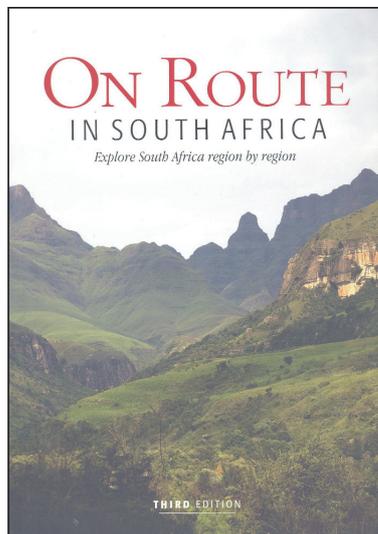


Books



ON ROUTE
IN SOUTH AFRICA
BPJ Erasmus
Sunbird Publishers

REVIEW:
Tony Weaver

SINCE 1995, *On Route in South Africa* has been one of the bibles of travellers in South Africa, taking us on back roads and byways to platteland dorps, through hidden poorts and passes and re-introducing lost treasures.

It was, when first published, a natural successor to TV Bulpin's classic, *Discovering Southern Africa*.

Now re-issued in a fully updated third edition, with new maps, photographs and fresh information – while still retaining many of Erasmus's original quirky facts and little known stories – it has grown to a 400-page tome.

One of the features I particularly like is that, where possible, the book gives the origins of place names. For example, I have always wondered whether the Northern Cape town of Hotazel was a corruption of a San word, or whether it really was meant to be pronounced "hot as Hell".

According to Erasmus: "In 1917, Dirk Roos and JW Waldeck were surveying and naming farms in the area. It was high summer and the temperature soared into



INTERESTING FACTS: The latest edition retains many of Erasmus's original stories like the origin of the place name Hotazel.

WINDING WAYS: A GUIDE

the forties every day. One evening, back in their camp at the end of a particularly torrid day in the veld, Roos collapsed on to a chair and spread his maps in front of him.

Having confirmed his position near the Ga-Mogara River, he marked the spot and named the farm he had just surveyed 'Hot as Hell'."

So there we have it.

In my own meanderings around our incredible country, there are a handful of books that live in my Land Rover.

They include essential reference works like the *Roberts Bird Guide* and classics like the 1984 *Reader's Digest Atlas of Southern Africa*, which is a collection of survey maps ranging from 1:50 000 to 1:500 000 in scale, most of which are still absolutely accurate today, and several works by Bulpin.

This third edition of *On Route in South Africa* is going to join that handful of books and earn a permanent place in my mobile travel library – it is a classic.

● We have two copies of *On Route in South Africa* to give away, courtesy of Sunbird. To enter sms "Route" and your full name and postal address to 34445 between 8am and 8pm today.