

## MEXICO: NATURE AND CULTURE OFF THE BEATEN PATH

### GRANDIOSE COPPER CANYON AND RETICENT TARAHUMARAS

Los Mochis - Divisadero - Batopilas - Creel - Basaseachic - Ciudad Chihuahua – 7 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  
WELCOME / COLONIAL TOWN



Meet Andiamo's representative at the US terminal of the Tijuana Airport who will assist you with your check-in. Cross the International Bridge to reach the gate for the flight to Los Mochis. Upon arrival, meet your local guide for the program and begin the adventure. 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 hotel. Guided walk in town historical town before dinner.

Hotel Posada Hidalgo, El Fuerte

*Approximate driving time 1 ½ hrs*

Day 2. El Fuerte – Divisadero  
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, be welcomed by 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. Relax at the hotel's beautiful terrace or join a guided hike.

Hotel Divisadero Barrancas, Divisadero

*Approximate train time 4 ½ hrs*

## Day 3. Divisadero

### 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 Mirador, Divisadero

## Day 4. Divisadero - Cusarare – Batopilas

### STEEP CANYON WALLS / TROPICAL CANYON FLOOR



Depart by private transportation for an adventurous excursion to tropical Batopilas at the bottom of the homonymous canyon, one of the deepest of the Sierra. The region is rich in natural and cultural attractions. Drive down steep canyon walls, catch site of spectacular overlooks, enter Missions where a different version of Catholicism is practiced, spot Tarahumaras in their daily routines. On the down drive, walk through a rich pine and oak forest to reach the 100 ft. Cusarare Fall. Located 6,000 ft. below the canyon rim along the Batopilas River and enclosed by steep canyon walls, Batopilas town was established by silver miners and Jesuit missionaries in the 16<sup>th</sup> century eventually becoming one of the richest silver deposits in Mexico. Get acquainted with the small “Magical Town” – as it is registered- and its tranquil lifestyle.

Hotel Riverside Lodge, Batopilas

*Approximate driving time 5 hrs*

## Day 5. Batopilas – Ejido San Ignacio - Creel

### PASTORAL LIFE ON THE MESA



Explore Batopilas. 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. On the return drive to the canyon top visit the San Ignacio region. Stop at peaceful Lake Arareco, visit San Ignacio mission, and enter a Tarahumara home-cave. Walk through “the valley of the frogs and of the mushrooms” to sight

amusing rock formations. Arrive in Creel, a cozy lumber town nestled in the mountains, an important trading center for the Tarahumaras who live in the surrounding areas. Shops of local crafts line the colorful main street and plaza. Settle in the wood cabin type hotel.

Hotel The Lodge, Creel

*Approximate driving time 4 hrs*

Day 6. Creel – Basaseachic – Chihuahua City  
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. Continue the 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. Farewell dinner is in one of Mexico’s “most beautiful historic homes”.

Hotel San Francisco, Chihuahua

*Approximate driving time 6 ½ hrs*

Day 7. Chihuahua City - Return  
DEPART CHIHUAHUA

Program ends in Chihuahua. Time permitting, visit Pancho Villa home, now a museum, and an amusing Art Deco villa. Transfer to the Chihuahua Airport by taxi according to flight schedule (included). The return flight from Chihuahua is not included giving you the opportunity to fly directly to your final destination.

## SERVICES INCLUDED

- All transportation and transfers starting from US Terminal of Tijuana Airport and ending at the Chihuahua airport: Flight Tijuana - Los Mochis including CBX Bridge crossing. First class train. Private transportation from Divisadero to Chihuahua airport.
- Hotel accommodations for 6 nights
- All meals from lunch on day 1 to breakfast on day 7
- Excursions and visits described in the itinerary
- Expert Group Leader from Los Mochis to Chihuahua.
- 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** Monday October 22 to Sunday October 28, 2018

**PRICE** \$ 1,980.00 in double occupancy – Minimum 6 passengers  
Single supplement \$ 450.00

**ENROLLMENTS**

Please contact Andiamo

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**TRANSFERS TO / FROM SAN DIEGO TO CBX TERMINAL**

Andiamo can help you to plan / reserve your transfers as the trip approaches.

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

**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**