



The packing has started.



De Hoop campsite.

We left De Hoop at 10:00 and tried to make progress as quick as possible. Helshoogte Pass was not as bad as we expected. We spoke to a guy we met at Potjiespram campsite when we arrived at De Hoop and he said that it was a long bumpy road and he will rather go round over Akkedis Pass to

Sendelingsdrif and out that way. He drove an old SFA Toyota Hilux and it must be bumpier than the Patrol, because we had no problem with the pass. Actually it was a bit disappointing road wise, scenery wise it was very nice. The plants were totally different to what we grew accustomed to the last view days the closer we got to the pass.



Plant near Helshoogte Pass



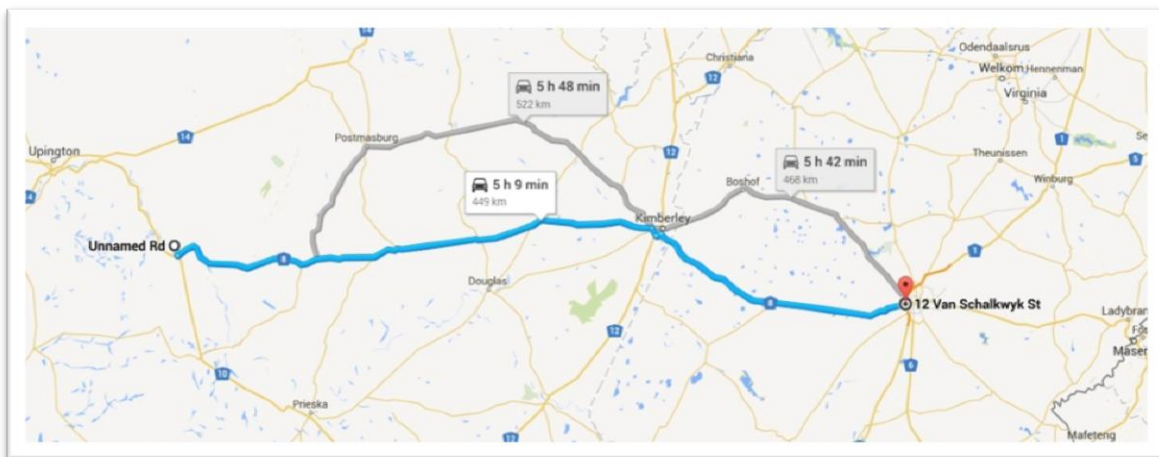
Road to Helshoogte Pass

We bumped into some guys doing a bicycle tour through the park at the top where the Helshoogte Pass actually begins. We met them on the day we drove around Kokerboomkloof campsite. Every day after that day we bumped into them somewhere along our route. They started their tour at Sendelingsdrif and did about 45-50km a day traveling from campsite to campsite. It was a 5 day tour and this was their last day. They look a bit demotivated when we met them at the top of the pass.

At the bottom of the pass we checked out at the gate to the park and started our journey to Springbok. We took 2h to travel from De Hoop to the gate. The route takes you past a small town called Lekkersing. We met up with the tar road 70km before Steinkopf on the road between Steinkopf and Port Nolloth. The road from the Richterveld gat and the tar road are long and very corrugated. We could do about 80km/h. Once on the tar it was plain sailing the whole way to Bloemfontein. It was just to do the many km's. We arrived at Groblershoop at 20:30. It was a day of hard driving. We stayed at some family of Rienke and that was the only reason we drove so far. Upington or Keimoes would have been a better stop. But the roasted lams leg did wonders for the soul and we had a good night's rest.

Day 8, 2 May 2015

Groblershoop to Bloemfontein, 450km 4:30h



Day 8 route

We woke up nice and refreshed the morning. Today we are going home. We had a good breakfast and left Groblershoop at 11:00. We arrived in Bloemfontein at 15:30.

We really enjoyed the trip and would recommend it to everyone. Traveling with a baby has its downsides, but also its benefits. Do not let a baby hold you back. Nina enjoyed it so much and it was really a joy to see her enjoying herself. The Richtersveld is also a place with its own magic. Our only regret is that we could not stay longer. Another night at De Hoop or Kokerboomkloof would have been nice. Also trying to drive back in two days was not the best idea. Doing it in three days as we did going there would have been better.

Distance travelled (GPS): 2864km

Petrol used: 572.43ℓ

Fuel Cost: R7481.70

Fuel economy: 5km/l

Average moving speed: 78km/h (Travelled at 130km/h on tar)