

Journey to Ixtlan 2011

Summary

Our tour starts in Oaxaca city, Oaxaca. We recommend flying into **Oaxaca** by **Friday February 11th** and back on or after **Thursday February 24th**. Of course you may prefer to come earlier or stay longer; let us know and we will make hotel reservations for you. We urge you to book your flight as soon as possible.

You will be responsible for taking a taxi from the airport to the hotel; **Hotel Casa Arnel** at Aldama #404, Colonia Jalatlaco (neighborhood); tel.: (951)515-2856. 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 February 11th we will meet by **6pm** in our hotel lobby for our first group dinner and our tour orientation.

Our route will take us around a challenging, mountainous route, north-east out of Oaxaca city all the way up into the magical Sierra Juarez (where Mexico's beloved president Benito Juarez was born) and the town of Ixtlan, then down an epic descent to lush tropical Tuxtepec near the border with Veracruz. We continue west along flat roads surrounded by tropical hills, past a huge reservoir created by the presa Miguel Aleman (dam) and into the foot hills, and up

some very challenging climbing to Huautla where the famous Maria Sabina and her magical mushrooms are from. Still further west to Teotitlan, we'll then turn south and enter the Tehuacan - Cuicatlan biosphere reserve. Surrounded by cactus we will gradually make our way back up into the highlands, up high over Oaxaca city and finally shoot back down to finish our tour there. Over our 9 days of riding we

After cycling back into Oaxaca city at the end of the tour, on Wednesday February 23rd, you should disassemble and once again pack your bike in your bike box; ready for your flight home. Please allow plenty of time when you take a taxi back to the airport.

Count on a total of about US\$215 for accommodations (based on double occupancy); about US\$180 for food and drink; and about US\$150 for miscellaneous extras such as taxis, 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 24th.



will average 62km daily and cover a total of about 624km. We will travel entirely within the state of Oaxaca (very briefly popping into Puebla state). Our daily rides will take us to various towns and cities including; El Punto, Ixtlan, Valle Nacional, Tuxtepec, Ixcatlan, Huautla, Teotitlan, Cuicatlan and finally back to Oaxaca.

Itinerary

When	Where	Distance	Highlights
Day 0 Fri Feb 11, 2011	Meet in Oaxaca city	-	Mountain colonial city. Markets, museums, shady plazas, nearby Zapotec ruins of Monte Alban.
Day 1 Sat Feb 12, 2011	Oaxaca (1500m) to El Punto (2370m)	36km (1125m climbing)	Short but steep day. Cabañas in the mountain wilderness
Day 2 Sun Feb 13, 2011	El Punto (2370m) to Ixtlan Cabañas (2000m)	~39km (~800m climbing)	Guelatao - Benito Juarez' birthplace. More Cabañas in the mountain wilderness
Day 3 Mon Feb 14, 2011	Ixtlan Cabañas (2000m)	-	Rest day.
Day 4 Tues Feb 15, 2011	Ixtlan Cabañas (2000m) to Valle Nacional (95m)	~115km (1480m climbing)	Tour high point near 3000m, beautiful mountain scenery, the most epic downhill you've EVER done.
Day 5 Wed Feb 16, 2011	Valle Nacional (95m) to Tuxtepec (20m)	53km (160m climbing)	Lush tropical lowlands. Pineapple juice. Rolling, almost flat for a change.
Day 6 Thurs Feb 17, 2011	Tuxtepec (20m) to San Pedro Ixcatlan (110m)	62km (520m climbing)	Flats give way to hills. Presa Miguel Aleman reservoir. Charming little Ixcatlan.
Day 7 Fri Feb 18, 2011	San Pedro Ixcatlan (110m)	-	Rest day. Charming Mazateca village surrounded by water.
Day 8 Sat Feb 19, 2011	San Pedro Ixcatlan (110m) to Huautla (1630m)	78km (2350m climbing)	Back to the mountains.
Day 9 Sun Feb 20, 2011	Huautla (1630m) to Teotitlan (1190m)	65km (1050m climbing)	Beautiful mountain roads. Cactus. Puebla. Colonial Teotitlan.
Day 10 Mon Feb 21, 2011	Teotitlan (1190m) to Cuicatlan (610m)	56km (690m climbing)	Easier day. Tehuacan-Cuicatlan biosphere reserve. Colonial Cuicatlan.
Day 11 Tues Feb 22, 2011	Cuicatlan (610m)	-	Rest day. Interesting market.
Day 12 Wed Feb 23, 2011	Cuicatlan (610m) to Oaxaca (1500m)	120km (2280m climbing)	Grand finale. Lots of climbing, but not steep.
Day 14 Thurs Feb 24, 2011	Oaxaca city	-	Stay a bit longer or fly back home