

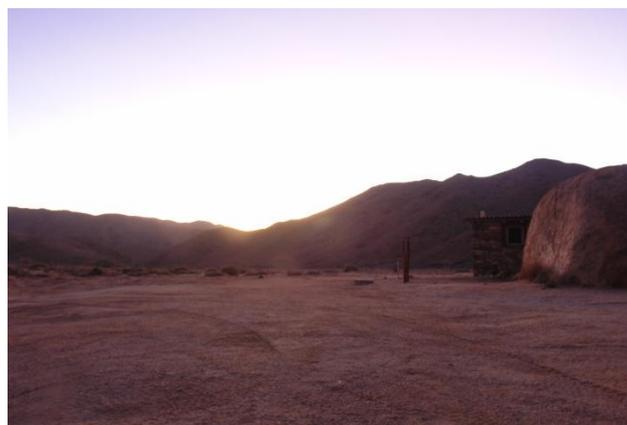
Day 6, 30 April 2015

Kokerboomkloof to De Hoop, 42km 2:30h



Day 6 route.

On the Thursday we enjoyed the sunrise and started breaking up camp. We left Kokerboomkloof at 10:30 and headed to De Hoop campsite.



Sunrise at Kokerboomkloof



Last goodbye to Camp Site 3

The route to De Hoop is nice with a drive down a river bed to the Orange River and the Richtersberg campsite. The road between Richtersberg and De Hoop is rated as “only 4x4”. It was not as sandy as we thought it will be. There are some soft spots, but most of the way you drive on hard river bedding. You can if you want to drive more sand if you keep close to the river, but it is more for playing than where the road actually is.

We arrived at De Hoop at 13:00 and started looking for a camping spot. What we could see is that there are 3 camping areas with ablutions. There are nice trees to camp under if you are lucky enough to find one open. The rest of the camping spots are under small trees. We opted for a spot on the furthest campsite from Richtersberg or the first campsite as you enter from the north. Because we camped for only one night we could setup in the shade of a small tree. The spot was not ideal for camping more than one day due to the fact that the sun caught the tent full on in the morning. We packed up the next morning, so this did not bother us.

De Hoop was the only place where we had problems with stray dogs and traffic. After setting up camp we had lunch. Not 5 minutes after opening our cool bag a dog appeared from nowhere and bugged us for food. This was very bothering and with Nina even more so. Sitting in the middle of nowhere, what will happen if Nina got bitten by a dog with rabies? I tried my best to chase it away. Later the evening there were more dogs sniffing around the campsites.

Another problem we had at De Hoop is that the cars driving around kicks up lots of dust. The roads are also close to the tents at all the campsites so everything becomes dusty. There are some sites that are better protected, but most of the sites are close to the traffic.

We enjoyed the stay at De Hoop. The river is very nice and you have the sound of the rapids in the background the whole time. The view is also stunning and if you have a nice spot it will be nice to stay for a long time. We met people that stood there for 6 days.



Our campsite at De Hoop



Our view



Me trying to catch some geelvis.



Nina assisting with some hammering work.

We made a nice fire on the river beach in a spot that was previously used for the same purpose the evening and drank a few drinks to our last night in the Richtersveld. A more relaxed setting will be hard to find.

Day 7, 1 May 2015

De Hoop to Groblershoop, 760km, 10:30h



Day 7 route

I started sorting out and packing up at 7:00 the morning. I emptied the two Jerry cans I had on the roof into the main tank. I also checked the oil levels and water. Today is going to be a long stretch. Nina and Rienke started to move at 8:00 and we packed up and got ready to leave. Today our route is taking us over Helshoogte Pass, Steinkopf, Springbok all the way to Groblershoop. Thinking back this was too far for one days travel for Nina. We had no problems with her, but sitting in a small chair for 12h is a stretch for a grownup, never mind a one year old.