



● MEDIA

INTERVIEW

THIS IS HOW IT IS NOW WITH KIRSTEN AND EDWIN FROM 'IK VERTREK': 'SHE IS CALLED THE NEW MARTIEN'

18.12.2021 | 08:00 AM | MICHELLE VAN DER MOLEN

The emigration of [Kirsten \(50\) and Edwin \(51\)](#) to Hoedspruit in South Africa was featured in the program 'Ik Vertrek'. The couple bought two lodges, one of which they now rent out – with great success.

How are they doing now, despite the [entry ban to South Africa](#) ? LINDA.nl calls both of them to ask for that – and more.



'I LEAVE'

The broadcast of *Ik Departure* will appear on Dutch television on Thursday 25 November, and an entry ban to South Africa will be announced a day later. Edwin: "But we soon said: wait a minute. We live in the Friesland of South Africa. You live outside. Life is different here than in the Netherlands, where everyone is packed in public transport."

The two are not shocked by the entry ban, but they do feel the unrest in Africa. "They don't understand the panic in the Netherlands here. There are very few infections. But you have to deal directly with write-offs, including from the Netherlands and Germany." Moreover – says Kirsten – it is better to stick to the rules in Africa than in the Netherlands.

LOCAL MARKET

Although the bookings from Europe have been slightly reduced, the couple is not left with an empty lodge during this period. "We are now focusing on the local market, South African guests. That takes a bit of switching: many other languages and customs," says Edwin. "With a website in Dutch, German, English, French and Italian, we thought: we're there. But now that we are here and there is a negative travel advice, we all get people calling: that African of you on the website. We cannot read that."

And then you have the new breakfast habits. "We have beautiful bean coffee, we make lattes and cappuccinos. But they want black coffee, with milk. Isn't that just a cappu? But no, it should be coffee should be cold milk and brown sugar. Just like chili sauce with your scrambled eggs, that is also very normal here. Today we have the whole package available."

BLOUSE WITH GIRAFFES

The episode of *Ik Departure* has been viewed several times by the family. "It is of course also unusual to see a year and a half of developments pass by in 45 minutes. Before going to see for ourselves, we turned off all notifications on our phone. But halfway through the episode we got curious. WhatsApp exploded. Nine hundred messages," said Edwin.

Kirsten: "The website even went down. We still get letters, open applications, people who want to look after our house when we are in the Netherlands. And the most diverse questions. What color glasses I have, where Edwin's giraffe blouse was bought." Edwin still has to laugh about it. "Then you think: *what is this?*" Kirsten: "And he never actually wears that blouse." What Edwin agrees: "Much too hot here."



NOT AFRAID

Although Kirsten does want to come back to the scene with the giraffes, while we're on the subject. "I'm not at all afraid of those animals, but I got angry at the fact that Edwin kept holding that camera on my nose. That's not how it came across on television." Edwin laughs: "You say that now..."

Kirsten is quick to talk about it: "He – the giraffe – was really aggressive, it just wasn't fun. I can laugh about how they then communicate that on social media." Edwin: "She was already jokingly called the new Martien (Meiland, ed.) on Twitter."

And then, the last pressing question: do they still celebrate Christmas there in South Africa? "It's a crazy sight, such a Christmas tree at forty degrees. But he's standing, with balls and all. But we just have to work. Horeca, huh", says Edwin.

