

The Transit Stage

2 September 2008

We just completed a two day run from our last stop, Ollantaytambo, Peru, to what we hope is our last obligatory tourist activity in Peru, Nazca, home of the famous Nazca lines.

On our trip here we covered 695 kilometers / 431.8 miles on what, in Rally-Speak, was nothing more than a transit stage, ground covered merely to move from one interesting section to another.

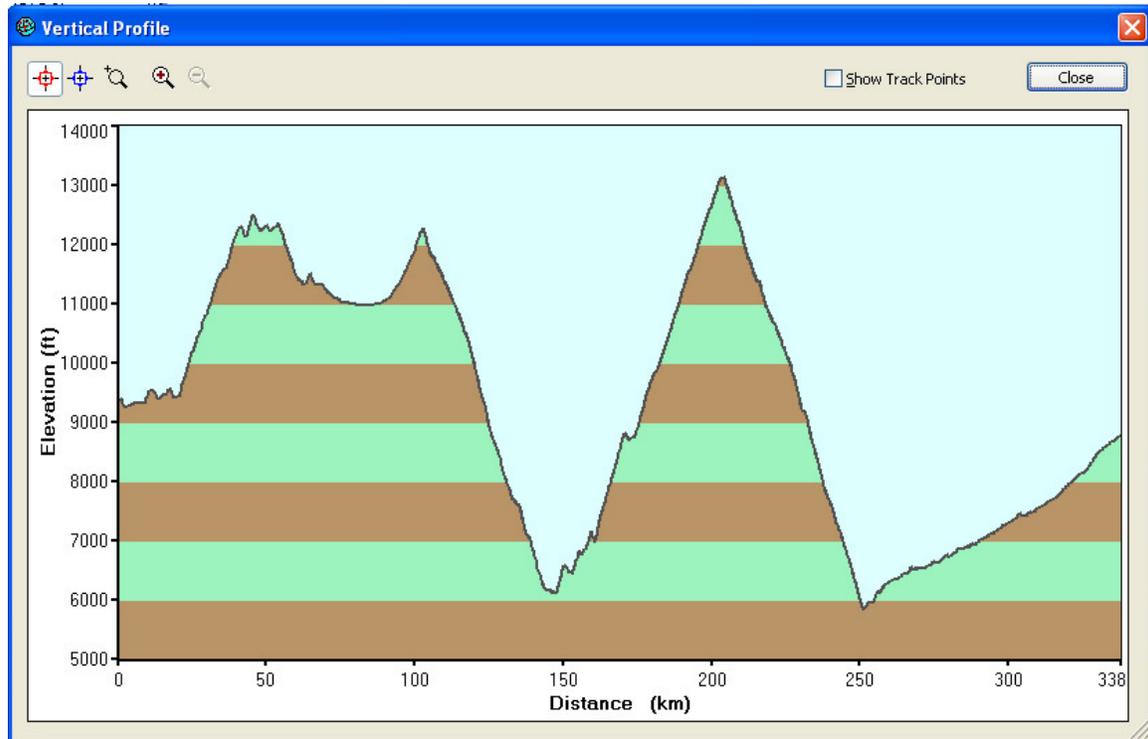
On a map, the distance doesn't look all that long and I've got plenty of friends who ride that far before breakfast on a street bike.

But, then again, we're in Peru. And here, even relatively short distances can be interesting.

Throw some world-class geography and poor time management choices into the mix and things can be very, very interesting.

But, best to let a couple of pictures tell the story.

Day one:

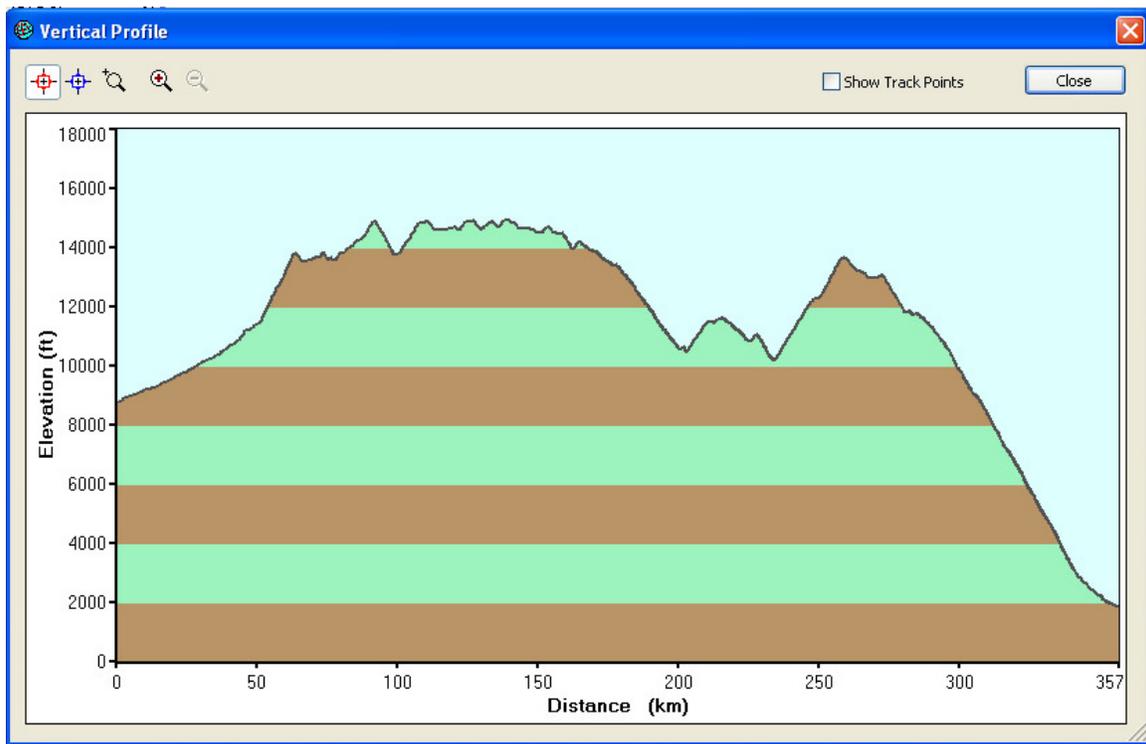


**Best Bike Road
I've Never Ridden**

Average speed for day one: 34 kilometers per hour / 21.13 miles per hour (includes a one hour lunch stop and a few restroom stops)

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Day Two:



Daylight

Dark



Average speed for day two: 36 kilometers per hour / 22.37 miles per hour (includes a one hour lunch stop and a few restroom stops)

The drive down from 12,000 feet / 3,657 meters in the dark, complete with a wide variety of truck and bus meets was, shall we say, very interesting.

The moral of this story is: Never underestimate a transit stage. Especially one in Peru.

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The Best Bike Road I've Never Ridden is Route 26 northeast of Abancay, Peru.

GPS track vertical profiles from Garmin MapSource.

Full tracks and waypoints of our travels are available here:

<http://www.hackneys.com/travel/index-GPS.htm>



Photo by Jorge Valdes

Douglas and Stephanie Hackney are on a two to three year global overland expedition.

You can learn more about their travels at: <http://www.hackneys.com/travel>