

ADVENTURE ASSOCIATES

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COPPER CANYON, MÉXICO:

HISTORIC RAIL, CANYON TREK AND EXPLORATION, AND TARAHUMARAN CULTURE

Enjoy the best that the Chihuahua al Pacifico Railroad has to offer, considered one of the great railway journeys of the world, and the only railroad ever to traverse the rugged backbone of the Sierra Madre. From the train we will ride along the skirts of the Copper Canyon: 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 and sparkling rivers twisting through steep canyons with breathtaking vistas, sleepy Mexican villages, absolute quiet, ancient legends and an all-encompassing sense of remoteness. **Adventure Associates was a pioneer of travel to this secluded region almost 20 years ago.** We veer from the tracks into one of the most remote towns in North America, Batopilas! Explore remote Tarahumara villages on a mule-assisted hiking and camping adventure. Each day offers a new adventure: breathtaking canyon views perched from a first class train, and along the canyon floor to the "Lost Cathedral" of Satevo and immersed in the canyon smell, sounds and culture of the Batopilas Canyon. Enjoy stays in rustic lodges of historic Mexican villas! Join us for an unforgettable hiking and rail program into Las Barrancas del Cobre!

Trip Dates: March 12 – 22; Oct 22 – Nov 1, 2010; March 18 – 28, 2011

Land Costs: \$1475 (min. 7)

DAY 1 (*Arrival: early evening Mar 12 or Oct 22, 2010 or Mar 18, 2011*)

Depart hometown. Arrive Los Mochis, Mexico (located on the Sea of Cortez). Group transfer to your comfortable hotel. (Meals on own.)

DAY 2 We board the Chihuahua al Pacifico ("El Chepe") train in the morning for a full day's journey to Creel. 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! Enjoy lunch on your own from the dining car and continue to traverse the backbone of the Sierra Madre from sea level to 7,000 feet. Arrive in the small rough and tumble silver-mining frontier town of Creel (7,867 ft). Recommended dinner spot: Veronica's. Overnight hotel. (Meals on own)

DAY 3 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. A late lunch back in town on your own followed by a free afternoon. Enjoy shopping at the Mission store, or a visit to the Art museum. (Meals on own)

DAY 4 First, a long and beautiful day's travel to the canyon floor and the town of Batopilas (elevation 1,749 feet / population: 800). 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. Arriving in the afternoon, visit 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. Lodging in simple, local accommodations. (Box Lunch included)

DAY 5 *Begin Trek: Batopilas to Santa Rita*

After breakfast, we will begin our hiking/horsepack trek into the heart of the canyon to Santa Rita (4,694 ft.), an indigenous Tarahumara community far off the beaten path. Here, we will camp in the village, and have ample opportunities for cultural interactions. (L, D)

DAY 6 *Trek: Santa Rita to Munerachi*

After breakfast, we continue our journey to reach the small and traditional village of Munerachi (2,788 ft). Enjoy a visit to an adobe-brick Jesuit mission, and an evening free to interact with Tarahumarans and eat traditional ground-roasted corn Pinole. Overnight: Camp. (BLD)

DAY 7 *Trek: Munerachi to Cerro Colorado*

Today we begin our return trek, stopping for our last camp in the former silver and gold-mining town of Cerro Colorado (elev. 2,427 ft). Find a swimming hole along the Munerachi River and relax with local basket makers. Overnight: camp (BLD)

DAY 8 *Trek: Cerro Colorado to Batopilas*

After breakfast, hike along the Munerachi river, where you can see two aqueducts built by the miners in the 1800s to work and transport the ore from the mines up to Cerro Colorado and Batopilas. En route, explore the ruins of Hacienda San Miguel in the afternoon light before returning to our simple lodging for a shower and overnight. (B)

DAY 9 An early morning shuttle to Cusarare, stopping along the way for snacks, key views and photo opportunities. Enjoy a short hike this afternoon to 115-foot tall Cusarare Falls and a nearby mission, well known for its murals depicting traditional Tarahumaran life. (L, D)

DAY 10 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 city of Chihuahua City. En route, visit the rural region where Mennonites found refuge in the 1920s. Enjoy a tour through the Mennonite Museum, a visit to a family home and a local cheese factory. Arrive in Chihuahua City and overnight. Recommended farewell dinner spot: La Casona. (B)

Day 11 Relax this morning, pack for your trip home. Shuttle to Chihuahua City airport for flight home. End of AA Services. (B)

Continued...

Land Costs	Deposit	Single Supplement	Trip Dates	Group Size	Difficulty	Activities
\$1475 (min. 7)	\$400	\$140	Mar 12 – 22; Oct 22 - Nov 1, 2010 March 18 – 28, 2011	7-10	No Experience Needed	Train, Trek, Camping, Ruins, Cultural Exchange, Lodges

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

Included in your trip fee: All accommodations/lodging; group airport transfers in Los Mochis and Chihuahua City; all ground transportation; all costs associated with programmed activities, guide services, permits; group camping equipment and horses/mules; meals as indicated in itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner).

Not Included in your trip fee: International airfare; trip and medical expenses (including evacuation); sleeping bag for trek; single supplement hotel fee if unable to share a room based on double occupancy; meals not included in itinerary; alcohol or soft drinks; 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 2-4 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!

Single Supplement: Single accommodations and tents are not guaranteed, but will be provided at an additional cost of approximately US\$140 for the 10-night tour, if available. For passengers who are traveling alone and wish to share a room and tent with another tour member, we will do our best to provide a roommate. However, if this is not possible, you will be required to pay the single room supplement prior to your departure from the USA.

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 (November 2008) and is subject to change.

Tier-Pricing 2009: Tier pricing applies if trip departs with less than minimum of 7 guests (all prices are per person and based on standard double rooms; single supplement fees apply)

4 Guests: \$1795

5-6 Guests: \$1635

7-12 Guests: \$1475

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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