

Mountains & Natural Wonders 2005

Summary

Our tour starts in Uruapan in the Mexican state of Michoacan. We will meet in Zihuatanejo, the ending point of the tour and then take a bus to Uruapan. We recommend flying into **Zihuatanejo/Ixtapa** by **Tuesday April 5th** and back home on or after **Tuesday April 26th**. 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.

On Tuesday April 5th we will meet by **6pm** in our hotel lobby; **Hotel Casa Aurora** at Bravo 42 (was 27); tel.: (755)554-3046. You will be responsible for taking a taxi from the airport to the hotel. That evening after dinner we will unpack and reassemble our bikes and store the bike boxes at the hotel for our flight home.

Our route will take us from Uruapan, into the mountains, through forests, past lakes and rivers and finally down to Zihuatanejo on the Pacific coast. Over our 14 days of riding we will average 80km daily, cover a total of about 1120km, and climb a total of about 18,000 metres. Camping is **necessary** on 2 nights of the tour, and may be possible on more. We

will travel from the state of Michoacan, through the state of Mexico and finally into the state of Guerrero. Our daily rides will take us to various towns and cities including; Pátzcuaro, Morelia, Angangueo, Valle de Bravo, Tonicato, Taxco, Teloloapan, Ciudad Altamirano and finally back to Zihuatanejo.



We will be in the mountains for almost all of this tour. Night time temperatures may drop to near freezing. At our highest point, Volcán Nevado de Toluca, we will climb to about 4200m (12800ft) and overnight at 3700m (11,840ft). You should be aware of the possibility of altitude sickness, and know that it will be **cold at night**. Pack warm clothes and a warm sleeping bag (0°C or 32F down bag is recommended).

There are some stretches of **dirt road** (up to 35km long) and sections of rough pavement. We recommend a **tire width of 1.5 to 1.75 inches** or **38 to 44c** for this tour. High-pressure slicks or semi-slicks are still advisable as the majority of the tour is on good pavement. On the rougher roads, we'll simply let some air out of the tires.

At the end of the tour; Tuesday April 26th 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\$195 for accommodations; about US\$250 for food and drink; and about US\$100 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 guides' fee of US\$700 (or the outstanding balance) must be received by us no later than March 6th.

Itinerary

When	Where	Distance	Highlights
Day 0 Tues Apr 5, 2005	Meet in Zihuatanejo	-	Small resort, beaches, night life, seafood.
Day 1 Wed Apr 6, 2005	Zihua to Uruapan by bus	-	Take the bus to the start of our bike tour - Uruapan
Day 2 Thurs Apr 7, 2005	Uruapan to Pátzcuaro	69 km	Highland colonial town. Museums, churches, markets.
Day 3 Fri Apr 8, 2005	Around Lake Pátzcuaro	70 km	Purépecha villages, artesanias, Tarascan ruins.
Day 4 Sat Apr 9, 2005	Pátzcuaro to Morelia	67 km	Tarascan ruins, colonial city.
Day 5 Sun Apr 10, 2005	Morelia	-	Rest day. Colonial city, churches, museums, markets.
Day 6 Mon Apr 11, 2005	Morelia to Mirador Atzimba	55 km	Pine forests, springs, waterfalls, mountain views, camping.
Day 7 Tues Apr 12, 2005	Mirador Atzimba to San Pedro via Los Azufres	77 km	More views and forests. Geothermal vents, hot-springs, small town.
Day 8 Wed Apr 13, 2005	San Pedro to Angangueo	49 km	Small towns, beautiful countryside.
Day 9 Thurs Apr 14, 2005	Angangueo to Valle de Bravo	98 km	Exhilarating views and climbing. First views of Volcán Nevado. Colonial town, lake.
Day 10 Fri Apr 15, 2005	Valle de Bravo	-	Colonial lakeside town
Day 11 Sat Apr 16, 2005	Valle de Bravo to Volcán Nevado de Toluca	69 km	Pine forests, climb to Volcano 'base-camp'.
Day 12 Sun Apr 17, 2005	Volcán Nevado de Toluca	35 km (altitude)	Climb to volcano crater at over 4200m!

Day 13 Mon Apr 18, 2005	Volcán Nevado de Toluca to Tonicico	87 km	Mostly downhill! Astounding scenery. Mineral baths
Day 14 Tues Apr 19, 2005	Tonicico to Taxco	64 km	Canyon, MASSIVE cave, another great colonial town.
Day 15 Wed Apr 20, 2005	Taxco	-	Old silver mining town - a wonderful colonial antique
Day 16 Thurs Apr 21, 2005	Taxco to Teloloapan	75 km	Mountain scenery, small towns, marble street town - birthplace of Cuauhtémoc
Day 17 Fri Apr 22, 2005	Teloloapan to Ciudad Altamirano	121 km	Plenty of downhill. Changing scenery.
Day 18 Sat Apr 23, 2005	Ciudad Altamirano	-	Rest day. Bustling city. Market, good food.
Day 19 Sun Apr 24, 2005	Ciudad Altamirano to Camp	101 km	Challenging cycling, remote area, camping.
Day 20 Mon Apr 25, 2005	Camp to Zihuatanejo	102 km	Mostly downhill, breathtaking scenery in very remote country.
Day 21 Tues Apr 26, 2005	Zihuatanejo	-	Beaches, handcrafts, market - Stay a bit longer or fly back home