



South African  
NATIONAL PARKS

## TANKWA-KAROO NATIONAL PARK Gravel Road Driving Tips

Here are some tips to ensure your visit to Tankwa is a memorable one...for all the *right* reasons!

### General...

- Take along enough drinking water, especially during hot conditions.
- Inform your host of your route and approximate time of arrival.
- Check pressure of spare tyre and ensure tyres are at the recommended pressure at all times.
- Avoid driving at night. It is dangerous due to poor visibility and increased game movement.
- Never exceed 80km/h. This ensures optimum control of your vehicle and will lessen excessive use of brakes, which in turn may result in damage to tyres or even blowouts.
- If you need to overtake, avoid loose gravel at the side of the road.
- Drastically reduce speed when transferring from tar to gravel and when approaching a motor grid.
- Drive in the existing tracks on the road.
- Keep to the left when approaching a blind hill.
- Switch on your headlights in dusty conditions or traffic's dust.
- Watch out for sharp stones on the road (sharp stone + tyres = damage/flat).
- Keep both hands on the steering wheel at all times.
- Be vigilant for flying stones that could chip or shatter your windscreen.
- Watch out for any large rocks in the road that could damage your car undercarriage.
- Pay attention to road traffic signs, particularly those that indicate a gentle or sharp turn ahead. Reduce your speed accordingly.
- Always be on the lookout for wild animals and stock from farms. Slow down immediately when you see them.
- Keep a safe following distance from vehicles in front of you.
- Reduce speed when passing oncoming traffic and keep to the left of the road as far as safely possible.
- Do not allow wheels to lock when applying brakes.

### Rain...

- In rainy or wet conditions, be aware of slippery roads, wash-aways and running or stagnant water.
- Do not try to cross streams unless you have verified the speed and depth of water, as well as substrate (sandy, rocky, holes) through the entire length of water to be crossed.
- If it is raining and roads are wet, slow down. Take your foot off the accelerator and let your speed drop gradually. Never use the brakes suddenly, because this may cause the car to skid.
- Be extra careful during the first few hours after rain fell. Roads are much more slippery.
- Slow down in areas where vehicles have passed already and have left ruts in the road. Your vehicle may follow these ruts, possibly resulting in a loss of control.

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