

OFFROAD & OUTDOOR e-ZINE

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Trails & Tribulations...

Hi there enthusiasts,

So the 2010 year is a gonner. *"Most of you may have already proceeded on your annual travels to your favourite place, be it home (!), bush or sea. I sit here in Knysna pushing myself to complete the year's obligations, albeit that I am on leave. One never fails to complete your responsibilities. Yep, it should have been done by 1 December, but that was indeed a hectic part of my year end, with a lot of travelling across the country for work purposes. And then we packed and fled. Ja, then I woke up and 2011 was here and the last edition never went out – good intentions or not!*

Then the holiday fever kicked in, and I just got totally way layed. And boy did it bother me. Well, I must be honest. I had a very good, and well deserved break, and returned to Gauteng in January ready to tackle the challenges of the new year. And bang, I fell ill. So THANKS to all of those (geez there are plenty...) of you who started sending emails and asking where is the newsletter. And whined and whined and whined. At least I know we are doing something right!

So, before the first official newsletter of 2011 gets going, herewith some catch up news, else I will be publishing an Annual as per the comic books of old. 100+ pages. So let's see how this one goes along! Else it may just be good news from November to January 2011, with a cross over into the wonderful year of 2011.

We have some great trips and initiatives planned for the year, and there is a swell of new members joining. 2011 also sees the launch of a very exciting development in the Land Rover arena, with a special society of Land Rover owners starting a global fellowship movement. It already has overseas chapters and is being driven right here from South Africa. Search for the article within!

This coming month the first of the big outdoor shows start, viz. The Beeld Outdoor Show at Gallagher Estate in Midrand. See you there? We look forward to some exciting new products being launched there indeed. OK, lets get this newsletter rolling. Chat at month end again!

Yours in 4x4ing.

Alan Goodway (GP 1796)
Editor (voluntary!)



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Calendar of Training Events

Herewith find training opportunities with the 4x4 Offroad Adventure Club, and its professional associates, offered to the public. Courses only run if sufficient numbers subscribe. Errors and omissions reserved.

Date	Event	Venue
26 February 2011	Snake Course	Fourways
26-27 March 2011	GPS, Navigation & Software	Centurion

SNAKE COURSES

Next course dates are 26 February, 26 March, 30 April, 28 May, 25 June, 30 July, 27 August, 24 September, 29 October, and 26 November 2011.

I present snake courses for the general public, outdoors people, field guides, farmers, snake keepers, doctors, vets, mining companies, developers, etc. In short, anybody that may come in contact with snakes or snakebite will benefit from these courses. These courses were researched and compiled after a number of people had approached me for information on snakebite and the handling of snakes. I have been catching snakes since 1965 and **work professionally** with venomous snakes as I extract venom for antivenom production & keep about 500 snakes for this purpose.

My courses are **FGASA** (Field Guides Association of Southern Africa) approved as specialist courses. Those that pass will receive a certificate with the FGASA emblem on it. The Snake ID and Snakebite Treatment course is also registered with the **WITS CPD Office** and medical doctors that pass the test can claim 5 CPD points (Continued Professional Development).

The **Snake ID & Snakebite Treatment** course starts at 08h00 - 12h30. It covers the identification of the dangerous snake, the symptoms of snakebite, the first aid treatment, medical treatment and allergy recognition and treatment. There are 2 tea breaks and lunch is from 12h30 - 13h00, and from 13h00 - 14h00 everybody will be writing their test. Cost for this course is R925.00 VAT inclusive per person.

After this it is the **Venomous Snake Handling** course which starts at 14h00 with a lecture and concludes at 17h00. Testing is practical handling of puff adder, Mozambique spitting cobra, ringkals & savannah cobra under my supervision, and verbal questions and answers as we do handling. Cost for this course is R570.00 VAT inclusive per person. I also offer an additional **Black mamba handling** course for those people that may **have a need** to handle black mambas at Lodges in the Bushveld. This is done at an additional cost of R410.00 VAT inclusive per person, and runs from 17h15 to 18h30.

The next courses are scheduled for Saturday 29 January & 26 February 2011. I can also offer courses for interested groups or companies, and then the courses can be run during office hours at your premises & provided the group size is 15 people or more. Permits to transport snakes may have to be arranged beforehand. Keep this in mind. Past customers include Sasol, Anglo



American, Anglo Coal, Anglo Gold Ashanti, BHP Billiton, Murray & Roberts, Johannesburg Water, Johannesburg Fresh Produce Market, Johannesburg Zoo and Eskom.

Venue – This is the GPS coordinates: S 25° 56.726 minutes; E 28° 01.181 minutes. African Reptiles and Venom is situated 8 km north from Fourways on the William Nicol extension, which becomes the R511. From the N1 (cement highway) take the William Nicol off ramp, and turn north away from Johannesburg. Pass Monte Casino on your right, pass the Fourways Mall on your left and go pass Indaba hotel on your left, cross 2 rivers the Jukskei river and the Diepsloot River. 900 meters after the second bridge, you will see a sign African Reptiles and Venom on your right hand. Turn in and park under the trees. The lectures are held in the lapa at the pool.

From Pretoria you will go towards Jo'burg and then take the R28/N14 towards Krugersdorp. Take the Hartebeespoort/Sandton off ramp. The off ramp makes a 180-degree bend. At the robot turn right towards Sandton. You will now be going pass the Diepsloot Township on your right. From the robot where you turned right, you will travel for about 4 km. Look out for the sign on your left that reads "African Reptiles and Venom". Turn in and park under the trees.

Snake Handling Equipment

I supply the 90 cm standard Pillstrom tong. Price inclusive of Vat is R1575.00. Also available are a 110 cm snake hook @ R400.00, and 140 cm snake hook @ R550.00 Vat inclusive. Snakebite resistant gloves are R3995.70 a pair. For courier delivery in SA add R342.

To secure your place for a course on a particular date please contact me to enquire if there is place and then make the payment into the account (details will be provided)

AFRICAN REPTILES AND VENOM

Mike Perry

083 44 888 54 (cell)

0866973304 (fax)

mike@africanreptiles-venom.co.za

Roads to Roam Adventure Holidays

TOO BUSY TO PLAN YOUR NEXT HOLIDAY?

December holidays are over and Easter holidays have arrived. Well, not quite yet... but if you have not yet sat down and made some reservations, you may have left it a little too late.... The problem is, you've vaguely had a thought about making some reservations, but never sat down to do it... and now it is a matter of urgency...

Roads to Roam will plan your holiday for you and take the worry of planning your holiday and making the reservations, off your hands. So what do you have to do? Contact us via email or give us a call, and we will do the rest.



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So what does “the rest” include?

- We suggest and advise on great destinations for your holiday
- We do the route planning and provide directions to reach your destination
- We provide points of interest to visit along your route and suggests lunch stops and overnight accommodation *en route*
- We do all the reservations and all the payments to the various establishments
- We suggest day outings and interesting places to visit in the area
- We combine all of these in a convenient, easy to use booklet – the only document you will need for your holiday. No more paperwork all over the car!

And what do you have to do?

- Contact us and provide some details...
- Let us do the work ...
- Do one payment to us...

And you are ready to go on holiday!

Where do we operate?

- Africa is our passion – we have extensive knowledge on travelling in Southern Africa, including South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Mozambique, Lesotho, Swaziland, etc.

What does it cost?

- Usually, we receive commission from the establishments where you stay – and you do not pay anything extra
- Some establishments do not pay commission to agents – and on these reservations there is an additional cost of 10%
- Unfortunately, there are usually no discounted rates to agents on camping – so these reservation carry the additional 10%
- Should the commission we receive be less than R550.00, we will not charge commission but a flat rate of R550.00
- Should you wish to cross the border, there are additional banking fees to be paid for money transfers to other countries

Contact us:

- Email: info@roadstoroam.co.za
- Cell: +27 83 22 631 22

January 2010

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Hit the Trail – NEWS, FEATURES and the REST...

STOLEN TRAILER – BE ALERT AND HELP US FIND IT!!!

Hi Alan

We arrived home today to find that our driveway gates had been forced open and our prized Afrispoor Mongoose Trailer stolen. Details as follows

Make / Model : Afrispoor Mongoose
 Colour: Land Rover Dark Green
 Tyres: 16 inch Cooper SST
 Registration: WHT 860 GP

Distinguishing Marks: Tap fitted to front panel, Roof rack for solar panel between trailer and tent. Howling moon Trailer Tent

Please put the word out. Anyone who thinks they have seen it can please contact me on the number below.

Regards
 Keith Rampton
 0834477007

KORO KORO CAMP SPECIAL (BELA BELA DISTRICT)

Dear Camper

We have a special for the March 2011 school holidays!! Stay 5 nights and Pay R320-00 per stand per night and Not R385-00 per night. This offer is valid for the period 25 March 2011 – 11 April 2011.

Please book @ info@koro-koro.co.za or contact Adele 0892 908 4448

WATCH THE LAST FEATURES OF THE 2010 BRIDGESTONE CHALLENGE

Bridgestone Fundi Challenge	Eps. 7	3-Feb-11	13:30	14:00	SS2A
Bridgestone Fundi Challenge	Eps. 7	3-Feb-11	13:30	14:00	SS2
Bridgestone Fundi Challenge	Eps. 7	5-Feb-11	9:00	9:30	SS6
Bridgestone Fundi Challenge	Eps. 7	5-Feb-11	9:00	9:30	SS6A
Bridgestone Fundi Challenge	Eps. 7	7-Feb-11	18:30	19:00	SS2A
Bridgestone Fundi Challenge	Eps. 7	7-Feb-11	18:30	19:00	SS2
Bridgestone Fundi Challenge	Eps. 7	8-Feb-11	22:00	22:30	SS6A
Bridgestone Fundi Challenge	Eps. 7	8-Feb-11	22:00	22:30	SS6
Bridgestone Fundi Challenge	Eps. 7	9-Feb-11	18:30	19:00	SS6
Bridgestone Fundi Challenge	Eps. 7	9-Feb-11	18:30	19:00	SS6A

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Bridgestone Fundi Challenge	Eps. 7	11-Feb-11	14:30	15:00	SS2
Bridgestone Fundi Challenge	Eps. 7	11-Feb-11	14:30	15:00	SS2A
Bridgestone Fundi Challenge	Eps. 7	11-Feb-11	14:30	15:00	SS3
Bridgestone Fundi Challenge	Eps. 7	13-Feb-11	13:00	13:30	SS5
Bridgestone Fundi Challenge	Eps. 7	13-Feb-11	13:00	13:30	SS5N
Bridgestone Fundi Challenge	Eps. 7	13-Feb-11	13:00	13:30	SS5A
Bridgestone Fundi Challenge	Eps. 7	14-Feb-11	17:00	17:30	SS2
Bridgestone Fundi Challenge	Eps. 7	14-Feb-11	17:00	17:30	SS2A
Bridgestone Fundi Challenge	Eps. 7	16-Feb-11	21:00	21:30	SS6A
Bridgestone Fundi Challenge	Eps. 7	16-Feb-11	21:00	21:30	SS6

KNP MIGHT BAN BOOZE

The Kruger National Park is considering a ban on liquor for day visitors, Beeld newspaper reported on Saturday. Sanparks chief executive David Mabunda said the international tourist attraction recently received 130 complaints of drunken driving, animal abuse, disturbing the peace and even skinny dipping in a space of just two weeks. "There is a lack of respect for the park. People ignore rules and regulations and alcohol abuse is a big problem," said Mabunda. Although management still needed to make a final decision on the proposal to ban day visitors from taking alcohol into the park, the new rule may be implemented as soon as the Easter Weekend, the report said.

ALL I WANT THIS YEAR.....

..is the promise that our wildlife stays where it belongs, that I inherit the natural beauty that I was born into and that you care enough to keep my favourite animals from becoming extinct.

This year, over 500 of our threatened Blue Cranes have been illegally taken out of the wild; over 200 rhinos have been killed just for their horns; less than 400 Wild Dogs roam South African soil and over 80% of our rivers are polluted.

At this rate, by the time I'm grown up it may already be too late for me to do anything to protect what's left of our beautiful earth.

So I'm writing to you now, while there is still time. If we don't do something now I may, one day, have to explain to my younger brothers and sisters (or my future children) what the wonderful mating dance of our National Bird used to look like, how Wild Dogs used to hunt and just how fast the Cheetah could run. Help me leave them with more than words.

On behalf of the millions of other children with my same dream and the future generations who are not yet able to speak for themselves, please support wildlife conservation. From the majestic Big Five to the smallest grassland species and our rivers and wetlands " please help me keep our natural heritage alive.

Support the Endangered Wildlife Trust and ensure that I am able to look forward to the life you currently enjoy. You will be giving us the greatest gift of all - the gift of wildlife. Join hands with me and the Endangered Wildlife Trust - Dare to Care with me.

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Lots of love,
Kendra – a worried young girl

NEW TOYOTA CRUISER HITS THE MARKET

Toyota is now giving South African bush whackers another option in the tough but basic Land Cruiser 70 range, with the bakkie and 76 Station Wagon now joined by the 78 Wagon. So they've taken the 'Station' out of the 'Wagon' by the looks of it - as the new 78 has a more utilitarian body shell that looks very much like the bakkie with a metal canopy welded to it.

The new three-door, five-seat 'Cruiser is aimed at those seeking a personnel carrier, bush hospital and overland vehicle and as such is fitted with hard wearing vinyl seat covers and moulded urethane plastic trim. The roof lining will also feature a moulded shape to offer more head room and easier cleaning.

That's not to say that it's totally devoid of creature comforts as the 78 still has two airbags, air conditioning, central locking and an adjustable steering column. The Wagon's unique three-door layout means that the vehicle offers a 1245mm x 1510mm load area

Under the skin the 78 Wagon has the same ladder frame chassis and rigid axle set-up as its siblings, while boasting two fuel tanks for a combined fuel carrying capacity of 180 litres. New layout offers a massive 1245mm x 1510mm load area.

Likewise, it's also equipped with a four-wheel drive system designed to tackle just about any obstacle Africa has to throw at it, this cause furthered by a ground clearance of 235mm and approach and departure angles of 38- and 25-degrees respectively.

In keeping with its utilitarian nature the 78 Wagon is fitted with 16-inch steel wheels and a full sized spare wheel is also included, of course. Power comes from the proven 4.2-litre six-cylinder naturally aspirated diesel engine, delivering very gradual performance if our experiences with the similarly-equipped bakkie are anything to go by. The engine delivers 96kW at 3800rpm and 285Nm from 2200rpm.

Unfortunately its tough-as-nails pedigree comes with a hefty price tag, the 78 Wagon setting you back R450 800. It also offers only two paint options: Ivory White and Sand Beige.

Interested – contact Johan Kruger, Dealer Principle @ Honeydew Toyota for a special deal! - johan@honeydew-toyota.co.za

KEVIN RICHARDSON- THE LION WHISPERER'S VIEWS ON LION BREEDING

The topic of canned lion hunting and the recent court case which was won by the lion breeders association has been a hot topic in the press. I asked Kevin for some feedback on the issue and this was his response "The SA Predator Breeders' Association recently won a Supreme Court of Appeal case regarding the trophy hunting of captive lions - commonly called "canned hunting". This has sparked a huge debate within conservation and other circles.

I've been asked for my views on this, so will try to put my thoughts down on paper once again. The intricacies are beyond the scope of a newsletter so I will try and be concise: In my opinion,



the size of an area whereby a captive lion is hunted is inconsequential. It doesn't matter whether the area is the size of a bird cage or the size of a game farm. The end result is the same.....a dead lion.

The lion that is bred for hunting will never have a chance of escaping the hunter therefore eliminating 'fair chase'. The appeal case was rightly won by the Predator Breeders Association as the 24 month're-wilding' scenario was merely a cop out on the ministers behalf to appease the angry public. Again in my opinion, it's far crueller to release a lion that has been captive bred for hunting purposes into a big area for two years that has been used to living with other lions, being fed in an enclosure, than for example releasing it into a smaller area whereby it'll be shot in the next day or two. Honestly, if you were a lion which would you choose? Two years on death row or execution immediately? The stress that this poor lion would have to go through for a long period is simply too much for a creature as sensitive as a lion. And then, if it hasn't been stressed enough the outcome is the same. He/she eventually gets the bullet anyway. There is no chance of escape as that lion was bred by a farmer for a purpose. You are simply prolonging the inevitable!

So the two year story is simply ridiculous! So what's the solution? There is no easy answer here because many livelihoods depend on this industry that has been in existence for some time. And I'm referring to the game farm hunting industry because I don't think lions should be put on a pedestal. What about the exquisite Sable antelope, the giraffe and/or the zebra. All these animals get bred on game farms and subsequently get shot by trophy hunters too; year on year, yet nothing is said. It's far too easy to focus on one thing. Animals that are living on game farms of finite size, which unfortunately is the case for most farms in South Africa, will ultimately have to be dealt with in some form or another. You simply cannot stock a game farm and then leave it to its own devices. You need to combat inbreeding and surplus animals and ultimately the most lucrative form of getting rid of surplus animals on a game farm is hunting. These days it's ridiculously expensive to 'sell off' surplus animals to other game farms due to expensive capture costs. So if you can't sell them, what do you do? You sell them for 'canned hunting'. So then I ask myself the question: Is it okay to hunt an impala in a finite space? Or a giraffe? Or a wildebeest? Or a sable? Or a lion?

It's not an easy question to answer as so many things come into the equation, including emotions which are always the most difficult to deal with. My stance is this: Government needs to take a stance on this and then stick with it after consulting with all the interested and affected parties. If they way up all the arguments and then conclude that all forms of 'canned hunting' should be outlawed, I'm for it. If they conclude the opposite, then so be it. This pussy footing around the topic is in no one's best interests.

The problem is that you are never going to get everyone to agree on how animals should be kept in captivity and how/if they should be 'hunted'. Some people will say it's okay to shoot a lion and others won't. Some will say it's okay to shoot an impala for sport and others won't. Some will say its okay to fish recreationally and others won't.

That's the interesting thing about humans. We all have our conflicting views and opinions. The beauty about life is that we do have a choice. What you can do is be more discerning about the facilities you visit and support. Ask questions. If you don't like what you hear then don't go there. In this way you can start to make a difference.



To end off, I can say that I currently don't agree with the standards and practices involving lions being kept and hunted. I think the way they are kept should be looked at.

Lastly I must just say that the lions under my care, living at The Kingdom of the White Lion, live fulfilled and stimulated lives, as close to wild conditions as I can give them and that at least I can sleep at night knowing that they will never be hunted.

Extracted from the KR Newsletter #4

TOURISTS STILL GO TO THE SAME PLACES...

If the 2009 Annual Tourism Report is anything to go by, the provincial distribution of travellers in South Africa has remained virtually the same for the previous three years. Gauteng, Western Cape, KwaZulu Natal and Mpumalanga remain the most popular provinces, while trailing the pack are the Northern and Eastern Cape.

While the report confirms what most suspect, it doesn't explain what can be done to even out the geographic spread of tourism to other provinces. However, SA Tourism believes that the 2010 World Cup has given other destinations in SA more exposure, including Port Elizabeth, Bloemfontein and Rustenburg. SA Tourism CEO, Thandiwe January McLean, says: "It is inevitable that these destinations, with adequate marketing efforts will become emerging destinations for the international traveller, especially for those who have visited SA before and are coming back for a second or third time."

The reason why destinations further afield don't enjoy the same tourism numbers can be attributed to three major factors, according to SA Tourism. The first is the role of tour operators in promoting such areas, which, coupled with a lack of information available to international travellers and a wider tourism product offering in major city centres, means smaller destinations have their work cut out for them. January McLean maintains that the World Cup last year has given lesser-known destinations some much-needed exposure. "In the Free State, towns such as Clarens and the scenic Golden Gate Highlands National Park are enjoying greater popularity."

LIONS IN KZN

The native lion population of Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park (HIP) is descended from five individuals. A male who entered the park on his own in 1958 and two females with two cubs who were introduced into the reserve in 1965 from Kruger National Park. The population increased to 140 individuals in 1987. During the course of a herbivore reintroduction programme, nearly all lions of the northern part of the park were shot between 1988 and 1992, with the result that no lions subsequently established permanent residence in the Hluhluwe area.

In 1999, the HiP population consisted of about 80 lions. A fundamental problem in conservation biology is the risk of inbreeding in fragmented and declining populations. In the Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park (HIP), a relatively small, enclosed reserve, a large lion, Panthera leo, population arose from that founder group of five individuals in the 1960s.

The HiP lion population went through a persistent decline and showed indications of inbreeding depression. To restore the genetic variation of the inbred HiP lion population, new lions were translocated into the existing population. Translocated females formed stable associations and



established enduring pride areas with other translocated lionesses, but did not bond into native female prides.

The translocated male coalition was more successful in gaining and maintaining residence in a pride than the translocated lone male that split off on his own from the male coalition. Litter size and cub survival was about twice as high for pairings involving at least one translocated parent than for pairings of two native lions. It is therefore possible to infuse new genes rapidly and successfully into a small, isolated lion population.

Such translocations may become an important adaptive management tool as lion populations become increasingly fragmented.

MANZI MANINGI PRIVATE GAME LODGE - STUNNING NEW CAMP SITE & LODGE

Our club stayed here during the long weekend in mid December and everybody raved about the brilliant ablutions in the camp site. The place is definitely worth a visit.

Only 30 min from Pretoria, Manzi Maningi is the ideal getaway for you and your family. We provide rustic, yet luxurious accommodation, where the outside world does not exist.

ACCOMMODATION:

Manzi Maningi offers accommodation for up to 62 guests as well as 20 well planned camping sites with electricity and modern ablutions: 6x private bath rooms. There are 13 (open plan) 4-BED chalets. Each with a double and a bunk bed (2x singles). There is one 6-bed chalet: Two separate bedrooms each with a double bed and then a bunk bed in the lounge.

All units are fully furnished with everything needed including gas stove, fridge, microwave and kettle and ceiling fans and an alarm system. All units have their own private boma and fire place to enjoy those long cold winter nights around a soothing camp fire. All units have their own under cover safe parking.

ACTIVITIES & ENTERTAINMENT:

- Morning & evening game drives with experienced rangers – Sable, Eland, Nyala, Impala, Giraffe, Zebra, Kudu, Wildebeest, Water buck and a variety of antelope, as well as a myriad of bird species
- Beautiful Swimming pool
- Hiking Trails – game viewing on foot!!
- Cash Bar with pool tables and Big Screen TV.
- Mountain biking – bring own bikes
- Bass Fishing

RATES:

4-BED CHALETS: R740 per night / 6-BED CHALET: R1150 per night

Camping: R80 p.p.p.n

Minimum Two nights

For Groups: (corporate, family get - togethers , small functions, birthday parties, etc.): Fully equipped Kitchen, lapa and boma with braai facilities @ R850 per day.

Game Drives @ R50 per person (1 hour).



BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES:

ANVIE VENTURES:

(012) 662 0586 / 1140

anvie@iburst.co.za

NAMIBIAN SCHOOL –RAISING FUNDS

Hier is 'n fonds insamelings projek wat geloots word deur ons skool Privaatskool Excelsior in die suide van Namibia. Kontak my vir meer detail, maar kyk wat kan jule wen!

Die kompetisie sluit 15 April 2011. Die pryse wat gewen kan word is as volg;

Jag Pryse

1 ste prys : 3 Nagte te Weltevrede, 1 bees, 1 koedoe, 1 Gemsbok, 4 Springbokke, 3 Vetstert skape, 1 Stainless steel braai, R500 geskenkbewys van Red Sands Taksidermie

2de prys : 3 Nagte Hunters Inn te Aroab, 1 Koedoe, 1 Gemsbok, 4 Springbokke, 3 Vetstert Skape

3de prys : 2 Nagte Hunters Inn te Aroab, 1 koedoe, 1 Gemsbok, 4 Springbokke, 2 Vetstert Skape

4de prys : 2 Nagte Hunters Inn te Aroab, 1 Gemsbok, 4 Springbokke, 2 Vetstert Skape

5de prys : Selfde as 4 de prys

6de prys : Selfde as 4de prys

Vakansie Pryse

1ste prys : 4x4 Toer 9 Nagte

2de prys : Namib Avontuur 9 Nagte

3de prys : 4x4 Toer 8 Nagte

4de prys : See Toer 8 Nagte

5de prys : Wildbesigtigings toer 8 Nagte

6de prys : Hengelaarsparadys 8 Nagte

Baie Dankie

Carina Louw

Kontak vir die volle detail - sakkie@mweb.com.na

MTN LAUNCH NEW SERVICE

Yesterday marked an auspicious occasion in the evolution of the cellphone's functionality, as MTN launched *MTN Traveller*, an innovative product that gives new meaning to 'booking convenience' for the hospitality industry and cellphone users alike.

MTN Traveller is a live, integrated, secure and all-inclusive online booking engine that provides accommodation, car rental and, in the near future, airline booking services, at no cost to the user. The application enables consumers to search, select and pay for their travel selections using their cell phone - irrespective of which mobile network they are on.

MTN Traveller can be accessed through any web-based handset, with further information accessible on www.mtntraveller.com. MTNers will be proud to know that the technology that has been developed for this innovation is a first, both in South Africa and the rest of the world, further reinforcing MTN's position as innovation leader in our industry.

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The introduction of *MTN Traveller*, a mobi-based MTN Play application, forms part of our strategy to focus on devices that complement our customer base. This is also in line with plans to develop and offer new products that are relevant and meet the needs of customers' unique lifestyles and requirements. Our ultimate goal with *MTN Traveller* is to offer customers an accessible and simple 'one-stop hospitality shop' on their mobile phones.

Using the system is as simple as clicking on the *MTN Traveller* icon on the cell phone screen, registering for the service, going into the menu to make a choice and uploading credit card details to confirm the booking. The system is fast, efficient, secure (via a SSL certificate) and borderless, breaking through the traditional interface using cutting-edge technology

MTN Traveller has already signed up a wide range of hotel groups and accommodation partners, and Avis is on board as our exclusive car rental partner for the trial period. We are also currently in discussion with various airlines and other hospitality partners and expect to announce exciting new developments and additional product features in the months to come. The service goes live to the public on 07 November.

Please join me in celebrating and supporting this *Ayoba* innovation.

Regards

Serame Taukobong

Chief Marketing Officer: MTN SA

GET INVOLVED IN RHINO ANTI-POACHING EXERCISES

Volunteers required in the fight against rhino poaching nationally

Conserv has been collating a Rhino Support Group volunteer's data base since the beginning of the year. Our office renders an ongoing service to all Private Rhino Owners registered on our network. This amongst others includes, administrating and structuring the Rhino Owners fraternity into workable and practical nodes, communication networks, training of members, putting in proactive and reaction area action plans and the mobilising of members and surrounding communities / support groups in the event of a poaching incident. The natural extension to this is to integrate volunteers.

We have a solid working relationship with members of SANPARKS, NWCRU, DEA, CAA, Security Companies, APUs and NGOs (EWT/ WRSA/ PROA) amongst other, involved with the protection of our wildlife.

I would like to call on you to assist by making the public aware that they can volunteer and assist in the fight against poaching by actually been able to put in some time and energy. A critical success factor regarding this Initiative is coordination. Our 24hr control room and supporting systems carries out this function daily. We are often called to duty as an 'operational centre' to coordinate and mobilise support groups regarding rhino poaching. In essence, notwithstanding that clear guidelines, terms of reference, protocols, SOP's and good security practices be followed, we encourage any person who can assist on a voluntary bases both proactively and reactively, to contact our office.

We invite trackers, dog handlers, pilots, rangers, lawyers, vehicular patrollers, field guides, 4x4 and rescue clubs etc to SMS their details to 083 272 9718 preceded by the word Rhino, to



include name, province, closest town and their area of expertise. Alternatively visit the website <http://www.stoprhinopoaching.com/>. In return we will contact all Volunteers and advise the way forward.

You are welcome to contact the writer for more information. Your help and support in this regard will be appreciated.

Regards,
Trevor Roberts - Conserv Security 083 655 1315

STAR GAZING IN LOXTON

Just to clarify the date we are targeting for the star party, it is 5 – 9 August 2011; Tuesday 9th August is National Women's Day and the Monday is a school holiday. My idea is to include some practical programmes for school children to get them interested in nature, science and astronomy. If you have any contact that may be able to help with this, please forward this e-mail to them.

We identified a potential "dark sky" venue a few kilometers outside of Loxton with camping facilities and guest rooms but we still need to confirm availability.

We would also like to use the star party to raise funds for the "**I Am Living Trust**" who helps under privileged children in Loxton with food and education.

Thank you for your time. All input will be highly appreciated.

Best regards,
Vermaak van Wyk
vermaak@variedtech.co.za

MALARIA INCREASE IN MPUMALANGA

Six people have died of malaria in Mpumalanga since September last year, compared to five deaths reported in the same period in 2009/10. The number of cases has also risen from 515 to 697, said spokesperson for the Mpumalanga department of health and social development Mpho Gabashane on Monday. "This shows that malaria cases have shown a steady increase this financial year in the province," said Gabashane.

Gabashane blamed the increase in patients who sought help too late, misdiagnosis and delays in referrals from clinics to hospitals. The department's MEC, Dikeledi Mahlangu, announced last year that the province was doing whatever it took, including spraying the inside of homes with the pesticide DDT to reduce the number of malaria cases to zero by 2015. She said more than 469 000 structures were sprayed with DDT in the malaria hot-spots of Nkomazi, Bushbuckridge and the Kruger National Park.

Anyone who develops flu-like symptoms within two weeks of visiting high-risk malaria areas is also advised to seek medical help immediately.



JOBEDI GAME RESERVE 4X4 TRAIL

Jobedi Game Reserve 4x4 trail is situated in the Waterberg Region, roughly 36km from Vaalwater on the Melkriver road. This diverse trail extends over 45km and offers something for everyone. Enjoy the adrenalin rush as you slip and slide through the rocky slopes in the bush, and climb the majestic Waterberg Mountains to feast your eyes on spectacular views.

Our **Yellow** 4x2 route provides a few challenges and is suitable for the whole family and beginners. From there try the **Red/Yellow** medium 4x4 route which is for those slightly more experienced and willing to negotiate a few trying obstacles. Not enough excitement, then move onto our **Red** 4x4 route which is rated 5 in some parts. This route is not for the faint hearted and promises to keep you awake! Our whole trail has various escape routes, so stopping and starting at various points is possible. The route costs R180 per vehicle per day and guests are provided with a detailed map of the routes and upon completion will receive a Jobedi 4x4 sticker.

Jobedi Game Reserve not only has this exciting 4x4 trail, but we also provide affordable accommodation for the whole family. Rough it up in one of our campsites or overnight in one of our Bush Camps or Chalets at the Main Camp.

Various Accommodation Rates:

Chalets:	Off Peak p.u.p.n	Peak p.u.p.n	Unit Pax
Zebra	R1480.00	R1760.00	6-8 people
Rhino	R1480.00	R1760.00	6-7 people
Rock Cottages:			
Flintstone	R500.00	R600.00	1-2 people
Limestone	R500.00	R600.00	1-2 people
Sandstone	R500.00	R600.00	1-2 people
Dolomite	R500.00	R600.00	1-2 people
Granite	R500.00	R600.00	1-2 people
Rondawels:			
Ndebele	R600.00	R650.00	1-2 people
Sotho	R600.00	R650.00	1-2 people
Pedi	R600.00	R650.00	1-2 people
Shangaan	R600.00	R650.00	1-2 people
Camping:	R65.00pppn	R65.00pppn	20-40 people
Vehicle fee	R80.00 per vehicle per stay		
Bush Camps:			
Bosvark	R1300.00	R1450.00	6-8 people
Impala	R1100.00	R1250.00	4-6 people
Palala	R1300.00	R1800.00	8-10 people
Klipspringer	R1200.00	R1400.00	2-4 people
Patches	R1300.00	R1600.00	8-10 people
Wild Fig	R1100.00	R1300.00	4-6 people



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Wild Syringa	R1100.00	R1300.00	4-6 people
Vaalbos	R1100.00	R1300.00	4-6 people

Jobedi also offers guided game drives and self drive game drives.

Contact details:

Tel: 014 755 3993 / Cell: 073 280 8670 / Fax: 086 612 9937

Email: game@jobedi.co.za / Web: www.jobedi.co.za

LAND ROVER SOCIETY OF EXPLORERES – A NEW CREATION

Dear Land Rover Enthusiasts

On the 25th of January 2011 we are launching one of the most exciting Land Rover projects - ever - that is the Land Rover Society of Explorers.

The initial concept was that of a social club where Land Rover owners get together over a formal dinner and to listen to a presentation by someone who has done something unusual, led an expedition or worked in an uncommon field.

Within a few days of pre-launching the concept over 300 applications were received to join the Land Rover Society of Explorers. Soon we received enquiries from all around the world "we like this we want to run something similar here" and then in discussion we got to the point where the Land Rover Society of Explorers will be launched as the "Round Table" or "Rotary" of Land Rover. The monthly formal dinner meetings still take place but now welcome visiting Land Rover owners from around the world.

So what is the purpose behind the Land Rover Society of Explorers? As a Land Rover owner, imagine that you are going on holiday to another city or another country, you go to the website and note the contact person and the time and date of the chapters meeting you then contact them by email before your visit or you just arrive at the venue, announce yourself and the Chapter/Country you are from and you immediately have a "Land Rover family" who can give you advice, possibly show you around, etc.

Another purpose is to use the opportunity to find travel partners (other vehicles to join you on a trip), or find expedition members, or glean information from a member who has visited an unusual destination.

The Land Rover Society of Explorers is already (pre-launch) an international society of Land Rover owners with members in the UK, Germany, Namibia and with interest expressed from Italy, France, Tasmania and Australia so far.

Membership is **FREE** the only requirement is that you must own a Land Rover.

There are two categories, namely Full Membership which is awarded to people who have led expeditions, travelled to an unusual place, etc. (trips to Etosha and Richtersveld do not qualify you as a full member), then there is Associate Membership for people who own a Land Rover



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and dream the dream but who have not yet participated in an expedition or fulfilled one of the other requirements. Please note that only Full Members have voting rights.

Membership involves completing an application and giving us a photograph for the members section. The Founding Members will peruse each application and decide whether the applicant becomes a Full Member or an Associate Member, the member must then pay a small fee for his membership badge and membership sticker - this is estimated to be a once off amount of about R75.

The Land Rover Society of Explorers is run by the founder, together with 10 Founding Members and the Full Members.

The Land Rover Society of Explorers does not organise trips but will promote expeditions and research trips by members. No commercial trips or commercial tour operators may advertise to the society.

The monthly meetings entail a reading of the Aims and Objectives of the Land Rover Society of Explorers, the drinking of a toast to fellow Land Rover owners and finally a toast to fellow adventurers.

The dress code is strictly formal (long sleeve shirt, tie and smart trousers in summer with the addition of a jacket in winter) and strictly enforced.

The Aims and Objectives of the Land Rover Society of Explorers:

- To develop fellowship among Land Rover owners world wide.
- To form a basis for discussion pertaining to Land Rover adventures around the world.
- To create a database of expedition members.
- To continue the Land Rover ethos of treading lightly.
- To further the establishment of peace and goodwill between all Land Rover owners no matter what religion, culture or ethnic background.
- To further these objectives by meetings, lectures, discussions and other activities.

Should you wish to join please complete the attached form and email it to us at landroversociety@iafrica.com

Regards

Greg van der Reis
Founder of the Land Rover Society of Explorers
"It's a Land Rover Thing you would'nt Understand"

Starting a Chapter in your City or Country

So you like the idea and want to start a Chapter! How does this happen?

- Obviously you need to have access to lots of Land Rover owners or are prepared to get to know them through local clubs, Land Rover dealerships, etc.



- You contact us once you have a "business plan" of how you plan to run your Chapter, a suitable venue for monthly meetings and your advertising strategy.

Please note that running a chapter is not a business opportunity and although your costs will be covered by advertising on the website you will embark on this venture for the love of the brand and furthering the brotherhood on Land Rover owners.

Once we are happy with your venue, operating plan and advertising strategy we will list your chapter on the website www.landroversociety.com and for R500/ Euro 50 (once off) you will get a page specifically for your chapter, with your details and pics of your meetings. This will be updated monthly. We will assist you in getting your local advertisers on board, banners on the website, etc. and the monthly income generated by the advertising is shared 50/50 between us and your Chapter. This money is used to pay the webmaster, hosting costs and marketing costs and admin costs - remember there are no membership fees or subscription fees for members.

Notes:

- The cost to members of a monthly formal dinner meeting should not exceed R200 per head or Euro20.
- In the selection of a venue we would like to maintain the aristocratic/colonial feel.
- All meetings must be attended in formal dress (long sleeve shirt, tie and smart trousers in summer with the addition of a jacket in winter)
- The Aims and Objectives of the Land Rover Society of Explorers must always be read at the start of all meetings.
- A toast must always be drunk to fellow Land Rover owners and Fellow Adventurers.

If you want to be part of the Land Rover Society of Explorers then email us with any questions that you may have.

Regards

Greg van der Reis
landroversociety@iafrica.com

NEXT 4x4 TRAILS & OVERLAND TOURIST GUIDE COURSES

Due to the planned 2011 Trans-Africa Expeditions, the guide course will only be presented in the first few months of the year.

The planned dates are:

Somerset West (tbc) 16 February 2011 (19:00) to 20 February 2011
Louis Trichardt 23 February 2011 (19:00) to 27 February 2011

Only once a few chartered expeditions are confirmed will we be able to set further dates if at all. Please contact Jacqui ASAP for more details:

Telephone +27 15 516 5717 / Facsimile +27 15 516 5717
Mobile Jacqui +27 82 829 5421 / E-mail Address info@masazane.co.za



TWO MEN TRADE BLOWS IN THE KRUGER NATIONAL PARK (Ridiculous!!!! Ed)

Buks Viljoen, Beeld

Mbombela - Two visitors who were embroiled in a fist fight in the Kruger National Park shortly after Christmas can expect to receive fines in their mail. The two motorists, one from Durban and the other from Malelane, attacked each other on December 27 on the H4-2 main road between Lower Sabie and Crocodile Bridge.

Their fistcuffs played out in front of Alwyn Myburgh, a professional photographer from Gauteng. He filmed the entire incident and posted the incident on SANParks' web-based forum, which has since been buzzing. Myburgh said they were watching rhinos when a vehicle stopped nearby. A young man (from Malelane) climbed out of the car and walked into the bush to urinate.

Moments later, a second vehicle from Durban stopped next to the Malelane car. "An exchange of words started, seemingly because one of the young men had earlier thrown a beer bottle at the Durban car," said Myburgh. "The two young men then got out of their vehicles and started hitting each other, in full view of several cars that had stopped.

"Both groups were later confronted about the incident by a game ranger at the Crocodile Bridge camp. "They were referred to the Komatipoort police station and advised to lay criminal charges if they wanted to take the case further," Myburgh added.

The police in Komatipoort on Wednesday confirmed that the man from Durban was at the station, but said he did not lay a charge. Reynold Thakhuli, spokesperson for SANParks, confirmed on Wednesday that the incident was being investigated. He said regardless of what led to the fight, both men transgressed the park's regulations by getting out of their cars.

"As soon as we have studied the photographic evidence, we will most likely issue fines on both transgressors."

Thakhuli said SANParks condemned the incident - which he had earlier described in a statement as racist - in the strongest terms. "We will also investigate a complaint that our staff allegedly handled the incident without sensitivity," he said.

VISIT THE MAZE FOR A FUN DAY OR NIGHT EVENT

We will be open from this week-end, 8th and 9th January, into the Elemental maze. Please come and join us for some outdoor fun. Remember no booking required on week-ends, other than for large groups, so we can reserve a picnic area for you.

Our first moonlight maze for 2011, will be Saturday 29th January, booking is essential, please refer to the website for information, or e-mail me. If you have not done a moonlight maze, they are not to be missed, fun for everyone! February dates: 12th and 26th, March dates: 12th and 26th.

Please remember to book your birthday parties early. Everyone has fun at maze birthday parties. We have invitations which we can e-mail you. Please refer to the website for further details. We have hosted parties for ages 4-64!



I have designed a Facebook page, so please 'like' us from our webpage, or find us on Facebook as Honeydew Amazing Mazes. You are welcome to post any pictures you might have of the maze onto the wall, or tag any pictures if you see someone you know! I have many photographs, and I will try and put them onto Facebook before we get too busy! This is the link : <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Honeydew-Amazing-Mazes/189457844404099>

Our mielies, for 2011, have been planted and the design is being cut into the field. We are hoping to open the maize maze by mid-February. We do, however, need some sun as well as the wonderful rain we have been having. The design is a bull's head (Minotaur) in a maze. The quiz boards will be themed around myths and legends, from Poseidon to Thor to Superman with a few unicorns and fairies thrown in! There will be questions on Art, Science and Fact and Fiction, as well as things to draw, smell and sounds to identify. This maze is tricky, and should take at least 90 minutes to solve, but we will have a short course for the not so energetic!

We so appreciate all your support, and as you know, the best advertising is word of mouth, so please forward this e-mail onto your friends, or even better, arrange to meet them at the maze and have some fun to celebrate the start of 2011.

We wish you all a healthy and happy 2011.

Judy and Peter.

PS We were placed second in the Leisure Options 2010 magazine for Action things to do with kids. Winner was Gold Reef City, wish we had their budget! We were also recently featured on joburg.co.za's list of top 10 things to do in Joburg.

Judy Hall

Mobile: 073 795 2174 / Fax: 086-5549015 / www.honeydewmazes.co.za

WILD CARD UPDATE

Dear Valued *Wild Card* Member,

South African National Parks (SANParks), and the *Wild Card* Team are hard at work preparing for the roll out of our "New" *Wild Card* programme.

We have had a fantastic response to our request for clients to update their data and because of this response; we have been able to identify major inaccuracies in the database. These inaccuracies have also resulted in a high degree of frustration for our *Wild Card* Members as a large percentage of you have been unable to update data due to a mismatch of minimum security data that allowed access to your personal data. This in turn resulted in unanticipated high call volumes to our call centre. This has in turn resulted in our call centre being unable to deliver the service that they try so hard to deliver.

We have increased the size of our call centre team in an attempt to deal with these volumes and we apologise for the frustration that some of you have experienced.

As stated above, the transition process is taking far longer than anticipated, and we understand that it has been very frustrating for our clients. We are working hard at incorporating the information, captured on the web, received via e-mail or fax, into our database. It is of vital



importance that we do not migrate inaccurate data into the new system and hence we have decided to delay the issuing of new *Wild Cards* until we are comfortable that all the data is clean and accurate.

Any means of accepted identification presented like your ID Document / Passport PLUS one or more of the following: your old Infinity *Wild Card*, your *Wild Card* Confirmation Letter, your new purchase receipt OR your Voucher will be sufficient. Your updated details and valid *Wild Card* membership will be verified at all access points and camps. Your *Wild Card* Confirmation Letter or voucher will be valid beyond the 31st December 2010 date that is stated in your confirmation letter and will remain valid until your membership expires, or until you receive your new *Wild Card*. Old Infinity *Wild Cards* purchased after 12 November 2010 will not be accepted.

To purchase your new *Wild Card* Membership or to update your details, please visit our websites, www.sanparks.org or www.wildcard.co.za. The previous online problems have been addressed, to the best of our ability, and should no longer be a problem.

Alternatively, please visit the *Wild* partner parks' booking offices, or purchase a *Wild Card* at the parks on arrival.

We would like to **thank you** all for your patience and continued support during this frustrating time, and can assure you that your new *Wild Card* will be worth the wait.

Issued by: SANParks *Wild Card* Programme Department

For more information please visit one of our *Wild Card* partner websites, www.wildcard.co.za, e-mail us at wildcard@sanparks.org; fax +27 (0) 12 426 5480 or alternatively contact our call centre on 0861 GO WILD (46 9453)

VISIT ZIM WITH SUNPATH SAFARIS

Sunpath Safaris wishes you all the best for 2011. Please contact us if you are contemplating a trip to Zimbabwe this year and would like any further details on any of our 2011 safari options. We can plan a personalized itinerary for you. Hope to see you this year on a wilderness experience with us.

Best regards,
Craig Chittenden

Fully Backed Up Tented Safaris

1. Zambezi Camp

Tented camp at an exclusive site on the Zambezi River in Mana Pools - 4 days, 3 nights. Optional add on days arranged.

2. Chitake Springs Camp

Tented camp at Chitake Springs - 4 days, 3 nights. Optional add on days arranged.

3. Mana Shoreline Special

Canoe or walk the Mana Pools Shoreline – 4 days, 3 nights. Full tented camp is set up at each of the three night stops along the Mana shoreline by our staff. Optional add on days arranged in Mana Pools.



Canoeing Safaris – Expeditionary Styled

1. Rukomechi Canoe trail

Canoeing Chirundu to Mana Pools - 4 days, 3 nights

2. Chikwenya Canoe trail

Canoeing Mana Pools to Chewore - 4 days, 3 nights

3. Expedition Canoe trail

Canoeing Chirundu to Chewore – 6 days, 5 nights.

Houseboat Safaris on Lake Kariba

Cruise on Lake Kariba on a fully equipped houseboat and have the option to do day walks in the Matusadona National Park accompanied by our Professional Guide. Nights spent on the houseboat, or optional nights at a safari camp. Suggested minimum stay - 5 days, 4 nights.

Combination Safaris

1. Canoe / Zambezi Camp Combo

Canoeing Rukomechi or Chikwenya trails then stay at our exclusive mobile tented camp site on the Zambezi River in Mana Pools – 7 days, 6 nights. Add on days in Mana arranged.

2. Canoe / Chitake Camp Combo

Canoeing Rukomechi or Chikwenya trails then stay at our tented camp at Chitake Springs – 7 days, 6 nights. Add on days at Chitake arranged.

3. Canoe / Nyamepi Camp Combo

Canoeing Rukomechi or Chikwenya trails then spending extra night(s) in Mana Pools main camp – 5 days, 4 nights. Add on days in Mana arranged.

4. Zambezi Expedition - Kariba, Zambezi River, Mana Pools, Vic Falls

Cruise Lake Kariba on a Houseboat (or sail on a cruising yacht), walk in the Matusadona National Park, Canoe the Zambezi River, stay in our mobile tented camps in Mana Pools National Park and end your safari with a visit to the famous Victoria Falls. Suggest that 12 nights are needed.

5. Escorted 4x4 Trails and Canoe the Zambezi River

Self drive on exclusive 4x4 adventure trails in conjunction with Zim 4x4 and canoe the Chikwenya trail from Mana Pools to Chewore.

A tailor made itinerary can be planned for you. Our Ethos:

To provide a true wilderness experience; Leave a minimal environmental 'footprint' where we operate; Keep our operations small and personalized; Operate mobile tented camps only to preserve the wildness of our parks; Take nothing but memories, leave nothing but footprints and kill nothing but time; Share our love and knowledge of the area with our guests.

In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks ...

For further information on any safari option contact:-

Craig Chittenden

Telephone: (263-04) 304043, Mobile: 0712 204 947

Email: sunpath@mweb.co.zw , Web: www.sunpathsafaris.com



EXCLUSIVE SELF-DRIVES WITH 'NAVIGATORS TOURS & SAFARIS'

Are you looking for a unique and exclusive self-drive adventure? An experience where the emphasis is on quiet enjoyment of the wilderness in the company of like-minded people? Then a Navigators tour is for you, because we specialise in personally-guided small-group tours and safaris to remote destinations in Southern Africa.

Each tour is taken by Chris Schlimper, the owner and founder of Navigators Tours and Safaris. This means that you benefit from having an experienced, knowledgeable and professional tour leader and guide who is dedicated to service and personal attention for all guests; someone who is passionate about offering quality tours to some of Africa's unique and special destinations.

Bring your equipped 4x4 vehicle, camping equipment, accessories, food, drinks, enthusiasm and sense of adventure! For those who don't have their own 4x4 vehicle, we also offer an all-inclusive booked-seat option on many of our tours – visit our website or contact us for details. Alternatively, contact us with your own plans and travel dates, and ask us to design a tailor-made package for you.

Choose from our scheduled departures:

Kalahari : Black-Maned Lions Safari (8 nights)
Tour Dates: 7 – 15 February 2011

Kaokoveld : Desert Elephants & Himba (14 nights)
Tour Dates: 23 May – 6 June 2011

Zambia : Explorer Tour (19 nights)
Tour Dates: 11 - 30 July 2011

Khaudum & Caprivi : Remote Namibia (11 nights)
Tour Dates: 12 – 23 September 2011

For further details on these and other tours, e-mail us at **info@navigator4wd.co.za**. Alternatively, contact Karen at our office on **landline: +27 (0) 21 689 1825** or contact Chris on his **cell: +27 (0) 83 675 3484**.

March 2010



Hit the Trail ... / ... continues

SAFARI CENTRE HAS A NEW BUSHVELD FACILITY **Thaba Moia Safari Centre 4x4 Eco Route**

This year Safari Centre is expanding with their 4x4 training courses and club weekends! Now Safari Centre clients have the opportunity to join André de Villiers, Safari Centre director, presenter of Safari 4x4 Roetes on kykNET and winner of the 2008 and 2009 Bridgestone Fundi Challenge on a special 4x4 getaway weekend.

Enjoy a weekend packed with adventure on Thaba Moia game reserve, just outside Mookgophong (Naboomspruit) and learn how to get the best out of your 4x4 through quality theoretical and practical training in the bush.

The game reserve boasts with a variety of indigenous, as well as exotic game and birds. They also have a few dams perfect for fishing. Furthermore, there are also accommodation facilities such as chalets, camp/caravan grounds, as well as a boarding hall for big groups of visitors. At Thaba Moia Safari Centre Eco Route they provide for the whole family with excitement around every corner!

The training weekend begins on a Friday around the campfire where everyone gets to know each other a little better. Saturday morning starts with theoretical training, and is followed by practical exercises on a variety of 4x4 obstacles and routes. This exciting day ends yet again around the cosy campfire. Sundays are dedicated to leisure activities such as game drives, swimming, birdwatching, fishing or a variety of grade 1-5 4x4 tracks or hiking trails.

Visit www.safaricentre.co.za for further information regarding Thaba Moia Safari Centre Eco Route and for special rates.

SWAZI REG RAID – SWAZILAND

Dear all

This is just a not to let you know the Swazi Reg Raid is planned for 30 April 2011. Contact me if you want entry details

Groete Gert - gert.martie@gmail.com

INFORMATION NEEDED – PLEASE HELP

Hi,

I am planning to drive to Namibia with my diesel vehicle, problem is I must use low sulphur diesel in my vehicle, what is the availability En route and in Namibia ? Your guidance will be appreciated.

Regards

Kobus van Niekerk - kobus789 @ gmail. Com (remove blanks)



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ZIMBABWE NEWS

TIGER BAY - THE RAINS HAVE STARTED

The rains have arrived and how wonderful the bush is beginning to look. The different acacias flowering in whites and yellows. The Flame combretum, all red, is just about over but has been looking superb in the bush. The wild flowers are coming up in all their colours and the grass is greening up ready for the new season.

Tiger Bay resort is situated on the banks of the Ume river in 12 A frame chalets. The bream fishing and the Tiger fishing has been good. The hippo are still grazing around the chalets and there have been lots of sightings of the elephants, the buffalo and impala not to mention the abundant bird life.

You may drive to Tiger Bay in a 4 x 4 at this time of the year. You can catch the Pelican boat from Kariba and be at Tiger Bay in an hour and a half. There is a captain on board who will look after you and give you drinks. You can fly in with Solenta Air or you can drive your own boat in.

CHURA BUSH CAMP

Chura Bush Camp is available for a self catering stay. Beds, bedding, cooking facilities and deep freezer space is available. Each tent is en suite shower and toilet and sleeps two people. The elephant are known to walk through the camp site regularly, not to mention the hippo and other wild life.

The camp is electrified by a generator should you wish it in the evenings, otherwise it is just you and the sounds of the bush around you.

FARNSFIELD LODGE : NYANGA

The Msasas have been magnificent this year with all their different colours of red. Now everything is lovely and green having had wonderful rains up there. Farnsfield Lodge is nestled amongst the Msasa trees with a lovely view and a log fire burning. The cottage sleeps 6 people and is looked after by David who can cook for you. It is self catering and there is a small 5 KVA generator for lights when there is no ZESA and it also runs the DSTV. A trip to Nyanga is always refreshing and rejuvenating.

If you require any more information / bookings please contact Jacquie or Ashleigh on the addresses above or visit our website.

KARIBA CRUISE - ZAMBEZI TRADER

Come aboard and join us for a fabulous 3 night cruise into the Ume area or simply use us as a transfer to Tiger Bay

CRUISE RATES

TIGER BAY– Return \$60 - *We can provide an optional lunch for \$10* TO BE BOOKED 1 WEEK IN ADVANCE

ACCOMMODATION RATES

- Twin Cabins - \$115 per day per person sharing.
- Luxury Double Cabins - \$150 per day per person sharing.
- Presidential Suites - \$175 per day per person sharing.



These rates are inclusive of food, National Parks, V.A.T, Z.T.A levy, usage of tender boats for fishing, game viewing or sundowner cruises but NOT drinks. We have the capacity to accommodate 44 clients all in en-suite cabins on board the ship.

****Cabins can be booked individually OR contact us for group discounts !!****

CONQUEST TOURS

tours@conquesttours.co.zw

Tel: +263 4 332 450

+263 4 308 960

+263 772 239 134

MPLANGA AFRICA – MARKETEERS OF THE BEST OUTDOOR EXCURSIONS EVER!!!

Maplanga Africa Advertising & Graphic Design are proud to announce the launch our **website**, phew it's been a long time coming as we have been concentrating on providing our clients with advertising & marketing collateral instead of doing what we should have done years ago, marketing ourselves!

OK so it's still in the early stages and we will add to it as we go along and show off new work etc. Our focus remains the same, we create excellence for our clients in South Africa and surrounding countries such as: Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique, Kenya and Botswana.

I really hope you book-mark the page on favourites and when you have the need for what we offer, you may just give us a click... www.maplanga-advertising.co.za

Regards
Chris Wood

BEWARE OF WALKING IN THE BERG

For Your Safety and Enjoyment in the Mountains (KZN Wildlife sponsored)

The Drakensberg lies in the summer rainfall area of Southern Africa (October to March). During this time thunderstorms, accompanied by sleet and hail, can occur several days in succession. They are normally preceded by a small fluffy cloud build-up at high altitude by mid-morning. By midday, the storm is usually fully developed and lasts until mid-afternoon. This weather pattern makes early starts very important for the climber and hiker. During November through to February it is normally possible to begin walking by 7 a.m.

From September to April it is also usual to get periods of several days of rain and mist shrouding the summits, making hiking very unpleasant, if not impossible. Daytime temperatures can become very high and may be accompanied by high humidity. When heading out into the mountains:

- Always stick to paths unless specifically allowed to walk cross-country.
- Close all gates.
- Do not damage or disturb any flora or fauna.
- Do not litter in anyway.



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- Do not camp in any cave that has San/Bushman rock paintings or artefacts in it.
- Get permits if applicable.
- Do not make fires outside of demarcated fire places.
- Do not make fires in any caves.
- Do not camp in game reserves unless specifically allowed to.
- Do not take short cuts that can cause soil erosion.
- Always take the time to complete the mountain register correctly and in detail as it is very often the only information the rescue team has to go on if you have an accident or get lost. Your life may depend on this information.
- Remember that in certain areas you are entering Lesotho. If you intend hiking on the summit, carry a passport and your official KZNNCS receipt. Avoid crossing the border, if possible, by remaining close to the escarpment.
- Never leave any equipment unattended, and place all your belongings inside your tent at night. Hiking parties should consist of a minimum of four people.
- Do not camp near a stream or river as you could be washed away in a sudden storm.
- The weather conditions can change very rapidly.
- Always keep together and ensure that no-one falls behind.

NEW REGULATIONS IN ZIMBABWE

Take note: Stricter vehicle regulations in Zimbabwe from December (17 Wed, Nov 2010)

According to the latest Zimbabwe Government Gazette, vehicles will not be considered roadworthy unless they are equipped with a fire extinguisher, warning triangles, a serviceable spare wheel and an efficient jack and a wheel spanner.

The new regulations come into effect from December 1.

Specific guidelines for motorists include having two reflective warning triangles that conform to the Standards Association of Zimbabwe (SAZ) which must be placed at the front and rear of a vehicle in the event of a breakdown. According to the published guideline, the triangles must bear a serial number, name of the manufacturer and year of manufacture.

The guideline also states that all vehicles must carry an SAZ-approved fire extinguisher in a visible and accessible place in the cab of the vehicle as well as red and white reflectors. White reflectors are to be used at the front of the vehicle and red reflectors are to be used at the back of the vehicle.

Representatives of the motor industry in Zimbabwe have expressed concern over the new regulations and are looking for clarification from authorities on the issue of serial numbers and SAZ approval.

AfriFriends - Unique African Journeys
P.O.Box 1829, Rivonia, Sandton, 2128, SOUTH AFRICA
Tel: +27 (0)11 6096142 / Fax: +27 (0)88011 6096142
africa@afrifriends.co.za / www.afrifriends.co.za

(THIS HAS BEEN DELAYED TO 2011. Ed)



CAR AIR-CONDITIONING - VERY IMPORTANT!!!!

No wonder more folks are dying from cancer than ever before. We wonder where this stuff comes from but here is an example that explains a lot of the cancer causing incidents. Many people are in their cars first thing in the morning and the last thing at night, 7 days a week.

As I read this, it makes me feel guilty and ill. Please pass this on to as many people as possible. Guess it's not too late to make some changes Question: My car book says to roll down the windows to let out all the hot air before turning on A/C. Why is that? I have heard that it is very important to do that for health reasons! Answer: Car A/C (Air Conditioning) MUST READ!!!

Please do NOT turn on A/C as soon as you enter the car. Open the windows after you enter your car and then turn ON the AC after a couple of minutes.

Here's why:

According to research, the car dashboard, seats, air freshener emit Benzene, a Cancer causing toxin (carcinogen - take time to observe the smell of heated plastic in your car). In addition to causing cancer, Benzene poisons your bones, causes anaemia and reduces white blood cells. Prolonged exposure will cause Leukaemia, increasing the risk of cancer and also cause miscarriage.

Acceptable Benzene level indoors is 50mg per sq.ft. A car parked indoors with windows closed will contain 400-800 mg of Benzene. If parked outdoors under the sun at a temperature above 60 degrees F, the Benzene level goes up to 2000-4000 mg, 40 times the acceptable level.

People who get into the car, keeping windows closed will inevitably inhale, in quick succession, excessive amounts of the toxin. Benzene is a toxin that affects your kidney and liver. What's worse, it is extremely difficult for your body to expel this toxic stuff.

So friends, please open the windows and door of your car - give time for interior to air out -dispel the deadly stuff - before you enter.

Thought: 'When someone shares something of value with you and you benefit from it, you have a moral obligation to share it with others.' This is what snopes.com says. It is not the air conditioning in the car, but the Benzene producing agents that cause cancer. <http://www.snopes.com/medical/toxins/benzene.asp>

TIGER MOTH FLIPS IN JOBURG

A Tiger Moth acrobatic flight is more than just an adventure; it is a look into the past. This vintage WW2 aeroplane is in mint condition, she is a real beauty and she is ready and waiting to take you for the flight of your life.

In today's world, you don't see biplanes on the runway. Flight in general has become either supersized or sleeker, streamlined and a modern work of art. Leave all the modern and cutting edge flight innovations behind for a glimpse into the past. A Tiger Moth acrobatic flight will let you feel the wind in your hair, the sun on your face and offers you a sensational flight experience like no other.



Our Tiger Moth is an antique, perfect for all vintage enthusiasts or simply as a very unique gift to someone special. Give this once in a lifetime experience to yourself or a loved one, the Tiger Moth acrobatic flight adventure is one nobody will ever forget.

Contact info@adventurebookings.co.za

HI OCTANE DAY AT SWARTKOPS AIRFORCE BASE

We would like to invite your readers, club and all members of your club to come and exhibit their vehicles and / or equipment at our High Octane Fun Day that is to be held at the Swartkops Air Force base on Saturday 5 March 2011.

Great prizes will be up for grabs in various categories. Other entertainment on the day will include the following; There will be lots of entertainment for everyone on the day, including a flea market with over 100 stalls, jumping castles for the kids, a beer tent and big screen TV for the rugby.

The Air Force Museum will also display some old Aircraft and hold a mini air show. Further entertainment on the day will include a 5km, a 10km and 21km fun run and a 5km fun walk .

We will also stage a 15km, a 30km and a 60km cycle race. The event will be widely advertised including newspaper ads, street pole ads and radio promotions as well as on the internet

For more information please contact Johan Fourie 082 749 1764 - johanf@lando.co.za

NEW VENUE IN LESOTHO FOR 4x4 ENTHUSIASTS

Maliba Mountain Lodge is the first 5* lodge in Lesotho, just kilometers from amazing 4x4 routes and adventure trails to keep any 4x4, adventure junkie asking for more! With year round specials to entice you Maliba Mountain Lodge is your affordable luxury accommodation option!

Located in the Royal Mountain Kingdom of Lesotho, within the Tsehlanyane National Park. Maliba Mountain Lodge is a retreat set in a pristine sub-alpine wilderness valley, deep in the North of Lesotho's breathtaking Maluti / Drakensburg Mountains.

Guests are accommodated in one of six private and luxurious Basotho-style mountain chalets. Each chalet is over 80m2 and is tastefully decorated with natural earthy tones. Warmth and comfort are key elements that have been incorporated into the design of the chalets. The warm design element has been expressed by under-floor heating, electric blankets, heated towel rails and wall panels which create a comfortable living environment for guests during the cooler months. The highlight of the warm design element is the open fireplace in each chalet that sets the evening mood for a romantic discussion of the day's events.

A deep 2 person bath offers guests breathtaking views as one relaxes and soaks up the tranquil surroundings. A king size, extra length bed and mood lighting help to create the final comfort features expected in luxury accommodation. A private viewing deck, nestled in the trees provides guests with a completely unique way to touch the heart of Lesotho Mountains losing oneself in the charm of the peaceful surroundings.

Or you can look at the Self Catering option, guests would be accommodated in one of four private thatched river lodges. Each River Lodge is self contained with modern kitchens and separate



lounge and dining areas leading on to the open wooden deck with river views. There are 4 bedrooms with the master bedroom being en-suite. The remaining carpeted bedrooms are upstairs. Under-floor heating and electric blankets create a comfortable living environment for guests during the cooler months.

For more information and rate enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to hearing from you

Taryn Armitage
MALIBA MOUNTAIN LODGE
Durban Head Office
Tel: +27 (0) 31 702 8791 / Fax: +27 (0) 31 702 8776

Email: taryn@maliba-lodge.com / Website: www.maliba-lodge.com; www.maliba.co.za;
Package: www.lesotholodge.co.ls | Skype: malibalodge (Maliba Reservation)

FOOD AT VIC FALLS

Morning Alan,

All good in Vic Falls at the moment, getting some rain, heat is a little easier and it is Green boss, green green!! Trust all is well with you.

WE have settled in Victoria Falls and after many months we managed to keep the faith and set up an operation in which people can trust when it comes to food. Africa Food Settlers is proud to announce that we have been asked to take over the Food and Beverage Department at the Rainbow Hotel in Victoria Falls.

We have some interesting things on the cards and look forward to many happy faces leaving the pool deck, bar, panorama and gardens. Christmas is a great time for relaxing, we are in fact not. We have a new menu in place, we have a traditional Christmas lunch going, with Boxing Day specials as well as an ALL Day New Years day Brunch – medicinal of course.

Should you know of anyone coming into region, please let them know we are ready to assist in any way possible, whether just advice, or actual sharing of a meal, we are around and look forward to seeing them.

Good luck and keep the Newsletters coming.

Nico Westraat
Zim Cell: 263 (0)915 109333 / SA Cell: 27 (0)73 2360283 / FAX: 27 (0) 86 685 0965

IS THIS TRUE? NEW LAWS AGAIN!!!

Please take note of the following notification received from SASM (<http://www.sasm.co.za/>) regarding licence suspension for speeding:

Important information - Licence Suspension - Proclamation in the government gazette.



Those that have attended our AARTO seminars are aware that since June 2009 SASM has highlighted that a possible amendment to the National road Traffic Act was in the making, whereby Magistrates would be granted extra power to suspend driving licences in instances where motorists exceed 30km/h above the speed limit in urban areas (eg: 90+ km/h in a 60 km/h zone) and 40km/h above the speed limit outside an urban area.

This is now law as from 20/11/2010 and magistrate where necessary can flex their muscles and now suspend your licence. The simple principle now applies - do not speed under any circumstances. The risk is great, the outcome is disastrous.

National Road Traffic Amendment Act 64 of 2008

Amendment of section 35 of Act 93 of 1996 12. Section 35 of the principal Act is hereby amended—(a) by the insertion in subsection (1) after paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

“(aA) section 59(4), in the case of a conviction for an offence, where—
(i) a speed in excess of 30 kilometers per hour over the prescribed general speed limit in an urban area was recorded; or (ii) a speed in excess of 40 kilometers per hour over the prescribed general speed limit outside an urban area or on a freeway was recorded;

National Road Traffic Act Amendment - Commencement - 20/11/2010 - Government Gazette Proclamation of the above. by the President of the Republic of South Africa - No. 60, 2010 COMMENCEMENT OF THE NATIONAL ROAD TRAFFIC AMENDMENT ACT, 2008 (ACT NO.64 OF 2008)

In terms of section 28 of the National Road Traffic Amendment Act, 2008 (Act No. 64 of 2008), I hereby fix 20 November 2010 as the date on which the said Act shall come into operation.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Republic of South Africa at Pretoria on this 25th day of October, Two Thousand and Ten.

President

By Order of the President

KARIBU SAFARIS (MANKWE) HAS SPACE FOR EASTER

Just a reminder that we still have campsites available over the Easter Weekend, on the 350 000ha Mankwe concession bordering the East side of Moremi Game Reserve, Okavango Delta. The cost per person remains at an affordable BWP125-00 per adult per day and children under 12 years BWP63-00 per day.

Below, please find our fact sheet. Would you please be so kind as to pass this info onto your members.

Camelthorn & Mopane Campsites

INCLUDES: Allocated campsite, running water, fire bucket for warming water on the fire, Ablution facilities and daily campsite cleaning.

EXCLUDES: Fire wood, braai grids or stands, refuse bags, drinking water, park fees and activities



WHAT TO EXPECT AT YOUR CAMPSITE:

Maximum capacity of 20 persons per campsite
When you book in you will be provided with a fire bucket for heating water
A staff member will come around to clean your campsite and remove refuse
Each campsite has a tank to supply water to the site (Please Note: Not suitable for drinking – bring your own drinking water)

ABLUTION FACILITIES

Toilet cubicle with flushing seated toilet
Shower cubicle with pull-up bucket shower (fire buckets are provided to heat up shower water).
A centre cubicle with hand basin, tap with running cold water.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES ON OFFER (Please enquire for rates)

Night drives in concession area (2 hours)
Guided walking trails (2 hours – 4 pax max per walk)
Game Drive in Moremi (full day, morning & afternoon snacks, packed lunch)

Looking forward to seeing you in the vast Wilderness of Botswana soon.

Kindest Regards

Stuart M Bartman - Managing Director
Karibu Safari Botswana
+267 7224 7850 / Karibubots@info.bw

Central Reservations

Private Bag 39, Maun, Botswana
Tel: +267 686 1225 Fax: +267 680 0390
Email : karibubots@info.bw

WHATS UP IN NAMIBIA AFTER THE RAINS – SNIPPETS ON ROAD CONDITIONS – Compliments of tour brief.com

[Auob Country Lodge](#) campsite has been closed due to flooding. Depending on the rains the campsite may be closed for several days. The Lodge is open and roads leading to Auob Country Lodge are drivable, but slippery. Please drive slowly. Keep an eye on updated road conditions, [here...](#)

[Solitaire Country Lodge](#) reports that the he Tsondeb River has stopped flowing and the detour is no longer required. Generally the C19 is in a good condition. Keep an eye on updated road conditions, [here...](#)

[Namushasha Country Lodge](#) advises that the C49 (M125) between Kongola & Katima is very wet and slippery. A 4x4 is required. The Namushasha Country Lodge access road has a sign posted detour around a flooded area. Please drive slow. Keep an eye on updated road conditions, [here...](#)



[Tsumkwe Country Lodge](#) advises that the C44 from the B8 turn off to Tsumkwe is very wet and slippery. Please drive slowly! Several of the smaller roads around Tsumkwe are in a very bad condition. A 4x4 is required and caution should be exercised before crossing any flooded roads. Keep an eye on updated road conditions, [here...](#)

[Opuwo Country Hotel](#) reports:

- Parts of the C43 road between Opuwo and Epupa Falls are in a bad condition. Only drive this road with a 4x4.
- Parts of the C43 road between Sesfontein and Opuwo are in a bad condition. Only drive this road with a 4x4. Alternatively use the C35 to drive from / to Opuwo.

Keep an eye on updated road conditions, [here...](#)

The Savuti Channel has flooded and the road from Kasane to the Okavango Delta is closed. Travel between Namibia and Victoria Falls is not affected. Keep an eye on updated road conditions, [here...](#)

The Löwen River is in flood and part of the C12 between Seeheim and Holog, en route to the Fish River Canyon lookout point, cannot be used. Please drive the B4 from Keetmanshoop and turn into the D545. The road bypasses the flooded area and re-joins the C12. Keep an eye on updated road conditions, [here...](#)

EWT TALK AND DINNER : ARE DUGONGS SOON TO BE A MYTH OF THE OCEAN?

Join us as Karen Allen introduces you to the magical world of Dugongs and the crucial elements of an Emergency Protection Project to save this species from extinction.

Date: 8 February 2011

Time: 18:30 for 19:00

Price: Members: R50 for talk and R115 for dinner, Non-members: R75 for talk and R115 for dinner

Place: Country Club, Johannesburg. Napier Road, Auckland Park

Contact Nicola Vogel on 011 486 1102 or nicolav@ewt.org.za

BAOBABWE BUSH CAMP & HIKING TRAILS:

Situated close to the Limpopo and Shashi Rivers on Linton Private Game Farm in the All Days/Mussina District. It is in the heart of the Limpopo Valley Conservancy & close to Mapungubwe.

Visitors will enjoy our "Big 5 Birds" – Corrie Bustard, Ground Hornbill, Secretary Bird and Saddle Bill Stork, as well as 5 of the Big 6 Trees – Marula, Knob thorn, Rain Tree (Apple Leaf), Leadwood and Mopane, in addition to the prolific **BAOBABS**.

Accommodation is a partly built / tented "hunters camp" for groups up to 14 sharing. (There is a 6-bed hut, 4-bed tent, as well as 2 x 2-bed tents.) Beds with 10 cm thick mattresses with linen and towels provided.

No bunk beds. Two showers hot and cold water (donkey) pre-lit by camp attendant. Two flush toilets. Fully equipped kitchen with braai area and gas stove, fridge and deepfreeze. (All cutlery, crockery and cooking utensils provided)

Lighting – lamps provided. Fire wood provided. Cozy social Lapa.



Dams to cool off in.
(Bring only own food and drinks)

EXCELLENT:

Game viewing (more than 20 species),
Bird watching (175 species and counting), Unforgettable Star gazing!!
Hiking and Mountain biking!!

OUR HIKING TRAILS:

There are THREE day hiking routes:
Route 1:10 km, Route 2: 7km, Route 3:11km
The outstanding feature of the trail is the majestic Baobab Trees which forms the central theme of the trail. Swimming spots and dams along the trails.

MOUNTAIN BIKING:

There is a clearly marked Trail – 18 km and more dirt roads.

OUR RATES:

R200 p.p.p.n Children U/4 free of charge.
Bring 14 hikers and pay for 10 only!
Minimum TWO nights.
(Unfortunately no reservations during hunting season: May to July).

BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES:

ANVIE VENTURES: (012) 662 1140/ 0586 or 072 892 2908
anvie@iburst.co.za / www.anvieventures.co.za

ROTTEN!

As we drive through a game reserve, we are often hit with a terrible smell and someone will say "theres a kill here" or "something is dead". If we are lucky enough to be able to see the carcass, how do we know which it is, or how long it has been there?

Decomposition is the process by which organic material is broken down into simpler forms of matter. The process is essential for recycling the finite matter that occupies physical space in the biome. Bodies of living organisms begin to decompose shortly after death. Although no two organisms will decompose in the same way, they will all undergo the same sequential stages of decomposition.

Five general stages are used to describe the process of decomposition. Fresh, Bloat, Active and Advanced Decay, and Dry/Remains.

The general stages of decomposition are coupled with two stages of chemical decomposition, autolysis and putrefaction. These two stages contribute to the chemical process of decomposition, which breaks down the main components of the body. The fresh stage begins immediately after cessation of the heart. Blood is no longer pumped through the body and so drains to the lower parts of the body under gravity creating an overall discolouration termed livor mortis. Shortly after death, the muscular tissues become rigid and incapable of contraction which



is known as rigor mortis. Finally, the body begins losing heat to the surrounding environment, resulting in an overall cooling called algor mortis.

Once the heart stops, chemical changes occur within the body and result in changes in pH, causing cells to lose their structural integrity. The loss of cell structure brings about the release of cellular enzymes capable of initiating the breakdown of surrounding cells and tissues. This process is known as autolysis. Oxygen present in the body is quickly depleted by the aerobic organisms found within. This creates an ideal environment for the proliferation of anaerobic organisms. Anaerobic organisms, originating in the gastrointestinal tract and respiratory system, begin to transform carbohydrates, lipids, and proteins, to yield organic acids (propionic acid, lactic acid) and gases (methane, hydrogen sulphide, ammonia). The process of microbial proliferation within a body is referred to as putrefaction and leads to the second stage of decomposition, known as bloat.

Blowflies and flesh flies will be the first carrion insects to arrive, and will seek a suitable site to deposit their eggs, known as an oviposition site. The bloat stage provides the first clear visual sign that microbial proliferation is underway. During this stage, anaerobic metabolism takes place, leading to the accumulation of gases, such as hydrogen sulphide, carbon dioxide, and methane. The accumulation of gases within the bodily cavity causes the distention of the abdomen and gives a dead animal its overall bloated appearance. The gases produced also cause natural liquids and liquefying tissues to become frothy. As the pressure of the gases within the body increases, fluids are forced to escape from natural orifices, such as the nose, mouth, and anus, and enter the surrounding environment. The build up of pressure may also cause rupturing of the skin.

If insects have access to a decomposing body by the bloat stage, maggots will have hatched and begun to feed on the body's tissues. Maggot activity, typically confined to natural orifices and masses under the skin, will cause the skin to slip and hair to detach from the skin. Maggot feeding, and the accumulation of gases within the body, will eventually lead to post-mortem skin ruptures which will further allow purging of gases and fluids into the surrounding environment. Ruptures in the skin will allow oxygen to re-enter the body and provide more surface area for the development of fly larvae and the activity of aerobic microorganisms. The purging of gases and fluids results in the strong distinctive odours associated with decay.

Active decay is characterized by the period of greatest mass loss. This loss occurs as a result of both the voracious feeding of maggots and the purging of decomposition fluids into the surrounding environment. The purged fluids accumulate around the body during this time and strong odours persist. The end of active decay is signaled by the migration of maggots away from the body to pupate.

Decomposition is largely inhibited during advanced decay due to the loss of readily available body material. Insect activity is also reduced during this stage. When the carcass is located on soil, the area surrounding it will show evidence of vegetation death. The area surrounding the carcass will display an increase in soil carbon and nutrients, such as phosphorus, potassium, calcium, and magnesium and changes in pH plus a significant increase in soil nitrogen.

During the dry remains stage, the resurgence of plant growth around the remains may occur and is a sign that the nutrients present in the surrounding soil have not yet returned to their normal



levels. All that remains of the body at this stage is dry skin, cartilage, and bones, which will become dry and bleached if exposed to the elements.

Of course this process is speeded up in the event that the animals was preyed on. Carnivores will remove a great deal of the flesh and internal organs and scavengers eat the rest, including skin and bones. Putrification and the presence of maggots will excellerate due to the opening of the carcass as the carnivore rips it open to get at the choice sections.

KZN Wildlife Rhino Club E-Zine

BHEJANE 4x4 TOURS

All the prices quoted include

- All guest-house, lodge and or tented accommodation
- All camp fees
- Three meals a day
- All park entrance fees
- All advertised activities
- Bhejane Adventures provides al the tents, cutlery and crockery
- Coffee & Tea – all day every day whilst in camp

What you need to bring

- You and your family, Your passport
- Your vehicle & fuel
- Your own mattresses and sleeping bags
- Your own fold-up chairs
- Your own drinks and in-between snacks

Contact Frank or Dennis on info@bhejane.com

January 2010

From the Tracks – Reader Feedback

NEWSLETTER / MEETING FEEDBACK

Hi Alan

Just a few words to thank you and the sponsors for the great prizes given away on Tuesdays enthusiast meeting. I received my Tactical torch today and what a great product this is. It actually shines right through a brick wall.... ok, not quite but it is getting close! Watch out for the next model.

Thank you
Ronald



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ECO4X4AFRICA FOR SAFARIS AND TOURS IN 12 AFRICAN COUNTRIES 2010

This Tour program is for the 4x4 Off-road Club and for members receiving the E-Zine newsletter

The following Terms and Conditions apply for **Club Members only**

1. Adults – Listed price LESS 15% **for members and included for family members**
2. High School Children 13-18 years 50% of the listed price
3. Primary School Children 6-12 years 25% of the listed price
4. Not in School Children – 10% of the listed price
5. All tours for members are Non Catered Tours

The following Terms and Conditions apply for **Non Club Members but E-Zine Readers**

1. All persons – Listed Price LESS 5% - Adults to 6 years old's
2. All tours for Readers are Non Catered Tours.

General

1. Nett prices are Nett and confirmed as Nett
2. Catering is possible and can be included at roughly 15% of the Listed Price

All price include VAT and if you are register for VAT – Please request a VAT INVOICE
Some of these Tour can be used as a Corporate Reward Programs

Contact Detail

Alex Smit

Professional Tour Operator & Guide

Registered: Adventure (4x4 & Overland), Nature (FGASA) and Culture (SA(DEAT Registered: GP2227)

Mobile: + 27 (0) 82 570 6010

Tel: + 27 (0) 12 743 5111 (Computer Office 1) / Tel: + 27 (0) 12 804 2701 (Office 2)

Fax: + 27 (0) 12 804 9382 (Office)

Email: alex@eco4x4africa.com

Skype Name: eco4x4africa / Skype Number +27127435111

Membership of:

Field Guide Association of SA

Four Wheel Drive Guides Association SA

South African Guests: www.eco4x4africa.com

International Guests: www.eco4x4safaris.com

COMPANY: ECO4X4AFRICA CC (2006/162954/23)

VAT: 4320235056

January 2010



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Emergency Break!

Hi to all our 4x4 Off-road Adventure Club & Isibonela Adventure friends. May this never happen to you or your family!

What are you going to do if your house or your car is on fire?

Have you got an evacuation plan?

In today's day and time where crime is in the order of the day, our houses are so secure that we all live in "Fort Knox". A critical question is, if nobody can get in, can we get out?

Many fires this time of the year are caused by candles and fireworks!

Keep in mind that some of us live in a one story and others in multiple story homes. That means our evacuation procedures would be different. Here are some points to remember when drawing up an evacuation plan:

- Make sure that there is more than one escape route, one may be blocked.
- Leave the key in the door when locking bedroom doors from the inside, keys are hard to find when you cannot see.
- You should be able to find your way out in a smoke filled area.
- Lightly touch the door before opening it, if it is hot, do not open the door!
- Stay low to the ground, smoke rises which makes it easier to breathe down at floor level.
- Windows that do not open should preferably have no burglar bars. Breaking the glass may be your escape route. Is there something to do this with?
- Make sure you have an assembly point outside where family members can gather.
- Once outside, never go back for valuables or pets. Let the Fire Fighters care about that.
- Make sure every family member knows what to do, even the little ones.
- Never use an elevator during a fire, always use the stairs.

Smell a fire whilst driving?

- When your car is on fire, Stop the car and turn off the ignition! evacuate the car as soon as possible.
- Always aim the fire extinguishing agent at the base or source of the fire and not on top.
- The fire extinguisher of your car should be in the cab where you can reach it in an emergency, and not locked in the canopy or in the boot.

Try and kill the fire before it gets out of control:

If a person's clothing is on fire, cover him with a blanket or roll on the ground!
If the oven is on fire, keep the door closed!

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If a pot on the stove is on fire, cover with a lid, or place a bigger pot upside down over it to smother the fire. Never use water on a stove fire!

Tip: Do you have an easily accessible, and working fire extinguisher in the home and in your car? Does every family member know how to use it?

Safe & Healthy 4x4ing
Joke Wandrag
Head of Training / Accredited Assessor and Moderator
SA First Aid League - Accredited with DOL & HWSETA
rwandrag@mweb.co.za / www.firstaidleague.co.za

Fresh from the Bush – New Products

LYNX 4x4 WEB SITE UP AND RUNNING

Dear Valued Customer

It is with great pleasure that we would like to introduce our new website (finally!). All our products are there as well as a "mail us" option where you will be able to communicate with us directly through e-mail. There is also a map on there to locate us a bit easier.

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Thanks & Kind Regards
Howard Carpenter
082 515 8806

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Please pass this on to anyone that you may know who may be interested this great product.

Many Thanks,

Keith Rivers

083 844 3700 / 011 447 5288

The Dusty Way – Club Trips, Reports & Feedbacks

2011 KICK OFF WEEKEND

Hi Alan

Dankie, die naweek was great! Die kinders veral het hul gate uit geniet! Ek sien baie uit na die Weskus toer. Laat weet gerus as ons met iets kan help.

Kind Regards

André Verster

Hi Alan,

From the Van der Merwe's it was a great weekend and I feel sorry for those that did not attend as they clearly do not know what they have missed. Once again thanks for a great family "CLUB" much appreciated.

The vd Merwe (Kim) Family

Hi Alan,

Thanks for an absolutely awesome weekend at Koro Koro. It was really nice to meet up with old friends, make new friends and see just how family orientated the club is. The 4x4Offroad Adventure Club is a leader in the industry.

Kind Regards

Douglas Norval

Hi Alan

I wholeheartedly agree – thanks to all the guides for the kids focus and programme – it was great! Well done and thanks to Jvlian, Grant, Karine, Kim, Sanette, Gareth, Andri, and Frans.

Regards

Jono & Sean Owen



DAY TRIP: MOEGATLE 4X4 TRAILS

Saturday 22 January 2011

The group met at the Sasol Garage on the R55 and drove in convoy to Moegatle, about 30kms north-west of Brits. Johan Malherbe was weekendening nearby so joined the group at Moegatle. We were met by Alex and Betsie Fullard and after signing indemnities and deflating tyres we set off at 10h30 behind Alex in his red Toyota bakkie. While Alex guides each vehicle over obstacles Betsie records on video. The trail starts gently with most of the obstacles being eroded sand gullies.

Our first intimidating obstacle was "OuRyPerd" with 3 options – rock, sand and the escape route. I tried the rock and due to lack of traction had to change route to the sand option. The next vehicle's CV Joint decided to give in near the top of the obstacle and the vehicle had to be recovered. This led to an impromptu Bush Mechanics course and a lunch break for the rest of the group.

Another interesting obstacle was where we exited a sandy river bed up a steep eroded bank. This gave great photo opportunities with lots of wheels spinning high in the air and then driving over a wide gully that you had to straddle to make it up. The last vehicle was challenged with a slippery track after being churned up by the previous vehicles, apparently this was made worse because the aircon was left on. After a driver change and more struggling the vehicle bounced out of the obstacle to the relief of the 3 back seat driver who swore they'd seen their lives flashing before their eyes!

From there we meandered through the farm, across some rather big pebbles (according to Grant), through amazing water crossings and up to one of the terrors of the trail. We took the back route up "Koos se Klim" and were rewarded with the most magnificent views of the surrounding countryside. After slowly crawling down the steep rock we made our way back to Moegatle base camp where we enjoyed a well-deserved cold drink. Josh and Teagan rushed out to try their luck with a fishing rod in the Moegatle Dam while we all had a good laugh when Betsie played back the video she had been taking all day – she did an excellent job and it was nice to be able to see how you handled an obstacle from a spectator's perspective.

It was a good day of driving with technical and challenging obstacles where we tested our skills under the guidance of Alex. This experience was enhanced by a wonderful group of friends. Thank you all for making my first guiding experience a pleasant one.

Jvlian Jarvis
Guide

2010 FACES OF THE NAMIB DUNES TRIP – A TEENAGERS PERSPECTIVE

Written by Sadie van der Merwe, a teenage passenger on the trip

Thursday Day 1: 23-09-2010

After all had had coffee and had a team talk to discuss the road ahead we all left and we travelled and picked up the 9th vehicle of our convoy the Niewenhuizen at Fochville. From there the whole convoy was together and then tomorrow we meet up with the Loxton's, the last guys in the convoy. The roads were very busy going to Kuruman where we had our lunch break for an half an hour where all of us filled our bellies and massaged our bums, we all had our different meals and



went for a water break. We all had fun and when I say fun it was a lot of fun riding all the way to Upington... We saw lots of dead grass for the whole day and from Delareyville we travelled on a straight peace of road until Upington...On the way in we road passed "DEREKS PIENK KOEI". We got to our camp site about 15h15 the afternoon it was warm, windy and nice we were all tired and took a power nap... After that our guide Kim Van Der Merwe said that "we can go and eat but be back at 19:30 for the team talk." After we all had our supper we went back to our camp site and had our showers and went to sleep. We travelled 840km for the day.

Friday Day 2: 24-04-2010

A long day has arrived and we had to be up at 3'o clock for the first group to leave at 4'o clock. We had to leave in 15 minute gaps and in groups of 3 cars. We went through the border post at 6:45 and they were very friendly and polite and made jokes with us, the jokes they made were "you are wanted so enjoy your stay if you come back report yourself at the border and you can stay with us." That was said to Jonathans' son Sean. After we all went through the border control we heard that the LOXTON'S were on the road and very tired. Our first stop for the day was in Karasburg for an half an hour and had breakfast, from there we went to Keetmanshoop to go get wood where Alan said we will find wood but...to no avail so we had to go and find it.

At last we found wood at a Shoprite and engine garage in Mariental, that's where we had out lunch for the day. Then came the long road ahead to solitaire and the roads where straight and flat!!! We travelled 111 km until the gravel road; we deflated tires and travelled the gravel road for 150km until we got to Solitaire. Something shocking to know was that the gravel road was better than the roads that we travel in Gauteng!!!! We got to solitaire at about 16:00 and that's when we heard that the Loxton family was a hour behind us" we all thought that Roelof had given his car REDBULL cause they were flying on the roads"

We all went and sat at the lodge dinner tables were we all got to know our guides Eben and Marita for the trip and our cooks Frankie and Frans... We all got together at 19:00 for supper and after all had filled their bellies and talked everything out we went to bed. But that's when the shocking news came to the Van Der Merwe family our guide for the trip Kim got a kidney stone and was in pain the whole night, during the night he thought it went away and so we all did and carried on with the trip. We travelled 971 km for the day. And Marius and his wife Tersia Schoeman were heavy loaded on their Land Cruiser Prado so he and the famous Derek with his pienk koei said that he will take Marius petrol and wood, and then Marius will take Derek's boards for the sand...

Saturday Day 3: 25-09-2010

Hey!! Another day has arrived and Kim's kidney stone was dormant, so he thought, and we all went and had our breakfast and left at 08:30 to get on the road. We travelled on a gravel road for about 30 km until we turned left to the gate and rode another 20km on a heavy corrugated road and if you didn't have something rattling after that road then the car you are riding is rattle prove, there we stopped and blew our tires down till 0.8 bar. From there Eben told us about the burned up car (VW Golf) that poachers had used and their gear box packed up and then caught fire and set the whole place on fire, the car has been standing ever since. From there we rode on the most beautiful piece of sand it was red but you can't explain to other people how nice it was cause to them it's just sand they'll say what do you see nice in sand. But to us the sand was the most gorgeous thing there we travelled between the dunes for kilometres on and on... We reached a point where Eben pointed to us were they road 3 years earlier and the tracks of the



vehicles were still there, it been 3 years and they haven't travelled on that road again and the tracks don't want to clear, but he said it takes about 10-15 years for the tracks to clear away. So we travelled and saw all the beautiful things in nature.

We travelled and saw lots of bucks and animals (Gemsbok, springbuck and a desert rabbit) along the road so we travelled and talked on the radio to know when we are going to have lunch, Eben said just another 20min or so then we are stopping for lunch, so on the way Kim turbo light came on and then things where going through our heads why is everything happing to us we did nothing to no one! Everyone stopped and tried to help us and they were all trying but no one knew about a turbo so Kim thought and thought and things were going through his mind and he didn't want to spoil the holiday for his kids and everyone else so we had our lunch in quite. As we went on the cars Noise on the Prado of Kim got harder and that's when he asked Eben if there is an exit to Walvis Bay for us to go and see if they can't fix the car.

We rode next to the Kuiseb River it was the most beautiful thing you could see there wasn't any water in the river but the way the red sand dunes formed next to it and around it was so beautiful against the black rock of the Kuiseb River! We rode around the top of the Kuiseb River until we got to a dune that we had to go down that was about ± 100 m long and steep, there you didn't give petrol you only went down on compression, if you give petrol you would and can roll your vehicle. As we all went down the dune we were waiting for Marius, Tersia and Jono plus the Fire truck(this is the Land Cruiser that was the backup vehicle with Frans and Frankie driving) one of them was stuck (Marius and Tersia) but not the fire truck that vehicle is indestructible but as Marius came down we saw someone running behind the Prado and we all laughed cause it was Tersia,

she ran down the dune behind the Prado as once he had come unstuck she told him to keep going not wanting him to get stuck again. We travelled in the river and it was rocks, sand and anything you can think of from the last time the river had come down in flood three years ago. So we made it to our camp site and all pitched up their tents and went to sit around the fire and had a talk of the day and had out laughs for the day. As all had supper and had a shower we all said our goodnights and climbed into out sleeping bags and went to sleep.

Sunday Day 4: 26-09-2010

Yet another day had arrived as we woke up from a peaceful nights rest, sending greetings around with each car's engine getting started. (Maybe the next time a sound of hooters might resound as a morning greeting) Breakfast was served and all enjoyed themselves as they indulged in the morning coffee and cereal, accompanied by some yoghurt and muffins (though to some it was categorized as cupcakes.) Thus led to the next part of the journey, having inflated the tires to 1.5 PSI before setting off between the mountains of rock. On one of the rock faces, a "school" of baboons raged on, running on top the rock, screaming like primary scholars as they went. What was amazing though was the scenery that awaited as a see of grass trees and plants lied ahead between these mountain like structures, followed by a contrast you can only stare at from experience as a sand like area lay on one side of the now dry river with a rock mountain surface at the other. Split by the green plants in between.

Passing by the mountain, some parts were almost smooth-like as you passed by moving closer to the dunes that lay beyond. But even in this desert, life can be found as plants and animals appear on the journey. A gemsbok running across the sand and even appearing in areas where sand stretches on for miles, watching the cars as it passed(it was almost as if it was spying on us,



never knowing when the same buck is near.) One of the plants we encountered a strange plant known as an "Welwitschia Mirabilis" which can grow up to 1000 years old (± 800 around Swartkop) and surprisingly, only has 2 leaves yet it looks more like a dozen with the wind applying wear and tear as it were, housing many different insects and feels like a rock when one touches it.

"Miserable indeed" one commented, "I'd be miserable for growing in one place for 400 years." Passing by these plants one random tree was found with nothing but sand all around it, providing some shade to an "Welwitschia Mirabilis" right next to it. What is a desert? A place where the rainfall is less than evaporation of the specific area, as Eben puts it. Even in this happy adventure a sorrowful moment can rise as we said good-bye (temporally) to one family, friends to us all, who reluctantly departed for car trouble, taking precaution for the best. Thus a new leader was chosen, as so was from the beginning of this journey electing Jonathan as the new leader, quickly organizing each cars new position.

Deflating our tires once more the adventure returns to the sands, where upon arrival pebbles lay on either sides in the area known as a "pebble plain" where pebbles were smooth from having met the combination of wind and sands. There was even an area where copper tin and uranium used to be mined as some remaining structures still stand. Into the dunes we arrive, driving over the smaller ones upon entry, where some cars did find it difficult, yet the "big ones" was still to come. Luckily our trusty "kitchen crew" found none going the group and even signalling its fire truck siren and bell as it fell in (the fire brigade in the desert...who would've thought? He he) and even resounded the bell when lunch was to be served.

After filling ourselves with a well-prepared meal we continued our journey, finally arriving at the big dune where even Eben found it difficult to cross at the first getting stuck a top of the hill. But one-by-one each car crossed, some finding the challenge easier than others, and so we headed towards our next camping site. Now a well-deserved rest awaits as each family sets up camp, fighting with the wind as they went, and settled down, awaiting the next day where more adventures await.

Monday Day 5: 27-09-2010

Some people who drive convertibles say when asked why, that they do it for "the sun on my skin and the wind in my hair..." amongst other things, and indeed this is fun, but when the suns starting to get too hot and the wind is combined with sands being flung into your eyes and hair, maybe it should be reconsidered. Today our journey continues after an enjoyable evening of sand boarding (woohoo!) and some fooling around as a few cars attempted to drive over the dune at camp (for fun) but failing miserably. Before leaving the campsite however a few individuals marched off with spades to which Eben commented, "Rule 10, the most important of the 10: Do not dig where the tracks are in the sand!" disposing of the probability of finding (or digging up) some surprise. We left camp back into the dunes, searching for own next campsite, only to be greeted with some more difficult dunes, causing many unscheduled, temporary stops (TI), one where the convoy waited for Jonathan to clear the dune, trying to move it as he went with continuous attempts (perhaps some beer is in order as compensation, he he).

But all cleared this and headed on to the next, greeted by quite a difficult dune on which 2 cars in particular gained a lot of attention. One was the car of Johan and Willy, who with the help from our personal fire truck + Derek Booysen was pulled free and succeeded on the 3rd attempt. The other was the car of the Doc (Adriaan Snyder's), who rather flew over the top for a brief 3 or so



seconds, going up with speed rather than power. Even so, all the cars safely crossed the dune and the adventures continued as we drove on, entering the sand valley not far off where crystallized sand/rock/earth lay scattered, amongst a few rock structures of an orange colour, which was a sight to see.

Although as we proceeded, a more remarkable sight was displayed as you can see the sand being swept by the wind against the dunes, whether on a flat surfaces or one that was more at an angle, the sand just continuously dancing on. And so it went, finding minimum difficulty from the cars, till one of the families needed to replace a tire, giving yet another temporary halt. But even this didn't keep us from completing our scheduled route for the day, driving on with only the wind covering some of the tracks from time to time. Finally we reached our final dune for the day, a distance of 99 meters with quite a thrilling angle, letting the cars slowly descend one by one.

Form the view of those waiting for their turn, it almost seemed like the cars were being swallowed by quicksand as they went up and then begun their descent. It was a thrilling adventure, as the whole journey thus far the cars seeked their new campsite awaiting the rest to come, but even as the excitement still brewed as some ascended the new dune with sand boards, wanting to experience some adrenaline of their own. One even attempted something he'd like to call the "Human Tumble dryer" running down the dune only to finish the rest by rolling on towards the bottom. So we wait for the next day, relaxing and having fun, enjoying this journey from start to finish.

Tuesday Day 6: 28-09-2010

Another morning approaches as we slowly woke up, in no hurry since no tents needed to be folded today. All that lay ahead was a trip to Conception Bay, passing one of four mining towns as the route was laid out. But before this, the morning meal awaits where another visitor joined us, scavenging for food amongst us while being weary at what was around it as the "Namibian Dune Lark" camped at our feet. The mining town we came across was once the Conception Water works where water was pumped via pipelines to other towns nearby. A famous story of this town is of a police officer who stayed in the town's condo of both police station and post office, which once was a morgue of Swartkop.

The story goes that this particular officer had a fear of jackals and even slept on the table in his office locking everything before he retired. A time later the officer called in a doctor, complaining of continuous headaches, stating that the colour of the corpse that probably sank into the wood is the cause. However after his research, the doctor proclaimed otherwise, saying it's rather the lack of oxygen that's the cause, since the only source is of 3 bullet holes in the wall the officer once shot. Upon arrival, many scattered wine and beer bottles covered some of the area, obviously showing that either they were bored or some people had a hell of a party he he. The road that led us there was covered with many adventures as once again we encountered some dunes, driving on the dune belt, and had a few where the real thrill only hit you when the nose of the car lowered at the other end revealing the distance very quickly. But nonetheless, it was real fun and no cars seemed to find any car trouble along the way, still some did get stuck on some of the dunes, or created their own path from the loose sand as they went.

Even here we encountered many fabulous sights as at one stage, another contrast welcomed us as a light brown beige colour of sand laid on the left while a white greyish lay on the right. Another magnificent sight as it looks like the "road" was splitting them. Other sights included the remains



of a decayed ship, once manned by captain Parrow and his men, who travelled pass Cape Town, Luderitz and Walvis Bay as it sailed towards Germany. In a few months even this structure might be covered with sand as the wind continues to move it. Another wondrous sight was that of the groups of sea lions and seagulls as we drove along the sea. There was even a separation in two bird groups, as a group of white birds and a group of black birds separated themselves from one another, funny if you think about it.

Also on our journey, we encountered areas where red like patches covered parts of the sandy areas, making it look like the desert was blushing or perhaps had some bruises whichever way you see it. But so we returned to our campsite, seeking only relaxation after the day's drive, some returning to their sand boarding while others simply took a chair with some refreshment, enjoying each other's company waiting for our meal of the day to be prepared.

Wednesday Day 7: 29-09-2010

At last our final day in the desert arrives as we woke up to a new morning, going about business as usual breakfast, packing a quick briefing on the day's events and finally, the departure. Once more, and for the last time, we entered the dunes, going dune riding and finding some difficult dunes, one which some of the cars still got stuck, some needing some assistance as either our fire brigade or Derek plays, "Mr Recovery".

One of these dunes we encountered was in a bowl-like form, in which Eben and some drivers had some fun, driving through it from one side to the other, feeling like little kids as they did. Since it would be the last time, why not? Leaving this, the convoy continued its journey among the dunes, arriving at the beach and drove along the sea, only stopping for lunch where some enjoyed the view while others played with a rugby ball, waiting for the fire truck to sound its siren to signal that lunch was ready. Even though the wind continued to blow, threatening to take some of the food with it, succeeding with a paper plate being ripped out of one members hands, luckily caught nor far away.

Guess we almost saw someone running after some trash that tried to escape to the desert, he he. But even this had to come to an end as we continued on towards Walvis Bay where we are to spend the night before going on to Windhoek. The dunes started to grow less and less as we continued. Eventually driving in flat areas, stopping once more close to the sea for a moment, and passes by the saltpans, and seeing a few flamingos along the road, walking in the small rivers. "Eben, I got a little problem here", one car echoed over the radio a moment later, adding "I cant see your tracks" knowing that the first 3 or 4 rules were "stay in the track" "Stay in the track" "Stay in the track". "Stay on the left of the road" Eben replied, finding the problem . . . the cars were driving on a paved road and no longer on sand or gravel path. A joke that lifted the mood, since barely anyone talked over the radio the last few kilometres between our last viewpoint and the paved road.

More "desert talk" had continued when we finally reached Walvis Bay "Watch out for the slip face" when a speed bump lay ahead in the road. The things well miss once we have returned to our own homes. Leaving the dunes behind was a little of a let down, since all adventures need to end, but there was still one thing all wanted a little more, rejoining our friends we said temporarily good-bye to as the cars pull in at "The Courtyard" where we are to spend the night. And of course the proper way to end such an adventure is to say thanks to our guides "Uri Adventures" where the whole group went out for dinner to celebrate the journey, along with the rejoining of our



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friends. The off road journey, though is yet to end as there still lay a few evenings ahead before the final departure where everyone returns home until our next journey

Thursday Day 8: 30-09-2010

Yet another day has passed and I hope and think that everyone had a good night's rest for the next day ahead, we travelled over 400km through Usakos, Okahandja and on to Windhoek, where we saw rivers but only saw sand. Two of our convoy members had stayed behind for a longer vacation (Derek, Janie, Marius and Tersia) we had to say our good-byes to them until the next time. The road ahead was long and as the guide told us we had to stay in groups of 2 and then make our way to Windhoek to continue our journey towards the end of our trip. On the way Willie and Johan's car lost speed and had to stop for a check but a few minutes later they were on the road again. As we got to the lodge we all decided to fill up because we are going out for dinner and would not have time in the morning.

So we all made our way to the garage and filled our cars with fuel. At Joes Beer house we had a fabulous time with our friends and today they are like family to us and we call them family!! At dinner (Joes Beer house) we had our dinner for the evening, we all sang happy birthday to Nicci Snyders on her birthday. And a big laugh at the table where "George, Willie, Johan" ate a big piece of eisbine (800g) That was a BIG piece of meat!! We all made our way back to the chalets and said goodnight after a wonderful day.

Friday Day 9: 01-10-2010

Another day has arrived and once again we had to leave early (06h00) we didn't have breakfast because we had a long day in front of us to the border post of Botswana we road 300km until Botswana border post. The guide Kim + Jan wanted to throw diesel in, in front of the border post but we didn't because there were lots of overseas visitors in busses so we decided to put in fuel past the border post but when we got to the Engen garage there was no diesel/coke/ice-cream or anything. So we pushed on to find diesel somewhere else. Jan never had enough diesel to get to the Kalahari Rest Camp.

Therefore when we got to the T-junction that goes to Kang, Jan and Kim had to go to Ghanzi which was a 100km detour to find diesel while the others waited for us. On the way to find diesel Kim's intercooler pipe blew a hole and a patch job had to be done so that we could reach camp. As we got to camp Kim had to fix the pipe with "magic tape" + Willie and Johan had to fix their brake callipers. After that Sadie, Riaan, Jason, Jean Loxton, Edward, Sean had a serious game of cards on the go. While we were playing cards the adults were in deep discussion about the day's events. Our dinner had arrived and it was nice and we had a desert and then said our goodnights to all and then hit the beds for some ZZZ's!!

Saturday Day 10: 02-10-2010

Yet another day had begun and had to wake up at 5:00 to leave at 6:00 because the trip ahead was long!! The day ahead was planned as follows, we had to leave and fill up with diesel and petrol on the road about 15 km down the road. We saw lots of animals like donkeys, cows, buck and ostriches etc. We had our breakfast stop round about 09h00 at Jwaneng where we all ate and filled our bellies! On the way to the South African border post Jono said over the radio "guys there is a circle coming and the tradition is that you have to make a 360 around the circle meaning every car has to go around" so we all were waiting for the circle to come and all was excited to go around it so as we approached the circle and the guide Kim wanted to go around it



the cops were standing at the left hand side so he said over the radio" don't go around we don't want to attract attention" but Jono Owen and Roelof Loxton did not break tradition as they went around the circle and all were happy.

As we arrived at the border post it wasn't that busy so we where in and out. It was decided that we as a convoy would get through the border post and then we will say our good-byes and say thanks to all for a amazing journey with them. We drove over the 4400km from where we started and till we ended.

A special thanks to Eben and Marita of Uri Adventures, and to our two cooks Frankie and Frans and Alan our Club owner for this trip it would've been nice with you guys here. Uri adventures it was a pleasant time with you guys and we would do it again anytime.

FEEDBACK ON THE TAU ROARA LION FARM WEEKEND (2010)

Hi Alan,

Just a short word from me to thank all concerned for the excellent weekend at Tau Roara. We had a really great time and the lions, as you mentioned, must be the biggest around. I have never seen such large lions, especially the two males used in the breeding programme... very impressive.

Please also extend my thanks to Alex and Alta for all the hard work they put into the weekend. Alex is like a breath of fresh air and I look forward to the day when I can do a trip with him. He is a wealth of information on many subjects and certainly keeps the spirit of the group up, all day long. Thanks to you Alex!!

But can someone please tell those lions to "shaddap" at night.... they ruined two good nights rest with all their roaring. Right next to the camp site too!! Have they no respect??

Best regards,
Tom Hannay

Evening Alan

Besides the wind we had perfect weather against all predictions which we will not complain about. The camping group however were more challenged by the wind. The venue is great although we are of the opinion that the Lion cages were not as clean as our first experience a couple of years back.

The information shared by Gerhard is informative and allows for a better understanding as to why lion breeding is undertaken. If it was so simple this could be a solution to the Rhino poaching problem.

As for our hosts - Alex., Alta, Doreen and extended family we can only say thanks for their hospitality and culinary skills, and especially Alex for the info and many a quirk shared.

Thanks again, and for those who have not had the opportunity to visit Tau Rora, it is worth the visit to understand what lion breeding is all about.



Regards
Frans & Densie Glanvill

COMMENTS FROM THE THREE SOCIAL DINNERS DONE AT YEAR END

That was the best food ever. Looking forward to the next one

Regards
Steve Waller

Hi Alan,
Thanks for the initiative to arrange a sommer-lekker-kuier, it was a great idea! Not many things that beat good food and good company.

Regards
Elmarie Swanepoel

Agreed was a great evening
Kevin Bolton (Mr GPS SA)

Hi Alan
Thanks again for a nice evening. Although Jeanette and I had a table all by ourselves, it gave us plenty of quality time together. (This is not a commodity in abundance in our household this year.)

It was good to see so many of the familiar faces but we also met some new people. We have to start pulling up the handbrakes for 2010, otherwise we will slip over the line into 2011 in a blink of the eye.

Kind regards
Brian Brynard

Thanks for a lekker evening. Good to see so many familiar and friendly faces again! Looking forward to the next evening out...

Take care
Grant Keenan

Hi Alan,
Ja man, ons het regtig weer lekker gekuier. Ek voel egter net dat daar hopeloos te min tyd is in so 'n aand want ek het byvoorbeeld nie kans gehad om met julle te kuier nie, of met Koos nie, of Morné, of Pieter Heslinga, of Gareth, ens. Al daardie mense voel nou al soos ou, ou vriende. Groete, en oppas vir die GROOT reën !
Johan en Anne-Marie Ungerer



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Electrified with DB board, battery charger and 105 A/H deep cycle battery
Price incl above - **R19,995.00**

Contact Anthony - 083 445 9044 (Pictures Available)

PRADO FOR SALE

Good day,

I'm selling a Toyota Prado in excellent condition with very low mileage. I thought that you club members might be interested, if so, please circulate this advert to your club members, friends, family & colleagues. This really is a great buy!

Thank you,

Richard - 0823301419

richard@edgecorp.co.za

PICTURES OF THE VEHICLE HERE:

http://search.autotrader.co.za/www/cars_advert?id=201044187213792

Make	TOYOTA
Model	PRADO
Price	R 360 000
Engine	3l Diesel
Body Type	4x4
Transmission	Auto
Year	2006
Colour	White
Mileage	49 500 KM / 30 758 M



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Doors 5

Suburb Hazyview & Pretoria

Additional Info: leather interior, tow bar,

180 litre tank; White, 49 500 km , Diesel,

4x4, Private Sale 1 Owner. Stereo,

Immac. Cond. Alarm, FSH, Air con, CD,

PS, Tow Bar, Immobiliser, Central Locking,

E/Windows, Alloys.3l diesel,5 doors,

PRIVATE SALE ? 1 Owner and in

immaculate condition .Pretoria / Hazyview

JEEP FOR SALE

Hi just wondered if anybody in your club is interested in a 1972 model jeep. The jeep was standing outside at an elderly guy's house and was rubber lined in the inside and water got under the floor an caused two patches of rust in the floor. I have repaired the rust and sandblasted the body an chassis and repainted the whole jeep. The jeep is still on the road with all the papers and need only the final coat of paint.

The front windscreen is cracked and all the canopy windows is there only the rubbers are perished. everything is original and need to be assembled i estimate that 35% of assembly must still be done and every bolt and nut has been buffed and cleaned. the engine it came out with is a straight 6 4.1 litre Chev engine and only 14 was built by VW in uitenhage in 1972 for the mines and is 20 inches longer than the normal jeep. All the seats are original and has a spare tank. I will supply photos if anybody is interested. I would like to sell the Jeep for R35000.

Thanks hope to hear from you
Sydney Butler - cell 0722510590

ANOTHER PRADO FOR SALE

1998 Prado VX 3.4 V6 4x4 Auto, 161000kms, R112000, diff lock, ARB bb, winch, EMU susp, LRF tank, 5 tyres very new. Gerhard. 0828202328. Andries.dutoit@e-pc.co.za

Thanking you

GERHARD - 0828202328

TYRES FOR SALE

Hi Alan

I am changing the size of tyres and wheels on our caravan and have a set of 3 x 16" rims, fitted with 235/85 R 16 Continental tyres for sale. 2 of the tyres are used with approximately 80% tread remaining, the 3rd is unused. I am asking R4200 for all three. Could you advertise them for me please?

Gareth Vermaak - Cell 0784857606



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Flat Wheel – Light Relief

IS IT GOING TO BE A COLD WINTER?

Dit is April en die Boesmans in 'n afgeleë deel van die Kalahari vra hulle nuwe stamhoof of dit hierdie winter matig of koud gaan wees. Omdat hy stamhoof is in meer moderne tye, het hy nooit die ou geheime geleer nie. Wanneer hy die lug bestudeer, kon hy nie sê hoe die winter gaan wees nie.

Nieteenstaande het hy besluit om dit veilig te speel en hy sê toe dat dit 'n koue winter gaan wees en hulle moet begin brandhout bymekaar maak ter voorbereiding. Hy is egter 'n praktiese man en na 'n paar dae kry hy 'n plan. Hy stap na 'n publieke telefoon by die nasionale pad, skakel die weerburo en vra, "Gaan die komende winter koud wees in die Kalahari?"

"Ja dit lyk so" sê die een wat geantwoord het. Hy gaan terug na die stam en sê hulle moet nog meer hout bymekaar maak. 'n Week later skakel hy weer die weerburo. "Lyk dit nog steeds na 'n baie koue winter?" "Ja, dit gaan baie koud wees." Hy gaan terug en beveel hulle om elke stukkie hout wat hulle vind, op te tel. Na twee weke skakel hy weer. "Is julle heeltemal seker dat dit baie koud gaan wees?" "Absoluut" kom die antwoord, "dit lyk al hoe meer na een van die koudste winters ooit."

"Wat maak julle so seker?" "Ons satelliet fotos wys die Boesmans maak verwoed hout bymekaar, en dis altyd 'n seker teken."

ATTENDING A LECTURE!!!

Sam was stopped by the cops at midnight last Thursday whilst driving. He was asked where he was going. Sam replied: "I am going to a lecture on the effects of alcohol and drugs on the human body." The surprised cop replied; "Who on earth is going to give such a lecture at this time of night?"

Sam replied: "My WIFE!"



Preferred Suppliers - Gauteng

If anyone has any good things to say about suppliers I would like to include them here. Lets support those who do a good job for the club. Similarly if anyone has had a bad experience lets share it and vote with our wallets by avoiding them.

DISCOUNTS:

1) CAPESTORM

Club members get a 10% at CAPESTORM owned shops, on production of there active club members card, on CAPESTORM clothing. All other apparel and items sold get a 5% discount. This excludes LEATHERMAN & SUUNTO equipment. No discounts on these 2.

2) FRONT RUNNER

Front Runner will offer any club member, on production of their club card, a **5% discount** on the purchase of any Front Runner produced product. Call Wayne Heath-Coombe (club member) now. 1 Forssman Close, Dytchley Road, Barbeque Downs, Kyalami - 011 466 0155 – www.frontrunner.co.za

3) 4x4 INSURANCE

Phillip Viljoen Insurance Brokers has a special deal for all 4x4 enthusiasts, if you tell him you saw this advert. Qualify for great discount. Contact phillip@leisuresure.co.za or on 083 306 5657 / Fax (012) 542 3564. Speak to Phillip (club member)

4) ISIBONELA ADVENTURES cc

Discount on ALL Garmin GPS Products, 29 Mhz & VHF Radios, Windbags, FRONT RUNNER products and other 4x4 services & training. Send enquiry to 4x4offroad@mweb.co.za

5) SAFARI CENTRE - NEW MEMBERSHIP CARD DEAL

5% discount when paying with a credit card & 10% discount for cash.

Products excluded for discount:

- * GPS's
- * Leatherman products
- * Any specials currently running
- * Magazines, books, maps

6) KEMPTON CARAVANS - KEMPTON PARK - CLUB MEMBER BENEFITS

The discount to the 4x4 community and members of our club is **10% off their listed prices**. This will be on presentation of the club membership card. This shop has EVERYTHING. Customisation of tents etc. on site! Speak to Larry, Brian, Isobelle (club members) or any of the staff in the shop.

7) PB ENTERPRISES – HIGHEST QUALITY POWER SYSTEMS & INSTALLATIONS



Manufacturer of high quality Power Systems, Dual Battery Systems, Fully Equipped Battery Boxes, Power Converters & Battery Chargers for Trailers & Caravans, Solar- and Generator Amplification Chargers! They can definitely help you with the right electrical power products for ANY 4x4 vehicle, Off-road Trailer or Caravan/Camper.

Talk to the expert, Pieter Barnard, and **receive 5% discount on any of their products by supplying a copy of this page, PLUS the 4x4 Offroad Adventure Club receive a 3% donation.** Just **print out THIS PAGE**, and give them a call. Let them do everything right, the first time. Have a look at their website! www.pbeproducts.co.za

Contact: Pieter Barnard / Tel/Fax: 012 658 5538
Mobile: 083 749 0445 / E-mail: info@pbeproducts.co.za

8) BIG COUNTRY 4x4 – CUSTOMISED 4x4 FITMENTS AND PRODUCTION

10% discount for members on all manufactured products from our factory. Excludes labour costs. Please visit our website at www.bigcountry.co.za for more information, or even better come and discuss your requirements over a cup of tea. The factory is situated in Strijdom Park, Randburg, just off the highway. Big Country really can be your 1-stop shop for all your 4x4 equipment!

Contact Richard on 011-791-7275 or info@bigcountry4x4.com

9) TENT PURCHASES, REPAIRS AND CANVAS PRODUCTS

Tent repairs and custom made canvas accessories. Please check out our site at www.caconcepts.co.za, we have heaps of info including Camping and Hiking checklists, Camping etiquette, Tips and gear maintenance to name a view.

We will gladly offer all club members 10% on all repairs and modifications as well as 10% on all products we distribute. Regret discount can be offered on products that are on promotion.

Contact Clive van der Vyver on clive@caconcepts.co.za - Cell: 082 8225969
<http://www.caconcepts.co.za> <http://www.canvasandtent.co.za>

NO DISCOUNTS ARE APPLICABLE BELOW – BUT THESE ARE VALUED SUPPORTERS OF OUR CLUB!

1) ECHO ACCESSORIES 4x4 CENTRE!

Visit Willie, Rochelle, Neil, Jacques or any one of the other professional representatives at the new Echo 4x4 Centre situated in the Route 21 Corporate Park, 9 Regency Avenue, Irene (off Nelmapius Drive (off the R21)).

Echo can supply you with all your 4x4 requirements from offroad trailers, quad bike trailers, Echo Chobe Campers, roof top and trailer top tents, full 4x4 fitment centre, custom products, 4x4 accessory shop, trailer rental and even more. Be sure to visit the new instore refreshment café.

NO DISCOUNT OFFERED!

Call 012 – 345 3333, Fax 012 345 3343 or email: echoacc@mweb.co.za.
Web: www.echo4x4.co.za



2) BOLTONS GPS WAREHOUSE / KEVIN BOLTON CONSULTANTS

For top deals, training and advice on GPS equipment contact Kevin (club member).

KJ BOLTON CONSULTANT cc

Contact Kevin @ 082 564 3639 or Marietjie 012-6549813

kevin@gpsconsultants.co.za / marietjie@gpsconsultants.co.za / www.gpsconsultants.co.za

NO DISCOUNT OFFERED! - DISCOUNTED PRICES AVAILABLE FROM ISIBONELA ADVENTURES cc (see first section)

3) HONEYDEW TOYOTA & RV CENTRE

Contact Johan Kruger (club member) for all your Toyota and other accessories at their RV Centre. New Honeydew Toyota Showroom (opposite THE COCA COLA DOME) - refer <http://www.honeydewtoyota.ix.co.za/lmg Upload Departments/3674 441636.gif> for map. Address is Olievenhout Street, off Northumberland, which runs parallel with the N1 & the R28.

Editor:

Alan

Alan Goodway (GP 1796)

Registered DEAT Cultural Tourist Guide - National

Professional 4x4 Trail & Overland Guide - National

Outcomes Based Assessor

Member - 4 Wheel Drive Guides Association SA

Owner - 4x4 Offroad Adventure Club (Gauteng)

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