

RICHTERSVELD – SOUTHERN NAMIBIA TRIP
8 – 16 AUG

Pajero DiD and Echo4 trailer
Jeep Grand Cherokee V8 and Echo3 trailer

This was a quick eight day breakaway. Our only booking was in the Richtersveld for three nights. I had various routes in mind, but decided to go where the mood took us. That meant deciding the night before, next to the fire and after a few beers.

We met at Springbok from Strand and Klerksdorp respectively. We only filled fuel tanks as we had enough provisions for an army.
(Nice add for Echo trailers)



We travelled to Port Nolloth and camped at McDougal's Bay for the night. Thick mist overnight meant everything was wet the next morning. We drove the 80 odd kilos to Alexander Bay with very little visibility at times

The diesel pump at Alexander Bay. We got out of there fast before our kit started looking like the truck on the right.



Start of the gravel road to Sendelingsdrift and also the last time I saw my number plate.



Booking in at Sendelingsdrift was a breeze. We paid the conservation fees and bought 12 bags of wood. R25 per bag and it turned out to be excellent braai wood.

Lunch in the park and our first 'halfmens' sighting.



The corrugations in the park were horrendous. I don't think we once went over 40 km/h. Akkedis pass was a breeze. This is where traction control came into its own, neither vehicle experienced any wheelspin. We watched the narrow passages between rocks very carefully and never even stopped, except for pictures. Some people said the Richtersveld is overrated as a 4x4 destination and this is true. We encountered three heavily loaded 4x2 vehicles during the trip and they weren't stuck or broken down. I don't think it's necessary for a second spare, our tyres weren't even marked

Last drop down to De Hoop Campsite



We stayed three nights at De Hoop. Everyone really enjoyed the time we spent here. I'm convinced sleeping next to the rapids was a type of chill therapy. Rule no.1 when camping with a trailer: unload the chairs, have a beer and the camp layout will come to you.



Czech nymphing with the fly rod was a new experience for me. I caught a couple one kilogram smallmouth yellows. Later we did better with the river rods using bread and mielies. Fantastic few days.



Corrrrrrrrrrrrugations!!!!!!!.



We had to stop to appreciate the mountain views, this was not possible with vibrating eyeballs.



On our way back we encountered seven 4wd vehicles as we cleared Akkedis Pass. I still wonder what would have happened if we met on the pass. There are limited opportunities to pass oncoming vehicles.



Clearing both border posts was effortless. A Vrystater, who arrived before us at the border post, even managed to take his firearm across without a permit. The ferry cost R150 per vehicle and added another interesting part to the trip



From here we drove to Rosh Pinah and filled up with fuel. On all our previous trips we always reached a point where we no longer felt comfortable being close to concrete, this was it.

This one meter high Botter boom looks like a Baobab Bonzai.



I saw Namaskluff Restcamp on T4A while planning the trip, but didn't know if it still existed. What a delightful place, out in the open, no one around, lekker braai spot, donkie geyser and very cold.



The next morning we drove down the D212 next to the river, a road we've done on a previous trip but first time for the Cherokee. I heard that Abiqua camp was a good stopover and that's where we headed for a two night stay. It's very civilised and clean. Fishing and chilling were on the to-do list, no adrenalin required.



It took 20 minutes to clear both border posts at Noordoewer and Violsdrift. We decided to stay the last night at Strandfontein. Staring at a Namibian map and wishing we had another three weeks did absolutely nothing to stop that depro feeling.



The trip's last sunset at Strandfontein

