

# Flamingos and the Gulf Coast 2012

## Summary

Our tour starts in **Valladolid** in the Mexican state of Yucatan. We recommend flying into **Mérida (most convenient) or Cancun** by **Saturday January 14<sup>th</sup>** and back home on or after **Sunday January 22<sup>nd</sup>**. If you can it's worth your while to stay an extra day or two to see Mérida. Of course you may also prefer to arrive earlier; let us know and we will make hotel reservations for you. We urge you to book your flight as soon as possible. Note that if you fly in and out of Cancun, you may need an extra day, depending on your departure flight time.

If you plan to fly into Cancun, let us know and we will make hotel reservations for you there if necessary and help you plan your bus trip to Valladolid where we will all meet up. If you fly into Mérida then you will be responsible for taking a taxi from the airport to the hotel; **Hotel Las Monjas** at Calle 66A #509; tel.: (999)928-6632. Once checked in you can unpack and reassemble your bikes and we will store your bike boxes at the hotel for your flight home. On Saturday January 14<sup>th</sup>, in the evening we will meet at **6pm** in the hotel lobby for a group dinner. In the morning of Sunday January 15<sup>th</sup> we will be transferred by bus or van (sharing the cost) to our hotel in **Valladolid; Hotel Don Luis** at Calle 39 #191.

There's lots to explore in this beautiful town, and in the evening we will meet at **6pm** in the hotel lobby for our first full group dinner and our tour orientation.

Our route will take us from Valladolid, north along flat to gently



rolling roads to the gulf coast, then west and finally south to Mérida. The route is quite flat and prevailing winds are mostly at our backs, though we will likely have some headwinds as we approach the gulf coast. Over our 5 days of riding we will average 80km daily and cover a total of about 402km. We will travel entirely within the state of Yucatan. Our daily rides will take us to various towns and cities including; Tizimin, Rio Lagartos, Buctzotz, Telchac Puerto and finally Mérida.

On the last day of the tour, Saturday January 21<sup>st</sup>, we ride into Mérida. You will have some time to explore this beautiful colonial city. Later you should disassemble and once again pack your bike in your bike box; ready for your flight home the next day (Sunday January 22<sup>nd</sup>) or later if you are staying longer. If you are flying out of Cancun, please take into account the time it will take to bus back. Finally, please allow plenty of time for the taxi ride back to the airport.

Count on a total of about US\$110 for accommodations (based on double occupancy); about US\$95 for food and drink; and about US\$120 for miscellaneous extras such as taxi, bus transportation, and entrance fees. Err on having a little extra and make sure to save a little money for souvenirs. Please note that in order to guarantee you a spot on the tour, the outstanding balance of the guides' fee must be received by us no later than November 14<sup>th</sup>.

# Itinerary

When	Where	Distance	Highlights
Day 0 Sat Jan 14, 2012	Meet in Mérida or in Valladolid	-	Meet the group
Day 1 Sun Jan 15, 2012	Transfer to Valladolid or meet in Valladolid	-	Transfer or meet. Yucatan cuisine, Colonial Architecture, cenote, market
Day 2 Mon Jan 16, 2012	Valladolid to Tizimin (via Ek Balam)	64 km	Ek-Balam Mayan Ruins, cenotes
Day 3 Tues Jan 17, 2012	Tizimin to Río Lagartos (via Panobá, San Felipe)	67 km	Quiet roads, the sea
Day 4 Wed Jan 18, 2012	Río Lagartos	-	Flamingos, seafood, cenote, spring
Day 5 Thurs Jan 19, 2012	Río Lagartos to Buctzotz	111 km	Longest day
Day 6 Fri Jan 20, 2012	Buctzotz to Telchac Puerto	71 km	Gulf coast, wetlands
Day 7 Sat Jan 21, 2012	Telchac Puerto to Merida	91 km	More gulf coast, Dzibilchaltun Mayan ruins, cenote, Colonial Center, Zocalo, Market
Day 8 Sun Jan 22, 2012	Mérida	-	Stay a bit longer or fly back home