

Madama – Dirkou – Bilma – Fachi - Agadez

Dates: October 2004

Vehicle: Nissan Patrol 2.8D

Total km: 1047

Description: This is the classic piste crossing the Ténéré of central Niger.

Route findings and marks: There are no marks but the piste is relatively clear all the way.

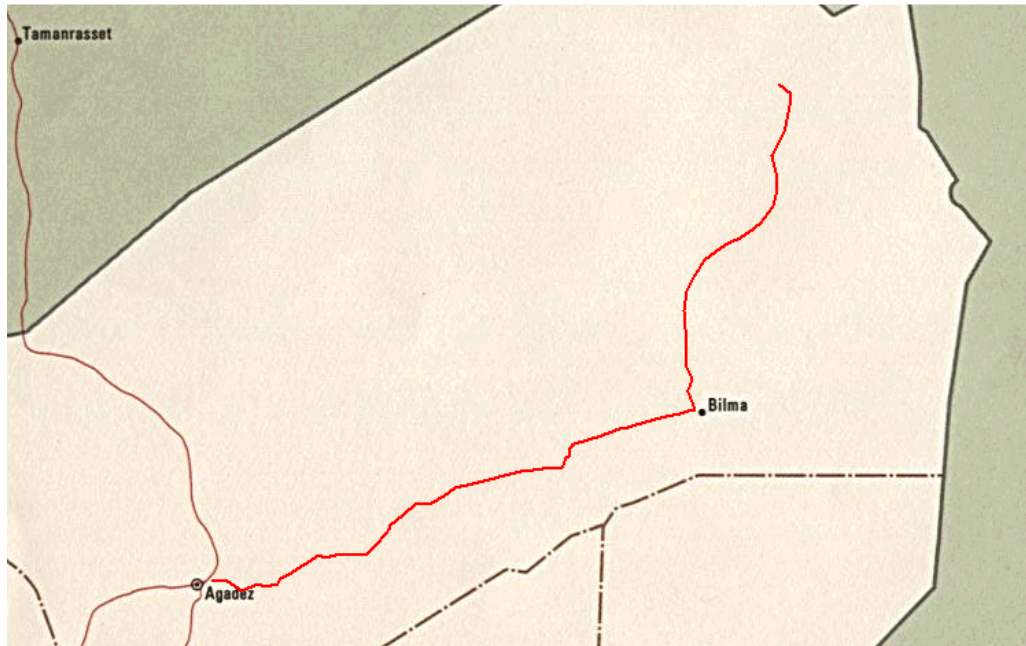
Fuel: Dirkou (from the black market) and Agadez.

Water: Madama, Dao Timi, Seguédine, Dirkou, Bilma, Fachi and Agadez.

Traffic: This is one of the most areas of the world, Thus do not expect to find many traffic. Either way, there is some local traffic until Bilma, and from the Arbre du Ténéré to Agadez.

Driving: Until Bilma the piste is well marked by trucks filled with sub-Saharan migrants. Be aware of the deep sand-roots caused by these huge trucks. After Bilma the terrain is very sandy but progression should be relatively easy. After the Arbre du Ténéré the piste becomes more compact and rocky.

Suggested duration: 3 to 4 days should be enough.



km	Latitude - degrees	Latitude - minutes	Longitude - degrees	Longitude - minutes	Description
0	21	56.8	13	38.8	Madama. Military fort. Mercedes trucks with emigrants are checked at this point. Exit by the left of the fort heading SE
10	21	54.5	13	42.5	Piste sandier but firm over a plain
20	21	51.2	13	47.5	Piste turns S
40	21	44.0	13	46.4	Piste crosses serir heading S
64	21	28.0	13	44.3	Piste continues heading S. In a km piste enters

					stony hammada and afterwards turns SW
94	21	14.3	13	36.7	Mabrous well (water not good). Piste firm with occasional patches of soft sand heading S
114	21	4.6	13	39.9	Point in piste, heading S
134	20	54.5	13	41.6	Point in piste, heading S
155	20	43.6	13	39.6	Piste crosses wide plain, heading S-SW. 5km before next point the piste becomes rockier
180	20	33.5	13	32.2	Dao Timmi. Military checkpoint. Head SW-W
190	20	30.6	13	28.2	Yat well (good water)
209	20	24.9	13	19.8	Piste less rockier, heading SW-W
224	20	21.0	13	12.4	Piste in open plain, heading SW. In 2km the piste becomes very sandy (1km section)
241	20	16.2	13	4.4	Fast piste over plain heading W
250	20	13.3	13	0.2	Piste open into the Ténéré heading SW. Seguédine at right
255	20	11.5	12	57.6	Seguédine. Military checkpoint. Head S. Piste firm but with occasional patches of soft sand. Deflating tires should help progression
275	20	2.5	12	52.3	Piste over sandy plain, heading S-SW
296	19	52.1	12	48.2	Piste over sandy plain, heading S-SW
317	19	41.0	12	46.6	Piste over sandy plain, heading S-SW
337	19	30.3	12	48.3	Piste over sandy plain, heading S-SW
378	19	7.2	12	50.2	Piste over sandy plain, heading S-SW
393	18	59.3	12	53.4	Dirkou. Police checkpoint. Leave village heading S
403	18	53.0	12	51.2	Sandy piste, heading S
405	18	52.3	12	51.1	Sandy piste crosses dune field
428	18	41.3	12	56.1	Bilma. Leave village heading W, with sand sea at left
433	18	41.0	12	52.4	Piste progressively sandier, but still firm. In 2km the piste enters a corridor between dunes
443	18	39.4	12	47.0	Sandy piste heading W
458	18	37.3	12	38.6	Piste enters narrow corridor
482	18	33.9	12	26.2	Sandy piste heading W
502	18	30.8	12	15.1	Sandy piste heading W
512	18	29.5	12	10.1	Sandy piste heading W
524	18	27.7	12	3.4	Piste enters narrow corridor to the left, heading SW-W
533	18	26.1	11	58.5	Sandy piste heading W
553	18	22.5	11	48.0	Sandy piste heading W
559	18	21.9	11	44.9	Piste starts to cross several dune crests with Fachi hills clearly visible to the left
567	18	20.0	11	40.6	Piste turns E over dune crest
569	18	19.7	11	41.4	Piste turns S-SW and soon after SW-W over dune crests
573	18	18.3	11	39.7	Piste turns S
575	18	17.1	11	39.6	Piste turns S-SE
577	18	16.7	11	39.9	Piste turns SW
579	18	16.0	11	39.1	Piste turns S and crosses narrow corridor
579	18	15.8	11	39.0	Piste turns SE
581	18	15.2	11	39.4	Piste turns S
583	18	14.5	11	39.4	Piste turns E

584	18	14.4	11	39.7	Piste turns SW
586	18	13.5	11	38.9	Piste turns S with hill at right
589	18	12.7	11	37.8	Piste clearly visible between Fachi hills, heading W
590	18	12.3	11	37.2	Piste heading S
595	18	9.7	11	36.7	Fachi palm trees, head S
603	18	6.3	11	34.7	Fachi. Police checkpoint. Leave heading W, with rusty metal sign at left
623	18	6.1	11	23.3	Sandy piste heading W
644	18	4.2	11	11.6	Sandy piste heading W
647	18	3.9	11	9.8	Piste turns left to enter a W-oriented corridor
669	18	2.1	10	59.3	Sandy piste heading W
685	17	59.6	10	50.2	Piste more firm
705	17	56.5	10	39.6	Heading SW
724	17	53.9	10	29.3	Heading SW
739	17	49.5	10	22.2	Heading SW-W
751	17	46.1	10	16.4	Heading SW-W
757	17	44.7	10	13.5	Heading W
772	17	44.6	10	4.9	Arbre du Ténéré. Head SW
791	17	38.0	9	56.9	Point in piste, heading S
808	17	31.6	9	50.2	Piste enters small hill, heading S
811	17	30.3	9	49.8	Exit of small hill, heading SW. In 3km piste Agadez-Dirkou joins from right. Piste becomes sandier, but clearly visible and well marked with tires
833	17	21.0	9	43.0	Heading SW
851	17	14.4	9	36.1	Line of Acacias, heading W
868	17	14.1	9	16.9	Large group of Acacias. Piste becomes less sandier
888	17	14.2	9	16.5	Piste zigzags between rock outcrops, heading SW-W
903	17	12.5	9	9.8	Piste zigzags between rock outcrops. In 3km there is a small group of houses with food. Afterwards piste enters a floodplain
911	17	13.5	9	6.0	Small hill
931	17	7.9	8	56.8	Fast piste with mild corrugations heading SW-W. Avoid the deep sand-roots
951	17	2.3	8	47.9	Fast piste. At km958 there are dry river beds. Afterwards the piste becomes stonier
962	17	0.0	8	43.3	Tourayet village
971	16	56.499	8	41.278	Fossilized trees with cliff at left. Piste with deep sand-roots
##	16	54.843	8	33.662	Rock engravings
991	16	56.5	8	28.9	Small village. Fast piste crossing flood plain, heading W
1009	16	52.2	8	19.6	Piste crosses several dry river beds
1029	16	57.8	8	9.6	Piste still in flood plain, but exits to sandy hammada in 1km
1047	16	58.9	8	0.5	Agadez. Entrance by the backdoor to avoid police checkpoint