

## Quick Get-away few days in the Cederberg

You know, sometimes, right on our own doorsteps are places that others travel long distances to reach, but because they are right in our own backyards and are always on the way to somewhere else, we rarely spend enough time exploring them.

I cannot remember the number of times that we've travelled into the Cederberg and thought yes, this would be nice, to spend some time here. Pass the Algeria campsite and think Oh that looks nice. Yawellnofine – no brains.

It was our wedding anniversary – Cris Ingram STILL had the Cruiser and at the last minute I phoned Cape Nature to see if there was anything available at Algeria. It had been bitterly cold with snow on the mountains ( Nov 12/13 ) so elected to take a cottage – the people at Algeria could not have been nicer or more helpful and the lady suggested that we take Sas Se Werf as if had river frontage and in her opinion the nicest one to choose.

Gydo pass above Ceres



A little chilly – hint of snow on the mountains



So off we went leaving CT very early to miss the traffic and headed for Ceres & Op De Berg in the Pajero – not used off road for over three years now ☺ Packing was very interesting and I really wondered how we had managed with our trips in her to Moz and Nam & Bots before the Cruiser.

Op De Berg





The weather, if a little cold was perfect and as the day progressed it warmed up nicely. We stopped for a breakfast having entered the Cederberg having turned off at Op De Berg and then carried on up and over the Blinkberg Pass – with the usual magnificent views and having stopped for lunch on the Uitkyk Pass passed by Algeria early in the afternoon.

Blinkberg Pass





So much colour with all the muted tones



Lots Wife



Uitkyk Pass



Lunch on Uitkyk Pass



Edge of Clanwilliam Dam



It was much too nice a drive to stop so we took the lower road to Clanwilliam past Jamaka and hooked back towards Algeria by taking the dirt road that runs parallel to the N7 on the Cederberg side of the Olifants river.

Mangoes in the Cederberg !



A slow drive and eventually onto the Nieuwoudt pass to stop and look down upon Jamaka & Algeria.

Nieuwoudt Pass looking down on Jamaka



Booking in at the office we bought some firewood thinking that it would probably be cold at night and went onto the cottages which are about 5KM's past the camp site which looked very inviting.

View from Cottage



There are just 5 cottages, set below the road and encircled by the mountains. What a magic spot.

View from Cottage





Sas Se Werf is indeed the best of the bunch but if you have small children you might like to take the adjoining cottage on the other side of the river where there is a large piece of lawn for the kids.

The Cottage was clean and fully stocked – no electric but solar powered lights and gas to cook and for showers. Peace & Quiet – bliss.

Sas Se Werf





Looking up at cottage from River



We lit the fire and in the event had to open all the doors and windows as it was way too hot 😊 only used one bag and brought the other one home – nice braai wood R20 a bag.

Comfortable beds and a good nights sleep - no baboons. To wake in the morning to a Titus De Jong type oil painting upon drawing back the curtains. At this stage we wished that we had booked for longer !!

Groot Valley



R303 Middleberg & Buffelshoek Passes



We decided that we would go out back along the Nieuwoudt Pass and thence to Citrusdal and take the R303 back to Op De Berg. It turns out that we have never travelled this road – what an oversight- it is stunning – some tar some gravel but you travel above the Groot Valley and through the Middleberg & Buffelshoek Passes (2 more to add to our collection of passes travelled) The scenery was as breath-taking as you could ever wish for and the weather simply wonderful – never trust the cape weather !!! Stopping off for lunch at a picnic site grove of oak trees near Op De Berg Village.

Yet another Tafelberg



Oak Tree Picnic spot near Op De Berg Village



All good things come to an end; but we enjoyed a slow amble home through Ceres, back of Wellington before re-joining the N1 at Klapmuts.

Nice quick get-away – add it to your list of things to do. Oh and the Pajero didn't put a foot wrong 😊