

# Flamingos and the Gulf Coast 2008

## Summary

**O**ur tour starts in **Valladolid** in the Mexican state of Yucatan. We recommend flying into **Mérida (most convenient)** or **Cancun** by **Friday January 25<sup>th</sup>** and back home on or after **Saturday February 2<sup>nd</sup>** – if you can it's worth your while to stay an extra day or two to see Mérida and enjoy carnival. 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.

**I**f 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 Friday January 25<sup>th</sup>, in the evening we will meet at **6pm** in the hotel lobby for a group dinner. In the morning of Saturday January 26<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.



**O**ur 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.

**O**n the last day of the tour, Friday February 1<sup>st</sup>, we ride into Mérida. You will have some time to explore the beautiful colonial city of Mérida and enjoy the carnival celebrations. Later you should disassemble and once again pack your bike in your bike box; ready for your flight home the next day (Saturday February 2<sup>nd</sup>) or later if you are staying longer – we urge you to **stay longer to fully appreciate carnival!** 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.

**C**ount 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 December 25<sup>th</sup>.

# Itinerary

When	Where	Distance	Highlights
Day 0 Fri Jan 25, 2008	Meet in Mérida or in Valladolid	-	Meet the group
Day 1 Sat Jan 26, 2008	Transfer to Valladolid or meet in Valladolid	-	Transfer or meet. Yucatan cuisine, Colonial Architecture, cenote, market
Day 2 Sun Jan 27, 2008	Valladolid to Tizimin (via Ek Balam)	64 km	Ek-Balam Mayan Ruins, cenotes
Day 3 Mon Jan 28, 2008	Tizimin to Río Lagartos (via Panobá, San Felipe)	67 km	Quiet roads, the sea
Day 4 Tues Jan 29, 2008	Río Lagartos	-	Flamingos, seafood, cenote, spring
Day 5 Wed Jan 30, 2008	Rio Lagartos to Buctzotz	111 km	Longest day
Day 6 Thurs Jan 31, 2008	Buctzotz to Telchac Puerto	71 km	Gulf coast, wetlands
Day 7 Fri Feb 1, 2008	Telchac Puerto to Merida	91 km	More gulf coast, Dzibilchaltun Mayan ruins, cenote, Colonial Center, Zocalo, Market and cArNaVaL!!!
Day 8 Sat Feb 2, 2008	Mérida	-	Stay a bit longer to check out carnaval or fly back home