

## Day Trip to Inland Sea from Sealine Beach Resort

**Date: Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2013**

All are welcome. Special welcome to those who have been hesitant to make this outing in their own car before.

**When?** Meeting at Sealine Beach resort car park around 9:00am with pick nick for day outing, including swim in the sea.

**What if?** A very strong northerly wind is the only likely reason to reschedule.

**Who knows the way ?** Garmin does. My son and I will stay in contact with all cars. We are both very familiar with the route options and conditions. We can split if the group is more than 8 vehicles.

**Do you need a monster 4x4?** Of course. When else will you afford a Hummer in your life. The best is a 4x4 from the company car pool or rental. They don't feel the bumps. However for this trip a 4x4, anything from Rav 4, Suzuki Vitara, Nissan Terra, Hyundai Sportage, Honda Civic, Ford Escape and up are just fine. A few models like Dodge 4x4 station wagon have low front plastic trim than can get damaged by the likes of a sand middle-mannetje.

**What tires are needed?** Anything other than major bling very low profile "wind-gat" tires. You will be advised to drop your tire pressure to 1.2 bar so any aftermarket air gauge could be useful. ( if you halve the pressure you double the tire foot print over the sand. ) If you have a week of spare time the Land Cruiser/Pajero/Jeep web chat forums can add to your "round the fire tire bullshit" capacity on this important subject. If you have a tow strap and other kit, bring it. Purely to assist others of course. Best strap down your pic nick box and chairs in the boot for the "Honey, slow down there is mayonnaise spilling everywhere" call, just when you need to keep up your momentum over the bumps and soft sand.

**What are the risks?** You may lose some nail polish and suffer from free advice from your fellow travelers. Some care is needed as most of your motor insurance policies will exclude off-road cover and the desert does come with a few other crazy drivers. The desert does have some blind rises. I guess the risk is similar to any other Qatar road use. We do know there are few dune deserts in the world that offer free access with low cost vehicles and low cost fuel. It even has a helicopter emergency service run by South Africans.



Company in the desert



Typical soft sand crossing

**What is suitable dress?** Rumor has it that our daughters are trying to ban “outoppie speedos”. I wish them luck. I have further heard that this season that “Sandybay gatbrand” red is in.

**Will I go get stuck?** Unlikely. Will you be abandoned in the desert? Only if you have seriously piss off the entire group. Yet to be accomplished. A serious mechanical break on a heavy 4x4 in a remote spot could cost you a heavy commercial tow fee. There is cel phone coverage. In some parts cel phone linkage requires a walk up a dune.

**Have you and your son ever got hurt in the desert?** Sure. When you ride big dirt bikes over the bumps you can wipe out at speed. This hurts. Oh yes and a burnt foot at a braai.

**Will I de bead my tire?** ( Debead is the lost seal between tire and rim with a low inflation ride.) We advise only deflating to 1.2 bar, where debeading is low risk. Very low profile tires are not advised. One can deflate to 0.7 bar to extract a vehicle but best re-inflate to 1 bar before any higher speed driving with cornering. And yes; you can rebead with an aerosol can blast and ignition source. After seating, the tire must be inflated.

**Can I roll my car?** We can teach you how to do this. This typically only comes with some hooligan driving or driving across a steep slope. Best done when your father owns five Land Cruisers and a gas well.

**What is acceptable behavior?** My friend, the behavior scientist expert, has observed the phenomenon that our lady friends tend to lose some of their chattiness after a few hours of desert outings. It has nothing to do with our driving skills. This often has the reverse effect. It has lots to do with lack of toilet facilities. Best cure is a swim in the now cool Gulf waters or stroll into the desert wilderness. A large golf umbrella has proved to be useful for the latter. Tricky if it is also raining but we will take this risk.

**Best music for nights in the desert?** Some camp locations do get buzzed by the many dune buggies night riders that come with strong sound systems and not-my-choice of loud music. If you would like to over-night please indicate.

	
Typical crossing	Probably worst case scenario

See you there!

**Stephen Floyd for SASCOM Qatar**