

Mexico's Copper Canyon Adventure

"One of the Most Scenic Rail Journeys in the World"

October 1 – 9, 2013



Join Gayle Lawrence - Journeys of Discovery Travel and Susan Duval Seminars on a fantastic adventure which takes you through Mexico's dramatic and pristine Copper Canyon. A land of rugged beauty, the Copper Canyon comprises seven major interlocking canyons which are four times wider and one and one-half times deeper than the Grand Canyon in Arizona! Copper Canyon's natural beauty and sheer size is a feast for all the senses.



Called "One of the most Scenic Rail Journeys in the World", the Chihuahua-Pacifico Railroad, First Class El Chepe Train, takes you on a 400 mile journey from sea level to almost 8,000 feet. The railway line whisks you over 36 bridges and 87 tunnels and passes through landscapes that include sheer canyon walls, thrilling gorges, waterfalls and high desert plains offering unbelievable photo opportunities.

Experience an exhilarating trip back in time as you weave through the rugged beauty of this colossal canyon maze and spend time in remote villages and sleepy small towns off the beaten track. Enjoy the enchanting traditions of Mexican culture, found in the music, food, and clothing of the people who have made their homes in this rugged frontier. You will have the opportunity to come in contact with the Raramuri (Ra-RA-mu-ree) Indians, an indigenous tribe of gentle people that have lived in the Upper Sierra Madre of the Copper Canyon for over 10,000 years. In keeping with their vision of the cosmos, the Raramuri consider themselves an integral part of the earth on which they live, of nature, and of the universe. For them, the earth is life itself.

A magical journey filled with the wonder of the natural world like no place else on earth!

Trip Itinerary

Tuesday, 01 Oct, 2013

ARRIVAL LOS MOCHIS AIRPORT, MEXICO – GROUP TRANSFER TO EL FUERTE HOTEL

You'll be met at the Los Mochis Airport by your driver and then transfer to El Fuerte and the La Choza Hotel, a 1 hour and 15 minute drive from the airport. This is a fully guided, private group tour which means you'll have a multi-lingual, expert local guide with you from start to finish during your adventure in the Copper Canyon. Your guide is an expert in history, culture, flora and fauna and will give you in depth information not only about the Copper Canyon but Mexico overall. He'll be with you to advise you on all optional activities, restaurant recommendations for meals not included in the tour and available to answer all your questions.

Your guide will be waiting for you at the hotel in El Fuerte and accompany the group for a late dinner at the hotel. He will give an overall trip briefing during dinner. Dinner not included this evening.

La Choza Hotel: 1 night on Room Only basis <http://www.hotellachoza.com/home.htm>

Wednesday, 02 Oct, 2013 – EI CHEPE TRAIN FROM EL FUERTE TO BAHUICHIVO

After breakfast you'll have an 8:00 am transfer to the train Station for departure on the First Class Chepe train to Bahuichivo. Once on board, your guide will tell the group all about the Chepe train line, how it was built and will make sure you know where the best photo opportunities are. There is a Dining Car on the train for your comfort and you may get up and move around the train at your leisure. The area between cars is an 'open' area where you may stand outside and breathe the cool mountain air or take photos.



Upon arrival in Bahuichivo around 1:00 pm, you'll be met at the station by a transfer vehicle that will take you to your hotel in Cerocahui where lunch will be waiting. About 3:00 pm you'll head out with your guide for a Cerro Gallegos tour (the beautiful Urique Canyon Overlook). The Urique Canyon is the deepest canyon in the Copper Canyon system and you can actually see the village of Urique far below. After an interesting afternoon seeing these sites you'll return to the hotel for dinner.

Paraiso del Oso Hotel: 1 night on Full Board basis, breakfast, lunch, dinner
<http://www.mexicohorse.com/>

Thursday, 03 Oct, 2013 – EI CHEPE TRAIN FROM BAUHUICHIVO TO DIVISADERO

Train departs at 1:00 pm arrives at 3:00 pm

You'll have the morning free in Cerocahui for an optional activity such as horseback riding or hiking with a local guide before boarding the train and departing for Divisadero at 1:00 pm.



Divisadero Area Tour – Upon arrival you'll be picked up at the train station in Divisadero and will visit all the overlooks in the area, including the seldom seen Oteros Canyon which is just outside of Divisadero.

Have your camera ready and ride the new Cable Car up the mountain for even more spectacular views (cost \$250 pesos, \$20.00 US).

The Divisadero area encompasses many great overlook stops to see the joining of Urique, Copper & Tararecua canyons. You'll be touring the area by vehicle, but if you would like to get a bit of exercise, there is a lovely paved walking path on the rim of the canyon in between the Balancing Rock and the Divisadero Overlook point. Let your driver know that you'd like to walk that section when beginning your tour and he can drop you at one point and pick you up from the other point. The walk is about 2kms / 1 mile, and is very relaxing. On your visit around the area, you'll find a variety of Raramuri hand-made crafts as well as imported crafts and jewelry from all over Mexico.

After your Divisadero Area Tour there is time to relax on your drive to Creel. It's about one hour over paved roads with great canyon views tucked in here and there. The road follows the train line most of the way. Upon arrival you'll check into the Quinta Mision Hotel.



Quinta Mision is the newest hotel in Creel. All the rooms are suites and include a mini fridge, microwave, coffee pot and table with 4 chairs. Rooms include TV, down comforters and feature a sliding glass door and adirondack chairs in front of each room to sit and relax. This hotel is also unique as it is the first 'eco' hotel in the area. Heating is centrally controlled in each room and comes from hot water pipes running under the floors. Rain water is collected and recycled for cleaning, laundry and gardening purposes. 100% cotton sheets and bedding with Posturepedic beds will insure a good night's sleep and even the paint on the walls is eco friendly and only made from natural ingredients.

Quinta Mision: 2 nights on Continental Breakfast basis <http://quintamision.com/>

Friday, 04 Oct, 2013 – CREEL

A continental breakfast is included at the hotel and then enjoy a full day in the alpine village of Creel. Mother Nature has blessed the town with gigantic rock formations, romantic lakes, endless forests and spellbinding waterfalls. You have a choice of optional activities (costs not included) such as; bike/scooter/ATV rentals, horseback riding, a tour to the Recowata Hot Springs or just take the day for shopping and enjoy the ambiance in this mountain village in the middle of the Copper Canyon. Your guide will be available to tell you all about the area, make recommendations for restaurants for lunch and dinner and advise you on optional activities. **Quinta Mision Hotel**

Saturday, 05 Oct, 2013 - CREEL TO BATOPILAS

After breakfast you'll leave the hotel around 9:00 am for a full day trip to the bottom of the canyon and Batopilas. The drive will take most of the day but you'll have lots of opportunities to get out and stretch your legs as there will be many intriguing stops along the way. You will stop at the mysterious Valley of the Mushrooms, Frogs & Monks, serene Lake Areareko, the quaint San Ignacio Mission, impressive Cusarare Waterfall, Cusarare Mission, Loyola Museum, Basihuare Canyon, the Copper Canyon (you drive right through the middle of it!), Batopilas Canyon, La Bufa village and Batopilas Village. You can spend a little extra time for some walking and exploring at the Cusarare Falls area or the Lost Cathedral area in Batopilas.



You'll be crossing onto many different 'Ejido' lands today that are owned by the Raramur Indians. Each Ejido, or specific group, of Raramuri own different sections of land and they charge an entrance fee in order to help supply their community with funds to keep the land clean and well preserved. These entrance fees are included in your tour cost.

Discada Picnic: Lunch today will be something extra special and an unforgettable memory here in the canyons, so sit back, relax, sip your wine and enjoy the peaceful surroundings of the great outdoors. Discadas are regional Mexican Specialties prepared by your own personal chef. They are rather like a Mexican stir-fry in that they are prepared using meats, veggies and spices in a 'disco' or wok-style pan over an open flame. Your chef prepares this tantalizing taste sensation for you while your guide arranges your linen-covered table with china and crystal. Both wine and beer are served before, during and after your meal and freshly made guacamole and flour tortillas are in abundance. (vegetarian lunch is available but need to be requested in advance)





After a full day of adventure, a lovely converted hacienda awaits you in Batopilas at the Riverside Lodge. All rooms have claw foot bathtubs, antique beds and murals are painted on the ceiling of the parlor. This hotel stretches a full city block and features private gardens, cozy nooks and lovely attention to detail everywhere you look. A continental breakfast is included in the mornings.

Riverside Lodge: 2 nights on Continental Breakfast basis
<http://www.coppercanyonlodges.com/lodges-hotels/>



Sunday, 06 Oct, 2013 – BATOPILAS Today you have all day to explore the area around Batopilas. Your guide will take you to see the Lost Cathedral in Satevo, The Ruins of Hacienda San Miguel and then he'll take you on a leisurely walk along the old aqueduct to see the tropical birds that nest there. If time permits, you might like to do an optional hike to an old silver mine (bring a flashlight or headlamp for this hike and it is enter at your own risk).
 Riverside Lodge: Continental Breakfast basis

Monday, 07 Oct, 2013 - BATOPILAS TO CUSARARE



Today you'll depart by vehicle to the Cusare forest which is 30 minutes south of Creel and spend the night at the rustic and cozy, Sierra Lodge Hotel. Fireplaces or pot-bellied stoves heat every room turning this hotel into an "experience" rather than just a place to sleep. There is no electricity at this hotel and that adds to the quaint charm as you follow the soft glow of the kerosene lamps back to your room in the evening. The hotel sits on a riverbank next to the Cusarare River and the Cusarare waterfall is just a 40 minute walk down a dirt road or a short drive by car. This is a very special hotel and one that will leave you with fond memories long after you return home.

3 full meals are included and are cooked and served by the Raramuri Indians that live and work around the hotel. This will give you an opportunity to spend some time around these shy, quiet and gentle people.

Sierra Lodge Hotel: 1 night on Full Board basis <http://www.coppercanyonlodges.com/lodges-hotels/>

Tuesday, 08 Oct, 2013 – CREEL TO CHIHUAHUA

After breakfast you'll depart the Sierra Lodge Hotel at 9:00 am for your drive to Chihuahua. The drive is about 4 hours but you'll make a stop along the way at the famous Mennonite community in Cuauhtemoc. You will spend some time here and visit a cheese making factory, of course you'll have to sample some and also visit the Mennonite Museum. Lunch is on your own in either Cuauhtemoc or Chihuahua, whichever you prefer. Arrival in Chihuahua is about 2:00 pm and your guide will assist you with check in at the Holiday Inn where you can then relax and enjoy the pool or jacuzzi. For those who are interested, your guide can make arrangements for a city tour and a visit to the Cathedral / cost is \$30.00 PP. Our restaurant suggestion for your dinner tonight is at the fabulous La Casona Restaurant, an old hacienda in downtown Chihuahua. Your guide will be happy to make reservations for you.

Holiday Inn Suites: 1 night on Bed & Breakfast basis <http://www.holidayinn.com/hotels/us/en/chihuahua/cuumx/hoteldetail>

Wednesday, 09 Oct, 2013 – Depart Chihuahua airport for your flight home.

Group transfer is included to the airport at a time that accommodates the majority of the group's flight departure times.

Welcome Home from your amazing adventure in the Copper Canyon. This breathtaking place will leave your Heart filled with all the natural beauty that only Mother Earth can provide. Pristine and peaceful, pure food for your Soul!



Tour Cost PP: \$2,549.00

Cost based on a minimum group of 10 guests / double occupancy
 Single Supplement: \$399.00

INCLUDED:

- Fully escorted private tour with multi-lingual, expert guide
- Group transfers airport/hotel upon arrival and departure
- All hotel accommodations double occupancy
- Meals as noted in the trip itinerary
- Train tickets for rail portion of the tour
- All land vehicle transportation
- Land tours listed, Creel Area Toll Booth Fees, Divisadero Entrance Fees
- Deluxe Discada Picnic

NOT INCLUDED:

- International flight
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Costs for optional activities
- Travel Insurance
- Gratuities of any kind, guide, drivers, hotel staff and waiters
- Alcoholic beverages, except where mentioned
- Items of a personal nature, phone calls, laundry etc.
- Any items not specifically outlined in the trip itinerary