

# Cederberg 3-in-1

In the Eastern Cederberg Philip Sackville-Scott discovered some tracks less travelled. Here's what he experienced on three of them: Kagga Kamma 4x4, Kliphuiskloof 4x4 Trail and The Old Postal Route.



**X marks the spot.** The stretch in the Kagga Kamma Game Reserve between Bobbejaankrans and Joubert's Kloof, just before Joubert's Werf is "X" territory, one of a few technical sections clearly marked by X's on the map.

## 1 Kagga Kamma 4x4 Drive by numbers in a game reserve

In the belly of a wilderness area southeast of the Cederberg lies the privately-owned 15000ha Kagga Kamma Game Reserve and its lesser-known entanglement of off-road tracks.

The reserve offers a bit of everything: from game- and rock-art-viewing to botanical exploration, birding and even astronomy. Moreover, you will be awed and humbled by the landscape that comprises a surprising juxtaposition of expansive Karoo lands and

dramatic Cederberg rock formations.

In the south of the reserve, around the lodge and rest camp, lies a network of sandy game viewing tracks where you can see a variety of game such as eland, gemsbok and kudu, to name a few. However, we were heading to the north with its maze of over 100km of crisscrossing off-road tracks.

### Navigation by numbers

Access to the tracks is strictly

controlled. We paid our fees and received a package of information, including a clear and concise map detailing the maze of trails.

The route we plotted included all five of the reserve's wilderness campsites and traced the reserve's border.

However, even if you don't plan your route, you won't get lost as every intersection in the park is marked by a beacon (even if, as in some cases, they lie on the ground nearby) that

corresponds to a number on the map. Navigation here is simply a matter of following the map's numbers.

The route we had chosen, started on compacted gravel tracks winding through twisting valleys and kloofs.

Some early descents are quite steep, requiring careful navigation to avoid sidewall cuts. Although there are a few technical sections, they are clearly marked by large X's on the map. Be aware, these



sections cannot be bypassed.

Our first stop was at the Bobbejaankrans campsite.

All Kagga Kamma's campsites are wilderness sites that lack amenities. You have to be entirely self-sufficient – bring your own water as well as ablution and sleeping gear.

Fortunately, there are no large predators in the reserve and you are free to walk around and sleep under the stars.

Up till then, the off-roading hadn't been too challenging. The road comprised predominantly rocky surfaces, with some bouncy sections, but no cross-axes. Moreover, very little road-building was required.

The scenery compensates for this early shortfall though.

Between Bobbejaankrans and Joubert's Kloof, our next stop, things got a little more interesting with the snaking track's bends becoming increasingly tight.

Further on it unexpectedly and potentially hazardously drops into Joubert's Werf.

Before you tackle this downhill of loose rock, get out and walk it. Yes, it's nasty, but a careful choice of line will get you through. Vehicles with limited ground clearance are

in for an especially tough time and some road building may be necessary in their case.

### The Cruiser waltz

After a quick walkabout at Joubert's Vlak, a campsite 1.5km on, we continued eastwards, where things livened up considerably.

The rest of the route, past Graskop campsite and all the way back to our starting point, became the typical mountain 4x4ing we had been expecting.

Ascending one moment and descending the next, we wend our way on tracks of loose rock, repeatedly cross-axeling as we tiptoed over and around rocks, boulders and holes.

Scenery so mesmerising you have to force your eyes away from the horizons to the track constantly surround you.

The Cederberg mountains to the west and the plains of the Tanqua Karoo to the north are at once indifferent to your passing and conspiring to overwhelm you with their splendour.

**Drive Out says:** At Kagga Kamma it's about more than just the trails – it's about getting lost and forgetting yourself for a while.

## “ We tiptoed over and around rocks, boulders and holes ”

### What you should know



#### WHY SHOULD I GO?

The sense of isolation and remoteness, the vast open and humbling expanses and the brilliantly-lit night skies

#### EN ROUTE

**How long are the trails?** There are over 100 km of tracks to explore.

**How long will I be driving?** At least 6 hours to do it justice.

**Maximum number of vehicles?** There is no limitation on the trails, but there are limits at each camp.

**Do I get a map?** Yes, and it's on *Tracks4Africa*.

**Will my car get scratched?** It's unlikely

**Should I remove my running boards?** No

**Should I take a compressor?** Yes

**Can I turn around halfway?** There are so many loops you can turn around anytime.

**Can we have a braai en route?** Yes, you can spread the coals at selected spots, but be careful in the dry season.

#### THE SURROUNDS

**Best time to go?** Autumn and flower season (September-October)

**Can I take my family along?** For sure

**Just for the day or the weekend?** A weekend at least

**Are there ablution facilities for day visitors?** Not on the 4x4 trails

**Can I see game?** In the southern part of the property, definitely.

**The nearest town?** Op die Berg (37 km)

**How do I get there?** Take the R303 from Ceres via Prince Alfred Hamlet to Op die Berg. Turn right just after Op die Berg and after 17 km take the right hand turn-off onto gravel and continue over the Katbakkies Pass.

After a further 20 km the turn off to Kagga Kamma is on your left.

**The nearest fuel?** Op die Berg (37 km)

#### WHERE CAN I STAY?

Visit [www.kaggakamma.co.za](http://www.kaggakamma.co.za) for all the options

#### WHAT ELSE?

**Must I take anything special?** Anti-histamine during blossom time if you suffer from hay fever; telescope and astronomy guide; a bush-toilet seat; bug spray.

**What else can I do there?** Hike, swim, identify succulents, star-gaze, take photographs and go birding.

#### COSTS

**Trail:** R180 per vehicle

**Camping:** R45 pppn

**Other accommodation:** Visit [www.kaggakamma.co.za](http://www.kaggakamma.co.za) for all the options

#### CONTACT

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