

*Tacos n' Tequila*

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[www.WorldOnWheels.tours](http://www.WorldOnWheels.tours)

*Life is a*  
***DARING ADVENTURE***  
*or nothing at all!*



# Tacos & Tequila Motorcycle Safari



Destinations and Places of Interest		
1. Mexico City	6. San Cristobal	11. Campeche
2. Teotihuacan	7. Palenque	12. Piste
3. Acapulco	8. Flores	13. Chichen Itza
4. Puerto Escondido	9. Belize	14. Cozumel
5. Tehuantepec	10. Puerto Calakmul	15. Cancun



# *Tacos & Tequila Motorcycle Safari*

## Itinerary for Nov/Dec 2018

Day	Date	Details	Distance
1	Nov 26 M	Arrange your international flights to arrive in Mexico City sometime today	---
2	27 T	Visit the Teotihuacan pyramids, followed by commissioning of bikes	---
3	28 W	A long ride through the hills brings us to Acapulco in time to watch the divers	380k
4	29 T	We bounce along the southern Pacific Coast to Puerto Escondido	390k
5	30 F	We follow the coast further east, to bring us to Tehuantepec	270k
6	Dec 01 S	And further east into the state of Chiapas, to regional capital San Cristobal	390k
7	02 S	An easy ride to Palenque allows time for some interesting side trips	220k
8	03 M	Picturesque roads bring us to the border, cross into Guatemala, to Sayaxche	300k
9	04 T	We meander through the verdant hills of Guatemala to Flores, on Lago Peten	150k
10	05 W *	Flores (Eng: flowers) is a pretty little town on a lake, and we spend the day here	---
11	06 T	It's a short day's ride into Belize where we jump on a boat to one of the islands	220k
12	07 F *	Rest day Belize with various options; beach, snorkeling, visit the Blue Hole?	---
13	08 S	We cross back into Mexico and head north to the cenotes of Puerto Calakmul	350k
14	09 S	From Calakmul to the Mexican Gulf fortress town of Campeche	360k
15	10 M *	Rest day in Campeche exploring the old walled city	---
16	11 T	Across the top of the Yucatan Peninsula to the small town of Piste	310k
17	12 W	Explore nearby Chichen Itza then to Cozumel on the Caribbean Coast	220k
18	13 T *	Our final rest day is on the picturesque island of Cozumel	---
19	14 F	It's only a short hop up the coast to the beachside resort of Puerto Morelos	100k
20	15 S	Quick lap of tourist town then flights out of Cancun today	-----
			3,660k

\* indicates consecutive night in same hotel, allowing for laundry, etc.

### Departure Date

For our Tacos & Tequila Motorcycle Safari 2018, your arrival date in Mexico City should be by **Monday 65<sup>th</sup> November 2018** as shown above. Please see further discussion on International Flights herein.

### Tour Operator

This Motorcycle Safari is one of several itineraries offered by **World On Wheels**, Australia's only professional tour operator specialising solely in international motorcycle adventures. Operating for 20+ years as **Ferris Wheels**, Mike Ferris pioneered the Himalayan Motorcycle Safari concept in 1994 with his first crossing of the world's greatest mountain range by an Australian group of riders. In 1995, by now a qualified travel agent, he took his first commercial safari to the Khardung La in Ladakh (India), at 5,602 metres the highest road in the world. Mike and Denise Ferris now operate and personally lead annual **World On Wheels** motorcycle safaris to diverse destinations such as the Indian Himalaya, Nepal, Bhutan, Rajasthan, Turkey, Morocco, Peru-Chile-Bolivia, Iceland, South Africa and the Dalmatian coastline, as well as this one through Mexico-Guatemala-Belize, all of approximately three weeks in duration.

**Be aware that this itinerary is a guide only and may need to change due to weather, road conditions or other factors. Please be flexible, but rest assured your Tour Leader will make the final day-to-day decisions only after consultation with our partners in Mexico, local authorities and group members.**



## Package Price

The Tacos & Tequila tour price, excluding airfares and joining in Mexico City, is US\$7,500-00. Riders must have a valid and unrestricted rider's domestic licence. Pillions are welcome and we also have a limited number of passenger seats available in our support vehicle, which accompanies the riders for the length of the Safari – price for pillion or passenger is US\$6,750-00. Please note that our prices are subject to foreign exchange fluctuations and we reserve the right to alter any pricing, pursuant to Clause 9 of our Terms and Conditions herewith, up to the date of final payment.

In this itinerary (and all others) our tour prices are set in US\$ for stability. We ask for a US\$1,000 deposit and will invoice you in US\$ thereafter for the remaining balance, but you have some flexibility as to when to pay. Final payment in US\$ will be due 60 days before the tour date, but if you choose to pay us say 90 or 120 days before tour date because you feel the exchange rate is favourable, this works well for everyone all round.

## Price includes

- BMW motorbike rental for the duration of the Safari; see '**Our Motorbikes**' below
- Clean, friendly, mid-range accommodation throughout the Safari, nights 1 to 18 inclusive
- Twin-share basis; (single room supplement, additional US\$900-00) <sup>1</sup>
- All meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) except on rest days, breakfast only
- Experienced guide, local agent, qualified mechanic
- Minibus support vehicle for luggage transport and assistance
- Spare parts, tools, medicines and first aid equipment
- All fuel costs, maintenance and third party insurance for the bikes
- Entry fees to selected destinations of interest; ie Teotihuacan, Chichen Itza
- A complimentary *World On Wheels* long-sleeved Safari shirt, luggage tags, central America map

<sup>1</sup>Accommodation is provided on a twin-share basis and if you're on your own we'll do our best to bunk you in with an acceptable roommate. But if you're the last person to book, there's obviously a 50-50 chance you'll have to take a room on your own and will therefore be liable for the single room supplement. So the moral of the story is, book early or bring your own roommate with you. Or preferably both!

## Price excludes

- Airfares to/from Mexico (allow around Au\$2,000-00 depending on airline)
- Comprehensive travel insurance policy, which must cover use of large-capacity motorbike <sup>2</sup>
- Medical examination and vaccinations before departure (recommended)
- Tipping for local hotel porters and guides
- Road / highway / bridge tolls
- Various small border fees; eg road tax for Belize B\$20 (US\$10) departure tax B\$40 (US\$20)
- Expenses of a personal nature such as postage, laundry, souvenirs and all drinks
- Tips for support staff at completion; optional but always appreciated, US\$100-00 suggested <sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Please note that a motorcycle safari overseas must be considered one of life's more adventurous pursuits and therefore personal travel insurance is mandatory. If you already have existing travel insurance, we will insist on sighting a copy of the policy before you will be permitted to participate in this tour. Or if you prefer, we can arrange comprehensive travel insurance for you (Australian clients only). **Be aware**, however, that any travel insurance ceases immediately on return to your own country, even if on-going medical treatment or surgery is required. Private health cover or government Medicare resumes at that point.



<sup>3</sup> A note on tips. We recognize tipping is not generally part of the antipodean psyche, but it is pretty much expected in most other parts of the world. Daily hotel porters will expect a small reward for carrying your bags to your room and our mechanic/driver/local guide will anticipate a reasonable tip to supplement his modest wages whilst on tour. We suggest something like US\$100-00 is affordable for your three weeks (only about US\$5-00 per day), collected at the conclusion of the tour. If you've had a good time, we would encourage you to donate generously! (... if you haven't, please let us know why and we'll contribute on your behalf).

## International Flights

You will have to arrange your own airfares through your preferred travel agent, or Australian clients may wish to take advantage of an arrangement we have with our local agent, Press & James Travel Associates. Phone 02 9979 5235 or email [natasha\\_dann@travel-associates.com.au](mailto:natasha_dann@travel-associates.com.au) and mention you're joining the **World On Wheels 'Tacos & Tequila'** tour. They have a copy of this itinerary and they can arrange your route and flights as well as any stopovers or extensions you desire. There are a number of airline options to/from Mexico via the USA or European capital cities. We recommend you book your airfare at least six months ahead, and full payment will usually be required six weeks before your departure.

## Food & Health

Quality of food can obviously be a concern when visiting exotic foreign lands. We take care in selecting clean and reputable establishments for our meals and the local fare is not always as fiery and spicy as some people would have you believe. Our clients are often pleasantly surprised by the delicious meals available. Even so, an occasional upset stomach cannot always be avoided in remote areas, so we advise initial caution and we carry various medicines to ensure as much comfort as possible. Participants in any of our adventure activities are obviously expected to have a reasonably high level of health, fitness and capability, but **in all cases a consultation with your doctor is recommended** in order to identify necessary vaccinations and precautions, particularly if traveling overseas for the first time.

## Climate & Clothing

Our itinerary is designed to take advantage of the pleasant weather of the tropical winter. However Mexico's geography varies greatly and therefore temperatures can range from cold in the mountains to quite warm on the coast, with some chance of rain. At times there will be little shade available, so sunscreen, sunglasses, hats and long sleeves will also be required. Jeans and our long-sleeved **World On Wheels** shirts tend to be the norm, with strong boots and riding gloves. Helmets can be full or open-faced as you prefer.

Professional quality riding gear including jackets, over-pants and other protective clothing are an excellent investment and will go a long way to ensuring your comfort and protection in what may sometimes be adverse conditions. Goretex jackets with a zip-in / zip-out padded liner for extra warmth and water proofing are versatile and useful. If you're susceptible to the cold, then probably a good set of thermal underwear will also come in handy. A couple of products we've used for several years and are happy to endorse are the Kevlar-reinforced jeans and other clothing from Draggin Jeans in Melbourne ([www.dragginjeans.com.au](http://www.dragginjeans.com.au)) and those velcro alternatives to hooked 'occy' straps from Andy Strapz ([www.andystrapz.com](http://www.andystrapz.com)).

And while we're giving plugs, we'd like to suggest you consider a Rider Improvement course, regardless of your experience or perceived ability on a motorcycle, to brush up on your skills prior to joining an international riding safari. We've teamed up with motoDNA as our Adventure Training partner. An Australian outfit boasting an impressive array of hugely talented instructors (Mark McVeigh, Chris Vermeulen, Garry McCoy, Peter Goddard, Kevin Magee ...) they have the skills and the syllabus to get the most out of your riding ability, which will give you the weapons you need to survive and enjoy your next ride, whether it be the daily commute or an international adventure with **World On Wheels**. They offer track training, road training, off-road courses, bush bashing, sand and water techniques, you name it, in venues up and down Australia's east coast.



If you think you could benefit from some off-road instruction and you're in the Sydney vicinity, there's a guy called David Smith who's toured with us and has recently set up a very personalised training program. He's been a qualified instructor for 20 years or so, and he rides with you in the paddock and then on bush trails and gives real-time coaching via helmet-to-helmet Bluetooth comms (he provides). He gets right in your ear, so to speak. Check him out on his Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/HandmadebyDavid](http://www.facebook.com/HandmadebyDavid).

### **Our Motorbikes**

Our Mexican business partner is a dedicated BMW-only enterprise, and we will have various models available. Our standard price includes a G650GS or F700GS, and upgrades are available to the F800GS or R1200GS for an additional premium – please see our Booking Form. All of these are fully-faired bikes and are perfect steeds for traveling Mexican roads. For the vertically challenged we are able to make some adjustments to the 650s to assist in your riding comfort. Fuel, insurance and maintenance are included.

Please note you will be required to sign a rental contract with our bike supplier in Mexico, leave a photocopy of your passport and a credit card imprint as a security deposit. Our package price includes comprehensive insurance but the policy carries an Excess (or 'Deductible self risk') of US\$1000; ie the rider is liable for the first US\$1000 of any damage -- if you drop the bike, any broken levers, mirrors, lights, etc will be payable by you.

### **Our Riding Policy**

We will occasionally require riders to 'bunch up', particularly when navigating through large towns, but out on the open road we know that you will want a lot of freedom and time on your own (isn't that what riding is all about?) We allow plenty of time for people to set their own pace, and it's unlikely that you'll ever be pressed to keep up. We know of some motorbike tour operators who insist that everybody ride in formation every day and play 'follow the leader', but that's not our style at all. You'll be given maps and daily directions on how far we're going, the destination for the night (including hotel name and phone number), and where we are likely to stop for lunch, drink breaks, sightseeing and refueling along the way, etc. There is always plenty of time to take photos, chat to the locals, or just sit and soak it all in. Our support vehicle with our luggage will always be the last vehicle in the convoy, with our mechanic, spare parts and tools, etc. in case of bike problems.

But let's not pull any punches here. A tour such as this is potentially a dangerous undertaking; it's inherent in the very nature of the trip. You'll be on an unfamiliar bike, on unfamiliar roads in unfamiliar traffic conditions. It is important for you to recognize this and accept ultimate responsibility, firstly for joining and secondly for riding in a circumspect manner for the duration of the tour. Please read and acknowledge Paragraph 16 of our Terms and Conditions! (End of sermon)

## **Detailed Daily Itinerary**

**Day 1** will probably consist of flying, and involves the logistics of everyone getting into Mexico City at more or less the same time from several different locations. If you're not part of a Group Arrival, you will by then have our list of hotels for the tour and you can simply show your cab driver the name and address of the one at the top of the list. We have chosen a hotel in the centre of town, the heart of the old city known as the *zocalo*. Try to arrive by mid-afternoon and we'll have a meet 'n' greet dinner and perhaps a cold *cerveza*.

**Day 2** sees us heading to nearby Teotihuacan, sensational site of the ancient pyramids of the Sun and the Moon. We'll be here for a couple of hours and then it's back to the hotel to do some paperwork and take



possession of our motorbikes. We might do a lap of the town square to see how you cope with the traffic! For those who want, there should be time to take in one of the nearby museums before dinner.

**Day 3** sees us heading south through forested hills, to arrive in world-famous Acapulco late afternoon, in time to catch an evening performance of the cliff divers doing their death-defying leap into the ocean. Acapulco is best known as one of Mexico's oldest beach resorts, something of a hangout and a getaway for Hollywood's rich and famous. Elvis Presley and Ursula Andress certainly had Fun In Acapulco in 1963 (Google it!)

**Day 4** we follow the direction of the coast, although not always within sight of it, along to Puerto Escondido. The name means 'concealed port' and has recently seen an escalation in popularity, primarily from the surfing community. But birdwatchers and nature lovers are also well catered for in the nearby large lagoon area to the west of the main town.

**Day 5** again we continue to head southeast to the city of Tehuantepec. Zapotec culture and a matriarchal society is much in evidence here, with the women in particular continuing to wear traditional dress, made famous by perhaps Mexico's most prominent artist Frida Kahlo. Before the creation of the Panama Canal this town prospered from the rail passing through it, which linked the Atlantic Ocean with the Pacific.

**Day 6** We head inland to San Cristobal de las Casas. Although the state capital of Chiapas has recently shifted to Tuxtla, San Cris still remains the cultural capital and has some superb Spanish colonial architecture. The town sits high in the hills and has delightful old cobblestone streets.

**Day 7** is an easy pleasant ride to Palenque, giving us opportunities to visit some splendid nearby cascades and waterfalls at nearby Agua Azul (Blue Waters) and Misol Ha. There are also some well preserved and impressive Mayan ruins here; some consider it to be Mexico's most beautiful archaeological site. It's estimated that only 10% has thus far been uncovered, with the remainder still hidden by dense jungle and waiting to be discovered.

**Day 8** brings us to our first border crossing, as we proceed into Guatemala. Everyone knows this country is insanely green of course, with dense canopies surrounding the roads.

**Day 9** is a rest day to allow us to appreciate the town. For those who want a ride even on their rest day, Guatemala's most famous Mayan ruins are nearby at Tikal, less than an hour away. But the little town itself is gorgeous, with cobblestone alleys, red rooves, a Spanish plaza and a whacky sense of humour. We love the laundry with a street sign in English saying 'Drop your pants here'. It was also here that the last Mayan civilization held out against the Spanish for over a hundred years.

**Day 10** takes us from Flores across another border and into Belize, where we proceed to the capital Belize City, on the Caribbean coast. The town itself holds nothing special so we park the bikes, jump on a boat and head to our hotel on an island offshore.

**Day 11** gives us another 'rest day', by which we mean lots of activities. Optional activities, such as snorkeling, or a visit to the famous Blue Hole, or simply lying on the beach or by the pool with a cocktail or two. Belize is unique in all of Central America for the fact that English is the spoken language rather than Spanish.

**Day 12** takes us back into Mexico via our final border crossing, and we proceed inland to Puerto Calakmul in the middle of the Yucatan Peninsula. The peninsula is dotted with *cenotes*, which are deep sinkholes filled with cool clean water. We pass a few of them and can stop to take a look.

**Day 13** Today we have a leisurely ride to the coastal port town of Campeche. This is an impressive walled city, and in the 17<sup>th</sup> century was the most important Spanish port in Central America. The fortifications were built to stop pirates and bandits like Walter Raleigh and Frankie Drake from plundering Spanish bullion. Which of course the Spanish had plundered from the Aztecs, the Incas, the Mayans ...



**Day 14** is a day exploring the delights of Campeche. Inside the city walls is now a delightful pedestrian area of cafes, bars and restaurants, shops and diversions. Plazas, churches, colonial buildings; there's also a lovely Gulf beach promenade to stroll along at sunset.

**Day 15** takes us across the top of the Yucatan peninsula to a small town called Piste, and the site of Chichen Itza, possibly the best known ruins in central America. But for some reason they close it at 4:00pm so we'll have to wait til tomorrow to visit!

**Day 16** It's far better in the morning anyway, before the crowds get here and the day gets hot. We'll stroll around for a couple of hours to soak it all in, before changing into our riding gear and heading to Mexico's Caribbean coast. We head offshore again to the island of Cozumel but this time we take the bikes with us so we can have a good look around at our own pace.

**Day 17** is our final rest day on the tour. There are of course, stunning beaches to lounge around on. There are sensational reef dives to enjoy, or snorkeling, or swimming with the dolphins, or there are many local tours to be had – food tours, archaeological tours, even a bar tour!

**Day 18** is a ferry ride back to the mainland, then a short hop north along the coast to Puerto Morelos. We choose to stay a little to the south of Cancun, which is so overdeveloped with shoulder-to-shoulder mega hotels that it's actually difficult to find your way to the beach! The beach is the reason people come here in the first place... At Puerto Morelos you have your own unspoilt length of beach right outside your hotel window.

**Day 19** gives us time for a lap of the glitzy hotel coastal strip of Cancun, before returning to the hotel to bid farewell to the bikes, get changed, and head to the airport. Swap addresses with your fellow riders so we can all keep in touch and share photos, and don't forget to tell 100 friends how much fun you've had! See you somewhere else in the world, sometime soon, on two wheels.

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Further detailed trip notes, including a list of essential clothing and equipment to take, health considerations, visa formalities, etc, will be sent upon receipt of a completed Booking Form and deposit. Contact our office any time for further information on **(02) 9970 6370** or email **adventure@worldonwheels.tours**

(Continue to next page to view our motorbikes)

## Our motorbikes:



**BMW G650GS**

Capacity	652 cc
Engine-type	DOHC, liquid-cooled, 4-stroke
Number cylinders	1
Transmission	5-speed, chain drive
Brakes	Single disks, front and rear
Wheels front / rear	Cast alloy 19" / 17"
Fuel capacity	14 litres
Dry weight	176 kg
Seat height options	750 / 780 mm
Maximum power	48 HP



**BMW F700GS**

Capacity	798 cc, powered down
Engine-type	DOHC, liquid-cooled, 4-stroke
Number cylinders	Parallel twin
Transmission	6-speed, chain drive
Brakes	Single disks, front and rear
Wheels front / rear	Cast alloy 19" / 17"
Fuel capacity	16 litres
Dry weight	171 kg
Seat height options	790 / 820 mm
Maximum power	71 HP



**BMW F800GS**

Capacity	798 cc
Engine-type	DOHC, liquid-cooled, 4-stroke
Number cylinders	Parallel twin
Transmission	6-speed, chain drive
Brakes	Twin disks front, single rear
Wheels front / rear	Spoked 21" / 17"
Fuel capacity	16 litres
Dry weight	178 kg
Seat height options	850 / 880 mm
Maximum power	85 HP



**BMW R1200GS**

Capacity	1170 cc
Engine-type	DOHC, air-cooled, 4 stroke
Number cylinders	Horizontally opposed twin (boxer)
Transmission	6-speed, shaft drive
Brakes	Twin disks front, single rear
Wheels front / rear	Cast alloy, 19" / 17"
Fuel capacity	20 litres
Dry weight	205 kg
Seat height options	850 / 870 mm
Maximum power	110 HP