

# Mexico Eco-Adventure Discovery Daily Itinerary



## DAY 1: Arrival in Mexico

You will be arriving in Mexico via one of two international ports of entries: Veracruz International Airport (VER) or Mexico City International Airport (MEX). For those arriving in Veracruz you will be met at the airport by your Esprit guides. Please arrive by 1700h on Saturday for our transfer to Jalcomulco.

Mexico City arrivals can make their way to Jalapa by following our "special meeting instructions in Jalapa" dossier.

Our journey to the remote rural village of Jalcomulco will take us through sugar cane and coffee plantations of Coatepec, across the plateaus of the Sierra Madre and down through the Mango plantations of the Antigua River Valley, a spectacular visual introduction to the region!

Arriving in town, we'll settle ourselves into the pace of village life where generations of families have lived harvesting sugar cane, mangos and trapping langostinos (the giant crawfish the village is justly famous for!). Our home for the week will be at the Rodriguez Family hacienda. The comfortable bed and breakfast style accommodation is a very traditional style sprawling 1 story hacienda surrounding an inner tropical courtyard with access to hammocks, pool and hot showers. In the evening, enjoy a traditional Mexican dinner prepared by the ladies of Jalcomulco welcoming you to their village!

## DAY 2: Village Tour & Antigua River

After a delicious breakfast served along with locally roasted coffee we set off on foot to explore the town and sights of Jalcomulco.

We will check out many points of interest and meet many of our local friends. You will feel well oriented and welcomed!

It's a great opportunity to get a sense of the village, stretch your legs and see the village from a "birdseye" view.

In the afternoon, we will paddle (rafting or inflatable kayaks) the lower Antigua River, walking to the put-in right in town! This stretch of river offers a low intensity class II-III paddle which winds its way through the mango and sugar cane fields. We'll shake off the winter dust and get you warmed up for the week of adventure ahead. Dinner and overnight in Jalcomulco.

## DAY 3: Mountain Biking

After a delicious morning breakfast and local, home roasted coffee we set off on mountain bike to explore the backroads enroute to the ancient ruins of Zempoala.

Biking through Mango plantations and fields of sugar cane, we peddle our way downstream and enjoy the beautiful views of the Actopan River Valley. Stopping in the village of Santa Rosa for lunch and a swim in the river. At Zempoala we explore the ruins and take in some of the ancient and modern history which shaped the country to where it is today. In the 1500's Cortez arrived in Zempoala and started his march to defeat the Aztecs. Our return ride to Jalcomulco includes an amazing 5km downhill ride.

Dinner and overnight in Jalcomulco.



## DAY 4: Trek to Chopilapa

The start of our 2 day trek to Coatlamani - an ancient Totonac burial ground spectacularly situated atop a solitary mountain spire. Our route is a scenic and challenging trek up through a fissure in the Antigua's escarpment wall, across the flat table lands of the Mexican Mesa to the convergence of 7 valleys around Coatlamani's solitary spire. We camp as guests of a local family in the remote village of Chopilapa where we get to experience rural village life as it has been for centuries. Dinner and camping overnight in the village of Chopilapa.

## DAY 5: Trek back from Chopilapa.

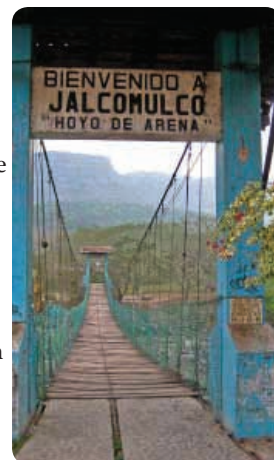
An early morning adventure as we climb the center spire to the ancient burial ground of Coatlamani. This unexcavated site exists in its natural state, and affords scenic panoramic views of the surrounding valleys. With careful observation, you will discover stone arrow heads, pottery and statues in this site. Respecting the Totonac's and this ancient burial ground, we observe, appreciate and leave behind the artifacts we find. Returning to Chopilapa, we enjoy a hearty fresh breakfast which we share with our hosts - even trying our hand at cooking tortilla's over an open fire. After breakfast, we strike out on our return journey back across the Mexican Mesa to Jalcomulco. Arriving mid-day back in town to enjoy a late lunch and a free afternoon to explore Jalcomulco.

## DAY 6

### Paddling Monte Blanco & Pescados sections

Switching gears from land to water, we paddle the lower Barranca Grande (from Monte Blanco down) and Pescados sections of the Antigua River. Our day of paddling begins with the infamous "Four IV's" of the Barranca Grande. Crashing through steep narrow drops, these four rapids will have you wide awake quickly and make the

perfect start to an awesome day of paddling. Passing underneath the highway bridge, which acts as the put-in for the middle section of the Antigua River, we begin our descent of the famous Pescados section of the river. The Pescados (fish in Spanish) is known for its sharp corners, steep drops and the "White Witch". Our whitewater paddling adventure ends as we paddle into Jalcomulco. Hot showers, a local masseuse and optional "temascal" (local sweat/sauna ceremony) await to soothe and relax as we kick back in hammocks.



## DAY 7: Ziplines, Kayaking & Transfer

An action packed day of adventure as we soar on ziplines high above the Antigua River. As we get harnessed up we will be instructed exactly how to fly through the mango trees and across the river. The afternoon is free to try kayaking, inflatable kayaking or just relax and explore around the town.

In the late afternoon we will transfer back to Veracruz for our farewell dinner, overnight and fiesta! The city of Veracruz is known throughout the country as one of the most festive cities in Mexico! From here we say our goodbyes and recount stories of our adventures over a few cervezas or margaritas!



## Day 8:

### Departure from Veracruz

We will transfer you to the Airport 2.5 hrs prior to your international flight home. In the air, we hope you start planning your next visit to Mexico with Esprit. Feliz Viaje!

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