 188 x 152 cm for a queen and 188 x 183 cm for a king.)

#### Generosity on wheels

We analysed 82 caravan models from 23 manufacturers and found that the odds are pretty good that your caravan's double bed is actually bigger than the one at home.

Of the 82 models, 51 feature a double bed, with an average width of 139 cm (compared to the 137 cm standard). Choose a queen or king bed, and the gains increase: caravan queens and kings are, on average, 4 cm wider than the standard 152 cm and 183 cm sizes.

When it comes to single and three-quarter beds, however, caravan makers

shave things down. Caravan single beds are 17% narrower on average – 74 cm vs. 91 cm at home. We found the narrowest single at 68 cm and the widest at 86 cm. Only one caravan in the sample had a three-quarter, and it was 7 cm narrower than the standard 100 cm.

Manufacturers tend to be generous with length, though: The average caravan bed is 197 cm long – nearly 10 cm more than the standard 188 cm – with the

longest stretching to 230 cm. Still, 20% of caravan beds are shorter than standard (the shortest measured 170 cm).

Only two manufacturers matched the standard size exactly – both of them double beds. The biggest bed found in a caravan is 200 x 200 cm – exactly the same as a super-king.

#### A little extra legroom

Experts say your bed should be 10-20 cm longer than the person sleeping in it. According to [worlddata.info](http://worlddata.info), the average

height in South Africa is 169 cm for men and 158 cm for women. That makes the standard 188 cm home bed a smart fit, giving most men around 19 cm to spare.

Based on the numbers, one thing's clear: you shouldn't lose sleep over bed size in a caravan.

**Sources** [bedking.co.za](http://bedking.co.za) [sloom.co.za](http://sloom.co.za)  
[themattresswarehouse.co.za](http://themattresswarehouse.co.za)  
[betsymattress.com](http://betsymattress.com) [dialabed.co.za](http://dialabed.co.za)



# THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

Did you know that 40% of all new caravans sold this year were bought in Gauteng? That BYD employs the most people (968 900)? And that *Drive & Camp's* circulation has grown by 10% compared to the same time last year?

Words **Cyril Kloppe**r Infographics **Owen Willoughby**

# 40%

How much of a typical Continental car tyre is made from recycled materials.

**Continental** 



Time it takes the **Aston Martin DBX707** – the fastest SUV on local soil – to go from 0 to 100 km/h.

**5 500 mm** Length of South Africa's longest bakkie, the LDV **Terron 9**.

**1847 ℓ**

**Load-bin volume** of the **Ford Ranger** single cab, the most spacious among local bakkies.



Ground clearance of the **Toyota Hilux**, the highest among standard bakkies sold in South Africa.

# R679 978 708 800

**Toyota's** global revenue for the past financial year – roughly R680 billion.



**R1 399 900**

Price of the country's most expensive standard bakkie, the **Jeep Gladiator**.



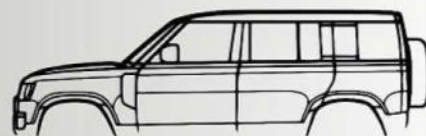
**R246 200**

**NISSAN**

Price of the **Nissan Magnite**, South Africa's most affordable SUV.

# 3 380 kg

Weight of South Africa's heaviest SUV, the **Land Rover Defender 130**.





# 4,1 million

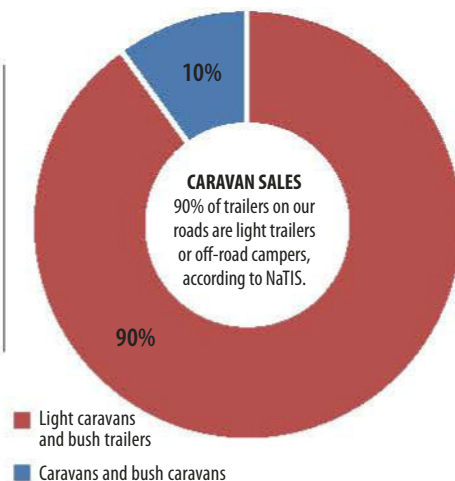
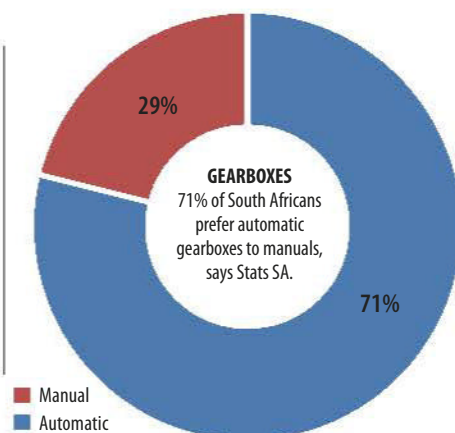
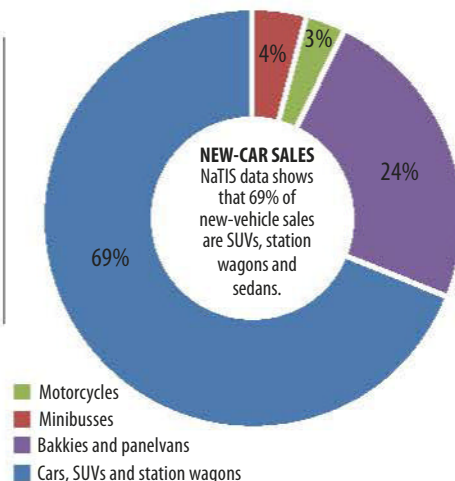
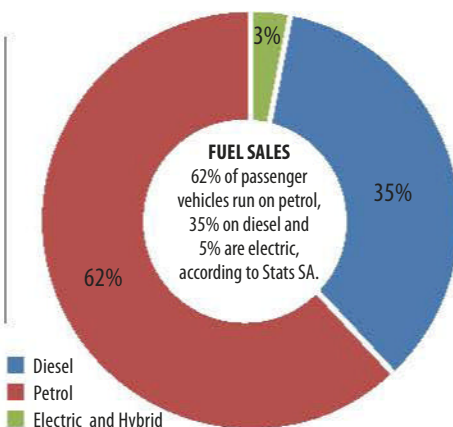
Vehicles sold worldwide by Chinese manufacturer **BYD** (according to *Forbes*).

# 30 000

Average number of individual parts in a modern car.

## 4 months

How long it would take to drive to the moon – assuming you averaged 120 km/h all the way.



### PLEASE NOTE

Vehicle manufacturers without local subsidiaries (such as Nissan and Ford), those not officially represented in South Africa (like General Motors and Nio), or those that don't sell bakkies or SUVs locally (such as FAW), are excluded.



# All I want for Christmas...

We asked the *Drive & Camp* core team what they'd love for Christmas. Each member gets two wishes: one gift any mom on a normal pension could afford, and one Elon Musk could casually pop under the tree.

Compiled by **Cyril Kloppe** Photos **Supplied**

## Schalk's wish list



### TENTCO DIRECTORS DELUXE CAMP CHAIR

#### Take a seat

My camp chair finally gave in after years of loyal service, so I'm crossing fingers that this beauty is waiting for me under the Christmas tree. It's about as close to the perfect camp chair as you'll find: a tough powder-coated steel frame that can hold up to 180 kg, and heavy-duty nylon that'll last for years.

But the side table is what really wins me over. I always say two of the most important ingredients for great camping are a comfy place to sit and somewhere to put your stuff. This champ takes care of both with one simple fold.

**Price** R950 at Tentco.



### STANLEY ARTISAN FLASK

#### Something to drink?

I always told myself that one day, when I'm properly grown up, I'll get a Stanley flask like the one my grandfather proudly carried around. Well, I reckon I'm big enough now for this beauty from Stanley. It takes 1.4 L, and thanks to the brand's latest tech, it keeps your coffee hot – or your cooldrink cold – for up to 43 hours. And this one even comes in that classic "Grandpa green" colour.

**Price** R2 570 at Awesome Tools.







## Leon's wish list

### MOTOQUIP REUSABLE CABLE TIES

#### Worth their weight in gold

Cable ties are one of the greatest inventions of the last century – the modern answer to pliers and baling wire. With these in your toolkit, you can get yourself out of just about any roadside pickle, and they're just as useful around the house or in the campsite. You'll struggle to find better value for R50, and if you have a bit more to spend, consider grabbing a variety of sizes.

**Price** R50 at Camp & Climb.



### ZEISS SFL 10×40 BINOCULARS

#### A closer look

Most families have a pair of binoculars – usually something that didn't cost much more than R1 000. But if you want true top-tier quality, you'll need to dig a little deeper. This is where the German brand Zeiss shines: they've been crafting exceptional lenses for nearly 200 years. A binocular with 80% light transmission is good, but at 90% (like this one), the view is about as bright and crisp as it gets.

**Price** R34 000 at Outdoor Warehouse.







TENTCO PINK AMMO BOX  
**Stand out**

Same design as Tentco's popular black ammo box, just pink. These flew off the shelves at the Gauteng caravan show this year, and I want in. The plastic is tough, there are slots for straps or a tie-down, and the colour pairs perfectly with a Blue Bulls jersey...

**Price** R300 at Tentco.

## Owen's wish list

### MOTORHOME-WORLD DISCOVERER XTREME **End of days, sorted**

If Elon Musk and I were best buddies, this is what I'd ask him for. I'd happily spend my golden years roaming in this beast, and at a mere R1.3 million (chassis not included), it's pocket change for Elon. It's ready for the apocalypse too: tough enough to mow down zombies, and you only need a Code C licence to drive it.

**Price** R1,3 million at Motorhome-World.







TOYOTA LAND CRUISER 300

### Adventure awaits

We're going to bankrupt Elon with this list, but my Suzuki Jimny is getting on in years and I need new wheels. I fell head-over-heels when I test-drove the LC300 at its launch in 2021.

It'll tow my Mobi Lodge or fishing boat (neither of which I own) with ease – it's a proper 4x4, perfect for an explorer who's nowhere near done with Africa.

**Price** From R1,5 million at Toyota.

## Cyril's wish list

GELERT TRYFAN HIKING POLE

### Stick to it

After years of falling off adventure bikes in dry riverbeds, on dunes and into muddy holes, my dodgy knees now predict rain like a weather app. A hiking pole would be just the ticket; when I'm not 4x4 touring, I love hitting the trails. This one packs to 65 cm, extends to 135 cm, and gives my cartilage a fighting chance.

**Price** R240 at Outdoor Warehouse.



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*Check the supplier's website for the latest pricing.*



CAMP CUISINE

# Padstal pantry

Dried fruit and nuts are pure padkos – the taste of the long road and good company. This year, we're turning these classics into a Christmas feast.

Recipes and styling **Johané Neilson** Photos **Ed O'Riley**





## 'SPEKVET' SPRINGBOK FILLET A bok for braai!

If there's a hunter in the family, chances are you have a springbok fillet tucked away in the freezer, and this festive plankie-braai starter is bound to become a favourite. No springbok? Pork fillet works just as well; just cook it a touch longer than you would the venison, which should still be rare enough to almost jump off the grill. Quantities are approximate.

### Ingredients

(serves 6 as side dish)

- 1 springbok fillet, about 600 g
- 6 slices streaky bacon
- 2 large spinach leaves, stems removed (optional, but looks great)
- ½ cup cream cheese
- ¼ cup each dried cranberries and toasted nuts

### Here's how

**1 Slice** the fillet lengthwise about three-quarters of the way through and fold open. (Don't cut all the way – you don't want the filling to spill out.) Flatten it slightly with your hands and season with salt and pepper.

**2 Lay** the bacon slices side by side on a board, then place the fillet on top, thick side down. Arrange a single layer of spinach on the cut side of the meat.

**3 Mix** the cream cheese with the cranberries and nuts and spoon the mixture in a thin line down the centre of the spinach.

**4 Fold** the thinner side of the fillet over the filling, then roll it so the bacon is on the outside. Tie neatly with kitchen string.

**5 Braai** the stuffed fillet to your preferred doneness (ideally still pink inside) and slice to serve.

**Drive & Camp says** If you don't want to hide the meat under the bacon, fry the bacon until crispy, chop it up, and mix it into the cream cheese filling instead. Sear the fillet in a hot cast-iron pan with a little butter and olive oil over the coals, making sure it's sealed all over. Let it rest well before serving.

## STUFFED PORK LOIN WITH SAUSAGES All filled up

This indulgent cut is a pleasure to braai because it lies flat, but it also works beautifully rolled up as a porchetta, with the skin on the outside. Even better if you have a rotisserie attachment that can slowly turn it over the coals while it cooks!

### Ingredients

(serves 6-8)

- 1.5 kg pork loin, skin scored and salted (choose a large, thin piece of meat)

### FOR THE FILLING

- 1 onion, chopped
- ½ red or green pepper, chopped
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tsp mild masala
- ½ cup chopped dried fruit – we used a mix of apricot, pear and apple
- 2 tbsp toasted almond flakes
- 1 tbsp chopped parsley
- 500 g pork sausages, meat removed from the casings

### Here's how

**1 Sauté** the onion and pepper in olive oil until soft – add garlic and ginger if you like. Stir in the masala and remove from the heat. Add the dried fruit, almonds and parsley, and let the mixture cool before stirring in the sausage meat.

**2 Butterfly** the loin by slicing horizontally through the centre of the meat with a sharp knife without cutting all the way through. Fold open and season with salt and pepper.

**3 Spread** the filling over the right side of the meat, then fold the top half back over the filling.

**4 Clamp** the thick, stuffed loin in a grid and braai it slowly over moderate coals so the fat can render out nicely. Another option is to stand the grid upright next to the fire, as you would for a rib roast, and turn it regularly for at least an hour. Keep a close eye on it to ensure even cooking.

**5 Once** cooked, crisp the skin over hot coals. (If that seems risky, cut off the skin and brush the fat layer underneath with a little apricot jam before glazing it over the coals.)

**Drive & Camp says** Woolies now sells sosatie-flavoured pork sausages, already seasoned with masala, peppers, dried apricot and more. If you don't feel like making your own filling, they make an excellent substitute.





## APRICOT TOMATO POT Tagine à la Mzansi

The dried apricots that slowly stew with the meat give this pot a lovely tang, making it taste both comfortingly traditional and delightfully exotic.

### Ingredients

(serves 6)

- 1.3 kg lamb shank slices
- 3 tbsp flour
- a generous splash of olive oil
- 2 onions, roughly chopped
- 1 tsp each ground cumin, coriander and smoked paprika
- 3 garlic cloves, peeled
- 2 cm piece of ginger, peeled and grated
- 1 whole chilli (optional)
- 12 dried apricots – 6 chopped, 6 left whole
- 1 tbsp light brown sugar
- 1 tsp wholegrain mustard
- 1 stock cube, crumbled
- 2 bay leaves, fresh or dried
- 1 tin (400 g) chopped tomatoes
- 1 tin (400 g) tomato purée
- 1 cup cream

### Here's how

**1 Dust** the meat with flour and shake off the excess. Heat the oil in your

favourite potjie and brown the meat all over. Once it has some colour, add the onions and sauté for a few minutes.

**2 Stir** in the spices, any leftover flour, garlic and ginger, and season with salt and pepper. After a minute or two, add the remaining ingredients (except the cream). Rinse out the tomato tins with a little water and pour that in too. Cover and simmer gently for about 2 hours, or until the lamb is tender.

**3 Stir** in the cream – not traditional, but the combination of tomato and cream is pure bliss. Simmer uncovered for another 30 minutes, or until thickened and rich. If you have fresh herbs, scatter some chopped flat-leaf parsley or coriander over the top. Taste once more for seasoning, then serve with vegetables and rice to soak up that beautiful sauce.

**Drive & Camp says** For the best yellow rice, mix ½ tsp turmeric and brown sugar, ¼ cup golden sultanas and 1 cinnamon stick into each cup of dry rice, then add salt to taste. Cook with just enough water so you don't have to drain it. Dot with butter if you're feeling fancy and finish with a sprinkle of toasted almond flakes for crunch.



## PICKLED ONIONS WITH SULTANAS Leave till later

### Ingredients

(makes 2 large jars)

- 1.2 kg small white onions

### FOR THE SAUCE

- 4 eggs
- ½ cup sultanas
- 1 cup light brown sugar
- 2 tbsp mustard powder
- 1 tsp cornflour
- 1 tsp mustard seeds (optional)
- a generous pinch of salt
- ½ tsp turmeric for colour (optional)
- 1½ cups white vinegar

### Here's how

**1 Cover** the onions with boiling water, let them stand for 15 minutes,

then peel. Boil the peeled onions in salted water until just tender. Drain and set aside.

**2 Whisk** together all the sauce ingredients except the vinegar in a large metal or glass bowl. Slowly add the vinegar in a thin stream while whisking until combined.

**3 Place** the bowl over a saucepan of simmering water (a few fingers deep) and whisk the sauce gently over the steam until it thickens and coats the back of a wooden spoon. Remove immediately from the heat.

**4 Pour** the hot sauce over the onions and mix well. Spoon into sterilised jars and seal while still warm.

**Drive & Camp says** The flavour improves after a few days as the sharpness of the vinegar softens.







## TRAIL MIX BRITTLE

### As good as gold

Chunks of this sweet treat make a great road-trip snack, but it's just as good chopped up and sprinkled over a green salad with soft cheese or roasted pumpkin.

#### Ingredients

(makes one baking tray)

- 2 tbsp melted butter
- ½ cup runny honey
- 200 g whole nuts – we used almonds and cashews
- 100 g trail mix with a mix of dried cranberries, goji berries and pumpkin seeds

#### Here's how

- 1 Combine** the butter, honey and whole nuts in a microwave-safe bowl.
- 2 Microwave** on High for 5-6 minutes, or until the honey turns a deep caramel colour. (I like mine dark.)
- 3 Stir** in the trail mix quickly, pour the mixture onto a sheet of baking paper and spread it evenly.
- 4 Let** the brittle cool completely, then break it into pieces and store in an airtight container.

**Drive & Camp says** Hide the container well, because once your family gets hold of it, this treat will disappear long before the car is even packed!



## RUM AND RAISIN LOLLIES

### Raisins behaving badly

If you'd rather skip the lolly moulds, simply freeze the mixture in any container – just remember to bring a scoop when it's time to serve!

#### Ingredients

(makes 10 lollies, 50 ml each)

- ½ cup mixed raisins, sultanas and currants
- grated zest and juice of 1 naartjie (or tangerine)
- ¼ cup dark rum
- 1 cup whipping cream (not pouring cream)
- 1 slab (80 g) dark chocolate, melted
- ½ tin condensed milk
- a pinch of sea salt flakes (Maldon works beautifully)

#### Here's how

- 1 Soak** the dried fruit in the rum with the naartjie zest and juice for a few hours or overnight.
- 2 Whip** the cream until stiff. In a separate bowl, whisk the melted chocolate and salt into the condensed milk. Once slightly thickened, fold in the cream and soaked fruit (but not any leftover liquid that hasn't been absorbed).
- 3 Spoon** the mixture into ice lolly moulds, insert sticks and freeze until firm.
- 4 Dip** the bottom of the moulds briefly in warm water to release the lollies and enjoy immediately – they melt fairly quickly.

**Drive & Camp says** Go easy on the rum – too much and your lollies won't set properly. In this case, less really is more. 🍷



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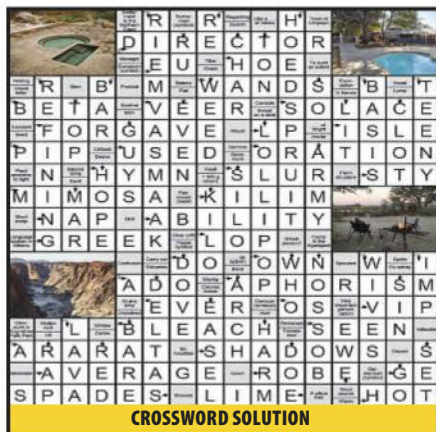


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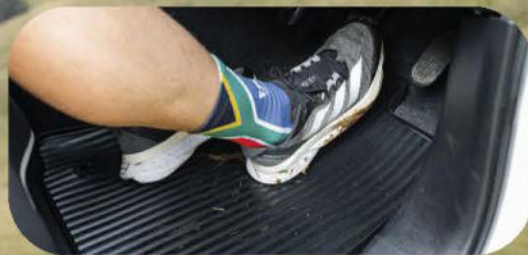


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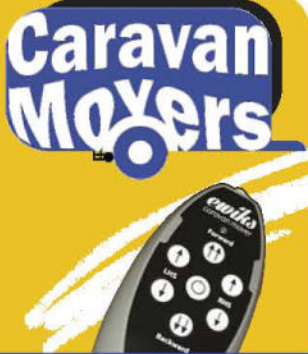


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- ▶ Unit can be run by inverter
- ▶ Lightweight, ideal for caravans

## Maclaren Slim-line Rooftop Caravan/Motorhome Aircon

Overall Dimensions with cover (mm) 736 W x 253 H x 1054 L

- ▶ Unit made for harsh African conditions
- ▶ Surround lighting three colors
- ▶ Power System AC 220-240 V/50 Hz
- ▶ Rated Cooling Capacity 3500W
- ▶ Rated Heating Capacity 3500W
- ▶ Power Input (Cooling/ Heating) 1300W/1100W
- ▶ Installation opening dimensions in roof (mm) 370 x 370






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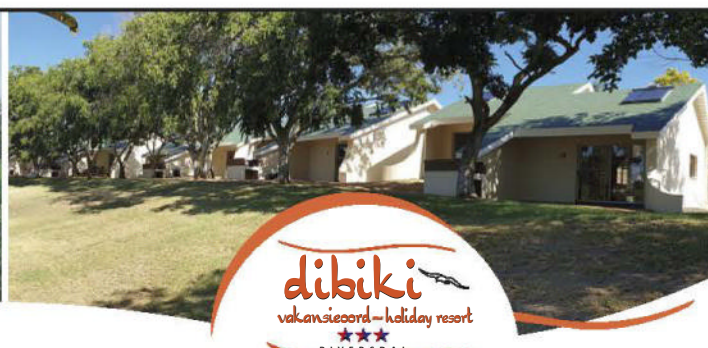


### Dibiki Hartenbos Holiday Resort

We offer paved camping sites and private ablution campsites, featuring a lockable bathroom and separate scullery. There is also a wheelchair-friendly bathroom for campers.

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We have a wheelchair-friendly chalet, ensuring comfort for all our guests.

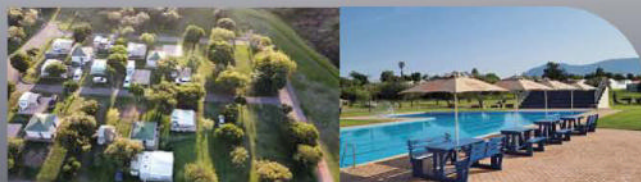


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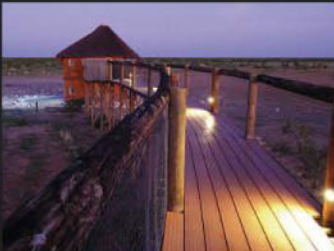


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This crossword puzzle is just the ticket to give your brain a bit of a workout while you kick back and relax in your camping chair. Research has shown that crosswords have several benefits, and they're great for memory and concentration. So, keep your mind sharp – just like your pencil – and tackle this one! At the very least, it'll keep you busy until your eyes get heavy. The solution to the previous issue's crossword appears on page 109.

|                                                                                   |              |                    |                      |                            |                          |                    |                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                       |              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
|  |              |                    | Camp in Etosha       | Goat hair cloth from Syria | A thing Style and vigour | Fishing gear       | National park in South Africa (4,5) |  |                                                                                       |              |
|                                                                                   |              |                    | Sideways             |                            |                          |                    |                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                       |              |
|                                                                                   |              |                    | Chest bone           |                            |                          |                    |                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                       |              |
|                                                                                   |              |                    |                      |                            | Chop (off)               |                    |                                     | Eventually                                                                          |                                                                                       |              |
|                                                                                   |              |                    |                      |                            | Pen                      |                    |                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                       |              |
| Be superior to "Found it!"                                                        |              | Refers to a female | Fronts               |                            |                          |                    |                                     | Trouble                                                                             |                                                                                       | New          |
|                                                                                   |              | Decay              | Australian marsupial |                            |                          |                    |                                     | Marry                                                                               |                                                                                       | Stops        |
|                                                                                   |              |                    |                      |                            | Not off                  |                    | Tale                                |                                                                                     |                                                                                       |              |
|                                                                                   |              |                    |                      |                            | As well                  |                    | Type of fish                        |                                                                                     |                                                                                       |              |
| A city in Canada                                                                  |              |                    |                      |                            |                          |                    |                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                       |              |
| Perform                                                                           |              |                    |                      |                            |                          | Any person         |                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                       |              |
|                                                                                   |              |                    | Above                |                            |                          | Fastened           |                                     |                                                                                     | Dal segno (abbr)                                                                      |              |
|                                                                                   |              |                    | Assistant            |                            |                          | Part of the leg    |                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                       |              |
| Pickled roe                                                                       |              | In addition to     |                      |                            |                          | A reserve of money |                                     |                                                                                     | Powdery residue                                                                       |              |
|                                                                                   |              | Cistern            |                      |                            |                          |                    |                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                       |              |
|                                                                                   |              |                    |                      |                            | Main blood vessel        |                    |                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                       |              |
| Mournful                                                                          |              |                    | Higher position      |                            |                          | Oganesson (symbol) |                                     | Rutherfordium (symbol)                                                              |                                                                                       |              |
| Daughter of a step-parent                                                         |              |                    |                      |                            |                          |                    |                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                       |              |
|                                                                                   |              |                    |                      |                            |                          |                    |                                     | Camp kitchen equipment                                                              |  |              |
|                                                                                   |              |                    | Gradually lessen     | Pancakes (Russian)         | 16th Gr letter           | Not on             |                                     |                                                                                     | Brazen                                                                                | Sauté        |
|                                                                                   |              |                    |                      |                            | Straps                   | Having means       |                                     |                                                                                     | Edible bulbs                                                                          | Female sheep |
|                                                                                   |              |                    |                      |                            |                          |                    |                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                       |              |
|                                                                                   |              |                    |                      |                            | Thus                     |                    |                                     | Indefinite article                                                                  |                                                                                       |              |
|                                                                                   |              |                    |                      |                            | Injures                  |                    |                                     | Wanderer                                                                            |                                                                                       |              |
|                                                                                   |              |                    | Baby sheep           |                            |                          |                    |                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                       |              |
|                                                                                   |              |                    | Autumn               |                            |                          |                    |                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                       |              |
| Pass in KZN                                                                       | Region       |                    | Last games           |                            |                          |                    |                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                       |              |
|                                                                                   | Mineral rock |                    | Impair               |                            |                          |                    |                                     | Critical                                                                            |                                                                                       | Cauldron     |
|                                                                                   |              |                    |                      |                            |                          |                    |                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                       |              |
|                                                                                   |              |                    |                      |                            |                          |                    |                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                       |              |
| Actuality                                                                         |              |                    |                      |                            |                          |                    |                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                       |              |
| Jewels                                                                            |              |                    |                      |                            |                          | Prophetic sign     |                                     |                                                                                     | Modus operandi (abbr)                                                                 |              |
|                                                                                   |              |                    |                      |                            |                          |                    |                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                       |              |
|                                                                                   |              |                    |                      |                            | Scattered                |                    |                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                       |              |
|                                                                                   |              |                    |                      |                            |                          |                    |                                     | Leave (printing term)                                                               |                                                                                       |              |



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 DIFFERENCES

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.



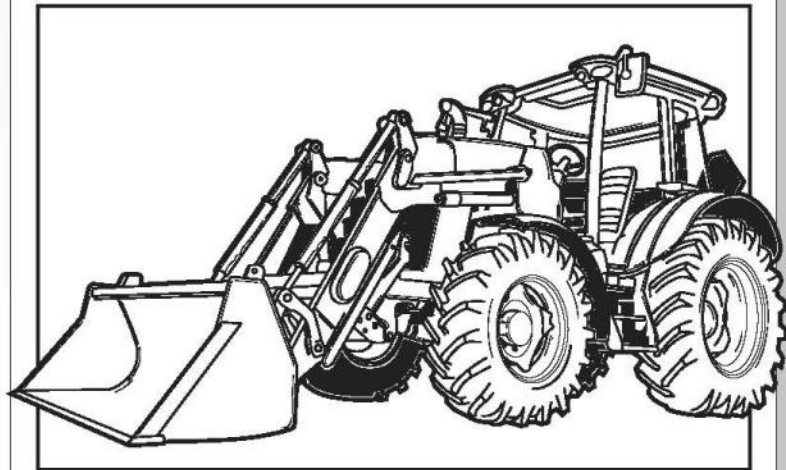
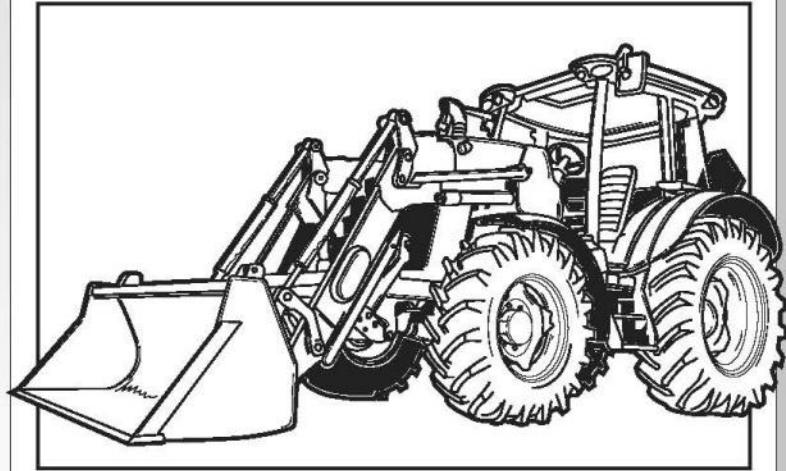
## Word search

F B B M Z A L A N D O H Q C P M F K N U I N  
J I O V C N Y J R M H U B B U J M B D O A Z  
B N O H Z D Z B I G C O M M E R C E O M L T  
O P L U M E T S Y E B W S D V G W U A O I C  
F T C W U E S G J T Q O L D U E E Z T O B U  
K R H B Y M C U M A P X H H T D O W Q Z A O  
R D A L I E X P R E S S A X E N Z A N I B T  
H S A B H R A E T V C O T N U W I T J Z A P  
J R B Z F J W P I B Y R B Z S I A B O N D B  
O D A U W L W C Y N T E E H J R T S B S Z E  
E B I K M T I V I S D O D U G B G W I R D U  
W P N X U U Q P L U C P B E W A P J D C O M  
A O O F V T X B K S I F T Q G Y Q T D I A D  
W J O K F O E K Y A X E J C D D F S L L H N  
G H A C V D P N B W R F T K W S H O P I F Y  
M I S C O W E Q L S K T N E O S W C Y B L W  
X O C W T M Y D U I T G B O B L R S D F V H  
C W T N F A M I P Z O W N O E I U H O M J W  
T A J Z Y D O E S A C D Q K S V R K S E A M  
N L G Z E W J B R F Z T I S T Z Q I W R W G  
I M D V S B T E A C R C E M B T A Z E C Z L  
C A W D B T T Q R O E K W I U B T D S A A O  
Z R M G J S C I Z S R L D Y Y T A U E D W F  
D T S A W O A T N G F U A D L E Y C D O Z E  
S G U T G F P J M U B B Y Z W J S P N L W S  
U Q J N Y B K D O Y E T J K A A G U Z I E D  
H D F A T I U S Z A Z G W M I D Z O H B J W  
G P W D Y E W E Q B Z V E Z F Z A M Z R O Q  
U D Y N X V I Z L E S H H J U S O I L E W C  
Z Z H O S H O P E E P C Y W S H Y D O L Y J

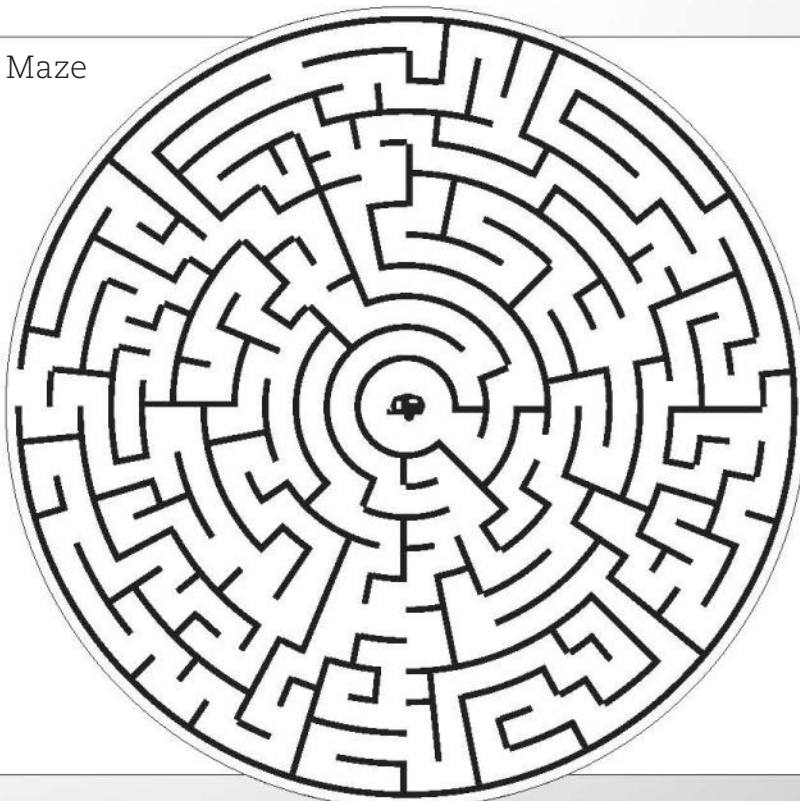
### E-COMMERCE RETAILERS

|              |          |             |
|--------------|----------|-------------|
| Amazon       | Wayfair  | Walmart     |
| Alibaba      | Zalando  | Target      |
| eBay         | JD.com   | Best Buy    |
| AliExpress   | Taobao   | Shopify     |
| Rakuten      | Flipkart | WooCommerce |
| Etsy         | Shopee   | BigCommerce |
| MercadoLibre | Lazada   |             |

## Spot the differences



## Maze



## Animal facts



### ARMADILLOS (DASYPODIDAE)

- Armadillos are mammals, with about 20 known species, all but one of which live in Latin America.
- Armadillo is a Spanish word meaning "little armoured one", referring to the bony plates that cover their bodies.
- They are the only living mammals with a true armour shell and can weigh up to 54 kg.
- Armadillos are closely related to anteaters and sloths, and prefer temperate to warm habitats.
- They are omnivorous feeders, foraging for insects, plants and fruit in the early morning and evening.
- Most species dig burrows and are prolific sleepers – up to 16 hours a day – and are estimated to live 7 to 20 years in the wild.



# The Red Tide cometh

The days of Chinese products being cheap copies of Western ones are disappearing fast, and **Mic van Zyl** predicts the same will eventually happen with vehicle manufacturing.

I have a good mate I have known for almost a decade who used to look after Nissan East Africa when I did business with Nissan South Africa on the supply of accessories for the then-new Nissan D23 Navara.

He has subsequently left Nissan SA, due, no doubt, to the deteriorating situation of this once automotive giant. It seems all is not well with Nissan as a motor company globally, which is a real shame.

I recently caught up with him and learned that he has recently joined a new start-up company representing a leading Chinese car brand here in South Africa. We met at his new office for coffee, and my first reaction was, "How could you?" I then noticed he was not the only ex-Nissan person now working for the new company. Things started to make sense when the conversation eventually turned to the Chinese company and their products.

**From our chat,** I gathered a key characteristic of Chinese vehicle companies that sets them apart from the traditional or legacy brands from Japan, Korea and Europe: they are far less complacent about their products and ambitions.

I think this is one of the reasons why some of these legacy brands are struggling. Playing catch up is far easier than staying ahead, and the Chinese car companies are catching up at a ridiculous pace. I am afraid the traditional car manufacturers may be in for an unpleasant surprise if they have not realised this already.

In South Africa, our vehicle manufacturing, importing and sales landscape has changed significantly in the past decade and continues to at an accelerated pace with the entry of the Chinese brands into our market. Based on NAAMSA vehicle sales figures for 2024, of the 484 800 new passenger vehicles sold, 304 400 (about 62,8%) were imported.

Chinese imports were approximately 52 100 (17,1%) and imports from India were 173 700 (57,1%). Compared with total vehicle sales, the Chinese brands account for 10,7% while India represents a whopping 35,8%. India leads this segment largely because many of the top selling cars locally, like Suzuki and Toyota, are manufactured in India rather than in Japan.

The entire Suzuki lineup sold in SA comes from Maruti Suzuki in India. The same applies to the small Toyota-

badged Suzukis sold by Toyota SA. There are many other non-Indian brand models beyond the top seller list coming out of India too, including Renault, Nissan and Kia.

**These facts do not** bode well for the legacy vehicle brands and their manufacturing facilities here. The uptake of Chinese vehicles in our market has been phenomenal. The products are getting better with every new model launched.

Dealerships are sprouting up everywhere in urban centres, which improves after-sales service. I see more and more dealer groups that traditionally represent the likes of especially Toyota, Nissan, Ford and Isuzu starting to incorporate Chinese vehicle brands into their portfolios. They will have to if they want to remain a competitive business.

The other factor that should worry the traditional car companies is the fact that the Chinese are intent on dominating the world's automotive industry. Consumer products that are not dominated by Chinese tech and manufacturing is becoming very rare.

The days of Chinese products being cheap copies of Western ones are disappearing fast. I predict the same will eventually happen with vehicle manufacturing. Perhaps not as soon in the USA or in India, but certainly in places like Europe and here in South Africa too.

Would I buy a Chinese vehicle over a model from a traditional legacy brand? Currently my answer is no... but for how long can I hold out? ●





# Explore the unexpected



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## Bon Game Reserve



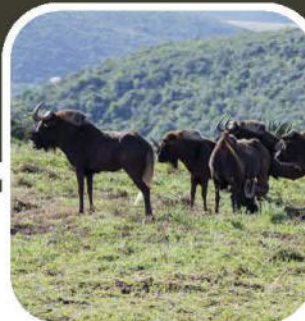
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# What happened to fairness?

Why do some people refuse to accept that camping simply isn't the bargain it once was, asks **Neels van Heerden**.

**O**h, my word. I am regularly amazed by how often I encounter campers who almost proudly proclaim that they refuse to pay "a farm's price" for a decent camping experience.

These are the people who hop from one internet forum to another – active on every imaginable WhatsApp and Facebook group – determined to track down the cheapest campsite in existence.

Their pleas usually start innocently enough: "Hi, looking for a campsite..." before they lose the plot at alarming speed. "It must have everything: a heated pool, someone to pitch our tent, someone else to wash our dishes, and a camp shop cheaper than the supermarkets. Oh, and the kids must be entertained all day. And, of course, it can't cost a fortune – fuel and toll fees already blow the budget!" Okay, maybe they don't always say it quite that bluntly, but you know exactly the type I mean, right?

You can almost hear the collective sigh from campsite owners and managers across South Africa. People want to settle in at a resort that offers everything and more, yet complain bitterly when the rates don't match what they paid decades ago.

And sometimes the requests don't stop there: "We want somewhere peaceful," they insist, "but the stands must be close to the kids' activities. We want to camp in nature, but there must

be wifi – and it must reach our stand. Oh, and there must be absolutely no noise near the heated pool, and we'd prefer lifeguards on duty from sunrise to sunset."

**It's never long before** these nit-pickers start bad-mouthing campsites or accusing them of exploitation. I sometimes wonder how long until someone demands a place where the mosquitoes retire to their nests at a set time and the vervet monkeys are trained to respect campsite boundaries.

Parents' demands are just as over the top: "It mustn't cost a farm, and our

kids must be entertained all day so they don't get bored or throw tantrums."

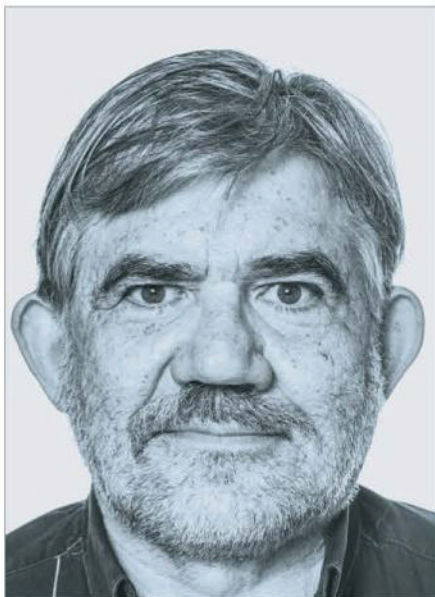
Modern campsites must now offer even more modern playgrounds, trampolines and climbing frames. Staff must be fluent in all 11 official languages, and ready to help kids with their homework. Perhaps throw in maths lessons too – why not?

Then comes the question of pricing. Why charge per person? Why limit stands to only four or six people? "Boetie and Sussie's friends hardly use any water or electricity," parents argue. They use their smartphones to calculate exactly how the campsite can provide game drives, pony rides and cheap entertainment – without putting any further strain on their budget.

**Unfortunately, there's no such thing** as a perfect and dirt-cheap campsite. Campsites and holiday resorts are businesses that need to make a profit; their operating model is worlds apart from charitable organisations like the SPCA or Meals on Wheels.

Their overheads – things like maintenance, staff salaries and transport costs – all influence the price of even the most basic items in a camp shop. And the services campsites provide can differ enormously from one to the next. Those differences also explain the wide variations in pricing structures.

Camping is simply no longer the "cheap option" it once was. 





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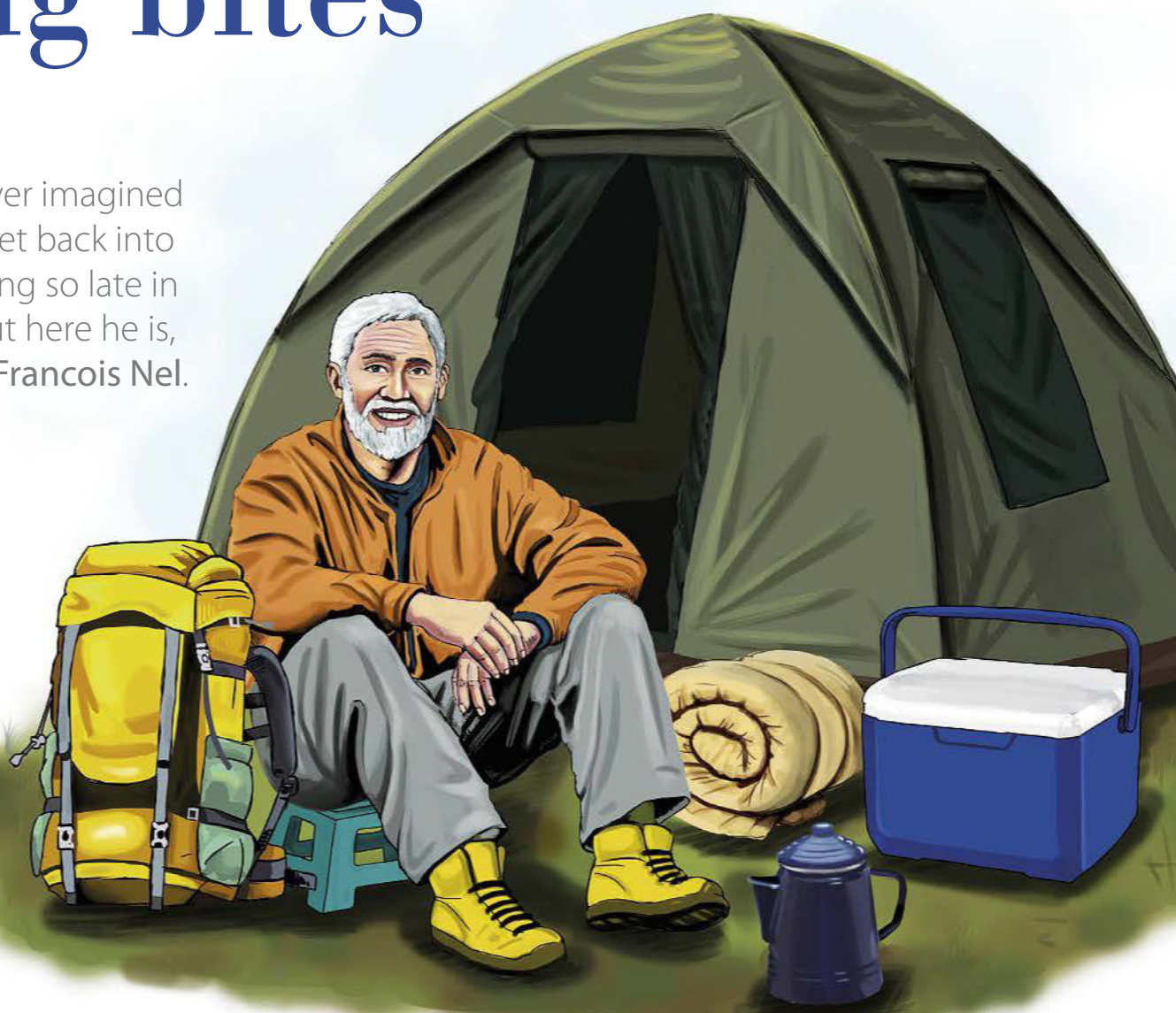
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# When the camping bug bites

He never imagined he'd get back into camping so late in life, but here he is, writes **Francois Nel**.

ILLUSTRATION DOMINIC WIENAND



**M**y dad didn't believe in camping, so as a school kid, I always tagged along with friends and their parents. I even once went on a bicycle tour with a mate, pedalling from Boksburg to Badplaas with just R20 in my Post Office savings book.

At university, I camped often enough, but mostly because it offered

a fresh location in which to sit and drink beer. Whenever my mates and I went hiking, we always made sure to stay in overnight huts; nobody was willing to carry a tent.

During my national service, the army's idea of camping served more as a deterrent. Usually on a Saturday,

we'd be made to pitch those 4×4 or 4×6 tents while the rest of the unit relaxed. Getting each one perfectly in line was a mission. The army also thought it wise to camp in the Swartberg in winter. That meant digging trenches in solid ironstone and trying to sleep under our bivvies in freezing, dripping conditions.



After we got married, my wife and I were blessed with two beautiful daughters, but it wasn't long before I was politely informed that camping was not their thing. They weren't keen on braving the dark at night just to visit the ablutions. They also made it very clear that I was exposing them to unnecessary dangers; after all, one could possibly trip over a tent peg.

In moments like those, I knew I had only myself to blame. I'd raised them on holidays where you sleep on crisp white linen and each person has her own bathroom stocked with Egyptian-cotton towels.

**Time waits for no one**, and eventually life – and age – caught up with me. Before I knew it, I was retired... and completely on my own.

Thankfully, a friend took pity on me and invited me along to a beer festival held every year in Greyton. My love for beer is far stronger than my dislike of camping, so I accepted – with one condition: I was not sleeping on an air mattress in a two-man tent. I'm too old for that nonsense. By the time

my knees manage to hoist me upright and I crawl out on all fours, half the day is already gone.

Luckily, one of my sons-in-law is a keen camper, so I borrowed a few essentials from him: a proper tent I can stand upright in and a roll-up mattress. Things like a cooler box, an old duvet, a pillow and a couple of camping chairs I already had and, in the true spirit of camping, I treated myself to a camp stretcher and a decent solar-rechargeable lamp with a plug point for my phone.

**After that weekend**, I reached a few conclusions. I actually like camping – and it means I can travel more often, on a smaller budget. All my friends drive converted bakkies that



Time waits for no one, and eventually life – and age – caught up with me. Before I knew it, I was retired... and completely on my own



can transform into a tent-on-wheels within minutes. The problem? Every time they want to go somewhere, they have to pack everything away again, which meant that, at the beer festival, they relied on me as designated driver to and from the grounds – not ideal when you're on a mission to find the best lager.

Another thing I noticed: The first few hours of every conversation are spent comparing each other's camping rigs. Then the bragging starts – the latest gizmo someone has bought. And when they casually mention the price, I nearly choke. On my modest pension, those kinds of toys are simply not in my future.

But the camping bug had bitten... or perhaps the camping crocodile had swallowed me whole. I decided I could still enjoy the joys of camping – with a few self-imposed rules. First, all my camping gear must fit into my Mazda CX-5. Second, I must camp as comfortably as possible. And third, I set myself a generous budget of R10 000. Then, I started shopping like a fashion-obsessed teenager at a red-hanger sale.

The first thing I bought was exactly the same tent as my son-in-law's; my parents always taught me that borrowing strains relationships. I also invested in my own mattress and camp table. A groundsheet and pegs were non-negotiable, and I added an extension cord. Then came crockery, more lights and a camp crate, while friends donated a gas cooker and a coffee plunger.

Like a seasoned politician, I exceeded my budget by 6,41%, but

justified it knowing the bullet had already been fired with the first purchases. Inflation can take a little of the blame too.

I realised I needed to tighten the reins when I caught myself browsing online for a small trailer at three in the morning.

**Now, I needed to start preparing**

myself. When I borrowed my son-in-law's tent, I struggled to fold the thing back into its bag again. He came over to offer guidance and carefully explained the core principles of tent-folding. I also found a video of a fellow who drops his tent, folds it and packs it neatly away in under four minutes.

The Monday after buying my tent, I pitched it for the first time. Taking it down took a full 25 minutes and cost me litres of sweat. By the third day, I managed it in 18 minutes – and took comfort in the fact that the guy in the video is much younger than I am.

Deep down, I truly believe I am now ready to camp. I live in Malmesbury and have a nagging fear that there may still be important, essential camping gear I don't yet own...

I didn't want my first outing to be deep in the bush where I couldn't easily pick up anything I might have forgotten, so I decided to spend four days in Melkbosstrand for my very first official solo camping trip.

The night before departure, I was as excited as a toddler on Christmas Eve. I couldn't sleep – tossing, turning and making lists of anything I might possibly have left off. The next morning, I walked the dogs, grabbed a quick breakfast and started packing. By noon, everything was in the car.

When I was a child, holidays officially began with breakfast at the Wimpy in Harrismith. So, I decided to honour that tradition in spirit. I drove 32 km to the Spur and treated myself to a cheeseburger and something cold, just to build up courage.

Right on 2 p.m., I rolled into Ou Skip, found my site, and started pitching my tent.



# The bakkie that binds us

The bakkie is as proudly South African as boerewors and brandy. Sure, you'll find sausages, cognac and pickup trucks in other countries, but the bakkie is part of our culture.

The world's first-ever bakkie was the **Daimler Motor Lastwagen** (or motorised delivery truck), built in 1892 by Daimler-Motoren-Gesellschaft – the same company that would later become Mercedes-Benz.

It could carry 1.2 t, and its 1.5 l two-cylinder engine produced 4.1 kW at 720 r/min, reaching a top speed of 12 km/h. Despite plenty of digging, we couldn't confirm whether one ever made it to South Africa, but it's certainly possible. An original example stands proudly today in the Mercedes-Benz Museum in Stuttgart, Germany.

The first bakkie that we know was sold in South Africa was the pickup version of the **Ford Model T**. The oldest surviving local example is likely part of farmer André Wessels' private collection in Wellington in the Western Cape. Interestingly, his 1922 Model T was one of the last to be available only in black paint. Once paint technology improved, Ford started offering various colours from 1926 onwards.

If you're curious, you can view André's impressive collection at the old tannery along the Hermon Road on the outskirts of Wellington.

The first modern bakkie in South Africa, in the sense we know them today, was the **Toyopet Stout**, which arrived in 1966. Of course, South Africa had American and British light trucks before that, but the Toyopet Stout marks the beginning of the modern bakkie.

Toyota South Africa then began building the slightly longer Toyota Hilux at its plant in Durban in 1970. The earliest Hilux, the N10, featured a 1.5 l petrol engine, but was soon replaced by the N20 model with a stronger 2.0 l petrol mill producing 89 kW, helping it reach speeds up to a staggering 136 km/h.



Have you come across a rare trailer or vehicle? Tell us about it and send a photo to  
[drivecamp@gomag.co.za](mailto:drivecamp@gomag.co.za)





# Registration for Go! Festival of Hiking 2026 starts now

Hikers can start smearing Vaseline on their feet!  
From 20 to 22 February 2026 the Cape Go! Festival of Hiking  
will be at Meerendal outside Durbanville.

## WHAT IS IT?

Go! Festival of Hiking is a lekker treat for hikers! It's a weekend where you can test your fitness for the Vis.

The first two Go! Festival of Hiking events in 2024 and 2025 were both a huge success attended by thousands of hikers. You can register now for the Cape Go! Festival of Hiking.

## DISTANCES AT THE CAPE GO! FESTIVAL OF HIKING

**Friday 20 February:** A 6 km walk at 18:00 (suitable for the whole family).

**Saturday 21 February:** Choose whether you want to participate in the 6 km, 12 km or 21 km walk. The different fun walks start at different times, but all are early in the morning.

**Sunday 16 February:** 10 km walk at 07:00.

## WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR?

The festival site is again on the lawn next to the tasting room, and this year there will be coffee, beer and food stalls. At our expo space you will be tempted by the sponsors' latest equipment.

Where the routes are concerned, we have made a few changes.

The short distances, as well as the Sunday route, remain the same. On Saturday, the 12 km walkers will walk a new route in 2026, and the 25 km route will be shortened to 21 km. Only the longest distance, the 21 km, will run over Dorstberg in 2026.



# 20-22 Feb 2026

Meerendal Wine Estate,  
Durbanville

WITH



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Book at  
[wegstapfees.topevents.co.za](http://wegstapfees.topevents.co.za)

**Register for one, two, or walks on all three days!**

### FRIDAY

An easy  
**6 km**  
at Meerendal.  
Bring the whole  
family. Stay for  
the braai!

### SATURDAY

Choose between a  
**6 km,**  
**12,5 km**  
or a solid  
**21 km.**

### SUNDAY

Easy  
**10 km,**  
before the closing  
and prizegiving.



A man with a beard and a black cap is looking off to the side. He is holding a large, bright orange Stanley water bottle with a flip straw. He is wearing a green jacket over a dark long-sleeved shirt. The background shows a clear blue sky with some clouds and green trees.

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