

Part 2 – Las Vegas to San Diego

Day 5

Still in Las Vegas.

Mileage – Unchanged

Some good news – the spare keys and the KTM Owner's manual arrived today from Denver –



... so now I can find out how the thing works and I can do the important things like setting the correct time and adjusting the suspension.



I was directed up to the “fashion mall” where all the good eye doctors work (apparently) and managed to get some antibiotics for a small scratch on my eye.



Not much to report today, so I'll just post some nice pictures from the fancy hotels I passed.



I did have a chat with my new dirt biking friend who works at the hotel and he showed me pictures of his high powered machine gun collection and I am invited to go and shoot them in the desert tomorrow! I asked what we might shoot at in the desert, to which he replied “targets!”, with great enthusiasm. I thought it best to decline this offer as everyone keeps telling me to be careful and it did seem potentially dangerous.



Tomorrow I will hit the road again heading for the fine City of Los Angeles. I've been recommended to stay in Santa Monica, so I hope they have a Motel 6 there.

Having won some dollars playing craps, I decided to invest in a small notebook as it should be easier to transfer data to and from the internet than my iPad, so hopefully I'll be able to publish some video footage soon. But don't hold your breath...

Oh – and more good news – I managed to get my hair cut!

See Video: Lovell Canyon – Part 1

This was my first venture off-road on the KTM-990.

A nice rocky dirt road, which was quite a steep climb. The bike got a bit hot 1/2 way up, so I stopped to have a drink of water and a banana while it cooled down a bit.

Hope it works...

1 comment

1. [ivorjcw](#) said: November 4, 2013 4:15 pm

So how far was it approximately (up & down)?

Day 6

Leaving Las Vegas...

Mileage – 296

Total – 1,190

Time to leave, 4-days in Las Vegas is a very long time!



It was not a good start to the day as I discovered that Chelsea had lost away to Newcastle!

I managed to pack everything back into my 2, not very big, side bags and hit the road after saying goodbye to the Excalibur:



A strange hotel in many ways – sort of old school Vegas...

Anyway – Vegas to LA is not an exciting journey, long straight boring freeway for almost 300 miles. zzzzz

I stopped for gas in the middle of nowhere:



I stopped for lunch in Barstow, California, my first visit to CA. Sadly I ended up at Denny's again:



The freeway into LA is horrible, 6 lanes of heavy traffic moving very slowly, zzzzz

But I found my motel:

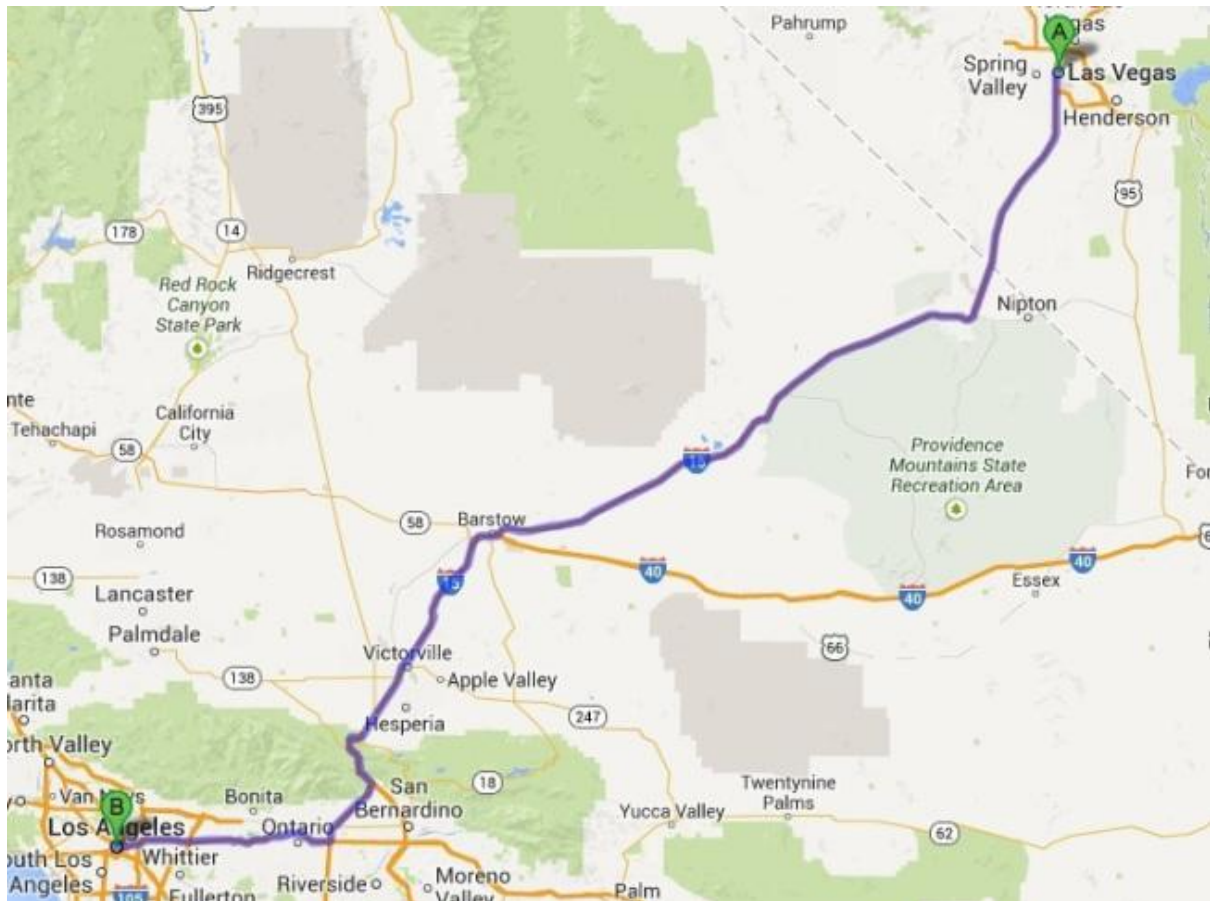


and arrived safely



I'm looking forward to Mexico now, the US Freeways are fabulous roads, but very dull.

Meeting a former business colleague for a drink tonight, and onto San Diego tomorrow hopefully.



3 comments

1. Gordon said: November 3, 2013 8:07 pm
Loved the video Peter ..smooth over the bumps
2. [ivorjcw](#) said: November 4, 2013 4:06 pm
can't always be exciting :)
3. Colin said: November 4, 2013 9:27 pm
I'm enjoying the footage Pete – especially the cloud video. Today is Melbourne Cup Day, though we are not going this year.

Day 7

Leaving LA...

Mileage – 210

Total – 1,400

LA is very big and very impressive, but I didn't have the time or the inclination to explore it. I'll save that treat for another day.



I spotted a really lovely tree in the parking lot so I chained my bike to it to prevent anyone from stealing it...

I decided to pack up and head for San Diego. I stopped for lunch on the outskirts of LA and found myself in "BJ's Brewhouse" (I didn't ask :), which was a sports bar that served me Moroccan Spiced Salmon – it was unremarkable, much like BJ's.

The road to San Diego is just one long Freeway, which at its widest offered me no less than 8 lanes to choose from! Certainly, the widest road I have driven on. The latter half of the 200-mile ride runs next to the ocean, so I stopped to capture the view:



I met some local Harley riders, who were very friendly and they told me of their experiences of riding down the Baja. Which were all good.

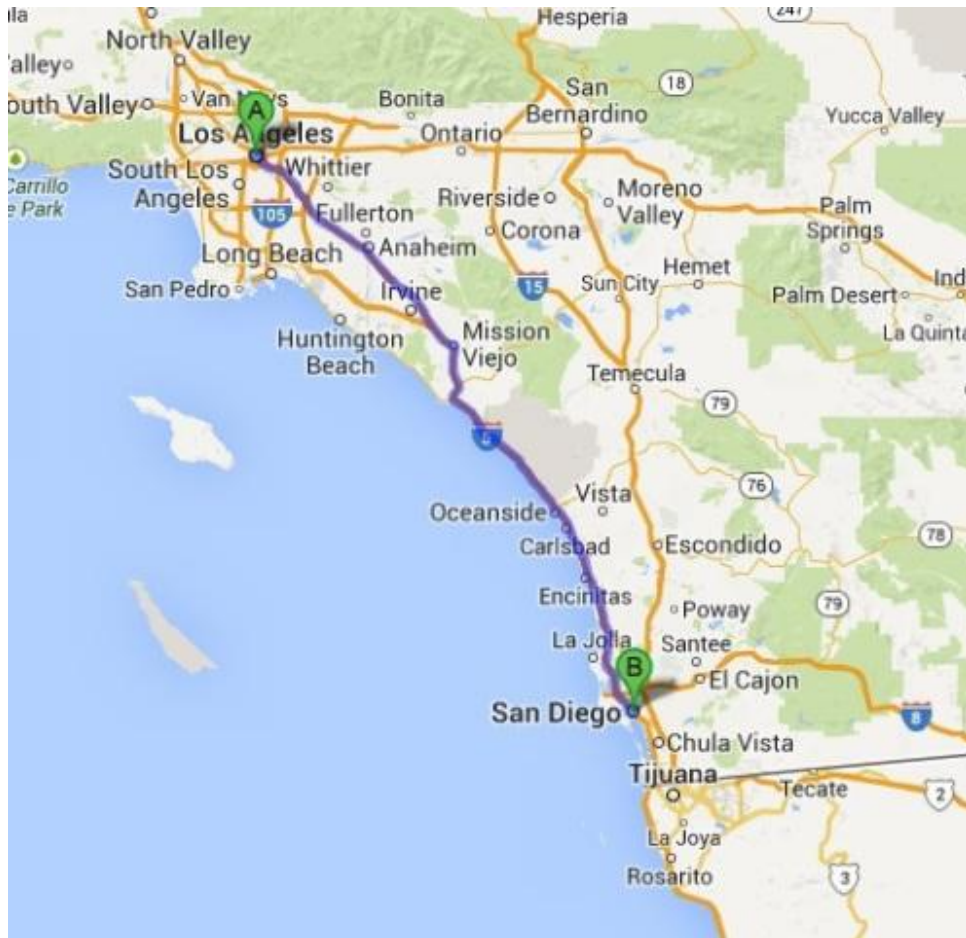


It was an easy ride into San Diego and it seems to be a lovely place, much nicer than LA. I will stay a couple of nights, as I have 2 important tasks to complete before I cross the border.



One is to buy some insurance to cover me in Mexico and the second is to buy some good maps to navigate the dirt roads as my GPS will not help me off-tarmac. It struck me that riding off-road is like snowboarding off-piste – great fun but difficult to know where you are going and where you will end up.

Plus, I will need to find a good Sports bar for tomorrow night as the Packers feature in Monday night Football! It's a match up in the NFC North between Green Bay and long-time rivals the Chicago Bears. Should be a good game – I'm sure it will be on Sky Sports...



1 comment

1. [ivorjcw](#) said: November 4, 2013 4:11 pm
getting to the real kernel then now :) 8 lanes .. how does one know which one to use? Speed limits at all?
Sorry to say Chelsea are a bit disorganised this season .. like their manager?

See Video: Lovell Canyon – Part 2

A bit wobbly at the start – but OK after that. I didn't go to the top, probably only about 4-5 miles up. Going down was much easier, I even turned the engine off in parts to let the motor cool down.

See Video: The Bottom of the Ocean

On the road from Green River to Las Vegas the scenery was truly spectacular. I stopped at this view point, which the Gopro does not do justice to. But this will convey how cold it was...

See Video: Riding through a cloud

This was at a high point, west of Green River. There were 3 freezing cold clouds just sitting on the road. So, I recorded driving through it...

See Video: River to Las Vegas – Part 1

Just amazing scenery...

See Video: Green River to Las Vegas – Part 2

Just more great scenery...

Day 8

San Diego

Mileage – 47

Total – 1,447

I'm impressed with this hotel! It has a lovely pool! Safely kept behind bars!



And also a very attractive fence, I decided to chain my bike to it so that nobody could steal it.



I spent the day preparing for Mexico. The main task was to buy insurance, you cannot enter Mexico unless you can show that you have

liability cover for \$300,000. I called several companies for quotes and found that most companies will only insure adventure bikes for 3rd party cover only. But I eventually found a company that provides fully comprehensive cover and I also managed to get a good price for medical cover too, up to \$1,000,000 no less!



It was a cloudy day...

Next job was to find good maps for the Baja. Apparently, I managed to track down the only store left in San Diego that still sells real paper maps. The Travel Depot is the place to go!



I have printed my insurance documents and now I'm all set to cross the border. I intend to start a new page on this blog from the next phase of the journey. So that's where you will find tales of Tijuana and beyond!

See Video: Road to Lovell Canyon

This one is not great. This was the ride out to Lovell Canyon from the Excalibur...