

## Part 3 – Mexico and the Baja Desert

### Mexico Day 1

Tecate and beyond

Miles – 144

Total – 1,591

I decided to avoid entering Mexico through Tijuana, as it has such a bad press. So, I took a small road that took me out to Tecate. Famous for a Baja brewery, located there. I took some good video of the ride to Tecate, it was a B-road which was being resurfaced. They were operating a convoy system to take traffic through the road works. Naturally I cruise past the cars up to the front and I think I have captured some great abuse as a wild red-neck shouts at me from his truck, for who knows for what reason, riding a bike I guess, or not lining up and waiting my turn....



I stopped by the local fridge recycling store.

I fear that my hotel has such a weak internet connection that I can't post video from here. Which is disappointing because this is the best hotel I plan to stay in before Cabo and secondly, I've paid \$5 for a useless connection.



Anyway the border crossing was simple, I showed my US licence and insurance and he waived me through.



I am staying at the Rosarito Beach Hotel, which is something of a Baja icon, so at \$80 a night, it is more than twice what I would expect to pay here, but it will be the last decent hotel for a while I think.

The ride from Tecate to Rosarito was interesting, I explored one dirt road which was full of trucks and buses and the dust was terrible.



I also discovered that there are a lot of dogs in Mexico , wild or otherwise and there seem to hate motorcycles, as I have to call them. To Americans it seems that bikes are always push-bikes and they don't know what a motorbike is! very strange. Anyway, I have been chased by several very angry dogs today – I caught 2 on the Gopro so I look forward to publishing that when the bandwidth allows.



This is the view from my hotel room...

So – happy to be in Mexico at last – I hate this blog site, its really hard to edit and submit stuff but I'm committed to it now :( I plan to ride some big dirt roads tomorrow and end up in Ensenada...

#### 1 comment

1. [ivorjcw](#) said: November 7, 2013 8:55 pm

I find all this most fascinating and am enjoying the ride by proxy as it were .. BUT do take care as folk can violent for no apparent or good reason out there as you well know

## Mexico Day 2

Mileage – 187

Total -1,668

Wow best day yet. Started late and rode from El Rosarito to Ensenada. Fabulous road and views of the beaches.

I stopped for a quick lunch at a 7/11 and did my good deed for the day, an old American woman had been robbed and needed money to call

home and get money wired out to her, so I gave her a few hundred Pesos



Ensenada is largish and dusty, so I rode on south down Mex-1 and then picked a dirt road that would take me to the sea.



The road was really tough – but the KTM lapped it up. Then I had a little tumble! At least I now know that I am strong enough to lift the bike off the deck :)



Just a dumb low speed tumble into the soft dirt, no damage done. I had a couple of “offs” and its nice to get it out of the way, I was bound to fall off at some point. It reminded of when I used to ride UK race tracks, I went a very long time before I fell off and the longer you go, the more you are waiting for that first “off”, nice to get it out of the way early!



The pictures speak for themselves, the beaches were amazing.



Riding off-road was slower than I had expected and it was getting a bit late when I finally managed to rejoin the pavement, it was almost dark



I had wanted to get to El Roserio but it was too far.



I rode for 2 hours in the dark which is not great as there are no street lights – so I stopped at the first reasonable hotel and called it a day.

Met a bunch of Canadians who are practicing for the Baja 1000 – a crazy 1000 mile long dirt race around the Baja, off to have a beer with them now....

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#### **2 comments**

1. [ivorjcw](#) said: November 7, 2013 8:58 pm  
You ridden US dirt tracks too? My, I am learning more and more about you .. Chelsea won 3-0 against Schalke last night by the way .. the beaches do indeed look lovely .. thanks for your postings
2. [rosie](#) said: November 9, 2013 6:38 pm  
lovely beaches i wish i was there

## **See Video: Mad dogs**

They don't like motorcycles...

**1 comment**

1. rosie said: November 9, 2013 6:32 pm

really nice and funny i love the dogs was there 3 or 2 he he.

## Mexico Day 3

California Baja Sur

Today – 301

Total – 1,969

The day started early as my Canadian friends decided that I should join them for breakfast. So we found a little shack that actually produced really good omelettes.



The 3 Canadians are actually part of a team of 6 practicing for the Baja 1000, which starts on 14-November. Its a 1,000 mile straight race on dirt, stone and sand, all off road and they start at 1 am at night and race non-stop to the end! It takes about 28-hours if you are any good, night and day!! Insane. And if that's not bad enough, it is just like the Dakar

rally, where they also race with buggies and lorries!! And it sounds like they go faster off-road than I go on-road.

These are their bike – like the Dakar they are limited to 450cc.



There are 2 older guys, Guy and his mate competing in the Pro 50 class and Guy's son. The older guys were ready



waiting for the lad – who's bike was still outside his room



so instead of waiting for the lift -



he took the stairs!



They did give me some good advice – about riding in sand and also more warnings about riding at night – There are cows that wander freely here and when the sun goes down the temperature drops quickly, so the cows come and lay on the road because its still warm!! And the roads aren't lit and nor are the cows!



I set off around 10:30 knowing I had a long and boring ride through the desert, there is one road called Mex-1 and it runs from Le Roserio 250 miles to the next gas station just before the border into California Baja Sur. The Baja has two states, draw a line in the middle and you have California Baha, which everyone knows is in the north! and then California Baja Sur (south) which is not so easy to find hence the helpful suffix!!



Anyway my bike has a range of about 250 miles, if ridden gently and about 200 miles if ridden hard. Annoyingly ridding gently is not an option, so I had to rely on buying some roadside gas from the back of a truck.



The first half of the ride was fun, winding through mountains initially and then deeper and deeper in the desert. It was 90-100 F today so it must be horrible in the summer!

The Cactus are amazing, huge! 20 feet++



Then there is a crazy section of boulders, which I videoed (post later)

After about 110 miles I came to Catavina, the only small town on the route, which one hotel and a gas waggon!



Fab!

Fill me up!

Amazingly the hotel is brand new 5\* – so I stopped for lunch and beer \$10! and rode on



The second half was long straight and boring, the last 30 miles to the CBS border is just one straight road, zzzzzzz.

Just after the border was my target, Geurrero Negro, I arrived at 4pm, so 300 miles in 5 1/2 hours was not bad.

I found a hotel



Chained up my bike and went in search of a Cerveza!

Didn't fall off once today! Wahoo!

### 2 comments

1. [ivorjcw](#) said: November 8, 2013 3:36 pm

Another exhilarating day then .. not so sure I would have been so calm about the fuel consumption though .. great pics by the way ... any chance of a map sometime of your route so far and for the days ahead too?

Take care and be sensible .. don't let all this Mexican beer go to your head :)

2. [Rosemary k](#) said: November 10, 2013 4:10 pm

really nice pics i really want to see more of the cactuses!!!