

Chapter 2 - Friday 12 May: Keimoes to Seeheim Lodge via Augrabies Falls (Onseepkans/Velloorsdrif border post)

We left Keimoes early as we had a long day ahead of us. We decided to have a good full breakfast at the restaurant at Augrabies. The distance to the Augrabies Falls National Park is approx. 65kms from our accommodation and took just over 40 mins. The falls and associated mist in the early morning is a wonderful sight and we walked around to all the viewing sights and took the obligatory pictures and enjoyed the view. The facilities had changed much since my last visit 30 years back and consists of a system of walkways and well situated lookout points.

Photo

After a good and healthy full-on farmers brekkie', we left for the border post at Onseepkans. I was a little uncertain of the route and the GPS wanted to take us into Namibia via the tar main N10 route north of Upington. Nope, not this trip – we decided it's time for us to get down and dirty!

It's an interesting road with the Garmin map not quite right in a few places but just use your own calcs to determine where the right turns are and you will have no problem. At the final intersection where we joined the main route into the border crossing, our attention was drawn to a huge (and rather old) road sign, pointing us to the right to 'South West Africa'!!



The approach to the river valley and the border post is quite pleasant though after the dry higher lying areas en-route. There was only one other vehicle at the border post where the staff on both sides were good and friendly. The river crossing is by means of a one-way bridge for traffic.



Photo – Onsepkans Border Post



The route to Seeheim via Kuruman and Grunau consists of long straight dirt roads of very good surface so cruising at same speed as tar is possible. We stopped and had lunch after struggling to find a suitably shady tree. Refuelled at Karasburg and was please to find the petrol price to be around R11.50. My consumption was still around 5.6kms/L

Seeheim Lodge is a pretty unique place and totally unexpected surprise when you arrive. It is situated in a small ravine. As you approach, the sign says 1 km to Seeheim, yet all you see around you is desert. We were rather tired and a little confused until we came around a small ridge, and lo-and-behold there it was. The place seems quite out of context with the surroundings than what you would expect. The owner is a very pleasant and friendly guy called Zirk who was originally from Natal. He manages the place in an extremely casual manner, bare feet and all with a parrot on his shoulder, and I suspect it's actually one of his staff, a coloured lady called Janine, who really runs the show.



Photo - Seeheim

