

Adventure Rider

RIDE THE WORLD.



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abambach

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ALASKA bound - No Excuses - Just Ride!

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abambach, Jun 25, 2017



abambach
Just Ride!

Day 25 - continued

Heading East on 50 and 21 toward Beaver UT, was much better. Several forest and po with sweeping curves made the road fun and a nice break from the straight stretches.

Click this image to show the full-size version.



Along the way, I saw this wind farm, it looked in disarray until I rounded the curve and saw that all the wind generators were perfectly lined up like crops. I never knew.





And yes I do eat dinner most nights. Had a double cheeseburger for \$9 plus \$5 tip tonight. Monica, the waitress from Mexico was sweet, but shy. No pictures.



WINDY
The weather
is the best
thing you can
have around
you.
Ben G.

Day 25

Miles today = 607

Trip total = 10,280, crossed the 10,000 mark

Gas stops = 2, sitting on a 150 mile range

\$ Spent Gas = \$US 31, Avg MPG = 38.0, Avg MPH = 71.5

\$ Lodging = \$US 56

\$ Spent Excluding gas, US\$26

Highlights: Snake River near Twin Falls

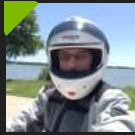
Track me at advTXgs.com

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 bobw, Passim, Max Wedge and 1 other person like this.

abambach, Jun 25, 2017



abambach

Just Ride!

Project Mayhem said: ↑

I have to say AB, looking at your live trip data you're a machine! Multiple 500+ mile days...you cover some ground! Looking forward to an update. (since it looks like you're settled for the night)

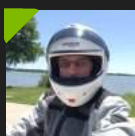
Yeah, That 1200GSA can really eat the miles, I normally get tired after my 2nd fill up, but with 8 gallons, you can go a long way without noticing. I stop for pictures, snacks and my bad habit, Diet Coke instead of gas station. Plus, all the new scenery we have excites me. Thanks for following, I will definitely connect if nearby...AB

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 Max Wedge and Project Mayhem like this.

abambach, Jun 25, 2017



abambach

Just Ride!

Day 25 - continued

For some reason this did not post.

Traversing Idaho, you cross the Snake river several times. Among all the arid scenery, lies appropriately named Paradise valley.



The bridge over Snake river in Twin Falls is an awesome view, make sure you stop if you are driving through.

This canyon was carved for us to enjoy millions of years ago. Notice the dots on the river, they are kayaks.





The shadow is the bridge



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♥ Ginger Beard, black 8, #1Fan and 3 others like this.

misterk, Jun 25, 2017



misterk

Been here awhile

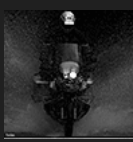
Great report, thanks for taking us along....

Sent from my iPad using Tapatalk

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owcow, Jun 26, 2017



OWCOW
Adventurer

Really have enjoyed the report. Look forward to seeing you hit my stomping grounds in Florida. When your finished and you do a recap would really appreciate if you could list the motels and hotels you stayed out.

Report

Like + Quote Reply

daBum, Jun 26, 2017



daBum
Dave the Bum

Still enjoying your travels and ride report. Great pics. Your scenic ride in southern Utah today may have resulted in a few more photos than usual. Keep having fun!

Report

Like + Quote Reply

abambach, Jun 27, 2017



abambach
Just Ride!

Day 26 - Monday, June 26, 2017

Utah rocks. Another very awesome day. I started in Beaver, UT and headed east on 153 to Junction. The road was a 50/50 pavement/dirt with no traffic. Some tight turns and steep grades kept the 40 miles ride interesting.







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❤️ bobw, Ginger Beard, Passim and 4 others like this.

abambach, Jun 27, 2017



abambach
Just Ride!

Day 26 - continued

The descend into Junction.





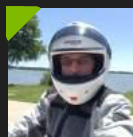
COURT HOUSE
1903

R1200

TOURATECH

BillUA, MotoVentures and kr1 like this.

abambach, Jun 27, 2017



abambach

Just Ride!

Day 26 - continued

I then took 62 east toward Antimony and met up with my Dallas riding buddy Dwain.

We headed over to Bryce Canyon NP and took on the views. Hard to capture 50 million years with an 3 year old iPhone. It makes me think on how insignificant our 100 year lifespan is to our beloved planet. That's why we need to take care of it during our stewardship.







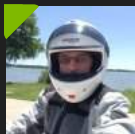


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❤️ [BillUA](#), [MotoVentures](#), [Passim](#) and 5 others like this.

[abambach](#), Jun 27, 2017



abambach
Just Ride!

Day 26 - continued



We then rode to 12 through Escalante, making several stop for scenic overlooks and photos. Overnighted in Torrey. My first real visit to Utah and I'm very impressed.







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❤️ [BillUA](#), [black 8](#), [Max Wedge](#) and 1 other person like this.

[abambach](#), Jun 27, 2017



abambach

Just Ride!

Day 26 - continued







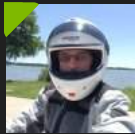


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 [Passim](#), [Max Wedge](#) and [kr1](#) like this.

[abambach](#), Jun 27, 2017



abambach

Just Ride!

Day 26 - continued



Calf Creek
Recreation Area
Lower Falls Trail
1/2 MILE



A nice lunch stop in Boulder



Utah rocks!!!

Day 26

Miles today = 223

Trip total = 10,503

Gas stops = 1, sitting on a 200 mile range

\$ Spent Gas = \$US 14, Avg MPG = 49.0, Avg MPH = 27.6

\$ Lodging = \$US 89

\$ Spent Excluding gas, US\$41

Highlights: 153 between Beaver and Junction, riding with Dwain and of course Bryce Canyon NP

Track me at advTXgs.com

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❤️ bobw, Passim, #1Fan and 3 others like this.




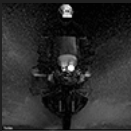
Max Wedge
ADventure mowing

Keep an eye out for the Iron Butt Rally guys headed your way...looks like your paths may cross.

Report

Unlike + Quote Reply

 You like this.



Shoneydog
n00b


abambach said: ↑

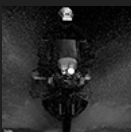
Got to jump in the pool if you want to learn how to swim. Noobie from TX attempting his first Ride Report. I studied Engineering and Math because I never did well in my english classes, so bear with me. Hope that the photos will make up for that. I retired July last year, with the aspiration to ride the 49 states by the end of 2017 (so far 38/49, sorry Hawaii). So now there are no excuses, only fun and execution.

[Click to expand...](#)

Report

Unlike + Quote Reply

 You like this.



Shoneydog
n00b


Alberto, hope your stop in Smithers was a good one. I pushed on to Prince George, and got in just after 10 PM. Stayed at a "in-expensive" hotel downtown Prince George. Next evening I slept on the side of road approx. 60 miles outside of Vancouver. I'll tell you an interesting story

about that, over drinks in Dallas.

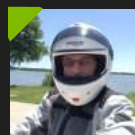
Hit Seattle early Saturday, and bought a new rear tire there (Seattle Cycle Center really rocked the price and the service!!). I will continue out of Seattle, heading for San Diego, in Mid July - and get in contact with you when trip is complete. Steve.

Report

Unlike + Quote Reply

 You like this.

abambach, Jun 28, 2017



abambach

Just Ride!

Day 27 - Tuesday, June. 27, 2017

Dwain and I left Torrey early, while the temperatures were cool. As the day wore on, the mercury begun to rise. It was mostly in the low 90s until mid afternoon near Moab where we saw triple digits. At 100°F, not even the wind keeps you cool.

Riding east on route 24 towards Hanksville was Capitol Reef NP, very scenic and the road had no traffic and great sweepers.

CAPITOL REEF
NATIONAL PARK






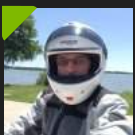


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 [BillUA](#), [Passim](#), [Project Mayhem](#) and 2 others like this.

abambach, Jun 28, 2017



abambach
Just Ride!

Day 27 - continued

In Hanksville, we took 95 and headed toward the north end of Lake Powell, and continued south towards Blanding. We stopped for a burrito lunch in Blanding.

[View attachment 885832](#)







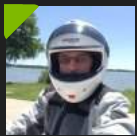


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❤️ bobw, Ginger Beard, kr1 and 1 other person like this.

abambach, Jun 28, 2017



abambach

Just Ride!

Day 27 - continued



We stopped for a burrito lunch in Blanding.

Then it was north on 191 to Moab. The temps climbed as we approached Moab, 102°F, in the sun it felt hotter. Checked into a hotel at about 3:30 and hit the pool for about an hour. It felt so good and refreshing. The scenery continued to impress.







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♥ Ginger Beard, BillUA, Passim and 4 others like this.

abambach, Jun 28, 2017



abambach
Just Ride!

Day 27 - continued

At around 5:30, it was time to hit Canyonlands NP, it had cooled of enough to be enjoyable and the park is beautiful. There are some fires burning in AZ which hazed the spectacular views, but it was still awesome. Not many people at all, especially when compared to the Grand Canyon.



CANYONLANDS
NATIONAL PARK

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



I want to ride that road!



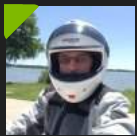


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 [BillUA](#), [NorthPole](#), [Passim](#) and 4 others like this.

[abambach](#), Jun 28, 2017



abambach

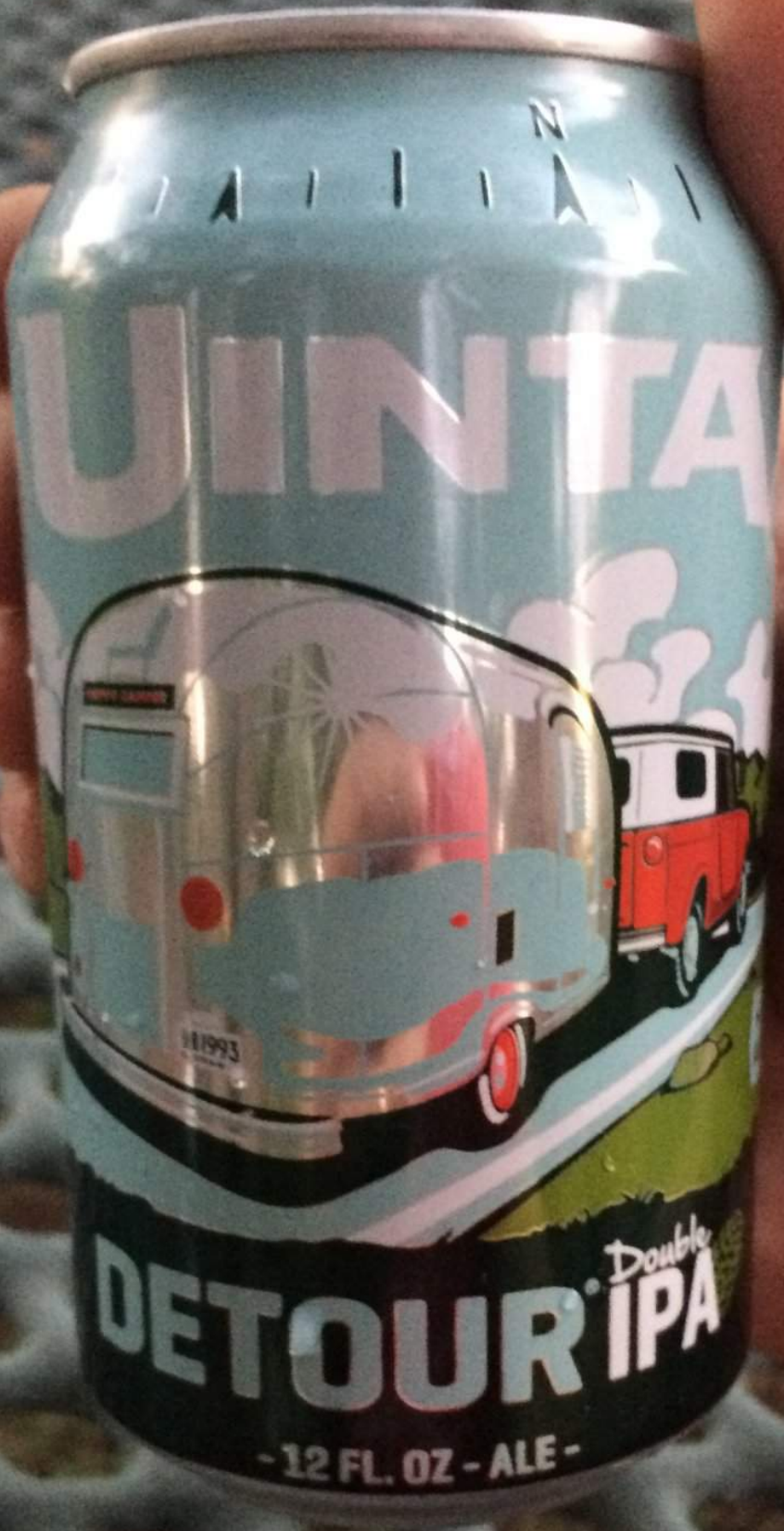
Just Ride!

Day 27 - continued





I then had a couple of these,



UIN TA

DETOUR ^{Double} IPA

- 12 FL. OZ - ALE -

39

Coca-Cola

MOAB



Diner

& Ice Cream SHOPPE



Day 27

Miles today = 340

Trip total = 10,843

Gas stops = 1, sitting on a full tank

\$ Spent Gas = \$US 21, Avg MPG = 47.1, Avg MPH = 21.4

\$ Lodging = \$US 112, ouch, Moab is pricey

\$ Spent Excluding gas, US\$27

Highlights: Lake Powell and Canyonlands NP

Track me at advTXgs.com

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 [Passim](#), [#1Fan](#), [CaptUglyDan](#) and 3 others like this.

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Adventure Rider

RIDE THE WORLD.



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ALASKA bound - No Excuses - Just Ride!

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abambach, Jun 29, 2017



abambach
Just Ride!

Day 28 - Wednesday, June 28, 2017

Another awesome day, after 27 days of fun, it just keeps on coming! After an excellent breakfast at the Moab diner, I headed to Arches NP. We wanted to take advantage of the cooler mornings, and get in a hike.



Arches National Park








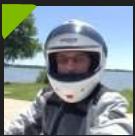


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 [Passim](#) and [kr1](#) like this.

[abambach](#), Jun 29, 2017



abambach
Just Ride!

Day 28 - continued

Hiking to Double O Arch was the perfect way to digest breakfast. Unfortunately I sent my hiking boots back to Dallas a week ago, and could surely have used them today. Although hiking in motorcycle boots on a 5 mile loop was a bad choice. My feet were sore and I learned a lot about breaking in boots.







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❤️ bobw, Passim, Project Mayhem and 1 other person like this.

abambach, Jun 29, 2017



abambach
Just Ride!

Day 28 - continued





The park was busy but manageable.



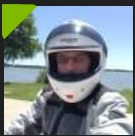


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❤️ [BillUA](#), [Passim](#), [Project Mayhem](#) and 1 other person like this.

[abambach](#), Jun 29, 2017



abambach
Just Ride!

Day 28 - continued

Next up was crossing Mt Peale on 46/90 east crossing the state line to Colorado and eventually reaching Hwy 141.



This little gem (Hwy 141) some 50 miles south of Gateway, CO it among the top 10 best motorcycle routes I have ever ridden. I took 141 to Hwy 50 near Grand Junction. The sweepers, the landscape, the river, and canyons were spectacular.

I took tons of pictures and loved every mile of this Hwy.





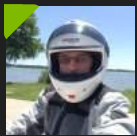


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❤️ [BillUA](#), [Passim](#), [daBum](#) and 3 others like this.

[abambach](#), Jun 29, 2017



abambach

Just Ride!

Day 28 - continued





I am always thoughtful on how to celebrate bike milestones, so I choose to take a picture of this. Being less than a year old, that is some mileage that this bike has traveled without one complaint. Notice the mercury at 97.5°F.



Overnight in Grand Junction.

Day 28

Miles today = 234

Trip total = 11,077

Gas stops = 0, sitting on a half tank

\$ Spent Gas = \$US 0, Avg MPG = 51.2, Avg MPH = 49.6

\$ Lodging = \$US 55

\$ Spent Excluding gas, US\$23

Highlights: Hwy 141

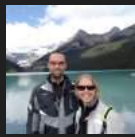
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 BillUA, ADVrider973, black 8 and 3 others like this.

Project Mayhem, Jun 29, 2017




Project Mayhem

Moto Aficionado

141 is indeed a killer ride...no traffic (usually) and great scenery. Welcome to Colorado!

[Report](#)

[Unlike](#) [+ Quote](#) [Reply](#)

 You like this.

Ken0312, Jun 29, 2017




Ken0312

Adventurer

Great pictures. I did a similar ride last fall and also greatly enjoyed hwy 141.

[Report](#)

[Unlike](#) [+ Quote](#) [Reply](#)

 You like this.



abambach

Just Ride!

Day 29 - Thursday, June 29th, 2017

In my opinion, the combination of superbly well maintained roads, mountainous terrain, low traffic and extraordinary scenery makes Colorado the best State in the US to motorcycle. The higher elevation brought cooler temperatures, 60s to mid 80s most of the day.

Today's route was truly awing and I had to remind myself to focus and keep my eyes on the road, from sweeping turns to some fairly tight switchbacks, steep ascends/descends. On several turns, the price for going too wide would have been high given the steep drop offs and/or blind on coming traffic.

Leaving Grand Junction on I-70 east to CO-65 south toward Mesa and Cedaredge, then east on Hwy 92 toward Crawford and Blue Mesa Reservoir. Continue to CO-149 south toward Lake City and Creede to my overnight in South Fork.



ENTERING
GRAND MESA
National Forest
FOREST SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

No Fireworks

TEXAS
ADV-GS

ADV






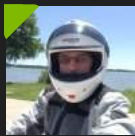


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 [BillUA](#) and [kr1](#) like this.

[abambach](#), Jun 30, 2017



abambach

Just Ride!

Day 29 - continued



I had lunch overlooking the Gunnison River






Approaching the Blue Mesa Reservoir

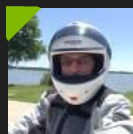


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 [BillUA](#) and [kr1](#) like this.

[abambach](#), Jun 30, 2017



abambach
Just Ride!

Day 29 - continued





CO-149 rivals the famous Million dollar Hwy-550. I actually preferred 149, far less traffic and low key. I will call it the \$1.1 Million Hwy.

Lake San Cristobal




Creede



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 kr1 likes this.

abambach, Jun 30, 2017



abambach
Just Ride!

Day 29 - continued

I really enjoyed my stop in Creede, a quaint relaxed little town.





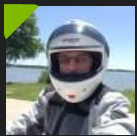


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❤️ bobw, BillUA, black 8 and 1 other person like this.

abambach, Jun 30, 2017



abambach
Just Ride!

Day 29 - continued

CO-149, aka \$1.1 Million Hwy









Day 29

Miles today = 292

Trip total = 11,369

Gas stops = 1, sitting on a 120 mile range

\$ Spent Gas = \$US 13, Avg MPG = 53.5, Avg MPH = 47.4

\$ Lodging = \$US 93

\$ Spent Excluding gas, US\$24

Highlights: Hwy 141

Track me at advTXgs.com

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❤️ [BillUA](#), [black 8](#), [Project Mayhem](#) and 3 others like this.



abambach
Just Ride!

Day 30 - Friday, June 30th, 2017

As the end of my trip approaches, I managed to squeeze on more day of cool "new" to me stuff. From South Fork, we headed south on 160 to Pagosa Springs and then followed 84/64 through the Carson National Forest.







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❤️ [BillUA](#), [kr1](#) and [HeidiHo](#) like this.

[abambach](#), Jul 1, 2017



abambach
Just Ride!

Day 30 - continued

As I approach Taos, the bridge at the Rio Grande is a must stop. Had a great iced coffee to cool off.







THE BUS STOP ICE CREAM and COFFEE SHOP
COFFEE Shakes MilkShakes Ice Cream Cones Smoothies snow cones

We ❤️ Coffee

order here

Smoothie Power
Real fruit Slushies

ask about Almond Milk alternative

ESPRESSO & Coffee Menu

MILKSHAKES & MALTEDS
COFFEE SHAKES

CHAT

Flavored Lattes!
Sweet, or Strait up

Coffee Float
* w/ Espresso

OPEN
we ❤️ coffee

Chai
Hot Cold Iced
Spiced Vanilla
Cinnamon Tea

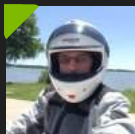


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❤️ [BillUA](#) and [kr1](#) like this.

[abambach](#), Jul 1, 2017



abambach
Just Ride!

Day 30 - continued

From Taos we continued to Eagle Nest, and onto 58 to Springer. From there we followed 412 to 39 to Roy/Mosquero and ended up in Tucumcari.

I had risen the Springer to Tucumcari route before and once you get through Mosquero, the mercury rises and the road becomes straight and dull.





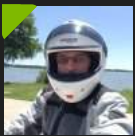


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❤️ [BillUA](#) and [kr1](#) like this.

[abambach](#), Jul 1, 2017



abambach
Just Ride!

Day 30 - continued

Tucumcari was a great surprise. It is part of Route 66 and it lived up to how I imagined Route 66. I may have to do a future IL to CA road trip.







ROUTE 66
EYES
SPONSORED BY
**Helping Hands
HOSPICE**
WRITTEN BY
DOUG QJARLES

Established Since 1995

POCKLAND
ROUTE 66





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♥ [Project Mayhem](#), [black 8](#) and [kr1](#) like this.

[abambach](#), Jul 1, 2017



abambach

Just Ride!

Day 30 - continued





TUCUMCARI RANCH SUPPLY
 OLD FASHION TOWN & COUNTRY STORE
 Western Gear • Outerwear
 Hardware • Gift Items
 Livestock Supplies & More!
 Turn Right 3 Blocks 
 502 S Lake • 461-9620

ANN'S CORNER
BUY - SELL

HOME OF **WATSON'S BBQ BAKERY MARKET**
 OLD FASHION **GIFT MERCANTILE STORE** 2 BLKS. THAT WAY
 502 S LAKE PH. 461-9620

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WHERE EVERY BUTT GETS
A GOOD RUB
NEW MEXICO FOODS & GIFTS

WATSON'S REAL WOOD REAL SMOKE REAL BBQ
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 BAR-B-QUE
 YOU CAN'T BEAT OUR MEAT!
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Tucumcari RANCH
 EST. 1852
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 502 S LAKE STREET 2 BLKS THAT WAY  **ROADS WILLING TRUCKER FRIENDLY**

FRESH DAILY
 DONUTS
 BREADS
 COBBLERS
 COOKIES



The day ended in Tucumcari with a 2 margarita dinner at Del's Restaurant. BTW, we were on foot, not on the bike.



Tomorrow's destination is Home Sweet Home.

Day 30

Miles today = 402

Trip total = 11,771

Gas stops = 2, one top off in Springer, 230 mile range

\$ Spent Gas = \$US 29, Avg MPG = 49, Avg MPH = 51.7

\$ Lodging = \$US 44

\$ Spent Excluding gas, US\$52

Highlights: Tucumcari Route 66

Track me at advTXgs.com

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Project Mayhem and kr1 like this.

FarmerKeith, Jul 1, 2017



FarmerKeith

Anything with wheels...

I notice sometimes your wearing a roadcrafter and other times a Darien. Mind if I ask why bring both and what's the criteria for when you wear one or the other?

Report

Like + Quote Reply

JHpowderhound, Jul 2, 2017



JHpowderhound

Been here awhile

Torrey UT is a wonderful place. Hwy 12 is probably the best road I've ever rode. I've done the pch in my Boxster 3 times. It's on my list for one of my bikes but it's a lot of boring road th get there.

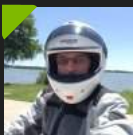
Eric

Report

Unlike + Quote Reply

❤ You like this.

abambach, Jul 2, 2017



abambach

Just Ride!

Day 31 - Saturday, July 1st. 2017

Today's was basically slabbing it to Dallas. I-40 to Amarillo, then 287 to 114 to 635 to 75 to the Metroplex. Living in Dallas is great except that it take 1 travel day in each direction to get to good/great motorcycling terrain. The exception is Hill Country to the South and Big Bend NP South-West.

Dwain had done the Dallas-Amarillo route on his way to meet me in UT 8-9 days ago and the

heat was brutal, 100-110 F. Today, we were lucky, thunderstorms cooled off the day and by the time we rode the last 200 or so miles, it was dry as a bone and the temps between 80-90 F. I never saw my thermometer go above 90.

The route is what it is, long and bland having ridden it multiple times before.



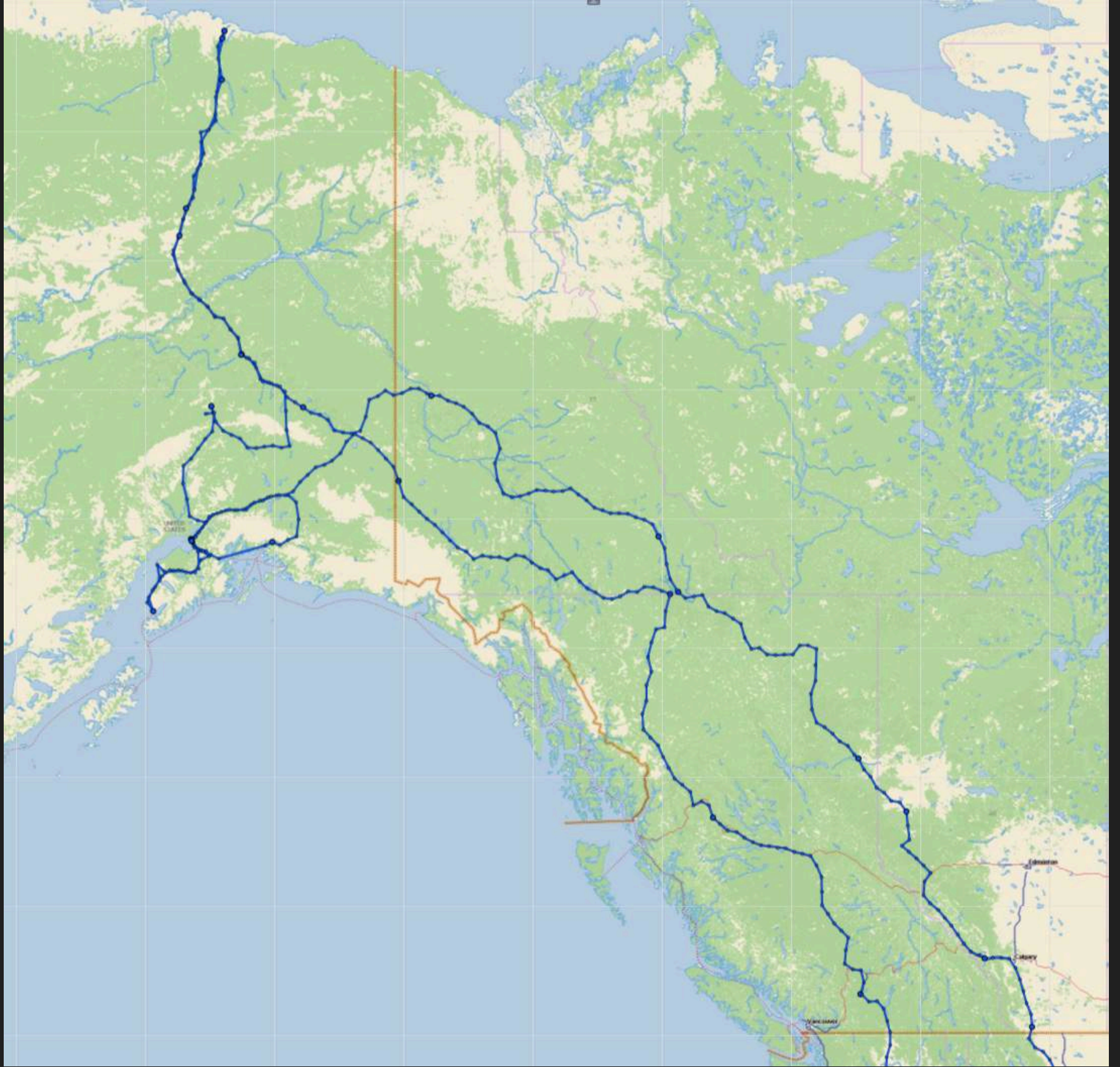
Tons of these along the way



I was very thankful that both Dwain and I made it home safely.

Over the next few days it will be bike maintenance and a deep cleaning. I will also look at my notes and provide an overall summary, insights on gear, what I would do differently, etc over the next couple of weeks.

A total of 12,250 miles in 31 days, 29 actual riding (1 day each Kayak and Fishing) or an average of 422 miles per day. It really didn't feel like a ton of riding except the first and last day to begin and end the ride.





Thanks for following and feel free to ask me any questions and if I can help you plan your ride, I am happy to give you my 2 cents...AB

Day 31

Miles today = 479

Trip total = 12,250

Gas stops = 2, sitting on a 210 mile range

\$ Spent Gas = \$US 32, Avg MPG = 49, Avg MPH = 51.7

\$ Lodging = \$US my mortgage/30

\$ Spent Excluding gas, US\$19

Highlights: A safe return Home for Dwain and I

Track me at advTXgs.com

Adventure Rider

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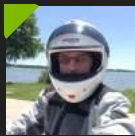


ALASKA bound - No Excuses - Just Ride!

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abambach, Jul 2, 2017



abambach
Just Ride!

FarmerKeith said: ↑

I notice sometimes your wearing a roadcrafter and other times a Darien. Mind if I ask why bring both and what's the criteria for when you wear one or the other?

Keith, I took the Darien jacket to use as a rain jacket in AK and for a just in case I get tired of the one piece suit. I also had Darien pants and Meshed pants for my return trip through UT and CO. It turned out that I did not need the Darien pants at all, AK and Canada were cool and I used my heated gear and Areostich everyday until I got to UT.

The Darien Pants I used once during my fishing trip over my hiking pants only.

It turns out I was blessed with weather, while sometimes cooler than normal, it was dry 29/31 days and the Darien jacket as a rain jacket was not needed.

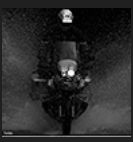
I did use it with my meshed pants/Darien combo everyday from UT to Home where the temps were higher, especially UT, 95-102° F. To save room, you can interchange the padding on the Aerostich and the Darien and carry one set.

Thanks for following...AB

Edit Delete Report

+ Quote Reply

gssarasota, Jul 2, 2017



gssarasota
Adventurer

Great trip. Thanks for posting.

Report

Unlike + Quote Reply

You like this.

black 8, Jul 2, 2017



black 8
Been here awhile

Congrats on the trip AB and welcome home....

Enjoy the family time after a month long trip.....

Report

Unlike + Quote Reply

You like this.

Project Mayhem, Jul 2, 2017



Project Mayhem
Moto Aficionado

Great report AB...really enjoyed following along!

Report

Unlike + Quote Reply

You like this.

daBum, Jul 2, 2017



daBum
Dave the Bum

ditto - thanks for taking us along!

Report

Unlike + Quote Reply

❤️ You like this.

#1Fan, Jul 2, 2017



#1Fan
Been here awhile

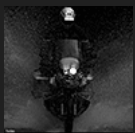
Thanks for taking us along on your adventure! I really enjoyed it! I look forward to your write up. 🙌🙌🙌

Report

Unlike + Quote Reply

❤️ You like this.

rodrigzj, Jul 2, 2017



rodrigzj
Adventurer


Thank you so much too having us watching your RR.
Great photos and lots of info for my trip next year!



Sent from my iPhone using Tapataalk

Report

Unlike + Quote Reply

 You like this.

Utah Guy, Jul 2, 2017




Utah Guy
n00b

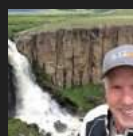
What a great trip! I enjoyed following along with you. You took in some key places in my home state. Great job and thanks for doing this!

Report

Unlike + Quote Reply

 You like this.

Ken0312, Jul 2, 2017




Ken0312
Adventurer

Welcome back to Dallas. It looks like you have a great time and thanks again for all your posts.

Report

Unlike + Quote Reply

 You like this.

ae5x, Jul 4, 2017



ae5x
Adventurer

Thanks for the great read and photos.

Report

Unlike + Quote Reply

❤️ You like this.

dmottv, Jul 4, 2017



dmottv

Take the Long Way Home

I enjoyed your RR, thanks very much for taking us along on your trip!

Report

Unlike + Quote Reply

❤️ You like this.

ShineySideUp, Jul 6, 2017



ShineySideUp

Been here awhile

Great RR! Thanks for taking the time and effort to post for all of us.

Report

Unlike + Quote Reply

❤️ You like this.

mercurydog47, Jul 6, 2017



mercurydog47

Adventurer

abambach said: ↑

Thank y'all for the well wishes.

Here is my rough itinerary, I don't usually stick to it but at least it gets me to the destination +/- a few changes/days. A 10 hrs day in the saddle is about 12-14 hrs day with stops. Daylight is abundant in the summer but you can't avoid getting tired. I simply stop for the day when I reach that point. Did I say I tend to over plan?

View attachment 849422

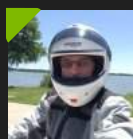
May I interject. These hours per day look very ambitious, unless you are simply blessed with more endurance than I am. Mix in a 4 hour ride day about every third or fourth day or you may get mighty tired of your motorcycle. I rode from Sonoma to Skagway via Coeur d'Alene, Banff, Jasper, Dawson Creek and back down via Cassiar Highway, Victoria and Highway 101 in 2015. Loved it and went 5700 miles in 25 days.

Report

Unlike + Quote Reply

♥ You like this.

abambach, Jul 8, 2017



abambach

Just Ride!

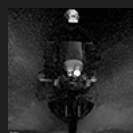
Yes, I agree on breaks and 4-5 hour days if there is something attractive to do. I did have a 5 day break in the middle of my trip and that was very nice on many fronts.

I am a regular century bicycle rider, and that has a very positive impact on my endurance. For my next Alaska trip, I will mix in some ferries, and stick to the coastal cities. Cheers...AB

Edit Delete Report

+ Quote Reply

Irons593, Jul 8, 2017



Irons593

Adventurer

Congrats on an awesome trip! Thanks for posting and keeping up with your RR, I'm sure it's a pain. I'm leaving monday and can't wait to take it all in.

Report

Unlike + Quote Reply

❤️ You like this.

ShineySideUp, Jul 8, 2017



ShineySideUp

Been here awhile

^^^ Doggone it Irons593 - I've got to wait another WEEK before I go



Report

Like + Quote Reply

Irons593, Jul 8, 2017



Irons593

Adventurer

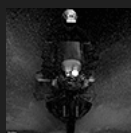
Hang in there Shiny it goes faster than you think

Report

Like + Quote Reply

❤️ ShineySideUp likes this.

karter18, Jul 9, 2017



karter18

Adventurer

Nice ride report with some great photos and well written all the way through. Enjoyed the read.

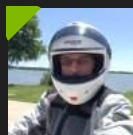
I may have to go back to the early posts but what bike setup are you using - seat, pegs, etc. does the Darien jacket pack that small. I have a stitch two piece and wondered how much

lighter the Darien is?

Report

Like + Quote Reply

abambach, Jul 9, 2017



abambach

Just Ride!

karter18 said: ↑

Nice ride report with some great photos and well written all the way through. Enjoyed the read.

I may have to go back to the early posts but what bike setup are you using - seat, pegs, etc. does the Darien jacket pack that small. I have a stitch two piece and wondered how much lighter the Darien is?

Thanks for your kind words.

Bike is setup is upgraded seat to Sergeant, BMW Pillion cover, ROX 2" risers, easy to adjusted and I used these a lot on the Fairbanks to Prudhoe haul road. I added a phone holder, 2 USB chargers up front and wired the top case with a USB and power outlet. Most important to me was the redundant heated gear power. All these were wired to a PDM 60, which is solid state and you can reset the circuits by turning power off/on.

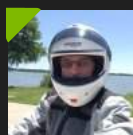
The Darien jacket and pants fold very compact and are light, especially without pads that you can interchange with the roadcrafter/R3.

Hope this helps...AB

Edit Delete Report

+ Quote Reply

abambach, Jul 9, 2017



abambach

Just Ride!

Finally got around to do some maintenance, oil and filter, final drive, air filter, spark plugs, and I had the dealer flush the brakes and adjust the valve clearances. I have a bit to learn on that front.



Next is the wash and clean, its filthy. Still to come is overall summary, insights on gear, what I would do differently, etc. Stay tuned...AB

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ALASKA bound - No Excuses - Just Ride!

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misterk, Jul 9, 2017



misterk

Been here awhile

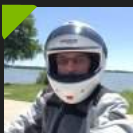
in tucumcari nm did you stay at the palamino for \$27?

Report

Unlike + Quote Reply

♥ You like this.

abambach, Jul 9, 2017



abambach

Just Ride!

misterk said: ↑

in tucumcari nm did you stay at the palamino for \$27?

I wish I had known, I overspent at the Value Inn @\$40, but it was adjacent to Dels Restaurant and they had awesome margaritas (and some food as well).

:) ...AB

Ken0312, Jul 10, 2017



Ken0312
Adventurer

abambach said: ↑

Finally got around to do some maintenance, oil and filter, final drive, air filter, spark plugs, and I had the dealer flush the brakes and adjust the valve clearances. I have a bit to learn on that front.

View attachment 898773 View attachment 898775 View attachment 898777

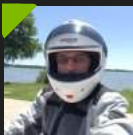
Next is the wash and clean, its filthy. Still to come is overall summary, insights on gear, what I would do differently, etc. Stay tuned...AB

Out of curiosity... did the BMW dealer actually have to adjust (re-shim) the valve clearance, or did they just check the clearance to make sure everything was within specification?

Report

Like + Quote Reply

abambach, Jul 10, 2017



abambach
Just Ride!

Ken0312 said: ↑

Out of curiosity... did the BMW dealer actually have to adjust (re-shim) the valve clearance, or did they just check the clearance to make sure everything was within specification?

Valves were within clearance, no shimming was required.

Edit Delete Report

+ Quote Reply

♥ Ken0312 likes this.

black 8, Jul 10, 2017



black 8
Been here awhile

AB - all this waiting around has me looking at new bikes. The wife thinks I should go from four down to two. I like the BMW GSA but that 6K mile service turns me off compared to the

Ducati Multistrada's 18K valve clearance checks... Won't happen until sometime next year though...

Also leaning on a Schuberth E1 Adventure as my next helmet....

Report

Like + Quote Reply

rickj, Jul 10, 2017



rickj

Been here awhile

black 8 said: ↑

AB - all this waiting around has me looking at new bikes. The wife thinks I should go from four down to two. I like the BMW GSA but that 6K mile service turns me off compared to the Ducati Multistrada's 18K valve clearance checks... Won't happen until sometime next year though...

Also leaning on a Schuberth E1 Adventure as my next helmet....

Rudy, I have a 2012 GSA and the service interval for the throttle body and valve check is in fact 6000 miles. However, I believe the interval is 12,000 miles for the newer liquid cooled version. While I love my so-called "cam-head" Beemer, the liquid cooled ones have a LOT of improvements in addition to a new motor design, mostly in the electronics front. If I were looking at a new GSA (and I could afford one) I'd be looking at the newer ones. I may be looking at one of those after next year's trip to Alaska. Not sure how my wife will handle that news though... Looking forward to Part II of your trip.

AB, thanks for taking us along on your trip. I really enjoyed it!

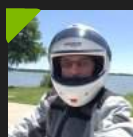
Rick

Report

Unlike + Quote Reply

❤ You and black 8 like this.

abambach, Jul 10, 2017



abambach

Just Ride!

rickj said: ↑

Rudy, I have a 2012 GSA and the service interval for the throttle body and valve check is in fact 6000 miles. However, I believe the interval is 12,000 miles for the newer liquid cooled version. While I love my so-called "cam-head" Beemer, the

liquid cooled ones have a LOT of improvements in addition to a new motor design, mostly in the electronics front. If I were looking at a new GSA (and I could afford one) I'd be looking at the newer ones. I may be looking at one of those after next year's trip to Alaska. Not sure how my wife will handle that news though... Looking forward to Part II of your trip.


AB, thanks for taking us along on your trip. I really enjoyed it!

Rick is correct, valve check and final drive oil every 12k miles for the LC, I did mine at 21k and no adjustments were required. Oil and filter every 6k. No chain to clean or lube, just add gas every 300 miles. So far my 2016, 21k miles and not a single issue, I had the same experience with my 2009 1200R...AB

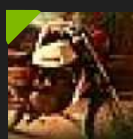
Almost forgot, tires, I'm on my 3rd rear and 2nd front. Will probably need a new rear soon. Heidenau did not last as long as I thought they would.

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[+ Quote](#) [Reply](#)

 black 8 likes this.

LandsVW, Jul 10, 2017



LandsVW

Been here awhile

abambach said: ↑

Day 12 - continued

I stopped at Knotty's and bought my favorite sticker (other than the ones at Deadhorse). I had to put it on the bike right away.

[View attachment 865373](#)

[View attachment 865374](#)

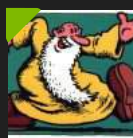
[View attachment 865379](#)

This is the community where I grew up! The family that started it was our neighbor. 28 years up there! Mom still lives several minutes from there. Have my Alaska bike tucked in her garage... :)

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scfrank, Jul 11, 2017



scfrank

Old farts riding club.

Do you have a total of all the numbers? Total cost?

Great report, appreciate the effort.

Frank

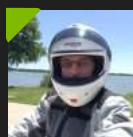
P.S. I see you already promised a summary. Thanks so much!

Great report, great pics, great documentation!

Report

Like + Quote Reply

abambach, Jul 11, 2017



abambach
Just Ride!

scfrank said: ↑

*Do you have a total of all the numbers? Total cost?
Great report, appreciate the effort.*

Frank

*P.S. I see you already promised a summary. Thanks so much!
Great report, great pics, great documentation!*

Hey Frank, Thanks for following. I was actually very curious myself on the total trip cost. I put this excel SS together for all of us. In my mind, I had a ballpark of \$150-\$200 per day. It came in at \$175.38 all in.

If one were to skip some of the side adventures, (Kayak/Fishing/Arctic Tour), its probably \$150.

Camping will knock off quite a bit as well. Anyway, here is the detail recapped by day. Enjoy!

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Overnight</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Fuel</u>	<u>Hotel</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Day 1	5/27	Valentine, NE	818	\$68	\$95	\$23	Mainly hydration
Day 2	5/28	Baker, MT	491	35	69	32	Bought some souvenirs
Day 3	5/29	Livingston, MT	444	18	86	20	
Day 4	5/30	Canmore, AB	552	41	82	7	Canada
Day 5	5/31	Fort St John, BC	553	40	74	12	
Day 6	6/1	Watson Lake, YT	548	49	123	23	Watson Lake hotels are excy
Day 7	6/2	Dawson City, YT	584	39	98	32	
Day 8	6/3	Fairbanks, AK	384	39	86	47	In AK, stocking up for Prudhoe run
Day 9	6/4	Prudhoe Bay, AK	490	24	160	69	Arctic tour booking, hotel included 3 meals+
Day 10	6/5	Coldfoot, AK	260	52	100	46	\$30 tour tip/ride
Day 11	6/6	Fairbanks, AK	277	52	86	22	Oil Change in Fairbanks
Day 12	6/7	Healy, AK	354	46	123	28	Hotel a bargain for the area
Day 13	6/8	Anchorage, AK	307	21	88	37	
Day 14	6/9	Homer, AK	252	0	112	17	
Day 15	6/10	Homer, AK	11	0	112	289	Full day fishing charter
Day 16	6/11	Anchorage, AK	300	19	88	24	
Day 17	6/12	Valdez, AK	62	19	101	233	\$203 Ferry to Valdez, 13 Whittier Tunnel Toll
Day 18	6/13	Valdez, AK	0	0	101	232	\$170 Kayak trip, 20 Eagles, \$42 Dinner
Day 19	6/14	Anchorage, AK	302	24	0	347	Fly to SFO, \$313 Rear Tire, \$34 Dinner
Days 19A-E	6/15-6/19	Palo Alto, CA					Attended Son's graduation
Day 20	6/20	Beaver Creek, YT	433	52	53	17	
Day 21	6/21	Liard, YT	537	56	66	31	
Day 22	6/22	Smithers, BC	517	53	64	33	
Day 23	6/23	Merritt, BC	594	48	69	17	Canada's exchange rate is good for US\$
Day 24	6/24	Ontario, OR	603	57	97	13	Back to US hotel prices
Day 25	6/25	Beaver, UT	607	31	56	26	
Day 26	6/26	Torrey, UT	223	14	89	41	Connected with Dwain from Dallas
Day 27	6/27	Moab, UT	340	21	112	27	Moab is excy, no heat discounts
Day 28	6/28	Grand Junction, CO	234	0	55	23	
Day 29	6/29	South Fork, CO	292	13	93	24	
Day 30	6/30	Tucumcari, NM	402	29	44	52	Margarita's add up quickly
Day 31	7/1	Home in Dallas	<u>479</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>19</u>	
			12,250	\$992	\$2,582	\$1,863	
					Total Trip	\$5,437	

Edit Delete Report

+ Quote Reply

♥ bobw, Reneminsk, trailer Rails and 1 other person like this.

kingofZroad, Jul 13, 2017



kingofZroad

Been here awhile

Thanks for the summary on costs, helps those of us "dreaming" to get an idea how much to save up!!

Great trip, great report. Glad you are home safe!!

Report

Like + Quote Reply

boristhebold, Jul 13, 2017



boristhebold

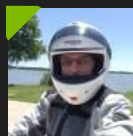
Adventurer

Great report and good to see a proper price breakdown.

Report

Like + Quote Reply

abambach, Jul 14, 2017



abambach

Just Ride!

Trip Summary, this will be several short pieces of my experience, ymmv.

MOST VALUABLE: Heated Gear

The most valued piece of gear was my heated jacket and pant liners, heated socks. Gloves less so. I used the jacket and pants everyday and it made the cold disappear. The heated socks came in handy during my Prudhoe run, it was 30-34° F.

The best part about the gear I that you put it on and have total control between 30-80° F at the touch of the controls, yet without the bulk of layers.

I found the gloves too thick and bulky, and difficult to feather the clutch through construction zones on the Dalton Hwy. Also with heated grips, they were a nice to have vs a must have.

I wore an Aerostich R3 one piece, but any goretex setup would work just as well. Make sure it's rainproof as rain tends to come and go at a moments notice.

I live in Dallas, so I seldom need heated gear, but for a trip up north, where the temps are 50-70° in July, I would forgo many things, but would definitely invest in the heated gear. Total cost was less than \$500, picked up on sale and the gloves AdvRider flea market...AB

This controller is awesome and redundant with a wired button override.

Gyde Dual Portable Wireless Temp

by Gerbing Gyde



ShineySideUp, Jul 14, 2017

**ShineySideUp**

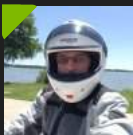
Been here awhile

I've got the Glyde pants and like them. Looks like i will need to add the heated socks to my gear as well. Thanks for the gear summary - always helpful.

Report

Like + Quote Reply

abambach, Jul 14, 2017

**abambach**

Just Ride!

Trip Summary- 2nd entry

MY BIGGEST REGRET: not bringing a much better camera

As I was prepping for the trip, I went out and bought a 12 megapixel \$150 point and shoot camera, my biggest decision for buying it was because it was waterproof. It only had a 5x Zoom and the picture quality was mediocre.

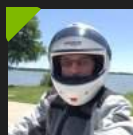
Unfortunately I ran out of time and did not test it, I figured it would be better than my iPhone. Well, I have far more respect for iPhone camera capabilities given that my best shots were the ones taken with it. The waterproof aspect was in my brain, a any camera would have been adequate. When it really rains, there is nothing to photograph anyway. Also, especially for Alaska, a good zoom is key to photograph wildlife.

The biggest advantage of the point and shoot was my ability to take pictures on the go, ideally, any good point and shoot should be able to do that. I also need to look at how to mount it so it's readily accessible.

Needless to say, I will be researching cameras and/or a GoPro and test before my next long trip. I also met Black8 on the road and he had a drone, I am very impressed by it and its capabilities. I will be looking into that as well.

black 8 likes this.

abambach, Jul 15, 2017



abambach

Just Ride!

While I was in Valdez, I met Thomas and Shiela while walking on the boardwalk and struck up a conversation about their huge cameras. Both were semi pro photographers, and were in Alaska to take pictures of wildlife. I tipped them on the eagle feeding, and we met there once again.

They were a super nice couple and promised to send me some pictures. I just received a lovely email from them with permission to publish some of their photos.

This is very timely given my camera comments above. While I will probably never be as talented or invest the equivalent of my GSA in camera equipment, I was fortunate to meet Thomas and Shiela. Thank you for sharing your pictures with me.

These are some of the photos they sent me.







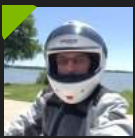


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❤️ [migilito](#), [bobw](#), [RevyRider](#) and 4 others like this.

[abambach](#), Jul 15, 2017



abambach

Just Ride!

Continued, these are National Geographic quality, taken by Thomas and Shiela.







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 bobw, MotoVentures, RevyRider and 5 others like this.

ShineySideUp, Jul 15, 2017




ShineySideUp
Been here awhile

Those are 'great' photos - nice of them to share.

Report

Unlike + Quote Reply

 You like this.

SpeedySteve, Jul 15, 2017



SpeedySteve
Been here awhile

Mate, brilliant ride report. Your details enabled me to fill ~40 rows of items to do/see while attempting similar tracks next year.

Super jelly man. Thanks for the inspiration!

What other RRs did you use for planning? What were your thoughts about the Dempster? I know you didn't ride it, but surely this was consciously. Prudehoe is in my books as a must, trying to understand more about the Dempster and determine whether to incorporate it or not.

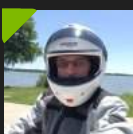
Cheers,

Steve

Report

Like + Quote Reply

abambach, Jul 16, 2017



abambach
Just Ride!

SpeedySteve said: ↑

What other RRs did you use for planning? What were your thoughts about the Dempster? I know you didn't ride it, but surely this was consciously. Prudhoe is in my books as a must, trying to understand more about the Dempster and determine whether to incorporate it or not.

Steve


Hi mate, the hardest part for me was to stay focused on Alaska, and for me specifically it was Prudhoe Bay. It was way too easy to deviate and get sidetracked so I planned on a 2nd trip before leaving. The D2D was the weekend of my son's graduation, so I could not make it, now it's my 2019 project.

As for ride reports, I did a search on the epic rides forum and google, read many, some in full, others in bits and like you wrote down the items I wanted to see.

Cheers...AB

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 black 8 likes this.

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Adventure Rider

RIDE THE WORLD.



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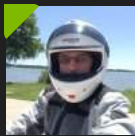


ALASKA bound - No Excuses - Just Ride!

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abambach, Jul 16, 2017



abambach
Just Ride!

Trip Summary - 3rd entry

MOST UTILIZED ITEMS: riding suit and boots

My Aerostich R3 was simply brilliant, I used it daily, cleaned it at the car wash and never leaked a drop. I can put it on and take it off in 2 minutes and I like the high visibility. It vents fairly well in moderate heat, 75-85, I felt well protected and blessed that I did not have to put it to the test, but Aerostich is well made and has an awesome reputation.

My Sidi riding boots were great, good support and protection, totally waterproof and easy to clean at the car wash. I also walked in them quite a bit and they were very comfortable with a good grip in all sorts of terrain.

I brought my Darien jacket and pants, I thought I would use the jacket as a rain jacket and then later on when I would ride through the lower 48. Never used the pants to ride, only to fish in Homer. In Utah, I defaulted to my mesh pants and the Darien jacket, the combo made the heat tolerable, although I would have preferred a mesh jacket as well.

The takeaway: Alaska is cold, even in the summer, err on too warm! ...AB

Edit Delete Report

+ Quote Reply

❤️ kr1 likes this.



duncanmac
Been here awhile

abambach said: ↑

*Crossing into Alaska was uneventful, how long will you be in AK, do you have fresh anything, firearms or bear spray?
Showed my Passport and I was through 2 minutes*

*My awesome bike has carried me almost 4,000 miles without one complaint. I will wash her after Deadhorse.
View attachment 859645*

*Got to give some credit to the navigator.
View attachment 859640*

What IS that thing on top of your helmet? A peak?

Report

Like + Quote Reply

abambach, Jul 16, 2017



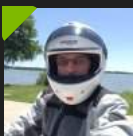
abambach
Just Ride!

Yes, it's perfect to help keep the sun out of your eyes early/late in the day. It can also be easily removed if you choose to do so. With my windscreen I don't notice any buffeting when compared to some of my other helmets.

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+ Quote Reply

abambach, Jul 16, 2017



abambach
Just Ride!

Trip Summary - 4th entry

MOST CONTROVERSIAL: Tires

Do I dare go there? Of course, it's my experience and remember YMMV.

I read several ride reports on tires, their performance, ups and downs, longevity etc. and finally decided to put on a new set of Heidenau Scout K60s hoping that they would last the 12,000 miles quoted in many reviews.

The fresh K60 performed well on the road and dry dirt. When wet the rear tended to wash out relative to my experience with TKC80. The front was fine and aside from it singing at 50MPH and then fading away as the speed reached 55-60, it was great on both wet/dry pavement and dirt. I actually got used to the singing and liked it because I knew when I reached or slowed down to 50MPH.

I was hoping that the tires would last the 12K, but my rear was noticeably worn at 5,000 miles and needed to be replaced at 7,000. Not bad for a rear with a loaded bike, I just had the wrong expectation.

Keep in mind that Canada chip seal eats tires fast, I talked to several other riders and they all had the same experience.

The BMW dealer in Anchorage did not carry Heidenau, so I opted for a Continental TKC70. My K60 front will probably last 15,000 miles or more. For me, the rear Conti TKC70 was grippier in wet pavement and about the same on dirt when compared to the Heidenau K60.

What would I do different? - short answer, not much, other than to plan on a rear tire change.


If I could have my cake and eat it too, I would put on TKC70/K60 to get to say Watson Lake, YT and then change the rear only to a TKC80 for Hwy 4 to Faro, the run to Prudhoe Bay on the Dalton, the Denali Hwy and then go back to TKC70/K60. The TKC80 will be well worn by then. The front K60 is very good in both grip and longevity. I love the TKC80s, yes they wear out fast, but grip like tractor tires on wet dirt/gravel/clay, perfect for the Calcium-Chloride soaked construction zones on the Dalton Hwy.

If traveling from the lower 48, plan on at least 1 rear tire change, if starting with new tires.

For me the TKC70 rear has a slight edge on the K60 on wet surfaces, never tried a front. That will be my next tire test. Remember YMMV...AB

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 [black 8](#), [kr1](#) and [#1Fan](#) like this.



MizzouRider
Long timer

Great report! Thanks for posting. I went a few years ago. Left with riding buddies, but came back alone. If you do ride it with someone else, make sure they know what they are getting into. One guy that is miserable, can make it rough on everyone else. Also, I had similar experience with my K-60. New at start, but at 8,500 miles the rear needed replaced. (I went over beartooth pass on the way back, went over to Sturgess the next day for a tire. Did the trip on a 08 GSA, now I'd like to go again on my 14. Would like to ride the Dempster this time instead of the Dalton.
Thanks again for a great RR!

Report

Unlike + Quote Reply

You like this.

Ken0312, Jul 17, 2017



Ken0312
Adventurer

abambach said: ↑

Trip Summary - 4th entry

MOST CONTROVERSIAL: Tires

Do I dare go there? Of course, it's my experience and remember YMMV.

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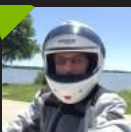
Thank you for your experienced input on tires. I also liked the TKC70 as a rear tire, but I greatly struggled with it as a front tire on my camhead. It seems the hybrid approach is a good strategy for tackling a long adventure and extreme terrain conditions.

Report

Unlike + Quote Reply

You like this.

abambach, Jul 18, 2017



abambach
Just Ride!

Trip Summary - 5th entry

MOST SILLY: Things I worried about the Dalton Hwy and Alaska while planning

I read way to much stuff as part of my prep for the big trip up north. While I found tons of helpful materials there were a few that made me hesitate a bit, but I was determined to press on.

"Your bike will never be the same" after the Dalton, you will destroy it, baloney! I have a shiny 9 month old 2016 1200GSA and I want it to last me at least 5 years & 100,000 miles. Yes, the Dalton is a tough road, 75% unpaved, lots of pot holes, large gravel, corrosive calcium-chloride everywhere and long, a 1,000 mile round trip from Fairbanks. Adventure bikes are made to soak up the potholes, lay on their side when too slippery and last a long time. I can honestly say that after a thorough washing, you can't tell that I rode it to Prudhoe Bay, the calcium-chloride washed off with a car pressure washer, and absolutely nothing broke on the bike. I would not hesitate to ride it north again.

"Trucks will run you down on the Dalton", actually, I found truckers extremely polite and cautious as we approached each other. Both slowing down and giving each other as much room as we could. I much rather encounter trucks on the Dalton Hwy than on I-20 in Texas. Also, on the 500 mile stretch, I probably encountered maybe 20 trucks each way, so truck traffic is sparse. I had one a\$\$hole water-truck that did not shut the spraying down and doused me pretty good, but all others were professional and courteous.

"Construction really slows you down", call me lucky, I encountered a few construction zones, but for the number of miles I traveled, it was not bad at all. The longest wait was 15 minutes and usually much less, 5-10 minutes at most. I made excellent use of my stop and took the opportunity to stretch my legs, talk to flag people, hydrate and snack.

"Too much distance between gas stops", gas was plentiful with 2 exceptions, the Dalton north of Coldfoot to Prudhoe Bay (240 miles) and Hwy 4 between Watson Lake and Faro (263 miles). Additionally for both of these gas stations, make sure you have a credit/debit card, they were unattended. In Faro, the magnetic stripe on my credit card would not register and had to use my newer less used debit card to gas up. Also for Garmin GPS users, the map set does not have all the gas stations listed, google is much better. My recommendation, fill up once your bike gets to less than 1/2 at the first gas station you see, unless you are headed of the beaten pass, then fill up before going there or make sure you know your range.

Rain, mosquitos, reservations. Maybe I was lucky, the rain I encountered was sporadic other than 1 day out of 20. A bit like a Florida shower although much lighter. Same for mosquito, if

you want to avoid them, go in early June, I didn't have any encounters. Same for hotel reservations, I never had a problem finding a place to stay. I was told a lot of it was due to oil being \$45 a barrel, temporary workers and general business is down.

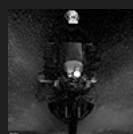
My entire trip was awesome, and I always had one motto, when you encounter rain, gravel, or not sure, speed is your enemy, slow gets you there. Remember YMMV...AB

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♥ [ShineySideUp](#), [Dan Lorenze](#), [kr1](#) and [3 others](#) like this.

[rtadventurer](#), Jul 18, 2017



rtadventurer

n00b

Awesome RR AB! I'm curious about two things as I plan my trip for next June. What do you think of the R3 suit vs the two piece vs the original roadcrafter. What swayed you to the R3 over the original? Did you go with aerostich's gloves or another brand? Also, I'm riding from the lower 48 with my 1200rt. How are the roads? I'm planning on renting a gs in Anchorage as my riding partner wants to go more off the beaten path on the Denali and in other places. Other than those parts, do you think an RT will do well in the rest of AK. We don't plan on doing the Dalton, but if we do I'd use the GS on that part.

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[black 8](#), Jul 18, 2017



black 8

Been here awhile

[abambach](#) said: ↑

Trip Summary- 2nd entry

MY BIGGEST REGRET: not bringing a much better camera

AB - in the end you'll always have the photos you captured during your trip; better to have them than none at all.

With that said, when I lived in Alaska - I rarely took photos and used a cheap point and shoot. So when I had the opportunity to return to Alaska I used a good DSLR to capture what I missed the first time.

May I suggest you look at cameras that has selectable modes with a zoom lens (i.e. Manual, Aperture, Shutter, and Program modes) so YOU control the settings on the camera based on the photo you want to compose. I used a Nikon D800 with prime lens (non-zoom) in 28mm to capture landscapes photos. In retrospect, the D800 was heavy and took too much space; I should have brought along my smaller APSC sized camera with a zoom lens...

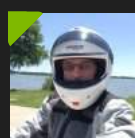
Rudy

Report

Unlike + Quote Reply

❤ You like this.

abambach, Jul 19, 2017



abambach
Just Ride!

rtadventurer said: ↑

Awesome RR AB! I'm curious about two things as I plan my trip for next June. What do you think of the R3 suit vs the two piece vs the original roadcrafter. What swayed you to the R3 over the original? Did you go with aerostich's gloves or another brand? Also, I'm riding from the lower 48 with my 1200rt. How are the roads? I'm planning on renting a gs in anchorage as my riding partner wants to go more off the beaten path on the Denali and in other places. Other than those parts, do you think an rt will do well in the rest of AK. We don't plan on doing the Dalton, but if we do I'd use the gs on that part.

I bought the R3 because I live in Texas, so wanted cooler. The Classic is too hot, the R3 is good Labor Day to Memorial Day. I have a 2 piece roadcrafter classic, but I found it too bulky with heated gear underneath. The R3/heated gear combo was perfect for Alaska. The one piece slips on/off in less than 2 minutes, very easy and great when you want to break to relax. With the 2 piece you then to just take your jacket off.

For gloves, my favorite pair is from when I was an expat in Sydney, unbranded and they are made out of kangaroo leather, only thing is they are not waterproof. I brought a pair of Klim Gore-Tex as well as vented BMW airflow.

I think an RT with road tires would have been fine on everything I rode except Fairbanks to Prudhoe Bay and Hwy 4. When I was there, the Denali Hwy was perfect and I would have ridden it with Anakee3. I have heard the Denali has been a mess in the past.

Please remember the biggest unknown/challenge is road construction, it can be super slippery, especially after it's watered down to keep the dust down, and it varies day to day. Road conditions in Alaska are ever-changing, just like weather!

Enjoy your ride, Alaska is awesome...AB

Edit Delete Report

+ Quote Reply

♥ rtadventurer and mikegc like this.

abambach, Jul 19, 2017



abambach

Just Ride!

black 8 said: ↑

AB - in the end you'll always have the photos you captured during your trip; better to have them than none at all.

With that said, when I lived in Alaska - I rarely took photos and used a cheap point and shoot. So when I had the opportunity to return to Alaska I used a good DSLR to capture what I missed the first time.

May I suggest you look at cameras that has selectable modes with a zoom lens (i.e. Manual, Aperture, Shutter, and Program modes) so YOU control the settings on the camera based on the photo you want to compose. I used a Nikon D800 with prime lens (non-zoom) in 28mm to capture landscapes photos. In retrospect, the D800 was heavy and took too much space; I should have brought along my smaller APSC sized camera with a zoom lens...

Thanks Rudy, I am leaning towards an smaller APSC sized camera, although you have me hooked on the awesome drone you have.

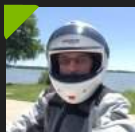
Looking forward to your trip continuation...AB

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+ Quote Reply

♥ black 8 likes this.

abambach, Jul 19, 2017



abambach

Just Ride!

Trip Summary - 6th entry

KEEPING THE MEMORIES ALIVE

It sure is nice to add a few stickers to the bike, every time I ride, the Alaska journey memories will be with me. I saved a spot for my still to get Florida Key West mile 0 sticker. Plus there is lots of other in between space available.



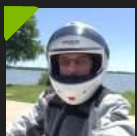


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❤️ MizzouRider, kr1, #1Fan and 3 others like this.

abambach, Jul 22, 2017



abambach
Just Ride!

Trip Summary - 7th entry

OTHER USEFUL STUFF - Picked up along the way

You can buy stuff in Alaska - Although slightly more expensive, you can buy almost anything in Alaska, especially in Fairbanks and Anchorage. I saw people hauling stuff, especially tires and cooking gas bottles as if they were heading into never, never land. Unless you have an odd requirement, there is no need to haul stuff. Also you can ship to and from Alaska, a lighter bike is always a more comfortable bike.

Overpacking - I was fortunate to meet my family 1/2 way through my trip, I sent lots of extra stuff home with them, shoes, shirts, gear. I suppose you can also ship them home or give away some of it. Laundry is pretty easy and I wore my riding gear for 80% of the day.

Shield cleaning secret - Fellow rider Steve shared his helmet shield cleaning secret, also showed me. Lemon pledge wipes and micro cloth to wipe dry. Yes gets rid of all the bug juice.

Adjust one mirror when riding on the pegs - When riding on dirt and standing on the pegs, make sure to adjust one of your mirrors so you can see what's behind you. I had a pickup truck nearly scrape me on the Dalton.

Camping - I think camping a bit would definitely add to the experience. Personally, I have really never tried camping other than a day or two with family. One of my goals is to learn and hopefully camp a few nights on my next trip. I have to say, that the convenience of a hotel is hard to beat, but you do miss out on meeting other riders and campers.

InReach Explorer - the 2nd best companion or best companion when riding solo, there is no substitute for a riding buddy, but sometimes it's hard to find someone with 30+ days of vacation. I felt very comfortable traveling solo because I had it. 100% coverage wherever you go and my wife could keep track of me. In case of emergency, from a breakdown in the middle of nowhere to a come-off, I could get help. Make sure you carry it with you on your person, not attached to the bike.


Cooler - it was nice to have cold drinks during breaks and a place to keep left over beer and food. (Beer only at the end of the day after the bike is parked for the day). Other than Coldfoot, only to consume at a restaurant, Prudhoe Bay totally dry, you could buy beer almost anywhere.

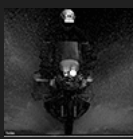
Alaska Ferry network - If you can, do take one, it's a nice break from the bike and totally worth it. The scenery from the water is spectacular, also, I saw whales, sea lions, and seals. Fairly inexpensive when compared to any excursion. Bring straps to tie down your bike.

Reservations - I never made any and was able to land in an affordable hotel every night by either calling ahead at around 3-4PM or simply showing up. I didn't know where I was going to end up for the day.

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 ShineySideUp, beedleblt, Tijuana_Taxi and 5 others like this.



Kebabmonster
Adventurer

Excellent RR, thanks for sharing.

Those wildlife pics are stunning.

Report

Like + Quote Reply

❤️ ShineySideUp likes this.

sonic578, Jul 26, 2017



sonic578
Been here awhile

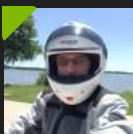
Really enjoyed the RR! This thread probably will be responsible for putting AK on my list. Great photos, and commentary!

I'm amazed at your ability to log hours in the seat. You've mentioned the aftermarket seat (Sargent), and your history of endurance (bicycle) riding. Do you credit one more than the other?

Report

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abambach, Friday at 6:18 AM



abambach
Just Ride!

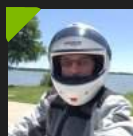
sonic578 said: ↑

Really enjoyed the RR! This thread probably will be responsible for putting AK on my list. Great photos, and commentary!

I'm amazed at your ability to log hours in the seat. You've mentioned the aftermarket seat (Sargent), and your history of endurance (bicycle) riding. Do you credit one more than the other?

The Sargent definitely makes a huge difference, I think the 1200GSA gets the credit. It's very comfy and the huge tank and range just eats the miles. The cycling helps to condition my body to stay in a riding position for long stretches, 2 or more hours in the saddle without a break depending on the roads. Cheers...AB

abambach, Monday at 12:17 PM



abambach
Just Ride!

What a great surprise in my eMail, Trapper as you recall gathered Moose Antlers in Maine. Meeting folks on the road has been a huge part of the trip and very enriching.

Link to the post: <http://advrider.com/index.php?threads/alaska-bound-no-excuses-just-ride.1228124/page-9#post-32510129>

They send me some pictures of their work. Very awesome:









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+ Quote Reply

❤️ kr1 and #1Fan like this.

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B *I* U **A** A: a_a **I**_x

Your brilliant reply...