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Bici Bucerias

Bringing Cyclists' Dreams to Life in Mexican Paradise

Calgarians Joel and Jillian Goralski thought running cycling tours in Mexico would be a great family adventure. Little did they know the 2013 venture in a quaint coastal town near Puerto Vallarta would steal their hearts and grow into a wildly successful active tourism business called Bici Bucerias.

"Our initial intention was to spend one year in Mexico as a "life experience." We never really thought that it would turn into the business that it has become," says Joel, a Calgary real estate developer, entrepreneur and cycling guide. "Demand is up way more than we could have ever imagined."

At its core, Bici Bucerias is a destination cycling company, one that brings the majesty of the Sierra Madre Mountains and the warm salt air of the Pacific Ocean to within a pedal stroke of each rider. More than 1,200 visitors have stayed at the Goralskis' Casa Victoria Villas and ridden Bici Bucerias tours. And those numbers are sure to grow with villa accommodation expanding to 20 units and two more cycling locations now open in Puerto Vallarta and Sayulita. Add in Bici

Bucerias's second annual Gran Fondo (a one-day, 165K race) on Dec. 4, 2016, and the cycling choices become more intriguing.

"We're one of the most unique Gran Fondos in Mexico because of our beach environment," says Joel. Additionally, a yoga and cycle retreat is being offered with the first trip set for Nov. 19-26 that's nearly sold out.

Daily guided bike tours (from 50K-100K) range from easy to challenging and include vehicle support and lunch. From recreational rider to hard-core, cyclists explore coastal routes, country roads and ancient mountain towns. Weekly packages are available and there are several models of Specialized road bikes that can be rented. "You don't need to bring your bike for a week-long cycling vacation with us," says Joel.

Whether you ride each morning or not, travellers can simply enjoy a peaceful beach holiday, lounging by the pool or shopping in Bucerias. You'll meet the Goralskis' kids Niklas-Jack, 15 and Adelaide, 14, along with Jillian's father, Bob Bruce, who at 72 is a ride guide. And tomorrow, you can do it all again. ■

ABOVE, FROM LEFT: Bob and Lyn Bruce, Niklas-Jack, Joel, Adelaide and Jillian Goralski will welcome you to Bici Bucerias in Mexico's Riviera Nayarit. **INSET:** the Bici Bucerias family in 2013 as they launched their Mexican (ad)venture.



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