

Mexican Three Week Odyssey 2009

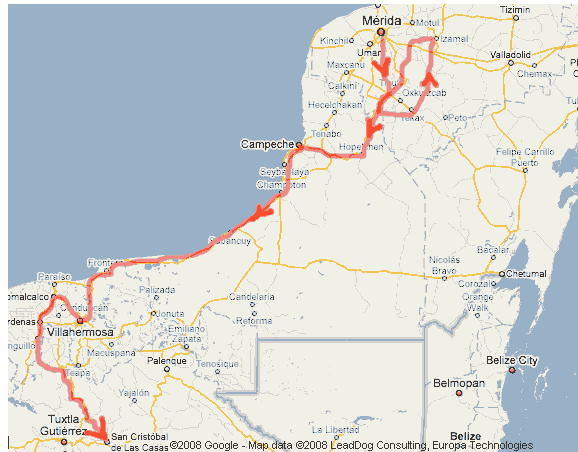
Summary

Our tour starts in Mérida in the Mexican state of Yucatan. We recommend flying into **Mérida** by **Wednesday February 4th** and back home on or after **Saturday February 28th**. 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 bike and we will store your bike box at the hotel for your flight home. On Wednesday February 4th 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 riding a loop around the state of Yucatan, then southwestward, along the Gulf Coast, through the wetlands

of Tabasco, the cacao growing region, and finally into the mountains of Chiapas. Over our 17 days of riding we will average 83km daily and cover a total of about 1417km. 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; Ticul, Tekax, Ixamal, 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.

At the end of the tour; Thursday February 27th 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 December 4th.

Itinerary

When	Where	Distance	Highlights
Day 0 Wed Feb 4, 2009	Meet in Mérida	-	Yucatan cuisine, Colonial Architecture, Zocalo, Market
Day 1 Thurs Feb 5, 2009	Mérida to Ticul	77 km	Picturesque Towns, Mayan villages, quiet roads, ex-haciendas, cenotes, Uxmal Mayan ruins
Day 2 Fri Feb 6, 2009	Ticul to Tekax (backroads)	88 km	Puuc route Mayan ruins, Hacienda Tabi, quiet hilly backroads
Day 3 Sat Feb 7, 2009	Tekax to Izamal	120 km	Longer distance, old churches, cenote
Day 4 Sun Feb 8, 2009	Izamal	-	Mayan Ruins, huge pyramid, Convent, Zocalo, Market, beautiful Izamal, the best tacos in Mexico!
Day 5 Mon Feb 9, 2009	Izamal to Tekit	84 km	small towns quiet roads, cenotes
Day 6 Tues Feb 10, 2009	Tekit to Sta. Elena	73 km	Important Mayapan post-classic Mayan ruins, more haciendas, quiet backroads, and cenotes, famous Uxmal
Day 7 Wed Feb 11, 2009	Sta. Elena to Hopelchen	73 km	Mayan villages, cave
Day 8 Thurs Feb 12, 2009	Hopelchen to Campeche (via Edzná, China)	112 km	Edzna Mayan ruins, small villages, quiet roads
Day 9 Fri Feb 13, 2009	Campeche	-	Explore the walled, fortified colonial city, excellent market, waterfront
Day 10 Sat Feb 14, 2009	Campeche to Sabancuy	133 km	Deserted beaches, charming friendly town, longest day
Day 11 Sun Feb 15, 2009	Sabancuy to Ciudad del Carmen	85 km	Gulf coast, isolated beaches, bustling exciting city
Day 12 Mon Feb 16, 2009	Ciudad del Carmen to Frontera	93 km	small towns, villages, lagoons and wetlands and birds

Day 13 Tues Feb 17, 2009	Frontera to Villahermosa	82 km	The wetlands of the state of Tabasco
Day 14 Wed Feb 18, 2009	Villahermosa	-	Amazing market. La Venta park; Olmec archeological museum, Tabasco zoo. Exciting bustling city.
Day 15 Thurs Feb 19, 2009	Villahermosa to Comalcalco	67 km	Culinary route, turtle sanctuary, Comalcalco Mayan ruins
Day 16 Fri Feb 20, 2009	Comalcalco to Cardenas	45 km	Comalcalco market, cacao hacienda, cacao fermenter, cacao growing region
Day 17 Sat Feb 21, 2009	Cardenas to Pichucalco	106 km	quiet backroads, entering the foothills
Day 18 Sun Feb 22, 2009	Pichucalco	-	rest day
Day 19 Mon Feb 23, 2009	Pichucalco to Tapilula	53 km mountains	mountains. Challenging climbing. Amazing views and scenery. Small villages and towns
Day 20 Tues Feb 24, 2009	Tapilula to Jitotol	52 km mountains	Climbing higher into the mountains and yet more spectacular views. Small villages and towns.
Day 21 Wed Feb 25, 2009	Jitotol to San Cristóbal	73 km mountains	Spectacular Mountain Scenery, Villages, the Historic Old Town
Day 22 Thurs Feb 26, 2009	Around San Cristóbal	Optional 30-60 km mountains	Colonial Town, Markets - explore San Cristóbal
Day 23 Fri Feb 27, 2009	San Cristóbal to Mérida	-	Leave in the afternoon for Mérida, or stay a little longer!
Day 24 Sat Feb 28, 2009	Mérida to home	-	Morning arrival in Mérida. Stay a little longer or fly home.