

19.9.2023 Windhoek

It's good to be back in Namibia. Our car starts without any problems, no flat tire to report, we are able to drive swiftly to the "Urban Camp". The Urban Camp has been slightly renovated, new parking places were created. It's unbelievable how much camping space you can create out of such a relatively small area. It's busy as usual; in addition to an Overlander, another Unimog, a Magirus Deutz and a MAN6x6 are parked up. The camping vehicles are getting bigger and bigger.

The usual maintenance work and preparations are due. Unfortunately, we're losing some oil in the front wheel hubs, we'll probably have to take care of it at some point, but today we're just topping it up.



21.9.2023 Otjiwarongo

This time we only stay in Windhoek for two days. Shopping, paying road tax, stowing things, tidying up, there's no time to dawdle around.

At the camp we get to know "Uwe with the 2CV", he brings greetings from Heidi and Nobby, who are now traveling in South America. It's always amazing how often you find mutual acquaintances or run into each other in Africa.



In the early afternoon we set off and drive as usual to Otiwarongo. It's quite busy in the bar at the riding club, people are playing dice and having fun. The regulars even have their own dice cup made of buffalo leather!



22.9.2023 Roy's Rest Camp

There is a newly opened cafe at the horse riding club that also offers breakfast. Thoughtful decoration, efforts are being made on the service side, well, we like to support the local economy.



It is a long way north to the Caprivi, no doubt about it. We are happy to have a little break at the Purple Fig in Grootfontein before finally arriving at Roy's Camp in the late afternoon.



Here too, the campsite is busy, two large overlander buses have set up camp and many tents. Interestingly, today's Overlander passengers are mostly grey-haired and no longer the wild loud party-makers of the past. Meanwhile you can safely park next to an overlander bus without fearing for your good night's sleep due to boozy parties.



After dinner we hope to spot some animals at the camp's own waterhole. We get to see impala and zebras, but the zebras are very shy. They don't dare to come out of the thicket and end up disappearing in the dark again, without having a sip.

23.9.2023 Ndurukoro

If only the route wasn't so monotonous and boring. The only change on the way was an unwanted one - in Divundu the compressed air hose under the driver's seat breaks. At first, we are surprised by the hissing sound and both hope it's not a flat tire. We have to stop and find out that the noise is coming from under the seat. Luckily we have spare hose connectors with us.

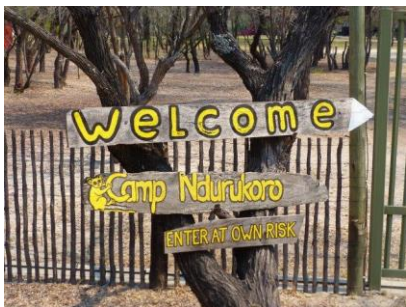


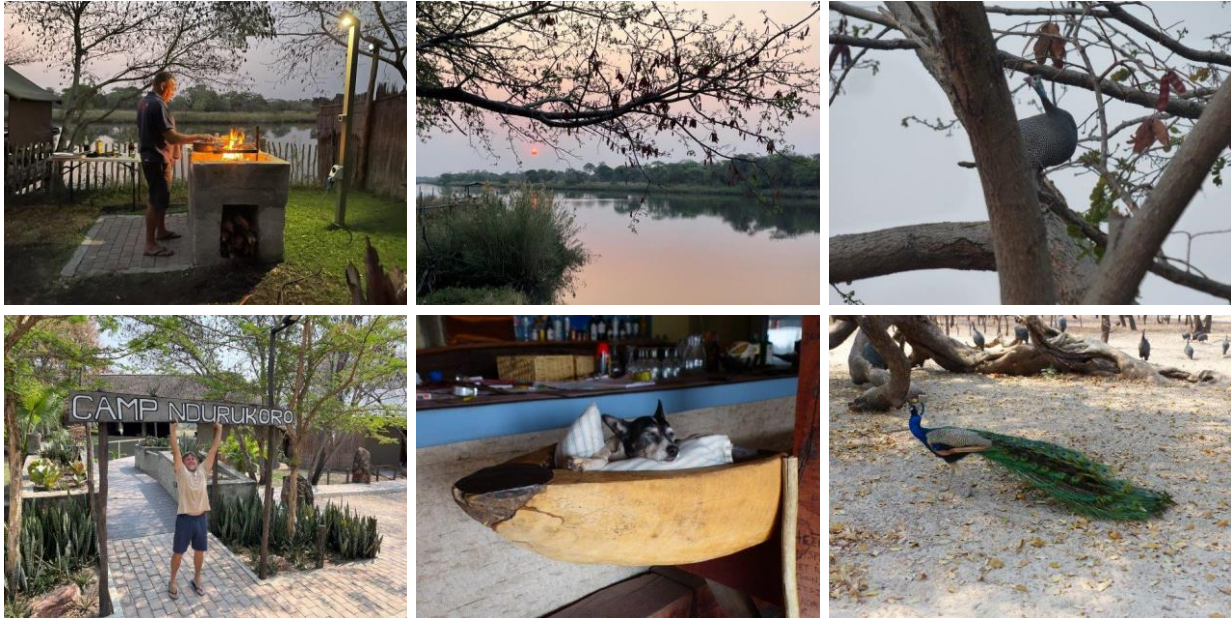


The second distraction is also rather unwanted. A black and white bumblebee comes flying into the car and obviously doesn't find out again. Suddenly, a sting into the right butt cheek: Dewi accidentally sat on the insect, it hurts like a common wasp sting. Luckily, she doesn't get any allergic reactions.



Today we want to go to Camp Ndurukoro, which was recommended to us. It is a truly idyllic place; with four of the campsites located directly at the Okavango River. The friendly owner Leon has built his camp with chalets, pool and campsites piece by piece over decades. Our only neighbors are Maria and Bernd with their Bremach from Neu-Ulm. Directly in front of us is a huge crocodile, sunbathing in the river.





24.9.2023 Katima Mulilo

After four long days of driving we finally reach Katima Mulilo. The heat and noise in the car are exhausting. Variety is mainly provided by goats and cattle, who usually urgently have to cross the road just when we approach.





In Katima we want to stay in the “Namwi Island Camp”, we haven’t been there yet. It is a spacious area directly on the Okavango River. Many large old trees provide shade, we have the entire place to ourselves.



What a wonderful scenery on the river: On a dugout canoe we notice – only after having a closer look – that the helmsman is busy with his cell phone while his companion is busy scooping water out of the boat with a rubber shoe. Most likely, the older lady has no clue that her helmsman is so distracted.



25.9.2023 Ngoma Bridge Border Post, Chobe Mopane Forest Lodge

This time we want to stamp our carnet in Zimbabwe. From Namibia you can only get to Zimbabwe via Botswana. It is very busy at the Namibia / Botswana border crossing “Ngoma Bridge Border Post”. As usual, at every border there are long queues of waiting trucks that we are lucky to be able to drive past.

The departure from Namibia is quick and smooth, we are in “no-man's land” driving towards Botswana, when suddenly the compressed air hose under the driver's seat bursts again with a loud bang. A somewhat inconvenient moment, actually, we are not at all sure whether we are allowed to get out of the car. Well, we have to... luckily, the hose is fixed quickly and we can continue our border crossing.



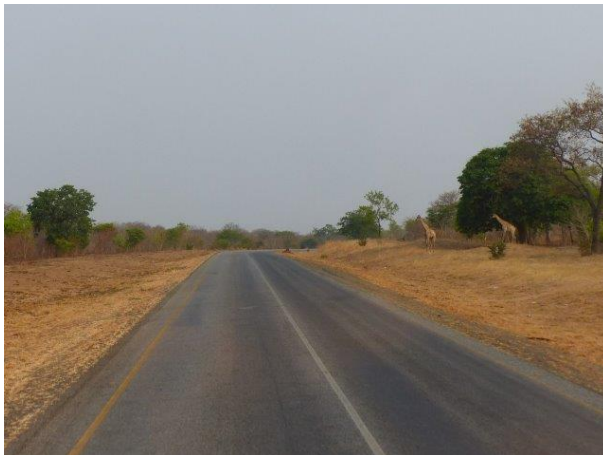
At the immigration building on Botswana side – which is located next to an impressive Baobab tree – the queue extends from the building over the stairs down to the street. We have no idea where to go first and just queue up, looking in vain for forms that could perhaps be filled out beforehand to save some time. But the queue is progressing quickly. The surprise: this border crossing is paperless! A border officer asks the usual questions, we pay, get a printout and that's it.

The check of our refrigerator is not very strict either, as the customs officer doesn't feel like climbing into our car. Officially, meat and dairy products are not allowed to be imported into Botswana, alcohol imports are limited.



The Chobe National Park begins directly behind the border crossing and one can drive through the national park to Kasane on the transit route. One just has to sign into a thick book when entering the park and sign out again when leaving the park.

On the way, we are lucky to see several elephants and have to break to an emergency stop for a giraffe that spontaneously decided to cross the street.

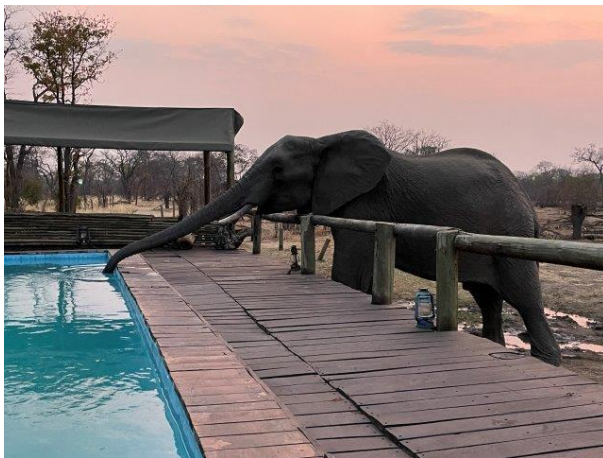


Today we want to stay at the Chobe Mopane Forest Lodge. The campsite is a bit too narrow for us, but we manage to squeeze into one camping spot. Upon arrival we see, that an elephant welcoming committee is gathering at the waterhole next to the pool. Therefore, we just park up and head to the waterhole as fast as possible. More and more elephants are coming, there is no fence separating us, what a memorable reception.





The smartest of all elephants wants to drink from the pool, of course, the clean water obviously tastes best. The employees only make half-hearted attempts to chase him away, but he could hardly have been driven away successfully. He just moves back a few steps to only sneak forward again quickly.



We spend the rest of the afternoon at the waterhole/pool until it gets dark. You can't miss such an opportunity like this.

