

Mexico West Coast 2005
Tentative Itinerary
12/31/04

- 1/01 Atlanta to New Orleans for Sugar Bowl
1/01...1/04 At New Orleans:
 Iberville Suites
 910 Iberville Street
 New Orleans, LA US 70112
 1-866-229-4351 or 504-523-2400
- 1/04..1/06 New Orleans to St. David, AZ
1/06...1/09 Western Horizon RV Resort in St. David, AZ
1/09...1/12 Kicking around Arizona
1/12 Arrive Nogales and Rally Caravan; dry camp in the parking lot of San Xavier Insurance overnight.
1/13 Depart Nogales at 8:00am. Drive to San Carlos (250 Mi) (near Guaymas). Good 4 lane road, some side road access and small towns with topes. 50 mile per hour easily maintained with one rest stop. Arrive at El Mirador RV park about 3:00 P.M.
1/13...1/27 At San Carlos. El Mirador is a very new park with excellent facilities. Search on "el mirador" +rv for complete info, rates and many pictures. Things to do in Guaymas/San Carlos:
 Tour Guaymas (a bustling little fishing/port city)
 Boat trips on the Sea of Cortez
 Whale watching
 Deep sea fishing (world famous here and in Mazatlan)
 Golf
 Desert jeep tours
 Toll ferry to Santa Rosalia on the Baja.
1/28 Depart San Carlos...Arrive El Fuerte...RV Park El Fuerte About 224 mi. with roads similar to previous, except 2 small cities to go through Here suggest we take the train tour through the Copper Canyon....go to www.ontheroadin.com/pacificcoast/pacificnorth/elfuerte.htm or google search on "el fuerte" +rv. On the page, go down to "tour for RVers". Looks like a good deal to me for the price (there are cheaper ways to tour the canyon). The Copper canyon is several times the size of the Grand Canyon and more spectacular.
2/02 Depart El Fuerte drive to Mazatlan. About 275 miles and more of the same road (the map shows it getting better as you near Mazatlan). About 6 hours with one rest stop. Stay at Mar Rosa RV park (check out

www.ontheroadin/pacificcoast/pacificnorth/marrosa.htm)
Stay 3 weeks in Mazatlan with all the same options as
in San Carlos.

2/17? Now the planning gets vague. Here are two alternatives.

Route Coastal: Continue on Mex15 to Tepic, then Mex200
to Puerto Vallarta. About 288 mi but all on 2 lane
roads through Jungle (selva). Probably need two
days to do this. Dry camp in a Pemex? Puerto Vallarta
is the gem of the western pacific coast resorts.
It is a large city with all the amenities...a bit pricier...
but not overpriced. Just south of Mazatlan, one leaves
the desert (tropic of Cancer) and enters the tropical
jungle world. It has everything you could want,
but after a month and a half of the Pacific, I am ready
for the bright lights of:

Route Inland: Take Mex 15 all the way to Guadalajara.
About 325 miles, 2/3s 4 lane toll roads. Stay at the
San Jose Del Tajo RV park southwest of the city.
This is one of the most beautiful cities in the Americas.
A trip back to the colonial period, and at times,
reminiscent of a European city with its old buildings and
broad boulevards. Guadalajara is very cosmopolitan,
and very Mexican, but very high class Mexican. A side
trip to Ajijic and Chapala on lake Chapala is a must.
What an absolutely marvelous retirement community
this is. Year around spring and idyllic views. Side trips
to Tonalá and Tlaquepaque (suburbs) are a must....anything
and everything you ever wanted to buy or see made
in Mexico are here and in the Mercado libertad. If you
hate Mexico, you will love Guadalajara.