

# 14,000 miles on a 'pizza delivery bike'



**Simon Gandolfi** is 76 years old and lives in Herefordshire, England. He's a little overweight, has a bad back, and has had two heart attacks. Despite all this, he has just ridden the length of America on a 'pizza delivery motorbike'. Simon's wife, Bernadette, and their two sons couldn't believe it, but he wanted to prove to them that he could do it.

He began his journey in Veracruz on the Gulf of Mexico, and it was there he bought a Honda 125cc – the original pizza delivery bike. He says: 'I chose a Honda 125cc because I could buy it new in Mexico for just £1,200, and it does 120 miles to the gallon.'

What I've done is no big deal. If I can do it, anyone can.

He last rode a motorbike 40 years ago, and at first he was terrified by all the traffic on the city freeway. Fortunately, he met a kind police officer who suggested a suitable route.

The 14,000 mile journey took Simon from Mexico through South America and then north, finishing in Pennsylvania, USA. He rode at a height of 4,700m in Bolivia and through the Amazon jungle, he was kidnapped for a short time in Venezuela, and spent five weeks in a hotel in Chile with a broken leg after falling off his bike on an icy road. He mostly slept in small family hotels. The price of rooms varied from country to country: US\$18 in Veracruz, half that in Bolivia.

The journey took six months, and everyone he met and talked to on the way treated him with kindness. He says: 'What I've done is no big deal. If I can do it, anyone can. I love travelling and meeting new people.'

Last time I went I was young and ignorant.

Next month he is going to India for six months, again by motorbike. He hopes to celebrate his 77th birthday in Goa. He says: 'It's been 40 years since I was last in India, and I want to see not only what has changed there, but how I have changed. Last time I was young and ignorant.'

**Read the article about Simon Gandolfi's journey quickly. Answer the questions.**

- 1 How old is Simon? *He's 76 years old.*
- 2 Is he married?

3 What kind of motorbike did he ride?

4 Where did his journey start and end?

5 How long did it take?

6 Where is he going next?

**Read the text again more carefully. Correct the information in these sentences.**

*a little*

- 1 Simon is ~~very~~ overweight.
- 2 He hasn't ridden a motorbike for 50 years.
- 3 The journey was 4,700 miles long.
- 4 He was kidnapped for five weeks in Chile.
- 5 He broke his arm in Chile.
- 6 He paid \$18 for a hotel room in Bolivia.
- 7 He hopes to be in England for his 77th birthday.