



Terry's Travels

TT30-1 America - both coasts June 27th 2009

It has been a busy seven weeks living back in Crossflatts UK. Seeing family and friends, completing a small building project (new porch/patio and steps). Making my new computer based Network hifi work. Spending time in nearby Bingley (with a few good nights out) and also the nearby village of Saltaire, a World Heritage site and well worth a visit. I also had a trip to Leeds which is looking affluent and trendy. All our neighbours have been hard working on property renovations so it has been quite a buzz. Our weather has varied from unseasonably cold to unseasonably hot (the hot made me start very early in the new porch to cork laminate the floor).

It left time for a bit of motorcycling in the Dales which was looking picture perfect - the photos are using my new camera which is bigger but still quite light. The small roads were quiet mid week but the motorways are still packed which we found on a quick visit to our Welsh friends near Cardiff to finalise our joint plans for the next major trip to America.

Our house in NZ is rented and we move out of Crossflatts today- again we have got a tenant living here until we return in May 2010. You can imagine just how busy Di has been with all the planning and packing for THREE trips (USA, Europe and NZ) which is very ambitious even for us!

I ordered a new Netbook for delivery to my pal in San Francisco (it's arrived) and hope to manage to write some more TTs on this of our trip which takes in both the West coast and Las Vegas before flying to Boston and touring the New England States. We are booked to motorcycle races in California and later in Indianapolis and along the way we will be meeting more old friends and sharing some time with Welsh friends Robin and Norrie. Not quite achieving Charlie Boormans "By All Means" we will have different rental cars and different RVs (motorhomes) along the way with maybe the odd bike thrown in and it will add to my tally of States visited which is currently around 36.

Both Di and I were quite emotional when we called to see Mercie (the motorhome) which has had some refurbishment and we hadn't seen for eight months. It seems our travelling bug is yet to be cured.....



Near Hawes Yorks Dales



Typical Yorkshire Dales Cottage



Lindy my daughter



Saltaire a World Heritage site

July/August '09 in America for Laguna Seca and Indianapolis Moto GP Races.....then Sept/Oct to France for £29! and park Mercie in Spain. Back to NZ. Ambitious plan for trip to Turkey via Italy/Greece etc in 2010



Terry's Travels

TT30-2 Arlen Ness, Laguna Seca July 2009

Our neighbour kindly dropped us and our luggage at the bus stop to catch the local bus to Bradford and the onward bus to Manchester airport. The hottest day of the year turned to rain and when we passed through Manchester the lightly clad pretty things were scurrying to avoid the downpour. The Premier Inn at the airport gave a comfortable nights sleep and we had another sleep at Atlanta, Georgia before arriving relaxed in San Francisco - no at this stage we didn't have flowers in our hair. Our friends Robin and Norrie arrived an hour later, we rented a car and I drove them to the busy touristy Fishermans Wharf which we had visited some 30 years ago. Di and I headed out on the Bay bridge (not the Golden Gate) in very heavy traffic. About 15 miles later we checked into the excellent Extended Stay Hotel in Dublin, Graham another friend arrived at the hotel with a new Netbook that I had bought via Amazon and also our goodies for going to the Laguna Seca motorcycle GP (the magnet that brought us on this trip). He suggested that he and I went for a ride in the hills the next morning - great. He was riding his tricked out Ducati Hypermotard a very fancy motorcycle and I was riding his BMW R1200R. A round trip of some 120 miles to a biker cafe and a sticky 96 in the shade was tiring but superb.



Victory Arlen Ness Style



Amazing Showroom

Arlen Ness is a famous Chopper designer and we went along to his Dublin showroom, both Robin and I had seen nothing like this, his motorcycles are working works of art - with prices to match. There will be more photos on Flickr.



Museum upstairs

The four of us went to Cruise America to collect our rental RVs (campers) and return the rental car. We headed to Walmart to equip ourselves, decided against the down-market area of this Walmart and returned to Dublin to dine at the Italian and sleep in the car park. The cops disturbed Robin about midnight but were called away and we slept there.

Down the freeway towards the Moterey Peninsular and arrived at the camping ground adjacent to the hilly Laguna Seca circuit - fabulous. We barbed, met our neighbours and with quiet time starting at 10pm had a good sleep. Graham arrived on the Ducati to stay in the penthouse (the overcab bed). The circuit is hilly with tight bends. All the racing stars were awesome but the highlight was me getting to ride the Ducati in a parade lap - one of my top moments in life - a BIG thank you Graham. You can see that I had overtaken a group at "The Corkscrew" where Valentino made his famous pass last year - and I was waving to the crowd.....



Phew!

Terry, Santa Paula, California

next travel plans
 More in NZ, mid April to OZ then Shanghai for motorcycle racing MotoGP & touring
 May: UK briefly then Europe in Mercie



Terry's Travels

TT30-3 Pebble Beach and Carmel July 2009

I got a puncture in a rear tyre - \$50+ later on my UK mobile and Cruise America still did not get a tyre fixer for us so I drove with the flat (double rear) for 7 miles where Goodyear of Monterey fixed it whilst we ate a superb American Diner breakfast. The 17 mile tourist drive along Pebble Beach is well worth the \$9 fee to see countless multi million dollar homes and golf

The shops have chairs in them to sit and recover from seeing the prices - very The car of choice is the Lexus SC430 convertible, you need it in "Pebble Beach Edition" which presumably has a built in safe and storage for golf tees.

Deer and wildlife share this wonderful coast and we found the Veterans Memorial campsite at a reasonable \$25. A taxi collected us and dropped us to nearby Cannery Row (read John Steinbeck). Chinese fleeces were \$13! so Di and I bought them - (it becomes chilly by the ocean). We all enjoyed the coastal walk to another Fishermans Wharf and were amused by the sea lions, sea otters and cormorants along the way. Fish and chips at one of the many sea front restaurants worked out nicely and rounded off our lovely day.

Carmel is close by and is a quite delightful place (but expensive) Clint Eastwood used to be the mayor and own the Hogs Breath Saloon. The art and jewels were fabulous and Di saw a Beaver jacket at \$3800 - I'm glad we got the fleeces.....On the beach I got talking to a local who was feeding a ground squirrel he comes each day. He and his wife visited many years ago and just had to live there - exactly how Di and I feel about Nelson, NZ.



Robin, Norrie and Di



Sit and recover!



Fantastic Coast



Poser...

next travel plans
More in NZ,



Terry's Travels

TT30-4 McKittrick

July 2009

We left Carmel down the scenic Carmel Valley with country communities and lots of garden centres. The Safeway Mall had a free wifi cafe with organic coffee and a laundry so we stayed a while to catch up. After a few miles the road became a one lane country road which was a bit bumpy and narrow in parts. We passed winery after winery and then upwards into hills with many ranches and eventually to a huge Lake Nacimiento with a variety of campgrounds. We opted for lakeside rather than remote and it had lots of children playing and having a good time which was good, but noisy generators which was not so good. \$25 was the charge thanks to being old and the daytime temperature in the high 80s fell to the 50s at night - comfortable.



Lake Nacimiento

Moving along leisurely the next day again we were again struck by how quiet our chosen roads were, we were on a historic route. Di shared the driving along these quiet roads and we had many photo opportunities. During my driving spell we turned onto a minor road towards a camp site and even followed it for a few miles when it turned to dirt with a warning unsuitable for RVs and trailers. We got settled on this wilderness camp (no facilities and cellphone out of range). After a siesta with the world to ourselves we decided it was not a good idea and drove on. Sadie (our TomTom GPS) showed no campsites along our route 33. The evening sun was making the scorched hills look fantastic and we travelled a huge fertile (with irrigation) plain.



WILD camping

Eventually we climbed a range of hills and dropped down and down the otherside to start seeing the nodding donkey pumps of oilfields. A small township called McKittrick with a population of 190 had no gas station but a hotel with a beersign. This was more like it and at 7pm we had earned a beer. Mine came in a huge glass and tasted fantastic, the one guy at the bar called "The Dungeon" was watching NASCAR car racing on a superb Speed channel high definition TV. He became our tour guide giving us the history of this amazing place which had featured on many TV news channels. I confirmed the kitchen was open until 9pm and we had another beer and took the environment in. Mike and Annie have owned the bar some 11 years and Mike has decorated it with over a MILLION pennies covering the pool table, bar, walls and even the floorto be continued



Well earned



Di grabs a cowboy

next travel plans
More in NZ,



Terry's Travels

TT30-4 (2) McKittrick

July 2009

We ordered ribs for me and a small rib eye for Di and went to the outside courtyard. This is when the evening got exceptional, we met "Asshole" Ken and "King Arthur" Art and enjoyed really amusing conversation. A fog horn blew and announced the arrival of another colourful local in his 1929 car, just one of his collection. The salad came and was the best but the ribs and rib eye were to die for. Another big beer arrived courtesy of our new friends and then I got a round in - you know the story. The staff came and joined in so of the population we had nearly met all the important people. And yes we could stay free on the carpark.

We couldn't leave the next morning without having a coffee and the place was heaving with all the oilfield workers - this had been RVing at its very best and I will send a copy of the photos and Terrys Travels as a small thank you to these great people of McKittrick

One of many nodding donkeys



*next travel plans
More in NZ,*

Many more photos with captions and previous travels on my website www.THinnco.uk