

MEXICO: NATURE AND CULTURE OFF THE BEATEN PATH

GRANDIOSE COPPER CANYON AND RETICENT TARAHUMARAS

Los Mochis - Divisadero - Batopilas - Creel - Basaseachic - Ciudad Chihuahua – 8 days



Experience one of Mexico's best kept secrets exploring the majestic Copper Canyon region. A land of steep ups and sharp downs, four times the size of the Grand Canyon, it is home to incomparable cultural and natural marvels. Travel off the beaten track to isolated canyons, waterfalls, remote villages and missions, colonial towns and ancient cultures. Board the famous "train ride in the sky" to climb canyon walls and cross ravines at 7500 feet. Awe at the grandeur of the extraordinary scenery. Meet the reclusive Tarahumara indigenous people practically untouched by modern civilization. Visit historic

Batopilas hidden on the canyon floor, a 6,000-foot breathtaking descent. Admire Mexico's highest waterfall from atop a steep vertical wall in pristine Basaseachi National Park. Participate in this journey for an opportunity to gain a comprehensive picture of the incomparable beauty and unique human history of this region.

ITINERARY

DAY 1. US Terminal of Tijuana Airport, Los Mochis - El Fuerte Monday October 7, 2019

WELCOME / COLONIAL TOWN



Meet your local expert guide at the US terminal of the Tijuana Airport. Cross the International Bridge to reach the gate for the flight to Los Mochis. Los Mochis began as an American utopia, an agricultural paradise especially for sugar cane, and the inspiration of Albert Owen's dream to build a railroad that would link the Pacific coast with central United States, a project that was completed almost 80 years later! Transfer to the charming colonial village of El Fuerte. Presently registered as one of Mexico's "Magical Towns", for three centuries it was a leading commercial and agricultural center for Mexico's northwest. Settle in the historical hotel covered with subtropical vegetation.

Hotel Posada Hidalgo, El Fuerte

Approximate driving time 1 ½ hrs

DAY 2. El Fuerte – Divisadero Tuesday October 8, 2019

RIDE IN THE SKY



Early morning walk along the El Fuerte River to spot birds and enjoy rushing waters and exuberant vegetation. Depart for the El Fuerte train station to board the train for what has been described as "the ride in the sky". Venture into the imposing Sierra Tarahumara, the section of the Sierra Madre inhabited by the Tarahumara indigenous people and criss-crossed by eleven canyons. The Chihuahua-Pacifico railroad line is a major engineering feat, passing through 85 tunnels and 37 bridges. With the morning

sun shining on the cliffs, enjoy the most striking portion of the line in which the train climbs almost 7,000 ft in the 105 mi. stretch between El Fuerte and Divisadero. Upon arrival, meet the Tarahumaras in a colorful array of dresses and crafts. The hotel for the next two nights is perched on the canyon rim at an altitude of 7,200 ft. Take advantage of the strategic location of the hotel to relax and delight on the majestic views. In the afternoon, relax at the hotel's beautiful terrace or join a guided hike.

Hotel El Mirador, Divisadero

Approximate train time 4 ½ hrs

DAY 3. Divisadero Wednesday October 9, 2019 MAJESTIC CANYON VIEWS AND TARAHUMARAS



Spend the day enjoying the breathtaking view of 3 canyons: Copper, Urique and Tararequa. Impressive walks along the rim of the canyon give different viewpoints. See the famed Piedra Volada (hanging rock) to delight on the majestic views and reach caves inhabited by Tarahumara Indians. Take a Gondola ride to a peak in the middle of the canyon. There are about 50,000 Tarahumaras living throughout the Copper Canyon still clinging to their native traditions. Some of the women, in their colorful dresses, quietly gather in the tourist areas and offer their crafts at the same time as they are making them. *Hotel* El Mirador, Divisadero

DAY 4. Divisadero - Cusarare – Batopilas Thursday October 10, 2019 STEEP CANYON WALLS



An adventurous excursion to tropical Batopilas follows. Continue by Sprinters from the canyon top to the very bottom of Batopilas Canyon, one of the deepest and most spectacular. The drive is memorable, a descent of over 6,700 ft.! On the way explore the Cusarare area rich in natural and cultural attractions. Visit scenic Arareco Lake, Cusarare village and colorful mission where a different version of Catholicism is practiced and finally walk through a rich pine and oak forest to the 100 ft. Cusarare Fall. Continue the drive down canyon walls to the spectacular La Bufa overlook before the final descent into Batopilas. Reticent Tarahumara Indians can be spotted living and working throughout the area. Arrive in Batopilas. Settle in the cozy hotel.

Hotel Riverside Lodge, Batopilas

Approximate driving time 5 hrs

DAY 5. Batopilas. Friday October 11, 2019 TROPICAL CANYON FLOOR



Located 6,000 ft. below the canyon rim, Batopilas was established by silver miners and Jesuit missionaries in the 16th. century. It is considered the "Treasure of the Sierra Madre" because of its historic past and present beauty. Silver made the town rich and famous. The 300 exploited veins of La Bufa reached world fame, giving a total yield of 300 million ounces. Tropical vegetation, the imposing "lost mission" of Satevó, remains of haciendas from its rich mining days and striking scenery make the visit to Batopilas a unique experience.

Hotel Riverside Lodge, Batopilas

DAY 6. Batopilas – San Ignacio - Creel Saturday October 12, 2019
PASTORAL LIFE ON THE MESA



In the morning make the return drive up the canyon with stops along the way. In *ejido* San Ignacio, located in a picturesque valley, visit the mission and the adjacent Tarahumara boarding school of Tarahumara children. Enter a Native Indian home-cave. Walk through amusing rock formations in the shape of frogs and mushrooms that adorn the valley. Arrive in Creel, a cozy lumber town nestled in the mountains and the most important trading center for the Tarahumaras who live in the surrounding areas. Settle in the warm hotel located in the center of town. Time is at leisure before dinner to stroll in the colorful town and browse through the many shops displaying Tarahumara crafts.

Hotel The Lodge at Creel

Approximate driving time 4 hrs

DAY 7. Creel – Basaseachic – Chihuahua City Sunday October 13, 2019
JEWEL OF A CANYON AND WATERFALL / BACK TO CITY LIFE



Creel marks the end of the Sierra Tarahumara, but not of the canyons. Continue the canyon exploration to Basaseachi (Tarahumara word meaning “the place of the cascade”) National Park in Condameña Canyon, described as “one of the most spectacular canyons in the hemisphere” and as “one of the world’s greatest treasures”. View the famous 806 ft. Basaseachi Fall and its bowl-shaped canyon from different angles. Drive to the capital of the state, Ciudad Chihuahua. On a guided walk through the main plaza, see the imposing Cathedral constructed from the profits of the rich silver mines and visit the Government Palace with descriptive murals to learn about the importance of the city and the state throughout Mexican history, especially during the

Mexican Revolution.

Hotel San Francisco Quality Inn

Approximate driving time 6 hrs

DAY 8. Chihuahua City - Return Monday October 14, 2019
DEPART CHIHUAHUA

Time permitting, visit Pancho Villa home, now a museum, and an amusing Art Deco villa. Transfer to the airport for individual departures. The Chihuahua Airport (CUU) offers direct flights to several USA cities.

SERVICES INCLUDED

- All transportation and transfers starting from the US terminal of the Tijuana airport including the CBX International bridge and ending at the Chihuahua Airport: Flight Tijuana - Los Mochis; First class train El Fuerte – Divisadero; Private land transportation Los Mochis – El Fuerte and Divisadero - Chihuahua City.
- Hotel accommodations for 7 nights
- All meals
- Excursions and visits described in the itinerary

- Expert Group Leader
- Tips of included meals, hotels, bell boys, porters
- Taxes of included services
- Andiamo's personalized attention

NOTE Tips for guides, drivers, and special excursion staff are not included

DATE October 7 – 14, 2019

PRICE \$ 2,100.00 in double occupancy
\$ 2,700.00 in single occupancy
Minimum 8 participants

ENROLLMENTS

For additional information please contact Andiamo
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Program will open for enrollments in April

VALID PASSPORT MANDATORY

Passport must not expire within six months of travel date.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

The program is active. Participant must walk through train cars while in motion and must be able to ascend and descend train steps independently with hand luggage. Walks are up to two miles on uneven ground, some uphill and occasional steps. Must endure drives on winding mountain roads with short distances on rustic graded roads.

PLEASE NOTE

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information featured on this program. Itineraries are based on our best information at this time. Circumstances beyond our control may require us to adjust itineraries or other details. We regret any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding. Please be advised of the US government travel advisory for Chihuahua; however, the flow of tourism is normal.