

Classic Safari Challenge 2008

Nigel Gray with wife Christine recently completed what must be one of the longest modern endurance events for private competitors - some 4000 miles + comprehensive driving through Southern Africa.



The promotion literature says - "The 3rd Classic Safari Challenge is a touring event designed for like-minded enthusiasts who want to enjoy Africa, without gruelling competition. A chance to see the sights, stop, take in the wonders of Africa with breathtaking scenery. A chance to play golf, or go on Safari, with fine food, good hotels, and a carefully chosen route.

We start in Cape Town, and finish in Cape Town - so that simplifies shipping because our route drives a vast circle taking in Namibia and Botswana, we drive as far north as Victoria Falls and return via the stunning Drakensberg Mountains. Checkpoints at evocative places like Safari Lodges, or Rorke's Drift, with short driving days."



The fascinating final report can be read in full here: www.endurancerally.com/extra22.html but I liked the closing remarks of the organisers..... "Well, here we are, back at Table Bay Hotel in the shadow of the giant mountain right behind the waterfront, on a bright and sunny day with just a

gentle sea breeze swaying the palm trees that surround the cars at the front of the hotel.

It has been harder, and tougher, than anyone could have imagined - including organisers. Late rains left the roads far from the ideal that was discovered on the various route surveys. By the end of the 23 days of the event, just about all the cars were suffering the rigours of the giant circuit of southern Africa." (Some trip! Ed)

