



Pictures taken on June 12, 2017 show the Oriental Desert Express train en route from Oujda to Bouarfa in northeastern Morocco. (AFP)

Morocco tourists make tracks on 'Spectre' train

007's Oriental Express cradle in the desert

BOUARFA, Maroc, Sept 13, (AFP): Edouard Kunz knows timekeeping is important but the former Swiss watch precision mechanic admits that James Bond's Oriental Desert Express in remote eastern Morocco never runs on schedule.

The train, made famous in the 2015 Bond movie "Spectre", trundles tourists between the town of Oujda and the former mining city of Bouarfa along a 350-km-long (215-mile) stretch of desert.

"It takes between eight and 12 hours to make the trip, sometimes even more," says Kunz, 70, who is known as Edi, blaming sandstorms for frequent delays.

His passion for trains put him in the driver's seat more than 10 years ago when he persuaded Morocco's National Office of Railways to let him run a tourist train on a disused railway line.

The track that runs near the border with Algeria was originally built nearly 100 years ago when Morocco was a French protectorate.

It was part of an ambitious project, the Mediterranean-Niger railway, to link the sea to inland Africa.

However, the project was short-lived and, in time, the mines and factories in Bouarfa shut down, until the desert region with its lunar landscapes was rediscovered by Kunz and the location scouts for "Spectre".

Exterior shots of the train making its way through the desert darkness were used in the Bond movie, a star-studded spy thriller with Daniel Craig reprising the role of 007.

One of the most striking sequences in the film depicts a romantic dinner between Bond and a character played by French actress Lea Seydoux that is interrupted by the villain Mr Hinx, played by wrestler Dave Bautista.

The resulting fight between Bond and Hinx in a train carriage has been praised by some critics as one of the best scenes in the whole movie.

The tourist train that Kunz hires from Morocco's national railway operator is not quite as luxurious as the one featured in "Spectre".

Tourists can choose from a first-class, air-conditioned carriage and another that dates back to the 1960s, in which they can open the windows to take in the scenery and snap pictures.

The train moves at a top speed of 50 kms per hour (30 mph), but this can often drop to 10 kph and sometimes the train has to come to a complete halt because of sand on the tracks.

When that happens, workers resort to shovels to get rid of the sand before the train can proceed.

"Some people buy BMWs but I bought myself a train," Kunz says, with a chuckle, recalling how he struggled to make a profit with his desert train project.

It's that time again!
Registration for CAW/CAW Jrs is now open for members of the Friends of the DAI ONLY.



This season, the fabulous Ms Maha will cover Islamic art motifs: Repeating Geometric Patterns, Storytelling: Words and Pictures, Patterns and Print Making, Jewelry Design, Palm Frond Weaving, Ancient Cities: 3D Collage, New Media: Documenting Amricani, Modern Art, and all aspects of the Annual Play!

CAW/CAW Jrs is for children ages 6 - 12. There are 24 sessions this season, held on Saturdays, 9:30 - 11 AM at the Amricani Cultural Centre. The programme starts 7 October and runs through April. The cost for the programme (for members) is KD25.

Members may register at either of the museum shops or online. If you wish to register online, please email us (education@darmuseum.org.kw) your name, your mobile number, your child's name and age. We will send an invoice to your mobile phone with instructions on how to pay.

There are only 20 spots in the programme and registration will be confirmed upon payment. Through 16 September, registration is open exclusively to members of the Friends of the DAI.

A flyer of the event

In a good year, he says, he makes five to six trips between Oujda and Bouarfa. On the route to Bouarfa, the first dozen or so kilometres are through a fertile plain, and then the train passes through the Tiouli tunnel. After that it is mostly desert.

Along the way, passengers see abandoned train stations — and the more unusual sight of a former Roman Catholic church turned into a judo club, near a mosque. Kunz is hoping to transform one of the abandoned stations into a restaurant, but for the time being dinner is served in the train.

contract bridge

By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ K Q 7 5
♥ A K Q J 4
♦ 7
♣ 8 4 3
WEST EAST
♠ J ♠ 4 3
♥ 10 9 7 6 3 2 ♥
♦ K 10 9 4 ♦ J 8 2
♣ Q 5 ♣ A K J 10 9 7 6 2
SOUTH
♠ A 10 9 8 6 2
♥ 8 5
♦ A Q 6 5 3
♣ —

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 4 NT 6 ♣
Pass Pass Dble Pass
6 ♦ Pass 7 ♣ Dble
Opening lead — ten of hearts.

A United States team won the women's world championship at the 1984 World Team Olympiad, but not before they were badly mauled on this deal from their match with Japan.

After Gail Moss of the U.S. opened the bidding with one spade, her partner, Jacqui Mitchell, leaped to four notrump (Blackwood). Following East's nuisance bid of six

clubs, Moss passed, by partnership agreement indicating that she had either one or three aces.

When Mitchell doubled (thinking that East-West had two aces), Moss ran to six diamonds, strongly suggesting that she actually held either three aces or two aces and a void in clubs.

Backing her judgment and showing full faith and confidence in her partner, Mitchell thereupon bid seven spades, without question an excellent contract. And, under normal circumstances, the grand slam would have been made without difficulty. But fate unluckily intervened when the Japanese East player doubled, conventionally directing West not to lead a club but to lead either a heart or a diamond. So West led the ten of hearts, East ruffed, and the grand slam quickly went down the drain.

At the second table, the Japanese North-South pair conservatively stopped at six spades (with North the declarer), making seven for a score of 1,460 points. Combined with the 200 points gained at the first table, this gave the Japanese a pickup of 1,660 points, a most fortuitous stroke of luck for Japan, which would have lost 750 points if the hearts had not been divided 6-0.

Tomorrow: Keep your eye on the ball.



click

Alcoholics Anonymous: If you know someone who can't stop drinking and would like to help them please check us out and we promise to try to help at www.aaarabia.org There are no fees. This is a genuine public service.

Drinking problem?: Friends of Bill W. are available to help. Totally confidential. Email: rohsecretary@gmail.com

Narcotics Anonymous: NA can help with addiction problems. Totally confidential: 94087800 English/Arabic.

Continued on Page 20

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- A whole bunch
 - How one may be loved
 - Pitiful sorts
 - Rubber ducky, e.g.
 - Ancient region of central Italy
 - Lead-in
 - Universal life force
 - repeated
 - Depressed
 - Lead-in to right or rock
 - Movie theater pioneer Marcus
 - Gong (Chinese spiritual practice)
 - They may come with silver or gold
 - Of an arm bone
- DOWN**
- “___ folly to be wise”
 - Diner purchases, for short
 - Towheaded comics boy
 - Creepy
 - Minneapolis-to-Milwaukee dir.
 - Cowboys may ride off into it
 - Letters of approval
 - Home addition?
 - Middle of the road?
 - Med. insurance plans
 - Mo
 - Seldom-reviewed TV show
 - Sub
 - Brought on
 - Words after “Here” and “Away”
 - The Liberty Tree, for one
 - Misfortune
 - El Orinoco, e.g.
 - Owing
 - The Magi, e.g.
 - One eating you out of house and home?
 - Most svelte
 - Left a burning impression?
 - Comics character with a big nose
 - Cartoonist's aide
 - Squalid places
 - Actress Barbeau of the cult classic “Swamp Thing”
 - Something bad to come down with
 - Snow blower brand
 - Leave nothing behind?
 - Composer Copland
 - Hearty entree
 - Org. with the Calder Cup
 - Little of children's literature
 - A whole bunch
 - Nos in Novosibirsk
 - Cut off
 - Occupied, as a table
 - Pretty good grades

PUZZLE BY DEREK BOWMAN AND SARAH KELLER

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13					14
15										16
17				18						19
21			22		23		24			25
26				27		28				29
30				31		32		33		
34				35		36				37
38										39
40										41
42										43
44										45
46										47
48										49
50										51
52										53
54										55
56										57
58										59
60										61
62										63
64										64

- Washed-out
- Opposite of covers
- “___” Buttermilk
- Fashion photographer
- Midge, for one
- “Ain’t Sweet”
- Kind of sleep
- Like one-star puzzles
- Place for a poker
- Female issue
- Ticked off
- Jack of “Barney Miller”
- “Do the ___” (beverage slogan)
- Bottled up
- Detective whose first name is Kentaro
- Roll at a counter
- Makes sound
- Equine
- Cinque + cinque
- Boohoo
- Part of the escape route in “Casablanca”
- Density symbol
- Jan. honoree

Scratch pad

Conceptis Sudoku Challenger

The grid must be so completed that every row, column and 3x3 box has every digit from 1 to 9 inclusive

By Dave Green

				6	1			
6	7		1	4	8			
1	9				3	7		
	8	2			6			
9					2			
3		4	5					
2	7			5	9			
	6	7	3	1	8			
5	1							

Difficulty Level ★

Answer to yesterday's puzzle

4	5	8	9	7	1	2	3	6
9	7	3	4	2	6	8	1	5
6	2	1	5	8	3	9	4	7
5	9	6	7	4	8	1	2	3
3	8	2	1	6	9	5	7	4
1	4	7	2	3	5	6	8	9
7	3	9	6	1	2	4	5	8
8	1	5	3	9	4	7	6	2
2	6	4	8	5	7	3	9	1

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

DIRECTIONS:
Fill each square with a number, one through nine.
■ Horizontal squares should add to totals on right.
■ Vertical squares should add to totals on bottom.
■ Diagonal squares through center should add to total in upper and lower right.

THERE MAY BE MORE THAN ONE SOLUTION.

Today's Challenge Time 3 Minutes 4 Seconds
Your Working Time ___ Minutes ___ Seconds

7				10
		9		35
			9	33
	8			34
31	26	27	28	34

Yesterday's solution

8	1	4	1	14
9	3	9	6	27
7	2	9	8	26
4	1	3	2	10
28	7	25	17	22

Word by Word

Even (حتى) Hata

Even homer sometimes nods.
Hata homeros yokhti ahyanan.

Numbers حتى هو ميروس بنظيء احياناً

7657 Seven thousand six hundred fifty seven

٧٦٥٧ Sabat alaf wa seto maah wa saba wa khamsoun