

Copper Canyon Hiking Tour

A Hiking and Cultural Adventure in Mexico's "Barrancas de Cobre"

*Here's your chance to visit one of the world's most magical places before the crowds discover it!
Explore the grandest parts of this canyon complex that's 4 times bigger than the Grand Canyon.
Hike and camp in its remote mountains and forests, meet its native Tarahumara people, experience its
"old west" ranchero culture, relax in cozy inns and restored haciendas, and thrill to North America's
most spectacular train ride!*

Day 1 - Arrive El Fuerte, Hotel El Fuerte (private baths) 011-52-698-893-0206
<http://www.hotelelfuerte.com.mx>

Welcome to Mexico! We're met at Los Mochis airport and transfer to the charming colonial town of El Fuerte. Founded in 1564, El Fuerte (The Fort) was a principal station on Spain's fabled Camino Real and is now the western gateway to the Copper Canyon region.

The Copper Canyon is like the American West of 100 years ago. A land of frontier ranches and Indian villages so vast and so wild almost all of it is only accessible by foot or on horseback. It's a land where subtropical valleys of palms, fig trees and wild mangoes lie beneath rugged mountains cloaked in forests of old growth pine and oak. And a land home to one of North America's most resilient Indian cultures, the legendary Tarahumara, whose way of life has changed little for centuries.

The name Copper Canyon (Barranca de Cobre) is really a misnomer. It's not a single canyon but a system of over 20 canyons that together contain four times the area of its more famous sister to the north, Arizona's Grand Canyon. On this tour we explore its two largest canyons, Urique and Batopilas, both over 5000 feet deep!

This evening we stay at the Hotel El Fuerte, a restored 18th century hacienda that blends the beauty of a colonial mansion with the comforts of a modern hotel. Built in 1750 it's furnished in traditional Mexican style with a flair for brilliant color and regional art. Explore El Fuerte's cobble stone streets before meeting our guide at approximately 9:00pm in the hotel lobby for introductions.

- Transfer Los Mochis airport to El Fuerte approx. 1 hour and 45 minutes. Guests may need to wait for fellow guests to arrive for transfer to El Fuerte. If not arriving Day 1, airport transfers will cost extra and are arranged separately. We're happy to assist with these arrangements, call 800-488-8483.

Day 2 - Train to Posada Rancho, Areponapuchic, Community Cabins

This morning we board the famous Chihuahua al Pacifico Railroad ("Chepe") - the train in the sky - for our trip into the heart of Copper Canyon. The railway spans 37 bridges, 86 tunnels and rises 7,000 feet from its beginning in Los Mochis to its end in Chihuahua City. We travel first class with spacious reclining seats, wide picture windows, air conditioning and well appointed dining and bar cars.

We arrive in the early afternoon to Posada Rancho (7260 ft). Depending upon our arrival time, we plan to take a short hike to stretch our legs and acclimatize to the crisp high sierra air. After our hike, we will check-in at the simple and charming Areponapuchic Community Cabins, where we spend the night.

- Train to Posada Rancho 5-1/2 hours
- Transfer to Areponapuchic, 1/2 hour
- Hike 1 hour, 150' elevation gain/ 80' loss

Day 3 - Huemachi Camp

Today we have a short transfer to our trailhead in San Rafael (7,425 ft) and meet our *arrieros* (muleskinners) and the burro train that carries our gear (we carry only a daypack with personal items you want accessible during the day - camera, water, binoculars, jacket, etc.) and begin our hiking adventure with a winding trek around Guitayvo Mesa that drops through an arroyo (dry creek bed) then gradually descends to our camp at the small ranch of Huemachi (6620').

After a dinner featuring handmade tortillas, we sip coffee (and maybe a little tequila) around the campfire and turn in under a sky like black velvet strewn with a billion pearls. The mystical tranquility of this alpine region is undeniable.

All camping equipment is provided except sleeping bags and personal gear (clothing, medications, toiletries, cameras, etc). Guest's assistance with tent set up and take down is

appreciated. Camping is wilderness style without developed bathroom or bathing facilities.

- Hike 6-8 hours, 690' elevation gain / 1650' loss

Days 4-5 - Chiruhuerabo Camp

Today our trail provides stupendous views as we cross a divide through forests of old growth pine and oak towards Urique Canyon and the small ranch of Huemachi (6620 ft) where we camp for the night.

Next day we enter stupendous Urique Canyon, the largest in the Copper Canyon region. The views into the canyon are astounding as we carefully navigate our long, steep descent with plenty of stops to observe the exotic vegetation and rainbow of ecological zones we cross. We stay alert for some of the canyon's most extraordinary birds including the blue and green military macaw, white-fronted and lilac-crowned parrots and the elusive eared trogon. Though rarely seen, the canyon is also home to white tailed deer, coatimundis, black bears, mountain lions, jaguars, and the endangered Mexican wolf.

We stop for the night at the village of Chiruhuerabo (7720 ft) where we're greeted by the friendly people who live here. After a coffee and a chat, we can relax and enjoy the awesome views in all directions.

- Day 4: Hike 6-8 hours, 690' elevation gain / 1650' loss
- Day 5: Hike 6-8 hours, 1320' elevation gain / 142' loss

Day 6 – Urique Canyon, Cerocahui Wilderness

Lodge (private baths / 011-52-635-45 0245 / 011-52-635-456-0045

<http://hotelesmargaritas.tripod.com/archives/english/bz4-index-en.htm>)

Our last day on the trail continues down to the subtropical world of the Urique River and the frontier mining town of Urique (1818') where a home cooked meal awaits with Doña Tita!

This afternoon we drive 5000' up out of town by van back to the high sierra and the *Cerocahui Wilderness Lodge* where we're greeted by clean

clothes and a hot bath! Perched on the rim of a remote side canyon, this exclusive 6-room inn features rough hewn regional decor and every room has its own bath, fireplace and breathtaking canyon view.

- Hike 4-6 hours, 132' elevation gain / 3826' loss
- Drive Urique to Cerocahui 3 hours

Day 7 - Creel, Plaza Mexicana (private baths)
<http://hotelesmargaritas.tripod.com/archives/english/mn-biz-en.htm> 011-52-635-456-0245

After breakfast we're on our way to Creel, the frontier logging outpost turned tourist hub for the Copper Canyon region. Along the way we stop at the Cerocahui Mission and at the most impressive view points along the road. Time permitting, we can browse Creel's shops, crafts cooperative and town plaza before settling in at picturesque Plaza Mexicana for the evening.

- Drive Cerocahui to Creel 4 hours

Day 8 - Chihuahua, Hotel San Francisco (private baths / 011-52-614-439-9000)

After breakfast and some last minute shopping and exploring, we start our drive to the city of Chihuahua. The afternoon is free for relaxing or sightseeing in this cultural and economic center of northern Mexico. Tonight we enjoy our farewell dinner.

Here we stay at the cosmopolitan Hotel San Francisco located in the heart of Chihuahua's downtown next to its beautiful Cathedral. It offers all the comforts of a modern metropolitan hotel including gym, café, voice mail and Internet access.

- Transfer Creel to Chihuahua 5 hours

Day 9 – Chihuahua, Flights home

Transfer to airport for flights home.

- Airport transfer approx. 30 minutes. If not departing Day 9, airport transfers will cost extra and must be arranged separately. We're happy to assist with these arrangements, call 800-488-8483.

Trip Details

Lodging: Hotel (2 nights), lodges/cabins (3 nights), camping (3 nights)

Trip Length: 9 days/8 nights

2011 Dates: November 19-27, December 17-25 (Special Christmas Departure)

2012 Dates: January 28-February 5, February 11-19, April 24-May 2, October 20-28, November 17-25, December 15-23

Price: \$2398 per person double (\$1200 per person additional for group of 2; \$500 per person additional for group of 3)

Single Supplement: \$450 (as available)

Group Size: Minimum 2, maximum 12

Trip Rating: Moderate to Challenging

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Activities: Hiking (4 full and 1 half day), railroad tour, sightseeing, cultural encounters

Meeting Place: On arrival at Los Mochis Airport. If possible, arrive in Los Mochis no later than 3:00 p.m. on Day 1.

Trip Conclusion: Chihuahua International Airport, Chihuahua, Mexico

Price Includes: Meals breakfast Day 2 through dinner Day 8 (except lunch on train Day 2), accommodations (double) Day 1 through Day 8, bi-lingual guide, airport transfers Day 1 and 9, transport on the tour, all camping equipment except sleeping bags, train trip, local staff and pack animals, gratuities for wait-staff, drivers, maid service and hotel porters.

Price Excludes: Flights, arrival/departure transfers not on arrival/departure days, airport taxes, immigration card (\$17 US)Meals on Day 1 and Day 9, lunch Day 2, sleeping bags, travel insurance, airport taxes, airport transfers not on Day 1 or Day 9, alcoholic beverages, personal expenses (laundry, phone calls, gifts, etc.), pre and post trip accommodations, activities not included in the above itinerary, discretionary tips to trip leader and local staff (see tipping recommendations below).

Price & Itinerary: While the information presented above describes the trip's planned activities, transfers, accommodations, etc. the tour's actual itinerary may vary. Changes in transportation, weather, lodging availability, or safety conditions all can affect this tour and we reserve the right to alter the tour due to these circumstances.

The Next Step...

References Don't take our word for it that The World Outdoors trips are the finest in the adventure travel industry. Ask our past guests. *Call about any of our trips and we'll be happy to refer you to someone who's been there with us.*

The Best Value in Active Travel Guarantee: *We commit to you that all of our trips are of the highest quality at the best value.* If you find a trip of equal quality that matches our itinerary and inclusions at a lower fare within 30 days of booking your trip with us, we will gladly refund the difference. A simple guarantee that assures you of the best trip at the best fare!

How do I join this trip? Call The World Outdoors at (800) 488-8483 and a Trip Consultant will reserve your space(s) or register online at www.TheWorldOutdoors.com. Your travel agent can also book your trip at no extra cost and provide other helpful assistance.

Special Requests: If you have any special dietary needs or any special request that will make your trip more enjoyable, please be sure to notify your Trip Consultant or travel agent upon booking.

Then Leave the Rest to Us... Before you go, we provide you with extensive pre-departure information, including your reservation payment receipt and confirmation, travel insurance application, suggestions for preparing for your trip, a packing list, information on pre- and post-trip arrangements, a guest questionnaire and a liability release agreement.

Travel Protection: To make your trip with The World Outdoors even more carefree, we strongly recommend the purchase of our travel insurance plan. Offering comprehensive coverage and peace of mind, our travel insurance plan is designed to protect you in case of lost or damaged luggage, a sudden illness or death in the family, emergency medical expenses and transportation costs, and flight delays. We'd be happy to arrange travel insurance coverage for you, so contact us at (800) 488-8483 with any questions.

How do I book airfare for this trip? Call our in-house travel agent, Sherry Malanify, at 800-488-8483 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time Monday through Friday or you can email her at sherrym@theworldoutdoors.com. Sherry is also available to assist you with pre- and post-lodging needs. If Sherry is unavailable and your needs are urgent, please call James TravelPoints, a local travel agency, at 800-538-7461 and ask for Georgia (ext 251) or email her at GeorgiaT@travelpoints.com. Be sure to tell her you are traveling with The World Outdoors. Alternatively, you are welcome to book your airfare online, directly with the airline or through your personal travel agent.

Emergency Contact Information: Our office in Boulder, Colorado is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time 1-800-488-8483. For emergencies outside of our normal business hours call Bill Marriner at 720-289-0460, Sherry Malanify at 303-915-9660, Darcie Carr at 303-595-8561 or Eric Wagner at 303-324-7795.

Journey Mexico is open Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Saturdays (October-April) 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. They can be reached from the U.S. at 1-800-513-1587 or 011-52-322-225-9872, from outside Mexico +52-322-225-9872 or within Mexico 322-225-9872. After hours, call from the U.S. 011-52-322-225-9821, from outside Mexico +52-322-225-9821 or within Mexico 322-225-9821. + means you need to dial the appropriate international calling code for the country you are calling from before the rest of the number. Ask local information for the correct code.

Questions & Answers

Weather: With more than 6,000 feet of elevation change from canyon rim to canyon floor, there's a correspondingly wide range of conditions. Winter, spring and fall expect generally dry, sunny weather with highs ranging from the 40s to 70s at the canyon rim

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and reaching the 80s and 90s at the canyon floor. Windy conditions are common. At higher elevations during winter temperatures can drop to freezing and snow is possible.

Difficulty: This tour is rated moderate to challenging. It is best suited for healthy, fit adults who are comfortable in remote areas and able to do hikes with the miles and elevation gains/losses described above. The hiking trails are often steep and rocky with some steep drop-offs. The highest elevation on this tour is approximately 8,000' with most of the tour at elevations between 2000' and 6000'.

Roads & Transport: Local taxis and vans are used and roads are often rough dirt tracks with some steep drop-offs. The Chihuahua al Pacifico train is modern, comfortable and well appointed. Visit <http://www.surf-mexico.com/states/Chihuahua/chepe.htm> for more information.

Children: The tour is adult oriented. Contact us to discuss suitability for children under 13.

Entry Requirements: All U.S. citizens traveling by air to and from Mexico are required to have a valid passport to enter the U.S. This requirement will include those traveling by land or sea (including ferries) in January 2008. Generally, citizens of all nations require a passport to enter Mexico and most can stay for 90 days without a visa. Be sure your passport is valid for at least six months from your planned arrival date in Mexico. Visit <http://www.traveldocs.com/mx/> for the latest requirements.

Tour Operator: The World Outdoors operates this tour through a company specializing in travel in Mexico. All tours include a bilingual guide knowledgeable in regional history, culture and ecology.

Accommodations: The lodging described in the above itinerary is what is most often used on the tour. However, alternatives are sometimes used. Descriptions of the lodges typically used on this tour are below.

- **Hotel El Fuerte:** A historic hotel that blends the charm of a colonial mansion with the comfort of a modern hotel. Built as a hacienda in 1750, it has 31 rooms with private baths and A/C furnished in traditional Mexican style with a flair for colorful detail. The dining room is famous for its fine food. <http://www.hotelelfuerte.com.mx> 011-52-698-893-0206.
- **Guitayvo Wilderness Cabins** (no phone or website): These rustic cabins, managed by Theodoro and his family, offer incredible views and simple, clean accommodation. Homemade tortillas, soups and traditional dishes are served daily by Theodoro's wife and daughters. The cabins are a perfect introduction to the Copper Canyon and the people that live deep within.
- **Cerocahui Wilderness Lodge:** This 6-room boutique wilderness lodge is perched overlooking a remote side canyon. Each room has its own bath, fireplace and breathtaking canyon view. Rustic, secluded and crafted with extraordinary attention to detail, the lodge is a highlight for many of our guests. <http://hotelesmargaritas.tripod.com/archives/english/mn-biz-en.htm> 011-52-635-456-0245
- **Plaza Mexicana:** This small, picturesque lodge is owned and operated by Margarita Quintero, the first hotelier in Creel. All rooms have private baths, fireplaces, hot water, electricity and are decorated with traditional Mexican décor. <http://hotelesmargaritas.tripod.com/archives/english/mn-biz-en.htm> 011-52-635-456-0245
- **Hotel San Francisco:** Located in the heart of Chihuahua's downtown next to the historic Cathedral, the hotel offers all the comforts of a cosmopolitan hotel including gym, café, voice mail and internet access. http://travala.priceline.com/travelguides/hotels/Quality_Inn_Chihuahua_San_Francisco_Chihuahua_Mexico-156514.html?plf=PCLN&irefid=PLTGMERCH&irefclickid=CHIHUAHUAMEXICO 011-52-614-439-9000 / 011-52-800-847-2546
- **Camping:** All camping equipment is included except sleeping bags and personal gear (clothing, medications, toiletries, cameras, etc). Roomy 3-person tents and cushy ThermoRest sleeping pads are provided. All gear is transported by burro. Guests carry only a daypack with personal items they'd like accessible during the day - camera, water, binoculars, jacket, etc. Guest's assistance with tent set up and take down is appreciated. Camping is wilderness style with no developed bathroom or bathing facilities.

Water: During the trip purified water is always available. Bring at least two 1-liter water bottles or camelback for your personal drinking supply.

Health: Mexico does not require vaccinations before arrival. For more information on travel health issues call the Center for Disease Control at 404-332-4555 or visit <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/camerica.htm>.

Tipping: Tips for waiters, hotel staff, drivers, porters and maid service are included in the trip fee. The only tips not included are for the local guides and the trip leader. The trip leader will organize tips for the local guides, customarily \$10 U.S. per day. At the end of the trip it's usual for clients to tip the trip leader. The normal amount is \$15 per guest for each day of the trip. Of course, tipping

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is discretionary and it's up to you on how much you'd like to give. A member of the group presents this tip to the trip leader at the end of the tour.