

A promotional poster for the Saharan Rally 2009. The background is a photograph of a desert valley with a dirt road winding through it, flanked by brown, rocky hills under a clear sky. The text is overlaid on the image. The main title 'SAHARAN RALLY' is in large, bold, yellow letters with a black outline and a slight glow. Below it, the year '2009' is in the same style. A diagonal line of white text with a black outline reads 'Saharan Route Guide (August 08)'. At the bottom, the text 'FROM LONDON TO THE SAHARA AND BACK!' is in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The website address 'WWW.SAHARAN-RALLY.CO.UK' is at the very bottom in a stylized, bubbly font with a white-to-yellow gradient and a black outline.

SAHARAN RALLY

2009

Saharan Route Guide (August 08)

FROM LONDON TO THE SAHARA AND BACK!

WWW.SAHARAN-RALLY.CO.UK



This is a rough guide for use with detailed maps. The maps included in this guide should be used as a very basic birds eye view.

Border crossings are not fully detailed in this guide and will require additional consideration, as well ferry crossings to other countries.

This guide takes you through a Saharan trail just over 3000 miles long, primarily in Algeria. The route is completed in 9 days (approx. 336 miles per day) according to this guide. This is actually a very aggressive estimation of the time it should take to complete this circuit, and an additional 3 ~ 4 days should be planned for to deal with any delays due to breakdowns, documentation issues, getting lost, or simply spending an excursion day out at Djanet.



Location

Nefta

Country

Tunisia

General information and facilities

Good selection of restaurants, both independent and in hotels.

The town has budget, middle and high class hotels.

Not much nightlife. Anything more sophisticated than drinking a beer in an empty bar, go to one of the hotels overlooking the Corbeille.

Banks, ATMs and exchange service in the receptions in the better hotels. Many shopkeepers will accept to be paid by VISA or MasterCard.



Day (estimated)

Day 1

Petrol

Yes

Money facilities

Banks, ATMs, exchange

Next location

Hazoua

Distance (estimated)

40 miles

Expected departure

Same day



Saharan mileage to current destination: **0 miles**

Location

Hazoua

Country

Tunisia

General information and facilities

Last settlement before Algeria, with some traditional architecture. There is a widespread oasis to the south and a date factory. There might be a couple of open restaurants. There is a hotel somewhere, but it is not always open. This is the operative border post to Algeria.



Day (estimated)

Day 1

Petrol

Unknown

Money facilities

Very limited

Next location

El Oued

Distance (estimated)

65 miles

Expected departure

Same day



Saharan mileage to current destination: **40 miles**

Location

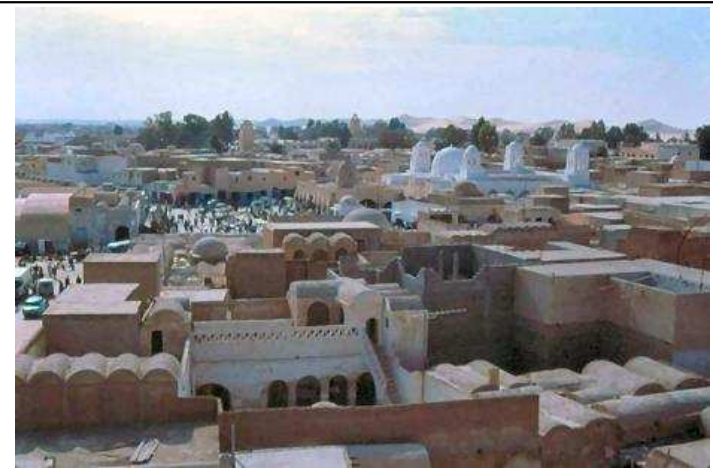
El Oued (Pearl of Sahara)

Country

Algeria

General information and facilities

El-Oued is the centre of a number of oases, called *Souf*, but it is El-Oued, being the biggest town, and by far the most picturesque. There is a market and the mosque of Sidi Salem, which form part of the walk through town. The market is at its active all through the week, and at the most on Fridays. Surprisingly good on hotels, as well as a camping ground and a youth hostel. Restaurants will irritate you with their elevated prices.



Day (estimated)

Day 1

Petrol

Yes

Money facilities

Yes

Next location

Touggourt

Distance (estimated)

60 miles

Expected departure

Same day



Saharan mileage to current destination: **105 miles**

Location

Touggourt (Over a million palm trees)

Country

Algeria

General information and facilities

Touggourt is the centre of a large region, and an vast area producing some of the best dates to be found in the world.

Hotels exist, but difficult to get best possible value for your money. Restaurants are either in the hotels, or there are some basic eateries in the town centre.



Day (estimated)

Day 1

Petrol

Yes

Money facilities

Limited

Next location

Haouod El Hamra, Hassi Messaoud

Distance (estimated)

100 miles

Expected departure

Same day



Saharan mileage to current destination: **165 miles**

Location
Hassi Messaoud

Country
Algeria

General information and facilities

An oil refinery town with a small airport named after the first well. A water well, dug in 1917, which can be found on the airport side of town. The town is located in the Grand Erg.



Day (estimated)
Day 1

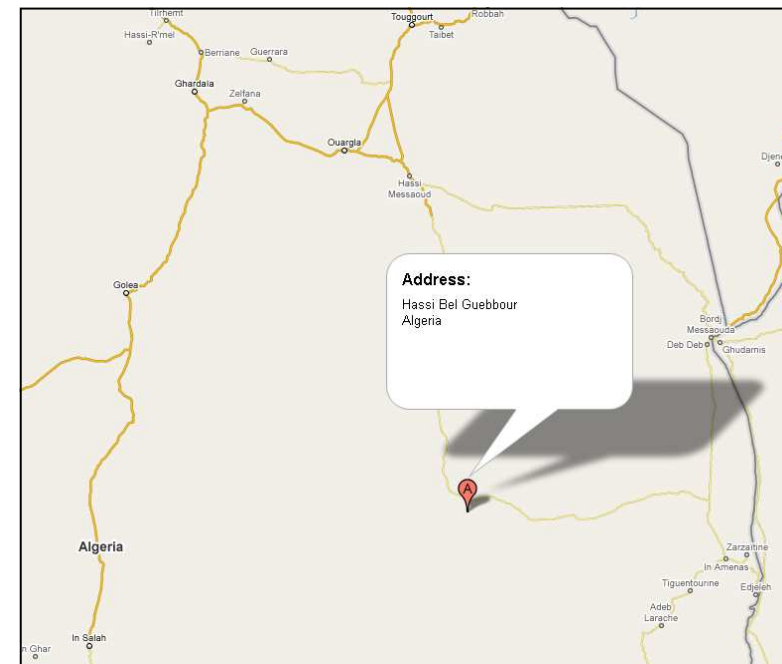
Petrol
Yes

Money facilities
No

Next location
Hassi Bel Guebbour

Distance (estimated)
215 miles

Expected departure
Next day



Saharan mileage to
current destination: **265 miles**

Location

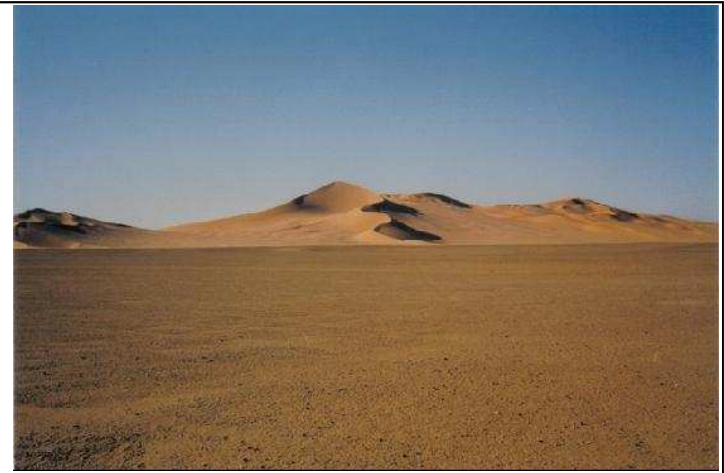
Hassi Bel Guebbour

Country

Algeria

General information and facilities

A drive through the Great Erg Oriental to reach In Amenas. On route, Tin Fouye will be passed, this is a combination of small oilfields of 900 sq km in the Illizi Basin near the Libyan border found in 1966 with large gas structures discovered later.



Day (estimated)

Day 2

Petrol

Probably

Money facilities

No

Next location

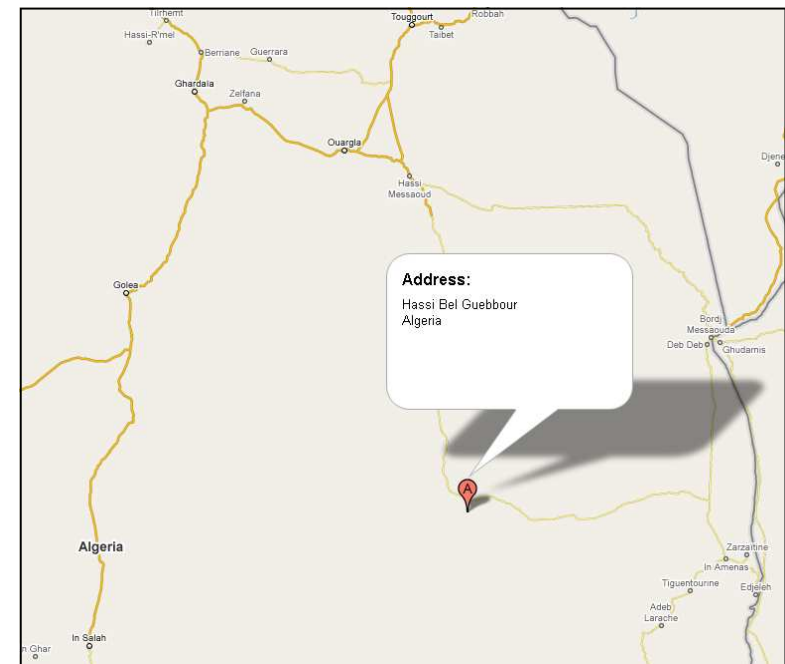
In Amenas

Distance (estimated)

225 miles

Expected departure

Same day



Saharan mileage to current destination: **490 miles**

Location
In Amenas

Country
Algeria

General information and facilities



Day (estimated)
Day 2

Petrol
We'll find out when we get there!

Money facilities
No

Next location
Illizi

Distance (estimated)
167 miles

Expected departure
Same day



Saharan mileage to
current destination: **715 miles**

Location

Illizi

Country

Algeria

General information and facilities

Illizi, the Tassili N'Ajjer region, serves the purpose of traffic going up and down into the Sahara. The Tassili N'Ajjer is one of the more famous landscapes of Algeria, being a vast plateau, to the north of the Hoggar Mountains. This is one area where even 4WDs will struggle! What Tassili N'Ajjer is most famous for, are the rock paintings, that are up to 8,000 years old. The rock paints are of such a quality that they are now protected by the regulations of the Tassili National Park. This area can only be entered if you have an official guide with you, or travel with a tour group. These set out principally from Djanet. Camp site available here.



Day (estimated)

Day 2

Petrol

Yes

Money facilities

Limited

Next location

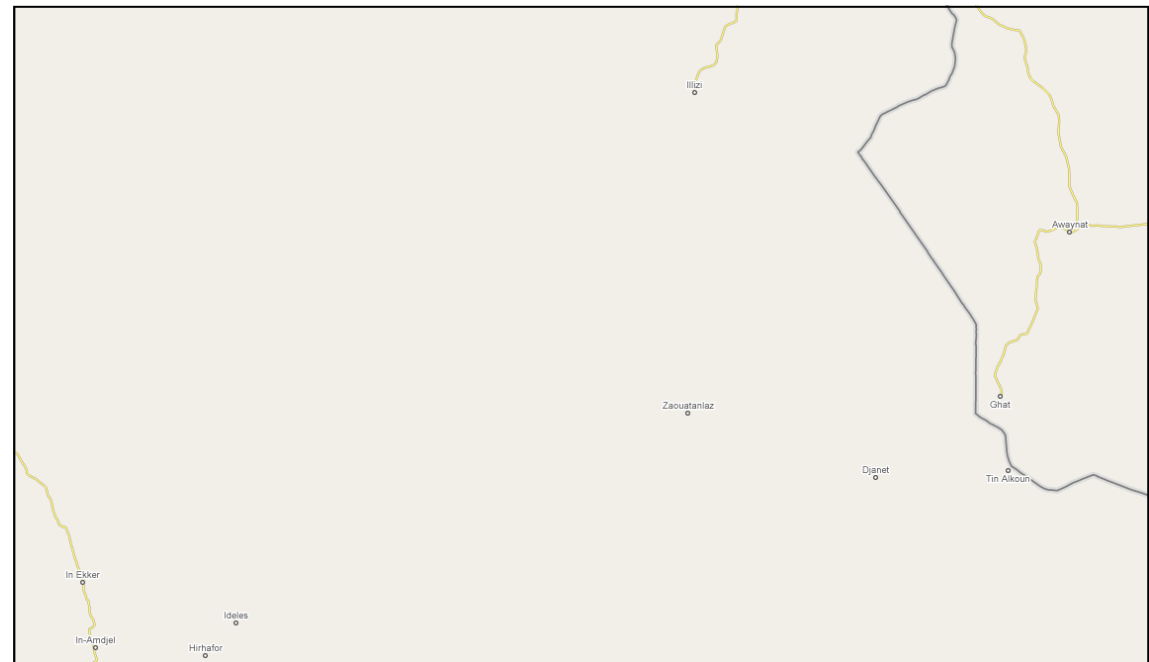
Bordi el Haoues

Distance (estimated)

162 miles

Expected departure

Next day



Saharan mileage to
current destination: **882 miles**

Location

Bordi el Haoues

Country

Algeria

General information and facilities

No information, keep moving onto Djanet. Leave the Bordi el Haoues region early to arrive at Djanet early for an excursion.



Day (estimated)

Day 3

Petrol

Not likely?

Money facilities

None

Next location

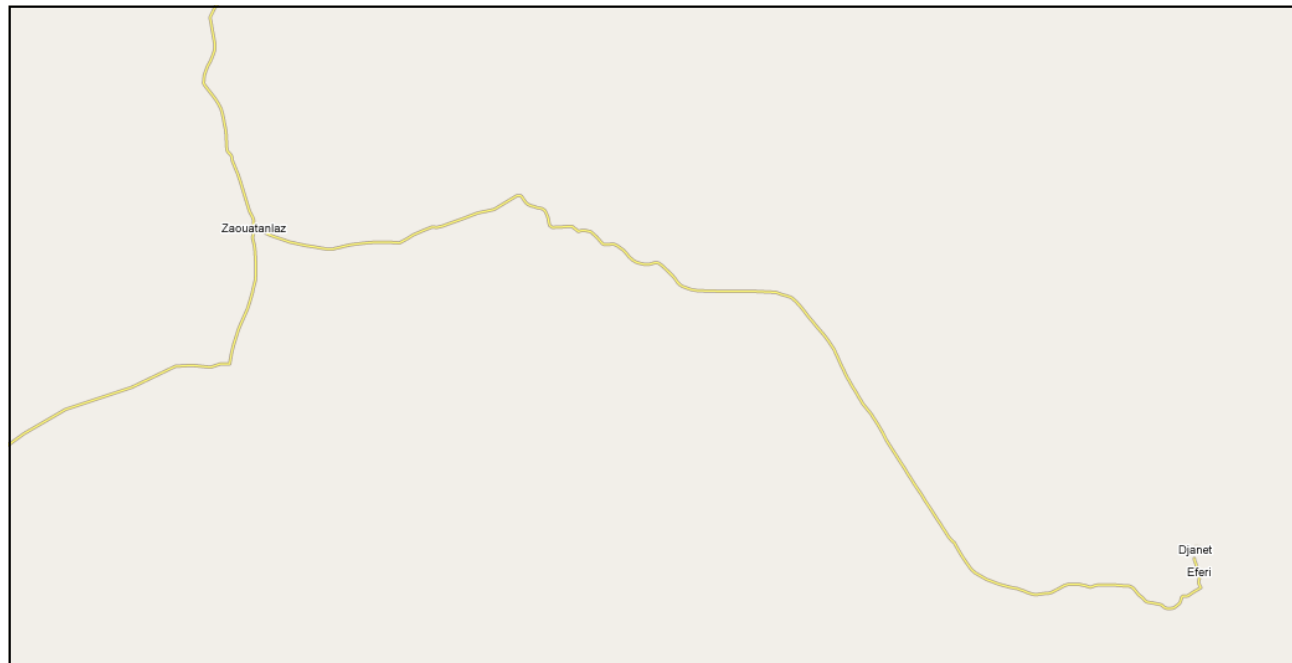
Djanet

Distance (estimated)

100 miles

Expected departure

Next day



Saharan mileage to
current destination: **1044 miles**

Location

Djanet

Country

Algeria

General information and facilities

Arrange for excursions to Tassili N'Ajjer, expect inflated pricing and tedious paperwork to get access to Tassili N'Ajjer with a local agency. Local hut camping facilities exist here.

Upon departure, a long drive of almost 450 miles will see us reach Tamanrasset via Bordi el Haoues, Borne, Djebel Telertheba and Ideles.



Day (estimated)

Day 4

Petrol

Yes

Money facilities

Banque Nationale d'Algerie

Next location

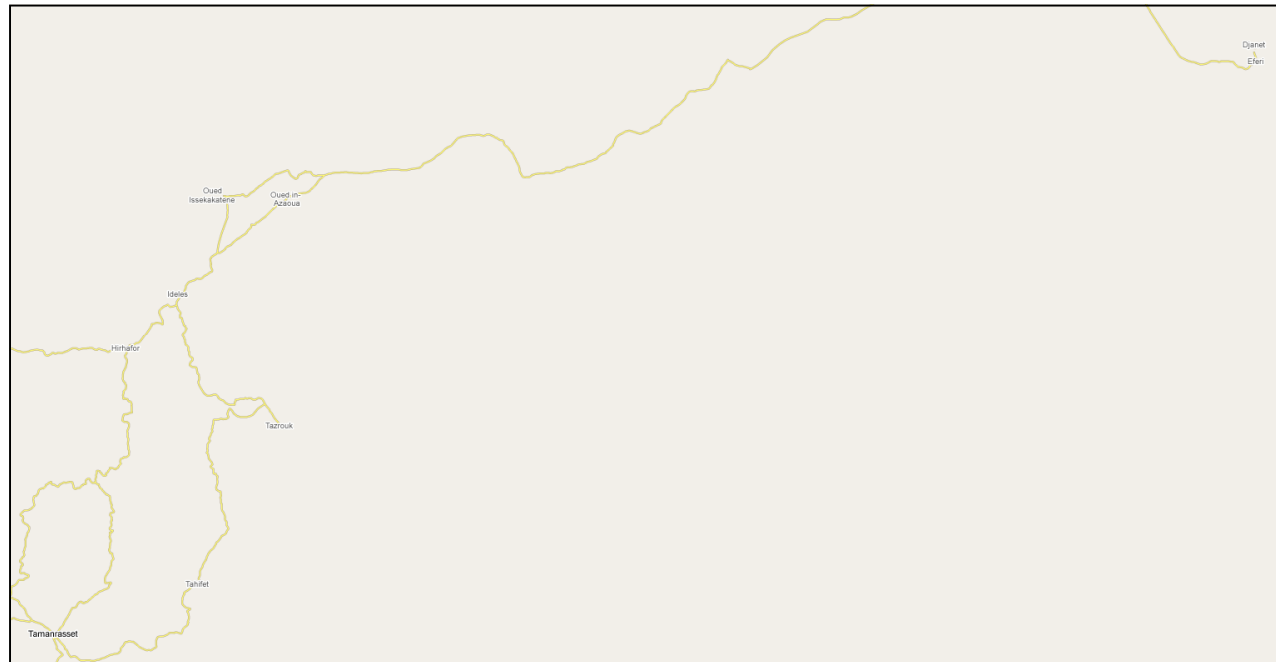
Tamanrasset

Distance (estimated)

448 miles

Expected departure

Next day



Saharan mileage to current destination: **1144 miles**

Location

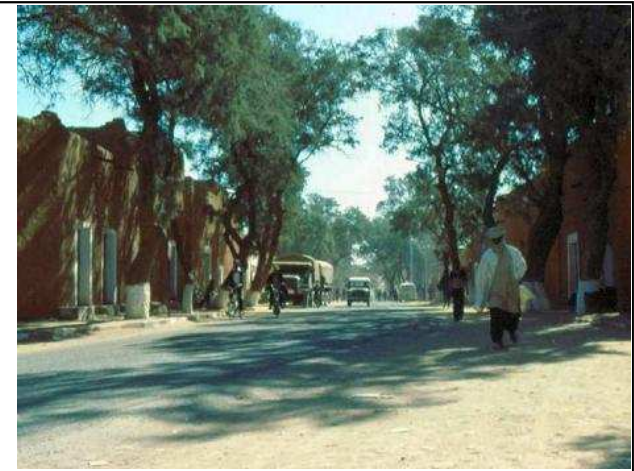
Tamanrasset (Navel of Sahara)

Country

Algeria

General information and facilities

Good food, camp sites available and some medium priced hotels. Although in the middle of the World's largest desert, there are almost 40,000 people living here. Every day has an afternoon market. Tamanrasset is the vicinity to Hoggar, consisting of brown and yellow mountains. These crude mountains are the leftover cores after volcanoes that has evaporated. With Tamanrasset 1400 metres above sea level, giving it a mild temperature, and the highest mountains of Hoggar ranging almost 3000 metres up.



Day (estimated)

Day 5

Petrol

Yes

Money facilities

Yes

Next location

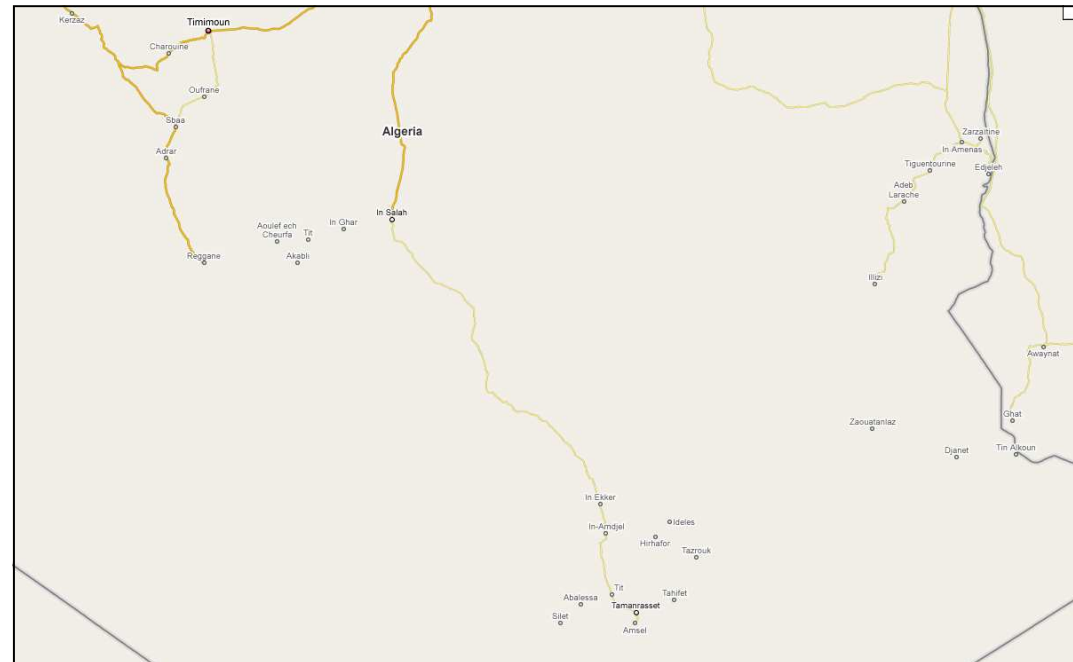
In Salah

Distance (estimated)

396 miles

Expected departure

Next day



Saharan mileage to
current destination: **1592 miles**

Location

In Salah

Country

Algeria

General information and facilities

In Salah is a very nice red Sudanese style oasis out in the middle of Sahara.

Eating is good, but drinking water here is of a very bad standard, and bottled water difficult to come across. There is one hotel, of medium quality and not too cheap. Two camp sites should be available.

A direct time saving route to El-Menia is available, however this guide will follow the scenic route to El-Menia via Reggane, Adrar and then Timimoun. Timimoun is a highly recommended place to visit, an oasis town with palm trees dotted around, a salt lake and with a backdrop of sand



Day (estimated)

Day 6

Petrol

Yes

Money facilities

Bank

Next location

Timimoun

Distance (estimated)

360 miles

Expected departure

Next day



Saharan mileage to current destination: **1988 miles**

Location

Timimoun (The beautiful oasis)

Country

Algeria

General information and facilities

Timimoun is a great place to visit, and a beautiful oasis. Timimoun is a small place, with houses built of red mud. The setting is in between the palms and the salt lake, with distant sand dunes. Even the new town, started being built by the French, is very nice.



Day (estimated)

Day 7

Petrol

Yes

Money facilities

Bank

Next location

Laghouat

Distance (estimated)

440 miles

Expected departure

Next day



Saharan mileage to
current destination: **2348 miles**

Location
Laghouat

Country
Algeria

General information and facilities

A true desert town, with some sights, like the Marabout of Sidi Muhammad Ben Abdelqadir. Nice town and oasis. A couple of restaurants and hotels as well as other basic eateries.



Day (estimated)
Day 8

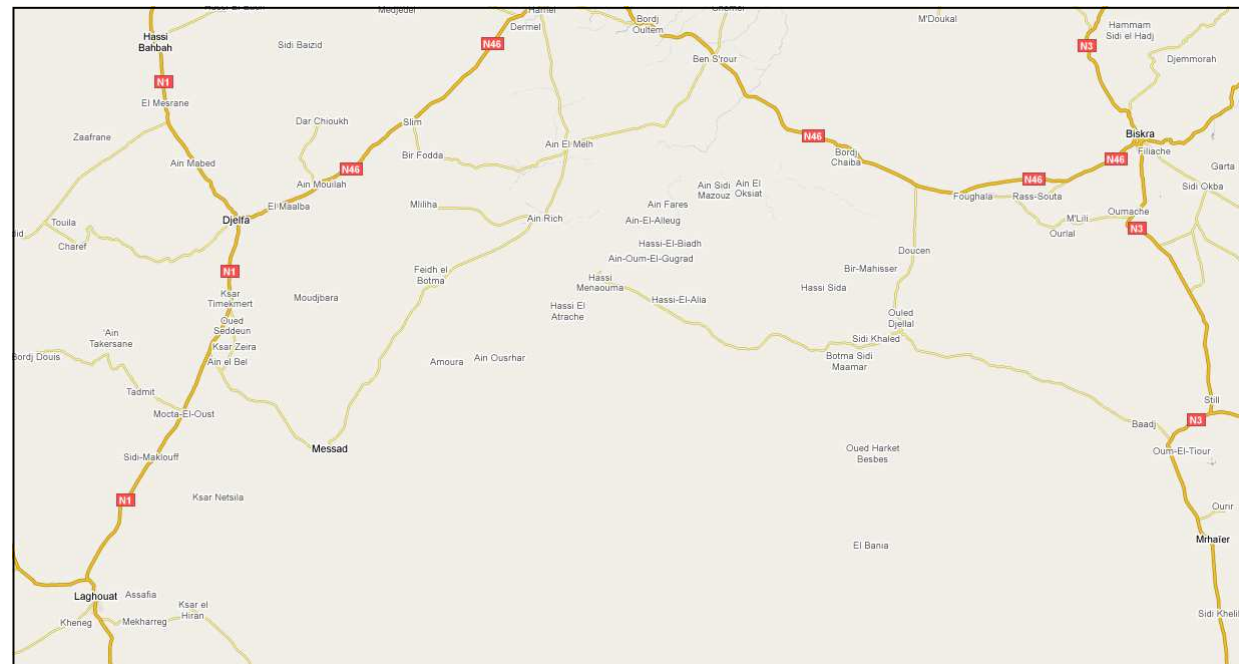
Petrol
Probably

Money facilities
Not so probable

Next location
Biskra

Distance (estimated)
240 miles

Expected departure
Next day



Saharan mileage to
current destination: **2788 miles**

Location

Biskra

Country

Algeria

General information and facilities

This is an oasis of 150,000 date palms producing first class dates. Exploring the palmeraie, or bathing in the thermal baths are among the more popular things to do here. The city of Biskra is a charming place, though there is little architecture beyond modern buildings and wide roads. The market of Biskra is worth the visit for buying fresh fruit and vegetable.



Day (estimated)

Day 9

Petrol

Yes

Money facilities

Banks, ATMs, exchange

Next location

Nefta (Tunisia)

Distance (estimated)

210 miles

Expected departure

Same day



Saharan mileage to current destination: **3028 miles**

Location

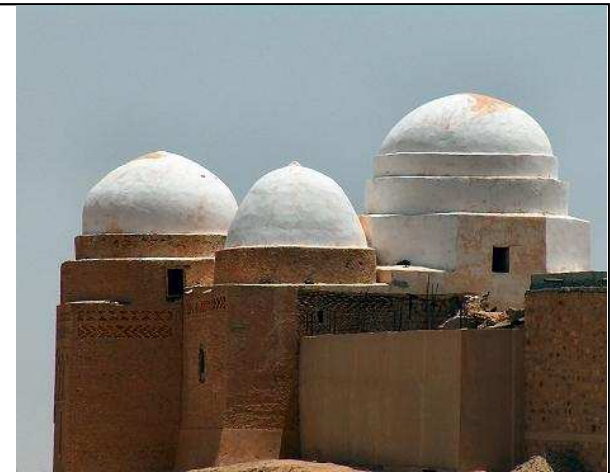
Nefta

Country

Tunisia

General information and facilities

Restaurants and a variety of hotels exist here, refer to the 1st guide page for additional information.



Day (estimated)

Day 9

Petrol

Yes

Money facilities

Banks, ATMs, exchange

Next location

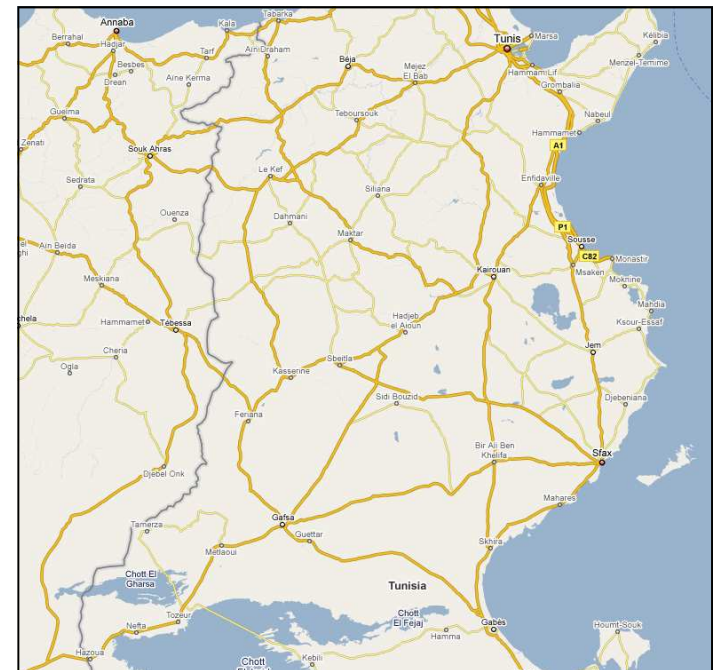
Tunis ferry terminal

Distance (estimated)

300 miles

Expected departure

Next day



Saharan mileage to
current destination: **3238 miles**

This completes the Saharan leg of the Saharan Rally 2009