

Dear PASI Students,

In order to help you prepare for your arrival in Morelia next week, this message contains some final information. A PDF copy will also be placed on the Travel Information page of our website at

<http://www.physics.ucsb.edu/~pasi/travel.html>

Lecture information: A tentative schedule of lectures, lecture titles, and lists of recommend reading materials for those wishing to get started early have been posted on the web site.

Mailing list: Some of you indicated that you would like to try to coordinate your travel plans with other PASI students. Unfortunately, we do not have the resources to compile a centralized list of travel schedules and to make it available to you in a timely fashion. However, to allow you to self-organize this process, we have created a mailing list. If you send an e-mail to pasi_students@physics.ucsb.edu it will be forwarded to all pasi students. I apologize for the fact that this may generate large amounts of e-mail. This list will not be used for official PASI correspondence, so you should feel free to remove yourself from the list if you desire. You should all have received a notification with instructions about how to remove yourself from this mailing list.

Roommate and Hotel Information: We hope to post a list of roommates and the hotel reservations that we have made on the web site over the next few days. For security reasons, we will place this in a password-protected directory:

<http://www.physics.ucsb.edu/~pasi/working/>

which can be accessed with

USERNAME: PASI

Password: Morelia

Travel Information

Hotel: All participants of the PASI School have reservations in the Hotel Catedral (www.hotelcatedralmorelia.com). Its address is:

Hotel Catedral
Ignacio Zaragoza #37
Colonia Centro
Morelia, Michoacán, México
01 800 714 15 18

All taxi drivers in Morelia, from either the airport or the bus station, should know the location of the hotel. However, as the driver may speak no English, it may be a good idea to hand the driver a piece of paper with the hotel name and address written on it.

Please note: We may need to move some of you to the hotel next door toward the end of the school, but this will be sorted out after you arrive in Morelia.

There is free Wi-fi access from the Hotel, and from many restaurants and cafes in downtown.

How to get there:

If you fly to Morelia: You will need to take a taxi from the Morelia airport to the hotel. You can purchase a ticket for a taxi ride inside the terminal, where the rate is written, but you actually pay the taxi driver. A taxi should cost 250-300MXP to Morelia downtown. Be aware that there are also large SUV-style transportation that cost much more (around MXP500), so you should be sure to take the ordinary taxi (a 4 door sedan).

If you fly to Mexico City: You will need to take a taxi from Mexico City Airport to a bus terminal, then a bus to Morelia, and then a taxi to the hotel. Taxis are available at the Mexico City Airport to take you to the 'Central de Autobuses Poniente'. There is not a particular taxi company that we recommend, but those called 'Sitio 300' have a lot of experience (www.taxistasagremiados.com.mx/). You purchase the ticket inside the terminal and give it to the driver. The taxi ride should cost less than 250MXP, and can be shared. They issue receipts. Note that the travel time

from the airport to the bus terminal can range between 25 minutes (no traffic) to up to 2 hours (or more). The taxi driver is likely to know some English, but not a lot.

Once in the bus terminal look for the counter of 'Enlaces Terrestres Nacionales (ETN)'. The ride is 4 hours approx, and there are buses each 1/2 hour in peak time and about each 45 minutes otherwise. We strongly recommend using 'Servicios Terrestres Nacionales'. Information on this service can be found at www.etn.com.mx/english/. The Bus terminal in Mexico City is called 'Mexico Poniente' (corresponding to 'West Bus Station'). The cost of the bus is currently 360MXP each way. Even when you can buy the tickets in advance, it might be a good idea to get to the station first, or be sure that there will be enough time to get to the terminal if you come directly from the Airport. The last ride is at 1:00 am.

When you reach the bus terminal in Morelia, look for the counter inside the terminal with the TAXI sign and indicate the name of the hotel (Hotel Catedral). The ticket should be 35MXP (yes, that cheap), and the taxi can also be shared. Sometimes the drivers expect a tip, specially if they are carrying suitcases. 20MXP should be enough for the taxi driver in Mexico City and 5MXP for the one in Morelia. Expect the person selling tickets and the driver to speak no English in Morelia, so it might be a good idea to bring the name and address of the Hotel written in a piece of paper.

School Registration:

For those arriving early enough on Tuesday the 22nd, we will hold registration for the School in the Hotel main lobby. UNAM will be available to help in the process from 17:00 to 20:00. Those arriving later will be able to register in the UNAM campus during the coffee breaks of June 23rd.

How to get to the School:

We will provide buses to take all participants from the Hotel to UNAM and back. The buses will leave at 8:20 sharp from 'Calle Francisco Madero', in front of the 'Cafe Catedral', a few steps from the entrance of the hotel (as you come out of the hotel, turn right and walk 30 meters). There is a map of the downtown area here

<http://www.matmor.unam.mx/eventos/loops07/centro.png>

If you miss the bus, you can take a taxi that fits 4 people and costs around MXP50. You can ask the hotel staff to get one for you. You can tell the driver to take you to UNAM, junto a FIRA (next to FIRA), or just let the hotel staff make the arrangements for you.

The School will be in the 'Auditorio de la Unidad Cultural' which is the building across from the UNAM campus entrance.

Weather: End of June is the beginning of the rainy season, so you have to be prepared with rainwear. It can also happen that the temperatures might drop below 15oC (or less) during the evening and early morning. Temperatures can also reach 32oC if it does not rain for some days, and the sun feels very strong. Be prepared for all these possibilities.

How to get around in Morelia:

In Morelia, taxis have no meters, so the rate has to be negotiated before boarding the taxi. In general all taxis are safe, but the rate might change a bit depending in whether the taxi is 'Libre' or a 'Radio-taxi'. Within small distances from downtown Morelia, the standard fare is 25MXP (up to 30MXP). Be wary if the driver wants much more than that. UNAM campus where the school takes place is technically a bit outside the city, so the rate is about 50MXP from downtown. If you are in the hotel, you can ask the hotel personnel to either call a radio taxi or stop one and negotiate for you the fare.

Contact Information:

In case you need to reach some of the local organizers we provide some telephone numbers.

Alejandro Corichi.

Home: +52 443 314 2844

Mobile 1 (Morelia): +52 443 138 9927

(If you are in Mexico, but out of Morelia, dial 01 443 1389927. If you are

in Morelia, dial 044 443 1389927)

Mobile 2 (US number): +1 814 321 8519 (Only in case you do not get through with option 1).

Mireya Fabian.

Office: +52 443 322 2733

You can buy cards for the public telephone boots (called LADATEL) in shops where you find newspapers and sodas. There are few telephones that use coins.