

volcano bike challenge,mexico



Your biking challenge takes place south east of Mexico City in Puebla State, riding across a cactus reserve, around volcanoes and through ancient pyramids.

Starting in Tehuacan City you will cover approximately 300kms over the following 10 days. From Tehuacan you travel south into the biosphere surrounding the San Juan Raya Cactus Reserve. You will be cycling far off the beaten track along lightly travelled dirt roads surrounded by a unique cactus forest.

You will then cycle up to Piedra Grande (4,000m) at the foot of Pico de Orizaba (5,760m); Mexico's highest peak and North America's highest volcano, before descending into the lush valleys surrounding the mountain.

As the week unfolds you will visit an ancient yet newly re-discovered Aztec site at Cantona. This important archeological site comprises of a row of pyramids, platforms and palaces dating back 1,500 years. Along the way you pass by a series of volcanic crater lakes.

On the final day, you will be taken to Lago Antigua for an incredible adventure, whitewater rafting through the gorge of the Rio Pescados.

Day 1: Depart from London to Mexico. Transfer to Puebla City.

Meet at the airport for your flight to Mexico City. Our Charity Challenge representative will be there to assist you with the check-in and any last minute questions. On arrival in Mexico City you will be met by a Charity Challenge local agent and you will transfer (approx 2hrs) to your hotel in Puebla City where you will have dinner and be fully briefed about the week ahead and the challenge that entails.

Day 2: Tehuacan City to San Juan Raya Cactus Reserve - 60kms

After breakfast you will have a short transfer (45mins) to Tehuacan City (1,800m) where you will collect your bikes and have your bike fitting. Once you are ready you will head off along the trail through the canyons and past the dry mountain desert wilderness. You will stop on the way for a picnic lunch and in the late afternoon you will enter the village of San Lucas and transfer to San Juan Raya Cactus Reserve. Dinner and overnight camp.



Day 3: San Juan Raya Cactus Reserve to Ciudad Serden - 40kms

Today you will cycle through the cactus reserve; riding past some of the 2,700 different species of cacti including the 100 year old Bisnagas Cactus. You will visit dry creeks full of ancient fossils and see traditional Mexican mountain views. After lunch you will be transferred (approx. 2hrs) to Ciudad Serden (2,500m). Dinner and overnight camp.

Day 4: Ciudad Serden to Hildago through Sierra Negras - 45kms

After breakfast you start with a tough 5kms uphill ride to El Calvario valley (4,000m) where you will have fantastic views of the Pico De Orizaba. You then head downhill to Tezmalaquilla village (3,400m) and continue along the road to Canoa Alta. Your journey travels on through the village of Xociloma before descending to Hildago Village (3,100m) and your overnight camp.



Day 5: Hildago to Santa Maria Oyamecalo via Pico De Orizaba - 60kms

Today is a highlight of your challenge. After breakfast you will begin your ride up to Piedra Grande (4,000m) at the foot of the north side of the Pico de Orizaba volcano. This 3-4hour uphill cycle will take you through pine forests until you reach your 4,000m goal. Here you will stop for lunch before descending into the valley along the Jamapa Creek until you reach El Cajon village. From here you will continue down the Pico De Orizaba Valley until you arrive at S.Maria Oyamecalco. Overnight and dinner at Hacienda.

Day 6: Cantona Pyramids - 40kms

After breakfast you will have a fairly flat and easy ride to the archeological site of Cantona, cycling past old Spanish haciendas along the way. This immense

fortified city of the late classic period (AD600-1000) has pyramids which were occupied by the Chichimecas Indians and is considered to be the biggest site in the pre-Columbian world. Dinner and overnight in camp.

Day 7: Cantona to Xico - 60kms

After breakfast you will leave the camp and transfer (approx. 1½ hrs) to El Alto (2,500m). Today you will head downhill on a wide unpaved road which affords great views of the Cofre de Perote volcano (4,180m). You then descend into the tropical region of Xico Viejo village, surrounded by coffee and banana plantations. Your journey ends at the fantastic waterfall of Techola. Dinner and overnight in lodge.

Day 8: Rafting La Antigua – rafting 18kms

After breakfast you are transferred to the Antigua River, where after a rafting orientation briefing you will raft down this class 3 river rapids. The Rio Antigua is the most popular river run in Mexico. It is named after the town by the same name; Antigua was the first capital of Veracruz, founded by Cortez when he first arrived in Mexico. You will have lunch on the shore and afterwards have the afternoon free to relax and enjoy your beautiful surroundings. Celebration dinner and overnight in lodge.



Day 9: Mexico City to London

After breakfast you will transfer back to Mexico City. You will stop along the way at the Puebla Craft Market to purchase last minute souvenirs and gifts. After lunch in the City you will have the afternoon free before getting your flight back to the UK

Day 10: Arrive back to the UK

Arrive in London.

N.B. The itinerary is there as a guide and may change due to unusual weather patterns, the strength of the group and so on. We will do our very best to keep to the set itinerary however we cannot be held responsible for any last minute changes that might occur. In all such circumstances, your expedition leader will have the final say.