

**Cascais, February 5, 2010.** Back in Portugal, on what you may call a technical / bureaucracy pit stop on my journey to Guinea-Bissau.

The trip from Paris went rather smoothly, a bit cold at times but then again, it was January! To mitigate weather risk as much as possible, I had decided to put the bike and myself on an auto-train to Narbonne on the Mediterranean shores. It turned out to be a great decision as temperatures for the whole of France on the day that I left were un-ride-ably cold. It was still pretty uncomfortable on the following day, with temperatures for the most part in the low single digits (in °C), but at least they were above freezing!

Leaving the train in Narbonne I met a fellow rider who had decided to do the same train trick that I did. He turned out to be the Editor of Visor Down (a leading London-based motorcycle magazine and website) on his way south to sunnier lands on a road test of the new BMW S1000RR. We traveled together for what was left of France and for a great part of Spain. Super nice fellow and great company!

The rest of the journey, through most of southern Spain and Portugal, was rather unremarkable.

Here in Portugal I have spent most of my days taking care of paperwork (visas, insurances, motorcycle documentation, et cetera) and preparing my motorcycle (installing knob tires and a few protections here and there for off-road riding, doing maintenance revisions, et cetera.) I have also spent some time getting to know and riding with most of the fellows I will be traveling with to Bissau.

I am ready! And I just can't wait any longer to get this show back on the road!!!

I will be back here as soon as I can to let you all know how things went. Until then.

BRgds, Jorge

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