

World's biggest scrapyards as viewed on Google Earth



■ The "Boneyard" of the US military at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. It's referred to as the world's largest air force, as there are enough planes parked here in various states of disrepair and destruction to outnumber any active air force in the world.

IT'S the world's most spectacular scrapyards. As you can see from our photo this huge area of the Arizona desert is crammed with hundreds of disused American warplanes.

By Bob Smyth

It's just one of hundreds of amazing scenes that have been picked up by Scots Google Earth aficionados Alex and James Turnbull.

Google Earth is the Internet site that displays vast areas of the Earth, pieced together from satellite photos taken from space.

Much of it shows towns, cities and countryside. But Alex and James have looked a bit closer at some of the photos — and unearthed some amazing sights.

Like a 200 ft long pink bunny rabbit on top of an Italian mountain.

In Peru, a sand dune appears to display the face of Jesus while a 10 acre cornfield in Arizona was carved into the features of talk show host Oprah Winfrey.

There's everything from man-made marvels to unusual natural formations, high-security areas and the simply uncategorised, but cool.

The brothers have put their

discoveries on the hit website googlesightseeing.com

Alex (30), a web developer who lives in Edinburgh with his partner Kerry and their 14-month-old son Mylo, says, "My favourites include the sights you wouldn't be able to see normally, such as Area 51, the top secret US military establishment in the Nevada desert."

"Then there's the Ryugyong Hotel in North Korea. It's a 330 m tall pyramid-shaped building with 3000 rooms. It was supposed to have seven revolving restaurants, except they never actually finished it.

"The structure itself is complete but has no windows, fixtures or fittings. It's officially the world's tallest unoccupied building."

One of their latest postings is a US Navy barracks in Coronado, California that has four L-shaped buildings that look like a Nazi swastika from above. It wasn't a problem until Google Earth came along and now the horrified military are spending a fortune to mask the shape to cover up their embarrassment.

"We got a lot of media interest with one image of a topless sunbather caught by the camera in a secluded patio in The Hague," says Alex. "It's hard to tell if it's a man or woman, though!"

"Another photo caused a stir earlier this year. I was looking

■ The Arecibo radio telescope in Puerto Rico is officially the largest single-dish radio telescope ever built. It's 305 m in diameter, 50 m deep and it covers an area of roughly 73,000 square metres.



around Edinburgh and noticed how many back gardens in the posh Corstorphine area had trampolines. The shot of all those discs beside the houses was quite eye-catching.

"Also close to home, I'd recommend having a look at the Scottish Parliament and Forth bridges."

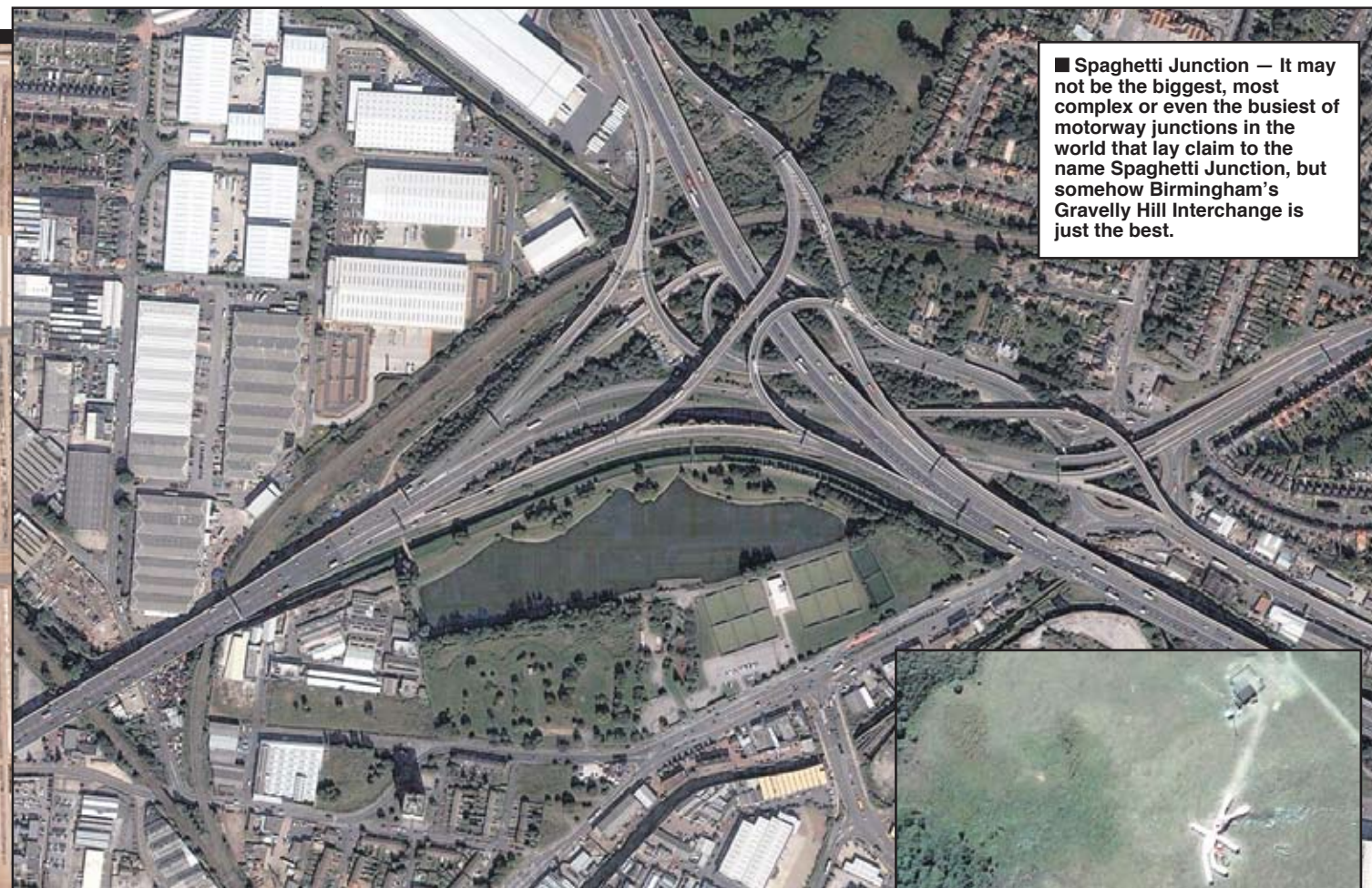
James (26), who recently moved to Oxford with his wife Catriona to take up a new job in web development, said, "I really like the giant messages that can only be seen from a plane and were never intended for the public. We've found a couple of wedding proposals."

Proposals

"On an access road near an airport in Texas someone wrote, 'Thelma will u marry me?' There have been other proposals in fields and on top of buildings."

But not all the sights raise a smile. The pair have spotted multi-vehicle pile-ups, a truck tipped on its side and foam being sprayed on accident scenes. There's a shot in Iraq that appears to show a rocket attack, with crowds hanging around a plume of smoke as well as oil wells on fire in other parts of the country.

The brothers were working together building websites when they started the site soon after Google Earth launched two years ago. It was an instant success with folk from all over the world logging in.



■ Spaghetti Junction — It may not be the biggest, most complex or even the busiest of motorway junctions in the world that lay claim to the name Spaghetti Junction, but somehow Birmingham's Gravelly Hill Interchange is just the best.

■ (Right) The giant bunny, 5000 ft up a mountain in Piemonte, Italy. It's the work of a group of Austrian artists who say it's supposed to make you feel small. It's expected to stay there until 2025 and hikers are invited to climb onto the belly summit for a view over the village below.

■ James (left) and Alex. The brothers' book of top 100 satellite sights, *Not in the Guidebook*, has sold more than 14,000 copies in the UK and the US and a second edition is under consideration.

An unmarked van drives around American cities capturing candid camera scenes of everyday life, which has annoyed some of the people photographed.

Alex said, "One guy in San Francisco was pictured smoking, a habit he'd been trying to conceal from his family. They picked on the wrong person, though, as it turned out he was a lawyer specialising in online privacy! He got the photo removed."



■ Spruce Creek near Daytona Beach, Florida is one of the first "fly-in communities" — where neighbours share not only a street but also 22 km of taxiways. Movie star John Travolta, a keen pilot, had to move from Spruce Creek because his 1964 Boeing 707 — a massive commercial airliner — was too noisy for the neighbours!