



Copper Canyon and Casas Grandes

Visit the natural and cultural marvels of the Sierra Tarahumara. Visit the picturesque town of El Fuerte and board the famous “train ride in the sky” to climb canyon walls and cross ravines at 7500 feet. Discover breathtaking canyons, waterfalls, and Tarahumara villages untouched by western civilization. Discover the village of Mata Ortiz, home of well-known potters who revived their art of five centuries ago. From a scenic train ride with Copper Canyon views to a beautifully restored Paquimé archeological site, this trip maximizes the opportunity to gain a comprehensive picture of the unique beauty of the region.

Dates: Saturday, October 15; 10 AM to Sunday, October 23; 7:30 PM

Cost: Member \$2,000; Nonmember \$2,100; Single supplement \$400; Deposit \$300

DAY 1 San Diego, Los Mochis, and El Fuerte

Meet in San Diego and transfer to the Tijuana airport to board the flight to Los Mochis. Private transportation takes us to the charming mining town of El Fuerte. In the historic colonial hotel covered with tropical vegetation, savor the local catch of the day for our welcome dinner. Hotel: Posada Hidalgo. Meals: Lunch in Tijuana; welcome dinner.

DAY 2 El Fuerte and Bahuichivo

Early in the morning, board the train in El Fuerte for what has been described as the most spectacular train ride in the world. The Chihuahua-Pacifico railroad line is a major engineering feat, passing through 85 tunnels and 37 bridges. We make a stop in Bahuichivo for an overnight in Cerocahui, a Tarahumara Mission town. From there take an excursion to Cerro Gallego where, standing at an altitude of 7500 feet above the Urique Canyon, you’ll take in one of the most breathtaking views in the Sierra Tarahumara. There are about 50,000 Tarahumara Indians living throughout the Copper Canyon who are still faithful to their native traditions. Some of the women, in their colorful dresses, quietly gather in the tourist areas throughout the Sierra and offer their crafts as they make them. Hotel: Hotel Mision. Meals: Breakfast on train; lunch and dinner at hotel.

DAY 3 Bahuichivo and Divisadero

After breakfast, take a walk to visit a Tarahumara Indian boarding school and to a small canyon with a waterfall. Return to Bahuichivo and board the train again to reach Divisadero where we’re welcomed by a colorful array of dresses and crafts. The hotel for the night is on a cliff at an altitude of 7200 ft. with a

spectacular view over three canyons: Copper, Urique and Tararequa. Scenic walks along the rim of the canyon allow many views and lead to caves inhabited by Tarahumara Indians. Hotel: Divisadero Barrancas; Meals: Breakfast at hotel. Picnic lunch; dinner at hotel.

DAY 4 Divisadero and Creel

Spend the morning taking a pleasant walk and, with luck, see the Tarahumaras demonstrating traditional dances and ball game running skills. In the afternoon take a short ride into Creel, a cozy lumber town nestled in the mountains. It is the most important center in the Sierra Tarahumara both for tourism and for trade among the locals. Hotel: The Lodge at Creel. Meals: Breakfast and lunch at hotel; dinner in Creel in a restaurant of your choice.

DAY 5 Creel

This day is dedicated to exploring the many attractions around Creel, an area rich in natural and cultural attractions. The nearby San Ignacio Mission, where a unique breed of Catholicism is practiced, is in the midst of Tarahumara cave dwellings, one of which we will enter. The valleys are filled with fascinating rock formations. Surrounded by a rich pine and oak forest, Lake Areareko inspires tranquility. Walk to the 100 ft. Cusarare water fall. Tarahumara Indians can be spotted living and working throughout the area. Hotel: The Lodge at Creel. Meals: Breakfast at hotel; picnic lunch, dinner at hotel.

DAY 6 Creel and Basaseachic

Continue onto Basaseachic National Park—a spectacular canyon where the famous 806 ft. Basaseachi Fall is located. The afternoon exploring the fall, including an optional walk to the base. Hotel: Los Ruiseñores in Basaseachi. Meals: Breakfast at hotel; picnic lunch; dinner at hotel.

DAY 7 Basaseachic to Casas Grandes

Driving northward, stop to learn about local history in the Guerrero Community Museum, then continue on to the town of Madera to view the archeological sites of 40 Casas, a series of cliff dwellings from the ancient Mogollon culture, relatives of the Pueblo. End the day with a carne asada dinner in the patio of the Paquimé style *posada* (hotel) where we'll spend the night. Hotel: Posada Guacamaya. Meals: Breakfast at hotel; lunch in Madera; dinner at hotel.

DAY 8 Casas Grandes, Mata Ortíz, and Casas Grandes

This all day excursion takes us to the town of Mata Ortíz where famous potters live, among them Juan Quezada. Visit some of their homes and see them at work creating their masterpieces. On the way we stop to look at a turn-of-the-century hacienda and a Mormon colony. Hotel: Posada Guacamaya. Meals: Breakfast at hotel; lunch in Mata Ortíz; farewell dinner.

DAY 9 Casas Grandes and El Paso

The center of the Mogollon culture, a culture believed to link the cultures of North America and Central México, was Paquimé—the architecturally advanced adobe city of 3000 rooms, four stories high. Spend the morning visiting the site. Also visit the recently built Museum of Northern Cultures. That afternoon, drive to El Paso to take the return flight to San Diego. Meals: Breakfast; lunch in El Paso.

Cost includes:

All escorts, all transportation (including airfare to and from San Diego), meals, entrance and excursion fees, all hotel accommodations, tips, and medical emergency travel insurance.

Cost does not include:

Fee for Mexican tourist card (\$20–\$25, good for six months): we will provide the card to you.

To register, call 619.255.0203 or visit www.sdnhm.org/register.