

Chronicling Female Agency with Satellite Images and Photographs from Google Earth

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Abstract. Teehuteatuaonoa, aka Jenny, was one of twelve Polynesian women accompanying HMAV *Bounty* mutineers to Pitcairn Island on January 15, 1790. Her accounts increased our knowledge of *Bounty*’s sailing track post-mutiny and island life during her nearly three decades (1790-1817) on Pitcairn Island (Albert 2021a). Jenny is the most traveled of *Bounty*’s women, and first to return to Tahiti after almost 30 years. Jenny’s journey is chronicled with satellite images and photographs from Google Earth. Her journey encompassed 15 links for a total of 24,090 km or 60% of the Earth’s circumference. The longest link was 7,400 km on the American *Sultan* from Coquimbo, Chile, to The Marquesas. Jenny’s life provides an example of strong female agency during a male-dominated era (late 1700s – early 1800s) when women’s voices were socially and institutionally repressed (Albert, 2021b).

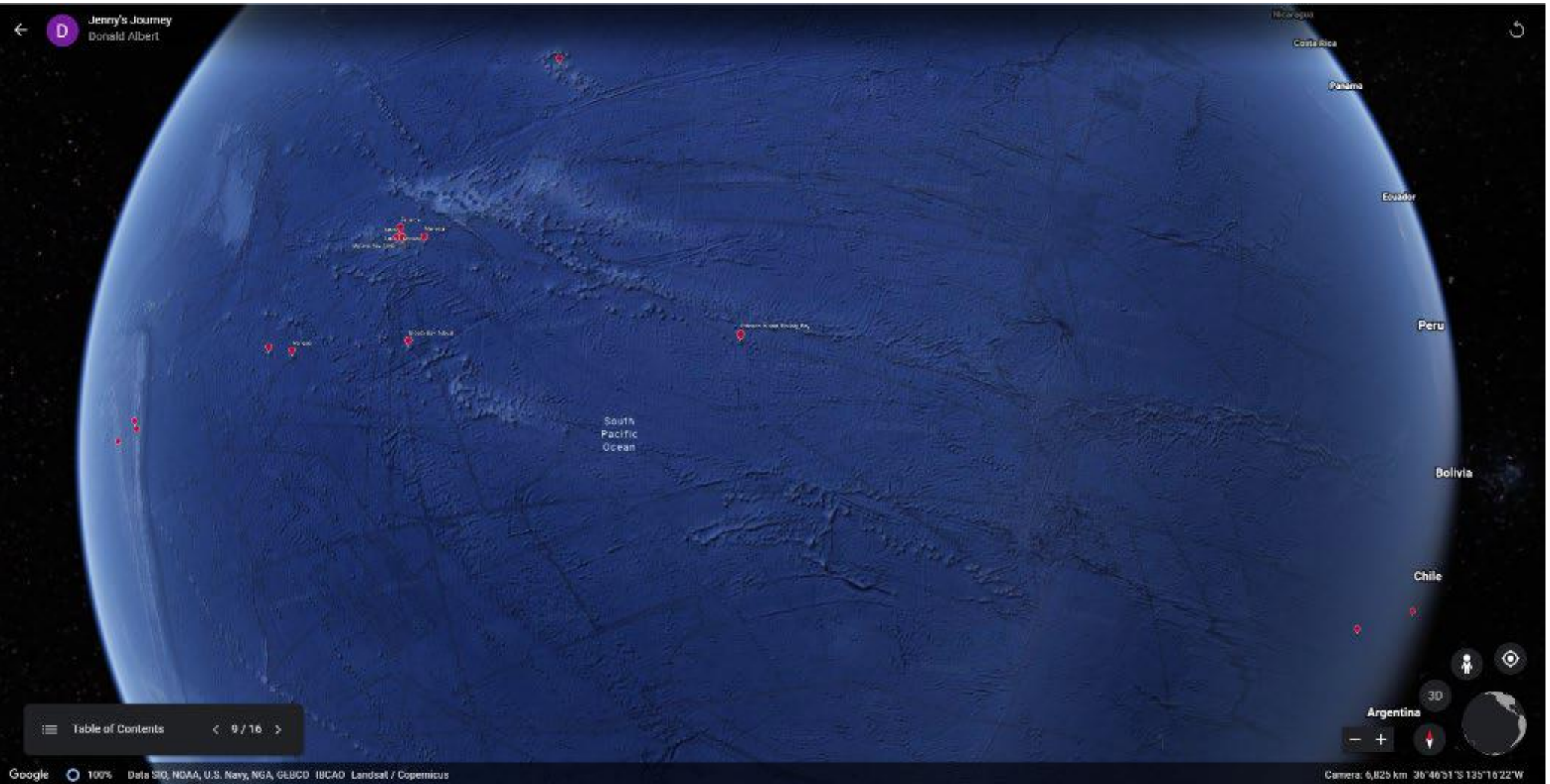


Figure 1. Jenny’s South Seas Journey, Google Earth Project.



Figure 2. Jenny by sculptor Robert Brown, employing romanticized Western perspective.



Figure 3. Google Earth’s Project interface showing display functionality: map scale (- or +), direction, perspective (2D or 3D), Street View (bottom right), photo/text box (top right), distance and other tools (far left column), and table of contents (near left column). See Albert 2021b to access the Google Earth Project titled “Jenny’s Journey.” *Source:* Google Earth, January 17, 2023.

From	To	Distance (km)
Matavia Bay, Tahiti	Bloody Bay, Tubuai	645
Bloody Bay	Meheti	620
Meheti	Matavia Bay	160
Matavia Bay	Tetiaroa	55
Tetiaroa	Moorea	55
Moorea	Mangaia	960
Mangaia	Rarotonga	205
Rarotonga	Tongatabu	1,600
Tongatabu	Ono-i-Lau	375
Ono-i-Lau	Hunga Ha’apai & Hunga Tonga	345
Hunga Ha’apai & Hunga Tonga	Bounty Bay, Pitcairn Island	4,455
Pitcairn Island	Massa Fuero	4,830
Massa Fuero	Coquimbo, Chile	1,000
Coquimbo	The Marquesas	7,400
The Marquesas	Tahiti	1,385

Table 1. Great circle distance between waypoints.

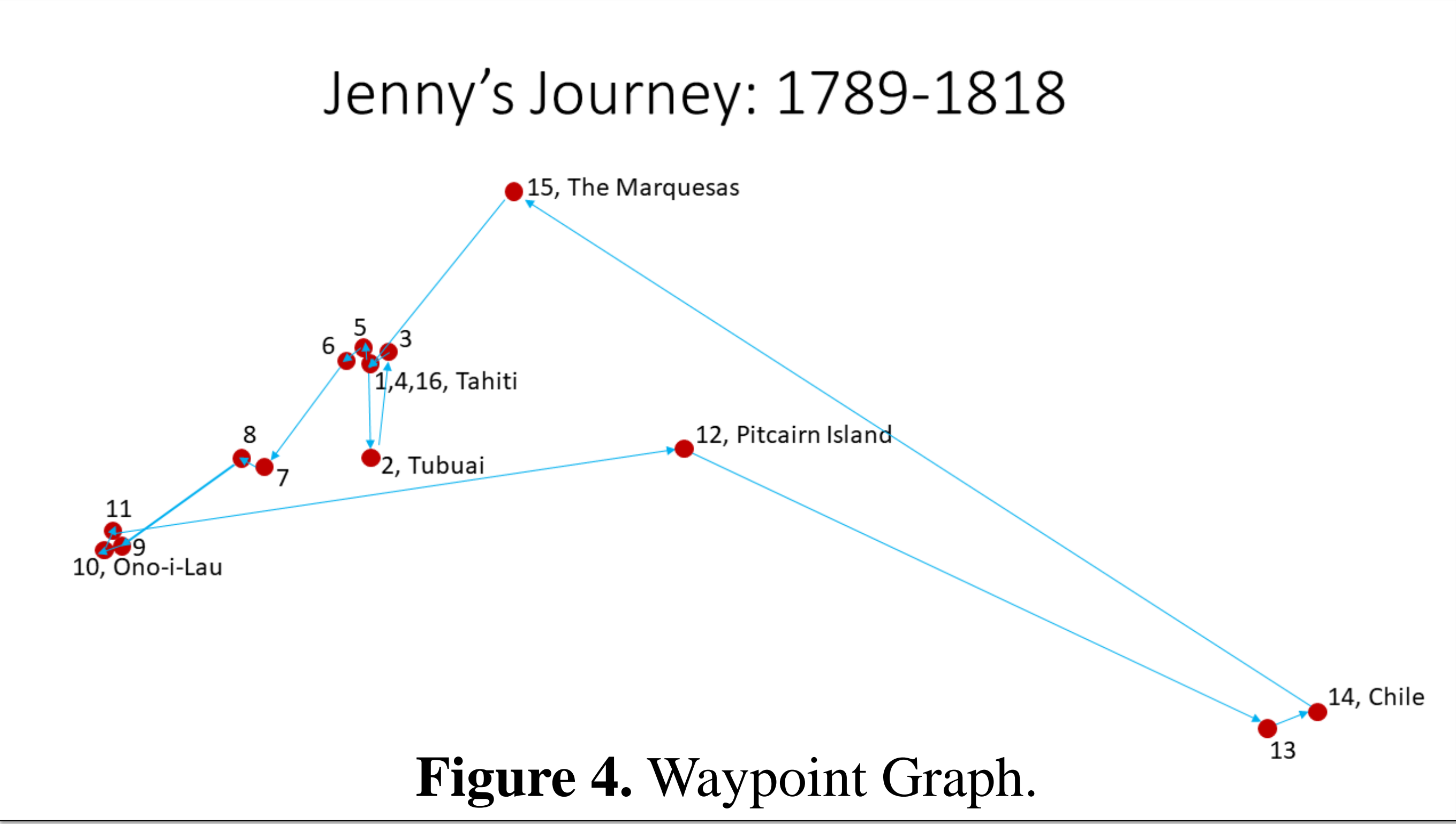


Figure 4. Waypoint Graph.

Waypoints	Places	Cumulative Distance (km)	Year
1	Matavia Bay, Tahiti	0	1789
2	Bloody Bay	645	1789
3	Meheti	1,265	1789
4	Matavia Bay	1,425	1789
5	Tetiaroa	1,480	1789
6	Moorea	1,535	1789
7	Mangaia	2,495	1789
8	Rarotonga	2,700	1789
9	Tongatabu	4,300	1789
10	Ono-i-Lau	4,675	1789
11	Hunga Ha’apai & Hunga Tonga	5,020	1789
12	Pitcairn Island	9,475	1790
13	Massa Fuero	14,305	1817
14	Coquimbo, Chile	15,305	1817
15	The Marquesas	22,705	1818
16	Tahiti	24,090	1818

Table 2. Waypoint, place, cumulative distance, and year.

- Joined Adam Smith (John Adams) on *Bounty* (1)
- Switched love interest to Isaac Martin between Tubuai and Pitcairn Island (2-12)
- Denied Ned Young’s request to bury mutineer’s skull (12)
- Tore planks off her house to construct boat used in failed attempt to leave Pitcairn (12)
- Cultivated traditional crops including “cloth plant” (12)
- Plotted with Young to kill the last two Polynesian men (12)
- Instructed children on tapa production and design (12)
- Convinced Captain Reynolds of *Sultan* to transport her to the Spanish Main and The Marquesas (12-15)
- Secured passage on the British ship *King George* from The Marquesas to Tahiti (15-16)
- Allowed interviews with (16)
 - Reverend Henry Nott and Captain Peter Dillon
 - a “Sydney ‘gentleman”
- Relayed violent past to Russian officer and explorer (16)
 - vehement indignation
 - boasted of her vengeance

Table 3. Jenny’s Agency and Waypoints.

	1. Matavia Bay, Tahiti Arrived 6 June 1789 - Departed 18 June 1789 Jenny joined the <i>Bounty</i> on its first day back in Matavia Bay on 6 June 1789. She listed names of the mutineers and Polynesians, including consort arrangements, returning to Tubuai on <i>Bounty</i> .	
	2. Bloody Bay, Tubuai Arrived 23 June 1789 - Departed 17 September 1789 Jenny mentioned construction of two structures and a fort and described a failed scheme to capture <i>Bounty</i> .	
	3. Offshore from Meheti on 20 September 1789 Just east southeast of Matavia Bay, stores, arms and ammunition from <i>Bounty</i> were divided among those electing to remain in Tahiti.	
	4. Matavia Bay, Tahiti, Arrived 22 September 1789 - Departed 23 September 1789 Sixteen individuals were shuttled onshore with possessions. Fletcher Christian requested Peter Heywood transmit “certain matters” to his family should he return to Britain. After sunset, with <i>Bounty</i> ’s cable cut, she drifted further offshore; an intrepid woman jumped overboard.	
	5. Tetiaroa (offshore), 26 miles north of Matavia Bay, 23 September 1789 Consort assignments were confirmed with one woman for each mutineer and three women to share between six Polynesian men.	
	6. Moorea (offshore), just over 30 miles southwest Tetiaroa and 9 miles west of Tahiti, 23 September 1789 Six “rather ancient” women allowed to depart on an approaching canoe, after which <i>Bounty</i> sailed westward.	
	7. “Purutea” - offshore Mangaia, Cook Islands. While Purutea “could have been Rarotonga,” Maude (1958) initially thought it could be Mauke, Atiu, or Mitaro, but Edwin Gold’s acquisition of <i>The English Physician Enlarged</i> (1784) in 1946 from Mangaia convinced Maude otherwise. Local tradition thought the medical reference derived from ‘papaa-- ship like a garden,’ a fitting description of the <i>Bounty</i> . Here (Purutea?) an unfortunate incident occurred revealing that at least one of the mutineers, never named, was indeed a despicable human being. A native was standing on the gunwale showing off to his companions a pearl-buttoned jacket just received from Fletcher Christian. In an act of sheer meanness, a mutineer shot dead this native causing him to fall overboard. Jenny commented that though Christian was dismayed, he “could do nothing more, having lost all authority.”	

Table 5. Google Earth’s satellite images and photographs for each of Jenny’s waypoints. *Source* satellite images and photographs from Google Earth (last accessed 16 January 2023).