

5.10.2018 Ngonye Falls, Zambia

We spend a leisurely morning on the camp site of Kabule Lodge, before we head out.



Our destination is Ngonye Falls also known as Sioma Falls as they are located near the village Sioma. These horseshoe shaped Falls are located approx. 250 km up-stream of the famous Victoria Falls.

There is not much traffic on the tarred road, attentively we observe the landscape, how does Zambia look like? Many villages with their typical thatched roof round huts line the street.

First we end up at the Ngonye Falls Park, where one can have a look of the upper part of the Falls. Then we drive to the Ngonye Falls Camp, where we actually wanted to go.



To get to the upper reach of the water falls one has to cross the Zambezi river via the Sioma Bridge. At the end of the bridge is a check point awaiting us and we have a very sophisticated exchange with one of the guards.

The guard looks at the cabin of our truck and asks: "What you carry?"

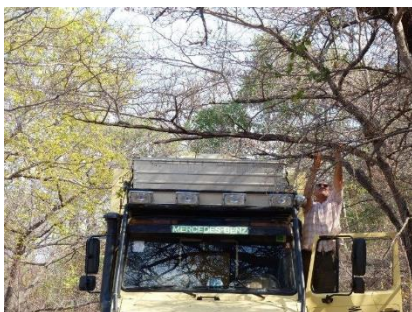
We reply: "No carry, sleep".

The guard answers: "Ok, I see. Bye bye".



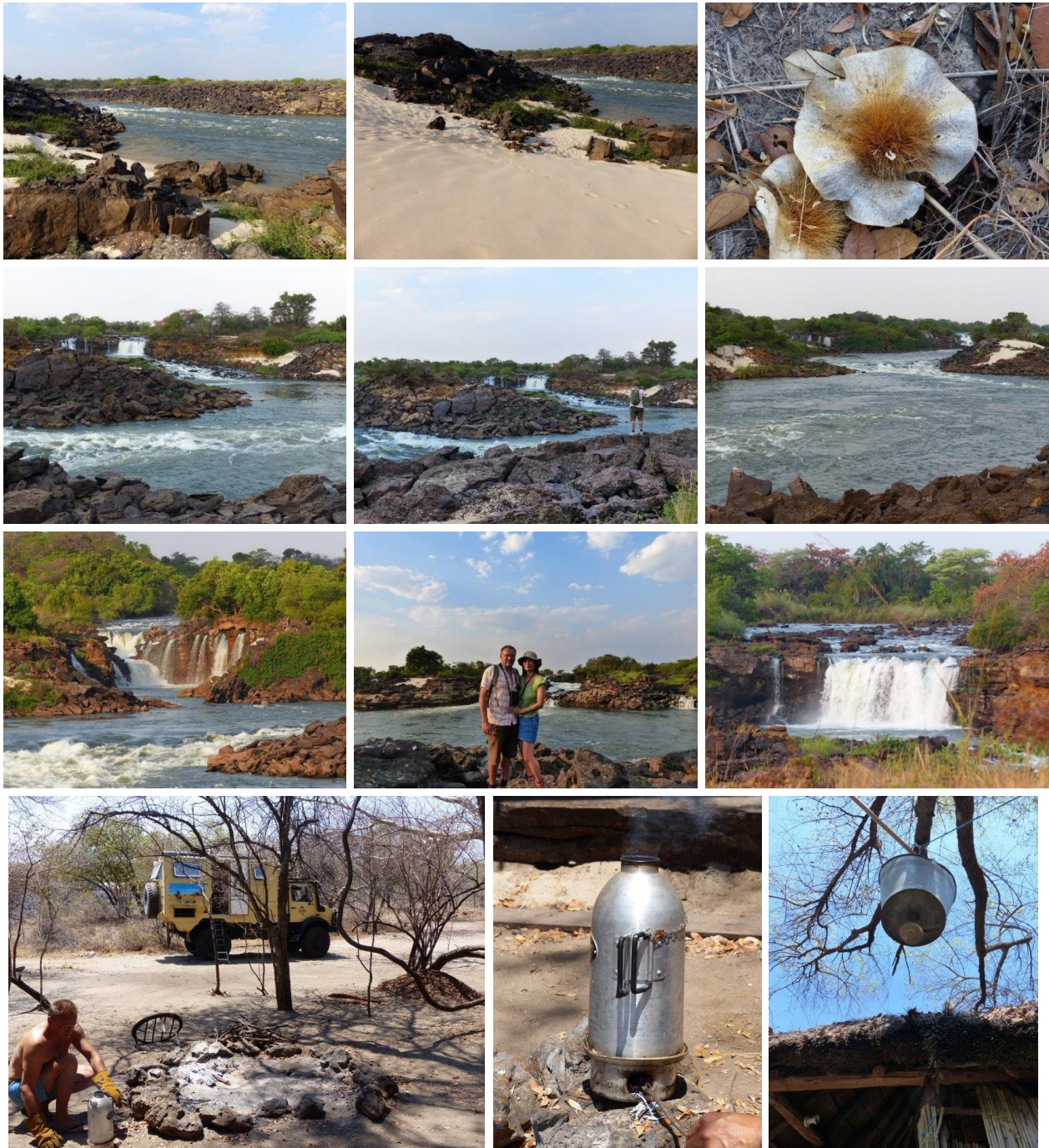
To be able to camp on the Ngonye Falls Community Camp one has to register first at the Visitor Center. In total we pay 20EUR for entrance fee, camping and vehicle for one night; it's not little for this rustic and a bit dilapidated camp, but we support the community, who is sharing the earnings. At least this is the official wording and we hope they really do so.

The approach road to the camp is even more adventurous than yesterday. This time rather small trees and low hanging big branches block our way. Several times we have no other choice than to take out saw and axe to clear our way and tell the caretaker that firewood is available...



We stay for two nights, live the camping “daily routine”, enjoy the bucket shower in this heat, admire the Ngonye Falls at sunset light. It is a 1.5km walk from the camp to the falls. These falls are fanned out broadly, one rather sees several smaller water falls than one big one. Now is a good time to visit these waterfalls as the water level is not too high, during raining season one would only be able to see some rapids they say.

The river looks so inviting that Werner tries fishing for the famous Tiger fish. Indeed, they bite and pull tiger-strong, that the tip of his fishing rod breaks off.





7.10.2018 Ngonye River Camp

The Zambezi here has white beaches, it's like at the sea. It would be so lovely to be able to cool down in the river in these scorching temperatures, but unfortunately this is not possible due to the resident crocodiles and hippos.

Today we move to the Ngonye River Camp, located idyllically at the Zambezi river. Even the braai stands have river view. The next morning after we get up, there is a tablet delivered to us with coffee, milk, sugar and rusks. First we think that the lady got lost on her way to one of the chalets...

A little bit of maintenance for the Unimog – the rear intermediate gearbox is still leaking oil, some fly screens of the windows are broken, there is always something to do and the days pass quickly again.





9.10.2018 Sesheke

As mentioned, our visit to Zambia is only a very short one, but our first impression is positive. Today we will drive back towards the border crossing, we plan to stay at the border town Sesheke and stay at Brenda's Best Baobab Campsite so we can cross borders early next morning. This time there is more traffic, many trucks are transporting square sheets, which seem to be very heavy because on each truck trailer lay only 2-4 sheets. We learn that it is copper which is mined here; the majority of the Central African Copperbelt is located in Zambia. In the 1950s this was one of the largest copper producing areas in the world.

On the road there are again a few of the usual road blocks. One of the guys at the road block – even only in civilian clothes – is asking for a „council fee“. We have read, that this does happen and don't want to give an inch. We also don't drive to the side as asked to do, but rather stay in the middle of the road and block the way. Our strategy works out, we show them all our documents showing the fees we paid for at the border and as ongoing traffic arrives, who can't get through because we block the way, they give up and let us through.





10.10.2018 Wenela Border Crossing, Mobola Lodge, Namibia

We get up early and at 8:00 a.m. we are back at the Sesheke – Wenela border crossing to set over to Namibia. This time procedures are much more swift than on the way to Zambia, in total we only need about an hour for all formalities.

Well, now we have to drive back all the way we came up: Along the Caprivi Strip to the West until Rundu, then southward until Windhoek.

Already on the way up we saw a lot of burned and scorched ground. Now on the way back we see many bush fires, again and again there is smoke rising up into the air. One fire is even directly next to the road and while driving by, we can feel the heat inside the car.





In the afternoon we reach Divundu and shortly behind town discover the really nice camp site of the „Mobola Island Lodge“, they have a shady pool and the camp sites are located right at the river. The Sunset Bar is located on a small island and can be reached by a small suspension footbridge. Although there are signs put up warning of hippos and crocodiles, but unfortunately we can't spot any.





11.10.2018 Roy's Camp

Good, that our Unimog has cruise control. Today we have to drive a lot again and the road leads just plain straight ahead. We drive via Rundu to Roy's Camp located shortly before Grootfontein. As we have been here on the way up we know the place, can set up camp quickly and rush to the small pool to cool down. Sitting all day in the hot car at 40C plus the heat of the engine is quite arduous.



Of course, at sun set we have to be at the waterhole of Roy's Camp. We can see a few duiker antilopes, warthogs and two elands, but they all disappear quickly again. The animals here are quite shy.

Before bedtime we have to have another look at the waterhole and are very lucky this time. It is almost like watching a TV documentary about animals. We see a big group of elands with two giraffes, later there are more visits of hartebeest, zebras, oryx and jackals. For a whole hour animals are visiting the waterhole, one group of animals is arriving when the last one leaves Amazing!

12.10.2018 Otjiwarongo

In the morning we visit the waterhole one last time before we go for a walk.



The nice thing about Roy's Camp is, that they offer two walks around their camp. On the way up we did the 4km hike, today we do the 10km hike. To be able to do this, we have to get up early, otherwise it will be getting too hot. We see many tracks of animals, an African bait place, a group of elands and one oryx.



Late morning we are on our way to Otjiwarongo, we want to go back to Patrick's Bar and to "our" paddock. In Otjiwarongo there are big Jacaranda trees in full bloom. One

should be in Johannesburg now, there are avenues and boulevards full of these beautiful Jacaranda trees.



13.10.2018 Gross Barmen

After breakfast with a view we are on our way to Windhoek.



While our stopover at the Hot Spring of „Gross Barmen“ we can bask in the hot water and wash off all the dust of the last days. We like to come here. This time a strong cool wind is blowing, which actually makes the hot water even more agreeable.



16.10.2018

Via a last stop in Eisenheim we finally arrive in Windhoek. The last days are always a bit of work to get the Unimog ready for storage. We have to find all the things again we carefully stored away earlier, we have to tidy up, clean up and pack. Empty all water, take out water filters, change the tire valves, disconnect the batteries and much more. This time we even prop up the Unimog in case the tires should loose air again.

Our time in Africa was relatively short this time, we drove about 3500km (and exceeded the 100.000 kilometer mark on our speedometer). Now our Unimog has to wait patiently for his next outing, at least he is among his playmates ...

