

Volume 7 Issue 10

The Latest Trip Adventure Weekend Inside!

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW with Dirt riders Emile & Chrissie

Adventure musible held in delicate fingers. It should be handled, not embraced. It should be sipped, not swallowed at a gulp.



WATERVAL RESORT VANRHYNSDORP

DATE: 14 – 16 May 2010 RIDERS: Chrissie & Emile BIKES: F800GS; F800GS

FRIDAY: 14 MAY: GOODWOOD TO VANRHYNSDORP: DIRT ROADS VIA CITRUSDAL / CLANWILLIAM: 329.7KM

Its 8am and we on the bikes, heading in the direction of Citrusdal on the N7. I just finished a 9 week work project and exhausted from working 11 hour shifts every day, every week. I need a break. Have not been on my bike since 22 March. I miss my bike and my bike miss me. It's a cold morning. Winter is surely here and riding on a bike in cold is not going to stop me. We made our first stop at the beginning of the first dirt section just outside Citrusdal. The roads were covered in mud. The cool air is so nice and to feel the fresh freezing outdoors on my face made me feel refreshed again. I can do this everyday, each day and forever. Why do I have to work, why can't I just ride my bike every day and enjoy life?



It was wet and muddy, just the way I like it. My mood changed suddenly and I started to enjoy the trip. Im in the place I enjoy most, in nature. The road was tricky at places but the more you ride it the more you get used to it and become better at each ride out. I felt good. I enjoyed my bike and to ride again after a long time. We made one stop just before the Algeria turnoff bridge. A flooded river crossing awaited us. Knee deep in height. We thought, a new challenge, we drove the length [110m] of the flooded river crossing. What an amazing experience. What a load of joy.



Flooded Algeria Turn Off river crossing!

We drove pass Clanwilliam. We drove onto the N7 and headed towards Klawer and then Vanrhynsdorp. We stopped at the Shell and refueled, got some last snacks before we hit the next dirt/mud section out of town to Ouberg and Waterval Resort. To the east you can find the Bokkeveld Mountains, Unions- kraal Valley and the Koebee Mountains. South west of the town is the Olifants River Valley. We left Vanrhynsdorp at 2pm and started our next mud adventure. For 30km we had to balance sliding bikes, massive mud pools and fully loaded bikes. We bought few snacks for the weekend and on the way we lost our milk, it slipped from my cargo net. After a lot of struggle and laughs we drove up to the Waterval Resort. A massive waterfall of 380m in full flow. We parked the bikes and unloaded it.

Our first day was awesome, loads of mud patches and loads of smiles from us. We got out of the bike gear and it was pretty cold but but enjoyment filled my spirit and the tiredness of a long work project was long forgotten. Tomorrow we will explore Gifberg and the dirt road from Ou Berg to Bloekombos and back to Waterval. A 37km loop of pure adrenalin and beauty awaiting us to explored. Waterval Resort Chalets Accommodation.



SATURDAY: 15 MAY: EXPLORE GIFBERG AND DIRT ROAD TO BLOEKOMBOS WATERVAL: 37.5KM

It's a beautiful day and refreshing morning. We headed up the Ouberg Pass. Steep and wet. I stood up on the pegs to control the bike better and we were on top of Ouberg. Last time we explored Gifberg was in August, with lots of sandy jeep tracks and very challenging. This time its cold and wet and slippery, loads of fun awaited us. The view was awesome. Not sure we will be back again staying at Waterval Resort as we usually only explore new places and don't like to come back to the same place twice but then again, this is our stop-over on our way to Namibia next year. Its cheap, at R250 for a Cottage per night and a 4 sleeper house its not bad at all. We explored the Ouberg. That same day, we found ourselves on an Enduro race happening on the mountain and the exact route we wanted to ride, well we did not stand back and the challenge was on riding against 150cc bikes over the mountain. The guys were so friendly and allow us on the same path as the enduro race.



We explored a few new paths on the mountain. Then we on the enduro route then we on our own path. We in Matzikamma region now. Mountain streams were a challenge and in full flow on top of the mountain. Adventure was written in capital letters for this challenging section ahead of us. We done the 37km loop and were back at the chalet at 2pm. I was in such a satisfying mood, I had the best ever ride of my life. I sat for few moments re-thinking the riding route and enduro and challenge and fun...boy did we had fun. We got out of the muddy clothes and took the comfy clothes out.



The face of a happy Dirt-Chick, sitting in pure happiness!!!

Emile being a very proud hubby, chasing behind his dirt-chick!!

We had a great lunch, Tamatie-bredie and some coffee. We chatted over lunch about the ride out, the fun in the enduro and the route itself. We had the best ride of our lives and challenging. After lunch we headed up the mountain, a nice hike and the freshness filled our lungs. The waterfall looked amazing beautiful. The spray could be felt far. You could even smell the waterfall. Nature was more beautiful than ever. We got pretty close to the waterfall. Then we headed up the mountain and cliffs to the 2nd level of the waterfall.







Ground level of the Waterfall 2nd level of the waterfall View of the waterfall at 380m in total length The hike to the waterfall was amazing. Standing in the spray of such power is amazing. Our country got such beautiful scenery. What an eventful 2nd day of our adventure weekend. We explored the 2nd level of the massive waterfall and being pretty cautious of where we step as the way down the waterfall is a pretty far fall. We started to head back through the cliffs and mountain to where the hiker's route took us back to our cottage. We relaxed the rest of the afternoon. We sat outside playing few games of Rummie-Cup. Later we walked down to the river flowing right in front of us and sat for a few minutes on the rocks, taking in the beauty surrounding us and the days joy.



The surrounding area is refreshing. My head were clear, I had nothing I could think about just the ride out, the fun in the mountain, the beautiful waterfall, the joy being with Emile and the fun we have. This specific weekend we just wanted to be alone, we missed our friends and especially Captain Chaos in particular as he would have enjoyed the mud roads extremely but then again, a good thing we decided on not calling him as it might have been a wild one for him to experience but fun for us. Next time Captain Chaos I promise. We relaxed the rest of the day with the resort sheep following us where we go and the cat that slept with us the whole weekend.



Waterval Resort Cottages, our stay over en-route to Namibia 2011.

SUNDAY: 16 MAY: VANRHYNSDORP; KLAWER DIRT ROAD TO CLANWILLIAM DIRT TO CITRUSDAL: HOME: 335.2KM

It's the morning of our departure, we heading home. I was not in the best of moods as I did not want to go home and back to work. The weekend was loaded with fun and I wanted more. But in one month we off to Die HEL and another adventure that is just around the corner. We loaded the bikes, greeted the cat and sheep and drove away from Waterval. In my mind I felt not happy at all going home but I knew soon we have more fun. We drove onto a much dryer dirt road compared to Friday when we arrived. We stopped at the Shell garage and Emile bought some snacks, some people crowded the loaded bikes and an overwhelmed Vuka-lady-rider approached me. First I thought I knew her but she talked to me being amazed with joy. What a please to see other happy people. Dump the Vuka and get a GS for heaven sake I thought.



We drove into Klawer, had breakfast at the Engen One Stop. We called Captain Chaos to tell him what a wild dirty weekend he missed. He can't wait for Die HEL. We headed out of Klawer and just before riding over the Olifants River Bridge we took the first dirt road to the left and for the first time explored the dirt road from Klawer to Clainwilliam. A 54km dirt road next to the mountain and visible from the N7. I always wanted to explore this road, now we riding it. Pretty straight forward, if you have never driven it before give it a try as you will see natural beauty you never knew about when always stuck to the N7 tar road.



Klawer dirt road to Clanwilliam

Klawer dirt road to Clanwilliam

We made a few stops along the dirt road from Klawer to Clanwilliam. The route and road was beautiful. The quality of the road surface was also nice to ride. We saw landscapes we never knew existed. That is the beauty of exploring new paths and new dirt roads. Emile and I had an awesome time, a wonderful weekend away and loads of adventures to share for a long long time. We entered Clanwilliam and stopped for a cold drink. On the bikes again and off to the next dirt section leading us to Citrusdal from Clanwilliam along all the dirt roads and the well know cave along the route. This specific road was pretty wet, loads of mud pools but just the way I like it. I drove through every mud pool I could get for as long as the dirt was there. I had about 2 close slips but the enjoyment and fun was too much to worry about a fall. Just open up the throttle little and Bosvark jump back into position. We stopped at the cave, finished the rest of the cold drink and headed on. For few moments I thought again I was riding an enduroit went wild and fast.....



Klawer dirt road to Clanwilliam.....

Cave en-route from Clanwilliam to Citrusdal dirt road.....

We drove into Citrusdal just after lunch. Short ride later we stopped at Piketberg for a Magnum Mint and Coke, Emile had a pie. Refueled and took the last part of the N7 back home. We drove into home at 3pm. I finished off the last part of the recording and we started to unload the bikes. I started to download the helmet camera recordings and input on the camera's. I went to take a nice shower with Cape Town water and washed my wild 'helmet-weekend-hair", now you know why I wore my buff the whole weekend. I sat until 10pm, red burning eyes and took a preview of the recordings. Soon it will be on DVD. What a weekend, what a load of fun, what a pleasure of riding our bikes. Next one soon to be happening from 16-19 June: Die HEL Weekend Adventure. Until a next time....



Waterval Resort Vanrhynsdorp Dirt Weekend Adventure!!



