

# The route! (Jan 2012 version)

## Waypoints and notes on the route from France to Banjul

Compiled by the "Artful Bodgers" Roger Bruton and Richard Freeman

(but don't blame us if you take a wrong turn or get arrested!!)

### FRANCE

"Ferme de Candeloup" N43.284261 W0.567392

### SPAIN

The border at Somport N42.795575 W0.524821  
(lunch stop???) nice views

Madrid is about 375 kms as the crow flies - Signs to Huesca / Jaca / Zaragoza / Madrid

The Motel-Restaurante N39.614450 W3.524074  
**El Queso**, Tembleque, Toledo (100kms-ish south of **Madrid**)  
reasonable night stop – we recommend the chicken/garlic/chips!

### Algeciras ferries .....

"Carlos" ferry ticket office N36.17926 W5.44116  
nearby LIDL for provisions ... N36.18183 W5.43959  
Dock gates N36.13086 W5.44112

### MOROCCO

**Rabat** – Mauritanian Embassy N33.980585 W6.830676  
Just "down the road" - Temara Plage - "La Felouque" hotel  
(while you're waiting for visas??) N33.918847 W6.968896

**(On the last two trips we have driven straight from Rabat to Mirleft, which is mostly motorway and is a 7 to 8 hour drive, but there are other options.....)**

**Casablanca** – IBIS hotel N33.590398 W7.590677  
(it's next to the train station)  
Rick's Bar (not the original!) N33.604998 W7.620488

**Marrakech** – Ibis hotel N31.629662 W8.018383  
There are at least TWO Ibis Hotels – this is the one in the Centre, next to the station.  
There are no signs to show the way out of Marrakech!! From the Ibis, turn left .....  
2nd exit N31.632090 W8.007618  
"2 o'clock" N31.628641 W8.002924  
Turn right N31.613147 W7.992740  
Straight on N31.595502 W8.004481

### Tizi-n-Test pass

(the café at the top –  
coffee and omelettes are OK) N30.868330 W8.378993

**Mirleft** main street (Abertih hotel) N29.581526 W10.033229  
Interesting place for a night stop – Jimi Hendrix is supposed to have stayed here when (I believe) it was called the “Ali Baba”.

40 kms north of **Laayoune** N27.442210 W13.021760  
“TURNING” TO CAMPSITE

**Roi Bedouin campsite** – about 5kms across the sand – OK in 2WD  
N27.462029 W13.051858

left fork to "ring road"  
around **Laayoune** N27.194564 W13.173853

the “big hole” N28.10712 W12.03749

After about 450 kms N23.892906 W15.672925  
Right turn to **Dakhla** (it’s now a roundabout with a fuel stop)  
(Detailed examination of your paperwork by the euro-hungry cops!)

We are NOT fans of Dakhla, but there is a “campsite” there.....  
(about 4kms toward Dakhla there is a great desert view!)

**Dakhla campsite** N23.763980 W15.907625

A good alternative to Dakhla is the new “motel” 83kms before the border.  
N22.053549 W16.750200 (approximate)

**Moroccan border post** N21.363735 W16.960596  
There’s a bit of a rush to get here before they shut for lunch at 12 –for THREE hours.

4 or 5 kms of dirt track through the mine-field. Following a big truck is always a good idea!  
Where there is a choice, keep left, so as to avoid soft sand.

## MAURETANIA

**Mauretanian border post** N21.333709 W16.946966

(IF you are going to Nouadhibou , it’s always good to get a “local” into the car here, even if it’s just to give him a lift to town. There are many check-points and he will get you through without hassle.)

Back onto tarmac. After about 8kms you get to a T-junction.  
There will be a police check-point there.

**Left to Nouakchott - right to Nouadhibou**  
N21.285865 W16.891659

(You come back to this point after leaving Nouadhibou)

It’s now about 50kms to “Camping Abba” in Nouadhibou.  
The road is tarmac but it’s scary – doubly so at night.

There is a “back road” route which is much quieter, going via the airport  
and avoiding the really busy parts of town. **RECOMMENDED!**

**Roundabout.**  
Turn left to avoid town centre N20.964538 W17.039706

after 500 metres <b>turn right</b>	N20.963992	W17.034611
after 1.8 kms <b>straight on</b>	N20.948420	W17.035275
after 1.4 kms <b>fork left</b>	N20.936369	W17.034883
after about 800 metres pass the <b>airport entrance</b> .		
<b>Straight on</b> for about 3kms.		
<b>Turn right</b>	N20.907648	W17.051763
After 150 metres, at the corner, " <b>Camping Abba</b> " will be seen at "2 o'clock".		
	N20.908453	W17.053232

When leaving Nouadhibou, backtrack to the junction near the border.  
The tarmac goes from there to Nouakchott.

<b>Desert beach campsite</b>	N20.126020	W16.256308
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(No road to here – you need a guide in 2WD) Big Bedouin tents for hire or pitch your own.

<b>Sahara Auberge</b> , Nouakchott	N18.102640	W15.997181
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Recommended / easy to find / café & shops opposite.

When heading south from there ... this is a **LONG** day!! Start as early as possible!!!

This is the easiest way out of Nouakchott ..... Out of Sahara Auberge, turn LEFT ....

After 500 metres		
Straight on at roundabout	N18.098492	W15.996855

After 1.7kms		
Straight on at "junction"	N18.084783	W15.990996

(the roundabout had disappeared in Jan 2011)

After 2.4kms		
t-junction – turn right	N18.067428	W15.979180

After 500 metres		
Turn left at the junction	N18.064208	W15.981679

After 1 km		
Roundabout – turn right	N18.060316	W15.973579

After 400 metres		
Roundabout – fork left	N18.057473	W15.974854

After 1.4 kms		
Straight on at roundabout	N18.044622	W15.973705

Straight on south, out of town.

After about 160-170 kms ???????

The new "piste" to Diama – start	N16.78850	W16.09947
- end	N16.52955	W16.23866

**(There are about 80kms to the border at the Diama Dam (on the new piste)).**

Or, if you carry on to **ROSSO (about 100kms).....**

**DO NOT MISS THIS TURN!** It will be on you before you realise it!!

You do **NOT** want to go into Rosso and then turn back!!!  
It is near the petrol station and just looks like a dirt track, **That is because it is!!**

Diamas turn (**right**)                      N16.518687                      W15.812367

You will have to go through a military checkpoint as you are entering a National Park.  
Once on the road to Diamas, just follow your nose.

**DO NOT USE THIS ROAD IN THE DARK!!**

**This is the roughest road so far, but there is worse to come!!**

**left turn** to Diamas                      N16.309170                      W16.397337  
("Gare de Peage")  
(there may be a checkpoint – watch for slippery hands with the paperwork!!!)  
**Mauretania border post**                      N16.221274                      W16.414485  
A fairly low-key – easy process.

## **SENEGAL**

**Senegal border post**                      N16.213992                      W16.415245  
Be prepared for a long drawn-out stay here. But don't stop smiling!

If they tell you that you are going to Zebrabar – nod and smile and agree.  
(If you ARE going there, you do NOT need a guide to Zebrabar – it is very easy!!)

When you have your "**passavant**" you can go where you like,  
but keep all the vehicles on the form **TOGETHER!! Do not split up!!!**

**The current "fee" (Jan 2012) for a vehicle more than 5 yrs old is (up to) 200 euros.**  
**You MIGHT be able to negotiate that down a bit!**

From here to St Louis is about 30 kms – expect to be stopped by police.

Here are some waypoints ...

**bridge**                      N16.056732                      W16.402079  
**bridge**                      N16.026869                      W16.477577  
**left fork**                      N16.024958                      W16.489679  
**right fork**                      N16.022983                      W16.491895  
(some new road works are changing the layout of these junctions)

**Roundabout** .....                      N16.025661                      W16.498403

**Left to Zebrabar and Dakar --- straight over the bridge to town and "Hotel de la Poste"**

**Hotel de la Poste, St Louis**                      N16.026327                      W16.503884

**Hotel Diamarek, Barbary Coast**                      N15.984522                      W16.511796  
**Hotel Oasis**                      N15.988590                      W16.511285

**Right fork to Zebrabar**                      N15.974822                      W16.482764

After 15 kms????? (watch for signs)

**Zebrabar campsite**                      N15.864867                      W16.512253

Rejoin the road south                      N15.914888                      W16.413376

From St Louis to the Gambia border is over 300 kms of sometimes **BAD** roads.  
It can be a **LONG** day if you are going to do it in one go.

From St Louis, after about 110kms you get to **KEBEMER** .....

**left turn** N15.373979 W016.449680

There is a short right-then-left detour shortly after to get you on the **DAROU-MOUSTY** road

After about 62kms you get to **DAROU-MOUSTY**

At the crossroad in the centre of town,

**Turn left** N15.041263 W16.046403

After about 27kms you get to **TOUBA**

Keep the big mosque on **LEFT** N14.862470 W15.876995  
(trust me – you can't miss it!!)

just after, **bear right** N14.861368 W15.876697

MBACKE is the next town, but it's all one big sprawl.

After a dead straight 8kms or so

**right turn** N14.796402 W15.905522

(Watch road signs for Dakar and Diourbel – there is a new dual carriageway.)

After about 39kms you get to **DIOURBEL**

**To avoid the town centre.....**

**TURN LEFT!!!** N14.657336 W16.222747

(This is not an obvious turn, so approach slowly!!)

After about 1.4kms, there is a little "wiggle" to the right, then

**TURN LEFT!!!** N14.644890 W16.222011

After about 63kms you get to **KAOLACK**

**Roundabout TURN LEFT!!!**

(used to be a traffic light) N14.138811 W16.076140

After about 500 metres ....

**TURN RIGHT!!!** N14.138743 W16.071574

(it's signposted **ZIGUINCHOR**)

You pass through the fish market – absolute pandemonium - then salt pans on both sides

After about 4kms ..... **IT'S DECISIONTIME**

Road junction – (the police checkpoint may be here or further on toward Farrafenni.)

N14.105447 W16.067086

**Right to Toubacouta and BARRA** and the Banjul ferry or  
**Straight on to the Farafenni ferry**, southern Gambia and Cassamance.

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It's about 100kms to the  
 Border post at **KARANG** N13.592159 W16.422087  
 (then on to **BARRA**)  
**This is a REALLY bad road!!!**

Turning to Paletuviers Hotel N13.788433 W16.465278  
 Paletuviers Hotel, Toubacouta N13.785246 W16.476859

Ferry ticket office N13.487936 W16.526983  
 (buy tickets **BEFORE** you get to **BARRA!!!**)

Barra fire station N13.482441 W16.544250  
 ferry compound, Barra N13.484863 W16.545592  
 (the river is 4¼ kms wide here and the crossing takes one hour)

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It's about 80kms to the  
 Border post at **FARAFENNI** N13.594358 W15.605431  
 (and the south) the road is improving every year, but the last section can be REALLY bad!

Eddy's Hotel, Farrafenni N13.571317 W15.597060

(ferry ticket office) N13.545420 W15.580738  
 (buy tickets **BEFORE** you get to the ferry!!!)

Farrafenni Ferry jetty N13.521423 W15.573737  
 (the river is less than 1km wide at this point)

Once across the river.....SOMA  
 (this is about 18 kms as the crow flies after FARAFENNI)  
 right turn to Banjul at the petrol station  
 N13.443924 W15.536812

After a winding rough road of ABOUT 90 kms .....  
 Turn right to Bintang N13.207797 W16.230403

After about 5kms .....  
 Bintang Bolong Hotel N13.249176 W16.210645

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Timbuktu Guest House, Kololi N13.449597 W16.713138