

The Colossal 2018 Citroen Cross-country Caravan of Classic Cars and Colourful Characters

11 2CV's and a Traction Light 15

In September 5 Citroen 2CV's left their homes in KZN and travelled to Johannesburg for a weekend of club activities. From there, now with cars from Johannesburg added, 7 cars left on the Monday. The group stuck to provincial roads and had an excellent run, albeit against strong headwinds. That matters when you're driving a 602cc, 28bhp car. A Citroen Light 15 joined us in Welkom and another 3 2CV's, also from KZN, joined us in Gariep.



Our second night was at Melton Wold Guest Farm between Victoria West and Loxton. This is a lovely old-world stay in the centre of the Karoo. The next stretch was via Carnarvon, Williston, Calvinia, Nieuwoudtville, the awesome Van Rhyn's Pass and onto Clanwilliam where the last 2CV now joined us. This one had left Johannesburg a day later and had done the trip in 2 days via Upington. We were now 12 cars. One car was giving ignition problems and the Light 15 had a duff generator. Other than that, all was going well.



Before I continue, let me talk about doing long distances in a car that was never designed for this purpose. The 602cc versions cruise comfortably at 100kph and will do so all day long, with long uphill's necessitating 3rd gear and an engine that sounds like a swarm of angry bees. If tuned and maintained correctly, the little air-cooled 2-cylinder boxer engine never overheats, seldom gives trouble and is just an amazing workhorse, carrying it's load of passengers and luggage without complaint.

It has a super-soft suspension and comfortable seats with ample leg- and packing-room. It has become the long-distance model of choice amongst the Citroen aficionados, against all odds. It's my contention that there's no other vehicle that can carry 4 adults, with luggage and that speed with such a puny engine; truly a little technical marvel.

From Clanwilliam it was a short hop via Elands Bay and Velddrif to Paternoster where we enjoyed 3 nights of relaxation, exploration, good food and good company. The Cape Peugeot Club joined us here, unfortunately with only one oldie, a 203. Paternoster's crayfish festival activities were a delight and an aerial display by the SAAF Silver Falcons over the bay a highlight. We celebrated the 2CV's 70th anniversary at a beach restaurant on the last night.

From there our next destination was Prince Albert where we spent 2 nights and an activity-filled day. A long drive via Meiringspoort, Willowmore and Aberdeen took us to Graaff-Reinet. Here we discovered a fairly recently opened car museum with an impressive collection of cars. The obligatory sundowner drive up to the Valley of Desolation viewpoint was followed by a group dinner in a local restaurant.

The penultimate day took us via Aliwal North to Ladybrand from where the KZN and Gauteng contingents split on their respective routes home the next day.

Total distance covered was 4500km for some, a bit less for others. Breakdowns – one car gave ignition and carburettor problems, the Light 15 had a temporary overheating issue and a wiring fault that was traced and fixed and we had some tyre-related stops here and there.

A memorable time with so much camaraderie, way too much food and wine, endless laughs and beautiful scenery. Till the next time.

Konni Hoferichter
December 2018