

dumballo
LOCO IN ACAPULCO



dumballo
2020 DRIVERS MANUAL



HOW DUMBALL WORKS



in Mexico City
We give you a Beetle, you decorate it as the Mariachi band play!



You are assigned a convoy of 5 cars. These are your crazy new friends. You have radios so you can chat

You're on the road all day, everyday:
experiencing amazing places and people. Every night, we celebrate.



We're a non-profit set-up so all your entry fee is spent on making sure we stay in the best possible hotels

As our fancy dress convoy makes its way through the jungles and valleys, you'll experience the ultimate festival on wheels



At the end of the trip you can sell your Beetle, making back some of your entry fee: or even better donating it to the Teenage Cancer Trust

At the end of the trip we have an almighty party and awards ceremony. Have you done enough to win yourself the ultimate accolade The Spirit of Dumball Monkey??

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[dumbology]

Welcome class of 2020! We're already so proud of you. Why? Because you've decided to join us for the world's most courageous, outgoing, all-round banger rally. For 10 days you'll be driving a clapped-out Beetle across Mexico. Expect amazing people, beautiful vistas, winding roads, stunning beaches...and plenty of car-based drama. This year's route has been created by professionals with decades of experience organising Mexican road trips... but that doesn't mean it will be easy. The roads will test your Beetle (and your patience) to the max. Just remember: **it's not about being there, it's about getting there**. Learn to love the inside of your Beetle, because you're going to see a lot of it. In day-to-day life, being in your car is a means to an end. Well this experience is all about the magical bit between A and B, and you're going to experience hours and hours of it surrounded by a gang of fools all in radio contact with you. Driving through Mexico won't be quick, and it won't be straight forward. You'll be held up by herds of cattle that take 20 minutes to cross the road, or massive delivery trucks inching back and forth as they angle into tiny driveways. However you get stopped, do things the Mexican way: turn up the music, get out of your car, and shake hands with the locals. Meet people, eat stuff, swim in the ocean, we're confident the Mexicans will love it when our colourful cavalcade rocks into town. If you can successfully get into this mind-set, then we guarantee that like many others you will come back year after year.

There are two big reasons why we do this. One: the dumball has raised over a million quid for the Teenage Cancer Trust, and they need every penny we can raise to help kids lead a normal life while their body does some pretty abnormal things. And two - because we all live in hope of one day, just possibly, if we are lucky, standing next to someone who wins the prestigious, rare and well, quite frankly falling to bits **Spirit of Dumball Monkey**. Famously carved out of a coconut, often kidnapped but always recovered, and bought for €3 from a Greek market on the inaugural 2006 dumball, the monkey is awarded to the most adventurous dumballer. Which leads us to our final point: **be adventurous but don't be an idiot**. The first rule of the dumball is to have fun. However, there are also a few (much more boring) rules too - and we want you to stay safe. So please read this manual carefully, and the dumball will be a happy place.

Dumball HQ, 2020



[your manual]

This weighty tome is your dumball drivers' manual. It represents the distillation of a year's hard work and should contain everything you need to know about the 2020 dumball. ...we hope.

The manual includes all the important details of where we're going, when and how. It's got all the route overviews and detailed street maps that will help you get all the way to Acapulco and back to Mexico City.

In this volume you will find:

- What to expect
- Details of the teams and convoy (squad) you've been assigned to
- Advice, speed limits, road signs, laws
- Daily meeting places and start times
- Details and descriptions of our plush accommodation
- Blow by blow directions for each stage of the drive – and links to the very maps you need
- Street maps to help you home in on our destinations

[at a glance]

Let's get straight down to it – this is what you can expect from the next 10 days...

	am	pm	evening
SAT	MEET IN THE HOTEL RECEPTION FROM 9AM FOR REGISTRATION	NOON. MEET THE BEETLES! THEN PIMP THEM TO THE MAX	OVERNIGHT IN MEXICO CITY. KARAOKE IN THE MAIN HOTEL BAR
SUN	MEET IN HOTEL RECEPTION AT 7AM DEPART FOR MORELIA	DRIVE NORTH OF THE SPRAWLING CITY AND UP THROUGH THE HILLS	OVERNIGHT AT MISION CATEDRAL, MORELIA
MON	DEPART AT 8AM FOR CHAPALA	RURAL MEXICO AWAITS YOUR BEETLE	OVERNIGHT AT REAL DE CHAPALA
TUE	DEPART AT 8AM FOR PUERTO VALLARTA	WINDING ROADS INTO THE MEXICAN JUNGLE	OVERNIGHT AT WESTIN PUERTO VALLARTA.
WED	DEPART AT 8AM FOR MANZANILLO	WINDING ROADS ALONGSIDE THE INVITING PACIFIC OCEAN	OVERNIGHT AT LAS HADAS, MANZANILLO
THU	DEPART AT 8AM FOR IXTAPA	COASTAL ROAD WITH MOUNTAINOUS SECTIONS TO TEST YOUR BEETLE	OVERNIGHT AT BRISAS IXTAPA
FRI	DEPART AT 8AM FOR ACAPULCO	STUNNING ROAD ALL THE WAY TO THE PARTY CITY OF ACAPULCO	OVERNIGHT AT BRISAS ACAPULCO
SAT	DEPART AT 10AM FOR CUERNAVACA	HIGHWAY WITH STOP IN CUERNAVACA, THE LUSH CAPITAL OF MEXICO'S MORELOS STATE	OVERNIGHT AT MISION CUERNAVACA. CAST YOUR VOTES FOR THE AWARDS CEREMONY.
SUN	DEPART AT 8AM FOR MEXICO CITY	DRIVE BACK TO MEXICO CITY. RETURN YOUR WALKIES.	7PM PARTY & GRAND AWARDS CEREMONY AT SECRET LOCATION!
MON	IF YOU ARE SELLING YOUR BEETLE. MEET IN RECEPTION <u>AT 10AM</u> WITH YOUR OWNERSHIP PAPERS	RELAX...	...START REMINISCING? IT'S ALL OVER NOW

[what to bring]

Yourself. Naturally.

Your bag. We recommend you pack as lightly as possible: especially if you are in a team of four. We do not transport bags separately. For those of you worried about fitting it all into your little Beetle you can buy roof racks from our ground team for \$50USD or we suggest taking ratchet straps or a cheap roof bag. [Check this one out on eBay.](#) Remember not to leave your luggage unattended.

Your Smartphone. This will help you navigate (Google Maps shortcodes are used in this doc) and communicate (Whatsapp is an ESSENTIAL as we use groups to get important messages out).

Protection: It's dusty and sunny. Think about it. Cover your face with bandanas/neckerchiefs, wear caps and cream. We're going on safari!

Your dumball Spirit: It's not about being at our destination. It's about getting there. Be ready for everything to go wrong... and to enjoy it!

Stuff to decorate your Beetle: Your Beetle will be picked at random and awarded to you on the first day. But you'll need to think about what you're going to do to it and bring as much decoration as you can. Water based paints will be sold at the decorating party.

Your Brain: Rule #1 of the dumball: Behave like an idiot but don't dick about. Steer clear of anything illegal, this way you will not end up in prison. Or worse: chased down by a Mexican cartel!!

Currency: Bring plenty of MXN Pesos and US Dollar notes for fuel and lunches. Not everywhere will accept card or have an ATM. Beware of unofficial exchanges.

AA Batteries: Bring a big box, you'll need them for when your walkie runs out of power. Trust us – you will need these!

Travel/Medical Insurance: You never know... Although we will do our best to help, Dumball HQ does not provide any backup for medical emergencies.

Medicine: Any medicine you need should be accompanied by a doctor's note. Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic substances are prohibited. All areas of the dumball are in no-to-low risk malaria areas – but you should have had the jabs your doctor recommends, and avoid bites by covering up and using repellent.

[essential documents]

Your Passport: Well, you won't be leaving the UK without it.

Your VISA & Tourist Card: If you are from the EU, USA or Canada you will receive a visa on entry. Keep your immigration form with you at all times. You can pre prepare one and print it out here: www.mexicotouristcard.com Please check if you are any other nationality as you may require separate paperwork.

Car Insurance Paperwork: You will be handed this at the start of the rally. Keep it in your glovebox at all times.

Car ownership Paperwork: In Mexico, the owner of the car is the person with these documents. Unless you are desperate to risk losing them on the road, we will be leaving them in the hotel safe in Mexico City and giving them out at the end of the rally for when you part with your motor.



[how it all works]

First of all, there's one small thing to point out: The dumball is not a race! On this rally we stick together, and that's what makes it fun, and safe. We'll do this by cruising through the Mexican madness in convoys (squads). Each has a leader who definitely isn't in charge but carves a path for the rest to follow. We also use them to get messages out to the whole group: these will be whatsapped to squad leaders and filtered down to everyone else via walkies (or your own squad's whatsapp group).

Each day's driving has been handpicked for safety, fun roads, beautiful vistas and challenging driving. Do not follow your sat nav blindly..at best you will end up on a boring freeway...at worst you could travel through one of the lawless areas of Mexico. Please stay in convoy and follow our route.

Your cars have been bought in advance, they are insured, they have had their brakes and key components serviced and are ready to go. At the opening party in Mexico City you will literally pick keys from a hat and will be awarded your Beetle at random. They will all have their own special talents. Some might be 'better' than others. But what does better mean anyway?

When we return to Mexico City, we will hopefully be met by several groups of interested buyers who will (depending on it's condition) make you an offer for your Beetle. If you want to leave your Beetle in Mexico with a sales agent, that is also an option. What we hope you will do is hand the car over to us so we can donate any sales profits to the Teenage Cancer Trust 😊

[the rules]

1) Cars must be over 25 years old and worth less than \$1500

This year, we can guarantee that for all participants!

2) We raise money for charity.

All teams must raise at least £1000 per person for The Teenage Cancer Trust.

3) We stick together in convoys.

It's safe, it's fun. What more can you ask for?

[the squadrons]

This year there are 24 teams, 80 people in three squadrons. Annoyingly these make up the colours of the French flag and not the Mexican one. See page 34 for details of who is who. Squadron leaders are in bold and can be seen in the garish table below.

BLUE	WHITE	RED
Dumball One	Ragin' Horn	Victor's Supercar
Disco Fibrillators	Team Gold : El Dorado	"Dos" Gert Lush Amigos
F*ck It We're Going!	JPE	La Familia Margarita
Surf, Wind & Tyre	Tsk1	German Engineering
Hulkur	Crash Bang Wallop	B-Boys
Dos Hombres Y Una Cabra	Ambulancia	Psychedelic Disco Den
F*ck It We're Going Too	The Wedding Party	The Cannonballers
Los Mecanicos	Pinata Party	Scarab

[the law]

Please take a moment to read all of the below. If we all do all of this, we'll all make it to all the way to Mexico and all the way back (if you're coming back) without any problems. At all.

- All drivers must stick to the advised route or there will be no support from the mechanics. Plus we cannot guarantee your safety.
- You should always have all the relevant documentation with you when driving – your passport, license and the insurance paperwork we hand over at the start. Don't forget if you jump in your mate's car to at least grab your passport, if you get separated from the group, it's the one thing you'll always need.
- Do not drive at night or take your vehicle out on your own.
- Fitting of beacon lights and sirens in the Beetles may attract fines by Police, so beware.
- If you break down, don't leave the vehicle in the road unattended. Don't park the Beetles unattended in crowded towns with valuables inside.
- Do not leave valuables in your car overnight.
- Deliberate crashing or hitting of each other's Beetles is strictly not allowed.
- Every day make sure you have enough MXN Pesos for fuel, most of the fuel stations don't have card machines.
- Be vigilant.
- Join the Dumball 2020 WhatsApp group so you can send out an SOS to all other drivers in the event of an emergency. If you are the only one on it: add your teammates too!



[drink driving & des]

The drink driving limit for blood alcohol in Mexico is 0.08%. The same as in the UK. So if you want to avoid spending time in a foreign jail, you must be as sober as Mahatma Gandhi whilst at the wheel.

The only way to avoid this happening is to nominate a designated driver (des) for each leg of the journey who will hardly touch the stuff the night before. Because we will be crossing state borders and coming into contact with a lot of officials, you won't get away with smelling even faintly of booze. Don't drink and drive. If you do, you're on your own, and you're facing imprisonment from 6 months to 4 years.

[official advice]

You are advised to read all the information available from your government's foreign office yourself. All our hotels are in extremely safe tourist zones, with secure parking and are walking distance from nightlife. However, we advise you don't wander around at night on your own, nor should you leave the tourist areas.

Whilst on the road, stick to our recommended routes. The highest risk of crime is during the final day's drive (Acapulco- Mexico City) so we will be taking the toll road, which is less scenic, but will guarantee we don't run into illegal road blocks – which are common in the state of Guerrero. Our safety-in-numbers convoy system will provide additional security but remain vigilant: and do not drive your car after dark. Not only are there more unsavoury characters out on the streets, you won't spot the pot holes in the road! If you are ever in trouble, call Dumball One immediately and we will dispatch our Mexican ground team to help you.

Above all, remember that you are responsible for your safety. There is one simple way to guarantee you won't run into trouble in Mexico: Do not get involved in anything illegal.

[speed limits]

Going with the flow of traffic is no defence for speeding, so don't be tempted to follow the lead of Mexican drivers rocketing past you. Current speed limits are: 10 km/h (6 mph) in parking lots and residential areas. 60 km/h (37 mph) in streets with no speed limit. 60–80 km/h (37–50 mph) on urban arterial roads (ejes, calzadas, beltways and freeways).

[police checks]

In the event you are stopped by the cops please show them the official signed letter that has been provided to us by the Mexican Embassy in the UK. The letter explains our event and asks to be granted safe passage. It goes without saying: do everything the cops ask of you. In this part of the world, they don't mess around. If in doubt, '*No Entiende*' is a useful bit of Spanish that really helps over zealous cops come to the conclusion that you are simply a dumb tourist.

Also expect to be stopped at military checkpoints at various intervals. They are at most a minor inconvenience for tourists like us. We're told the inspectors are very polite. They may or may not search your car.



[road signs]

If you do one bit of homework before the rally: make it this page! Most Mexican road signs are like UK /US signs: *Alto* (stop) is obvious by the red hexagonal sign even if you don't know the word; *Una vía* (one way), also obvious by the white-on-black arrow; *Carratera dividida a 100m* (Divided highway in 100m); *Camino sinuoso* (winding road); *Curva peligroso* (Dangerous curve); *Disminuya su velocidad* (Reduce your speed); *Conserva su derecha* (keep to your right); *Guarde su distancia* (Keep your distance, sometimes followed by *evite accidentes*, or avoid accidents). Others take a bit more more facility with Spanish but translate to the standard warnings; *No rebasa con raya continua* (No passing with solid line); *Utilice su cinturón de seguridad* (Use your seat belt). *Entrada y salida de camiones* (trucks entering and exiting). *Si toma no maneje* (If you drink, don't drive).



Topes a 100m

Translation: Speed bumps in 100 meters.

What it really means: We seriously, passionately want you to drive slowly here, and we've installed a line of metal half spheres across the road to prove it.



Reductor De Velocidad

Translation: Speed reducer

What it really means: This is a close relative of *topes*, usually encountered on open road and sometimes more brightly marked; the same message applies.

Poblado Proximo

Translation: Town (coming up) next

What it really means: Apply brakes now; you are entering a gauntlet of *topes*.

Cruce De Peatones/Escolares

Translation: Pedestrian / School crossing

What it really means: A concrete island in your immediate future will launch your car to Neptune if you don't come to a full stop before easing over it.

Desviación

Translation: Detour

What it really means: You are about to be funnelled onto a road that isn't on your map, through the side streets of a town you didn't know existed.

Permite Rebasar; Utilice Acotamiento

Translation: Allow passing; use the shoulder

What it really means: If a car has been following 2 feet behind you, get the heck over to the right and let it pass, and you might all make it to your destination.

Puesto De Control Militar

Translation: Military checkpoint

What it really means: You're about to encounter some polite young men bearing rifles who might (rarely) just wave you through, (usually) ask you where you have come from (*de donde viene*) and where you are going (*adonde va*).

Glorieta

Translation: Traffic circle / Round-a-bout

What it really means: You're about to drive around and around in an attempt to figure out where to exit.



Conceda Cambio De Luces

Translation: Grant change of lights

What it really means: Dim your headlights when there's oncoming traffic. The trick is to wait until the oncoming car is within full glare before turning down the wattage; the other driver rarely reciprocates unless he or she actually sees you do it.

No Deje Piedras Sobre El Pavimento

Translation: Don't leave rocks on the pavement

What it really means: Don't leave rocks on the pavement (obvs). The question is why would anyone do this? Is it really worth a sign? We love Mexico.

Autopista: Expressway, turnpike

Autopista De Cuota: Toll highway

Basura: Garbage

Camino: Road

Camiones: Trucks

Carretera: Highway

Carril: Lane

Caseta De Cobro: Toll booth

Ceda El Paso: Yield

Cuota: Toll

Derecho/Izquierdo: Right/Left

Derrumbes: Landslides/rockslides

Despacio/Lento: Slow

Ganado: Cattle

Niebla/Lluvia: Fog/rain

Entrada: Entrance

Entronque: Intersection

Ferrocarril: Train

Frene: Brake

Grava Suelta: Loose gravel

Ingreso: Entrance

Mojado: Wet

Libre: Free; no toll

No Parar: No stopping

No Tire Basura: Don't throw trash

No Rebase: No passing

Parada: Stop (as in bus or shuttle)

Pendiente Prolongada: Long steep incline/descent

Principia: Begin

Puente: Bridge

Salida: Exit

Sanitarios: Bathrooms

Semáforo: Traffic light

Tramo En Reparación: Section of road under repair

Tránsito: Traffic

Un Solo Carril: Single lane (ahead)

Vibradores: Multiple speed bumps

Zona De Descanso: Rest stop

Retorno Make a U-turn right here.

[what you are playing for...]

We don't need to explain the reward of raising thousands of pounds for an amazing cause, seeing new places, meeting incredible people and having new experiences every day. But that's not it! In case you're more the competitive type... Here's a few coveted prizes you might be lucky enough to claim – if you do something wonderful, brave, hilarious, generous or dastardly. Or all five if you want to get the monkey...

THE SPIRIT OF DUMBALL MONKEY

This is the highest honour one can receive. It is given to the group who show the most passion, courage and madness along the way.

THE GRANDMASTER CASH AWARD

This high accolade is handed over to the team that raises the most cash for charity. If you do it, you can rest assured you will go to heaven...

THE ADAM HORN BLING BLING TROPHY

We met Adam through our association with the Teenage Cancer Trust and this award is in his honour. It will be given to the person or team that proves they are the coolest members of the dumball. Adam left a lot to live up to – so if you win this you can be pretty sure you're sub-zero in the coolness stakes.

BEN CREAN PRIZE FOR PEACE

Named after another dumballer we lost too soon. This is awarded to the driver who gets to know the locals the most 😊

THE SHITTY SHITTY BANG BANG SHIELD

It's not really your fault if you break down first. But we will make sure everyone knows about it with this award.

THE TIN WESTWOOD BASEBALL CAP

Named after an obscure TV presenter who pimped up cars on MTV: this goes for the best exterior job. And it is a hotly contested!

LAURENCE LLEWELYN BOWEN TROPHY

Named after an obscure British interior designer....guess what this one is for? The best inner car.

THE DAME EDNA AWARD

Named after an obscure cross dresser from Australia...now guess this one. Fancy dress.

THE BLIND BAT TROPHY

Not named after anyone obscure. But awarded to the team or squad who gets lost the most. Do us a favour...don't win this!



[challenges]

The awards are a democratic affair – voted for in a haphazard, Zimbabwean election kind of way. But each morning you will also be set a challenge before you set off. This will always involve interacting with the local people in some way. We want to spread the dumball spirit across the world, so to help you do this we will make you give the locals lifts, have dinner with their families, and smell their facial hair – maybe all at the same time. On Sunday, we will collect the evidence for the challenges and collate the votes for the awards. Each challenge completed will earn you or your convoy a point, and dumball one has the deciding vote.

And to take home the dumball monkey? Well, you'll have to think of something very special to do that...



[walkies]

Walkies are crucial for fun and safety. They turn a long drive into a fancy dress caravan of mirth and shenanigans. Did everyone really just drive past that amazing looking taco shack? Call 'em up and see what they think they're up to. You'll get your walkies in Mexico City. We need the walkies back, they're expensive and yours will be registered to your team. Also in your pack will be plenty of AA batteries. But feel free to bring more – the last thing anyone wants is to run out of juice in the middle of a good game of 'font or cheese'. Not to mention if you get lost or separated from your squads' convoy...

[driving in convoy]

Your radios will also prove indispensable as you attempt to drive in convoy. On the dumbball staying close to your squad is important for a number of reasons – it breeds camaraderie, it stops you getting lost and it looks good from the air. They will become unfeasibly handy when driving in busy Mexican towns, cities and traffic. One trick that works when you are in moving traffic is to pull out from the back. When the squad need to get around an obstacle the lead car radios for a holding position at the back. This means the car at the back pulls out first and lets the next car in front pull out in front of it, and then so on up the convoy until the leader can pull out and pass the truck/moped in style, with their squad following on tightly behind. It requires a little coordination and people paying attention on the radio, but it makes life a lot easier when it works, and stops other cars getting caught up in your group, and makes us look like we know what we're doing!

[breaking down... the drill!]

Your cars have been serviced and are safe to drive. We will have on hand a 'team' of mechanics, a basic mobile workshop and escorting vehicles! But support will only be available if you stick to the planned routes. Plus we cannot guarantee we can fix everything! Remember that the whole point of the rally is that these cars are old and unreliable. Be prepared to have to lose your car and jump in with others if it's terminal.

In the event of a breakdown get onto the radio to your squad ASAP and make sure they don't leave you behind. If the mechanics aren't nearby, your squad leader can get in touch with Dumball One and/or the mechanics directly and we'll get you sorted. We will also make sure you are part of the dumbball 2020 Whatsapp group so you can send out an SOS if you are on your own. Every night the mechanics will give the cars a once over. If we do lose a car completely, simply jump in with one or more of the other cars. You might have to spread your team across a few other cars in your squad to share the load... What a way to make new friends.



[day by day guide]

This next part of the manual provides you with everything you need to know to follow each daily route, find destination details and street maps to help you home in. Squad leaders: do not just plug the destinations into your sat nav: our routes have been planned for excitement, and safety – and sometimes they are not the most straight forward drive.

This chapter is also where you'll get the lowdown on everything that goes on during the week. Sometimes there will be organised group activities – pay attention to this stuff because it affects your decisions en-route. In the evenings we tell you what Dumball One will be up to: you are welcome to join us.

You won't find any definitive timings for the days' journeys – just a rough guide to how we rate the day ahead. Something unusual happens when you're dumballing – time vanishes. So treat it like the precious elixir that it is and get up and get moving so you have a good day on the road.

DEPARTURE INFO IS IN GREEN

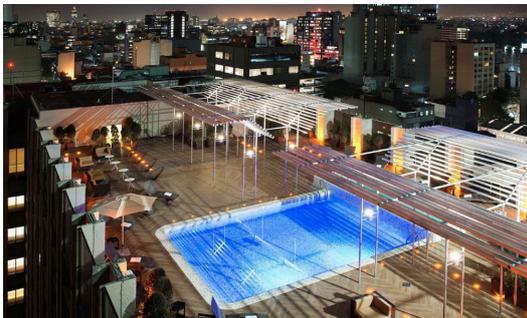
LUNCH SUGGESTIONS ARE IN BLUE

DESTINATION INFO IN YELLOW

EVENING ACTIVITES ARE RED

Saturday Jan 18th [Day 1] Mexico City: Opening event

Distance: 0 miles Difficulty: Easy peasy, lemon squeezy.



Registration of all participants takes place at the luxurious Galeria Reforma Plaza from 9am on Day 1. You will sign your waivers, receive your T-shirts and drivers packs. From here we will walk as a large group to where are cars are waiting. If you have large items to carry, we recommend getting a taxi from the hotel, it won't cost much.

Once done we will leave our new best friends at the parking location and walk back to the hotel...then we will see you for Karaoke in the downstairs bar from 7pm.



REGISTRATION FROM 9AM:

Galeria Reforma Plaza, Mexico City
 Hamburgo 195, Juárez, Cuauhtémoc, 06600
 Ciudad de México, CDMX Tel: +52 55 5230 1717
galeriaplahotels.com.mx

Check in is from noon.

OPENING EVENT: Meet at NOON
 Hotel reception. Lunch provided.



CAR DECORATING: 12.30PM-4PM.

Multi-story car park (picture bottom left)
 Atenas 66
 Juárez
 Cuauhtémoc
 06600 Ciudad de México, CDMX
 GOOGLE CODE: CRJV+JM

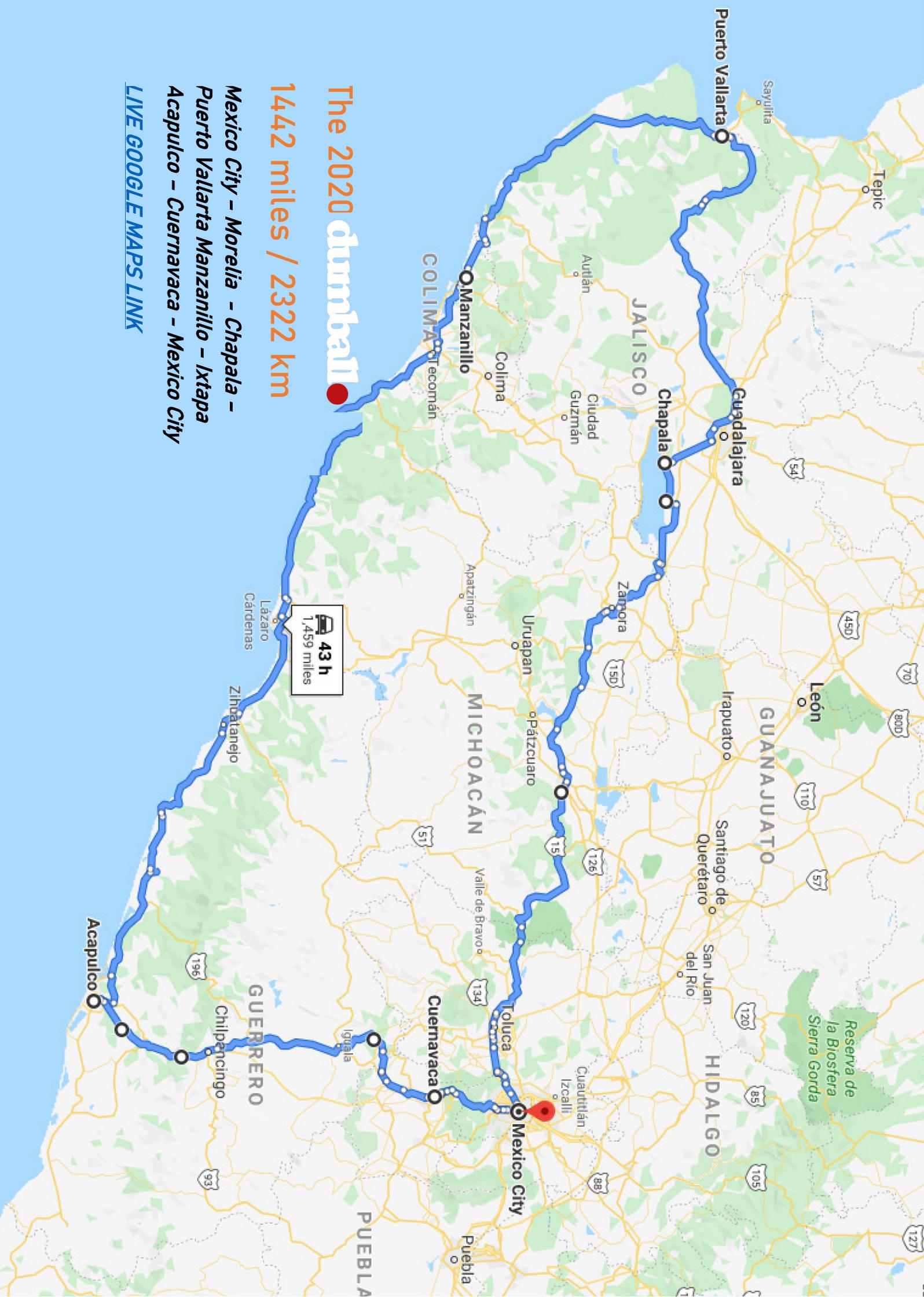
GROUP FUN 7-10pm hotel bar. What better way to get to know each other. We will also be showing a few videos and talking about the Teenage Cancer Trust.



Decorating your Beetle.

We promised you a fun start to our first ever Latin American rally, Lets hope we are not wrong! You will be called forward one at a time as the Mariachi Band play. You will pick your keys and then set about decorating your trusty Beetle with paint, glue and other accessories including roof racks and extra lights. But don't rely on us. Make sure you have thought about your theme and have brought enough items to personalise your Beetle in just an afternoon.

IMPORTANT: DUE TO ENVIROMENTAL LAWS YOU CANNOT DRIVE YOUR BEETLE IN THE STREET ON A SATURDAY. SO TO FAMILIARISE YOURSELF WITH IT PLEASE ONLY DRIVE IT AROUND THE CAR PARK.



The 2020 dumbball

1442 miles / 2322 km

Mexico City – Morelia – Chapala –
Puerto Vallarta Manzanillo – Ixtapa
Acapulco – Cuernavaca – Mexico City

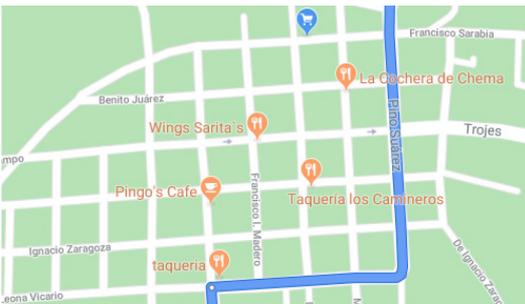
[LIVE GOOGLE MAPS LINK](#)

43 h
1,459 miles

Sunday Jan 19th [Day 2] Mexico City - Morelia

Distance: 192 miles Difficulty: Medium

From Mexico City to Morelia via Toluca. Expect a rude awakening as we navigate out of the city, our convoy skills will be tested to the max! Once in the countryside look out for beautiful towns and villages.



GROUP DEPARTURE FROM HOTEL CAR PARK AT 8AM

We will be leaving at 8am prompt to walk to our cars. If you have heavy luggage we recommend jumping in a taxi.

If you are making good time, set a course for Morelia Via OCAMPO. A tourist destination due to the local butterfly sanctuary, there are plenty of places to stop for lunch. See map left.

OUR DESTINATION: Hotel Mision Catedral
Ignacio Zaragoza 37, Centro histórico de Morelia, 58000 Morelia, Tel:+52 443 313 0406
hotelesmision.com.mx

Dumball One will be eating pizza and propping up the bar in the Sherlock themed WATSON BAR two blocks south. See map below.

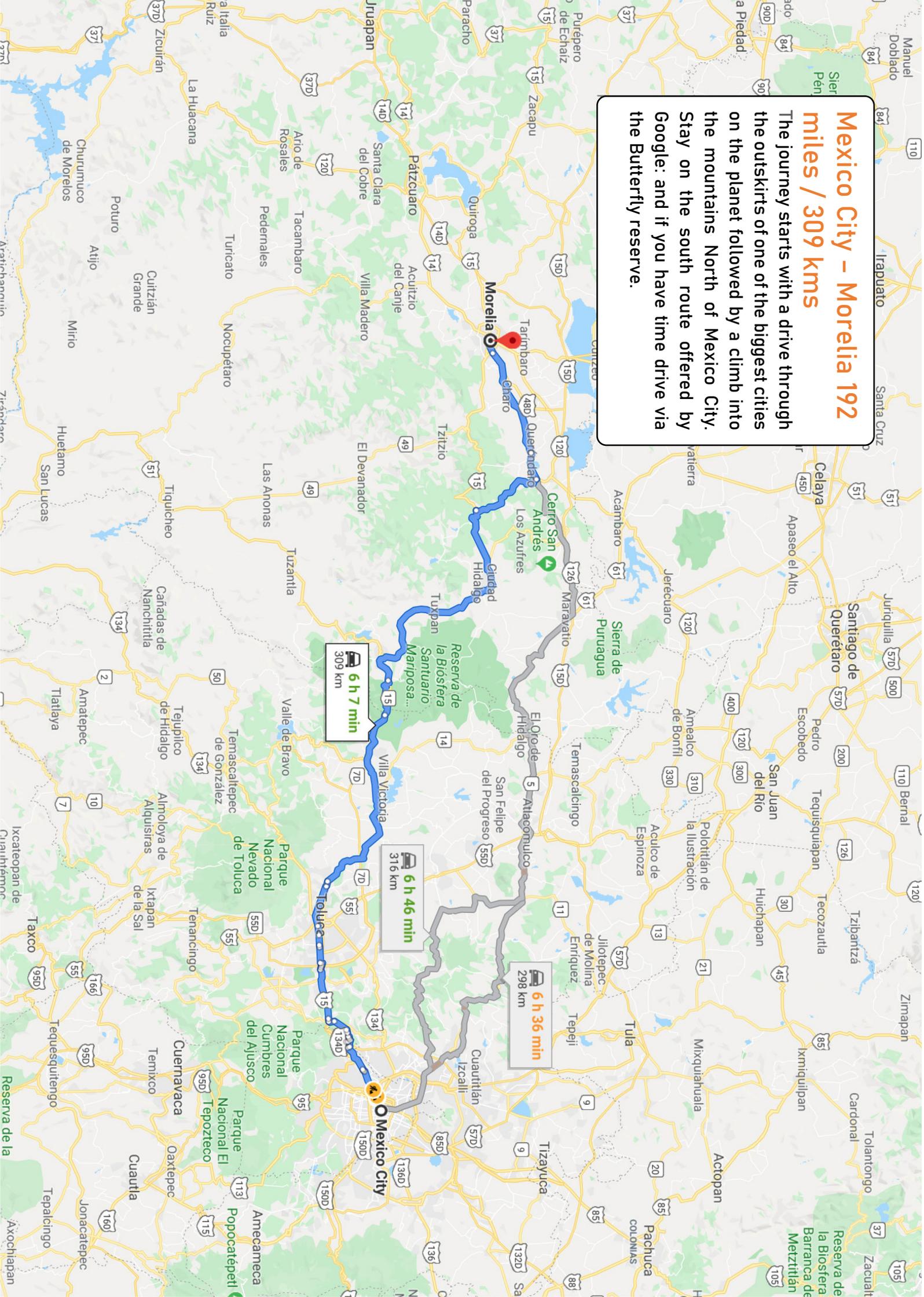
Finding the Hotel Mision Catedral

Tonight's hotel is opposite the main Plaza de Armas in the centre of Morelia.



Mexico City – Morelia 192 miles / 309 kms

The journey starts with a drive through the outskirts of one of the biggest cities on the planet followed by a climb into the mountains North of Mexico City. Stay on the south route offered by Google: and if you have time drive via the Butterfly reserve.



Monday Jan 20th [Day 3] Morelia - Chapala

Distance: 211 miles Difficulty: Hard



It's a tough drive today through some remote areas, so make sure you stay in convoy and arrive in good time. You don't want to be on the roads at night! If you are making headway stop in Zamora for a relaxing lunch.



GROUP DEPARTURE FROM HOTEL CAR PARK AT 8AM

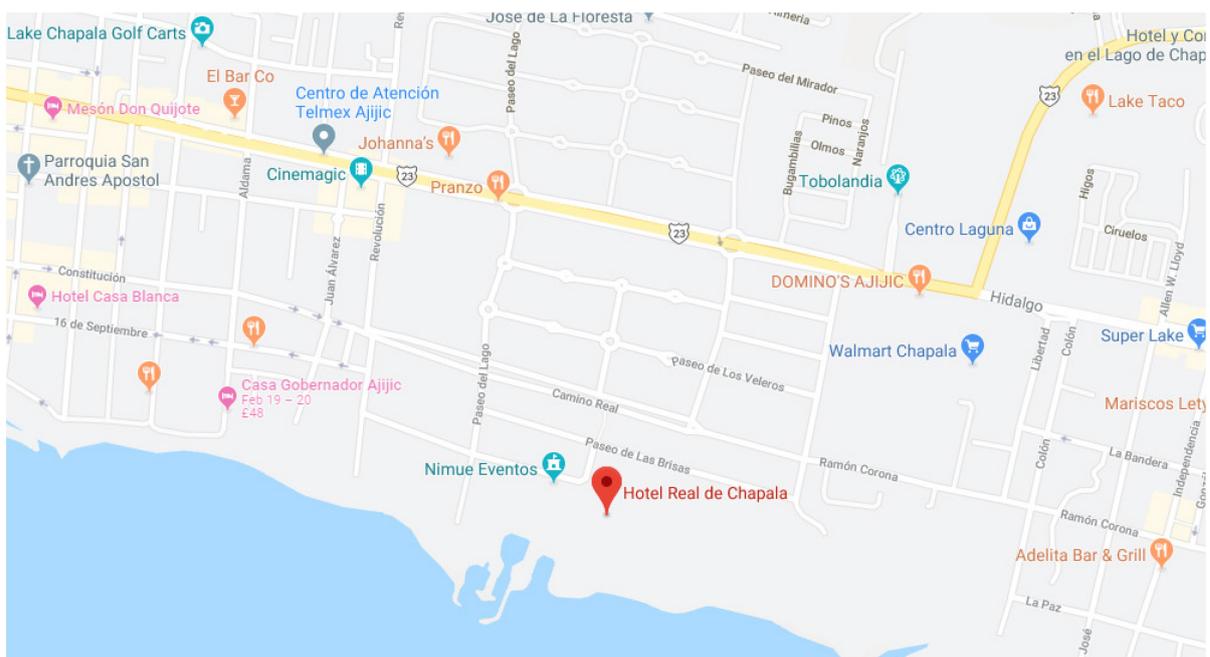
If you are making good time, we recommend setting a course via ZAMORA. A pretty cathedral town with a park and various places serving Mexican street food.

OUR DESTINATION: Real de Chapala
 DES Paseo del Prado 20, Fraccionamiento La Floresta, 45920 Ajijic, Jal.
 7PVX+JH Ajijic, Jalisco
 realdechapala.com
 Tel: +52 33 3641 9100

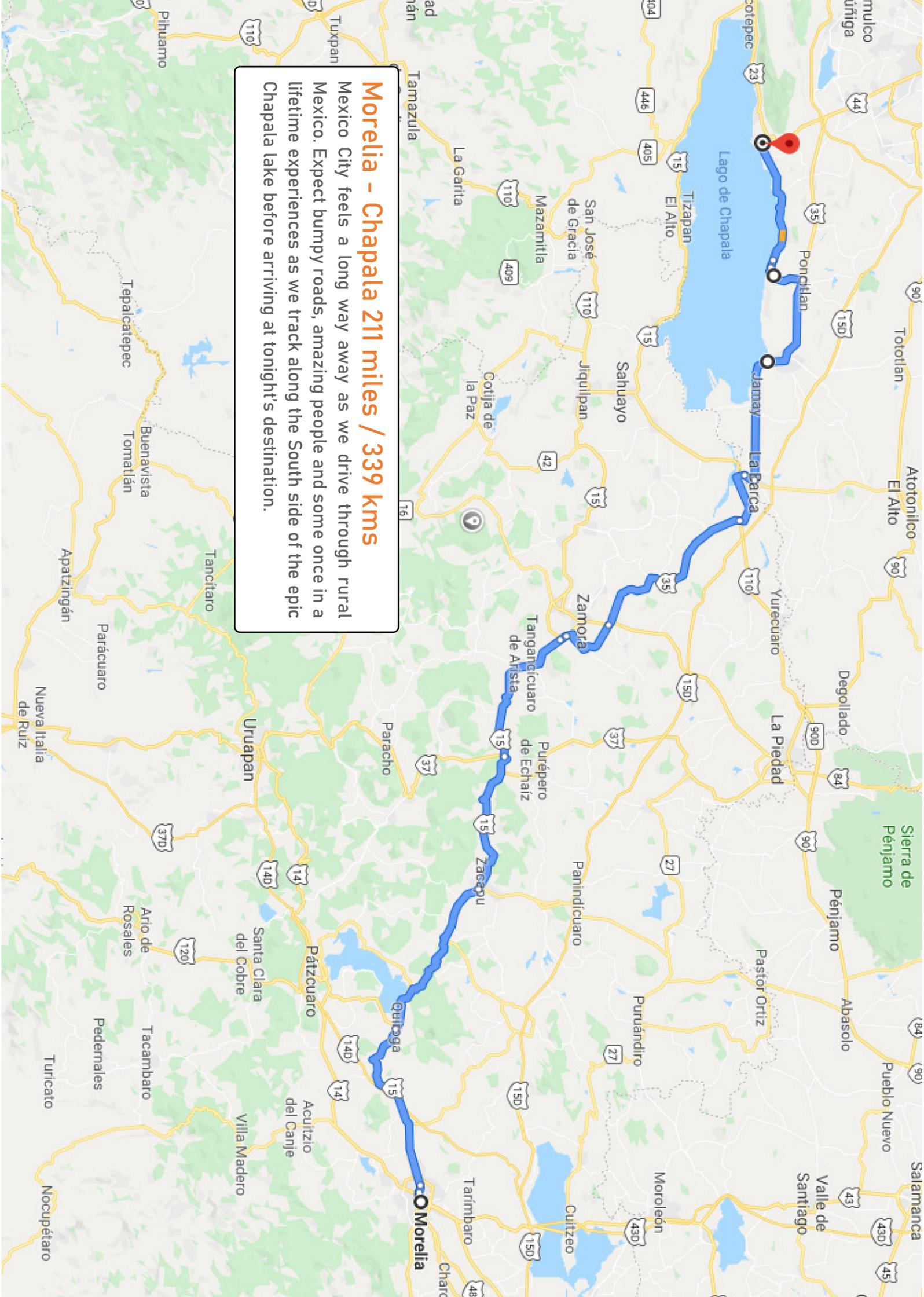
Dumball One will be eating barbequed meat at the ADELITA BAR & GRILL a short walk East of our hotel. See map below.

Finding the Real de Chapala

The hotel is on the North shore of Chapala lake. It has a pool, so try and get there early!



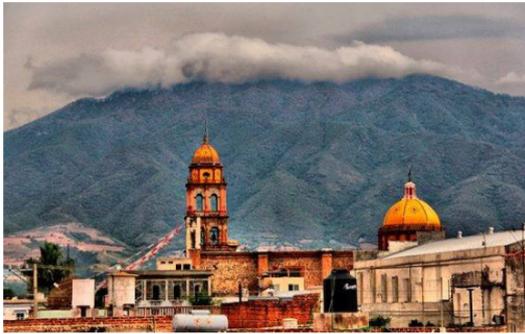
Morelia - Chapapala 211 miles / 339 kms
Mexico City feels a long way away as we drive through rural Mexico. Expect bumpy roads, amazing people and some once in a lifetime experiences as we track along the South side of the epic Chapapala lake before arriving at tonight's destination.



Tuesday Jan 21st [Day 4] Chapala – Puerto Vallarta

Distance: 210 miles

Difficulty: Hard



A stunning mountainous route, followed by our first glimpse of the Pacific!



GROUP DEPARTURE FROM HOTEL CAR PARK AT 8AM

If you have time, set a course for Puerto Vallarta via AMECA (pictured top left). This small town nestled in the mountains looks like a lovely place to munch on a taco before hitting the road once more.

OUR DESTINATION: Westin Puerto Vallarta
Av. Paseo de la Marina Sur #205, Marina Vallarta, 48354 Puerto Vallarta, Jal.
MQ52+C4 Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco
marriott.com
+52 322 226 1100

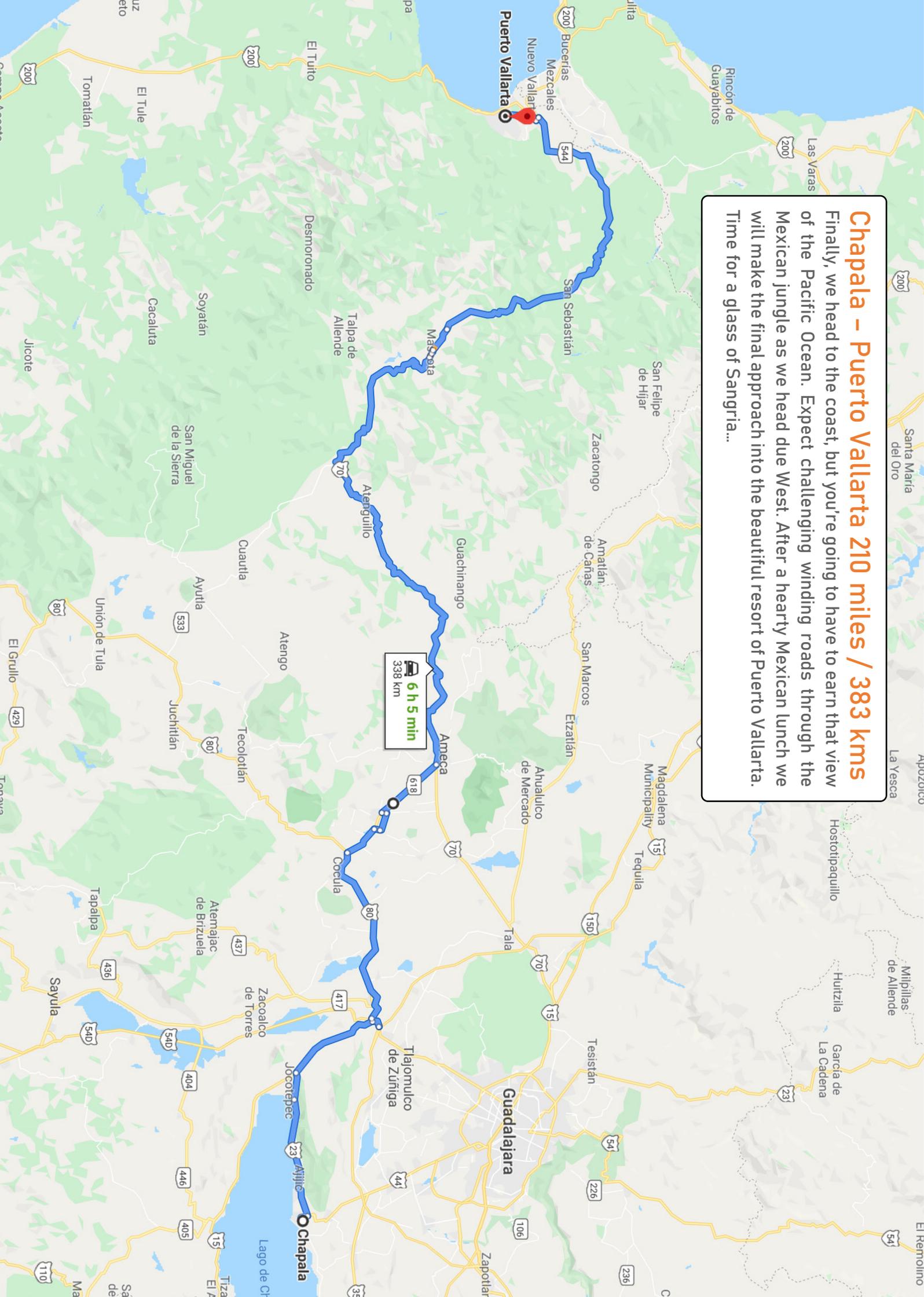
Dumball One will be headed to the MANTAMAR BEACH CLUB for food, drinks and a little bit of dancing. Be there or be square.

Finding the Westin Puerto Vallarta

Our luxurious hotel is at the end of the Marina Vallarta. Get there early and enjoy!



Chapala – Puerto Vallarta 210 miles / 383 kms
Finally, we head to the coast, but you're going to have to earn that view of the Pacific Ocean. Expect challenging winding roads through the Mexican jungle as we head due West. After a hearty Mexican lunch we will make the final approach into the beautiful resort of Puerto Vallarta. Time for a glass of Sangria...



Wednesday Jan 22nd [Day 5] Puerto Vallarta - Manzanillo

Distance: 170 miles Difficulty: Medium



Ocean driving, Mexican dining, topped off with a swim in the sea, If your Beetle behaves itself...today could be a day to remember!



GROUP DEPARTURE FROM HOTEL CAR PARK AT 8AM

Set a course via PERULA where you will find amazing local seafood at restaurants like the EL PIRATA right on the beach

(picture bottom left)

OUR DESTINATION: Las Hadas

Vista Hermosa S/N, Las Hadas, Península de Santiago, 28867 Manzanillo, Col., Mexico

4M22+7M Manzanillo, Colima, Mexico

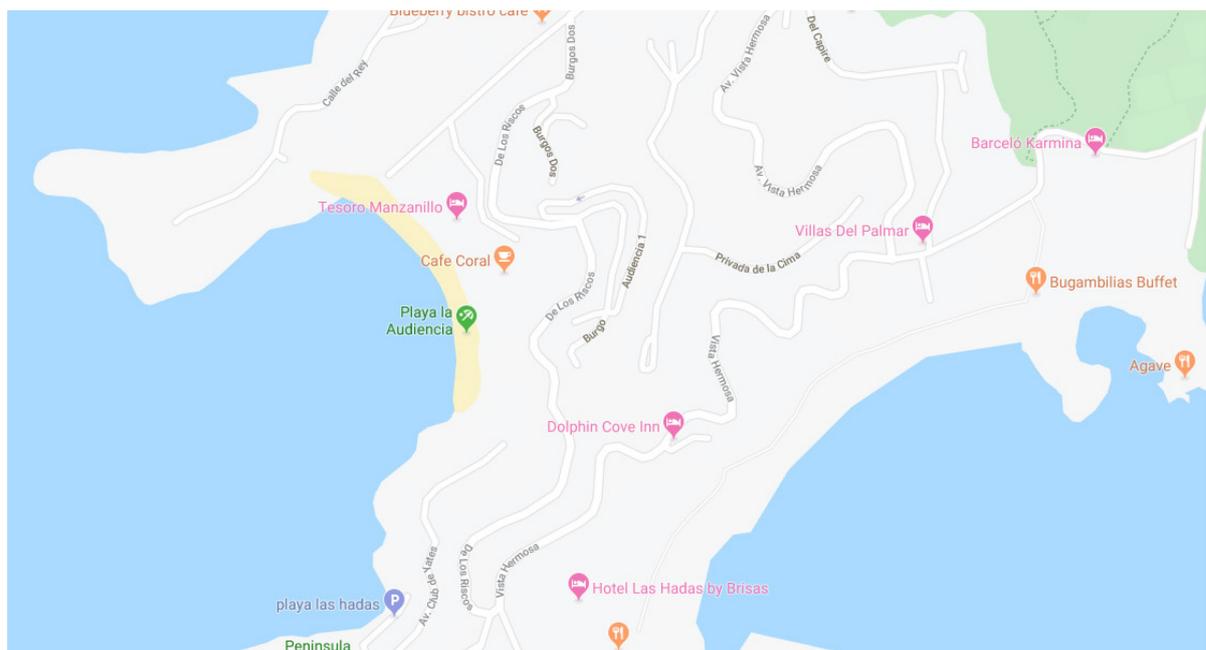
lasbrisashotels.com.mx

Tel: +52 314 331 0101

Dine with Dumball One down at the marina at the funky looking POCO PAZZO restaurant, right in front of the yachts.

Finding the Las Hadas by Brisas

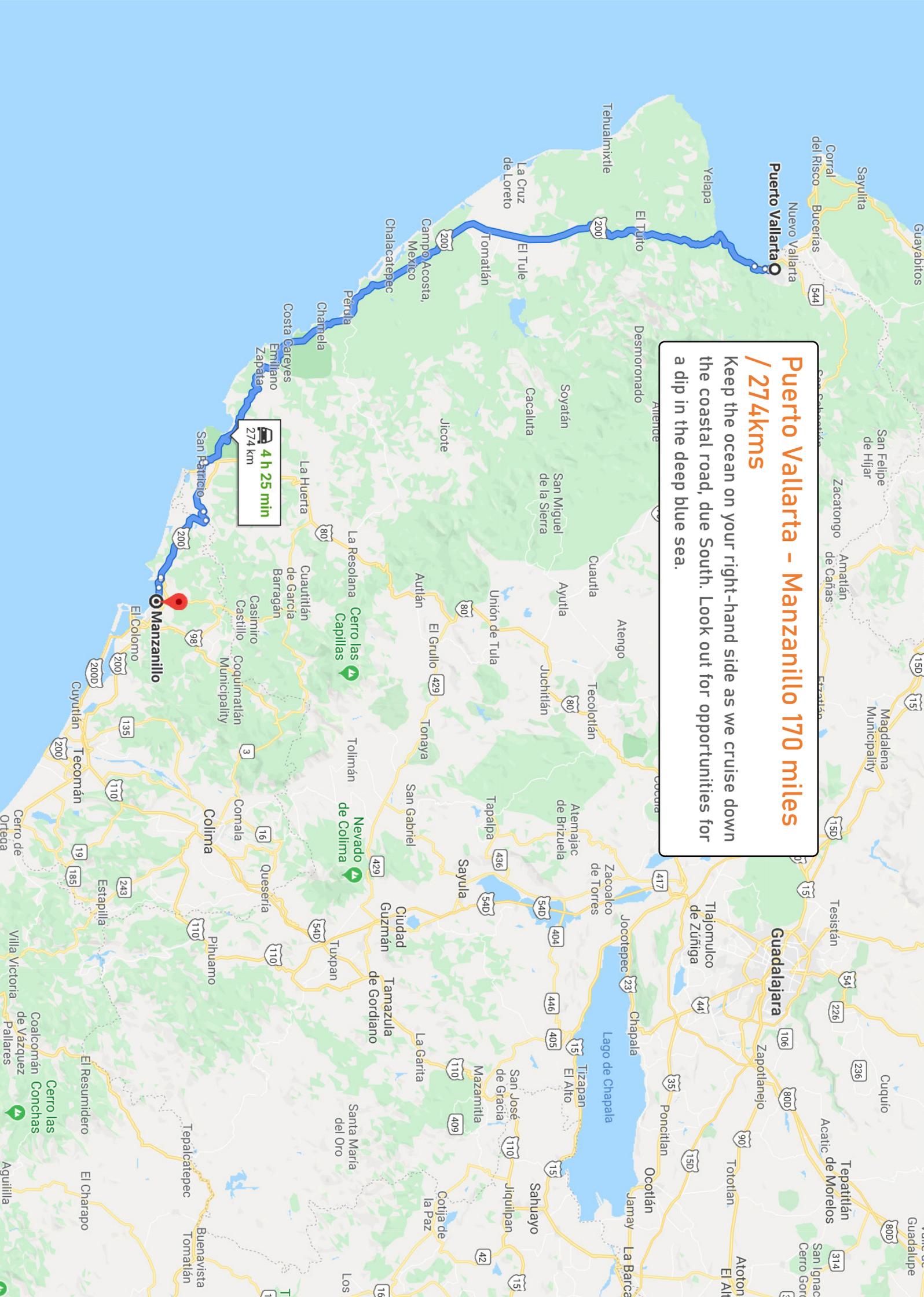
Our hotel is right next to the LAS HADAS MARINA due south of the town's peninsula.



Puerto Vallarta - Manzanillo 170 miles / 274kms

Keep the ocean on your right-hand side as we cruise down the coastal road, due South. Look out for opportunities for a dip in the deep blue sea.

4 h 25 min
274 km



Thursday Jan 23rd [Day 6] Manzanillo - Ixtapa

Distance: 278 miles Difficulty: Hardest!



Costal driving all the way today – but it’s a long one, so get up early and get on the road! This is serious dumballing. Let’s hope the Beetles survive this punishing day on the road.



GROUP DEPARTURE FROM HOTEL CAR PARK AT 8AM

Today is a big old day of driving, so we recommend grabbing a **LUNCH ON THE RUN**. If we are to make it to Ixtapa before nightfall, this is the only way. Stay strong dumballers!

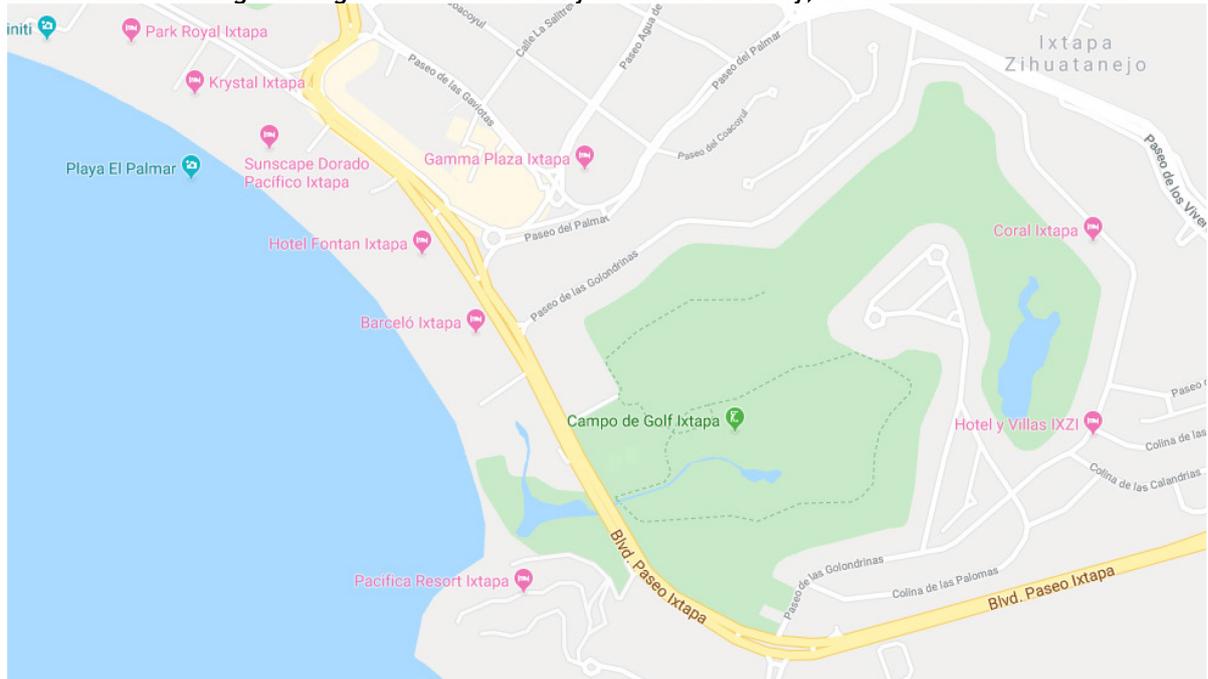
OUR DESTINATION: Brisas Ixtapa
Paseo Playa Hermosa s/n, 40880 Ixtapa Zihuatanejo, Gro.
JCX3+3M Ixtapa Zihuatanejo, Guerrero
lasbrisashotels.com.mx
 Tel: +52 755 553 2121

Tonight Dumball One will be reviving Karaoke club in the **MAIN HOTEL BAR**.

Come join us for a sing song!

Finding the Brisas Ixtapa

You’ll find our large orange hotel at the very south of the bay, off the main boulevard.



Friday Jan 24th [Day 7] Ixtapa - Acapulco

Distance: 165 miles Difficulty: Hard



The final costal drive of the entire trip as we prepare to go LOCO in ACAPULCO! Try and stop for lunch if you can as it's a mere 165 miles to cover today.



GROUP DEPARTURE FROM HOTEL CAR PARK AT 8AM

Halfway through this leg you will pass through TÉCPAN DE GALEANA where the RESTAURANT MONSERRAT has plenty of tables and very nice looking food with a sea view. (pic top left)

OUR DESTINATION: Brisas Acapulco
Vientos Terrales s/n, Las Brisas, 39867 Acapulco de Juárez, Gro.
R4FR+25 Acapulco, Guerrero
suiteslasbrisas.com
Tel: +52 744 480 1319

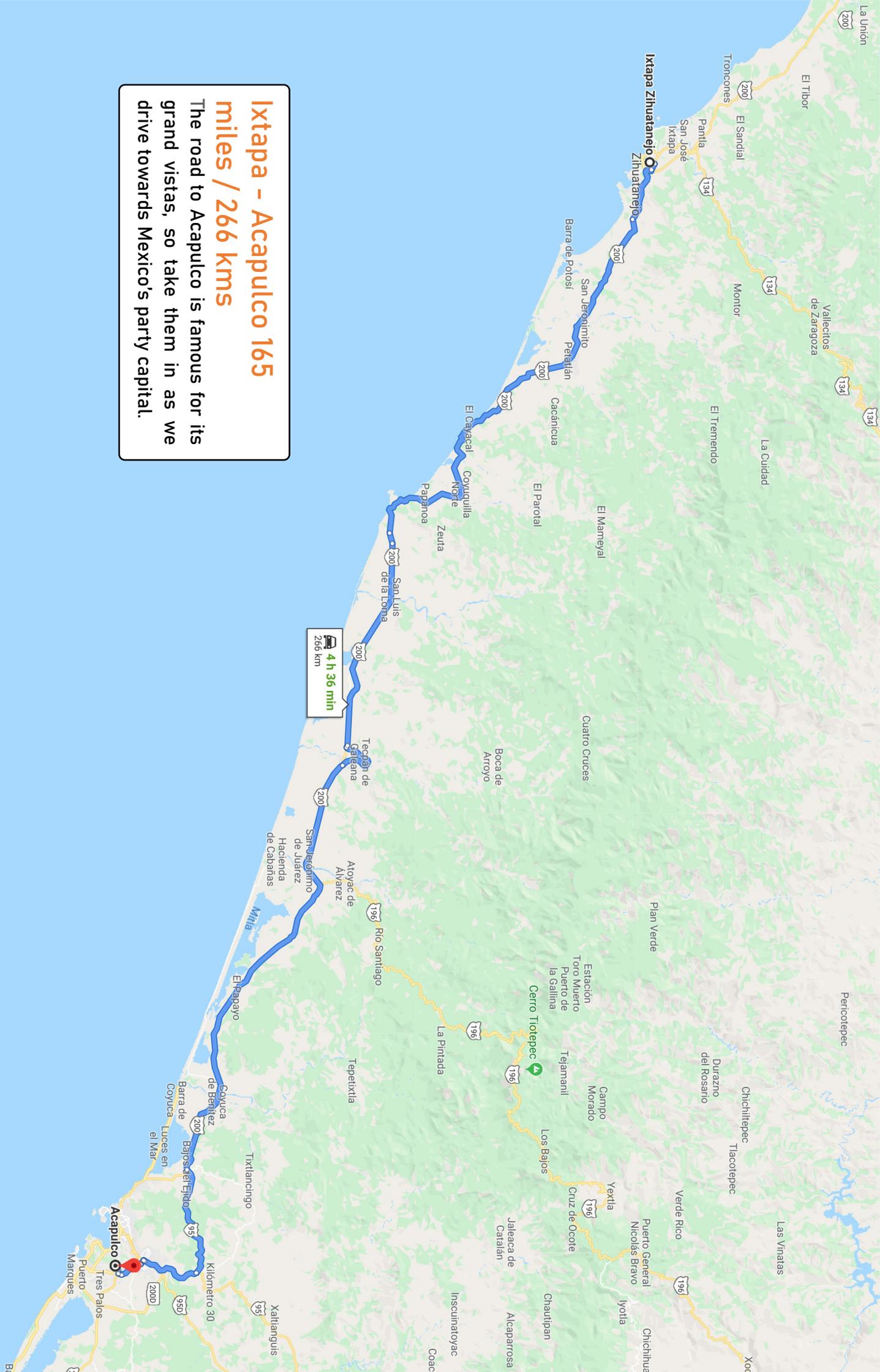
Tonight Dumball One will be enjoying food and drink in the main hotel restaurant and ORGANISING SOME FUN.

WE ADVISE STAYING IN THE HOTEL TONIGHT FOR YOUR SAFETY.

Finding Las Brisas Acapulco

You'll find our lovely hotel on the main road that winds its way south through Acapulco.





Ixtapa - Acapulco 165 miles / 266 kms
The road to Acapulco is famous for its grand vistas, so take them in as we drive towards Mexico's party capital.

4 h 36 min
266 km

Saturday Jan 25th [Day 8] Acapulco – Cuernavaca

Distance: 181miles Difficulty: Medium



We head inland and North along the highway straight to the historic town of Cuernavaca.



GROUP DEPARTURE FROM HOTEL CAR PARK AT 8AM

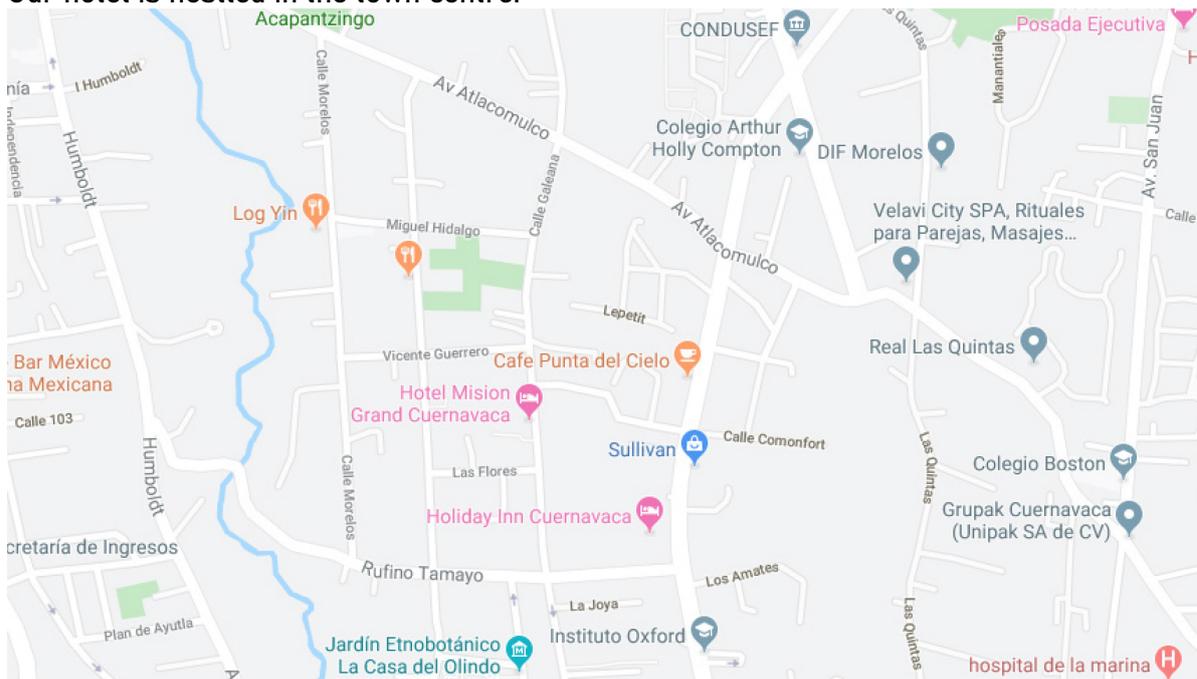
We recommend a lunch 'on the go' today. Grab something from the services when you fill up and eat it on the run. It's a day of fairly unremarkable driving on the highway after all.

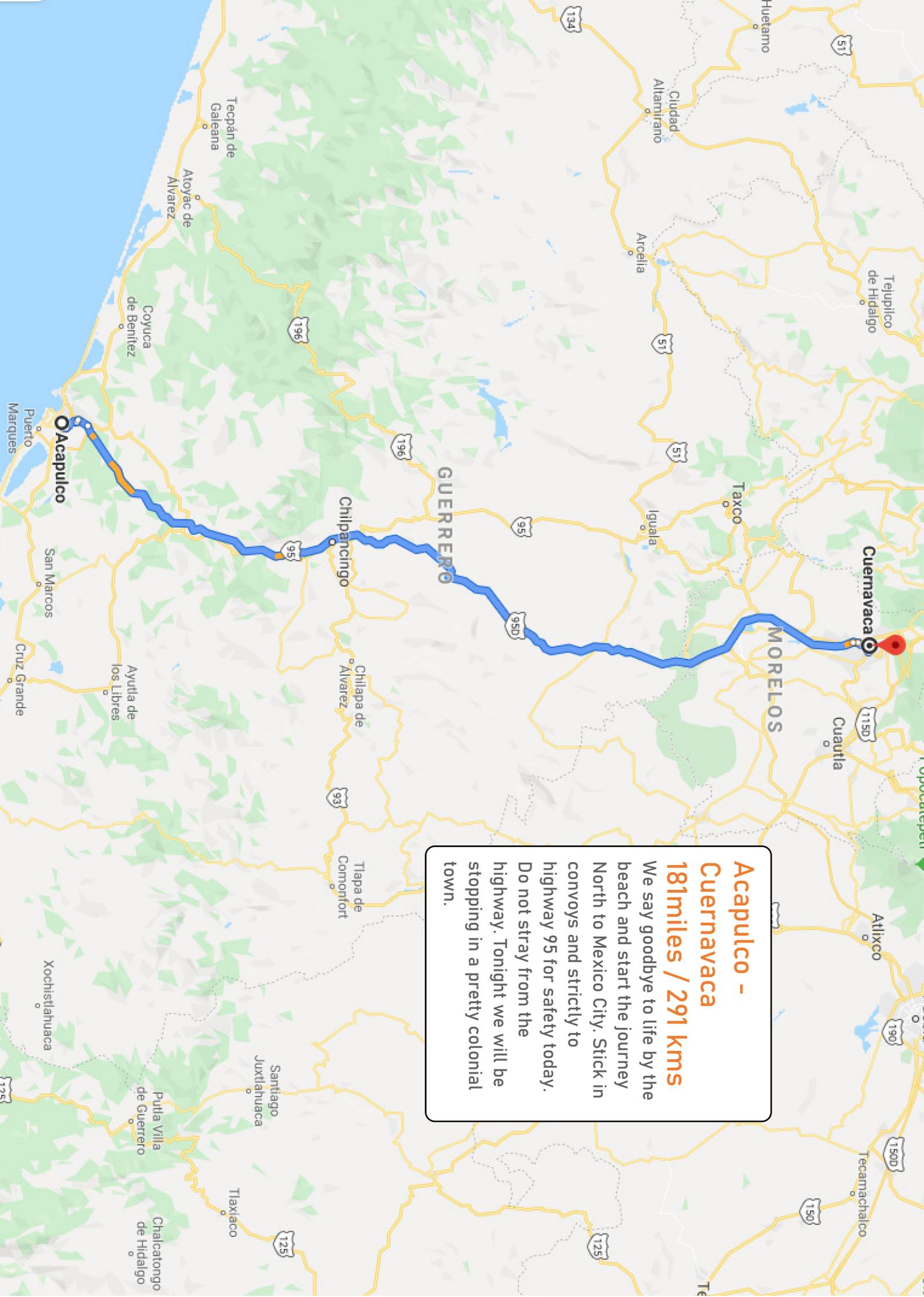
OUR DESTINATION: Misión Grand Cuernavaca
Calle Galeana 29, Acapantzingo, 62440 Cuernavaca, Mor.
WQ7G+2J Cuernavaca, Morelos
hotelesmision.com.mx

TONIGHT WE WILL BE TAKING YOUR VOTES!
Please visit our [Google Form](#) to cast your vote for the winners of the dumball's accolades. (page 10)

Finding the Hotel Mision Grand Cuernavaca

Our hotel is nestled in the town centre.





Acapulco - Cuernavaca

181miles / 291 kms

We say goodbye to life by the beach and start the journey North to Mexico City. Stick in convoys and strictly to highway 95 for safety today. Do not stray from the highway. Tonight we will be stopping in a pretty colonial town.

Sunday Jan 26th [Day 9] Cuernavaca – Mexico City

Distance: 44 miles Difficulty: Easy



We're heading back to Mexico City today – our journey is over! But pay attention because today needs to run like clockwork. See you at the awards ceremony!



GROUP DEPARTURE FROM HOTEL CAR PARK AT 9AM

Drive directly to Mexico City and park your Beetle in the hotel car park. PLEASE HAND IN YOUR WALKIE.
See page 32 for your 'ditch the car' options.

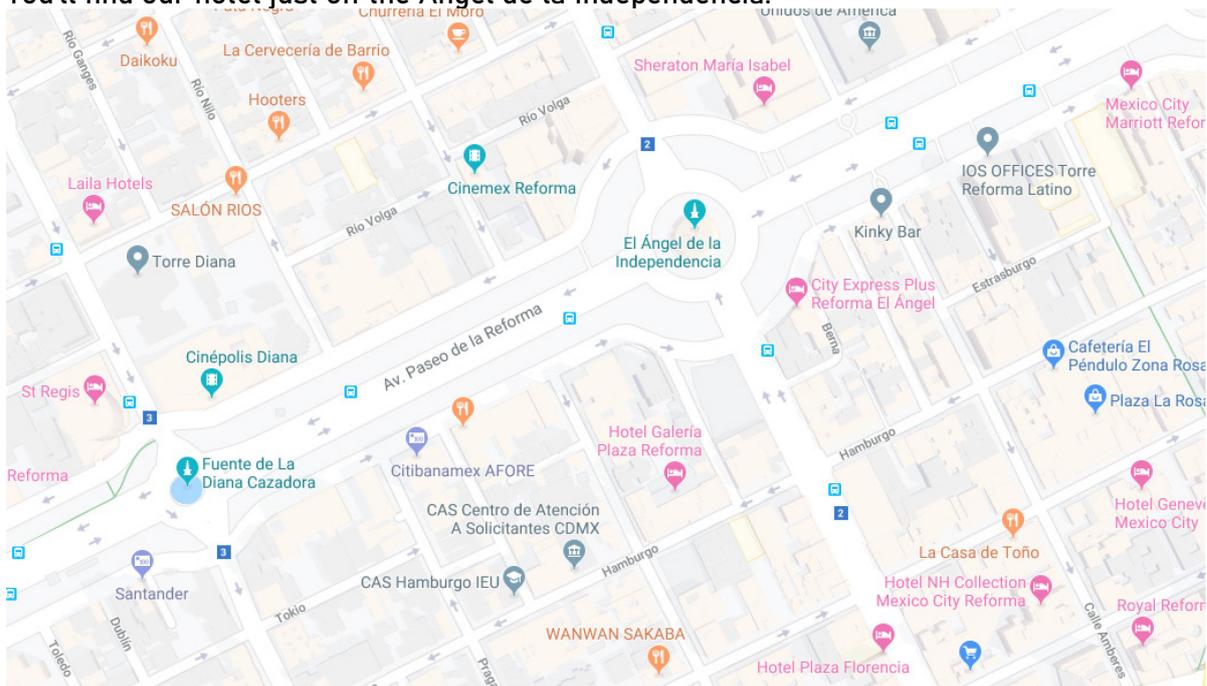
OUR DESTINATION: Galeria Plaza Reforma
Hamburgo 195, Juárez, Cuauhtémoc, 06600 Ciudad de México, CDMX
CRFJ+WV Mexico City

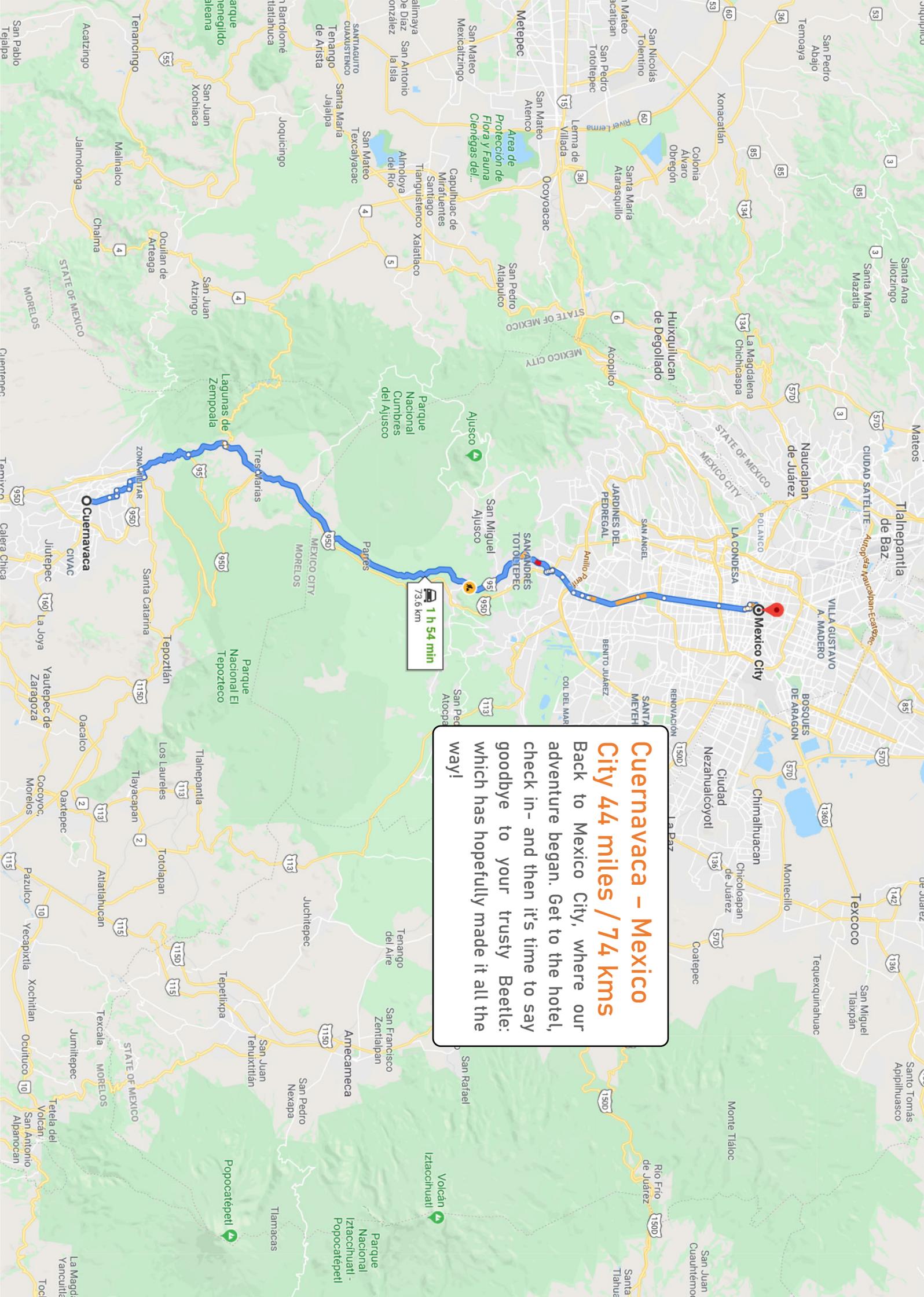
THE GRAND DUMBALL AWARDS CEREMONY Will take place this evening at the hotel. Meet in your fancy dress at 7pm in the reception to be whisked away to tonight's secret venue!



Finding the Galeria Plaza

You'll find our hotel just off the Angel de la Independencia.





1 h 54 min
73.6 km

Cuernavaca – Mexico City 44 miles / 74 kms
Back to Mexico City, where our adventure began. Get to the hotel, check in - and then it's time to say goodbye to your trusty Beetle: which has hopefully made it all the way!

DON'T FORGET DES



DUMBALLERS NEVER DRINK AND DRIVE

Monday Jan 27th [Day 10] Mexico City

TIME TO SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR TRUSTY BEETLE!



CHECK OUT OF THE HOTEL BY 11AM

MEET AT 10AM IN HOTEL RECEPTION TO:

- 1) HAND OVER YOUR VEHICLE.
- 2) PICK UP THE PAPERWORK SO YOU CAN KEEP IT OR SELL IT YOURSELF

SEE OPTIONS BELOW...

THAT'S IT! THE DUMBALL IS NOW OVER.

YOU CAN STAY, FLY OR DRIVE HOME.
HOPEFULLY OUR PATHS WILL CROSS AGAIN
SOMEDAY!

Getting rid of your Beetle

When it comes to getting rid of your Beetle you have three clear options. We know which option we'd like you to choose: but it is a free world and we will help you end the rally whichever way you see fit.

1) KEEP YOUR BEETLE

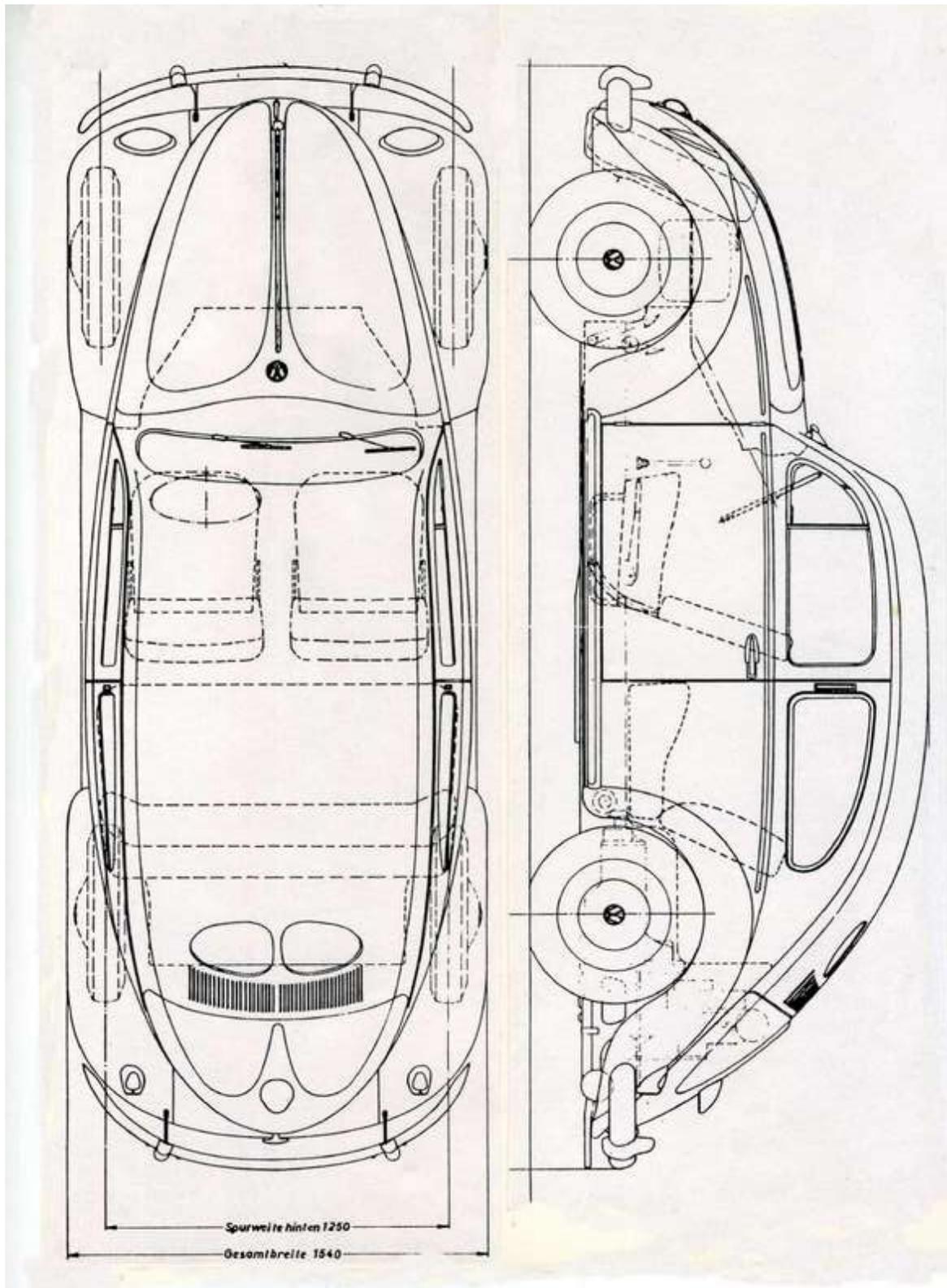
If you fall into this category then what you do with your Beetle is totally up to you. If you'd like to export it from Mexico we can help introduce you to a company that does this. All you will need are the ownership documents which will be kept in the safe at the Reforma Galeria Plaza Hotel.

2) SELL YOUR BEETLE

You can do this one of two ways. Either take your Beetle around Mexico City and sell it yourself (take your documents with you) or hand your Beetle to our Mexican team and we will sell it via a sales agent. We will invite some local dealers and interested buyers to our hotel who are eager for a bargain. You can take the money and run, or hold out for a better price by leaving it with the agent (who will take a commission).

3) DONATE YOUR BEETLE

The third option is to leave your Beetle at the hotel but give us permission to donate any profits from its sale to the Teenage Cancer Trust. Obvs we think this is the way to go!



[who's who?]

Mexican support teams / organisers in orange

THE BLUNDERING BLUE SQUAD	
DUMBALL ONE	Rick Murray, Nick Geary, Danny Maines
DISCO FIBRILLATORS	Katie Jenkins, Amber Holden, Suzannah Pawsey
F*CK IT WE'RE GOING!	Jade Francis, John Francis
SURF, WIND & TYRE	Paul Coleman, Simon Fletcher, Matthew Oxborrow
HULKUR	Katriin Krimm, Kaspar Rabbi, Silver Tõnisson
DOS HOMBRES Y UNA CABRA	Jonathan Goucher, Edward Parry – Smith, Guy Newton
F*CK IT WE'RE GOING TOO	Adrian Kennedy, Amber Kennedy, Daniel Davis
LOS MECANICOS	Victor Cervantes, Alejandro Arroyo
THE WICKED WHITE SQUAD	
RAGIN' HORN	Ben Dean, Colin Horn, Alper Isiktan
TEAM GOLD : EL DORADO	Roger Jones, Peter Burnett, Anita Asghar, Rebecca Iden
JPE	Krishan Varma, Jeremy Van Gorder, Kevin Sanger, Mark Hammond
TSK1	Ross Cannon, Sam Cole, Joe Jarvie, Sam Leworthy
CRASH BANG WALLOP	Jason Masters, Jon Gardner, Jordan Le Saint, John Borman
AMBULANCIA	Keith Gilbert, Jason Law, James Hills
THE WEDDING PARTY	David Houghton, Deborah Smedley
PINATA PARTY	Stuart Jowers, Sarah Cook
LOS MECANICOS	Martin Villa, Enrique Colin
THE RAMBUNCTIOUS RED SQUAD	
VICTOR'S SUPERCAR	Victor Sanchez , Aaron Garza, Johnattan Bustos, Luis Orihuela
"DOS" GERT LUSH AMIGOS	Tim Maddocks, Tony Bosley
LA FAMILIA MARGARITA	Matthew M Morris, Alexandra James
GERMAN ENGINEERING	Stephan Karl, Simon Bay, Kim Demian Kafenda
B-BOYS	Adrian Ashby, Jonathan Ashby
PSYCHEDELIC DISCO DEN	Jarrod Sampson, Sandy Sampson, Mark Greenslade, Donna Woodward
THE CANNONBALLERS	Fernando Escabi-Mendez, Frances Rodriguez-Rivera, Fred Albritton, Amy Albritton
SCARAB	Joshua Page, Alex Zarnas



[facts]

The facts, the whole facts, and nothing but the facts. FACT.
Enter **GOOGLE CODE** into Google maps app for directions.

DESTINATION	
<p>Saturday Jan 18th [Day 1] Mexico City: Opening event. Distance: 0 miles Difficulty: Easy</p>	<p>Galeria Reforma Plaza, Mexico City Hamburgo 195, Juárez, Cuauhtémoc, 06600 Ciudad de México, CDMX Tel: +52 55 5230 1717 GOOGLE CODE: CRFJ+WV Mexico City, Mexico CAR PARK LOCATION <i>Atenas 66 Juárez Cuauhtémoc 06600 Ciudad de México, CDMX</i> GOOGLE CODE: CRJV+JM Mexico City, Mexico</p>
<p>Sunday Jan 19th [Day 2] Mexico City - Morelia Distance: 192 miles Difficulty: Medium</p>	<p>Hotel Mision Catedral Ignacio Zaragoza 37, Centro histórico de Morelia, 58000 Morelia, Tel:+52 443 313 0406 GOOGLE CODE: PR34+6M Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico</p>
<p>Monday Jan 20th [Day 3] Morelia - Chapala Distance: 211 miles Difficulty: Hard</p>	<p>Real de Chapala DESPaseo del Prado 20, Fraccionamiento La Floresta, 45920 Ajijic, Jal. Jalisco Tel: +52 33 3641 9100 GOOGLE CODE: 7PVX+JH Ajijic, Jalisco, Mexico</p>
<p>Tuesday Jan 21st [Day 4] Chapala - Puerto Vallarta Distance: 210 miles Difficulty: Hard</p>	<p>Westin Puerto Vallarta Av. Paseo de la Marina Sur #205, Marina Vallarta, 48354 Puerto Vallarta, Jal. +52 322 226 1100 GOOGLE CODE: MQ52+C4 Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico</p>
<p>Wednesday Jan 22nd [Day 5] Puerto Vallarta - Manzanillo Distance: 170 miles Difficulty: Medium</p>	<p>Las Hadas Brisas <i>Vista Hermosa S/N, Las Hadas, Península de Santiago, 28867 Manzanillo, Col., Mexico</i> Tel: +52 314 331 0101 GOOGLE CODE: 4M22+7M Manzanillo, Colima, Mexico</p>
<p>Thursday Jan 23rd [Day 6] Manzanillo - Ixtapa Distance: 278 miles Difficulty: Hardest!</p>	<p>Brisas Ixtapa <i>Paseo Playa Hermosa s/n, 40880 Ixtapa Zihuatanejo, Guerrero</i> Tel: +52 755 553 2121 GOOGLE CODE: JCX3+3M Ixtapa Zihuatanejo, Guerrero, Mexico</p>
<p>Friday Jan 24th [Day 7] Ixtapa - Acapulco Distance: 165 miles Difficulty: Hard</p>	<p>Brisas Acapulco <i>Vientos Terrales s/n, Las Brisas, 39867 Acapulco de Juárez, Gro. Acapulco, Guerrero</i> Tel: +52 744 480 1319 GOOGLE CODE: R4GQ+F5 Acapulco, Guerrero, Mexico</p>
<p>Saturday Jan 25th [Day 8] Acapulco - Cuernavaca Distance: 181miles Difficulty: Medium</p>	<p>Misión Grand Cuernavaca <i>Calle Galeana 29, Acapantzingo, 62440 Cuernavaca, Morelos</i> GOOGLE CODE: WQ7G+2J Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico</p>
<p>Sunday Jan 26th [Day 9] Cuernavaca - Mexico City Distance: 44 miles Difficulty: Easy</p>	<p>Galeria Reforma Plaza, Mexico City <i>Hamburgo 195, Juárez, Cuauhtémoc, 06600 Ciudad de México, CDMX</i> GOOGLE CODE: CRFJ+WV Mexico City, Mexico</p>
<p>Monday Jan 27th [Day 10] Mexico City Distance: 0 miles Difficulty: Easy</p>	<p>CAR PARK LOCATION <i>Atenas 66 Juárez Cuauhtémoc 06600 Ciudad de México, CDMX</i> GOOGLE CODE: CRJV+JM Mexico City, Mexico</p>

In an emergency dial: **911**