

Mafefe Experience 2010.



Friday morning the 12th November 2010 the sixteen of us met up in Bronhorstspuit for another great Motorcycle out ride to Camp Mafefe. The camp is situated on the Ivory Route in the Northern Drakensburg, also known as the Strydpoortberg.

The camp is situated in a very remote spot and can only be accessed with four wheel drive vehicles or dirt orientated Motorcycles. Access to the camp takes one along the Olifants River with various scenic views, where a few small villages are passed before the trail takes to the mountains. The scenery is magnificent and only a few local people still reside in this beautiful area, staying in traditional huts blended with the natural surroundings.



Entry to Mafefe Route.

The weather was perfect as we set off after early morning coffee at Roxy's, mostly tar with a bit of dirt here and there to get to Ga-Mafefe Village as fast as possible. Once we reached Ga-Mafefe the real dirt riding started, it must have been 34 degrees in the shade and the road conditions had deteriorated badly since our last visit in January, according to Simon; our host in the camp, they had many flash floods with 40mm measured at times washing away all the inclines and leaving a rock strewn path for us to navigate.



Track to the Camp.

Arrival in the camp only happened after sunset as the route really took its toll on man and machine. The camp fire was lit and food prepared while every one unpacked, showered and settled down for another great evening under an African sky.



On Route Legalameetse Boundary.

An early evening was had by most and Saturday morning saw most off us up at 05H30 as the sun was very bright at the top of the mountain. After breakfast everyone did there own thing, some went for a ride to the Legalameetse Reserve boundary, some tackled the route out again and for some obscure reason some of the guys were in the mood for bike washing.



River bed on the way to Legalameetse.

Soon the day was over and the smell of smoke from the camp fire filled the evening air, everyone helped prepare the evening meal and a really jovial evening was spent in the camp as most folk stayed up much later than the previous night.



Exit Mafefe.

As all good things come to an end Sunday morning dawned, it was time to pack and after breakfast we tackled the homeward bound leg of our trip. What I could gather from the comments at the bottom of the mountain, is that the road is much less daunting when one is fresh and was not nearly as difficult as experienced on the way in.

But yes; I do agree, the Mafefe track should be rated as a 4/5 and not a 3/5 as stated in the invite. It was a rough ride and if no maintenance is done to the track it could very well in time become inaccessible for dual purpose motorcycles and 4 x 4's, unless we fix the track ourselves by filling in the eroded gulleys with rocks as we go along. That could very well be another adventure on its own?



Photo's by Ken Thrash.

A very big thank you to all of you for making it one of those unforgettable trips with great camaraderie and new adventure motorcycling friendships made. Hope to see you all on new and exciting trips in the New Year.