



NEVE GARAGE, London, SW7

Advisory note to mechanics for preparing vehicle for trip to Siberia

Reg: VX13 HGD

Model: Land Rover Defender 110

This vehicle is recommended for the proposed journey, and will form an integral part of the expedition. Ground transportation is essential to reach the proposed destination. An overland journey also allows for interaction with communities along the way, as it can easily be stopped for conversations, and will itself be a topic of conversation.

The vehicle needs to be able to cope with the rigours of the roads. They are likely to be very uneven in places, with no proper tarmac, or be ice-covered. There will be mornings with very low temperatures, when the engine needs to start.

Recommendations

- Winter tyres should be fitted, and snow chains also taken along if necessary. There should also be at least two spare tyres taken along.
- A Webasto engine heater should be fitted to aid cold starts
- Shock absorbers and springs upgraded for extra weight and poor road conditions along the route
- Arctic grade lubricants should be used throughout, which are more able to cope with extreme cold temperatures
- Roofrack to be fitted with high lift and shovel mount
- Clear branding and colour scheme to aid 'visibility' and publicity for the trip
- Capacity for spare fuel as supplies may be infrequent in certain locations on the trip
- Fire extinguisher
- First Aid Kit

We recommend daily checks of the condition of tyres, lights, and fluid levels.

We also recommend that anyone driving the vehicle has undertaken proper off-road training and is familiar with the vehicle. Land Rover driving training can be provided through the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG).

UPDATE

VIMEO: <https://vimeo.com/80322124> - Felicity Aston talks about some of the modifications made to the vehicle

Read the Pole of Cold website for evidence of the value of some of these modifications while on the road.