

Roadbook Sudan

Based on cycling trip of Maurizio Ceraldi (www.ceraldi.ch) and Sekiji Yoshida (www.sekiji.net) on April 2013. Additional infos by Isa Kur, owner of Candaca Nubian Guesthouse in Dongola. To keep this Roadbook up to date, feel free to mail me actual or further information at maurizio@ceraldi.ch.

General Info

People in Sudan are very friendly, helpful. You can sleep at Cafeterias, rent a sudanese-style hammock bed for 2-5 SDG. Or camp at Police Checkpoints. Or wild camping. In towns in **lokandas** or **funduk**. Very safe country.

From Dongola to Moltage Junction (KM 303) water is no problem, lots of water points with big claypots and fresh water. On this stretch there are not many Cafeterias, although there are lots of villages nearby Nile River, which can be up to 6 km on the east.

Look forward or be prepared for north wind, usually quite constant and strong. From Khartoum to Dongola, something more than 500 KM, it took us 7 days, others cyclists coming from north did it in 2 days !. We started usually at 2 to 4 am to avoid heat and have less wind.

Hot, hot, hot. Best is to ride with long sleeves and bandana to cover mouth. You can buy in souks cheap wide trousers. The evaporation is extremely high due to temperature and wind. You can drink all day long fresh water by using a sock over the drinking bottle and keep it always wet. Amazing how it works !

You find every 40 to 60 kilometres a Cafeteria. But it is good to stuck up with some food and fruits before you leave towns. Usually you get bean stew (ful), meat, liver, eggs, bred. Be aware that info can change, cafeterias close and new ones open.

Road condition: smooth asphalt road. Towns are often 1 to several kilometers away from the main road.

You need to bring hard cash (best is USD, € also good in Khartoum), no ATM's, no credit cards. Bank exchange rate much lower than on black market. We got in 4.2013 around 6.3 SDG for 1 USD in Khartoum, in other places less (6.0). 7.5 SDG/ 1 € in Khartoum.

You find a GPS-Track with the infos below on the site of www.sekiji.net/mytracks/sudan .

Register at the Immigration

You have to register at the Immigration or Alien/Security Office. It should be possible to do it on arrival either in Wadi Halfa or in Gallabat. We asked all official people in Gallabat but none knew where, they just said « Khartoum ». We registered then in Khartoum (see GPS-Track if you want to know where). 225 SDG, 1 passport picture, photocopy of passport and visa with entry stamp.

You were supposed to register also at the police if you wanted to stay in a town. Hotels would not let you check-in before that. We were never asked for it. As we heard, this rule has been abolished.

Ferry Assuan to Wadi Halfa

Since April 2013 the ferry runs from Assuan on **Sunday**, arriving Monday on Wadi Halfa and leaving again on **Tuesday**. The ferry can be busy, overbooked, so arrive or better book in advance. We arrived on Monday, and as the ferry was already full, we got stuck for one week in Halfa. Or contact tour operator like Magdy Boshara, Mobile 0121730885, nubatia51@yahoo.com, or Mashansharti (mobile 012 2380740, mashansharti@gmail.com).

Cost from Wadi Halfa 215 SDG, bike extra (around 25 SDG). Ticket office is behind the Immigration, a yellow free standing two storey building, surrounded by some trees (look for the bleached brown boat picture below the arabic writing), nearby the Hotel Kilopatra.

Trip to Meroe Pyramids

Don't miss to visit the Royal Cemetery in Meroe. The trip is easy to organise from Khartoum. Go early in the morning by Tuc-Tuc or M-Jet to „Shendi Busstation“. There you buy a ticket to Atbara. There are plenty of busses running every half an hour or so. Tell the driver to drop you at the Pyramids. 3 Km south of the pyramids is a **PETRONAS** Petrol Station (village **Bajarawiya**), from there you can catch again a bus back to Khartoum.

The ride of around 240 Km takes maybe 2.5 hours. You can either camp nearby the pyramids (keep distance of 200 meters) or sleep like us in the Cafeteria 500 meters north of the Petrol Station and walk then to the Pyramids.

Entrance fee 50 SDG. Sunrise and sunset light best to take pictures.

Karima to Atbara Road Info

We heard from other cyclists, that there is absolutely no place stock up with food or water on this asphalted stretch of 283 Km.

Khartoum to Gallabat/Metema (border Ethiopia) Road Info

From Khartoum to Wad Medani (again away from main road, you have to cycle maybe 5 Km or so to get to town, but good range of hotels like Hotel Continental, quite nice place if you need rest of some days, good view of Blue Nile) lots of places, cafeterias. Between Wad Medani and Gedaref there are essentially two places where you can stay: Hufeira(?), maybe 65 km south of Wad Medani, and **Migreh**. Between Gedaref and Gallabat there is only **Doka**, nice lokanda there to sleep.

Khartoum to Moltaga Junction

KM-Post	
1 KM	Maybe 15-20 KM to the center of Khartoum
14 KM	Cafeteria
25 KM	Check-Point to Power Station speed gun
33 KM	Cafeteria « Wad Morah's Farm, Break + Cafeteria », excellent chicken, even pasta, sleep on green lawn
53 KM	Termites place
61 KM	Highway pay gate, 9.5 SDG (only cars)
75 KM	Cafeteria
95 KM	Cafeteria
104 KM	Cafeteria, very simple, not cosy for sleeping there
109 KM	Cafeteria,
120 KM	Police Checkpoint
125 KM	Cafeteria, cosy, but take care of young arab guys. Sekiji had his SLR stolen !
161 KM	Checkpoint, Cafeterias, cold drinks, small shop, but no meals available
185 KM	Cafeteria, very simple
190 KM	Tam Tam , small town, Police, Petrol Station, several Cafeterias
196 KM	Camel Station
219 KM	Small abandoned house, windshelter
238 KM	Umlalhasan , Cafeterias, cold drinks, good for sleep : cafeteria on east side, second from north
297 KM	Police Checkpoint

Moltaga Junction to Dongola

KM-Post	West bank of Nile	East bank of Nile
303 KM	Moltaga Junction to Karima – Khartoum, Petrol station, lots of cafeterias, fruits.	
326.5 KM	small shop (turquoise building), cold drinks	
332 KM	Al Dabba , town, lokanda, ice cream, 2 km north	
335 KM	Bridge to Old Dongola (church ruins, frescoes)
374 KM	Police Checkpoint, Al Baja ferry to east, camels	Ferry, Old Dongola
384 KM	Cafeteria, cold drinks	
396 KM	Um Albahiri town, restaurants, shops, cold drinks	
408 KM	Junction to Al Golid town	
423 KM	Junction to Khandaq (1.5 km to Nile, nice old nubian buildings, nice view, you can camp at Police station at Nile river bank	
438 KM	Small cafeteria	
451 KM	Small Cafeteria	
471 KM	Waterpoint « Lebeb », good sun- and windshelter	
482 KM	Police Checkpoint	
488 KM	Petrol station, no shop	
489 KM	Junction to Dongola , biggest town in North Sudan, if you head to Candaca Nubian Guesthouse, stay on main road, turn at KM 498 (from there 300 m to guesthouse)	
498 KM	Between KM497 and 498 is Candara Nubian Guesthouse, run by friendly corean Isa Kuri (0915545337), nearby Naphaq (Underpass bridge) ; https://sites.google.com/site/nubianhouse ; Isa knows very well the area, can organise interesting trips , don't miss boat trip and swim on Nile and visit of nubian village. (candacanubianhouse@gmail.com)	
501 KM	Bridge to East Dongola town	

Dongola to Wadi Halfa

489 KM	Junction to Dongola , biggest town in North Sudan, if you head to Candaca Nubian Guesthouse, stay on main road, turn at KM 497-498 (from there 300 m to guesthouse)	
498 KM	Between KM497 and 498 is Candara Nubian Guesthouse, run by friendly corean Isa Kuri (0915545337), nearby Naphaq (Underpass bridge) ; https://sites.google.com/site/nubianhouse ; Isa knows very well the area, can organise interesting trips , don't miss boat trip and swim on Nile and visit of nubian village. (candacanubianhouse@gmail.com)	
501 KM	Bridge to East Dongola town	
	West bank of Nile	East bank of Nile
503 KM		Gas station, cafeteria
510 KM		Gas station, cafeteria
532 KM		Turn to west for Kerma town, Nubian Museum, Attigasa Island – Bulget, Molcab (Asam Ahamed 0908565619), Argo-Bluenati Island 1.5 SDG, Uncle Abbas's Adulganim (0911178325), Dogolawi, Argo – Koya ferry 20 SDG
547 KM		Gas station, cafeteria
560 KM		Cafeteria
566 KM		Mt. Tumbus, to go Tumbus
585 KM		?Two cafeterias, Farek to go Nawuri
598 KM	Kajbar village	Sabu third Cataract & Rock art paintings, ask Boxi Husam (0121429200), Cafeteria
605 KM		Quaka ferry to cross West, Cafeteria
615 KM		Gas station, abandoned
616 KM	Temple of Cisse	Delgo Market
626 KM		Souk Dahab „Gold market“; lots of cafeterias and shops
643 KM		Abu sarai Gold rush, cafeteria
667 KM		Koyamato cross the power line from the W
670 KM		Sand beach, you can swim here
676 KM		Cafeteria Wawa, not recommended for sleeping, ask for lokanda/funduk in Wawa !
680 KM	Temple of Sulb	Wawa beautiful Nubian village, G House Abdul Abu 0122899925, Cafeteria
692 KM	Temple of Satanga, Sefewan Driver	Sawarada cafeteria, cross to west by boat Mohamed 0122583083

698 KM		Sawarada
708 KM		Koica Mosque, 1779, built by Shikh Idris ; don't miss to see it from inside.
717 KM	In Sal : churches, temples, nice view of Nile, crocodiles	Sai Island, motor boat 0122028966 Abdel Sribagi, Homestay
721 KM		At petrol station turn into Abri town, shops, restaurants, fruits, Nubian hose, Al Farag hotel
726 KM	Amara ruins	Cafeteria Amara
728 KM		Amara Old Mosque, now used as shit place. But worth to take some pictures.
748 KM		MaFarkah
749 KM		Cafeteria Aldari
753KM		Cafeteria Al-Farak (mt), smaller, less busy than Aldari. Better for sleeping. Dal Cataract, Sckkmatto village
777 KM	Hot water	Akasha « hot spring » Osman Mohamed
778 KM		Gold rush, gold digging place, several cafeterias, too busy, not recommended to sleep there
805 KM		Cafeteria Malik il Nasir , friendly owner, excellent chicken stew and tadiz (chick pea stew), home made bread, cosy place to spend night
808 KM		Cafeteria Al Birr Owner Ali Saeed 0914520564, fortress
865 KM	Jumeiya (car 40, camels crossing), ferry	Saras ferry cross to west (Adil Juma 0122577624) West 12 km, East 17 km, no shop or cafeteria
870 KM	Gomay / Samna	
894 KM		Wadi Halfa checkpoint, turn left, town after maybe 4 km, in between the small hills