18 JULY 2026

Ou Trekpad Day Trip

A winter 4x4 skills day

Located near Melkbosstrand in Cape Town, Ou Trekpad 4x4 is a family-oriented off-road trail and outdoor venue. Its sand, technical dirt sections, hill climbs and water crossings cater for beginners and experienced drivers, while the equipped lapa makes it well suited to club and family outings.

Cool winter air, low cloud and damp ground set the scene for the club's visit on 18 July 2026. Members gathered for a practical morning of off-road driving, learning and shared experience. The weather may have been grey, but the mood was anything but.



The day began with a group briefing before the convoy moved onto the course.

Briefings, Beanies and a Blended Convoy

Before anyone pointed a bonnet at an obstacle, the group gathered for the usual briefing. The route, safety considerations and the importance of watching the vehicle ahead were covered, while experienced members shared guidance on line choice, steady momentum and knowing when to stop and reassess. The youngest co-drivers listened too - at least some of the time.

Parked behind the group was a proper blended 4x4 line-up, comprising mostly Toyotas, together with a Volkswagen Amarok, a Mitsubishi Pajero and a Suzuki Grand Vitara. Different badges and different levels of experience, but the same objective: learn something, support the next driver and enjoy the day.

Sand School - Lines, Ruts and Lessons

The first section provided a useful warm-up: loose sand, narrow cuttings, awkward cambers and exits that demanded a clear line. It looked simple from a distance. From behind the steering wheel, the deep ruts and soft shoulders told a different story.



Different vehicles, different approaches - the same loose and shifting terrain.

Drivers took turns easing into the obstacle while spotters watched wheel placement and spectators found the best camera angle. Some vehicles moved through cleanly; others required slower, more deliberate positioning. No drama - just the kind of practical learning that only happens when tyres meet real terrain.

The smaller Suzuki Grand Vitara moved lightly across the open sand, while the heavier Toyotas, Volkswagen Amarok and Mitsubishi Pajero showed how wheelbase, clearance, weight and momentum can influence the way each vehicle handles the same obstacle. The recurring lesson was clear: look ahead, choose the line early and avoid fighting the steering once the vehicle is committed.

Puddles, Powerlines and Plenty of Splash

After the sand came the wet section. Beneath the powerlines, water-filled crossings and muddy approaches provided the next test. Drivers inspected the entry, kept a controlled pace and concentrated on maintaining steady progress.



Some crossings produced a ripple; others produced a proper bow wave.

Some vehicles slipped through with barely more than a neat ripple. Others sent water rolling away from the bumper in a satisfying bow wave. One by one the vehicles handled the crossings with composed, steady movements, while the waiting convoy and spotters kept a close eye on each exit.

Although some of the water crossings appeared more straightforward than the loose sand, they introduced their own risks and reminders: check the depth and firmness of the crossing, avoid sudden acceleration, leave sufficient space between vehicles and never assume the exit is as firm as the entry.

People Make the Difference

Between obstacles, the real character of the day appeared. Members stood on banks to guide, film and encourage; families moved between vehicles; and each completed line became a shared success. The technical sections mattered, but the support around them mattered just as much.

A Day Shared



Muddy tyres, zipped jackets and a group that spent the day learning together.

The group photograph captured the day well: a cool winter sky, a varied line-up of vehicles and the people who had shared advice, camera angles and encouragement from the first briefing to the final obstacle.

Braai at the Lapa

Once the driving was done, those members who had time gathered at Ou Trekpad's lapa for a relaxed group braai. The venue's facilities provided a welcome place to warm up, share a meal and revisit the day's highlights. Not everyone was able to stay, but for those who did, it was a fitting way to round off the outing - good food, easy conversation and the familiar fellowship that makes a 4x4 Cape day about far more than the trail.







The Final Polish

By the end, the vehicles carried the evidence: sand packed into the tread, mud along the lower panels and more than one story ready for the next get-together. At least one Toyota later returned to showroom condition, complete with enough sparkle to earn the unofficial Cleanest Finish Award.



From sand and mud back to showroom shine.

A sincere thank you to the organisers, guides, spotters and everyone who brought their vehicles, advice, humour and camera phones. Another 4x4 Cape day that proved the club is about far more than simply driving obstacles.

Compiled by Rio