

Part 4 - Onwards to Cabo San Lucas

Mexico Day 4

Geurrero Negro to Mulege

Miles – 190

Total – 2,159

Hardest day yet!



It was a hot start to the day in Geurrero Negro and I had another long straight ride through the desert to complete.

I discovered that Kerns are famous here!
We make Nectar!

I packed up – planned the route and decided to stop for lunch when I hit the Sea of Cortez on the East coast, at Santa Rosalia. Which would be a ride of 140 miles leaving only another 40 to Mulege.

(I will try and provide a map view of my route so far, as my friend Ivor has suggested, but computing power here is rather limited, so it might take me a while)

The road was long and straight to the vanishing point on the horizon.

There was little traffic, there was nothing to see and it was hot (90F). The only thing to do was to set the speed to 85 mph and practice my no hands riding. Mostly you can do it using your body weight and the wind, but in places the camber of the road gets you and you have to grab the bars. :)



I made it to Santa Rosalia in good time and settled into a lovely little restaurant by the sea. I had fresh shrimp cooked in butter, it was fab. I got chatting to the only other diners who were from Denver, surprisingly, and they have just bought a place in Mulege.



I had decided that if I got close to Mulege in good time, that I would go off-road and do some exploring. I turned off the main road at San Bruno and aimed to ride the dirt road to the point at Punta Chivato. It looked simple, then I could cut back inland and pick up Mex-1 again.

OMG – what a tough road! There were many patches of sand and it was deep in places.

Sand is just so hard with a big heavy bike. Theory is you have to power through it, but when there is a bend – what do you do? I know! How about slow down and fall off! I perfected that!

I must have come off a dozen times today! And lifting that fully loaded bike up is really, really hard!



I should have turned back as soon as I realised how sandy it was, but I thought I would find a way through and pick up the highway again. But the road got harder and sandier! :(



It was no longer fun! I didn't really know where I was going and the GPS was suggesting to go back the way I came. But I knew that there was lots of sand if I went back and there would be more tumbles, so I hoped I would find a way through rather than go back. After a couple more miles and a few more falls – I was very hot and very tired and very lost and the sun was coming down rapidly. I decided that I had no choice but to follow the GPS back and try and perfect my sand technique.

I fell off a few more times, through tiredness as much as anything – one time I very nearly fell into a cactus bush! I was so pleased to find the pavement again. I have captured a few falls on the Gopro, I guess I'll have to publish them :(

I cruised happily into Mulege and found a great hotel – Hotel Serenidad. I feel like I've been 15 rounds with Mike Tyson! Battered and bruised, but nothing broken. The bike is amazing! its bullet proof! Just haul it up – stick the panniers back on, fire it up and go again! Amazing.

Heading for La Paz tomorrow – state capital of California Baja Sur. I'll be taking it a lot easier tomorrow...

(Sorry I could not post anymore pics no bandwidth here)

1 comment

1. [ivorjcw](#) said: November 11, 2013 9:54 pm

A gruelling day indeed BUT I smiled whilst reading of your mishaps .. sorry, Peter

See Video: Cactus!

Riding through the desert...

See Video: How to fall off in sand...

<video>

Ouch :(

1 comment

1. Rosemary k said: November 10, 2013 4:22 pm when do you fall off i didnt see all i saw was giant cactus!!!

Mexico Day 5

Mulege to Ciudad Constitucion

Miles – 225

Total – 2,384

An easy day thank heavens. Breakfast



Before this trip I had spent several weeks in Denver exploring some new business opportunities and things are suddenly developing faster than

expected, so I had to spend some time this morning working, which made me late leaving Mulege.



The hotel was really lovely – even had its own airstrip!
The late start meant that La Paz was too far to make before nightfall. So I decided to aim for Ciudad Constitucion which is about halfway from Mulege to Cabo.



My first target was Loreto about 80 miles from Mulege. I thought I had enough gas to get there easily, but after about 10 miles the fuel light came on – there is no fuel gauge. That means I have about 50 miles on reserve. I stopped and looked at the map and it showed that the next gas was Loreto, 70 miles away. Should I go back and fill up at Mulege or

hope to find gas before Loreto?

Given that I was still pretty much in the desert – I decided to head back.

The ride to Loreto was again amazing, winding around mountains, overlooking the sea and fabulous beaches (will post video soon).

There are some strange driving practices here. Most of the traffic you come across are massive American trucks and it's not hard for a bike to overtake a truck – but the truck drivers like to tell you when it's safe to overtake, as they can see more of the road ahead than you can. They drive on the right here and if its clear the truck driver will put the left indicator on to tell you that you can pass...

This is great for overtaking but a disaster if the truck is actually going to turn left!!!

What a crazy practice!

Off course like any biker who expects to survive, I only trust my judgement and never rely on others, especially a system as crazy as this one!

One other tip when driving in Mexico, if you breakdown or have an emergency what number do you call? Something memorable like 999 or even 901? Not here – it's 074! Who could forget that??

This is where I would have run out of gas, some 22 miles short of the next gas station...



I made it to Loreto without a problem. I shared a horrible cheese and ham roll with a sweet but nervous dog...



And then continued on to Ciudad Concentracion – which has much more life to it than I had expected.

The hotel Oasis is perfect, great room, good wifi and a little pool that I jumped into to cool off.



All in all a very good day after the trails of yesterday.

Tomorrow on to Cabo San Lucas and the target of my journey...

- 1 comment

1. [ivorjcw](#) said: November 11, 2013 9:42 pm

I find all this so fascinating, Peter

See Video: The road to Loreto

Fab road – not bad on knobblies!

1 comment [ivorjcw](#) said: November 11, 2013 9:48 pm Looks stunningly beautiful and great for riding

See Video: The road to Loreto 2

Fab coastline...

1 comment [ivorjcw](#) said: November 11, 2013 9:51 pm What sort of speed would you be doing, Peter?

Mexico Day 6

Cabo San Lucas

Primary objective achieved.

This blog will take a break for a few days...

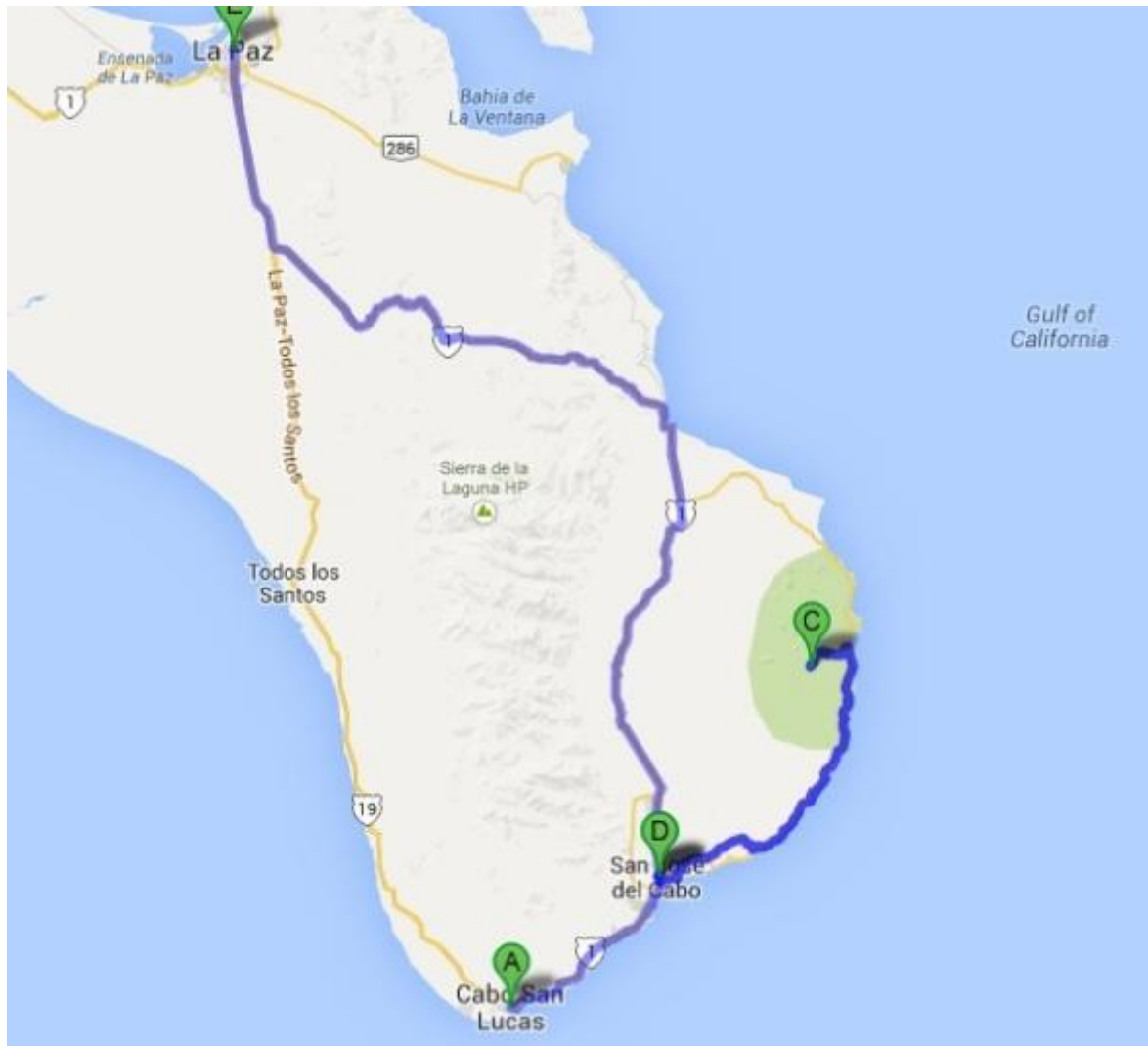


Mexico Day 9

Time to head back!

Miles – about 180

Total – Not sure but quite a lot.



Cabo San Lucas is fabulous – if you ever get the chance go there, it is truly awesome!



I had a few days break and now its time to head back to Denver. I will try and take a different route where possible, but some of the long desert sections are the only way through and back.



It was another hot sunny day in Cabo, probably low 30's C. My destination was La Paz, as I'd missed it on the way down and it is the State capital of California Baja Sur! My plan was to ride to San Jose Del Cabo and then take the long dirt road that follows the east coast up to La Paz.



It was long, hot and sandy! My nemesis so far!! It was too hot to ride in my jacket, even with all the vents open. So, I was riding in Kevlar jeans and a T-shirt... I did keep my crash helmet on at least.



[A note from the future – when I got home, I found my Kevlar jeans in the wardrobe – I'd taken just an ordinary pair of black jeans, I felt safe though...]

The dirt road from San Jose Del Cabo up to Cabo Pulmo was my favourite road so far. Mainly because it was a long, sandy, dirt road and I didn't fall off, although I must admit that I was extremely close 2 or 3 times! I think my sand technique is improving, but I am far from having full control!



I stopped to take a nice cactus picture, as Rosie had requested!



and eventually after about 15 miles I found a bar!



The only problem was that everything was there except any people! At this point I decided that it was too late to risk riding all the way up in the dirt, so it was safer to head back and take the highway.



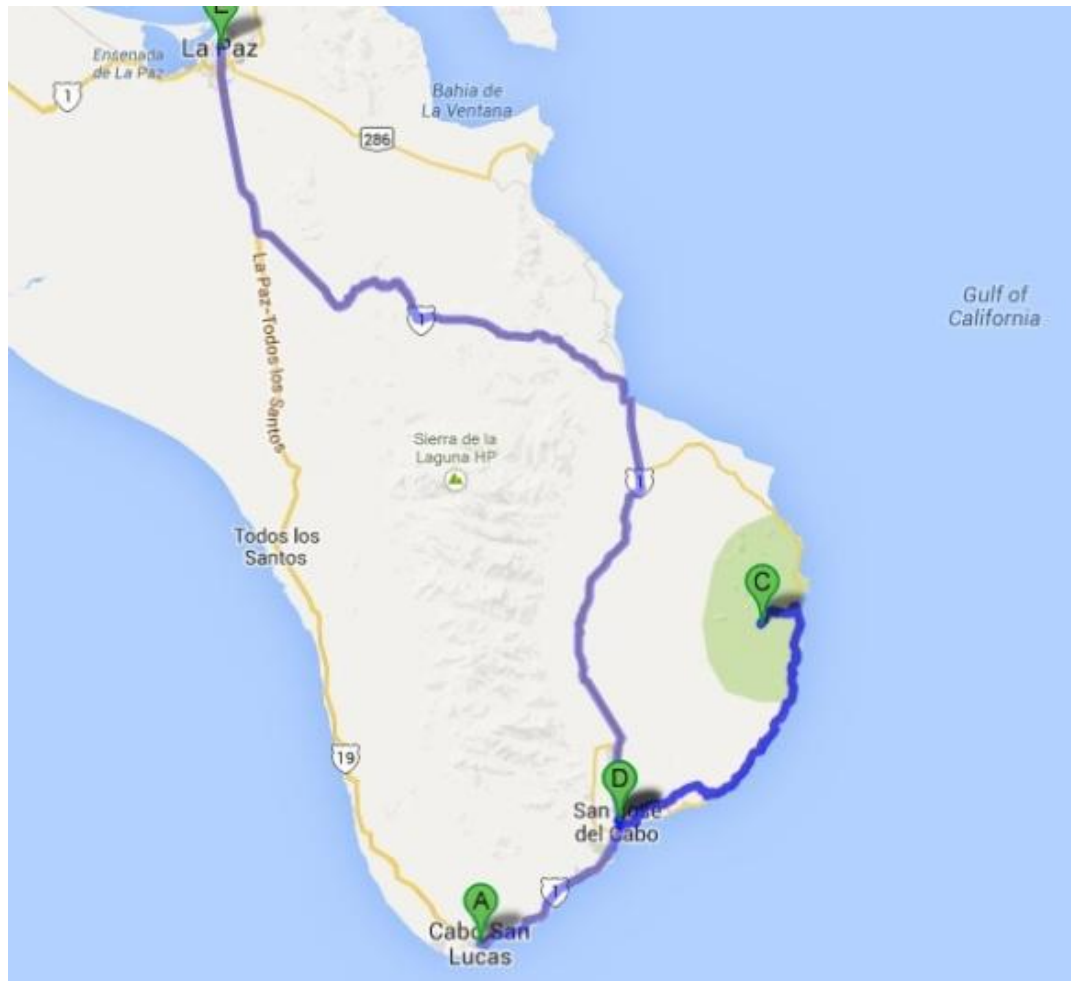


I stopped just outside La Paz for a drink of water and got some inspiration for a possible future trip!



I was aiming for Hotel Lorimar, which had been recommended to me, but I couldn't find it. Having given up on it I rode over to a streetlight to look at my alternatives and found myself at the gate of Club Blue Marline, which offered accommodation, so here I am! Its a really great place to stay, lovely bar/restaurant and a live band, bashing it out by the pool, entertaining me as I type! All for \$40! amazing! Mexico is very low cost, happily!

PS: if you ever want to do a blog don't use wordpress – it sucks!



2 comments

1. Gordon said: November 14, 2013 6:58 am

Well done Peter safe journey on the return leg

2. [ivorjcw](#) said: November 14, 2013 3:28 pm

Yes, I agree with Gordon .. WordPress may suck to use BUT I am enjoying reading about your exploits nevertheless .. on the basis though "Rather you than me" :)