

Mexican Three Week Odyssey 2008

Summary

Our tour starts in Mérida in the Mexican state of Yucatan. We recommend flying into **Mérida** by **Wednesday February 6th** and back home on or after **Friday February 29th**. 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 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 Wednesday February 6th we will meet at **6pm** in our hotel lobby for our first group dinner and our tour orientation.

Our route will take us from Merida, along some flat and some hilly roads southwards then westwards, along the Gulf Coast, through the wetlands of Tabasco, the cacao growing

region, and finally into the mountains of Chiapas. Over our 16 days of riding we will average 84km daily and cover a total of about 1348km. 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, Ticul, Hopelchen, Campeche, Sabancuy, Ciudad del Carmen, Frontera, Jonuta, Macuspana, Villahermosa, Comalcalco, Huimanguillo, Pichucalco, Tapilula, Jitotol, and finally, San Cristóbal de las Casas.

At the end of the tour; Thursday February 28th you will take an overnight first class or deluxe bus from San Cristóbal back to Merida. 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.

Count 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 January 6th.

Itinerary

When	Where	Distance	Highlights
Day 0 Wed Feb 6, 2008	Meet in Mérida	-	Yucatan cuisine, Colonial Architecture, Zocalo, Market
Day 1 Thurs Feb 7, 2008	Mérida to Tekit	81km	Haciendas, small towns quiet roads
Day 2 Fri Feb 8, 2008	Tekit to Sta. Elena	75km	Important Mayapan post-classic Mayan ruins, more haciendas, quiet backroads, and cenotes, famous Uxmal
Day 3 Sat Feb 9, 2008	Sta. Elena to Hopelchen	73 km	Mayan villages, cave
Day 4 Sun Feb 10, 2008	Hopelchen to Campeche (via Edzná, China)	116 km	Edzna Mayan ruins, small villages, quiet roads
Day 5 Mon Feb 11, 2008	Campeche	-	Explore the walled, fortified colonial city, excellent market, waterfront
Day 6 Tues Feb 12, 2008	Campeche to Sabancuy	133 km	Deserted beaches, charming friendly town, longest day
Day 7 Wed Feb 13, 2008	Sabancuy to Ciudad del Carmen	85 km	Gulf coast, isolated beaches, bustling exciting city
Day 8 Thurs Feb 14, 2008	Ciudad del Carmen to Frontera	97 km	small towns, villages, lagoons and wetlands and birds
Day 9 Fri Feb 15, 2008	Frontera	-	Rest day
Day 10 Sat Feb 16, 2008	Frontera to Jonuta	115 km	Centla Wetland Biosphere reserve, quiet backroads
Day 11 Sun Feb 17, 2008	Jonuta to Macuspana	85 km	more backroad wetlands, rolling hills, first view of the mountains
Day 12 Mon Feb 18, 2008	Macuspana to Villahermosa	75 km	Macuspana market, rolling hills, backroads, ranches

Day 13 Tues Feb 19, 2008	Villahermosa	-	Amazing market. La Venta park; Olmec archeological museum, Tabasco zoo. Exciting bustling city.
Day 14 Wed Feb 20, 2008	Villahermosa to Comalcalco	78 km	Culinary route, turtle sanctuary, Comalcalco Mayan ruins
Day 15 Thurs Feb 21, 2008	Comalcalco to Huimanguillo	70 km	Comalcalco market, cacao hacienda, cacao fermenter, cacao growing region
Day 16 Fri Feb 22, 2008	Huimanguillo to Pichucalco	86 km	quiet backroads, entering the foothills
Day 17 Sat Feb 23, 2008	Pichucalco	-	rest day
Day 18 Sun Feb 24, 2008	Pichucalco to Tapilula	53 km mountains	mountains. Challenging climbing. Amazing views and scenery. Small villages and towns
Day 19 Mon Feb 25, 2008	Tapilula to Jitotol	52 km mountains	Climbing higher into the mountains and yet more spectacular views. Small villages and towns.
Day 20 Tues Feb 26, 2008	Jitotol to San Cristóbal	74 km mountains	Spectacular Mountain Scenery, Villages, the Historic Old Town
Day 21 Wed Feb 27, 2008	Around San Cristóbal	Optional 30-60 km mountains	Colonial Town, Markets - explore San Cristóbal
Day 22 Thurs Feb 28, 2008	San Cristóbal to Mérida	-	Leave in the afternoon for Mérida, or stay a little longer!
Day 23 Fri Feb 29, 2008	Mérida to home	-	Morning arrival in Mérida. Stay a little longer or fly home.