



**BRIEFING**  
**AL HENAKIYAH - YANBU**  
**16/01/2026**



**DREAM.  
DARE.  
LIVE IT.**



# YANBU FINISH BIVOUAC | STAGE 12



January 16



# /// AL HENAKIYAH → YANBU

**ROAD SECTION A**

**215**

**SELECTIVE SECTION**

**311**

**ROAD SECTION B**

**194**

## **BIVOUAC 1ST DEPARTURE**

**FIM**

**05:05**

**FIA**

**07:10**

## **DSS 1ST DEPARTURE**

**FIM**

**07:50**

**FIA**

**09:55**





# /// GENERAL INFORMATION

Penultimate stage of Dakar 2026 — and what a stage!

Before closing this edition, you will once again face a true condensed mix of all types of Saudi terrain. Tomorrow, there is no room for approximation: driving, navigation and technical crossings will make this day the final barrier before thinking about the finish. The start will be at a high pace on a wide W2RC-style track, with lots of sliding, before reaching a few slower Wadi crossings with rougher, more broken terrain. The first dunes of the day then appear, and in some places the sand can be softer. Exiting the dunes, the track becomes narrower and rocky, even turning into short technical/trial sections, before reaching a few dunes that are softer than the previous ones. Once this Erg is crossed, the route dives into the reliefs further east: the tracks will remain in generally drivable valleys, but beware of rocks in certain sections. After a transfer, two CPs and the neutralisation, the terrain opens up and the pace increases as you leave the reliefs behind. You will then return to some small dunes that could cause real difficulties, before reaching a very rough section through volcanic rocks over 5 km, where overtaking will be difficult. The final section will be very fast across a plateau before finally reaching the ASS.



# /// GENERAL INFORMATION

- DSS – KM 26: Fast canyon tracks on a wide track.
- KM 26 – 43: Alternating rocky tracks and difficult/broken wadi crossings.
- KM 43 – 56: Dunes and sandy plateaus, then sandy tracks running along the dunes.
- KM 56 – 100: Fast plateau tracks — watch navigation. Then the track crosses a winding, rough canyon section for 10 km before returning to a fast plateau with many intersecting tracks.
- KM 100 – 125: Sandy HP/tracks and soft dunes — beware of drop-offs/steps on descents in this sector.
- KM 125 – 183: Tracks in a rocky canyon — beware of possible hazards on parallel. Then the track returns to a more open and fast terrain before going back into a smooth, enjoyable drivable canyon for driving up to the Transfer.





## /// GENERAL INFORMATION

- KM 183 – 222: Sandy track through vegetation, canyon sometimes more technical, then back to a much more drivable track still in a canyon up to the Neutralisation.
- KM 222 – 265: Very drivable rocky and winding track in a wide canyon.
- KM 265 – 291: Fast track and HP, then return of soft sand.
- KM 291 – 297: Narrow sandy and rocky tracks making overtaking difficult.
- KM 297 – ASS: Slow sandy track with rocks present; the last 5 km are on fast plateaus with fences and isolated hazards.



# /// **VIGILANCE POINTS**

- KM 54.24: Sandy HP crest with a big descent.
- KM 81.34: WPS — rough summit with big rocks in the descent.
- KM 101.07 to 103.18: Series of descents with broken crests on HP/track on tricky sandy ground.
- KM 287 to 291: Section through small dunes and dunes with rocks/stones present — beware behind the crests.
- KM 291.34: Back onto the track with deep ruts on the left.
- KM 304.74: Right turn on crest with a fence on the left side of the track (motorbikes!).







# VARIOUS INFORMATIONS

- Liaison A: watch out for assistance and competitors traffic.
- KM 291.46 to 296.9: Difficult zone for overtaking. The Sentinel system rule cannot be applied/considered in case of non-compliance with an overtaking request in this section.



## ASSISTANCE:

- The bivouac fuel station will open on 16/01 at 17:00.
- Arrival in Yanbu on 16/01 — opening at 10:00. Upon entering the bivouac, you must go via the asphalt road and through the “Parc Fermé” area to remove/dismantle your TRIPY units. **Mandatory on that day.**
- All the information regarding the portuary operations have been sent to you by the competitor service. If you have any question, please contact them.







# THANKS !



**DEFENDER**

