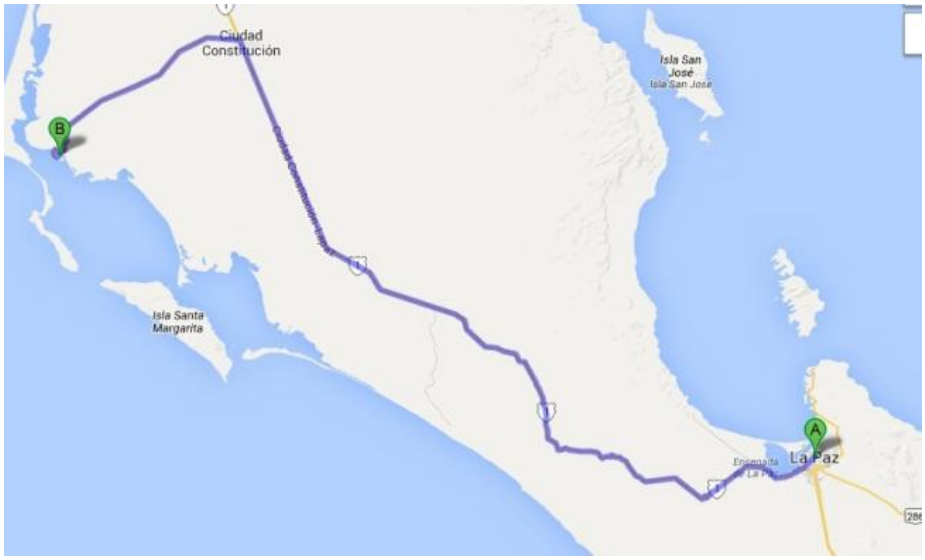
Part 5 – La Paz to San Felipe

Mexico Day 10

La Paz to San Carlos

Miles – 217

Total – 3,009



The Club Blue Marline was a really lucky find and I was very well looked after by the new Canadian owner, Ron, and his family who are helping him get established in the new place. This was the view from my room. If you ever visit La Paz, you must visit Ron!



The ride from La Paz was long, straight and mostly uneventful, apart from a 10 minute hold up for road resurfacing:



It gave me a chance to capture another fine cactus:



Then back to the road:
I had lunch in Cuidad Constitucion:



Then headed west to San Carlos, where I would be able to see lots of grey whales if it was March and not November.

I arrived early for a change and dumped my stuff at the (Irish) Hotel Brennan. Then I picked out a longish (10 miles) dirt road to explore, which should lead me to the sea. It was a sand road…



…which concerned me initially, but I decided that I just had to work out how to ride on sand. And I'm happy to say that my sand technique is greatly improved and I didn't fall off once and I was pretty much in control for the whole ride. The beach at the end was stunning



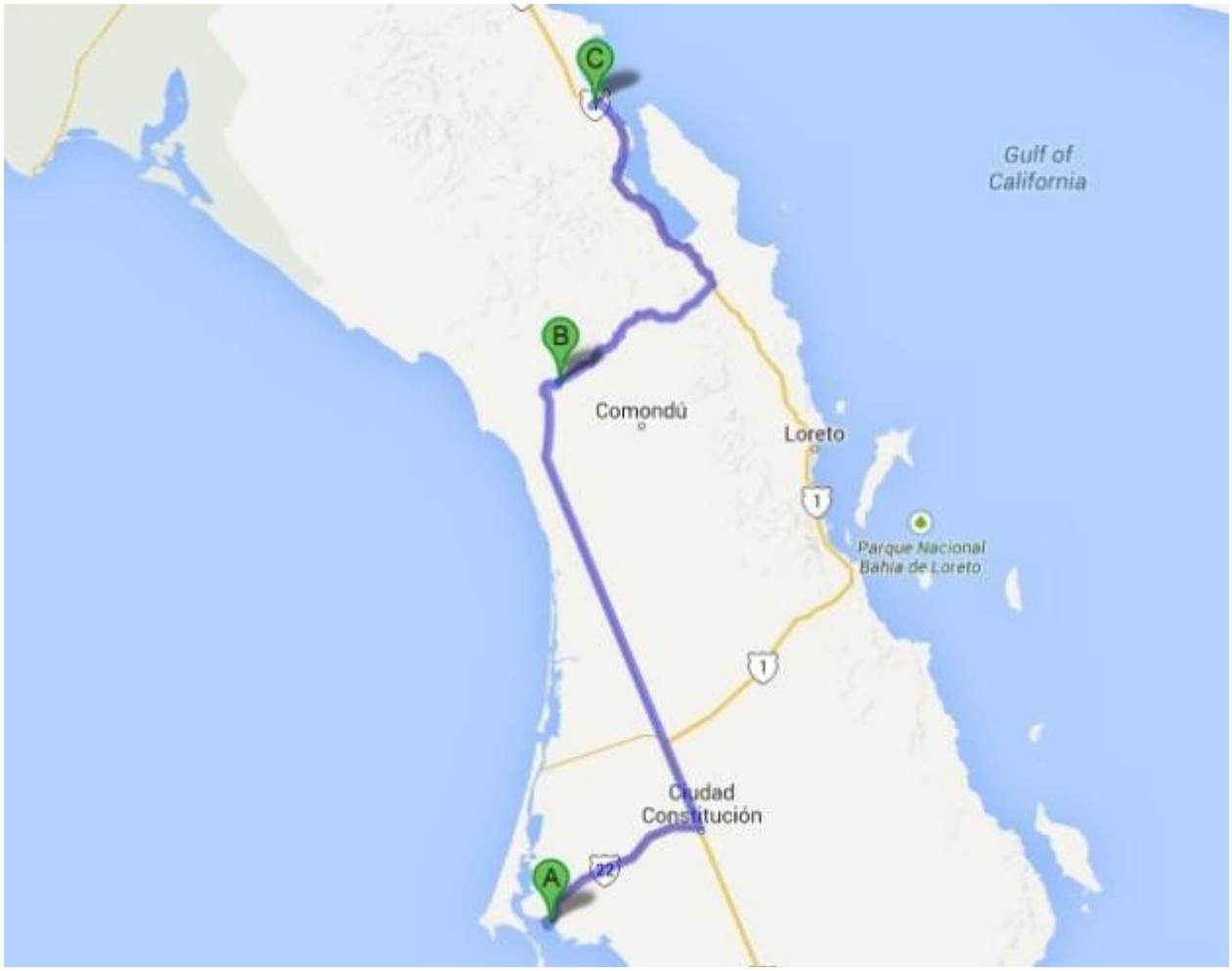
and the Panorama was amazing too.



On the way back I noticed a Mexican grave yard, surprisingly colourful!



Tomorrow I will ignore the main highway and head north to a small town called La Purisima on the back roads and from there I propose to try a find a 38 mile dirt road that weaves through the mountains and then pick up the main highway again on the east coast.



And hopefully end up in Mulege again – I liked it there.

See Video: A dirt road near San Carlos

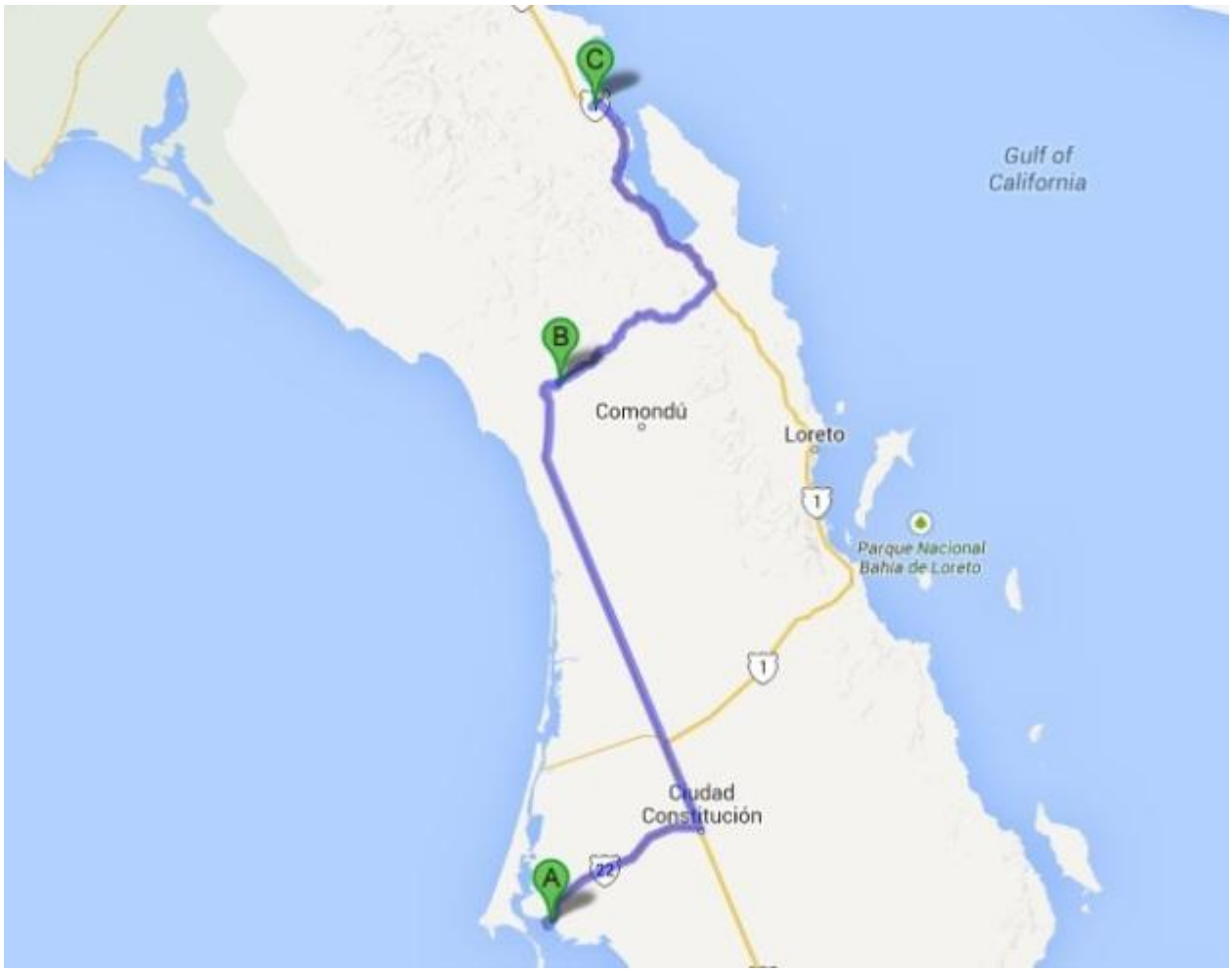
Lots of sand!

1 comment ivorjcw said:November 15, 20138:41 pm

What fun that must have been! A bit late for the Weston Sand Race BUT may still be time for Le Tocquet :)

Mexico Day 11 & 12

<u>San Carlos to Mulege</u>
Miles – 218
Total – 3227



Best ride yet!

Another hot day, started early from Hotel Brennan, I'm sure I was the only guest. San Carlos is very quiet in November…



The birds even look bored!



The total journey was estimated at 210, so I rode to Cuidad Constitucion and gased up there with the expectation of filling again in the mission town of La Pruisima, as the map showed possible.

The road from Cuidad Constitucion to Las Puntas is one long 70 mile straight! :(zzzzzz.

However, for the first time I caught up with a few other adventure riders, who stopped for gas at Cuidad Insurgentes. The first guy I met was Keith who is the leader of a dozen Canadian bikers, who shipped their bikes down to San Diego to then ride together to Cabo and back. Mostly Beemers and big Harleys! with the odd Kwaker. Check out:

http://www.westcoastmototours.com

Given the bikes, they are riding the pavement, but they were headed for the same destination as me, Mulege, and staying at the same hotel that I stopped at on the way down. So I proposed to meet them there.



I arrived at La Pruisima only to find very little there, especially a distinct lack of gas stations!

A local told me a tale of gas in San Isidro 5km further on. Nope!! So I have 105 on the clock, 50 in reserve and no fuel light as yet. I calculated that I could definitely make the main road, but I was still 80 miles away from Mulege and the next gas stop. I had to hope that the fuel light would stay off until about 130 (My range turns out to be closer to 175 than 200, it seems).



So I started the 50 mile long dirt road. It was amazing! Very tough and so many different terrains to cross – dirt, gravel, large round rocks, pebbles, sand!, river beds, everything!

Just stunning. Loved almost every mile…



I passed 2 houses, lots of goats, horses, 1 chicken and 1 very sweet donkey! and 0 cars/humans.

Lots of stones:



and my old friend deep sand!



Only 1 fall today and it was a very feeble, low speed, sand ditch. Video to follow.

To save fuel I was coasting down sleep roads with the engine off, not great if you need power suddenly, but it did add at least 3 or 4 miles to my range which could be needed. The fuel light finally came on at about 125. The GPS told me that Mulege was 52 miles away and the KTM dealer said that the reserve was good for “about” 50. Once back on the paved road I kept my speed down to around 60 and coasted wherever I could. It was a fairly busy main road, Mex-1, so I was not too concerned about running out. I was more concerned about where to run out, being stuck actually on the highway would not be good at all.

Sadly for me, the KTM dealer knows his stuff, at 50.7, the bike stopped. But for about 500 yards I could tell it was about to run out, so I had time to find a safe place to stop. I keep a section of hose with me, so I needed to flag someone down and suck out some petrol. I waved at the passing cars and pickups, but being a strange sight, the nice people just waved back at me!

So I made a sign!



Annoying even the pen failed 1/2 way through, but it worked well enough, and the second car stopped and a vey nice Mexican man provided me with about 1/2 litre.



I was only about 1 mile from the gas station and 3 miles from the hotel.

I made the hotel about 10 minutes ahead of the Canadians, who were all really great guys. We had dinner and swapped many Baja tails and later we joined forces with the Baja flying doctors and nurses! As the hotel has its own runway this is base point for an amazing service, performed by an amazing bunch of volunteer people!



It was a great night – hence the delayed blog!

1 comment

1. ivorjcw said:November 22, 20139:03 pm

   The fuel issue would really have bugged me .. but glad you found a nice/sweet donkey .. love them :)

   Must be a real sense of triumph at the end of each day

See Video: Tough Road

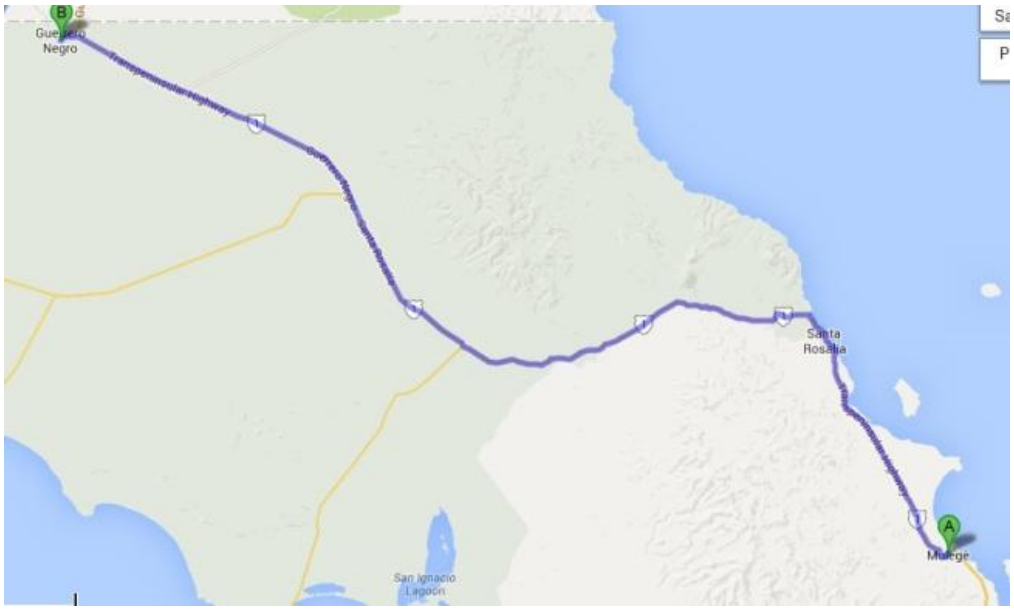
I loved this road – it had it all!

See Video: Back in the sand again

Quite a pathetic tumble this one… :(

Mexico Day 13

<u>Mulege to Guerrero Negro</u>
Miles – 190
Total – 3,437



I finally managed to give the bike a full clean and lube the chain.



I’d had a great weekend at Hotel Serenidad, including sampling the famous pig roast, which was delicious. And the view from the pool was fab:



Back on the road again – and great scenery on the way up to Santa Rosalia for lunch:



A straight forward ride up to Guerrero Negro, although the section after Santa Rosalia was a across wide open plain with gusty winds, that can catch you out.

It was a cloudy day and I noticed the drop in temperature, I almost stopped to put another layer on and I was thinking about the return to Colorado, as a couple of days ago I lost a small bag from the back of the bike. It had a fleece, the inner lining of my bike jacket and a pair of shoes in it :(

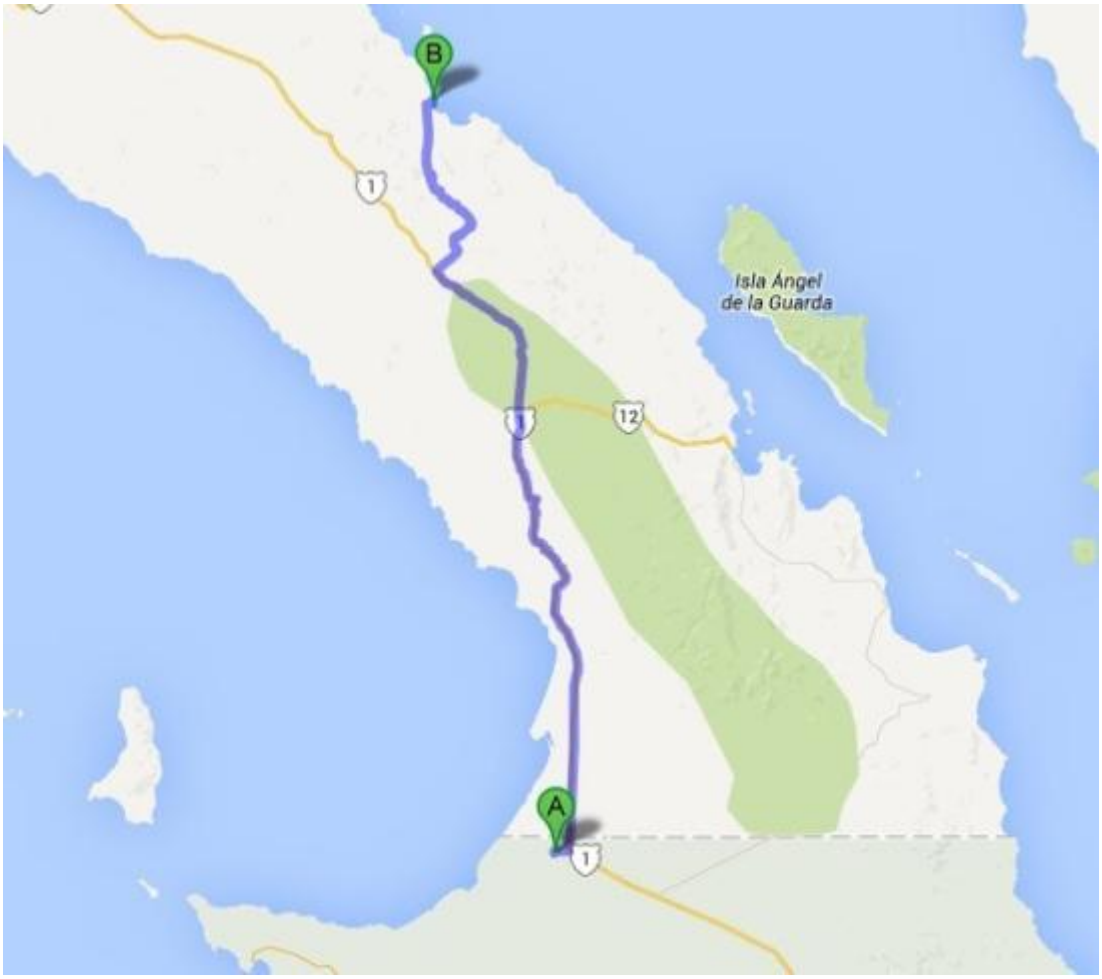
I might have to buy something warm when I get back into the USA.

At the end of the ride, I gased up ready for a much more exciting ride tomorrow.



Gas is very cheap here – around 12 pesos a litre, which is $1, currently around 67p! Half the price of the UK.

Tomorrow I will take the long desert road again but turn north east near Chapala and take a 50 mile ride on dirt up to the east coast and the Sea of Cortez again. I hope to find gas and a hotel at Alfonsina.



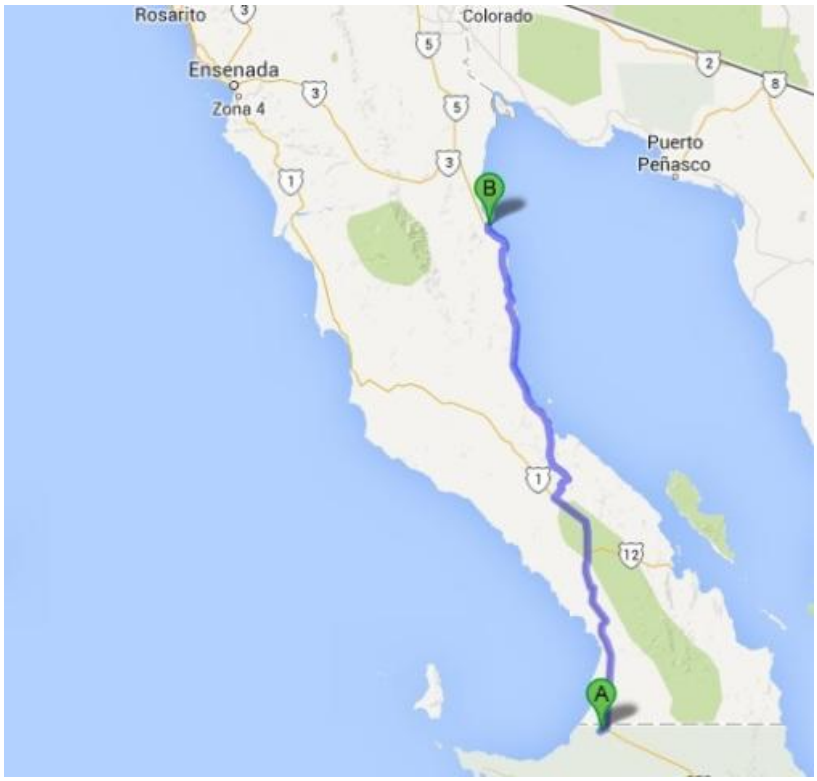
See Video: Goats

…on a dirt road

See Video: Great views

Mexico Day 14

Guerrero Negro to San Felipe
Miles – 268
Total – 3,705



I made an early start as I had planned a long ride today. First stop was the State border and a quick look at the very big flag that marks it.



It was a long, ride on Mex-1 for about 110 miles to Chapala, where I took the dirt road, north east.



After about 7-8 miles I came across a group of adventure riders who were struggling to plug a puncture in the rear tyre of a BMW 1200 GS. The first part of the road was very rocky and stoney – so it made me slow down for fear of my own flat tyre. I do carry what I would need to fix my own flat, but I'd rather not have to use it.



Then I came upon a Baja legend – “Coco Corner”. A bar in the middle of nowhere, run by a guy with no legs.



It has interesting decorations



There were 4 Canadian adventure bikers in the bar, as well as some Mexican soldiers. It turned out the Canadians were heading for San Felipe too, so I tagged along with them.



The road got easier after Coco's and for most of the rest of the way you had an option of the dirt road or a sand track that ran next to the road.



I took the sand option mostly, it was great fun. I have now learned to enjoy the sand rather than fear it. You can go much faster and there were even a few little jumps! The KTM's first air!
I must admit that the sand got me once, quite a tumble, as I tried hard too hard to save it! More bored birds were watching



The dirt road goes for about 50 miles and then a new paved highway tookJ<< us all the way to San Felipo. The Canadian guys were all on 650's, 3 KLR's and one Husqvarna, so they preferred to cruise at around 60, which was fine, it gave you time to admire the lovely coastline.

San Felipe seems like a lively town and the sunset by the beach was very pretty



Tomorrow Mexicali and then back into California, my last day in Mexico :(

2 comments

1. Roger said:November 19, 20135:33 pm

   Hi Pete what an amazing adventure!!! I was showing Johnny G and Kevin etc, they were all jealous.

   Can't wait to hear about it. How about leave your bike somewhere for me to pick up!!

   Speak to you soon, go carefully. Kind regards Roger

   Reply ↓

2. ivorjcw said:November 22, 20139:06 pm

   Thought I had already commented but obviously NOT Spooky looking place in the middle of nowhere .. I thought

   .. how does the guy exist out there?