Cerro Pelón Day Trip Guide

Cerro Pelón tours are $75 USD/each. Payment is due upon arrival in Macheros. There are no ATMs or banks in Macheros, but we can take Visa, Mastercard or PayPal as forms of payment (but not American Express). The tour price includes your park entry, your horse, an English-speaking guide, and a picnic lunch and a bottle of water, which your guide will carry for you. It does not include transport to and from our place (no more than 300 MXN from Zitacuaro), breakfast next door (80 MXN), or tips for your guides and horse handlers (200 MXN per helper is standard).

What to bring: Enough extra pesos to cover your transport, breakfast and tips. It can be chilly up on Cerro Pelon, so bring layers and wear shoes with good traction.

The lunch options are (1) turkey ham & cheese torta, (2) a cheese and veggie torta or (3) a gluten-free vegan soy salad. Let us know which one you would prefer ahead of time.

We leave at 10 am sharp from the B&B office in the center of Macheros and walk 5 minutes to the entry of the Cerro Pelón sanctuary, where you will meet your horse and its handler, who will lead it up the mountain (so you don’t have to know how to ride) to a clearing where we will leave the horses. It’s an hour plus up by horse and then another 15-30 minute steep hike up to the colony (this distance varies over the course of the season). Horses are highly recommended for the first part of the trek because of trail conditions and the altitude. We ascend from 2,300 m in the village of Macheros up to 3,400 m where the colony is located. The trail is approximately 6 km-long trail each way.

Tours generally get back around 3-4 pm. We can arrange for a taxi to take you back to Zitacuaro, or you can ask the driver who brings you out in the morning to return for you in the afternoon.

How to reach us from Mexico City

You'll need to catch the 6 am bus from the Observatorio terminal in Mexico City to reach us with plenty of time for the 10 am tour. (7 am departures get here too late because the bus gets stuck in rush hour traffic in Mexico City.) In the Observatorio terminal, find the counter with a sign that says “La Linea.” This counter also sell tickets for Excelencia. Purchase a “directo” to Zitacuaro. The ride will take about two hours and the ticket costs around 270 MXN. Once you reach Zitácuaro, take a taxi from in front of the terminal to Macheros. Because we are in the State of Mexico and Zitácuaro is in Michoacán, you cannot purchase a ticket at the authorized taxi window. You will need to go directly to the queue of taxis to ask for the ride. It should not cost more than 300 MXN. There are more details here: https://jmbutterflybnb.com/directions/#taxi

How to reach us from Zitácuaro

February/March filled up quickly at our place. We’re the only place to stay in Macheros, at the entry of the Cerro Pelon sanctuary. If you’d like to stay in Zitácuaro, where there are many lodging options, and join us for a Cerro Pelon tour, you’d be more than welcome to do so. Have your hotel call you a cab to take you to Macheros. Leave at least 40 minutes for the ride. Even better, come earlier and join us for breakfast.