

## 526.5. 2018 Naukluft Mountains

From Sesriem we are traveling to the Namib Naukluft Mountains, where we have reserved our next camp ground. On the way lays the „Neuras Wine & Wildlife Estate“, one of only four wineries in Namibia. The interesting history of Neuras is described in travel guide book and we are curious to visit a Namibian winery.

The winery was founded in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by the first German settlers and was revived end of the 90ies by a Zimbabwean of English descent. Today it is owned by the Naankuse Foundation, which is running several resorts as well as a Cheetah nursery. We are seated on the terrace with a nice view of the well covered grapevines. The red wine tastes quite nice, but is a bit on the heavy side for lunch. Fortunately, the police numbers are not high in this area.



Luckily, today we only have a short drive with all the wine in our system and in the early afternoon we reach the Naukluft Rest Camp, which is meanwhile also managed by NWR (Namibia Wildlife Resorts).

The camping site is located in a narrow river bed supposedly home to some aggressive baboons as well. But we only hear them calling from far.







### 27.5.2018 Olive Trail, Naukluftgebirge

Today we hike the 10 km long „Olive Trail“ in the Naukluftgebirge. The trail leads along the side of a mountain, steadily climbing up, then follows a river bed with lots of boulders and loose rocks. The landscape is spectacular, next to the high vertical rock walls along the river bed we feel tiny. The high rock walls fortunately provide some shade, too.







One has to climb over several large boulders in the river bed which form large steps. Then we have to overcome a narrow passage where chains are fixed to the walls. The space where you can put your feet is very narrow – quite an exciting challenge.



P.S.: The tip we got and want to pass on: It is better to choose the right side of the channel where the chains have more tension and therefore it is easier to hang on the them.



## 28.5.2018 Solitaire, Spreetshoogte Pass

Our trip is slowly nearing its end and we have to take course back towards Windhoek. Once more we pass through Solitaire and stop for a coffee break and some photos. On the way down South the broken exhaust pipe left us no time for taking some pictures.



Afterwards, we drive up the Spreetshoogte Pass, which connects the Namib desert with the Khomas Highland. It is the steepest pass in Namibia, with 1:4.5 or 22% incline and also covers the highest elevation climb of 1000 m, over just 4 km in length.





On top of the pass is a rest place which offers a fantastic view. We were lucky that the usually strong winds are not too bad today. We decide to stay here for the night.





## 29.5. – 1.6.2018 Isabis, Onduno

Before we head back to Windhoek to put our Unimog into storage, we visit friends on two farms. On the farm Isabis, we visit Adele and Joachim Cranz and on the farm Onduno, we visit Greta and Bernd Garbade. We received a very warm welcome and it was so interesting to get a first-hand insight to local farm life, the country and its people. We thank them all very much for their great hospitality.



## 6.6.2018 Windhoek

Hard to believe our day of departure has arrived. The time travelling has passed unbelievably quickly, we could have continued to drive...

The last days are always busy, we have to clean up the truck, sort stuff out, do laundry, pack out things. We also have to get the Unimog ready for storage and prepare the truck for winter. Our last mission is to find some ant traps / poison because unfortunately somewhere in the truck we haven an ant nest...

In the Urban Camp we are happy to meet again old and new friends. We have one farewell lunch, farewell dinner and even farewell breakfast after the other as all of us fly home around the same time. Winter is coming quickly, in the mornings and evenings it is not too cozy to sit outside anymore.





Our Unimog is prepared for winter and parked safely at the place of a former taxidermist. Now our truck has to wait patiently until his next journey after winter is over. Last night it was -3C already! It will be easy to find the truck again as we only have to look out for the African version of the „Bremer Stadtmusikanten“ – the Bremen Town Musicians....

During our travels through southern Africa we travelled for 141 days and have been driving about 12,000km. We will be back.

