

## RATING

The general unofficial rating of the 4x4 parts of the route, highlighted in yellow on the map, is a **Grade 3**.

The “drop off” at *Skeleton Ridge*, could be unofficially classified as a **Grade 4** rating. It is very narrow and a spotter is required to safely descend this part.

Inexperienced drivers or owners of less capable vehicles, are advised to turn around at *Mt. Karmel Lookout* at the top of the ridge, and return to the *Eingedi Valley*, the way they came.

An unofficial **Grade 5** rating is given to the descent from *Skeleton Ridge* to *The Friendly Farmyard*, and needs a specialised vehicle to complete.

The easier 4x2 trails are a welcome alternative.

# Route 1 - Eland Trail $\pm 12\text{km}$

## SINAI ASCENT

The trail starts with a steep 4x4 climb to **(1) Sinai Lookout**. We would suggest that you alight from your vehicles and enjoy the views over *The Eingedi Valley* to the South and Lesotho to the East. Drive on the farm road until you encounter **(2) Ararat Lookout**. It would be worth walking to the point, in order to enjoy the views of the game-filled plains and Noah's Ark (an old game capture structure). Continue along the road until you reach a sharp right curve, which takes you in a northern direction, to another right curve which directs you to the next 4x4 section, **(3) Shiloh Scramble**.

## SHILOH SCRAMBLE

This steep rocky downhill takes you past **(4) Noah's Ark**, to **(5) Shiloh Dam**, set in a beautiful little catchment area, with wildlife enjoying the clean water and lush veld.

## JERICHO PLAINS LOOP

Drive along the **(6) Springbok Vlaktes** and enjoy the small herds of Eland, Wildebeest, Blesbuck and Springbuck, together with the rare Blue Korhaan. Pass Coffee Tree 1 (toilet nearby) and Coffee Tree 2, until you reach **(7) Masada**. Drive up the short track to these hidden rock formations. You may want to alight from your vehicle and enjoy this unusual natural phenomenon, from where you can also view game on the **(8) Jericho Plains**. You may see our group of ostrich sprinting past, or our Zebras sporting their most unusual member of the group (Spot Michaela the donkey!). Once you are back on the trail, proceed left along the perimeter of the farm, adjacent to the boundary fence around Jericho Plains, past **(9) Lunch Corner**, towards Coffee Tree 1. Please note that this road is not passable when there have been heavy rains. There is an alternative route during the wet season. Please ask management to direct you in this regard.

## SPRINGBOK VLAKTES LOOP

Turn a sharp right and proceed towards the boundary fence following the farm track. Pass through a **(10) Donga**, and a little further take a sharp left, past the cement reservoir, and head towards Shiloh Dam (follow the markers).

## SHILOH ASCENT

Head back up the 4x4 ridge that you drove down, and follow the same road until you get to a fork where a marker will direct you to a right turn towards Mt Moriyah Views.

## MT MORIYAH VIEWS

Proceed to the next fork, take the left turn and head towards **(11) Mt Moriyah** (a burned down outdoor function's venue), where you can disembark and enjoy the beautiful views of the Maluti Mountains towards the East, and the Mabula Mountain on the West. Proceed towards **(12) Mt Karmel Lookout** at the top of **(13) Skeleton Ridge**.

## SKELETON RIDGE DROP-OFF

The driver has now reached the most treacherous part of the trail – not for the faint-hearted! The “drop off” at Skeleton Ridge, could possibly be unofficially classified as a **Grade 4** rating. It is very narrow and a spotter is required to safely descend this part. Inexperienced drivers, or owners of less capable vehicles, are advised to turn around at Mt. Karmel Lookout at the top of the ridge, and return to the Eingedi Valley, via Sinai Lookout, the way they came.

For those who wish to proceed, slowly manoeuvre down this steep decline. You will notice many bones on the side of the track, as this is where the bones of dead game are discarded - to add substance to the adventurous imagination and name of the ridge. At the base of this drop-off, the track takes you East through the ruins of an old **(14) Basotho village**, to the next deceptively steep descent, aptly called **(15) Surprise Drop-off**, hidden in the shrubbery.

## SHAMA LOOP OR GRADE 5 GRIND

The driver now has a choice. Either an easier and more comfortable drive home towards the left, or an unofficial **Grade 5** experience requiring a specialised vehicle, towards the right.

We would highly recommend turning left!

Drive along a flat ridge just above Eingedi Valley towards **(16) Shama Dam**, where a deceptive gentle little uphill slope, can catch you off-guard when wet. Proceed back home along the road towards part of the Sinai 4x4 stretch.

Enjoy a good swim and/or campfire get-together, discussing the happenings of the outing.

# Route 2 - Zebra Trail $\pm 4\text{km}$

Once the Eland Trail has been completed, this route can be accomplished backwards (not meaning in reverse gear!) i.e. via Shama Dam, up Skeleton Ridge and down from Sinai Lookout. Please discuss this with management, as this venture is dependent on the weather and road conditions.

## SINAI ASCENT

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## FORTRESS TRACK

At the next fork stay right. This will take you past **(4) Fortress Lookout** (This is one of a number of forts built on these high places during the Anglo-Sotho and Anglo-Boer wars. The British forts are characteristically built in a square shape and the Sotho forts are round). Head towards a small 4x4 section behind Mt. Moriyah. Enjoy the views as you proceed towards **(5) Mt Karmel Lookout** at the top of **(6) Skeleton Ridge**.

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At the base of this drop-off, the track takes you East through the ruins of an old **(7) Basotho village**, to the next deceptively steep descent, aptly called **(8) Surprise Drop-off**, hidden in the shrubbery.

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Drive along a flat ridge just above Eingedi Valley towards **(9) Shama Dam**, where a deceptive gentle little uphill slope, can catch you off-guard when wet. Proceed back home along the road towards the Sinai 4x4.

Enjoy a good swim and/or campfire get-together, discussing the happenings of the outing.