



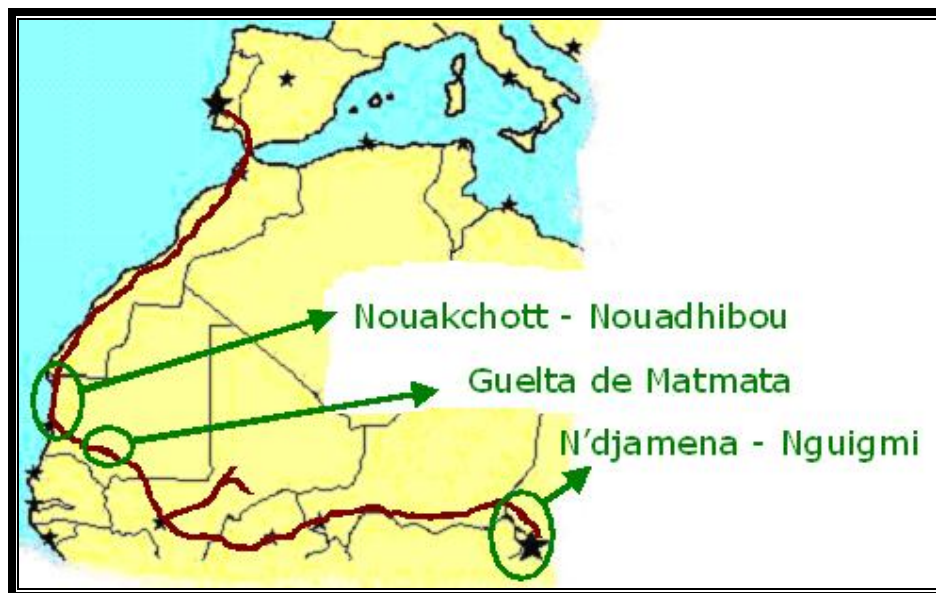
Route Notes

This document is a compilation of route notes for sections of a road trip that its author is planning to make. In no way should it be construed as an invitation for anyone to participate in such trip. The author is not responsible for any loss or injury incurred by anyone who, at his/her own initiative, decides to use these notes.

Jorge M. Serpa
March 2006

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1. Introduction

This document is a compilation of available route notes presented in as much detail as possible for the most challenging off-road and *piste* sections of the Trans-Sahara Overland I ('TSO1'). It is oriented towards helping the driver prepare for, and eventually deal with these sections of the trip (while its companion, the Preliminary Overview, is geared more towards the planer and the tourist inside every one of us drivers!)

The sources for its preparation were multiple and various in nature – specialized books, internet sites, publicly available topographic charts, et cetera. Except for the ones for the very first *piste* – from N'djamena, Chad to Nguigmi, Niger – the notes were not personally verified by the compiler of this document. While every effort has been made to ensure that all the information presented in this document is as accurate as possible, the responsibility for the results of its use lies entirely with he or she who uses it! The author will not accept any responsibility for any inconvenience, loss or injury sustained by anyone as a result of the information or advice given in this document. Know you limits, act accordingly.

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2. N'djamena, Chad to Nguigmi, Niger (By JMS, Mar/Apr 2006.)

Overall: 568 km total around the north side of Lake Chad through a typical sahelian landscape. The first 80 km (from N'djamena to Massaguet) are tarred. The next 240 km (to just after the Bol intersection) are on a non-surfaced road, very dusty, and with a few sections in very bad condition. From here onwards route follows a *piste* occasionally very sandy and with deep tracks. Navigation can be challenging, especially around small villages or near the very sandy sections, where many tracks come together and split off.



Km from start (to end)	Coordinates	Notes
0 (568)	12° 07.4'N 015° 00.7'E	N'djamena (large city, all resources.) Beginning of the East road to Massaguet and Abeche (at intersection with Farcha road, near the river.)
7 (561)		Entrance of Goudji (small village, mosque, small shops.) Junction. Road on the right goes to other side of town. Continue straight.
13 (555)		Lamadji (very small village, mosque, no resources.)
17 (551)		Toll booth (500 Fr CFA.)
32 (536)	12° 23.2'N 015° 02.9'E	1 km before Djermaya (small village, police post, two mosques, not many resources.) Junction. Tared road on the left goes to Douguia. Continue straight ahead.
58 (510)		Naala (very small village, no resources.)
80 (488)	12° 28.9'N 015° 26.4'E	Massaguet (medium size village, mosque, food, police post, small shops), just past the center of town. Junction. Main road ahead continues to Abeche. Turn left to Massakory. Non-surface road (occasionally sandy, always dusty) starts soon after turn.
108 (460)	12° 41.5'N 015° 33.6'E	Bir Barka (very small village with brick making mud pound at entrance, no resources.)
146 (422)	12° 59.0'N 015° 43.4'E	Entrance of Massakory . Junction. Sandy <i>piste</i> on left goes thru town, road on the right circumvents it. Both ways merge again app. 1 km after the town center. The small village of Massakory is 2 km down the sandy <i>piste</i> on left. Administrative and military post. A few little stores and one or two little snack bars. The only reason to head to town is to see the nice little village of mostly neat banco houses.
150 (418)	13° 00.4'N 015° 44.5'E	Exit of Massakory . Junction. If coming thru town, road ahead continues to Moussoro and Faya, road on the right heads back south circumventing the town. Turn left to Ngouri.
181 (387)	13° 12.1'N 015° 33.3'E	Tomoussary (small village, police post, no resources.) Road gets considerably worse from around here to Ngouri.
237 (331)	13° 37.8'N 015° 22.2'E	Near Ngouri (small village, not many resources.) Junction. Road on right goes to town and to <i>pistes</i> to Mondo and to Mao. Continue straight.

278 (290)	13° 29.3'N 015° 03.0'E	Near Isseirom (small village.) Junction. Road on left goes to town. Continue straight.
304 (264)	13° 33.8'N 014° 50.5'E	Near Ndarangou (small village.) Junction. Road on right goes to town. Continue straight.
326 (242)	13° 33.7'N 014° 41.4'E	Near Bol . Junction. Road on left (in extremely poor condition) goes to town. If not heading there, continue straight. The medium-sized village of Bol is 12 km down the road on left, on the shore of Lake Chad. Customs and military post. Small market. Fuel. Normally there should be no need to go to town, exceptions most likely having to do with the need to do something at customs. If that is the case, proceed all the way through town and turn left. The customs post is not too far, on the waterside. The area around Bol is not a good place to hang out, as the local people are not very friendly towards drivers and there are a lot of military on the area.
333 (235)	13° 35.3'N 014° 38.0'E	Junction. Main road ahead continues to Baga Sola . Turn to small <i>piste</i> on right. The <i>piste</i> from here onwards is sandy, occasionally very sandy with deep tracks. Deflate tires. The small, lakeside village of Baga Sola is 51 km down the main road. Small market, a few shops. Other than to see it, there are no reasons to go there. If doing so, it is not necessary to return to this point to get back on the route. Instead, return 11 km up the main road to 13° 37.5'N / 014° 17.3'E, and then veer left to very sandy <i>piste</i> for 31 km to 13° 51.9'N / 014° 16.0'E on the south side of Lioua.
343 (225)	13° 38.8'N 014° 34.9'E	Point in <i>piste</i> . Heading generally NW.
356(212)	13° 42.4'N 014° 28.7'E	Point in <i>piste</i> . Heading generally NW.
367(201)	13° 45.7'N 014° 24.4'E	Crossing <i>wadi</i> , heading generally NW.
379 (189)	13° 49.3'N 014° 20.0'E	Still heading generally NW.
389 (179)	13° 52.1'N 014° 16.1'E	Entrance of Lioua (medium size village, military post, fuel, food, small shops.) The village is in the middle of an extremely sandy area.
391 (177)	13° 52.2'N 014° 15.8'E	Exit of Lioua , heading NNW. From here to Nguigmi, <i>piste</i> goes thru many dry lakebed sections, occasionally very sandy. Vegetation becomes sparse, signs of human habitation even sparser.

397 (171)	13° 55.8'N 014° 13.9'E	Point in <i>piste</i> . Heading generally NW.
426 (142)	14° 07.0'N 014° 06.4'E	Blabiline (very small size village, no resources.) Heading generally NW.
454 (114)	14° 14.3'N 013° 55.0'E	Kiskawa (small village, military post, no resources.) Heading WNW.
475 (93)	14° 18.1'N 013° 46.7'E	Point in <i>piste</i> . Heading WNW.
	14° 17.3'N 013° 46.7'E	Good campsite in a wadi (lots of trees and well off main <i>piste</i> .)
501 (67)	14° 24.7'N 013° 36.7'E	Daboua (small village, border post, no resources.) Complete Chadian border formalities here. Next 10 km are very sandy. (If following route in the reverse direction, after leaving Daboua stay on tracks to the right, as the ones on the left lead to Kanirom and then onwards to Mao.)
515 (53)	14° 23.6'N 013° 29.7'E	Point in <i>piste</i> . Heading W.
526 (42)	14° 23.5'N 013° 25.3'E	Border . Register passage at military post. Heading W / WSW.
545 (23)	14° 20.1'N 013° 16.1'E	Point in <i>piste</i> . Heading generally WSW.
	14° 18.2'N 013° 11.7'E	Point in <i>piste</i> . Still heading generally WSW.
568 (0)	14° 14.8'N 013° 07.2'	Nguigni (large village, military and police posts, customs, fuel, food, small shops, currency exchange.) Complete all Niger border formalities here.

3. Moudjeria to Guelta Matmata, Mauritania

(By Jose Brito, from Chris Scott's *Sahara Overland – A Route and Planning Guide*, 2nd Edition, Trailblazer Publications, Oct 2004 and www.Mosquitto.org.)

Overall: 49 km of *piste* to explore the Guelta Matmata and its relict Nile crocodiles, isolated from their counterparts in sub-Saharan Africa. The *piste* leaves the paved road between Moudjeria and Tidjikja and circumvents the basin of the Tamourt en Na'aj via the North. (Note that there is a second *piste* on top of the scarp, allowing observation of the crocodiles from above; this option should be used if visiting during the rainy season.) The *piste* is poorly marked but clearly visible all the time. The driving is fairly easy. The first and last kilometers are relatively sandy, and may require deflating the tires a bit.

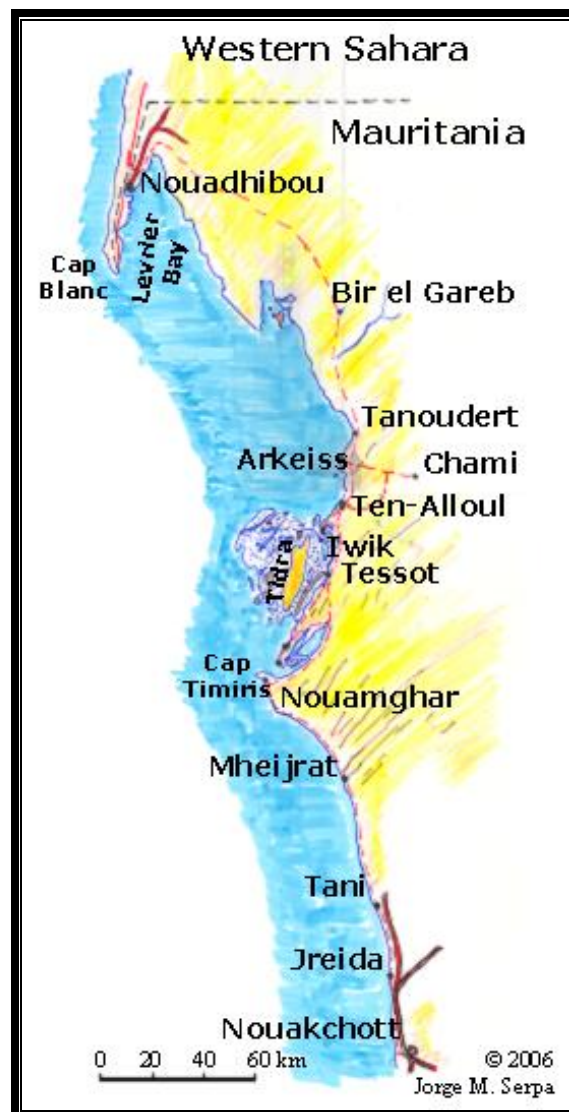
Km from start (to end)	Coordinates	Notes
0 (49)	17° 58.215'N 012° 14.649'W	N'Beika. Leave paved road.
1 (48)	17° 58.031'N 012° 14.022'W	Top of dunes. Tamourt en Na'aj extending to the south.
3 (46)	17° 57.938'N 012° 12.918'W	Point in <i>piste</i> .
4 (45)	17° 58.410'N 012° 12.380'W	<i>Piste</i> splits. Head E directly to Matmata or contour the Tamourt by the NE.
7 (42)	17° 58.781'N 012° 11.168'W	Point in <i>piste</i> .
12 (37)	17° 57.559'N 012° 09.109'W	Point in <i>piste</i> .
16 (33)	17° 55.679'N 012° 08.050'W	Point in <i>piste</i> .
19 (30)	17° 54.214'N 012° 07.602'W	Dar Essala-ma (small village.)
20 (29)	17° 53.829'N 012° 07.566'W	Entering the wadi. Head SE to the <i>guelta</i> .
21 (28)	17° 53.315'N 012° 06.821'W	Leave the car here to visit the <i>guelta</i>
25 (24)	17° 53.642'N 012° 08.623'W	Point inside the wadi. Head W.

29 (20)	17° 53.787'N 012° 10.758'W	Crossroads in sandy area. From here, may explore the Wadi Bouragga (17° 51.381'N 012° 11.914'W.)
31 (18)	17° 54.344'N 012° 11.385'W	<i>Piste</i> well marked but sandy.
36 (13)	17° 55.095'N 012° 11.876'W	Point in <i>piste</i> .
49 (0)	17° 56.512'N 012° 15.509'W	Back on paved road. Moudjeria to the left.

4. Nouakchott to Nouadhibou, Mauritania (via the *Parc National du Banc d'Arguin*)

(By Jose Brito, from www.Mosquitto.org.)

Overall: 479 km heading N from Nouakchott to Nouadhibou. From the start to 1 km before the fishing village of Nouamghar, the *piste* follows along the beach (driving being possible only at low tide.) From this point onwards, the *piste* becomes a bit more challenging as it crosses a few sandy sections (some of which are dune fields which can be particularly challenging.) Navigation-wise, the *piste* is not too complicated: as mentioned, its first section (up to Km 155) is along the coast; its middle section (from there to Km 346) is through the National Park and it is marked with red and white stakes; and the last section, especially towards the end, is mostly along the new paved road just built between Nouakchott and Nouadhibou.



Km from start (to end)	Coordinates	Notes
0 (479)	18° 06.736'N 016° 01.376'W	Nouakchott. Exit of paved road to the beach.
15 (464)	18° 14.511'N 016° 02.268'W	Ship wreck.
28 (451)	18° 21.202'N 016° 03.200'W	Jreida (small village.)
54 (425)	18° 34.989'N 016° 05.735'W	Tani (small village.) Beware of rocks here at later at Km 59 and km 62 (sections doable only during low tide.)
99 (380)	18° 58.336'N 016° 12.402'W	Beginning of 2 Km of dunes (section doable only during low tide.)
107 (372)	19° 01.667'N 016° 12.965'W	Mhejrat (small village.)
115 (364)	19° 05.307'N 016° 15.948'W	Beginning of Akchar dunes (section doable only during low tide.)
148 (331)	19° 17.756'N 016° 29.379'W	Bus wreck.
155 (324)	19° 21.111'N 016° 30.786'W	End of beach section.
156 (323)	19° 21.221'N 016° 30.786'W	Nouamghar (small fishing village.) National Park checkpoint (beginning of section marked with red and white stakes.)
160 (319)	19° 22.185'N 016° 28.297'W	<i>Piste</i> runs close to seashore. If this section is flooded, go up for the dunes.
183 (296)	19° 29.220'N 016° 18.382'W	Fast going, heading N-NE. If flooded go further NE.
190 (289)	19° 32.433'N 016° 16.797'W	Junction of <i>piste</i> to small villages of Teichet and Rgueiba.
193 (286)	19° 34.384'N 016° 15.961'W	Truck wreck. Heading N-NW.
196 (283)	19° 35.853'N 016° 16.306'W	Beginning of Azeffal dunes. Heading N.

205 (274)	19° 40.090'N 016° 16.743'W	Point in <i>piste</i> .
209 (270)	19° 42.550'N 016° 16.997'W	<i>Piste</i> from Teichet joins from left. End of dune field.
213 (266)	19° 44.365'N 016° 16.195'W	Tessot (small village.) Heading N.
223 (256)	19° 49.148'N 016° 15.065'W	Point in <i>piste</i> .
232 (247)	19° 53.876'N 016° 15.285'W	Junction. <i>Piste</i> on left goes to village of Iwik. To Nouadhibou, stay to the right.
234 (245)	19° 54.539'N 016° 16.908'W	<i>Piste</i> from Iwik joins on the left. Heading NE.
242 (237)	19° 57.647'N 016° 14.297'W	Near Ten-Alloul (small village.) <i>Piste</i> from Charmi joins on the right.
252 (227)	20° 02.795'N 016° 12.572'W	Point in <i>piste</i> .
260 (219)	20° 06.793'N 016° 12.832'W	Junction. <i>Piste</i> on the left goes to village of Arkeiss. <i>Piste</i> on the right goes to Charmi. To Nouadhibou stay straight.
273 (206)	20° 13.824'N 016° 11.388'W	Entering dune field.
288 (191)	20° 21.651'N 016° 12.539'W	Point in <i>piste</i> .
303 (176)	20° 29.494'N 016° 14.018'W	Point in <i>piste</i> .
318 (161)	20° 37.572'N 016° 14.703'W	Bir el Gareb (well.)
336 (143)	20° 44.864'N 016° 19.938'W	Point in <i>piste</i> .
346 (133)	20° 50.012'N 016° 21.721'W	Exit of National Park (and end of section marked with red and white stakes.)

373 (106)	20° 56.920'N 016° 26.921'W	Group of houses. Dune field ahead.
383 (96)	20° 58.706'N 016° 32.349'W	Sandy area with rocks.
393 (86)	21° 01.631'N 016° 37.064'W	Sandy area with rocks.
403 (76)	21° 05.071'N 016° 41.111'W	Sandy area with rocks.
416 (63)	21° 07.626'N 016° 47.929'W	Point in <i>piste</i> .
431 (48)	21° 13.548'N 016° 50.851'W	Point in <i>piste</i> .
442 (37)	21° 15.929'N 016° 55.390'W	Top of Levrier Bay, Heading SW.
445 (34)	21° 14.663'N 016° 56.477'W	New road from Nouakchott to Nouadhibou.
468 (11)	21° 03.559'N 017° 01.368'W	Army checkpoint. <i>Piste</i> runs along new road from Nouakchott.
471 (8)	21° 01.841'N 017° 01.831'W	Le Bouchon (police and customs checkpoint.)
479 (0)	20° 57.852'N 017° 02.390'W	Nouadhibou . Entering paved road.