

## San Diego to Cabo and return... FAST!

*"I'd like to meet the joker who had the nerve to call this a road!" -- Walter Sigmann*



"Is Mexico safe?" I dunno, it depends on who you're with. And your riding technique. I do know one thing: tequila and gasoline don't mix...



So, on Thanksgiving weekend, a group of us rode from the USA border at San Diego/Tijuana, 1025 miles south along Hwy 1 with a destination of Cabo San Lucas. We spent a day resting and partying in Cabo before hitting the road again and retracing our bread crumb trail along Hwy 1 north back to the good 'ol USA. Two KLRs, a DRZ400, a FZ1 and a Buell will be among the bikes that made this ride.



On Baja's Highway 1, travelers are warned that everything happens 300 meters ahead; vados (dips), construction, curvas peligrosas (dangerous curves) or the ubiquitous topes (speed bumps). Going from 70 mph to 25 – often – makes me think that the engineers who designed and built these roads were either crazy or evil. There is no consistency throughout the 1000 mile ride, unless you count the livestock and construction.

And the crosses; oh, the many, many crosses! You can easily see how the accident went down by looking at the tire marks, the twisted roadside barriers and the ever-present memorials... usually in the midst of vehicle fragments and pieces of clothing. That should be warning enough for drivers to slow down on a highway where the average speed limit is about 45 mph.



We lost a rider right before San Vicente (KM82ish). He went wide and rag dolled. The bike sustained the usual damage but could be ridden from the scene. The rider was shaken up a bit. His gear did its job! The clinic in San Vicente patched him up and a local chota put on a bus north at noon (arriving at San Ysidro at midnight). The local cops were “really helpful;” More on that later.

Because of the set-back, we didn't make Santa Rosalia that day but stayed in Guerrero Negro instead – about 450 miles completed.

We made Cabo San Lucas the next day and spent a day and night there living like locals, a great little town for those of you who haven't been there.



We left on December 1<sup>st</sup> for as far north as we could ride; ended up in Guerrero Negro again, riding some 63 miles.

We left as a group at 4:15am. Right before Ciudad Insurgentes, I had a front flat at 70+ mph and had to fix it on the roadside.



I tinkered with the tire while the three of them took the “bad” road north. After I got going, I headed to Loreto on the 1.

Two of the guys beat their bikes up a bit, the DRZ and the Buell, as well as themselves sustaining purple swollen wrist, bruised ribs and etc. Street bikes (supermoto) aren't made for baby head boulders and deep sand. They were able to ride back so it wasn't too bad. One went to Urgent Care when he crossed back over and confirmed that he did have a broken wrist.

I made El Rosario in record time, then trucked it up to TJ, making the border by 1pm (after for stopping for Tacos in Ensenada).

The KLR did really well, thought it's just not made for sustained 80-85 mph riding, at least not by me in Baja.

Whew, back to work....

