

ADVENTURE



ASSOCIATES

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COPPER CANYON, MÉXICO: HISTORIC RAIL & LODGE-BASED EXPLORATION

Deeper and broader than the Grand Canyon, Las Barrancas del Cobre, or the Copper Canyon, has been called "the most spectacular canyon system in all of North America". It is a place of gold and silver, sparkling rivers twisting through steep canyons, sleepy Mexican villages and ancient legends. **Adventure Associates was a pioneer of travel to this secluded region 20 years ago.** Each day offers a new adventure: breathtaking canyon views perched from a first-class train, hikes to indigenous petroglyphs and cascading waterfalls, and nature walks along the canyon floor to the "Lost Cathedral" of Satevo. Spend time exploring the colonial town of El Fuerte and the rough-and-tumble frontier town of Creel, followed by a dramatic change in scenery as we drive one vertical mile down the canyon to the most remote town in North America, Batopilas. The rich diversity of culture and topography of Copper Canyon is fascinating. The rim of the canyon is a pine, oak and mahogany forest while, a mile lower on the canyon floor, a sub-tropical environment of cactus, palm trees, and citrus trees flourish. Our trip is designed to immerse you in the canyon's magic and culture, as we stay in rustic lodges of historic Mexican villas!

Trip Dates: March 16 – 25, 2012

Oct 19 – 28, 2012

Land Costs: \$2175 (min. 7)

DAY 1 (March 16 or Oct 19)

Depart hometown. Arrive Los Mochis, Mexico (located on the Sea of Cortez). Take a taxi or *combi* to your comfortable hotel. (Meals and transportation on own.)

DAY 2

Early morning shuttle to the colonial town of El Fuerte. We cross the river to the opposite bank in a rowboat, and hike along the Rio Fuerte exploring ancient Aztec petroglyphs and views of the valley below. Restaurant recommendation for dinner on your own: El Mirador. Overnight in El Fuerte. (B)

DAY 3

After an early breakfast, we board the Chihuahua al Pacifico train in the morning for a full day's journey to Divisadero. The route offers sweeping views into the many drainages of the Copper Canyon - some of the best views are from the window of the train! We traverse the backbone of the Sierra Madre from sea level to 7,000 feet. Enjoy lunch on your own in the dining car, and overnight in a hotel on the edge of the canyon rim - spectacular views! (B, D)

DAY 4

Enjoy a morning hike along the canyon rim to overlooks and cave-dwelling Tarahumaran families, followed by a picnic lunch. Board a private van to overland to Creel (7,867 ft), a small rough and tumble silver-mining frontier town. Enjoy shopping this afternoon at the Mission store, or a visit to the Art museum. Recommended dinner location: Veronica's. Overnight: Creel. (B, L)

DAY 5

Enjoy a full day of hiking around Creel - walk among fascinating geological rock formations in the Valley of the Monks for a sweeping vista of the Continental Divide and loop back towards Creel around serene Arareco Lake. Enjoy a picnic lunch along the way followed by another night in Creel. (L)

DAY 6

First, a long and beautiful day's travel to the canyon floor and the village of Batopilas. Located in the middle of Copper Canyon's tropical fruit producing region, Batopilas is a relaxing little town with ruins from the 17th and 18th century and an air of the wild west. Picnic lunch along the way. Lodging in simple, local accommodations. (L)

DAY 7

Today, we hike into the heart of the Batopilas Canyon to the "Lost Cathedral" of Satevo. The history of this mission is uncertain, but believed to have been built in the 1600's and is presently the center for a small Mexican community. Enjoy a picnic lunch, meet friendly locals and schoolchildren, and relax with a siesta before dinner. (L)

Day 8

Begin our early shuttle back up the canyon, stopping along the way at the Hacienda ruins across the Batopilas River for photos in the morning light. Enjoy a short hike this afternoon to 115-foot tall Cusarare Falls and if there's time, a nearby mission well known for its murals depicting traditional Tarahumaran life. (L, D)

DAY 9

Once again we board our van to soak in the last of the canyon views and travel overland through rolling Apple orchards and flatlands to the vibrant urban center of Chihuahua City. Enjoy a guided afternoon city tour followed by a farewell banquet on your own. Recommended nearby restaurant: La Casona. (B)

Day 10 (March 25 or Oct 28)

Relax this morning, pack for your trip home. Shuttle to Chihuahua City airport for flight home. End of AA Services. (B)

Land Costs	Deposit	Single Supplement	Trip Dates	Group Size	Difficulty	Activities
\$2175	\$400	\$335	March 16 - 25, Oct 19 - 28, 2012	7-10	No Experience Needed	Train, Hiking, Ruins, Cultural Exchange, Lodges

Continued...

A FEW IMPORTANT DETAILS ABOUT YOUR TRIP...Read carefully

Included in your trip fee: All accommodations/lodging, airport transfer in Chihuahua City, all ground transportation, all costs associated with programmed activities, airport shuttle if arriving and departing with the group, guide services, permits, meals as indicated in itinerary (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner).

Not Included in your trip fee: International airfare, airport transfer in Los Mochis (the airport is 21km (13 miles) north of town; transportation is by combi (collective minivan) or airport taxi (around \$20); trip and medical expenses (including evacuation), single supplement hotel fee if unable to share a room based on double occupancy (\$335), meals not included in itinerary, excess baggage, personal clothing, tips to guides/drivers/service workers, cost of delays due to weather, transportation problems, illness, political disputes or other contingencies for which reasonable provision cannot be made.

How Strenuous is this trip? You should feel comfortable hiking 1-3 hours per day both on level and graduated terrain. Adventure Associates takes every step necessary to insure smooth travel...it is important to realize that in a developing country and in remote areas, the unexpected should be expected. It is part of the adventure!

Transportation/Flight Arrangements: Upon your registration, Adventure Associates will work closely with you on your individual flight plans. Certain programmed activities are dependant on flight schedule - you should verify your flight itinerary with Adventure Associates **before** purchase.

Travel & Trip Insurance: We strongly recommend that travel insurance be purchased immediately following your registration. The insurance protects you and your money from late cancellations, accidents or illness in remote areas, emergency evacuation, loss of baggage, airline flight changes and other unexpected delays. The particular program we recommend (Access America) will cover "preexisting" conditions if you purchase full coverage within fourteen (14) days following your registration or flight purchase. Information available upon request.

How to Register: If you do not have an application form, please contact our office for a complete registration packet. Complete the application form and return it to our office along with the appropriate deposit. Upon receipt of your application, we will send you a confirmation and final details about your pre-trip preparation. For immediate confirmation, you may charge your deposit to a Visa MasterCard or American Express by phone or fax.

Exchange Rate Note: The American dollar fluctuates in Mexico. The trip price is based upon the dollar value at the time of printing (January 2008) and is subject to change.

Special Note: Tier pricing applies if trip departs with less than minimum of 7 guests.

Payment Schedule: We accept checks, Visa, MasterCard and American Express.

\$400 deposit due at time of registration (\$200 non-refundable)

Final payment due two months prior to departure

Cancellation & Refund Policy

If you must cancel prior to departure, the following fee will be assessed based upon our receipt of your written cancellation request:

Days Prior to Departure (trip destination)

90 or more \$200

60 to 89 \$300

45 to 59 50% land fee

1 to 44 100% land fee

Itineraries are subject to change.

No partial refunds are possible for any unused portion of your trip.

Penalties on airline tickets are subject to the individual air carrier's rules and regulations. Departure is defined as the date of the first flight, or the trip departure date as indicated on our Trip Schedule, whichever comes first.

Once a trip has been confirmed medical circumstances will not be considered as exceptions to Adventure Associates' cancellation policy. However, if you have purchased a Travel Insurance plan that covers cancellation, you may be able to retrieve some of the funds.

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