

Racing a wood-powered SUV? Only the yanks!

Only in the States would you find an SUV powered by wood-chips. This was just one of the interesting vehicles to be found at the fourth annual Green Grand Prix, a race designed to celebrate alternative fuel technology.

The 120km race has two races within the race. The first is a regularity rally in which competitors earn points for passing checkpoints at a particular time. The second aspect of the race, and the one that is more relevant in these days of rising fuel costs, is a fuel economy challenge.

This year there were 46 vehicles entered, including the 1988 Isuzu Trooper that gets one mile per pound of wood. The fuel economy challenge was won by a biodiesel-powered Harley Davidson motorcycle that averaged 89 miles per gallon (2,64l/100km).

The day after the race is dedicated to education, the aim of which is to promote alternate fuel sources and educate the public about reducing greenhouse gases.



Book reviews

Picturesque series

Struik has recently released a trio of beautiful little coffee-table books, each focusing on a different part of southern Africa. Each book features spectacular photographs of the area in question, as well as having short snippets of information in three languages. An easy-to-use map has been included in the back of each book to help you plan your own trip to the area.

Picturesque Cape Town

Author: Jane Goodfellow Publisher: Struik

Price: R85

The first in the series is *Picturesque Cape Town*, a lovely memento of a visit to one of the world's most scenic cities. While the book contains all of the major tourist destinations in the area, it also brings to light some hidden gems that tourists might otherwise miss, and the great pictures will certainly encourage exploration. Places that earn a mention are Table Mountain (obviously), Robben Island, False Bay, the winelands and the West Coast. All text is in English, German and French.

Picturesque Garden Route

Author: Jane Goodfellow Publisher: Struik

Price: R85

Next up is *Picturesque Garden Route*, also penned by Cape Town author Jane Goodfellow. The dainty visual book is full of stunning images from one of South Africa's most charming areas, and is the perfect choice for someone who is either heading to the Garden Route, or who wants something to remember the area by. The Knysna forests, Sedgefield, Oudtshoorn and the Overberg are all highlighted with fantastic pictures that will no doubt entice a few armchair adventurers to actually get on the road. All text is in English, German and French.

Picturesque Mozambique

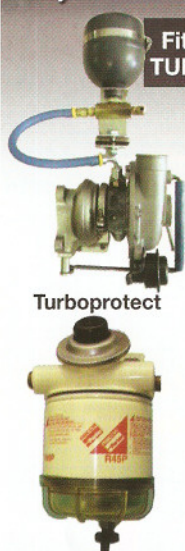
Author: Fiona McIntosh Publisher: Struik

Price: R85

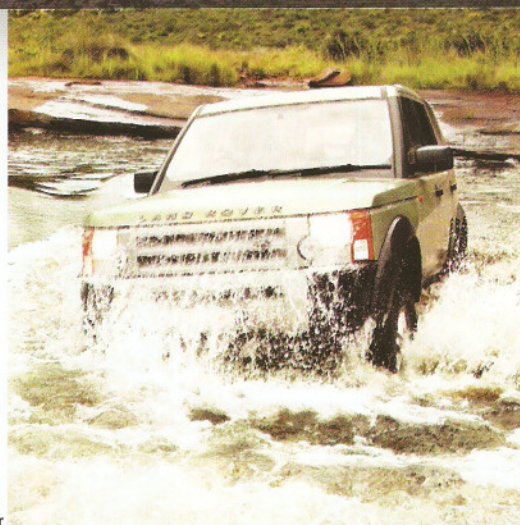
Turquoise seas and unspoilt beaches – that's what the word Mozambique conjures up for most of us. *Picturesque Mozambique* captures this element of the country, with magnificent images of the natural beauty and fascinating tourist attractions of this tropical paradise and its offshore islands. But the book also delves deeper than the average tourist, visiting areas like Cahora Bassa and the vibrant capital city of Maputo. Like the other two titles in the series, this book will provide inspiration for trips as much as it will serve as a wonderful reminder of a visit to one of the most unforgettable parts of southern Africa. Text is written in English, German and Portuguese.

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