

THE GRANDEUR OF THE COPPER CANYON

A MOST COMPREHENSIVE JOURNEY OF THE REGION

Begin in San Diego / End in El Paso - Travel in one direction

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. Discover Mata Ortiz, home to well known potters who revived a five hundred year old art. Learn about the Paquime who left their footprints in a city of over 4,000 rooms, today a UNESCO Site. 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. *(San Diego) Tijuana - Los Mochis - El Fuerte*

WELCOME / COLONIAL TOWN / TROPICAL RIVER

Meet an Andiamo representative at CBX Terminal, the US side of the new International Bridge of the Tijuana Airport. Cross the bridge to the terminal and take the flight to Los Mochis. Meet your local Group Leader, and continue by bus to the charming colonial town of El Fuerte. Brief tour of the town, declared a "magical town" including the beautiful plaza and the murals in the City Hall. Take a boat excursion on the lush, rushing El Fuerte River to spot a variety of birds. Time permitting, make a stopover to view ancient petro glyphs. For dinner, savor the local specialty-black sea bass. Spend the night in a lively historic hotel covered with tropical vegetation.

Hotel Posada Hidalgo, El Fuerte

Meals Lunch on the go. Welcome dinner at hotel

DAY 2. *El Fuerte – Divisadero*

RIDE IN THE SKY

Early in the morning board the train to Divisadero. The train has been described as "the most spectacular train ride in the world", a major engineering feat crossing 85 tunnels and 37 bridges. The section between El Fuerte and Divisadero is the most dramatic. Arrive in Divisadero, located at 7,200 ft. above the Urique River. The hotel for the next 2 nights is on the rim with a breathtaking view of 3 canyons: Copper, Urique and Tararequa, Impressive walks along the rim of the canyon give different viewpoints and lead to caves inhabited by Tarahumara Indians. 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. The hotel is all-inclusive.

Hotel Divisadero Barrancas, Divisadero

Meals Breakfast at hotel. Lunch on train. Dinner at hotel

DAY 3. *Divisadero*

MAJESTIC CANYON VIEWS / TARAHUMARAS

Spend the day exploring the rim, especially the area near Piedra Volada, walk on a suspended bridge and to glass-bottom viewpoints. An impressive gondola ride lands on a butte in the canyon

where a nice path leads to isolated Tarahumara homes. A breathtaking zip line circuit is available if desired (not included in the price). With luck, see the Tarahumaras demonstrating traditional dances and ball game running skills. A basket making demonstration takes place before dinner.

Hotel Divisadero Barrancas, Divisadero

Meals Breakfast, lunch and dinner at hotel

DAY 4. Divisadero - Cusarare - Batopilas

DEEP INTO THE CANYON

A unique experience is an adventurous excursion to tropical Batopilas. Continue by vans from the canyon top to the very bottom of Batopilas Canyon, one of the deepest and most spectacular. The drive is memorable! On the way explore the Cusasare area rich in natural and cultural attractions. Visit scenic Arareco Lake. In Cusarare village, enter a colorful mission where a different version of Catholicism is practiced, and the adjacent Tarahumara boarding school. 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. Walk along part of the downhill to fully capture the magnitude of the scenery. Reticent Tarahumara Indians can be spotted living and working throughout the area. Arrive in Batopilas and settle in the cozy hotel.

Hotel Real de Minas, Batopilas

Meals Breakfast at hotel. Picnic lunch. Dinner in a home-restaurant

DAY 5. Batopilas

PAST GLORY / CHARMING PRESENT

Located 6,000 ft. below the canyon rim, Batopilas was established by silver miners and Jesuit missionaries in the 16th. century. Because of its historic past and present beauty, it is considered the "Treasure of the Sierra Madre". The 300 exploited veins of La Bufa and of the town of Batopilas itself 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. Get to know the town on a stroll through its narrow streets, the plazas, the riverbed. Drive to Satevó, isolated along a riverbed. Enter an abandoned hacienda, past homes of Shepard, the silver magnate. Enjoy the quaintness.

Hotel Real de Minas, Batopilas

Meals Breakfast at hotel. Picnic lunch. Dinner in a home-restaurant

DAY 6. Batopilas – Creel

RETURN TO HIGH SIERRA / TARAHUMARA LIFE

In the morning continue to explore the town. Marvel at the striking scenery taking the road back up the steep canyon walls to return to the plateau and continue to Creel. This colorful lumber town nestled in the mountains is also the most important trading center for the Tarahumaras who live in the surrounding areas. Make a stop at *ejido* San Ignacio located in a picturesque valley. Visit the mission and enter a Native Indian home-cave. Amusing rock formations in the shape of frogs and mushrooms adorn the valley. Settle in the cozy hotel located in the center of town. Time is at leisure before dinner to stroll in the town and browse through the many shops displaying Tarahumara crafts.

Hotel The Lodge at Creel

Meals Breakfast at a home restaurant. Box lunch. Dinner at hotel

DAY 7. Creel – Basaseachic - Chihuahua City

JEWEL OF A CANYON / WATERFALL / CITY LIFE

Creel marks the end of the Tarahumara Indigenous people but not of the Canyons. Continue the trip to Basaseachic National Park in Condemeña Canyon described as “one of the most spectacular canyons in the hemisphere” and as “one of the world’s greatest treasures”. Located off the beaten track of tourism, Baseaseachi is a place of extraordinary beauty and tranquility. The steep walls of the canyon give way to at least 5 major waterfalls, including the famous Basaseachi Fall with 806 ft. of free fall. Take short hikes to view the canyon and the Basaseachi waterfall from different angles, from the top and from across the canyon.

Descend the mountain, cross an extensive valley, an important agricultural and grazing ground, and arrive in Ciudad Chihuahua, the capital of the state. Settle in the hotel located steps away from the Plaza Mayor and the imposing Cathedral. Time permitting, visit a traditional market or stroll through the plaza and the Cathedral. Dinner is in a well known restaurant.

Hotel Quality Inn San Francisco, Chihuahua

Meals Breakfast at hotel. Lunch in Baseaseachi. Dinner in local restaurant

DAY 8. Chihuahua City – Casas Grandes

HISTORICAL EVENTS AND MINING

Begin the city tour on foot with a guided visit of the opulent Cathedral, built with the profits of the rich silver mines, and the Government Palace decorated with descriptive murals relating the important role that the City of Chihuahua and the homonymous state played throughout Mexican history, especially during the Mexican Revolution. Depart the hotel by private transportation and continue the city tour. Famous Pancho Villa lived in Chihuahua, his home is now a museum. Rich villas are spread throughout the city, reminders of past affluence, enter one of them displaying extraordinary art-deco architecture.

End the tour in Cerro Santa Eulalia where the discovery of abundant minerals promoted the establishment of the city. Some of the mines are still in operation today. Drive North to Casas Grandes, home of the antique Paquime culture. Spend the night in a Paquime earth-style posada (small family hotel), where the owner opens her house to guests. Part of the home is a small gallery displaying a fine collection of the famous Mata Ortiz pots. Savor a typical Northern ranch style carne asada meal in the patio of the posada.

Hotel Posada Guacamaya, Casas Grandes

Meals Breakfast at hotel. Lunch in Santa Eulalia. Dinner at hotel

DAY 9. Casas Grandes - Mata Ortiz - Casas Grandes

ARCHEOLOGY / FAMOUS POTTERY

The center of the Mogollon culture, believed to be the link between the cultures of North America and Central México, was Paquimé: an architecturally advanced adobe city of 3000 rooms, 4 stories high. Spend the morning visiting the site, together with the Museum of the Northern Cultures, described as a museographic jewel. Famous potters, among them Juan Quezada, live in the nearby town of Mata Ortiz. Spend the afternoon visiting some of their homes to see them at work creating their masterpieces. On the way stop for lunch at a turn-of-the-century hacienda and see a Mormon colony. Back in Casas Grandes, enjoy a farewell dinner.

Hotel Posada Guacamaya

Meals Breakfast at hotel. Lunch in an ex-hacienda. Farewell dinner

DAY 10. Casas Grandes – El Paso

FAREWELL

Drive to El Paso, crossing the border at Santa Teresita into New Mexico and continuing to El Paso.
Program ends at the El Paso Airport.

Independent departures.

Meals Breakfast at hotel. Lunch on the go

IMPORTANT Return flights should not be scheduled before 4 p.m.

FEATURES INCLUDE

- Transportation Airfare Tijuana to Los Mochis including CBX Bridge crossing
All land transportation beginning in Los Mochis and ending in El Paso
First class train ticket El Fuerte-Divisadero
- Nine nights accommodations
- All meals
- All visits and excursions included in the itinerary
- Permit to enter Mexico
- Expert local group leader during all land portion of the program.
Andiamo representative at departure in San Diego
- Taxes and tips of included meals and hotels
- Andiamo's personalized attention

Price does not include courtesies to group leader, drivers nor special excursions staff

DATE Friday to Sunday September 22 to October 1, 2017

PRICE \$2,390.00 per person in double occupancy
\$2,940.00 single occupancy
Minimum 10 participants

ENROLLMENTS

Please contact Andiamo

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TRANSFERS TO / FROM SAN DIEGO TO CBX TERMINAL

Andiamo will send information as the trip approaches and can help you to plan / reserve your transfers.

<https://www.crossborderxpress.com/getting-here>

POST PROGRAM Suggested hotels in El Paso if needed

Downtown The Camino Real Hotel. Telephone 915 534 3066. www.caminoreal.com/english

Airport Radisson Hotel. Telephone 915 772 3333. www.radisson.com

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.

VALID PASSPORT MANDATORY