



Engorge your senses

Although Buffalo Gorge is well known to off-road enthusiasts – and adventure junkies – the farm's Wild Camp is a new addition to the mix, having opened its gates earlier this year.

Although the farm boasts several accommodation options, the owner of Buffalo Gorge, Rya Diepstra, wanted to add a rustic bush experience especially for 4x4 owners. With this in mind, he included a R200 4x4 trail fee to the cost of camping at the Wild Camp. This ensures that only 4x4s can access the camp, and once you have paid your R200 fee, you can drive the farm's remaining 4x4 routes and obstacles.

The first thing you will notice when camping at Wild Camp is the incredible silence. There's no noise to speak of – no road traffic or nearby settlements. The farm is hidden among trees and valleys.

The campsite features three braai areas, and there's more than enough space for up to 20 vehicles. And, because of the site's large clearing, it's also trailer and caravan friendly. But don't forget that the road to Wild Camp is restricted to 4x4s, so make sure that your trailer or caravan is up to the task!

The camp features a rock pool with a lovely view, a hot water shower, flush toilet, shaded camping, and a terrific central braai area – that's great for large groups. You'll also find a fresh supply of drinking water, delivered via an underground spring that flows all year.

The campsite is ideally positioned for the other activities available at Buffalo Gorge. From the campsite alone, you can head along one of the farm's hiking trails, MTB routes, or trail-running tracks – and even dabble in some mountain climbing. There are many other activities on the remaining areas of the farm, such as abseiling and horse riding.

To sum up, if you are seeking solitude, sustenance and a place to relax your spirit, I can't think of a better place than the less than one-and-a-half hours from Johannesburg, Buffalo Gorge makes for a perfect weekend getaway, and a chance to escape the city life.

4x4 Trails
 There are several routes at Buffalo Gorge, including an obstacle course through a river, as well as an 18km rocky route that requires equipment, 4x4 skills and a spottier to guide you. All 4x4 activities cost R200 per vehicle, which is included in your camping fee at the Wild Camp.

Safety & Security
 The farm feels very isolated and far from any major roads or urban areas.

Price
 R75 per person per night to camp, along with a fee of R200 per 4x4.

Contact
 Call Rya Diepstra on 083 528 3055, or visit www.buffalodge.co.za.

Directions
 Situated about two-and-a-half hours from Johannesburg, take the Midburg West off-ramp. Turn towards Midburg and head straight until you reach a T-junction. Turn right and take Walker Street. Street boards, Gonderwald Lakeside, Recycle Shop have the bear, turn at the Stonebridge Buffalo Gorge front. Please remember when you reach this road, cellphone reception ends at this point.

GPS coordinates (Wild Camp)
 30° 23' 34" S
 29° 35' 21" E

Abilities
 Rustic and clean
 Toilet: Flush toilet
 Showers: Yes
 Hot water: Solar-powered

Facilities
 Space for trailers and caravans: Yes
 Braai: There are three braai areas to choose from, but bring your own charcoal and braai grid
 Swimming pool: Yes, a spring-fed rock pool
 Cellphone signal: Yes
 Drinking water: There's an underground spring that flows all year round, and the water is crystal clear.

Wild Camp
 The camp is open only to 4x4s. However, the camp's lovely rock pool.