

# Mexican Three Week Odyssey 2012

## Summary

**O**ur tour starts in Mérida in the Mexican state of Yucatan. We recommend flying into **Mérida** by **Tuesday February 14<sup>th</sup>** and back home on or after **Monday March 5<sup>th</sup>**. 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.

**Y**ou will be responsible for taking a taxi from the airport to the hotel; **Hotel Santa Ana** at Calle 45 # 503 between 60 and 62; tel.: (999) 923-3331. Once checked in you can unpack and reassemble your bike and we will store your bike box at the hotel for your flight home. On Tuesday February 14<sup>th</sup> we will meet at **6pm** in our hotel lobby for our first group dinner and our tour orientation.

**O**ur route will take us from Mérida, along some flat and some hilly roads southwestward, along the Gulf Coast, through the wetlands of Tabasco, the

cacao growing region, and finally into the mountains of Chiapas. Over our 14 days of riding we will average 81km daily and cover a total of about 1127km. There is an optional side-trip at the end of the tour. We will travel from the state of Yucatan into



Campeche and Tabasco and finally into the state of Chiapas. Our daily rides will take us to various towns and cities including; Tekit, Sta. Elena, Uxmal ruins, Hopelchen, Campeche, Sabancuy, Ciudad del Carmen, Frontera, Villahermosa, Comalcalco, Cardenas, Pichucalco, Tapilula, Jitotol, and finally, San Cristóbal de las Casas.

**A**t the end of the tour; Sunday March 4<sup>th</sup> you will take an overnight first class or deluxe bus from San Cristóbal back to Mérida. Once there you may cycle or taxi back to the hotel where you should disassemble and once again pack your bike in your bike box; ready for your flight home. Please allow plenty of time for the taxi ride back to the airport.

**C**ount on a total of about US\$310 for accommodations; about \$270 for food and drink; and about \$200 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 14<sup>th</sup>.

# Itinerary

When	Where	Distance	Highlights
Day 0 Tues Feb 14, 2012	Meet in Mérida	-	Yucatan cuisine, Colonial Architecture, Zocalo, Market
Day 1 Wed Feb 15, 2012	Mérida to Tekit	80 km	small towns quiet roads, cenotes
Day 2 Thurs Feb 16, 2012	Tekit to Sta. Elena	73 km	Important <a href="#">Mayapan</a> post-classic Mayan ruins, more haciendas, quiet backroads, and cenotes, famous <a href="#">Uxmal</a>
Day 3 Fri Feb 17, 2012	Sta. Elena to Hopelchen	73 km	Mayan villages, cave
Day 4 Sat Feb 18, 2012	Hopelchen to Campeche (via Edzná, China)	112 km	Edzna Mayan ruins, small villages, quiet roads, cArNaVaL!!!
Day 5 Sun Feb 19, 2012	Campeche	-	More cArNaVaL!!! Explore the walled, fortified colonial city, excellent market, waterfront
Day 6 Mon Feb 20, 2012	Campeche to Sabancuy	133 km	More cArNaVaL!!! Deserted beaches, charming friendly town, longest day
Day 7 Tues Feb 21, 2012	Sabancuy to Ciudad del Carmen	85 km	Last night of cArNaVaL!!! Gulf coast, isolated beaches, bustling exciting city
Day 8 Wed Feb 22, 2012	Ciudad del Carmen to Frontera	93 km	small towns, villages, lagoons and wetlands and birds
Day 9 Thurs Feb 23, 2012	Frontera to Villahermosa	82 km	The wetlands of the state of Tabasco
Day 10 Fri Feb 24, 2012	Villahermosa	-	Amazing market. La Venta park; Olmec archeological museum, Tabasco zoo. Exciting bustling city.
Day 11 Sat Feb 25, 2012	Villahermosa to Comalcalco	67 km	Culinary route, turtle sanctuary, Comalcalco Mayan ruins
Day 12 Sun Feb 26, 2012	Comalcalco to Cardenas	45 km	Comalcalco market, cacao hacienda, cacao fermenter, cacao growing region
Day 13 Mon Feb 27, 2012	Cardenas to Pichucalco	106 km	quiet backroads, entering the foothills
Day 14 Tues Feb 28, 2012	Pichucalco	-	rest day
Day 15 Wed Feb 29, 2012	Pichucalco to Tapilula	53 km mountains	mountains. Challenging climbing. Amazing views and scenery. Small villages and towns

Day 16 Thurs Mar 1, 2012	Tapilula to Jitotol	52 km mountains	Climbing higher into the mountains and yet more spectacular views. Small villages and towns.
Day 17 Fri Mar 2, 2012	Jitotol to San Cristóbal	73 km mountains	Spectacular Mountain Scenery, Villages, the Historic Old Town
Day 18 Sat Mar 3, 2012	Around San Cristóbal	Optional 30-60 km mountains	Colonial Town, Markets - explore San Cristóbal
Day 19 Sun Mar 4, 2012	San Cristóbal to Mérida	-	Leave in the afternoon for Mérida, or stay a little longer!
Day 20 Mon Mar 5, 2012	Mérida to home	-	Morning arrival in Mérida. Stay a little longer or fly home.