



**Daily log:**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Km</b> | <b>Destination</b> | <b>Comments</b>   |
|-------------|-----------|--------------------|---|
| 08/18       | 227       | Clanwilliam        | <p>The plan was to only start early on the morning of the 9th, but we were ready to go and decided getting a 200km odd head start will help tremendously and give us the opportunity to visit some friends along the way.</p> <p>We departed from Durbanville around 16:00 and stayed over on their farm at <a href="#">Bulshoekdam</a>. They also have lovely accommodation available on the banks of the dam – highly advisable.</p>  |
| 09/18       | 458       | Port Nolloth       | <p>We departed early the morning and continued to Port Nolloth via Steinkopf.</p> <p>The McDougall's bay municipal campsite is the only camping location around and features very basic and filthy ablution facilities and no shade whatsoever.</p> <p>We had dinner at <a href="#">Mar-e-Sol</a> in town with fantastic food and service at very good prices – highly recommended.</p>   |
| 10/18       | 218       | De Hoop            | <p>We drove north past Alexanderbaai to Sendelingsdrift; the last +- 85km being a good condition gravel road. Deflated vehicle and caravan tires to +- 1.5bar.</p> <p>Refuelled at Sendelingsdrift (c/c accepted) and continued to De Hoop where we spent 2 nights. We camped in the northern section of the campsite purely due there being nobody else, with all other campers congregating in the southern section. The track to the southern section traverses a rocky hill with quite a tight bend which might be dangerous to longer trailers or caravans.</p> <p>The road to De Hoop was in fair condition with the <a href="#">last section into De Hoop slightly rougher</a> with one sharp bend that could pose issues for long caravans.</p> <p>The campsite was clean and the ablutions (cold water + flushing toilets) rustic, but well maintained.</p> <p>A sunrise hike up the mountain is a must to experience the sun slowly engulfing the Richtersveld mountains.</p> |
| 12/18       | 48        | Richtersberg       | <p>Travelling alone and with a caravan I opted against the river road between De Hoop and Richtersberg (RT11) and took the inland route, having brunch in a river bed under a high cliff.</p> <p>Some of the park road signs can be deceiving so it is advisable to consult a map or GPS.</p> <p>The Richtersberg site features one main semi-grassed campsite site on the bank of the river with 2 odd sites away from the river amongst the bushes. Another bushy site north of the grassed patch is also on the bank of the river.</p> <p>Ablutions were well maintained and again had cold water and running toilets.</p>   |

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| 13/18 | 32  | Kokerboomkloof  | <p>Four rustic campsites, each with their own ablution and dishwashing facilities – our favourite in the park and the perfect place to rest your soul.</p> <p>About 5km from the campsite be sure to stop at the view point overlooking Springbokvlakte.</p> <p>We set up camp for 2 nights at site #3. Toilets and a dishwashing basin have cold water, but no water is available in the shower - I connected water from the caravan geyser and rigged a shower setup inside the facility.</p> <p>The first night we had the whole camp to ourselves (pure bliss!) and late the 2<sup>nd</sup> afternoon another vehicle arrived.</p>  |
| 15/18 | 85  | Sendelingsdrift | <p>Departed back to Sendelingsdrift via the Helskloof road and <a href="#">Domorogh pass</a>. The pass was in good drivable condition and low range is advisable, especially whilst towing.</p> <p>Before reaching Sendelingsdrift we visited the Potjiespram campsite purely to see the latest status of the camp. Since my previous visit, the road to the campsite was rebuilt, showing signs of commercial transport, the campsite moved further away from the river (in a very clearly mined area) and a Nama style boma erected at the new campsite. I can only assume this boma is used for organized tour groups. I would avoid camping at Potjiespram.</p> <p>I stopped at the same spot I camped before and found my favourite swimming spot to be high and dry and about 100m from water!</p> <p>After depositing our refuse at the Sendelingsdrift dumping site we settled in for the evening at Sendelingsdrift. The camp is close to local houses so not necessarily a quiet nature experience. It however features well-maintained ablution and dishwashing facilities, including hot water.</p> <p>Beware of the vervet monkeys – they are extremely tame and will steal food at any opportunity.</p> |
| 16/18 | 254 | Lüderitz        | <p>Following immigration (very friendly immigration and SAPS officials) and R130 payment for the ferry, we crossed into Namibia. Immigration on the Namibian side went smooth although officials had very cocky and official attitudes.</p> <p>Despite being the only people at both immigration offices and being first in line for the pontoon, it took almost 90 minutes for the whole process.</p> <p>We replenished basic food supplies at the Rosh Pinah Spar, bought a local SIM card and travelled to Lüderitz, stopping at the Garub horses where we were literally surrounded by +-70 horses. Quite a memorable experience.</p> <p>Being a “luxury” day, we stayed over at <a href="#">Obelix Guest Lodge</a>, had an early lunch at Cosy Corner (fantastic and well-priced food – try the burgers!), visited <a href="#">Kolmanskop</a> and had dinner at The Barrel pub, which is highly recommended (try the Eisbein – leftovers lasted us two days!)</p>  |

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| 17/18 | 120 | Aus          | <p>Stayed over at one of my all-time favourite campsites - <a href="#">Klein Aus Vista</a>. The venue includes extremely well-maintained campsites and ablution facilities, hiking trails plus a restaurant, pub and swimming pool. The only negative on this visit being a howling wind that lasted the whole night.</p>   |
| 18/18 | 292 | Hobas        | <p>Stopped at the Seeheim hotel for breakfast and to see the damage caused by a recent arson attack. From there continued further to Canon Roadhouse for and early lunch, before reaching the <a href="#">Hobas</a> camp.</p> <p>I was pleasantly surprised at the refurbished Canon Roadhouse and contributed to the sticker collection in the men's toilets with a spare 4x4Community sticker I had. Diesel is available, albeit <u>only cash payment</u> is accepted.</p> <p>At Hobas, ablution facilities were fair, the swimming pool empty and the campsites extremely dusty (that powdery dust that gets in everywhere), but overall a good experience.</p>  |
| 19/18 | 68  | Ai-Ais       | <p>The morning we visited the Fish river canyon look-out point and departed for <a href="#">Ai-Ais</a>. Since my previous visit, all facilities were upgraded and proved to be one of our highlights on the trip.</p> <p>The campsite features shady spots with nicely built braai sites. Ablutions were clean and modern. The revamped main restaurant area features a lovely bar and shop with most necessities you might need. Diesel is also available. Baboons can be problematic, so do not leave any food or bags in the open.</p>   |
| 20/18 | 306 | Keetmanshoop | <p>After an early morning hike into the canyon, we travelled via Grunau to Keetmanshoop, replenished food supplies and diesel (c/c accepted) and stayed over at the <a href="#">Mesosaurus fossil camp</a> +- 40km outside of town.</p> <p>Mesosaurus features a very rustic camp with a "donkey" system for hot water. The 4x4 trail on the farm is essentially a rough gravel track, but very scenic between a quiver tree forest.</p>  |
| 21/18 | 221 | Mata Mata    | <p>Roughly 10 kms before Mata Mata we bought very nice lamb chops at the Kalahari Farmstall for +-R80/kg – highly recommended, instead of replenishing at Keetmanshoop.</p> <p>Immigration processes at Mata Mata only include the Namibian segment and a SAPS passport and vehicle inspection at the Sanparks reception - South African immigration processes are only facilitated at Twee Rivieren camp upon your exit from the park.</p> <p>The Mata Mata camp was upgraded since my previous visit and a welcome surprise with modern and clean facilities and a local lady doing laundry for a nominal fee. The camp also features a swimming pool and a hide overlooking the waterhole.</p> <p>A late afternoon game drive blessed us with 2 Ratels quite near the camp entrance.</p> |

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| 22/18 | 87  | Kielie krankie | <p>I took an early game drive and saw 4 Cheetah about 6kms from the camp. An abundance of quick approaching vehicles however chased them over a ridge and out of sight.</p> <p>Later the morning, while driving south to Kielie Krankie, we encountered two male lions right next to the road.</p> <p>The Kielie Krankie lodge is in the central dunes area of the park, situated on a high dune and overlooking a watering hole (lighted at night). The view from the lodge gives you an exquisite view of the vast Kalahari landscape; a picture that will stay in your mind for years to come.</p> <p>No animals were however seen, although a visitor's log mentioned viewings of lion, cheetahs and hyenas.</p>                       |
| 23/19 | 72  | Twee Rivieren  | <p>On the route to Twee Rivieren we stopped at the Rooiputs camp (Botswana side) for a quick snack, before concluding South African immigration processes at Twee Rivieren and driving the Leeudril 4x4 trail.</p> <p>The trail proved quite different from a previous visit; the dunes were now mostly covered in long grass, where the previous visit was just sand, sand and more sand.</p> <p>The campsite section with 220V power were fairly full with normal caravans, so we opted to setup camp in the upper section, without power, where nobody else was camping.</p> <p>Diesel is available at Twee Rivieren (c/c accepted) and there is a well-stocked shop. Twee Rivieren also features a restaurant and a swimming pool.</p> |
| 24/18 | 371 | Augrabies      | <p>Replenished food and diesel (c/c accepted) at Upington, before continuing to Augrabies Falls. I, unofficially, became the first visitor to literally enter the park gates while doing my daily 5km run!</p> <p>The campsites are like those in the Kgalagadi with 220v points and drinkable water freely available. The ablution facilities are outdated, but clean and well maintained.</p> <p>The falls itself again was a sight to behold, although water levels were low, and a definite must see on any traveller's agenda.</p>  |
| 25/18 | 784 | Home           | <p>Departed early and drove home via Pofadder, the gravel road south to Kripkrans and Bitterfontein, before continuing to the N7.</p> <p>Along the gravel road we counted 59 burst tires lying next to the road, which is testimony to the road condition. This route is not advisable for normal vehicles or for those with road condition tires.</p>   |

**Trip highlights:**

- Never using 220v power and being fully reliant on the solar panel, constantly keeping the 2 batteries in the Bushlapa at full capacity for just over 2 weeks. Money well spent on a MPPT solar controller.
- Peace and tranquillity of the Richtersveld, especially at Kokerboomkloof.
- Seeing +-70 odd wild horses together at Garub.

- Seeing the vary scarce Ratels in the Kgalagadi.
- Meeting like-minded people along the trip and sharing interesting stories around campfires.
- Seeing my towing vehicle's stone guard patent working flawlessly with minimal stone damage to the caravan after +-2000km gravel roads.
- Not having one single issue with either vehicle or caravan.

### **Lessons learnt (some for the 100<sup>th</sup> time)**

- The low humidity air dries you skin tremendously – take moisturizer and lip ice along.
- Ensure there is a saline sinus spray in your medical bag. The dust can get you quite clogged up.
- Take a buff along for windy conditions or where flying insects are in abundance.
- A smile and a joke work much better than an attitude at border posts.
- Burn plastics and other refuse inside a cooldrink or food tin; when cool, squash flat and throw in your refuse bin. Plastic contained and no smell inside your vehicle.
- Don't plan too much ahead; take things as it comes. This is Africa after all.
- Tonic water contains the quinine for insects; not the gin (🍷)

### **Other offroad caravans observed during the trip**

- Conqueror Companion – 3
- Conqueror Commander – 1
- Jurgens Xplorer – 3
- Jurgens XCape – 8
- Jurgens Trooper – 2
- Jurgens Oryx – 2
- Imagine Comfortvan – 2
- Imagine Trailvan – 2
- Bushlapa Boskriek – 1
- Bushlapa Miskruier – 3
- Bushlapa Baobab – 2
- Afrispoor Cheetah – 1
- Gecko – 1
- Echo Chobe – 2

Some useless statistic, but interesting to see the distribution. Our interpretation of this statistic is that this time of year might be favoured for travelling by older people without children, requiring a 2-berth caravan. This statistic would change depending on the time of the year.

### **Pictures:**



McDougall's bay campsite



En-route to De Hoop campsite



De Hoop campsite



Richtersberg campsite



Springbokvlakte



Kokerboomkloof campsite



Richtersveld landscape



Sendelingsdrift campsite



Domorogh pass



Sendelingsdrift pontoon



Garub horses



Hobas campsite



Ai Ais campsite



Mesosaurus fossil park campsite



Mata Mata South African border



Mata Mata campsite



Kieliekrankie view



Twee Rivieren campsite



Augrabies campsite

**Videos:**

- [Richtersveld NP](#)
- [Richtersveld NP - Compilation of tracks / roads \(dashcam footage\)](#)
- [Richtersveld NP - Domorogh pass \(dashcam footage\)](#)
- [Richtersveld NP - Akkedis pass \(dashcam footage\)](#)
- [Richtersveld NP - Track to De Hoop campsite \(dashcam footage\)](#)
- [Hobas - Entering the campsite \(dashcam footage\)](#)
- [Kgalagadi NP - Leeudril 4x4 trail \(dashcam footage\)](#)