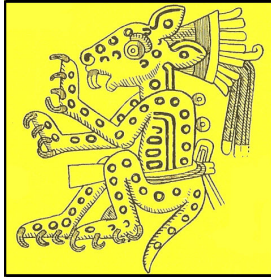


Maya Classic Rally News Update 1



Maya Central American Rally

– Feb 12 to March 5 2010

With the route survey from Panama to Mexico complete we are now in a position to finalise the route and itinerary. The event is essentially two rallies so you have the option of running in the Maya Central American Rally (Panama to Mexico) or the Maya Mexican Classic Rally (Mexico plus a finish in San Diego). They are both three weeks long and you have the option of doing both as one continuous adventure.

The first leg is slightly shorter in distance so we have now extended it from Tulum (instead of our original halfway point of Cancun) to include Chichen Itza and Campeche. The second rally still starts from Tulum which means participants will be together for a few days and more particularly at Chichen Itza where we are holding a dinner in the ruins. For those who came on my Tiger Rally you will recall what a magical evening that was. This route takes in some of the most prolific and intriguing Mayan ruins from Copan to Tikal. We are giving you time to visit them as this event provides one of the best opportunities you will ever get of seeing and understanding the Mayan culture.

Panama City to Tulum

There is no doubt that it's a fantastic drive. From the Panama Canal we take the main Pan American Highway (which we rarely visit again) before turning north to the dormant volcano bowl that houses the town of Boquete. Here is your first glimpse of the tropical mountain scenery that just gets better and better as you drive further up Central America, culminating in the true Tropical Rainforests where as you would expect it can be wet and cloudy in the higher reaches.

The route takes you through seven countries and some 4370 kilometres of tarmac roads. An exception is a length of finely graded road in Guatemala to the Belize border that is currently been upgraded to tarmac. Our journey involves a couple of ferry crossings, extraordinary scenery, a variety of weather systems, beaches, mountains, fascinating towns, peoples and cultures, Mayan ruins and two thousand years of history.

During the recce we completed the route survey, checked out the accommodation which is designed to be the best for the anticipated entry of around 20-25 vehicles as well as providing a variety of stops. The average daily driving time is 5 and a half hours with times ranging from three to nine hours. Short driving days tend to indicate that there are things to see on the way or at the destination while long driving days always result in a rest day to ensure you are fresh for the next stage. Rest days can also be used to take excursion to such exotic and extraordinary places such as Atitlan Lake.

